Prosiect Maen Hir

Solar a Storio Ynni

Preliminary Environmental Information Report
Volume I, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual

Prosiect Maen Hir - September 2024

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6 Landscape and Visual

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This chapter of the PEIR presents the approach and preliminary findings of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The LVIA describes the site and its surrounding context, the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors, the magnitude of change and the likely significance of effects arising from the Project.

6.2 Assessment Methodology

6.2.1 The LVIA methodology is described in more detail in Appendix 6-1.

"Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is a tool used to identify and assess the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on both the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and people's views and visual amenity." (Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd (GLVIA3), para 1.1).

6.2.2 Paras. 2.20-2.22 of the same guidance indicates that the two components (assessment of landscape effects, and an assessment of visual effects) are *"related but very different considerations".*

6.2.3 The assessment methodology for this LVIA draws upon the following best practice and guidance where relevant:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Ed, 2013) – Landscape Institute / Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (GLVIA3) [Ref 6-1]
- Draft Technical Guidance Note 05/23, Notes and Clarifications on aspects of the Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Ed) – Landscape Institute [Ref 6-2]
- Technical Guidance Note 06/19, Visual Representation of development proposals (2019) – Landscape Institute [Ref 6-3]
- Technical Guidance Note 02/19, Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) – Landscape Institute [Ref 6-4]
- Technical Information Note 05/17, Townscape Character Assessment (Rev April 2018) – Landscape Institute [Ref 6-5]

- Technical Guidance Notes 02-21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations – Landscape Institute [Ref 6-6]
- NRW Guidance Note 017: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment guidance for Wales – Natural Resources Wales [Ref 6-7]
- NRW Guidance Note 46 Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments [Ref 6-8]
- Designing for Renewables Energy in Wales (Nov 2023) prepared by the Design Commission for Wales – Section 6.0 Designing solar farms [Ref 6-9]

6.2.4 Appendix 6-2 provides a summary of the relevant national and local planning policy of relevance to this LVIA.

Study Area

6.2.5 It is accepted practice within LVIA that the extent of the Study Area is defined by the visual envelope arising from the Project based upon the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) study and field investigations. In this case, a 3km Study Area is considered appropriate to cover the extent and likelihood of significant effects arising from the Project which would be material to the decision-making process. The 3km Study Area provides a buffer from all development areas including the Cable Route Corridor area but excluding the Highway Works which would be localised and assessed as relevant within the ES following further design development. The EIA Scoping Opinion confirmed that the proposed 3km Study Area for the LVIA as shown on Figure 6-1 is acceptable to the consultees.

Determining Significance

Assessment Terminology and Judgements

6.2.6 A full glossary for terms used within this LVIA chapter is provided in Appendix 6-1. The key terms used within this assessment are:

- Susceptibility and Value – which contribute to Sensitivity of the receptor;
- Scale, Duration and Extent – which contribute to the Magnitude of effect; and
- Significance.

6.2.7 These terms are described in more detail below.

Sensitivity of the Receptor

6.2.8 Susceptibility indicates the ability of a landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the Project *"without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies"* (GLVIA3, para 5.40).

Table 6-1 Susceptibility

High	Undue consequences are likely to arise from the Proposed Development.
Medium	Undue consequences may arise from the Proposed Development.
Low	Undue consequences are unlikely to arise from the Proposed Development.

6.2.9 Susceptibility of landscape character areas is influenced by their characteristics and is frequently considered (though often recorded as 'sensitivity' rather than 'susceptibility') within documented landscape character assessments and capacity studies.

6.2.10 Susceptibility of designated landscapes is influenced by the nature of the special qualities and purposes of designation and/or the valued elements, qualities or characteristics, indicating the degree to which these may be unduly affected by the Project.

6.2.11 Susceptibility of accessible or recreational landscapes is influenced by the nature of the landscape involved; the likely activities and expectations of people within that landscape and the degree to which those activities and expectations may be unduly affected by the Project.

6.2.12 Susceptibility of visual receptors is primarily a function of the expectations and occupation or activity of the receptors (GLVIA3, para 6.32).

6.2.13 Landscape Value is *"the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society"* (GLVIA3, page 157).

Table 6-2 Landscape Value

National / International	Designated landscapes which are nationally or internationally designated for their landscape value.
Local / District	Locally or regionally designated landscapes identified through the baseline assessment; also areas which documentary evidence and/or observations indicate as being more valued than the surrounding area.
Community	'Everyday' landscape which is appreciated by the local community but has little or no wider recognition of its value.
Limited	Despoiled or degraded landscape with little or no evidence of being valued by the community.

6.2.14 Sensitivity is assessed by combining the considerations of susceptibility and value described above. The differences in the tables below reflect a slightly greater emphasis on value when considering landscape receptors, and a greater emphasis on susceptibility when considering visual receptors.

Table 6-3 Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape Sensitivity		**Susceptibility**		
		High	**Medium**	**Low**
Value	**National / International**	High	High-Medium	Medium
	Local / District	High-Medium	Medium	Medium-Low
	Community	Medium	Medium-Low	Low
	Limited	Low	Low-Negligible	Negligible

Table 6-4 Visual Sensitivity

Visual Receptor Sensitivity		**Susceptibility**		
		High	**Medium**	**Low**
Value	**National / International**	High	High-Medium	Medium
	Local / District	High-Medium	High-Medium	Medium
	Community	High-Medium	Medium	Medium-Low

	Limited	Medium	Medium-Low	Low

6.2.15 For visual receptors, susceptibility and value are closely linked – the most valued views are also likely to be those where viewer's expectations will be highest. The value attributed relates to the value of the view, e.g. a National Trail is nationally valued for access, not necessarily for the available views. Typical examples of visual receptor sensitivity are plotted in the diagram in Appendix 6-1.

Magnitude of Effect

6.2.16 Scale of effect is assessed for all landscape and visual receptors and identifies the degree of change which would arise from the Project.

Table 6-5 Scale of Effect

Large	Total or major alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline will be fundamentally changed.
Medium	Partial alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline will be noticeably changed.
Small	Minor alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline will be largely unchanged despite discernible differences.
Negligible	Very minor alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline will be fundamentally unchanged with barely perceptible differences.

6.2.17 Duration of effect is assessed for all landscape and visual receptors and identifies the time period over which the change to the receptor as a result of the development would arise.

Table 6-6 Duration of Effect

Permanent	The change is expected to be permanent and there is no intention for it to be reversed.
Long term	The change is expected to be in place for 10-60 years and will be reversed, fully mitigated or no longer occurring beyond that timeframe.
Medium term	The change is expected to be in place for 2-10 years and will be reversed, fully mitigated or no longer occurring beyond that timeframe.

Short term	The change is expected to be in place for 0-2 years and will be reversed, fully mitigated or no longer occurring beyond that timeframe.

6.2.18 Most effects will be Long-Term during the operational timeframe although reversible on decommissioning; however, Medium-Term effects may be identified where embedded mitigation or planting for visual screening is proposed or local factors will result in a reduced duration of effect (for example where maturing woodland will screen views in future). The effects arising during the construction and decommissioning stages of the Project will be Short-Term in duration.

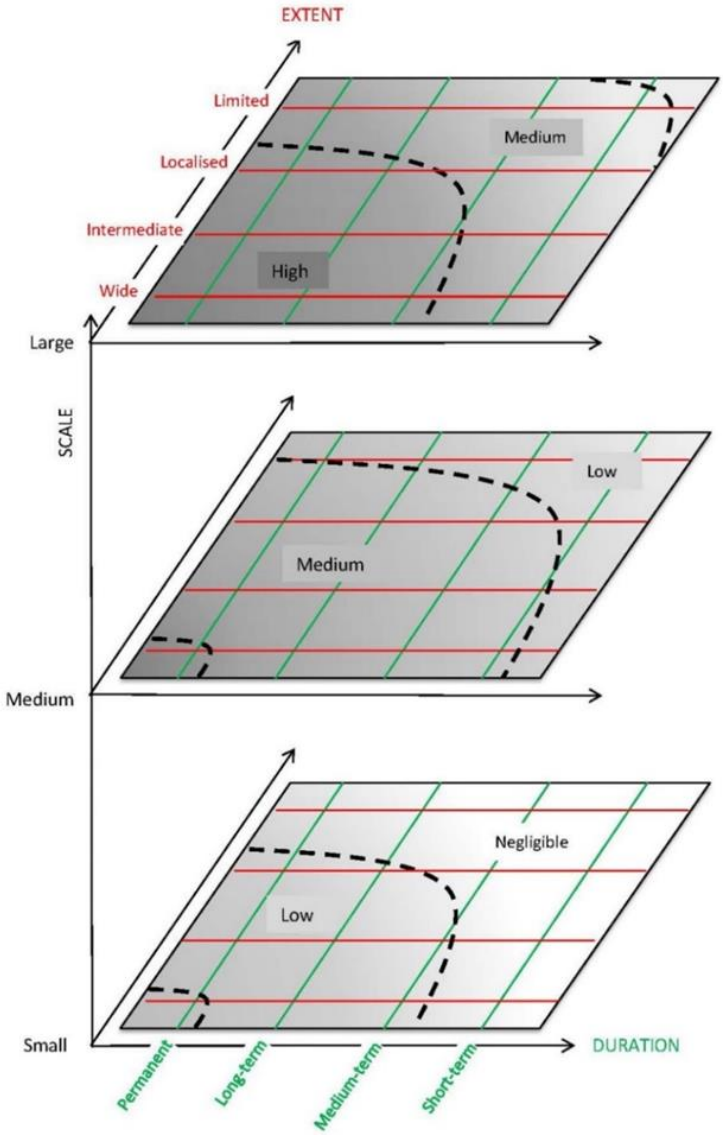
6.2.19 Extent of effects is assessed for all receptors and indicates the geographic area over which the effects will be felt.

Table 6-7 Extent of Effect

Wide	Beyond 4km, or more than half of receptor area.
Intermediate	Up to approx. 2-4km, or around half of receptor area.
Localised	Site and surroundings up to 2km, or part of receptor area (up to approximately 25%).
Limited	Site, or part of the Site, or small part of a receptor area (< approximately 10%).

6.2.20 The Magnitude is informed by combining the Scale, Duration and Extent of effect. Image 6-1 below illustrates the judgement process.

Image 6-1 Magnitude of Effect

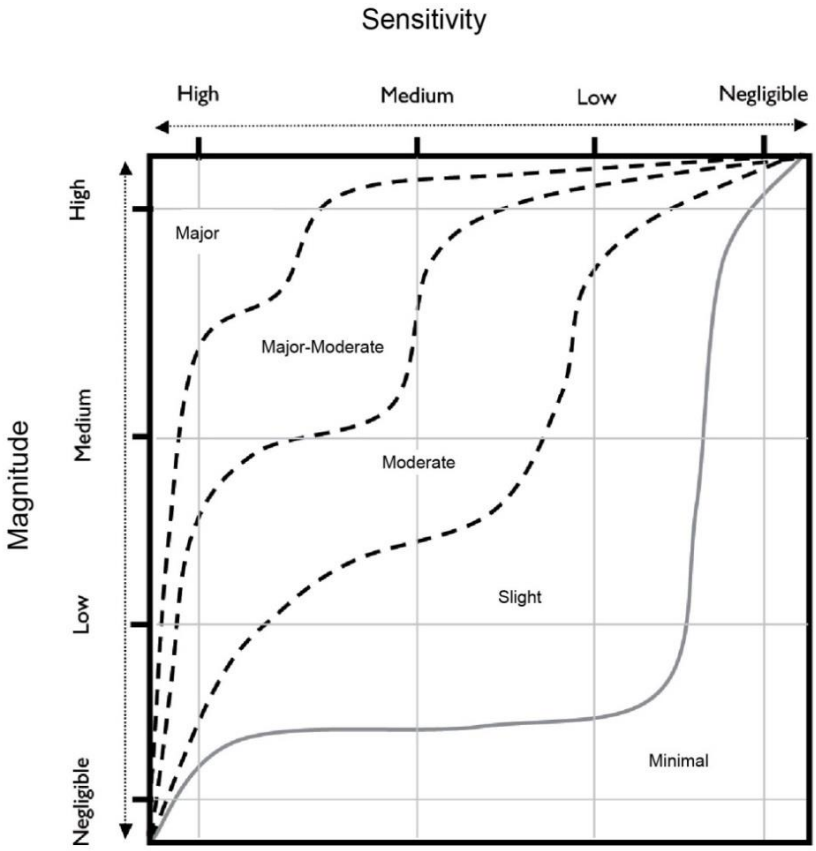


6.2.21 As can be seen from the diagram above, scale is the primary factor in determining magnitude; most of each layer indicates that magnitude will typically be judged to be the same as scale, but may be higher if the effect is particularly widespread and long lasting, or lower if it is constrained in geographic extent or timescale. Where the scale of effect is judged to be Negligible the magnitude is also assumed to be Negligible and no further judgement is required.

Significance

6.2.22 Significance indicates the importance of the effect. The process of forming a judgement as to the degree of significance of the effect is based upon the assessments of magnitude of effects and sensitivity of the receptor to come to a professional judgment of how important the effect is. This judgement is illustrated by Image 6-2 below.

Image 6-2 Significance



6.2.23 The significance ratings indicate a *'sliding scale'* of the relative importance of effects, with Major being the most important and Minimal being the least. Effects which are Major or Major-Moderate are considered to be Significant and *"likely to influence the eventual decision"* whilst those that are Slight or below are judged Not Significant and "of lesser concern" (GLVIA3, para 3.35). Moderate effects are considered to be potentially significant and professional judgment is used to determine whether the effect in question is Significant or Not Significant, with analysis provided to justify the rating. An effect is likely to be assessed as Significant where the sensitivity of the receptor combined with magnitude of

change results in a degree of effect that is towards the higher end of the Moderate range (illustrated in Diagram 2 above) and is therefore judged more *"likely to influence the eventual decision".* It should be noted that whilst an effect may be assessed as Significant, it does not necessarily mean that such an impact would be unacceptable or should necessarily be regarded as an *"undue consequence"* (GLVIA3, para 5.40).

6.2.24 Where intermediate ratings are given, e.g. 'Moderate-Slight' this indicates an effect that is both less than Moderate and more than Slight, rather than one which varies across the range. In such cases, the higher rating will always be given first; this does not mean that the impact is closer to the higher rating but is done to facilitate the identification of the more significant effects (i.e. worse case) within tables. Intermediate judgements may also be used for judgements of Magnitude.

Positive / Neutral / Adverse

6.2.25 GLVIA3 para 6.29 advises that *"as with landscape effects an informed professional judgement should be made as to whether the visual effects can be described as positive or negative (or ins some cases neutral) in the consequences for views and visual amenity."* In accordance with good practice, effects within the LVIA chapter are defined as positive, neutral or adverse. Neutral effects are those which overall are neither adverse nor positive but may incorporate a combination of both.

6.2.26 The decision regarding the significance of effect and the decision regarding whether an effect is beneficial or adverse are entirely separate. For example, a rating of Major and Positive would indicate an effect that was of great significance and on balance positive, but not necessarily that the proposals would be extremely beneficial.

6.2.27 Whether an effect is assessed as Positive, Neutral or Adverse is based upon professional judgement. GLVIA3, para 2.15 indicates that this is a *"particularly challenging"* aspect of assessment, particularly in the context of a changing landscape.

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

6.2.28 There is no automatic legal 'right to a view', even in the case of significant impacts to residents' outlook. A separate Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) will be undertaken to consider the significance of effects on private views from properties within the Study Area for the RVAA (as set out below) and the acceptability of living conditions. The RVAA will be undertaken in accordance with the Landscape Institute's, Technical Guidance Note 02/19 as an appendix to the LVIA chapter within the ES.

6.2.29 The Study Area for the RVAA will be within 100 metres distance of the Solar PV Site with above ground components. Beyond this distance, the Project may be visible from individual properties although they are unlikely to result in any overbearing effects such that living conditions may be affected to an unacceptable degree. The visual impacts on properties have been considered throughout the design process and will continue to be considered as the design evolves for the DCO submission. The RVAA will be completed following Statutory Consultation, following engagement with householders and design updates and will be submitted as part of the DCO Application.

Amenity and Recreation Assessment

6.2.30 Amenity and Recreation Assessment (ARA) relates to the impacts on users of recreational assets comprising Public Rights of Way (PRoW) including public footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways, and Byways Open to All Traffic (BOAT); permissive footpaths; open access and common land; cycle routes, recreational facilities, nature reserves, parks and waterbodies used for amenity and recreation.

6.2.31 Figure 6-5 identifies the relevant amenity and recreational sites within the Study Area. These comprise PRoW, long distance recreational paths, national cycle routes, open access land and geotrails (self-guided walks of multiple sites within the GeoMôn Geopark). The ARA assesses any physical changes (e.g. PRoW diversions or closures) and other environmental impacts on visual amenity, noise, traffic movements, dust and other emissions, traffic movements which may affect the overall experience or tranquillity of the PRoW as a recreational resource (see Appendix 6-4).

Night-Time Effects

6.2.32 PINS and NRW have requested the inclusion of an assessment of night-time effects through the ES Scoping Opinion. During the construction and decommissioning stages, the Project may require temporary lighting. Only emergency work would be expected to be completed at night. The Project would be designed as far as reasonably practicable to minimise any light spill, glare and sky glow. It would not be continuously lit.

6.2.33 The Project would potentially remain unlit during the operational stages with the exception of the Project BESS and 132kV Substation compounds which would utilise motion-detection lighting for operational and security purposes. No lighting would be required at the perimeter fencing and infra-red lighting would be provided by the security system to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV.

6.2.34 The Parameter Plan (see Figure 3-2) shows the potential locations for the Project BESS and for the 132kV Substations within the development parcels. As the precise locations of the Project BESS and the 132kV Substations are unknown at this stage, the night-time effects assessment will be prepared following Statutory Consultation and further design development, as requested by PINS and NRW in their Scoping Opinion and will form part of the ES.

Assumptions and Limitations

6.2.35 The ZTV and Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) mapping are based on the following maximum development height parameters:

- Solar PV Arrays – 3.5 metres height above ground level (agl)
- Project Substation – 15 metres height (agl)
- 132kV Parcel Substations – 7 metres height (agl)
- BESS – 4m height (agl) (ZTV assumes max Project Substation height as the denominator)

6.2.36 At this preliminary stage, two options are under consideration for the locations of the Project Substation and BESS, and several locations have been identified for the 132kV Substations within the PEIR Boundary as illustrated on the Parameter Plans (Figure 3-1). In accordance with Rochdale Envelope principles, the landscape and visual effects of all the potential options for these parts of the Solar

PV Site with above ground components have been assessed. The potential locations for the Project Substation and BESS, and 132kV Substations, are subject to ongoing technical assessments and consultation.

6.2.37 The majority of the fieldwork and viewpoint photography for the LVIA was undertaken in early March 2024 without leaf coverage. Additional surveys were undertaken in July 2024 to provide other viewpoints requested by the statutory consultees including PINS, NRW and IoACC (see Appendix 6-5). The viewpoints therefore include some photography when the trees and shrubby vegetation are in partial leaf. Throughout this assessment, judgements have been made with consideration to the likely winter conditions – i.e. when the vegetation is out-of-leaf and have been calibrated accordingly. Therefore, all references to the role of intervening / boundary vegetation in filtering or screening views has assumed a degree of visual permeability accounting for seasonal variations of leaf coverage.

6.2.38 Where distances are given in the assessment, these are approximate between the nearest part of the Solar PV Site with above ground components, and the nearest part of the receptor in question, unless otherwise stated.

Consultation

6.2.39 Consultation on the LVIA has been undertaken with PINS, NRW, IoACC as part of the ES Scoping Report and within subsequent correspondence. This has been undertaken to develop the scope, approach and methodology, and the locations of representative viewpoints and photomontages that will inform the assessment process. A summary of the consultation and stakeholder engagement undertaken to date is provided in Appendix 6-5.

6.3 Baseline Conditions

6.3.1 An overview of the baseline conditions is provided in this section with descriptions of the individual landscape and visual receptors which are included within the assessment of effects in Section 6.5.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

6.3.2 A ZTV study has been produced and used as a tool to inform the professional judgements made in this LVIA (see Figure 6-7 to 6-12). The ZTV map indicates areas of potential visibility based upon a digital ground model and topographic

data. This ZTV analysis includes settlements and woodlands (with heights derived from LiDAR surface mapping data) as visual barriers in order to provide an indication of potential visibility.

6.3.3 The ZTV map is based upon the maximum development height parameters of 3.5m above ground level (agl) across the Solar PV Site, 15m agl for the Project Substation, and 7m for the 132kV Substations. The Project BESS would be 4m height (agl) and co-located with the Project Substation. The ZTV therefore assumes the 15m agl height for the Project Substation as the max height denominator for parcels the BESS and Project Substation are proposed within. The ZTV map was used to determine which landscape and visual receptors are likely to be affected and merit detailed consideration in the assessment of effects, and those which are unlikely to experience any visibility.

6.3.4 The ZTV represents a theoretical model of the potential visibility of the Project. Landscape features such as trees, hedgerows, embankments, landform and / or buildings found on the ground, but not accounted for within the LiDAR surface mapping dataset, are likely to combine to screen the Project to a greater degree. As a result, the extent of actual visibility experienced on the ground is likely to be less than suggested by the ZTV map.

6.3.5 The ZTV study (see Figure 6-7 to 6-12) indicates the extent of theoretical visibility arising from the Project across the Study Area as follows:

- To the north, theoretical visibility extends to the north of Maen Hir North between Camaes Fawr, Nant-y-Fran, Betws, A5025, Torllwyn, Graig Wen, Peibron, Bodhunod, Penryhd Lastra and the south-west fringe of Amlwch;
- To the east, theoretical visibility extends to the east of Maen Hir North, Central, South A and B between Mynydd Llwyd, Pentre Gwian, Parys Mountain, Pen-y-mynydd, Penygraigwen, Capel Parc, Mynydd Bodafon, Hebron, Maenaddwyn, Capel Coch, Bryn-goleu, Glan Gors and Hafod;
- To the south, theoretical visibility extends to the south of Maen Hir Central and South B between the Ynys-llyn, Mynydd Mwyn Mawr, Llanerch-y-medd, Bryn Gollen, Pen-y-bryn and Brynsannan to the south of Llyn Alaw; and

- To the west, theoretical visibility extends to the west of Maen Hir North and Central between Mynydd Blewog, Llanfflewyn, Gareg Fawr, Mynydd Mechell, Cefn Roger, Bodelwyn, Penymowydd and Tai Hen.

6.3.6 The anticipated main area of visibility (see Figure 6-12 and 6-13) hereafter referred to as the ZVI is described as follows:

- To the north, the ZVI extends between Camaes Fawr Farm, Nant-y-fran, Betws, Bryn Llewelyn, Graig Wen, Peibron, Bodhunod, Pen Parc Mawr, Burwen and Amlwch Cemetery;
- To the east, the ZVI extends between Pentrefelin, Mynydd Llwyd, Llaethdy-bach, Parc-mawr, Pentre Gwian, Parys Mountain, Pen-y-mynydd, Plas-newydd, Taldrwst Mawr, Penygraigwen, Deri-fawr, Capel Parc, Melin Esgob, Bodafon-y-glyn, Tyn-y-mynydd, Yr Arwydd, Pen y castell, Mynydd Bodafon, Maenaddwyn, Capel Coch, Bryn-goleu, and Glan Gors;
- To the south, the ZVI extends between Llangwyllog, Bryntwrog Uchaf, Cae Mawr, Mynydd Mwyn Mawr, Bryn Gollen Uchaf, Pen-y-bryn and Bodnolwyn; and
- To the west, the ZVI extends between Bod Deiniol, Clymwr, Meiriogen, Bryn Tirion, Brwynog, Mynydd Blewog, Ty-newydd, Ucheldref uthaf, Pen-ucheldref, Engan-Ias, Twll-y-clawdd, Frondeg, Garreg Fawr, Pant-y-Gwydd, Creigiau-mawr, Carreglefn, Clegyrog Ganol, Bodelwyn, Penymowydd and Tai Hen.

6.3.7 The environmental context of the Project and PEIR Boundary is described as follows:

Maen Hir North

6.3.8 Maen Hir North is situated between Amlwch to the north-east, Rhosybol to the south-east, Rhosgoch to the south, Bodewryd to the centre, and Mynydd Mechell to the west. The parcel is centred around the Former Oil Depot with remnant haul roads, hardstandings, embankments and settling pools surrounded by areas of regenerating scrub and forestry. A disused railway line (Anglesey Central Railway) with colonised scrub extends between Rhosgoch and Amlwch to the

south of the Former Oil Depot. Field boundaries are typically defined by drystone walling, hedgerows and stock proof fencing of variable condition and intactness.

6.3.9 The northern parcel is characterised by a complex pattern of drumlin fields and *"basket-of-eggs"* landform with medium-to-large scale geometric fields of improved grassland generally used for intensive cattle grazing. The drumlins meaning 'rounded hill' or 'mound' are geomorphological features which form a series of elongated gentle to moderately undulating landforms with shallow valleys extends in a broad south-west to north-east alignment between Mynydd Mechell and Amlwch. The drumlins fields were formed through the movement of glacial ice flows in the last ice age creating asymmetrical oval shaped hills that resemble a *"basket-of -eggs"* in terms of landform and profile.

6.3.10 A semi-elevated plateau of upland character with more frequent rocky outcrops, irregular field patterns, gorse scrub mosaic and drystone walling is situated near Mynydd Mechell to the west. The Afon Wygr watercourse drains land to the north-west of the parcel. To the south-east, the landform is more gently undulating and dissected by the disused railway with geometric medium-to-large scale pastures and forestry belts stretching below the rising escarpment of the Parys Mountain copper mine. The disused pit head and headgear of the former copper mine at Parys Mountain forms a visually prominent landmark on the horizon to the east of the northern parcel.

6.3.11 The character of the Maen Hir North is diverse and partly influenced by existing renewables infrastructure including the Ysgellog wind turbines, Rhyd-y-groes Wind Farm, and the Porth Wen Solar Farm to the north of the Former Oil Depot. The 400kV pylons and transmission lines extend between Clegyrog Blas and Rhosgoch to the west of the northern parcel.

Maen Hir Central

6.3.12 Maen Hir Central is situated to the north and east of the Llyn Alaw between Llanbabo, Bryn Pabo, Rhosgoch and Rhosybol. The parcel covers the northern and eastern margins of Llyn Alaw and a higher plateau to the north-west of Llanbabo beneath the Llyn Alaw Wind Farm.

6.3.13 Maen Hir Central predominantly comprises large scale and geometric pastural fields and improved grassland gently sloping inwardly towards the margins of the Llyn Alaw within a shallow basin. The field pattern is typically larger scale and, in part, fragmented by the construction of the reservoir which overlies the former peatland of Cors-y-Bol. Lower lying areas on the margins of the reservoir exhibit a higher concentration of marshy grassland, mire and fen. The disused railway line extends north-to-south through the parcel between Rhosgoch and Llanerch-y-medd. Field boundaries are typically defined by hedgerows and stock proof fencing of varying condition and intactness.

6.3.14 The character of Maen Hir Central is partly influenced by the Llyn Alaw Wind Farm on the higher plateau near Llanbabo to the north-west, the 400kV pylons and overhead lines between Rhosgoch and Llandyfrydog to the east. Other 400kV pylons and overhead lines are visible to the west of the parcel near Garreg Fawr and the Mynydd Mechell SLA to the north-east of the parcel.

6.3.15 Maen Hir Central is partially visible from the Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds SLA to the north-west. However, these views would be in the context of the existing 400kV pylons and overhead lines near Garreg Fawr. The parcel is also distantly perceptible within elevated views from the Parys Mountain SLA approximately 2.93km to the north-east, and from Mynydd Bodafon within the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) approximately 5.88km to the east.

Maen Hir South A

6.3.16 Maen Hir South A is situated to the north-east of Llanerch-y-medd between the B511, Llandyfrydog and Pen-y-Foel. The parcel is located within a shallow ‘basin’ or hollow landform to the north-east of Llanerch-y-medd although is physically and visually separated by the rising landform of Pen-y-Foel to the south.

6.3.17 Maen Hir South A is characterised by gently undulating pastures of improved grassland with medium scale geometric field enclosures defined by mature hedgerows, woodland and cloddiau. The parcel contains a small watercourse and marshy grassland in low lying areas near Plas Llandyfrydog to the north-east. Field boundaries are typically defined by hedgerows with intact cloddiau evident to the east. Maen Hir South A is partially visible within elevated views from Mynydd

Bodafon in the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) approximately 2.5km to the east of the parcel.

Maen Hir South B

6.3.18 Maen Hir South B is situated to the east of Llanerch-y-medd between Maenaddwyn, Capel Coch and Bachau. The parcel is broadly horseshoe-shaped and contained on the lower ground to the east and west of a low ridgeline divided by a farm track between Yns Groes and Yns Fawr. Maen Hir South B is predominately characterised by lowland pastures with medium scale field enclosures defined by hedgerows, cloddiau and stock proof fencing.

6.3.19 Areas of unimproved grassland, rocky outcrops, gorse scrub mosaic, overgrown hedgerows and woodland are evident to the south providing a higher degree of visual enclosure to the southern area of this parcel. The headwater tributaries of the Afon Cefni watercourse drains to the north-east and south of this parcel with areas of low lying marshy grassland and mire near Capel Coch. Larger tracts of woodland and copses are found at Caer-mynydd Covert, New Covert, Flat Covert and Plevana Covert enclosing the skyline to the south of the parcel.

6.3.20 The character of Maen Hir South B is also partly influenced by the wind turbines near Plas-Llanfihangel and the 400kV pylons and transmission lines extending between Cae Fabli and Hebron to the north-east. The parcel is partly visible within elevated views from Mynydd Bodafon approximately 1.19km to the north-east within the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB).

Landscape Character

6.3.21 The published Landscape Character Assessments of relevance to the Project are:

- Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales (NRW) – National Landscape Character Areas [Ref 6-10]
- Isle of Anglesey County Council (IoACC) – The Anglesey Landscape Strategy: Landscape Character Areas (Update 2011) [Ref 6-11]
- Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales LANDMAP resource – comprising Geological, Habitats, Visual and Sensory, Historic and Cultural aspects [Ref 6-12]

6.3.22 Copies of relevant maps and character assessment descriptions taken forward for assessment in Section 6.6 are provided in Appendix 6-3.

National Landscape Character Areas

6.3.23 Figure 6-2 shows that two National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs) are located within the Study Area including NLCA02 Môn – Canolbarth Môn / Central Anglesey covering the interior and west of the Isle and NLCA01 Arfordir Môn / Anglesey Coast following the coastal fringe.

6.3.24 The key characteristics of NLCA 01 and 02 are detailed within Table 6-8 below.

Table 6-8 National Landscape Character Areas

NLCA	Key Characteristics
NLCA02 Môn – Canolbarth Môn / Central Anglesey (*covering the majority of Maen Hir North, Maen Hir Central and Maen Hir South A and B	• *"The land-locked central part of Anglesey – part of the largest island in Wales (720km²).* • *Rock outcrops and a distinct geological grain – the gentle topography, low lying and near flat in places, follows a north-east to south-west 'grain' imposed by major faults. Contrasting rock types include Ordovician sandstones and shale, bands of volcanic tuffs and Carboniferous Limestone. In various places there are many craggy rock outcrops.* • *Extensive drumlin fields – thick layers of glacial boulder clays, especially in north-west Anglesey, result in a classic 'basket of eggs' rolling drumlin landscape.* • *Lowland pastures and mixed field patterns – silty and peat soils underlie lowland pastoral grazing land bounded by a strongly geometric pattern of medium to large scale and, more occasionally, small scale fields.* • *Few woodlands – woodlands larger than a small copse are an exception, being notably around Llangefni Dingle and Llyn Cefni reservoir, together with estate woodlands at Presaddfed (Bodedern). Except in sheltered areas, individual trees are few.* • *Generally rural settlement patterns – the only urban settlement is the county town of Llangefni, in the centre of the island. It's nucleated historic core contrasts with modern peripheral housing and expanding light industrial and business park developments. There are only a few villages, but numerous scattered hamlets and farms throughout the area. Linear, ribbon villages concentrate along Telford's the A5 road across the island.* • *Prehistoric and funerary sites – ritual and funerary monuments including cairns and round barrows, Iron Age hill forts and Early Christian churches, burial grounds and inscribed stones.* • *Historic windmill towers – including some restored examples, form local features.* • *Modern wind farms – generally limited to an area north of Llandeusant but are seen in longer distance views from a much wider area.* • *Llyn Alaw – a large reservoir, nearly 3 miles long and a notable visual feature, providing significant over wintering habitat for wildfowl. Llyn Cefni is a smaller example of the same."*
NLCA01 – Arfordir Môn / Anglesey Coast	• *"The coastal zone – by far the largest island in Wales (720 km²) containing the largest outcrop of Precambrian rocks in southern Britain, but with areas of other rock types too.*

NLCA	Key Characteristics
(*covering small area to west of Maen Hir North and north-west of Maen Hir South)	• *Much of the highest land – on the island falls within the coastal area, including Parys Mountain (147m) and Holyhead Mountain (220m).* • *Strong geological orientation – there is a south-west to north-east geological orientation, resulting in corrugated topography, which is manifest along the coastline in places as rocky headlands and sandy bays. Igneous rock intrusions and outcrops of quartzite have created the dramatic landforms and skyline of Holyhead Mountain and South Stack, at Holy Island.* • *Great variety of coastal types – the coastline has great variety, from sheer coastal cliffs and dramatic rocky headlands to small sandy coves and extensive low lying dunes and sandy estuaries. A legacy of coastal quarrying that has long since ceased, remains apparent in places, for example at Penmen.* • *Wind exposure but some shelter – the striking and windswept heathland landscapes of the wild coastline at Holyhead Mountain and North and South Stack, together with the barren, mined landscape of Parys Mountain, contrast markedly with the gentler, green, pastoral landscapes inland, away from the immediate coastal edge."*

6.3.25 The key characteristics and management objectives of NLCA 01 and 02 (see Appendix 6-3) have informed the baseline conditions assessment of this LVIA. However, due to the availability of more detailed landscape character assessments undertaken by IoACC and as part of the LANDMAP database, these NLCA's will not be further assessed. The scoping out of the NLCA's has been agreed within the EIA Scoping Opinion (see Appendix 3-1).

IoACC Landscape Character Areas

6.3.26 IoACC have undertaken a more detailed assessment of landscape character at the local level. The Anglesey Landscape Strategy: Update 2011 undertaken by TACP consultants identifies six LCAs within the ZTV as shown on Figure 6-3. A description of the IoACC LCAs which are likely to be affected by the Project to varying degrees are summarised within Table 6-9 with extracts included within Appendix 6-3.

Table 6-9 IoACC Landscape Character Areas

LCA	Descriptions
LCA 4, Arfordir y Gogledd Orllewin / North West Coast **approximately 2.1km north of Maen Hir North*	• *A relatively narrow LCA following the Anglesey coast from the Alaw estuary at Valley around the coast to the Bull Bay area. Inland the boundary follows the geological aspect area boundary reflecting the distinctive rocky nature of this section of coastline;* • *From the Alaw estuary up to Carmel Head, the west facing coast is one of sandy bays and coves interspersed with rocky cliffs and headlands, particularly from Porth Trefadog northwards. Much of the underlying geology is formed by Pre Cambrian and Cambrian metamorphic rocks. From Carmel Head which rises up to 50 metres AOD eastwards is an area of coast with a more convoluted pattern;* • *For most part it is rocky, with Cemaes Bay providing the only sandy beach. Cemlyn Bay provides a different character, with a brackish lagoon entrapped by a crescent shaped shingle beach;* • *Much of the habitat displays its coastal character - intertidal, littoral, maritime and cliff slope - and much is designated for its nature conservation value eg: Clegir Mawr SSSI and Cemlyn Bay SSSI/SAC);* • *A coastal path provides accessibility for most of the way giving a series of ever changing views. Much of the area is owned by the National Trust, particularly around Carmel Head.* • *Despite the quiet, if exposed nature of the area there is much evidence of man's activities including quarries, brickworks and lime kilns.* • *At Porth Wen, the brickworks form a very distinctive remnant of this past although it is now showing signs of decay and disrepair.* • *Perhaps the most conspicuous evidence of man's activities is the nuclear power station at Wylfa to the west of Cemaes.*
LCA 5, Gogledd Orllewin Yny Mon / North West Anglesey **covering western part of Maen Hir North, Maen Hir Central and western part of Maen Hier South A*	• *"The key feature of its character is the extensive drumlin field. This has resulted in the classic "basket of eggs" description for the landscape…Interspersed with this landform are a number of hard rocky features such as Mynydd y Garn and Mynydd Mechell.*

LCA	Descriptions
	• *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.* • *The LCA also contains the largest water body on the island, Llyn Alaw, which is a reservoir and of importance to breeding birds and wintering wildfowl."*
LCA 6, Almwch a'r Cyffiniau / Amlwch and Environs **covering eastern part of Maen Hir North*	• *"This LCA is centred around the historic town of Amlwch and includes the northern coastline between Bull Bay and Point Lynas. It essentially lies within a broad, shallow valley extending down to the coastline. Again more modern windfarm development has been an increasing feature and like LCA 5, the juxtaposition of disused windmills to modern windfarms clearly reflects the importance of wind energy in this part of the island."*
LCA 7, Mynydd Parys / Parys Mountain **approximately 1.2km east of Maen Hir North and 2.3km north-east of Maen Hir Central*	• *"A unique, iconic landscape feature on Anglesey. In terms of landform, it forms a low but prominent ridge on a south west – north east orientation. Some 2kms long and 1km wide, rising to some 150 metres AOD, it forms a visually dominant feature within the more undulating surrounds. The mainly opencast method of extraction has left a "moonscape" of colourful outcrops impregnated with copper, lead and sulphur. This is interspersed with derelict pit headgear, settling ponds, tips and quarry faces. Much of the area is designated as a SSSI.* • *The mine became an important cultural landscape feature, one of the sublime spectacles of its era visited by travellers and artists in search of contemporary aesthetic notions of the beautiful, picturesque or sublime. In more recent times it has provided a backdrop for films and science fiction programmes."*
LCA 8, Cefnwlad Bae Dulas / Dulas Bay Hinterland **covering the central and eastern area of Maen Hir South A and northern area of Maen Hir South B*	• *"The LCA is focused upon the sandy, shelving coastal landscape of Dulas Bay, where low tide exposes the extensive sandy beach of Traeth Dulas. As with much of this part of Anglesey, the landscape is gently undulating. The most prominent outcrop is Mynydd Bodafon."*

LCA	Descriptions
LCA 17, Gorllewin Canol Ynys Mon / West Central Anglesey **covering the western area of Maen Hir South A and the majority of Maen Hir South B*	• *"An expansive LCA which includes a large area of the rural heartland of Anglesey and including the settlements of Gwalchmai and Llangefni. The LCA also includes a small section of coastal landscape at Rhosneigr including Traeth Llydan, with its associated dune system and impounded water body (Llyn Maelog).* • *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."*

IoACC Assessment of the Potential for Solar PV Farms

6.3.27 IoACC have published an *Assessment of the potential for solar PV farms in Gwynedd and Ynys Môn* undertaken by LUC in July 2016 [Ref 6-13] as part of the evidence base for the Joint Local Development Plan. Within this assessment, the Project is located within landscape units A5, A6, A8 and A17. Each of these units have been attributed a solar sensitivity rating as shown on Map 2.10 of this study and summarised within Table 6-10 below.

Table 6-10 IoACC Unit Sensitivity

IoACC Unit	Sensitivity	Summary
A5 *covering western part Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central and western part of Maen Hir South A	Medium	*"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."*
A6 *covering eastern part Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central	Medium	*"Within the AONB and SLAs (and all areas that contribute to their setting), there is typically no capacity for field-scale solar PV energy developments.* *Outside the AONB and SLAs it is considered there may be some capacity for well sited micro to small scale developments, in particular where these may relate to the existing built environment/urban landcover."*
A8 *covering Maen Hir South A and northern and eastern part of Maen Hir South B	Medium-High	*"Sensitivity increases within the parts of this LCA that fall within the Anglesey AONB and the distinctive Parciau Estatelands SLA as these areas are more tranquil, remote and scenic. The AONB is focussed towards the east along the coast and the prominent landform of Mynydd Bodafon and is largely free from energy and other modern developments (with the exception of some static caravan/chalet parks).* *Outside the AONB and SLAs it is considered there may be some capacity for micro scale developments, in particular where these may relate to the existing built environment/urban landcover."*
A17 *covering Maen Hir South B	Low-Medium	*"Within the AONB and SLAs (and all areas that contribute to their setting), there is typically no capacity for field-scale solar PV energy (with the exception of very infrequent micro scale, development).* *The Mona airfield and A5/A55 corridor detract from the tranquillity of the landscape, further reducing sensitivity.* *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."*

6.3.28 Maen Hir North and Central is predominantly located within units of medium solar sensitivity. Maen Hir South A and B is predominantly within an area of medium-low solar sensitivity. The methodology for this IoACC solar sensitivity assessment notes in para 2.1 that this *"this is a desk-based assessment and no verification has been undertaken in the field."* The IoACC solar sensitivity guidance has informed the baseline condition assessment of this LVIA.

LANDMAP

6.3.29 The Natural Resources Wales LANDMAP database provides a consistent approach and baseline for landscape character assessment in Wales. LANDMAP comprises five datasets or geographical areas known as geological, habitats, visual and sensory, historic and cultural aspects. For any given location, all five aspects are recorded and evaluated allowing for the inter-relationship between them to inform the assessments of landscape character.

6.3.30 NRW Advice Note GN007a advises that *"evaluations can be used to contribute to an assessment of the relative value or importance attached to different landscapes, in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments and when assessing landscape sensitivity."* The LANDMAP overall evaluations have informed judgements of landscape value although they do not directly translate to landscape sensitivity within this LVIA.

6.3.31 A consistent methodology has been applied by NRW to assess and evaluate each aspect resulting in a structured and consistent set of LANDMAP survey records for the Study Area (see Figs 6-4.i to 6.4.v and Appendix 6-3). The following LANDMAP aspects and overall evaluations within Table 6-11 are of relevance.

Table 6-11 LANDMAP Aspects and Overall Evaluations

ID / Name	**Overall Evaluation / Justification**
Geological Aspects *(see Figure 6-4.i)*	
YNSMNGL002 Llanfechel	High – *Includes key SSSIs mainly for bedrock geology and forms a major part of the important Anglesey drumlin field.*
YNSMNGL004 Llaneilian-Bodgadfa	Moderate – *Typical landscape of geomorphological feature and deposits. No notable sites recorded.*

ID / Name	Overall Evaluation / Justification
YNSMNGL005 Amlwch	Moderate – *No notable sites recorded and geology presumed to be widespread.*
YNSMNGL009 Mynydd Mechel	Moderate – *Typical landscape of widespread geological unit. No notable sites recorded.*
YNSMNGL010 Afon Wygyr	Moderate – *Typical landscape of geomorphological feature and deposits. No notable sites recorded.*
YNSMNGL016 Rhosgoch	Moderate – *No notable sites recorded and geology presumed to be widespread.*
YNSMNGL017 Gwredog	Moderate – *No notable sites recorded and forms a small part of a widespread feature.*
YNSMNGL018 Afon Alaw	Moderate – *No notable sites recorded and geomorphology typical of feature/process and not known to be exceptional.*
YNSMNGL020 Llanerch-y-medd	High – *Although the AA contains two SSSIs, 2 potential GCR sites/RIGS and 3 other RIGS, they are small in comparison to the area as a whole... They indicate a geology/geomorphology of outstanding value locally, but overall a valuation of "high" is most appropriate.*
YNSMNGL025 Afon Goch	Moderate – *No notable sites recorded and geomorphology typical of feature/process and not known to be exceptional or is widespread.*
YNSMNGL026 Cae'r-mynydd	Moderate – *No notable sites recorded and geomorphology typical of feature/process and not known to be exceptional.*
Habitats Aspects *(see Figure 6-4.ii)*	
YNSMNLH006 Farmland - West Anglesey	Moderate – *Very difficult to evaluate because the area is 89% is improved grassland which is generally quite a low ecological value habitat but there is a limited scattering of pSINC sites throughout the Aspect Area and a reasonable number of key species which increases the value it is borderline whether to evaluate it as moderate due to networks of hedges and pockets of more valuable habitat adding value and supporting key species. This is very low on the moderate scale however.*
YNSMNLH008 Llyn Alaw	High – *Importance is recognised by SSSI designation and the presence of a number of key species or important numbers of commoner species.*

ID / Name	Overall Evaluation / Justification
YNSMNLH019 Mynydd Mechel	High – *Quite difficult to evaluate because the area clearly contains many areas of valuable habitat scattered throughout reflected in the presence of some SSSI areas and a number of pSINC designation but 45% of the Aspect Area is improved grassland. Could easily be evaluated as moderate but the area does contain a good number of key species and the mosaic of different habitats does add to the value of the area. the Aspect Area has been evaluated as High but is on the borderline with moderate, if certain key species were lost or some of the areas of semi-natural habitat were lost then the evaluation would drop to moderate.*
YNSMNLH027 Farmland - Central Anglesey	Moderate – *Quite difficult to evaluate because the area is 87% improved grassland which is generally quite a low ecological value habitat but the area also clearly contains many areas of valuable habitat scattered throughout reflected in the presence of some pSINC, SSSI and most notably SAC areas, the area also supports a good number of key species although these records are generally confined to the aforementioned areas of particularly valuable habitat and it should also be noted that such a large Aspect Area should have more key species all things being equal. Could easily be evaluated as high for certain parts of it or even outstanding for very localised areas but on the other hand could be evaluated as low for many areas so overall evaluated as moderate.*
YNSMNLH031 Farmland - N. Anglesey	Low – *The aspect area is largely improved grassland with a noticeable arable element as well, neither of these are generally particularly valuable ecological habitat. There are limited areas of more valuable semi-natural habitat present (although small parts of three pSINCs close to the coast and Afon Wygyr pSINC are present).*
YNSMNLH092 Llanerch-y-medd	Low – *The area is built up which is a low biodiversity value habitat so evaluated as low.*
YNSMNLH093 Farmland E. of Llyn Alaw	Low – *Quite difficult to evaluate because the area is 90% is improved grassland which is generally quite a low ecological value habitat and there are very limited other areas of semi-natural habitat. There are however a scattering of pSINC sites throughout the Aspect Area and a number of key species but these do not quite increase the evaluation to moderate so the areas is evaluated as low.*
YNSMNLH136 Llyn Hafodol	High – *Importance is recognised by SSSI designation with important habitats present.*
Visual and Sensory Aspects *(see Figure 6-4.iii)*	

ID / Name	Overall Evaluation / Justification
YNSMNVS004 Mynydd Bodafon	High – *Isolated wild hill area rising from smooth lowland, unspoilt, distinct landmark "a kind of Lake District surprise among the lowlands". 50/50 high /outstanding but outstanding qualities not of national significance.*
YNSMNVS008 North-west drumlins	Moderate – *Generally quiet pleasant rural landscape but no distinct landmarks (except Wylfa - 086). Clear "basket-of-eggs" landform in parts. Intrusive elements - pylons and power station. Mainly moderate.*
YNSMNVS009 Mynydd Mechell	High – *Attractive small-scale unusual wild landscape contrasting with smoother surrounds. Generally unspoilt with variety of vegetation, and scattered houses set well in landscape. All high.*
YNSMNVS010 Drumlins with windfarms	Moderate – *Generally quiet pleasant rural landscape with "basket-of-eggs" landform in parts. Wind turbines form very intrusive elements, lowering integrity but raising character and rarity. Mix of low, moderate and high.*
YNSMNVS011 North coast hinterland	High – *Justified on quality of areas scale, character and sea views. Attractive and distinctive intricate landscape with rocky parts, views to coast, sheltered valleys. Generally unspoilt, except around Bull Bay.*
YNSMNVS012 Central smooth belt	Moderate – *Generally quiet pleasant rural landscape but no distinct landmarks…Mainly moderate and low.*
YNSMNVS013 Central/south-west craggy belt	Moderate – *Generally quiet pleasant rural landscape with more variety of craggy features than much of Anglesey. Mainly moderate.*
YNSMNVS014 Benllech hinterland	Moderate – *Generally attractive intricate rural landscape with more variety of craggy features than much of Anglesey, but marred a bit by proliferation of caravans and other recreation/holiday facilities. Mainly moderate.*
YNSMNVS035 North coast	High – *Attractive small beaches, headlands and coast with good views out. Mainly high.*
YNSMNVS036 Cemlyn	Outstanding – *Attractive and unspoilt area which is also unique and with very distinctive character.50/50/ high/outstanding, with wildlife interest adding to value with a strong character and rarity.*
YNSMNVS037 East coast	High – *Attractive small beaches, headlands and coast with good views out. Mainly high.*
YNSMNVS056 Llyn Alaw	Moderate – *Generally pleasant rural reservoir, but not distinctive. All moderate.*

ID / Name	Overall Evaluation / Justification
YNSMNVS060 Amlwch	Low – *Mainly unattractive run down development with no sense of a centre. 50% low, with unattractive character.*
YNSMNVS068 Cemaes	Moderate – *Quite attractive seaside development within fine setting, but spoilt by extensive additional housing. Mainly moderate.*
YNSMNVS069 Llanfechell	Moderate – *Quite attractive centre, but spoilt by extensive additional housing…50/50 moderate/low, but pleasant rural village.*
YNSMNVS070 Llanerch-y-medd	Moderate – *Quite attractive, but not distinct village…50/50 moderate/low, but quite attractive.*
YNSMNVS087 Parys Mountain	Outstanding – *Colourful, fascinating, unique. All outstanding.*
Historic Aspects *(see Figure 6-4.iv)*	
YNSMNHL016 Fieldscape, central eastern Mon	Outstanding – *As a broad landscape area in which it is difficult to differentiate but which contains many disparate patterns which illustrate and exemplify Anglesey's evolution as a primarily rural area. Of national value (on the whole) as a broad landscape area in which it is difficult to differentiate but which contains many disparate patterns which illustrate and exemplify Anglesey's evolution as a primarily rural area. This is considered to justify the overall valuation even though on the basis of a strict matrix it would merit 'High'.*
YNSMNHL036 Llanerch-y-medd	High – *Of regional value for its historic market (visible in the wide main street) and for an attractive cluster of mainly 19th century buildings.*
YNSMNHL037 Fieldscape, Tre-Ysgawen	High – *Of county value as an area of estate parkland, 18th/19th century in date, overlying an earlier fieldscape of organised, regular fields.*
YNSMNHL039 Capel Coch	High – *Of county value as an unusual (19th century) ribbon development along a straight road, with earlier antecedents, including Prehistoric occupation.*
YNSMNHL050 Amlwch/Parys Mountain	Outstanding – *Of international value as an industrial landscape and industrial settlement area of immense historic and archaeological importance.*
YNSMNHL051 Penrhyd Lastra	Moderate – *Of local value as a disparate area of indistinct field and scattered settlement patterns which could be subsumed elsewhere.*

ID / Name	Overall Evaluation / Justification
YNSMNHL052 Fieldscape, Rhosbeirio	High – *Of county value as an area of gently rolling rural fields and farms inland from the coast, though the historic character is significantly altered by the wind-farm which now dominates the visual impact.*
YNSMNHL053 North coast, Mon	High – *Of regional value as a very distinctive area with its rocky outcrops, archaeological sites and later settlement.*
YNSMNHL058 Mynydd Mechell	High – *Of county value as a higher-lying, rocky area with a distinctive pattern of small fields and clustered settlement, along with a complex set of tracks and footpaths.*
YNSMNHL074 Rhosybol	High – *For its association with the Parys mines as a workers' settlement, despite the only Moderate condition of the aspect area.*
Cultural Aspects *(see Figure 6-4.v)*	
YNSMNCLS010 North-west drumlins	Moderate – *Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate.*
YNSMNCLS012 Mynydd Mechell	High – *Over 75% Moderate.*
YNSMNCLS013 Drumlins with windfarms	High – *Over 75% High or outstanding.*
YNSMNCLS014 North coast hinterland	High – *Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding.*
YNSMNCLS016 Central smooth belt	Low – *Over 75% High or outstanding.*
YNSMNCLS071 Llyn Alaw	Moderate – *Over 75% Moderate.*

Visual Receptors

6.3.32 Visual receptors are *"the different groups of people who may experience views of the development"* (GLVIA3, para 6.3). Those groups who may be significantly affected have been identified through the ZTV map, baseline desk studies and fieldwork.

6.3.33 The different types of groups assessed within this PEIR chapter encompass local residents; people using key routes such as roads; cycleways, people within accessible or recreational landscapes; people using PRoW; or people visiting key viewpoints. In dealing with areas of settlement, PRoW and local roads, receptors

are grouped into areas where effects might be expected to be broadly similar, or areas which share particular factors in common.

6.3.34 In response to consultation with PINS, NRW and IoACC, a total of 51 viewpoints have informed this LVIA. This comprises 24 representative viewpoints, 2 specific viewpoints and 26 illustrative viewpoints. It is important to note that the assessments made within this LVIA are not limited to the selected viewpoints.

6.3.35 In terms of viewpoint definitions, as outlined within para 6.19 of GLVIA3, these include:

- **Representative Viewpoints** (see Figure 6.14.1-24) – chosen to represent the experience of different types of visual receptor, where larger numbers of viewpoints cannot all be included individually and where significant effects are unlikely to differ – for example, certain points to represent the views of users of public footpaths and bridleways.
- **Specific Viewpoints** (see Figure 6.15.i-ii) – chosen because they are considered locally important and sometimes promoted viewpoints within the landscape, including for example specific local visitor attractions, viewpoints in areas of particularly noteworthy visual and/or recreational amenity such as landscapes with statutory designations, or viewpoints with particular cultural associations.
- **Illustrative Viewpoints** (see Figure 6.16.A-Z) – chosen specifically to demonstrate a particular effect or specific issues, which might, for example, be the restricted visibility and certain locations.

6.3.36 Details of the relevant engagement including correspondence regarding LVIA viewpoint locations with PINS, NRW and IoACC are outlined in Appendix 6-5.

Visual Receptor Groups

6.3.37 Visual effects are assessed for groups of visual receptors within close proximity of each other and that are judged to experience similar visual effects arising from the Project. These are referred to as Visual Receptor Groups (VRGs). The following VRGs have been identified within the extent of the ZVI (see Figure 6-12 and 6-13) and are taken forward for detailed assessment in Section 6.6. The extents of the VRGs are described below in Table 6-11.

Table 6-11 Visual Receptor Groups taken forward for assessment

Visual Receptor Group (VRG)	Location / Receptors	Viewpoints Ref
Visual Receptor Group 1: Bryn Llewellyn, Graig Wen, Betws and Penymorwydd	Walkers using public footpaths 38/077/1; 38/078/1; 38/079/1; 38/080/1; 38/082/1; 20/014/2; 20/014/3; 20/013/1 and 20/013/2. Motorists using unclassified rural lanes and byways between Rhosbeirio, Shop-y-goeden, Rhyd-y-groes and Nant-y-Fran.	Rep Viewpoint 1 ILL Viewpoint E ILL Viewpoint F
Visual Receptor Group 2: Maen Hir North and Surrounds	Walkers using public footpaths 11/040/1, 11/040/2, 11/040/3, 11/041/1, 11/041/2, 11/040/3, 11/039/1 to the north-east between Trogog-Ishaf and Llain Delyn. Walkers using public footpaths 11/075/1, 44/028/1, 44/028/2, 38/068/1 through the woodland at Gorsedd Wygr to south of the Former Oil Depot near the Rhosgoch standing stone. Walkers using public footpaths at 38/065/3, 38/065/4, 38/065/5, 38/066/1, 38/067/1, 38/067/2, 38/069/2, 38/072/1, 38/085/1 between Bodewryd, Rhosgoch and Clegyrog Blas to west. Motorists using the unclassified lane between Penciw, Ty-Coch, Haffodllin Fawr, Haffodllin Bach and Rhosbeiro to north and east; lane near Gwredog to south-east; lanes between Bodewryd and Rhosgoch through centre; and lane near Clegyrog Blas to west. Settlements at Bodewyrd and Rhosgoch.	Rep Viewpoint 3 Rep Viewpoint 4 Rep Viewpoint 6 ILL Viewpoint G ILL Viewpoint L
Visual Receptor Group 3: Amlwch Fringes and Burwen	Walkers using public footpaths 11/042/4, 11/044/1, 11/044/2, 11/044/3, 11/045/1 and 11/046/1 between Trogog, Burwen and Penrhyd Lastra. Motorists using lanes Pen Parc Bach an Burwen and between Tyyddyn bach and Penrhyd Lastra. Settlements at Burwen and Penrhyd Lastra.	Rep Viewpoint 2 ILL Viewpoint C
Visual Receptor Group 4: Rhosybol and Parys Mountain Lower Slopes	Walkers using public footpaths 11/032/1, 44/024/1, 44/026/1, 44/017A/1, 44/017A/2, 44/018/1, 44/022/1,44/026/1 near Rhosybol. Motorists using unclassified lanes between Rhosybol, Maes-Meredydd, and Cae-uchaf.	Rep Viewpoint 7

Visual Receptor Group (VRG)	Location / Receptors	Viewpoints Ref
Visual Receptor Group 5: Parys Mountain Upper Slopes	Walkers using public footpaths 11/015/1, 11/019/1, 11/017/2, 11/026/2 and 11/025/1 on Parys Mountain. Motorists using unclassified lane between B5111, Plas-newydd and Trysglwyn.	Spec Viewpoint i ILL Viewpoint H
Visual Receptor Group 6: Mynydd Mechell uplands and Carreglefn	Walkers using public footpaths 47/020/1, 38/084/1, 38/056/1, 38/005/1, 38/006/1, 38/057/1, 38/058/1 at Mynydd Mechell. Motorists using unclassified lanes between Mynydd Mechell, Garreg Fawr and Carreglefn. Settlement at Carreglefn.	Rep Viewpoint 9
Visual Receptor Group 7: Rhosgoch, Four Crosses and Rhos-wen	Walkers using public footpaths 44/030/1, 44/031/1, 44/035/1 near Rhosgoch. Motorists using unclassified lanes between Rhosgoch, Tyn-rhos, Pen-yr-orsedd and Four Crosses. Settlements at Rhosgoch and Four Crosses.	Rep Viewpoint 10
Visual Receptor Group 8: Penygraigwen, Bodneithior and Capel Parc	Walkers using public footpaths 44/011/1, 44/011/2, 44/011/3, 44/015/2 between Penygraigwen, Bodneithior and Capel Parc. Motorists using unclassified lanes between B5111, Capel Parc, Lon Leidr, Llandyfrydog and Bryn Goleu Caravan Park. Settlement at Bodneithior.	Rep Viewpoint 8 ILL Viewpoint D
Visual Receptor Group 9: Bod Deiniol, Llanbabo and Mynydd-blewog	Walkers using public footpaths 47/024/1 between Llyn Alaw and Llanbabo. Motorists using unclassified lanes between Bod Deiniol, Llanbabo and Feram-uchaf. Settlement at Llanbabo.	Rep Viewpoint 13
Visual Receptor Group 10: Maen Hir Central and Surrounds	Walkers using public footpaths 44/032/1 to the north of Llyn Alaw and 44/027/1 at Glasgraig Fawr. Motorists using unclassified lanes between Glasgraig Fawr, Gongl Rhedyn, Penbol Uchaf and Refail Newydd.	Rep Viewpoint 12 ILL Viewpoint M

Visual Receptor Group (VRG)	Location / Receptors	Viewpoints Ref
Visual Receptor Group 11: Llyn Alaw, Penwerthyr and Gwredog Uchaf	Walkers using public footpaths 25/016/1, 25/036/1 and 25/036/2 to the south of Llyn Alaw. Motorists using unclassified lanes near Gwredog and Penwerthyr.	Rep Viewpoint 14
Visual Receptor Group 12: Llanerch-y-medd West, Cae Mawr, Ceidio, Wilpol and Peny-bryn	Walkers using public footpaths 25/025/1, 25/016/2, 25/023/1, 25/026/1, 25/024/3 on the rising ground to the south of Llyn Alaw. Motorists using unclassified lanes between Llanerch-y-medd West, Cae Mawr, Ceidio, Wilpol and Peny-bryn. Settlement at Llanerch-y-medd (west).	Rep Viewpoint 17
Visual Receptor Group 13: Maen Hir South A and Surrounds	Walkers using public footpaths 25/002/1, 25/002/2, 44/059/1 between Pen y Foel, Llwydiarth Fawr and Llandyfrydogg. Motorists using unclassified lanes between B5111, Bryn Dyfrydog and Llandyfrydogg.	Rep Viewpoint 15 Rep Viewpoint 16 Rep Viewpoint 18 ILL Viewpoint R ILL Viewpoint T
Visual Receptor Group 14: Llandyfrydog, Tal-y-bontan, Hebron and Mynydd Bodafon Lower Slopes	Walkers using public footpaths 44/056/1, 44/056/2, 44/057/1, 44/058/2, 44/036/1, 23/040/1 between Llandyfrydog, Tre-wyn and Mynydd Bodafon. Motorists using unclassified lanes Lon Leidr between Llandyfrydog and Hebron. Settlement at Llandyfrydogg.	Rep Viewpoint 19
Visual Receptor Group 15: Mynydd Bodafon Upper Slopes	Walkers using public footpaths 23/040/3, 23/043/1, 23/046/1, 40/023/1, 40/023/2 at Mynydd Bodafon. Motorists using unclassified lanes between Capel Parc, Maenaddwyn and Mynydd Bodafon.	Spec Viewpoint ii ILL Viewpoint S
Visual Receptor Group 16: Llanerch-y-medd South, Coedana and Mynydd Mwyn	Walkers using public footpaths 25/006/1, 25/021/1, 25/009/1, 25/007/1 and 25/008/1 and Mynydd Mwyn. Motorists using unclassified lanes between B5112 near Llanerch-y-medd and Mynydd Mwyn and Lon Coedana. Settlement at Llanerch-y-medd (south).	Rep Viewpoint 23 ILL Viewpoint Z

Visual Receptor Group (VRG)	Location / Receptors	Viewpoints Ref
Visual Receptor Group 17: Llanerch-y-medd East, Bachau and Ysgoldy	Walkers using public footpaths 25/011/1 and 25/012/1 at Bachau. Motorists using unclassified lane at Lon Coedana to south-east of Llanerch-y-medd. Settlement at Llanerch-y-medd (east).	Rep Viewpoint 22 ILL Viewpoint Y
Visual Receptor Group 18: Maen Hir South B and Surrounds	Walkers using public footpaths 44/036/1 to north of Llywdiarth Esgob Farm and Llandyfrydog. Motorists using unclassified lanes between Hebron, Maenaddwyn, Cae Fabli and Capel Coch. Settlement at Capel Coch.	Rep Viewpoint 20 Rep Viewpoint 24 ILL Viewpoint U ILL Viewpoint V

6.3.38 It is judged that for those visual receptors located outside of the ZVI there would be little to no visibility of the Project, such that effects would be **Minimal** at most. Visual receptors located outside of the ZVI are not taken forward for further detailed assessment within this LVIA.

Roads

6.3.39 Figure 6-5 shows that there are a number of roads within the ZVI that will be further assessed within Sections 6.5.84 to 6.5.90 including:

- A5025 between Cemaes, Burwen, Bull Bay, Amlwch and Penysarn – 1.3km north of Maen Hir North;
- B5111 between Amlwch, Parys Mountain, Rhosybol, Llanerch-y-medd, Rhosmeirch and Llangefni – 1.01km east of Maen Hir North, 0.59km east of Maen Hir Central, and directly west of Maen Hir South A and B; and
- B5112 between Carmel and Llanerch-y-medd – 0.46km south-west of Main Hir South A and 3.09km west of Main Hir South B.

6.3.40 PINS requested in their EIA Scoping Opinion (see Appendix 3-1) an assessment from A5 / A44 North Wales Expressway between Holyhead, Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll, Pont Britannia and Menai Strait located approximately 6.6km south of Maen Hir South B. On further review and field investigation, this receptor is not located with the agreed 3km Study Area or the ZVI (see Figure 6-12 and 6-13) and is not further assessed.

Long Distance Walking Routes

6.3.41 Figure 6-5 shows that there are a number of long distance walking routes within the ZVI that will be further assessed within Sections 6.5.91 to 6.5.96 including:

- Parys Mountain Geotrail Walk – 1.7km east of Maen Hir North
- Mynydd Bodafon Geotrail Walk – 2.47km east of Maen Hir South A and 1.89km north-east of Maen Hir South B

6.3.42 The Llwybr Arfordir Cymru / Welsh Coast Path follows the coastline between Wylfa Head, Cemaes, Bull Bay and Amlwch and is located approximately 1.7km to the north-east of Maen Hir North at its closest point. Rising landform is located between the Coast Path and Maen Hir North located to the south (near Figure 6-

16.A, Illustrative Viewpoint A and on Figure 6-16.B, Illustrative Viewpoint B). On further review and field investigation, this visual receptor is not located with the ZVI (see Figure 6-12 and 6-13) and is not further assessed.

National Cycle Route

6.3.43 Figure 6-5 shows that there are a number of National Cycle Routes (NCR) within the ZVI that will be further assessed within Sections 6.5.97 to 6.5.104 including:

- The Copper Trail (NCR 500) between Llanerch-y-medd, Capel Parc, Penysarn, Llaneilian, Amlwch, Burwen, Hafoldllin, Rhosbeiro and Llanfechell – directly north of Maen Hir North and directly west of Maen Hir South A
- North Wales Coastal Route (NCR 5) between Llanerch-y-medd, Maenaddwyn and Capel Coch – directly north and east of Maen Hir South B
- NCR 566 between Llanerch-y-medd and Llangefni – 1.1km west of Maen Hir South B

Accessible and Recreational Landscapes

6.3.44 Figure 6-5 shows that there are a number of accessible and recreational landscapes within the ZVI that will be further assessed within Sections 6.5.105 to 6.5.117 including:

- Bull Bay Golf Course – 0.97km north-east of Maen Hir North
- Amlwch Cemetery – 0.76km north-east of Maen Hir North
- Penwerthyr Nature Area to south of the Llyn Alaw reservoir – 0.98km south of Maen Hir Central
- Porth Wen Open Access Land (OAL) – 2.1km north of Maen Hir North
- Parys Mountain Open Access Land (OAL) – 1.7km east of Maen Hir North
- Mynydd Bodafon Open Access Land (OAL) – 2.47km east of Maen Hir South A and 1.89km north-east of Maen Hir South B

6.3.45 The Cors Erddreiniog National Nature Reserve (NNR) with accessible lowland fens and boardwalks is located approximately 0.4km to the east of Maen Hir South B. Intervening landform and vegetation at Capel Coch to the east Maen Hir South

B would restrict views from with Cors Erddreiniog NNR (see Figure 6-16.X, Illustrative Viewpoint X). This visual receptor is not located with the ZVI (see Figure 6-12 and 6-13) and is not further assessed.

Specific Viewpoints

6.3.46 Specific viewpoints have been identified to consider the visual effects of the Project from *"areas of particularly noteworthy visual and/or recreational amenity such as landscapes with statutory designations, or viewpoints with particular cultural landscape associations"* (GLVIA3, para 6.19). These specific viewpoints are shown on Figure 6.15.i-ii and includes:

- Specific Viewpoint i, Elevated viewpoint to west of Parys Mountain within Special Landscape Area (SLA) – 1.7km east of Maen Hir North; and
- Specific Viewpoint ii, Elevated viewpoint to south-west of Mynydd Bodafon within Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) – 1.1km north-east of Maen Hir South B.

Designated Landscapes

6.3.47 Figure 6-6 shows that the Project is located within the surroundings of the following designated landscapes as identified within Table 6-12 below.

Table 6-12 Statutory and Non-Statutory Landscape Designations

Designation	Distance (km) / Direction (N, E, S, W)
Anglesey National Landscape (AONB)	• 1.4km north of Maen Hir North at Burwen near Bull Bay. • 1.5km east of Maen Hir South A at Mynydd Bodafon. • 0.3km north-east of Maen Hir South B at Maenaddwyn near Mynydd Bodafon.
Parys Mountain and Slopes Special Landscape Area (SLA)	• Directly east of Maen Hir North near Penrhyd. • 1.7km north-east of Maen Hir Central.
Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds Special Landscape Area (SLA)	• Fields 51, 52, 63, 64 and 65 (see Figure 5-5) to the west of Maen Hir North located within SLA near Clegyrog Blas.

Designation	Distance (km) / Direction (N, E, S, W)
	• Fields 70 and 71 (see Figure 5-6) to north-west of Maen Hir Central located on boundary of SLA near Gwaen-y-dog.
Parciau Estatelands Special Landscape Area (SLA)	• 0.42km north-east of Maen Hir South B near Maenaddwyn.

Anglesey National Landscape (AONB)

6.3.48 The Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) was designated in 1966 and covers the majority of the Island's 201 kilometre coastline and inland areas which forms a backdrop to Holyhead Mountain and Mynydd Bodafon. National Landscapes (AONB) are protected under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) with a statutory purpose to conserve and enhance the natural and scenic beauty of the designation. Legislation and planning policy of relevance to the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) is provided within Appendix 6-2.

6.3.49 NRW has stated within the EIA Scoping Opinion, Annex 1, para 1.1.6 (see Appendix 3-1) that *"the site includes land within the setting of the AONB. The main impact pathway is visibility of the development from locations within the AONB and its setting, potentially leading to changes in perceptual characteristics and qualities of the AONB and its setting."*

6.3.50 The Project is not located within the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) although may be regarded as being within its setting. The ZTV and ZVI mapping (see Figure 6-12 and 6-13) indicates that relatively limited area of the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) would be within the visual influence of the Project to the north of Maen Hir North at Graig Wen and to the east of Maen Hir South A and north-east of Maen Hir South B at Mynydd Bodafon.

6.3.51 Page 7 of the IoACC AONB Management Plan 2023-2028 [Ref 6-14] identifies the key features and special qualities which define its designation status as shown in Table 6-13 below.

Table 6-13 Anglesey National Landscape Key Features / Special Qualities

Key Features	Special Qualities
• Coastal landscape / seascape features • Traditional agricultural landscape features • Geological and geomorphological features	• Expansive views / seascapes • Peace and tranquillity • Islands around Anglesey • Broadleaved woodlands • Lowland coastal heath • Species-rich roadside verges • Ecologically important coastal and wetland habitats (including rocky shores, mudflats and estuaries, saltmarshes, beaches and dunes • Built environment including conservation areas and listed buildings • Archaeology and ancient monuments / historic landscapes, parks and gardens • Rural agricultural / coastal communities • Welsh language • Soil, air and water quality • Public rights of way network • Accessible land and water

6.3.52 There is no specific guidance on how these key features, special qualities within the setting of the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) should be assessed. It has been confirmed through consultation with IoACC and NRW within the EIA Scoping Opinion, Annex ,1 para 1.1.11 (see Appendix 3-1) that the effects on the setting of this designation would be limited to potential impacts to *'expansive views'* and *'peace and tranquillity'* special qualities. The effects on these two special qualities have therefore been further assessed in Section 6.6 with regard to impacts to the setting of the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB).

Special Landscape Areas

6.3.53 Figure 6-6 and Table 6-14 shows that three non-statutory Special Landscape Areas (SLA) are located at Parys Mountain and Slopes to the north-east, Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds to the north-west and the Parciau Estatelands to the south-east of the Study Area. The non-statutory SLAs have been identified by IoACC within the adopted Local Plan and are based upon the LANDMAP database. Development is not prohibited within the SLAs provided it considers the statement of value and special qualities of these non-statutory designations. The Solar PV Sites are not physically located within the SLA's although parcels for environmental mitigation and enhancement do fall within the non-statutory landscape designations to the west of Maen Hir North.

6.3.54 A review of the SLAs was undertaken by LUC on behalf of the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Planning Policy Unit in Dec 2012 [Ref 6-15]. A statement of value and significance has been prepared for each SLA. Each statement provides a description of the SLA's landscape character, drawing attention to those qualities and features that are key to the designation as described in Table 6-14 below.

Table 6-14 Special Landscape Areas and Statement of Value

SLA	Statement of Value
Parys Mountain and Slopes	*"The south of the SLA is formed by the core of Parys Mountain, a unique, prominent ridge which rises to some 150 metres AOD and forms a visually dominant feature which is set within gradually sloping and undulating farmland landscape. A former copper mine (at its time the largest in Britain), has left in an unusual landscape of colourful outcrops in striking shades of red, orange and brown, as a result of weathered ore deposits. The landscape reflects its rich industrial legacy, and relic features include derelict pit headgear, settling ponds, tips and quarry faces (designated as a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest). Some parts of this area are also designated as a SSSI, with rare mineral bearing spoil-tips, mineral veins and rock exposures attracting unusual plants and lichens. Heathlands and wetlands provide important refuges for wildlife and contribute to the varied textures and colours of the landscape. The more gentle slopes surrounding Parys Mountain include undulating open farmland, descending towards the AONB-designated north coast. The SLA has a strong intervisibility with the sea and coastline."*

SLA	Statement of Value
Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds	*"The SLA is a distinctive landscape, characterised by a craggy, strongly undulating landform with small irregular rough pasture fields bounded by stone walls, rock outcrops and patches of gorse, with numerous ponds. Although the landscape only rises to a height of 92m AOD, it possesses a 'wild' and upland quality, which is easily discernible from the smoothly rolling, drumlin-formed landscape which surrounds the SLA. The SLA includes open rocky moorland and a varied patchwork of semi-natural habitats set within pastoral farmland. It evokes a strong rural quality, and is largely unspoilt with a general absence of modern development. Small twisting lanes follow the undulating topography and occasional houses, farms and hamlets scattered along them, with the main village serving the area being Carreglefn (located to the south east). The area has a strong cultural and historic significance, including evidence of settlement from prehistoric times."*
Parciau Estatelands	*"The Parciau Estatelands SLA is a landscape with a strong parkland/managed estate feel, with swathes of mixed and ornamental woodlands, pastoral farmland and patches of gorse providing a varied texture. The landscape includes valued remnant heathland and wetlands (marshy grassland and fen); providing important ecological connections to the nearby Cors Erddreiniog National Nature Reserve. The strong historic and cultural evolution of the landscape is evident in a number of valued archaeological sites and features. Evidence for late prehistoric and Roman occupation includes Parciau hillfort, sometimes known as Bryn Ddol, inside of which stone hut circles have been discovered. Chapels of medieval origin, the remains of a medieval settlement and buildings/features relating to the Parciau Estate (including a large domestic house and associated parkland, dovecotes, chapels and estate buildings) further strengthen the SLA's historic character. This peaceful, rural SLA lies immediately adjacent to the Anglesey AONB."*

6.3.55 Field investigations and the ZVI (see Figure 6-12 and 6-13) indicate that the Project would affect the Parys Mountain and Mynydd Mechell SLAs which are further assessed in Sections 6.6. Due to the limited extent of theoretical visibility, it has been agreed within the EIA Scoping Opinion, ID 3.1.5 (see Appendix 3-1) that the Parciau Estatelands SLA could be scoped out of the LVIA.

Local Landscape Value

6.3.56 Maen Hir Central and Maen Hir South A and B are not located within a statutory or non-statutory landscape designation. Fields 51, 52, 63, 64 (see Figure 5-5) to the west of Maen Hir North are located within the Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds SLA although these would not form part of the Solar PV Site and would be retained for environmental mitigation and enhancement. The majority of the development parcels are therefore not located within a statutory or non-statutory landscape designation. An assessment of landscape value is made based upon the criteria outlined in the Landscape Institute's *'Technical Guidance Notes 02-21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations'*. Within the ZVI for the Project there are a number of landscape features that contribute to the character and value of the local landscape including:

- Drumlin topography which forms a *"basket-of-eggs"* landforms extending between Mynydd Mechell and Amlwch within Maen Hir North;
- Former Oil Depot with remnant haul roads, hardstandings, embankments and settling pools surrounded by areas of regenerating scrub, gorse mosaic and woodland towards the centre of Maen Hir North;
- The Anglesey Central Railway (disused) colonised with scrub which extends across the Study Area between Amlwch, Rhosgoch, Llannerch-y-medd and Llangefni between Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central;
- Predominate improved grassland for cattle and sheep grazing with marshy grassland, mires and lowland fen on the margins of Llyn Alaw, to the east of Maen Hir South A near Llandyfrydog, and to the east and west of Maen Hir South A near Capel Coch and Bachau;
- Field boundaries typically defined by cloddiau, drystone walling, hedgerows and stock proof fencing of variable condition and intactness;
- Open expanse of the Llyn Alaw, permissive footpath and nature reserve along margins forms a feature near Maen Hir Central;
- Geological and industrial heritage interest at the former Parys Mountain copper mine including the prominent pithead, headgear, engine houses, windmill, rock colourisation and heathland forming a landmark and visitor attraction to the east of Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central;

- Distinct craggy landform and semi-elevated upland character with frequent rocky outcrops, drystone walling, irregular field pattern, and gorse scrub mosaic forming a distinct area to the west of Maen Hir North and north-west of Maen Hir Central;
- Prominent dome-shaped landform at Mynydd Bodafon within the National Landscape (AONB) with rocky outcrops, crags and heathland to the east of Maen Hir South A and to the north-east of Maen Hir South B;
- Distant silhouette of the Snowdonia mountain range within Eryri National Park forming a distant backdrop to the south-east of Anglesey;
- Open access land and geotrails at Parys Mountain to the north-east and Mynydd Bodafon to the south-east;
- Copper Trail (NCR 500) between Llanerch-y-medd, Capel Parc, Penysarn, Llaneilian, Amlwch, Burwen, Hafoldllin, Rhosbeiro and Llanfechell directly to north of Maen Hir North and directly to west of Maen Hir South A;
- North Wales Coastal Route (NCR 5) between Llanerch-y-medd, Maenaddwyn and Capel Coch to north and east of Maen Hir South B; and
- Higher concentration of settlement and along the coastal fringe to the north including Ysgellog wind turbines, Rhyd-y-groes Wind Farm, Porth Wen Solar Farm to the north of the Former Oil Depot and Maen Hir North, the Llyn Alaw Wind Farm to the north-west of Maen Hir Central, and the wind turbines near Plas-Llanfihangel to the north of Maen Hir South B.

6.3.57 Overall, on review of the above and the relevant LANDMAP overall evaluations in Table 6-11, the landscape value of the development parcels within the PEIR Boundary are considered to be of 'Local / District' Value with no assets or features that indicate that it should be assessed of higher value.

Future Baseline

6.3.58 It is anticipated the current land use, which is predominantly pastoral farmland, would remain as the future baseline condition. Climate change may affect vegetation growth rates although it is difficult to predict with any degree of accuracy as it is dependent on a number of variables including micro-climate, temperature, soils, wind exposure, water availability and vulnerability to disease.

6.3.59 Future Wales – the National Plan 2040 (Section 5) identifies Anglesey as an *"Energy Island"* with a policy ambition to deliver renewables development in the region. In addition, the NRW North West Wales Area Statement seeks to address the climate emergency through a number of themes and by *"encouraging a local circular economy, reconnecting people with nature*…[and specifically]…*the development of more renewable energy projects."* Given these policy drivers, further proposals for renewable energy developments maybe made in this locality as part of the future baseline conditions for the Study Area.

6.4 Embedded Mitigation

Design

6.4.1 The Parameter Plans (see Figure 3-1) have been informed by a preliminary appraisal of landscape and visual effects and design evolution which sites the parts of the Solar PV Site with above ground components within the existing landscape framework. This is intended to subdivide, compartmentalise and fragment views of the Project within the surrounding context.

6.4.2 Subject to ongoing detailed design and statutory consultation, the embedded mitigation measures have been defined through good design principles and may include:

- Avoidance of visually exposed summits of geomorphological features including the drumlin landforms through careful siting of the Solar PV Site amongst the valley sides and lower undulations to reduce the perceived size and scale of the development parameters;
- Siting the parts of the Solar PV Site with above ground components within the lower lying landforms and higher concentration of hedgerows, cloddiau and woodlands to the south of the Study Area to avoid sensitive ridgelines and provide physical and visual separation from key settlements;
- Provision of visual breaks and separation between groups of solar arrays and fields to prevent any potential for overbearing on properties;
- Protection of key settlement approaches within sequential views along key routes such as the B5111 highway and the Copper Trail;

- Offsets from the northern and eastern shores of Llyn Alaw to allow for enhanced wetland habitats and visual separation between solar arrays;
- Enhancements to the diversity, extent, condition and connectivity of linear field boundary habitats including hedgerows, ditches, stone walls and Cloddiau, and preserve historic patterns;
- Enhancements to the diversity, extent, condition and connectivity of treecover including to woodlands and ancient woodlands; and
- Improvements to access and the green and natural spaces by enhancing existing public rights of way and creating new permissive routes.

6.4.3 The specific instances in which parts of the Solar PV Site could be set away from sensitive landscape and visual receptors subject to detailed design includes the removal of above ground components from, and location of mitigation and enhancement areas within:

- Fields 51 and 52 (see Figure 5-5) to the west of Maen Hir North near Clegyrog Blas to limit the physical and visual impacts on the Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds SLA;
- Fields 68 and 69 (see Figure 5-5) towards the centre of Maen Hir North to protect the settlement approaches and settings of heritage assets including the Rhosgoch standing stone and St Marys Church and dovecot at Bodewyrd and to limit the visual impacts on properties between Bodewyrd, Four Crosses and Rhosgoch to the centre and south of Maen Hir North;
- Field 50 (see Figure 5-5) to the south of Maen Hir North between Four Crosses and Rhosgoch to reduce the visual impacts on Rhosybol and the Parys Mountain SLA;
- Fields 70 and 7 (see Figure 5-6) to the north-west of Maen Hir Central near Garreg Fawr to reduce the visual impacts within views from the Mynydd Mechell SLA to the north-west;
- Fields 156, 157, 158, 166 and 167 (see Figure 5-7) on the lower ground to the east of Maen Hir South A near Lwydiarth Esgob Farm to reduce the visual impacts and to provide visual containment to the development

parcels from Mynydd Bodafon within the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) to the east;

- Field 192 (see Figure 5-7) to north-east of Maen Hir South B to reduce visual impacts on Cae Fabli and Llanfihangel Tie'r Beirrdd / St Michael's Church;
- Field 21 (see Figure 5-7) on the low ridgeline towards the centre of Maen Hir South B to reduce the visual impact on residential properties at Capel Coch to the east and Burwen to the west of Maen Hir South B; and
- Fields 251, 254, 255 and 256 (see Figure 5-7) bordering the B5111 highway to the south of Maen Hir South B to reduce the visual impacts on a relatively higher frequency of motorists travelling along the B5111 between Llannerch-y-medd, Rhosmerich and Llangefni.

6.4.4 In addition to the Parameter Plans showing potential areas for mitigation and enhancement, the following minimum offsets from key sensitive receptors have been embedded into the design and accounted for within this LVIA includes:

- Hedgerows, cloddiau, drystone walls – 10 metres
- Llyn Alaw reservoir edge – 50 metres
- Residential properties – 15 metres
- PRoW – 15 metres
- Roads – 6 metres

6.4.5 The Cable Route Corridor will be refined further as the design develops and aligned to avoid, or minimise damage to, any significant woodland, hedges, trees and cloddiau within the PEIR Boundary. As noted in Chapter 5: Project Description, the Cable Route Corridor is necessarily broad at this stage whilst engagement is ongoing with NGET as to the location of the NGET Substation. Removal of these landscape features would be limited as far as practicable to allow for AIL and HGV access, construction compounds, BESS and Project Substation, the 132kV Substations, access tracks and cable route trenching within the PEIR Boundary.

6.4.6 New landscape features will be proposed as part of the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) and Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan.

These documents would be submitted in support of the DCO Application to replace any unavoidable losses and contribute to the visual screening of the Project, as well as provide wider biodiversity benefits as detailed within Chapter 7: Ecology. The Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan to be provided with the DCO Application would potentially include:

- New areas of woodland, hedges, cloddiau, drystone walling, wildflower meadows and wetlands to be provided within the Project as part a green infrastructure strategy plan to benefit landscape character throughout the operational lifespan of the Project;
- Existing hedges and cloddiau would be infilled and 'gapped-up' where required, to reconnect existing landscape features and linear wildlife corridors; and
- Defunct or collapsed sections of drystone walling or cloddiau would be made good, where required, to enhance landscape character and local distinctiveness.

6.4.7 An oLEMP will be prepared as part of the DCO Application which will secure the management of existing and proposed vegetation within the PEIR Boundary to enhance species diversity, age structure, health and the Long-Term contribution to the character and appearance of the locality.

Construction and Decommissioning

6.4.8 An outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) and outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) will be prepared in support of the DCO Application which set out measures to minimise the landscape and visual impacts of the Project during the construction and decommissioning phases. These measures would include:

- Retention of existing landscape features such as localised rocky outcrops, cloddiau, drystone walling, hedgerows, woodland, ditches, watercourses, regenerating scrub, unimproved grassland, wildflower meadows, mire and fen via exclusion zones and protective fencing;

- Landscape, Arborist and Ecological Clerks of Works (ECoW) to ensure that the landscape and ecology requirements of the oCEMP and oDEMP are adhered to and that the works are monitored;
- Ensuring a tidy and neat working area, covering of stockpiles and road sweeping along trafficked construction routes;
- Hoardings in a suitable neutral green or brown colour to aid their integration in the landscape;
- Storing and replacing topsoil in accordance with best practice measures; and

6.5 Preliminary Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

Construction and Decommissioning

6.5.1 Construction phasing for the Project is currently being developed in response to evolving technical requirements including but not limited to Grid Connection timescales. The Project could be delivered in up to two phases.

6.5.2 Under a single-phase construction programme, enabling works could start in Q4 2026, with the Project being energised in Q4 2028. It is anticipated the construction phase for this scenario would be approximately 24 months long, which is considered to be Short-Term in duration.

6.5.3 Under a two-phase construction programme, enabling works for the first phase could start in Q4 2026, with the first phase being energised in Q4 2028. The second phase would be constructed at a later date and energised at a date to be agreed with NGET and not later than 2037. In this scenario, part of the Project would be constructed and operational before the remaining part. It is anticipated that each of the construction phases under this scenario would be approximately 24 months long.

6.5.4 During these periods, construction traffic movement including AIL's and HGV's, plant, machinery, temporary lighting, passing places and highway works would be visible particularly at close proximity to the Construction Compounds, BESS, Project Substation and the 132kV Substations within the PEIR Boundary. Due to the physical and visual separation between the Solar PV Sites, the effects during construction would intermittent and temporary in nature depending on proximity

to the development parcel and the detailed phasing of the construction program to be prepared for the DCO submission.

6.5.5 The decommissioning phase is anticipated to take up to 12 months therefore is also considered to be Short-Term in duration. The above ground components will be removed and as such landscape and visual effects would be reversible.

6.5.6 A limited number of landscape features, such as trees, hedges, cloddiau, drystone walling and improved grassland may require removal during the construction and decommissioning phases. The physical effects on the site fabric would be managed through the oCEMP and the oDEMP. The construction and decommissioning phases would not result in any landscape and visual effects of greater significance than those identified for the operational phase of the Project.

Operation

6.5.7 The Project would generally result in Medium-Term duration of effects (see Table 6-6 and Section 6.2.18 for definitions) prior to the establishment of the landscape mitigation measures and management of existing hedgerows, cloddiau or gorse scrub for enhanced visual screening. The changes following this point, until decommissioning after 60 years, are considered to be Long-Term in duration. However, the Project has a defined lifespan until decommissioning when the key above ground components would be removed from the Project such that the effects would be reversible.

6.5.8 Effects are likely to be at their greatest in the Medium-Term. Depending on the location and context of the receptor and visual relationship with the Project, the scale of effects may reduce during operation in the Long-Term. The main form of embedded mitigation for the Project is considered to be good design principles, offsets and siting as part of the masterplanning process as outlined in Section 6.4.

6.5.9 During the early part of the operation phase following construction, the effects are likely to be at their greatest prior to the establishment of the landscape mitigation measures and management of existing hedgerows, cloddiau or gorse scrub for enhanced visual screening. Depending on the location and context of the receptor and visual relationship with the Project, the scale of effects may reduce during operation between the Medium-Term and the Long-Term as defined in Table 6-6.

The main form of embedded mitigation for the Project is considered to be good design principles, offsets and siting as part of the masterplanning process as outlined in Section 6.4.

6.5.10 Based upon fieldwork observations, it is judged that effects on landscape or visual receptors located outside the ZVI described above would experience Negligible scale of effects and are not assessed further. This does not mean that there would be no potential visibility outside the ZVI indicated, but rather that any visibility beyond the ZVI would be Minimal or at such a distance that the Project would be barely perceptible and not effect views.

Effects on Landscape Character

6.5.11 As set out in Sections 6.4, the assessments on landscape character have been informed by field investigations and the published Landscape Character Assessments (LCA's). The assessment focuses on the IoACC Local Landscape Character Areas and LANDMAP aspects as agreed through the EIA Scoping Opinion (see Appendix 3-1).

6.5.12 The effects on the landscape character would include the physical and visual effects arising from the proposed Solar PV Sites, BESS and Project Substation, and 132kV Substation options within Maen Hir North, Central and South A and B. To a lesser degree the Project would also affect those LCA's and LANDMAP Visual and Sensory aspects located beyond the development parcels depending on the degree of intervisibility, the surrounding context, and location within the ZVI (see Figure 6-12 and 6-13).

6.5.13 In general terms:

- Large scale effects would occur within the Solar PV Site where there would be a physical and visual change at close proximity to the parts of the Solar PV Site with above ground components . The Project would change the perception of the primary land use from pastoral farmland and the Former Oil Depot to a Solar PV development in some viewpoints. However, the agricultural land use would not be altered altogether. Sheep grazing could continue amongst the Solar PV Arrays and other areas would be utilised for mitigation and enhancement.

- Medium scale effects would occur in the immediate context up to approximately 1km from the Solar PV Sites. Within this area, the Project would form a noticeable change to landscape character in some viewpoints, albeit partly screened by intervening landform, vegetation or infrastructure.
- Small scale effects would be anticipated beyond the immediate context of the Project beyond 1km of the Solar PV Sites within the ZVI, where visibility of the parts of the Solar PV Site with above ground components is permitted to a limited degree although the intrinsic or prevailing characteristics of the landscape would remain largely unaffected.

6.5.14 Beyond the extent of the ZVI, the effects on landscape character would generally be of Negligible scale. Whilst the Project would be perceptible at a limited number of viewpoints within the LCA's and the LANDMAP aspects, the Project would form a very minor component of the views such that the baseline characteristics would remain unaffected.

IoACC Landscape Character Assessment

6.5.15 Full descriptions of the IoACC LCA's are provided in Table 6-9 and Appendix 6-3. The distribution of the relevant LCA's within the 3km Study Area are shown on Figure 6-3 and are assessed as follows:

LCA 4, Arfordir y Gogledd Orllewin / North West Coast

6.5.16 LCA 4 covers the rugged coastal fringe, headlands, cliffs, beaches and coastal path at Porth Wen and Graig Wen approximately 2.1km to the north of Maen Hir North. LCA 4 at this location is within the statutory Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) and is judged to be of **High Sensitivity** (High Susceptibility + National Value).

6.5.17 The ZVI shows that a limited area of LCA 4 to the north of Maen Hir North at isolated highpoints at Graig Wen are likely to be affected by the Project. The Solar PV Site, Project BESS and Substation would be distantly perceptible to the south beyond the A5025, the Porth Wen Solar Farm and the Rhyd-y-groes Wind Farm. The coastal path, cliffs, beaches and the Porth Wern brickworks would remain unaffected.

6.5.18 The effects of the Project prior to the establishment of the mitigation measures are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Low-Negligible magnitude** and effects that are **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain as **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse within the ZVI at LCA 4.

LCA 5, Gogledd Orllewin Yny Mon / North West Anglesey

6.5.19 LCA 5 covers north-west Anglesey including the western part of Maen Hir North, Maen Hir Central, and western part of Maen Hier South A. LCA 5 is judged to be of Medium Susceptibility to the Project, acknowledging the influence of existing renewables infrastructure including Rhyd-y-groes Wind Farm and the Porth Wen Solar Farm on the coastal fringe to the north of Maen Hir North.

6.5.20 There are no statutory landscape designations covering the Project within LCA 5. The Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) is located approximately 1.4km to the north of Maen Hir North near the A5025 at Burwen. The non-statutory Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds SLA covers part of Maen Hir North within Fields 51, 52, 63, 64 and 65 (see Figure 5-5) to the west and falls adjacent to Fields 70 and 71 (see Figure 5-6) to the north-west of Maen Hir Central. These fields would not include solar infrastructure as shown on the Parameters Plan (see Figure 3-2). LCA 5 is considered to be of Local / District Value. Overall, LCA 5, Gogledd Orllewin Yny Mon / North West Anglesey is judged to be of **Medium Sensitivity** (Medium Susceptibility + Local / District Value).

6.5.21 Within the Solar PV Site, the effects of the Project prior to the establishment of mitigation measures are likely to be Large scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Wide in extent resulting in a **High magnitude** and effects that are **Major-Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. The residual effects are considered to be Significant due to the extent and noticeable change in character at close proximity to the Solar PV Site within LCA 5.

6.5.22 In the wider context of LCA 5 and the ZVI to the north-west of the Study Area, the Project would form a noticeable change to landscape character albeit partly within the context of the Former Oil Depot, the Anglesey Central Railway (disused), settlements and other renewables infrastructure. The effects of the Project prior to the establishment of the mitigation measures are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Localised in extent resulting in **Medium magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse. The effects are considered Not Significant due the partial visibility of Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central within the ZTV at LCA 5 together with the visual influence of existing renewables infrastructure. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to be **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse. The Project would not be visible from the majority of areas within LCA 5 to the west of the drumlin landform at Penymorwydd to the north-west of the Study Area.

LCA 6, Almwch a'r Cyffiniau / Amlwch and Environs

6.5.23 LCA 6 covers north-east Anglesey in the surroundings of Amlwch and Bull Bay including the eastern part of Maen Hir North and close to the eastern boundary of Maen Hir Central. LCA 6 is judged to be of Medium Susceptibility to the Project, acknowledging the concentration and influence of existing settlement and infrastructure between Amlwch and Bull Bay on the coastal fringe to the north-east of Maen Hir North.

6.5.24 There are no statutory landscape designations covering the Project within LCA 6. Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) is located approximately 1.4km to the north of Maen Hir North at Burwen near Bull Bay. The non-statutory Parys Mountain and Slopes SLA is located to the east of Field 23 within Maen Hir North. LCA 6 is considered to be of Local / District Value with no assets or features that indicate that it should be assessed of higher value. Overall, LCA 6, Almwch a'r Cyffiniau / Amlwch and Environs is judged to be of **Medium Sensitivity** (Medium Susceptibility + Local / District Value).

6.5.25 Within the Solar PV Site, the effects of the Project prior to the establishment of mitigation measures are likely to be Large scale, Medium-Term in duration, and

Wide in extent resulting in a **High magnitude** of change and effects that are **Major-Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. The residual effects are considered to be Significant due to the noticeable change in character at close proximity to the Solar PV Site within LCA 6.

6.5.26 In the wider context of LCA 6 within the ZVI to the north-east of the Study Area, the Project would form a noticeable change to landscape character albeit partly within the context of the Former Oil Depot, Anglesey Central Railway (disused), infrastructure and settlements concentrated on the coastal fringe to the north near Amlwch and Bull Bay. The effects of the Project prior to the establishment of mitigation measures are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Localised in extent resulting in a **Medium magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse. The effects are considered Not Significant due to the localised change in character within the visual influence of existing renewables infrastructure and settlement to the north-east of Maen Hir North. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse. The Project would not be visible from the majority of areas within LCA 6 to east of Amlwch and the Parys Mountain landform.

LCA 7, Mynydd Parys / Parys Mountain

6.5.27 LCA 7 covers the elevated escarpments and higher slopes of Parys Mountain and is approximately 1.2km east of Maen Hir North and 2.3km north-east of Maen Hir Central. LCA 7 is judged to be of High Susceptibility to the Project, due to the presence of the cultural landscape features including the former copper mine, derelict headgear, settling pools and quarry faces with elevated views across interior and coastal fringes of north Anglesey. LCA 7 is partly within the non-statutory Parys Mountain and Slopes SLA and is considered to be of Local / District Value. Overall, LCA 7, Mynydd Parys / Parys Mountain is judged to be of **High-Medium Sensitivity** (High Susceptibility + Local / District Value).

6.5.28 In the wider context of LCA 7 within the ZVI to the east of the Study Area, the Project would form a minor alteration to landscape character with Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central partially visible although subdivided and fragmented by the undulating drumlin landforms and vegetation. The effects of the Project prior to the establishment of mitigation measures are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Localised in extent resulting in a **Low magnitude** and effects that are **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain as **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse in the wider context of LCA 7.

LCA 8, Cefnwlad Bae Dulas / Dulas Bay Hinterland

6.5.29 LCA 8 covers the eastern area of Anglesey including Dulas Bay and coastline stretching inland to Mynydd Bodafon including the Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir South A and B. LCA 8 is judged to be of High Susceptibility to the Project, due to the presence of Mynydd Bodafon forming a distinctive rocky and dome shaped landform to the east with elevated and panoramic views across interior areas of Anglesey to the west.

6.5.30 There are no statutory landscape designations covering the Project within LCA 8. Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) is located approximately 1.5km east of Maen Hir South A at Mynydd Bodafon and 0.3km north-east of Maen Hir South B Area at Maenaddwyn. The non-statutory Parciau Estatelands SLA is located 0.42km north-east of Maen Hir South B near Maenaddwyn. LCA 8 is considered to be of Local / District Value. Overall, LCA 8, Cefnwlad Bae Dulas / Dulas Bay Hinterland, is judged to be of **High-Medium Sensitivity** (High Susceptibility + Local / District Value).

6.5.31 Within the Solar PV Site, the effects of the Project prior to the establishment of the mitigation measures are likely to be Large scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Wide in extent resulting in a **High magnitude** and effects that are **Major-Moderate** (Significant) Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. The residual effects are considered to be Significant

due to the noticeable change in character at close proximity to the Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir South A and B lying within part of LCA 8.

6.5.32 In the wider context of LCA 8 within the ZVI to the east of the Study Area, the Project would form a minor alteration to landscape character with Maen Hir Central, Maen Hir South A and B partially visible although subdivided and fragmented by landform and field pattern. The effects of the Project prior to the establishment of the mitigation measures are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Localised in extent resulting in a **Low-Negligible magnitude** and effects that are **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain as **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse in the wider context of LCA 8. The Project would not be visible from the majority of areas within LCA 8 beyond the rising Mynydd Bodafon landform within areas of LCA 8 along the coastal fringe to the east of the Study Area.

LCA 17, Gorllewin Canol Ynys Mon / West Central Anglesey

6.5.33 LCA 17 covers the central area of Anglesey including the western part of Maen Hir South A and the majority of Maen Hir South B. LCA 17 is judged to be of Medium Susceptibility to the Project, acknowledging the rural and tranquil character, dispersed settlement pattern and isolated farms, undulating landform and high concentration of semi-natural habitats in the context of Maen Hir South A and B.

6.5.34 There are no statutory landscape designations covering the Project and the ZTV within LCA 17. LCA 17 within the area covered by the ZVI is considered to be of Community Value which is defined as an 'Everyday' landscape which is appreciated by the local community but has little or no wider recognition of its value (see Table 6-2). Overall, LCA 17, Gorllewin Canol Ynys Mon / West Central Anglesey is judged to be of **Medium-Low Sensitivity** (Medium Susceptibility + Community Value).

6.5.35 Within the Solar PV Site, the effects of the Project prior to the establishment of mitigation measures are likely to be Large scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Wide in extent resulting in a **High magnitude** and effects that are **Major-**

Moderate (Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. The residual effects are considered to be Significant due to the noticeable change in character at close proximity to the Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir South A and B lying within part of LCA 17.

6.5.36 In the wider context of LCA 17 within the ZVI to the south of the Study Area, the Project would form a minor alteration to landscape character with Maen Hir South B although partially visible beyond undulating landform, hedgerows and woodland. Beyond the Solar PV Site, the effects on the landscape character would diminish due to the higher concentration of woodland to the south of the Study Area. The effects of the Project prior to the establishment of the mitigation measures are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Localised in extent resulting in a **Low-Negligible magnitude** and effects that are **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse. The Project would not be visible from the majority of areas within LCA 17 to the east of the ridgeline at Capel Coch or to the west of Mynydd Mwyn Mawr to the south of the Study Area.

LANDMAP

6.5.37 Full descriptions of the relevant LANDMAP geological, habitats, visual and sensory, historic, cultural aspects are provided in Table 6-11 and Appendix 6-3. The Project would physically affect all the LANDMAP aspects within the Project to varying degrees and the LANDMAP Visual and Sensory aspects located within the ZVI. The distribution of the relevant LANDMAP aspects within the 3km Study Area are shown on Figure 6-4 (i-v) and are assessed as follows:

Geological Aspects

6.5.38 Overall, the LANDMAP Geological aspects are judged to be of **Medium Sensitivity** (Medium Susceptibility + Local / District Value). The Solar PV Sites would not affect the underlying geology during the operational phase as further assessed within Chapter 11: Ground Conditions. The effects of the Project prior to the establishment of mitigation measures are likely to be Small scale, Medium-

Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Negligible magnitude** and effects that are **Minimal** (Not Significant) Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse.

Habitats Aspects

6.5.39 Overall, the LANDMAP Habitats aspects are judged to be of **Medium-Low Sensitivity** (Medium Susceptibility + Community Value). The Solar PV Site, BESS and Project Substation, 132kV Substations, and cabling routes would seek to avoid or limit the effects on ecological designations or habitats as assessed in Chapter 7: Ecology. Some localised impacts on ecological designations or habitats would potentially occur through the construction of the cabling routes although these would be minimised and managed through the oCEMP and oLEMP provided within the DCO submission. The Parameters Plan (see Figure 3-2) provides potential opportunities for new habitats that would be further developed through the masterplanning process and statutory consultation. The effects of the Project prior to the establishment of the mitigation measures are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Medium magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. The effects are considered to be Significant due to the potential disturbance to existing habitats and vegetation within the Solar PV Site, BESS and Project Substation, 132kV Substations, and cabling routes.

Visual and Sensory Aspects

6.5.40 Overall, the LANDMAP Visual and Sensory aspects are judged to be of **Medium-Low Sensitivity** (Medium Susceptibility + Community Value). Within the Solar PV Sites, the effects of the Project are likely to be Large scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Wide in extent resulting in a **High magnitude** and effects that are **Major-Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain **Major-Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse due to the change in the character of the Visual and Sensory Aspects at close proximity to the Solar PV Sites.

6.5.41 In the wider context of Visual and Sensory aspects within the ZVI, the Project would form a change to landscape character albeit partly within the context of the Former Oil Depot, Anglesey Central Railway (disused), settlement and other existing renewables infrastructure including Rhyd-y-groes Wind Farm, the Llyn Alaw/Llanbabo Wind Farm, the Ysgellog turbines, the Porth Wen Solar Farm, and the 400kV pylons and transmission lines. The Project would be partly visible within the Visual and Sensory aspects although appear subdivided by landform and vegetation with minimum offsets provided from landscape features including hedgerows, cloddiau and woodland to mitigate the effects. The effects of the Project are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Medium magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse. In the wider context of the ZVI, the residual effects on the Visual and Sensory aspects are judged Not Significant due to the intervening landform, vegetation and the relationship with existing infrastructure and settlement. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects on the LANDMAP Visual and Sensory aspects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse.

Historic Aspects

6.5.42 Overall, the LANDMAP Historic aspects are judged to be of **High-Medium** Sensitivity (High Susceptibility + Local / District Value). The Solar PV Site and underground cabling routes would be sited to avoid impacts on heritage assets as identified in Chapter 8: Heritage. The effects of the Project are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Localised in extent resulting in a **Medium magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse. The effects are considered Not Significant due to offsets provided from heritage assets including the standing stones and churchyards as part of the iterative design process. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects on the LANDMAP Historic aspects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse.

Cultural Aspects

6.5.43 Overall, the LANDMAP Cultural aspects are judged to be of **Medium-Low Sensitivity** (Medium Susceptibility + Community Value). The Solar PV Arrays

would allow for the retention of cultural land use and sheep grazing within the Project. The effects of the Project are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Localised in extent resulting in a **Medium magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. The effects are judged Significant due to the change in the traditional land use from pastoral farmland to a Solar PV Sites with areas for mitigation and enhancement. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects on the LANDMAP Cultural aspects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse.

Visual Effects

Visual Aids

6.5.44 Annotated photographs and visualisations are shown on figures supporting this LVIA. These include:

- Figure 6-14.1 – 6.14.24 Representative Viewpoints 1-24
- Figure 6-15.i – 6.15.ii Specific Viewpoints i-ii
- Figure 6-16.A – 6.16.Z Illustrative Viewpoints A-Z

6.5.45 A total of 51 no. viewpoints have been included within the LVIA following consultation with PINS, IoACC and NRW (see Appendix 6-5). Representative Viewpoints 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 14, 18, 21, 22, 24 and Specific Viewpoints i and ii and Illustrative Viewpoint H have been produced as Type 2 wireline visualisations informed by *Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals* (see Figure 6-17.1-13). The Type 2 wireline visualisations do not account for any embedded mitigation or visual screening that may be provided by proposed vegetation between year 1 and 15 of operation. Further details regarding the methodology for the wireline visualisations are provided in Appendix 6-1.

6.5.46 The viewpoint description, description of effects and scale of effect for each representative viewpoint (see Figure 6-10 to 6-12 for locations) is set out on the relevant photograph. The scale of effect at each viewpoint is summarised in Table 6-14 Representative and Specific Viewpoints and Scale of Effect below.

Table 6-14 Representative and Specific Viewpoints and Scale of Effect

Viewpoint Reference / Location	Distance (km) / Direction (N, E, S, W)	Scale of Effect *Positive / Neutral / Adverse*	
		Operation Pre-mitigation	***Operation Post-mitigation***
Representative Viewpoints			
Representative Viewpoint 1 – A5025 near Buarth-y-Foel between Amlwch and Cemaes within Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) *(requested by PINS)*	1.4km, NW *Maen Hir North*	Small *Adverse*	Small-Negligible *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 2 – Public footpath AMLWCH|11/042/4 near Amlwch Cemetery	0.9km, NE *Maen Hir North*	Small *Adverse*	Small-Negligible *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 3 – Road bridge across Afon Wygr near Hafodllin Bach	Boundary, NW *Maen Hir North*	Large *Adverse*	Medium *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 4 – Bridge across dismantled railway to south-east of the Former Oil Depot near Rhosgoch	0.2km, E *Maen Hir North*	Large *Adverse*	Medium *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 5 – Unclassified lane near St Mary's Church, Bodewyrd	0km (75m), W *Maen Hir North*	Large *Adverse*	Medium *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 6 – Unclassified lane near Clegyrog Blas within Mynydd Mechell Special Landscape Area (SLA)	Boundary, W *Maen Hir North*	Medium *Adverse*	Medium *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 7 – Public footpath RHOSYBOL|44/001/1to west of Ty-Newydd	0.2km, E *Maen Hir North*	Small *Adverse*	Small Adverse
Representative Viewpoint 8 – Rural lane near Pensarn Farm, Pengraigwen	2.2km, SE, *Maen Hir North*	Negligible *Adverse*	Negligible *Adverse*

Viewpoint Reference / Location	Distance (km) / Direction (N, E, S, W)	Scale of Effect *Positive / Neutral / Adverse*	
		Operation Pre-mitigation	***Operation Post-mitigation***
Representative Viewpoint 9 – Unclassified lane near Pant-y-Gwydd within Mynydd Mechell Special Landscape Area (SLA)	0.4km, NW *Maen Hir Central*	Medium *Adverse*	Medium *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 10 – Unclassified lane to west of Rhosgoch	0.6km, N *Maen Hir Central*	Medium *Adverse*	Medium *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 11 – Unclassified lane near railway bridge between Rhosgoch and Llannerch-y-medd	Boundary, NE *Maen Hir Central*	Large *Adverse*	Large *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 12 – Unclassified lane near access track to Llyn Alaw Wind Farm to north of Llanbabo	Boundary, W *Maen Hir Central*	Large *Adverse*	Large *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 13 – Rural lane to west of Llanbabo	0.7km, SW *Maen Hir Central*	Medium *Adverse*	Small *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 14 – Public footpath LLANNERCH-Y-MEDD|25/036/1 and Penwerthyr Nature Area to south of Llyn Alaw	0.9km, S *Maen Hir Central*	Medium *Adverse*	Medium *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 15 – Unclassified lane near Bryn Dylrydog	Boundary, N *Maen Hir South A*	Large *Adverse*	Medium *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 16 – B5111 highway to north of Llannerch-y-medd	Boundary, N *Maen Hir South A*	Medium *Adverse*	Small *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 17 – Public footpath LANNERCH-Y-MEDD | 25/024/3 near Meinir Farm to south of Llyn Alaw	1.9km, S *Maen Hir Central*	Small *Adverse*	Small *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 18 – Public footpath LLANNERCH-Y-MEDD|25/002/1 near Pen-y-Foel and Llwydiarth Tower	Boundary, SW *Maen Hir South A*	Large *Adverse*	Large *Adverse*

Viewpoint Reference / Location	Distance (km) / Direction (N, E, S, W)	Scale of Effect *Positive / Neutral / Adverse*	
		Operation Pre-mitigation	***Operation Post-mitigation***
Representative Viewpoint 19 – Rural lane at Lon Leidr near Clorach	0.4km, N *Maen Hir South B*	Medium *Adverse*	Small *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 20 – Public footpath RHOSYBOL|44/036/1 on junction of unclassified lane and National Cycle Route 5 near Llwydiarth Esgob Farm *(requested by IOACC)*	Boundary, N *Maen Hir South A*	Large *Adverse*	Medium *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 21 – Unclassified lane and National Cycle Route 5 near Llanfihangel Tre'r Beirdd / St. Michael Church to north of Capel Coch	Boundary, NE *Maen Hir South B*	Large *Adverse*	Medium *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 22 – Public footpath LLANNERCH-Y-MEDD|25/012/1 on higher ground near Bachau to east of Llannerch-y-medd (*Photomontage)*	0.6km, W *Maen Hir South B*	Medium *Adverse*	Small *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 23 – Rural lane near Mynydd Mwyn Mawr to south of Llanerch-y-medd	2.1km, W, *Maen Hir South B*	Small *Adverse*	Negligible *Adverse*
Representative Viewpoint 24 – B5111 highway near layby and Pont Glan-rhyd between Llannerch-y-medd and Rhosmeirch *(requested by PINS)*	Boundary, SW *Maen Hir South B*	Medium *Adverse*	Small *Adverse*
Specific Viewpoints			
Specific Viewpoint (i) – Elevated viewpoint to west of Parys Mountain within Special Landscape Area (SLA)	1.7km, E *Maen Hir North*	Small *Adverse*	Small *Adverse*
Specific Viewpoint (ii) – Elevated viewpoint to south-west of Mynydd Bodafon within Anglesey National Landscape (AONB)	1.1km, NE *Maen Hir South B*	Medium Adverse	Medium Adverse

6.5.47 Each of the viewpoints is a 'sample' of the potential effects, representing a wide range of receptors – including not only those actually at the viewpoint, but also those nearby, at a similar distance and / or direction.

6.5.48 From these viewpoints it can be seen that:

- The extent of Large scale visual effects, where the Project would form a major alteration to key elements, features, qualities and characteristics of the view such that the baseline will be fundamentally changed, would generally be limited to locations within or immediately adjacent to the Solar PV Sites; and
- Beyond Solar PV Site, the extent of Medium scale effects is limited due to the partial screening effects provided by existing landform, vegetation or built infrastructure in close proximity to the Solar PV Site.

6.5.49 Beyond approximately 1km from the Solar PV Site, the scale of effects would in general terms, reduce from Medium to Small. There are exceptions from some elevated viewpoints within the Study Area including from Parys Mountain to the north-east, Penymorwydd to the north-west, Mynydd Mechell to the north-west, Pen y Foel near Llannerch-y-medd towards the centre and Mynydd Bodafon to the south-east of the Study Area. Within these elevated views, the Project would appear subdivided, compartmentalised and fragmented by the prevailing landform and field pattern, also visible in the context of existing infrastructure and settlement at certain locations.

Visual Receptor Groups

6.5.50 This section of the PEIR chapter focuses on the effects on the identified Visual Receptor Groups (VRG's) which are likely to experience views of the development parcels to varying degrees from different distances and directions from the PEIR Boundary. The VRG's incorporate the effects on settlements, highways, PRoW and recreation areas such as playing fields, parks or public green space.

6.5.51 Residents and visitors within settlements or walkers using the PRoW are generally considered to be of **High-Medium Sensitivity** (Community Value + High Susceptibility). The Project will be designed to provide suitable offsets and/or visual screening from the surrounding properties and gardens and would not

exceed the threshold of acceptability for residential visual amenity as outlined in the Landscape Institute's TGN 02/2019. The ZVI and fieldwork has shown that the Project would be visible to varying degrees within the following VRG's as shown on Figure 6-13.

Visual Receptor Group 1: Bryn Llewellyn, Graig Wen, Betws and Penymorwydd

6.5.52 VRG 1 covers visual receptors to the north-west of Maen Hir North. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir North would be partially visible to varying degrees in the mid-ground view to the south-east beyond undulating landform, hedgerows, scrub and forestry. Views of Maen Hir North would be partly in the context of the previously developed Former Oil Depot in the surroundings of the Ysgellog turbines, the Rhyd-y-groes Farm and the Porth Wen Solar Farm on the coastal fringe.

6.5.53 The effects of the Project are likely to be Small scale, Medium Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Low Magnitude** and **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse effects on VRG 1. The visual effects are considered Not Significant due to the undulating drumlin landforms which acts to subdivide and compartmentalise views of the Solar PV Sites within the visual influence of existing renewables infrastructure in the surroundings of Maen Hir North. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the management of existing field boundary vegetation for partial visual screening.

Visual Receptor Group 2: Maen Hir North and Surrounds

6.5.54 VRG 2 covers visual receptors within the Maen Hir North development parcel and its immediate context. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir North would be visible at close proximity within the development parcel itself, configured between the Former Oil Depot, the Ysgellog wind turbines, undulating landform and forestry to the north of the Study Area.

6.5.55 The effects of the Project are likely to be Large scale, Medium Term in duration, and Wide in extent resulting in a **High Magnitude** and effects that are **Major** (Significant) and Adverse effects on VRG 2. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. The residual effects would remain Significant

due to visibility of the Solar PV Site at close proximity within Maen Hir North and its immediate context.

Visual Receptor Group 3: Amlwch Fringes and Burwen

6.5.56 VRG 3 covers visual receptors to the north-east of Maen Hir North on the settlement fringes of Amlwch and Burwen. Parts of the Solar PV Site within Maen Hir North would be partially visible beyond and amongst undulating landform, rocky outcrops, gorse scrub, hedgerows and drystone walling to the north-east of the Study Area.

6.5.57 The effects of the Project are likely to be Small scale, Medium Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Low Magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse effects on VRG 3. The effects are considered Not Significant due to the separation distance, intervening landform and partial intervisibility with the Solar PV Site within VRG 3 on the settlement fringe of Amlwch to the north-east of the Study Area. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the management of existing field boundary vegetation for partial visual screening.

Visual Receptor Group 4: Rhosybol and Parys Mountain Lower Slopes

6.5.58 VRG 4 covers visual receptors to the east of Maen Hir North and the north-east of Maen Hir Central at Rhosybol and the lower slopes of Parys Mountain. The Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central would be partially visible to varying degrees within semi-elevated views beyond undulating landform and field patterns within the surroundings of the Former Oil Depot at Maen Hir North and Llyn Alaw at Maen Hir Central.

6.5.59 The effects of the Project are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Low-Negligible Magnitude** and **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse effects on VRG 4. The effects are judged Not Significant due to the lower elevation, intervening landform, forestry blocks and partial invisibility within VRG 4 to the east of Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term

residual effects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the management of existing field boundary vegetation for partial visual screening.

Visual Receptor Group 5: Parys Mountain Upper Slopes

6.5.60 VRG 5 covers visual receptors to the east of Maen Hir North and the north-east of Maen Hir Central on the higher slopes of Parys Mountain. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central would be perceptible in elevated distant views from the northern and western slopes of Parys Mountain to the north east of the Study Area. The Solar PV Arrays, Project Substation and BESS and 132kV Substation would appear nestled within the undulating drumlin landforms and partly in the context of existing settlement and renewables infrastructure on the northern coastal fringe of Anglesey.

6.5.61 The effects of the Project are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Medium Magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse within VRG 5. The effects are judged Not Significant due to the elevated nature of views and the distant and partial visibility of the Solar PV Site within Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central appearing dispersed between the undulating drumlin landforms, the Former Oil Depot, 400kV pylons and OHL and forestry. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the management of existing field boundary vegetation for partial visual screening.

Visual Receptor Group 6: Mynydd Mechell uplands and Carreglefn

6.5.62 VRG 6 covers visual receptors to the west of Maen Hir North and north-west of Maen Hir Central at Mynydd Mechell and Carreglefn. The Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central would be visible in midground view from the northern, eastern and southern fringes of Mynydd Mechell to the north-west of the Study Area. Frequent rocky outcrops, crags, irregular field pattern and gorse scrub foreshortens views within this group. Views are partly intervened by the 400kV pylons and overhead lines or beneath Llyn Alaw Wind Farm.

6.5.63 The effects of the Project are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Low Magnitude** and effects that are

Moderate (Significant) and Adverse on VRG 6. The effects are judged Significant due to the proximity of the 132kV Project Substation to the west of Maen Hir North and to the north of Clegyrog Blas as well as the south-west aspect of landform to the west of Maen Hir Central sloping towards the Mynydd Mechell uplands. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the management of existing field boundary vegetation for partial visual screening.

Visual Receptor Group 7: Rhosgoch, Four Crosses and Rhos-wen

6.5.64 VRG 7 covers visual receptors to the south of Maen Hir North and to the north of Maen Hir Central at Rhosgoch, Four Crosses and Rhos-wen. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central would be visible within midground views on the northern and eastern fringes of Llyn Alaw. The proposed BESS and Project Substation to the east of Llyn Alaw and would appear set-down within a local undulation to the south of Rhosgoch and partly contained by the dismantled railway on a raised embankment at Glasgraig Fawr.

6.5.65 The effects of the Project are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Low Magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse on VRG 7. The effects would be Significant due to the partial visibility of the proposed BESS and Project Substation within Maen Hir Central to the south and Maen Hir North to the north near residential receptors at Rhosgoch albeit partly in the context of the 400kV pylons and OHL. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the management of existing field boundary vegetation for partial visual screening.

Visual Receptor Group 8: Penygraigwen, Bodneithior and Capel Parc

6.5.66 VRG 8 covers visual receptors to the east of Maen Hir Central and to the north-east of Maen Hir South A at Penygraigwen, Bodneithior and Capel Parc. Limited and distant views of the Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir Central and Maen Hir South A would be perceptible although restricted by a higher concentration of hedgerows, smaller scale field patterns and woodland with a more enclosed character in the surroundings of VRG 8 to the east of Maen Hir Central and north-

east of Maen Hir South A. The effects of the Project are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Negligible Magnitude** and effects that are **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse on VRG 8. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the limited extent of visibility of the Solar PV Sites within VRG 8 and the higher proportion of treecover to the east of the Study Area.

Visual Receptor Group 9: Bod Deiniol, Llanbabo, Feram-uchaf and Mynydd-blewog

6.5.67 VRG 9 covers visual receptors to the west of Maen Hir Central and Llyn Alaw on rising ground at Bod Deiniol, Llanbabo, Feram-uchaf and Mynydd-blewog. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central would be partially visible within the midground view beyond intervening hedgerows and beneath the Llyn Alaw Wind Farm on the horizon to the north of VRG 9. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central on the northern and eastern fringes of Llyn Alaw would also be distantly perceptible across the reservoir to the east of VRG 9.

6.5.68 The effects of the Project are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Low Magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse on VRG 9. The effects are judged Not Significant due to the separation distance and partial visibility of the Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central within the western area of VRG 9 partly located beneath Llyn Alaw Wind Farm. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the management of existing field boundary vegetation for partial visual screening.

Visual Receptor Group 10: Maen Hir Central and Surrounds

6.5.69 VRG 10 covers visual receptors within the Maen Hir Central development parcel and its immediate context. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central would be visible at close proximity and its immediate surroundings beyond field boundary hedgerows on the northern and eastern fringes of Llyn Alaw and beneath the Llyn Alaw Wind Farm on the higher ground to the west of the Study Area. There are limited numbers of PRoW directly crossing the Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir

Central. The effects of the Project are likely to be Large scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Wide in extent resulting in a **High Magnitude** and effects that are **Major** (Significant) and Adverse on VRG 10. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse due to the management of existing field boundary vegetation for partial visual screening. The residual effects would remain Significant due to visibility of the Solar PV Site at close proximity within Maen Hir Central development parcels and its immediate context.

Visual Receptor Group 11: Llyn Alaw, Penwerthyr and Gwredog Uchaf

6.5.70 VRG 11 covers visual receptors to the south of Maen Hir Central at Llyn Alaw, Penwerthyr and Gwredog Uchaf. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central would be visible in the midground view across the expanse of the reservoir on the northern and eastern fringes of Llyn Alaw.

6.5.71 The effects of the Project are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Medium Magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse on VRG11. The effects are considered Significant due the south and east facing aspects of the Solar PV Sites visible to the north and east of Llyn Alaw and the medium-distance views across the expanse of the reservoir. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse due to the aspect and proximity of the Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir Central within views across Llyn Alaw.

Visual Receptor Group 12: Llanerch-y-medd West, Cae Mawr, Ceidio, Wilpol and Peny-bryn

6.5.72 VRG 12 covers visual receptors to the south of Maen Hir Central at . Llanerchymedd West, Cae Mawr, Ceidio, Wilpol and Peny-bryn. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central would be distantly perceptible within semi-elevated views across the reservoir on the northern and eastern slopes of Llyn Alaw to the north-east and beneath the Llyn Alaw Wind Farm to the north-west of the group.

6.5.73 The effects of the Project are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration and Localised in extent resulting in a **Low Magnitude** of change and effects that

are **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse. The effects are judged Not Significant due to the diminishing effects with distance and partial visibility of Maen Hir Central to the north and east of Llyn Alaw. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the management of existing field boundary vegetation for partial visual screening.

Visual Receptor Group 13: Maen Hir South A and Surrounds

6.5.74 VRG 13 covers visual receptors within the Maen Hir South A development parcel and its immediate context. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir South A and its immediate surroundings would be visible at close proximity. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir South A occupies a localised basin or hollow between the rising landform of Pen y Foel to the south, Llwydiarth Fawr to the west, Bryn Dyfrydog to the north and Llandyfrydog to the west.

6.5.75 The effects of the Project are likely to be Large scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Wide in extent resulting in a **High Magnitude** and effects that are **Major** (Significant) and Adverse on VRG 13. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse due to the embedded mitigation including the management of existing vegetation for partial visual screening. The residual effects would remain Significant due to visibility of the Solar PV Site at close proximity within Maen Hir South A and its immediate context.

Visual Receptor Group 14: Llandyfrydog, Tal-y-bontan, Hebron and Mynydd Bodafon Lower Slopes

6.5.76 VRG 14 covers visual receptors to the east of Maen Hir South A and north of Maen Hir South B on the lower slopes of Mynydd Bodafon at Llandyfrydog, Tal-y-bontan, Hebron. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir South A and B would be partially visible to the south and west of VRG 14 beyond undulating landform, hedgerows and cloddiau.

6.5.77 The effects of the Project are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Medium Magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse on VRG 14. The effects are judged Not

Significant due to the separation distance and partial visual screening provided by landform, hedgerows and cloddiau to the east of Maen Hir South A and to the north of Maen Hir South B. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the management of existing field boundary vegetation for partial visual screening.

Visual Receptor Group 15: Mynydd Bodafon Upper Slopes

6.5.78 VRG 15 covers visual receptors to the east of Maen Hir South A and to the north-east of Maen Hir South B on the upper slopes of Mynydd Bodafon. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central and South A and B would be visible to varying degrees within elevated and panoramic views from the higher dome-shaped escarpment of Mynydd Bodafon. Within these elevated views, the Solar PV sites within Maen Hir South A and B would be partially visible in the medium distance and lower lying areas to the south and west of the Mynydd Bodafon escarpment. Whilst Maen Hier South A and B would occupy a proportion of the horizontal field of view, the Solar PV Sites would appear compartmentalised, subdivided and framed within the prevailing landform and field pattern. The Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir Central would be more distantly perceptible to the west and, to a degree, would blend into the muted colour and expanse of the Llyn Alaw reservoir.

6.5.79 The effects of the Project are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Medium Magnitude** and effects that are **Major-Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse on VRG 15. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. The residual effects are judged to be Significant due to the sensitivity of VRG 15 within the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) and the elevated and panoramic nature of the views from the upper slopes of the Mynydd Bodafon escarpment.

Visual Receptor Group 16: Llanerch-y-medd South, Coedana and Mynydd Mwyn

6.5.80 VRG 16 covers visual receptors to the west of Maen Hir South B at Coedana and Mynydd Mwyn and Llanerchymedd South. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir South B would be partially visible to a limited degree from the higher ground at

Mynydd Mwyn to the south of Llanerch-y-medd. Views towards the Solar PV Site within Maen Hir South B would generally be screened by the higher concentration of woodland and hedgerows to the south of the Study Area.

6.5.81 The effects of the Project are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Negligible** Magnitude of change and effects that are **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse on VRG 16. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the extent of treecover and limited extent of visibility of Maen Hir South B from within VRG 16.

Visual Receptor Group 17: Llanerch-y-medd East, Bachau and Ysgoldy

6.5.82 VRG 17 covers visual receptors to the west of Maen Hir South B on the rising slopes at Bachau and Ysgoldy and Llanerchymedd East. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir South B would be partially visible from the higher ground at Bachau to the east of Llanerch-y-medd. The Solar PV Site would generally appear contained within the shallow valley between Llanerch-y-medd and Capel Coch and partially screened by intervening hedgerows and woodland to ensure it would not breach or impact upon the skyline.

6.5.83 The effects of the Project are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Localised in extent resulting in a **Low Magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse on VRG 17. The effects are judged Not Significant due to the rising landform and extent of woodland enclosure to the west of Maen Hir South B to the south of the Study Area. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the residual effects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the management of existing field boundary vegetation for partial visual screening.

Visual Receptor Group 18: Maen Hir South B and Surrounds

6.5.84 VRG 18 covers visual receptors within the Maen Hir South B development parcel and its immediate context. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir South B would be visible at close proximity between Maenaddwyn, Capel Coch and Bachau with the Solar PV Site forming a broad horseshoe along the lower lying ground to the east and west of a low ridgeline between Yns Fawr and Yns Bach. There are a limited

number of visual receptors within Maen Hir South B itself due to the absence of PRoW crossing the Solar PV Site to the south of the Study Area.

6.5.85 The effects of the Project are likely to be Large scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Wide in extent resulting in a **High** Magnitude and effects that are **Major** (Significant) and Adverse on VRG 18. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. The residual effects would remain Significant due to visibility of the Solar PV Site at close proximity within Maen Hir South B and its immediate context.

Roads

6.5.86 Motorists using A and B road are judged to be of **Medium sensitivity** (Community Value + Medium Susceptibility). The visual effects on the roads identified in Sections 6.3.39 to 6.3.40 includes:

A5025

6.5.87 The A5025 travels east-to-west along the coastal fringe of Anglesey between Cemaes, Burwen, Bull Bay, Amlwch and Penysarn approximately 1.3km north of Maen Hir North at its closest point (see Figure 6-14.1, Rep Viewpoint 1). The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir North would be barely perceptible to drivers travelling in the east and westbound directions along the A5025 due to the distance, intervening landform and location of Porth Wen Solar Farm at closer proximity.

6.5.88 The effects of the Project are likely to be Negligible scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Negligible Magnitude** and effects that are **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain as **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the limited extent of visibility beyond roadside vegetation or in the direction travel from motorists using the A5025.

B5111

6.5.89 The B5111 travels north-to-south through the interior of Anglesey between Amlwch, Parys Mountain, Rhosybol, Llanerch-y-medd, Rhosmeirch and Llangefni approximately 1.01km east of Maen Hir North, 0.59km east of Maen Hir Central, and directly west of Maen Hir South A and B (see Figure 6-14.16, Rep Viewpoint

16 / Figure 6-24.24, Rep Viewpoint 24). The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir South A would be visible directly to the east of the B5111 over a relatively short section of approximately 300 metres within Field 159 to the north of Llanerch-y-medd. The Solar PV Site would be set back within Maen Hir South B bordering the B5111 although the new access road to the proposed 132kV Substation is likely to be visible at close proximity.

6.5.90 The effects of the Project are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Low Magnitude** and effects that are **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse effects. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the further establishment of the embedded mitigation along the roadside boundaries.

B5112

6.5.91 The B5112 travels south-west to north-east between Carmel and Llanerch-y-medd approximately 0.46km south-west of Maen Hir South A and approximately 3.09km west of Maen Hir South B. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central would be distantly perceptible at a number of isolated points along the B5112 between Carmel and Llanerch-y-medd although not at close proximity or within the direct line of travel such that it would affect the drivers' overall experience.

6.5.92 The effects of the Project are likely to be Negligible scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Negligible Magnitude** and effects that are **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain as **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the limited extent of visibility from motorists using the B5112.

Long Distance Walking Routes

6.5.93 Visitors and walkers using long distance walking routes are judged to be of High Sensitivity (National Value + High Susceptibility). The visual effects on long distance walking routes identified in Sections 6.3.41 to 6.3.42 includes:

Parys Mountain Geotrail Walk

6.5.94 The Parys Mountain Geotrail Walk forms a circular recreational route approximately 1.7km east of Maen Hir North (near Figure 6-15.i, Specific Viewpoint i). The geotrail encircles the higher slopes, quarry faces and overburden heaps of the former copper mine encircling the central basin and excavation. Walker's using the geotrail experience a number of elevated panoramic views across interior and coastline areas of Anglesey although the primary focus is relation to the geological interest within the former Parys Mountain copper mine.

6.5.95 The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central would be distantly perceptible from the western and northern sections of the geotrail. However, these views towards Maen Hir North would appear subdivided and fragmented by the undulating drumlin fields and forestry enclosing the Former Oil Depot. Views towards Maen Hir North would also appear in the context of other renewables infrastructure including the Ysgellog Turbines, Rhyd-y-groes Wind Farm, Porth Wen Solar Fam and Wyfla Nuclear Power Station in the far distance on the horizon to the north-west of Parys Mountain.

6.5.96 The effects of the Project are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Localised in extent resulting in a **Low Magnitude** and effects that are **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse. The is due to the separation distance from Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central and the principal orientation of views focussed towards the geological interest in the foreground of Parys Mountain along the geotrail route. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the sensitivity of the receptor, the elevated nature and character of views from Parys Mountain. The majority of the Parys Mountain Geotrail Walk around the central basin of the former copper mine would remain unaffected by the Project.

Mynydd Bodafon Geotrail Walk

6.5.97 The Mynydd Bodafon Geotrail Walk forms a recreational route approximately 2.47km east of Maen Hir South A and 1.89km north-east of Maen Hir South B (near Figure 6-15.ii, Specific Viewpoint ii). The geotrail partly encircles the

prominent craggy dome landform of Mynydd Bodafon although does not include the trig point on the summit (see Figure 6-16.S, Ill Viewpoint S). The primary focus is relation to the geological interest at Mynydd Bodafon although there are extensive panoramic views to the west of the escarpment. The Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir Central, South A and B would be partially visible from a short stretch along the western section of the geotrail with semi-elevated views overlooking interior areas of Anglesey.

6.5.98 The effects of the Project are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Low Magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain as **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse due to the elevated and panoramic nature of views to the west of Mynydd Bodafon in relation to Maen Hir Central, South A and B in the mid-distance. However, the ,majority of the Mynydd Bodafon Geotrail Walk would remain unaffected by the Project to the east of the escarpment. The Project would not affect the geotrail to the east of the Mynydd Bodafon escarpment or coastal sections of the route near Moelfre and Dulas Bay.

National Cycle Routes

6.5.99 Cyclists using National Cycle Routes (NCR's) are judged to be of **High-Medium Sensitivity** (National Value + High Susceptibility). The visual effects on cycle routes identified in Section 6.3.43 includes:

Copper Trail (NCR 500)

6.5.100 The Copper Trail (NCR 500) cycle route travels between Llanerch-y-medd, Capel Parc, Penysarn, Llaneilian, Amlwch, Burwen, Hafoldllin, Rhosbeiro and Llanfechell directly to the north of Maen Hir North and directly west of Maen Hir South A (see Figure 6-14.3, Rep Viewpoint 3 / Figure 6-14.16, Rep Viewpoint 16 / Figure 6.16, ILL Viewpoint P). The Copper Trail (NCR) cycle route forms a long distance circuit around the north-west region of Anglesey.

6.5.101 The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir South A would be partially visible directly to the east and south of the cycle route over two short stretches equating to 0.8km between Llanerch-y-medd and Capel Parc. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir

North would be visible to varying degree over a relatively short length of approximately 0.5km of cycle route beyond roadside hedgerows between Pen y Fynwent, Hafodllin Fawr and Rhosbeirio.

6.5.102 The effects of the Project are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Low Magnitude** and effects that are **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the establishment of the embedded mitigation including the further growth of roadside vegetation for partial visual screening from the cycle route. The majority of the Copper Trail (NCR 500) cycle route would remain unaffected by the Project.

North Wales Coastal Route (NCR 5)

6.5.103 The North Wales Coastal Route (NCR 5) travels between Llanerch-y-medd, Maenaddwyn and Capel Coch directly to the north and east of Maen Hir South B (see Figure 6-14.20, Rep Viewpoint 20 / Figure 6.16, ILL Viewpoint L / Figure 6.16, ILL Viewpoint X). NCR 5 forms part of a long distance cycle route through North Wales.

6.5.104 The Solar PV Site would be visible at close proximity over two relatively short stretches of the cycle route over approximately 0.8km distance between Bachau and Cwyrt Bach to the north and between Cae Fabli and Capel Coch over approximately 0.6km distance to the east of Maen Hir South B. The effects of the Project are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Low Magnitude** and effects that are **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the further growth of roadside vegetation for partial visual screening along the cycle route. The majority of the North Wales Coastal Route (NCR 5) would remain unaffected by the Project.

National Cycle Route 566

6.5.105 National Cycle Route 566 travels between Llanerch-y-medd and Llangefni approximately 1.1km west of Maen Hir South B (see Figure 6-14.23, Rep

Viewpoint 23). Route 566 forms a relatively short cycle route within central Anglesey. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir South B would be distantly perceptible to a limited degree to the east of the cycle route although would generally be screened by undulating landform, hedgerows and woodland to limit the effects on the overall experience of NCR 566.

6.5.106 The effects of the Project are likely to be Negligible scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Negligible Magnitude** and effects that are **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the limited extent of visibility beyond roadside vegetation from cyclists using NCR 566.

Accessible and Recreational Landscapes

6.5.107 The visual effects on the accessible and recreational landscape identified in Sections 6.3.44 to 6.3.45 includes:

Bull Bay Golf Course

6.5.108 Bull Bay Golf Course is approximately 0.97km to the north-east of Maen Hir North. Golfers and people focussed on playing sport are judged to be of **Medium-Low Sensitivity** (Community Value + Low Susceptibility). The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir North would be partially and distantly perceptible in glimpse views amongst the fairways, rocky outcrops and gorse scrub from elevated areas of the golf course to the north-east of Burwen.

6.5.109 The effects of the Project are likely to be Negligible scale, Long Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Low-Negligible Magnitude** and effects that are **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the limited extent of visibility from Bull Bay Golf Course.

Amlwch Cemetery

6.5.110 Amlwch Cemetery is approximately 0.76km to the north-east of Maen Hir North (near Figure 6-14.2, Rep Viewpoint 2). Cemeteries as place of quiet reflection are judged to be of **High-Medium Sensitivity** (Local / District Value + High

Susceptibility). The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir North would be partially visible to a limited degree although generally screened by the intervening landform and vegetation.

6.5.111 The effects of the Project are likely to be Negligible scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Low-Negligible** Magnitude and effects that are **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the limited extent of visibility from Amlwch Cemetery.

Penwerthyr Nature Area

6.5.112 Penwerthyr Nature Area to south of the Llyn Alaw reservoir is approximately 0.98km south of Maen Hir Central (see Figure 6-13.14, Rep Viewpoint 14). Nature Reserves as accessible landscape are judged to be of **High-Medium Sensitivity** (Local / District Value + High Susceptibility). The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central would be visible in the midground view across the reservoir on the northern and eastern fringes of Llyn Alaw.

6.5.113 The effects of the Project are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Medium Magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. The effects are considered to be Significant due the south and east facing aspects of the Solar PV Sites to north and east of Llyn Alaw and the medium-distance views across the expanse of the reservoir. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse due to the aspect and proximity of the Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir Central in views across Llyn Alaw.

Porth Wen Open Access Land (OAL)

6.5.114 Porth Wen OAL forms an accessible landscape along the rugged coastline, cliffs and rocky outcrops between Porth Wen, Torllwyn, Port Adfan, Hell's Mouth and Llanlleiana Head approximatively 2.1km to the north of Maen Hir North (see Figure 6-16.B, Illustrative Viewpoint B). Open access land is judged to be of **High-Medium Sensitivity** (Local / District Value + High Susceptibility). A limited area

of the Porth Wen OAL would be affected by the Project at isolated highpoints at Graig Wen. The Solar PV Arrays, BESS and Project Substation would be distantly perceptible to the south beyond the A5025, the Porth Wen Solar Farm and the Rhyd-y-groes Wind Farm. The Coast Path, cliffs, beaches and the Porth Wen Brickworks would remain unaffected.

6.5.115 The effects of the Project are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Low-Negligible magnitude** and effects that are **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain **Minimal** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the limited extent of visibility from Porth Wen OAL.

Parys Mountain Open Access Land (OAL)

6.5.116 Parys Mountain Open Access Land (OAL) forms an accessible landscape within the former copper mine approximately 1.7km east of Maen Hir North (see Figure 6-15.i, Specific Viewpoint i). Open access land is judged to be of **High-Medium Sensitivity** (Local / District Value + High Susceptibility). The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central would be perceptible in the midground and distant views from the northern and western slopes of Parys Mountain. The Solar PV Site, Project Substation and BESS and 132kV substation options would appear nestled within the drumlin landforms and partly in the context of other renewables infrastructure and higher concentration of settlement towards the coastal fringe near Amlwch and Bully Bay.

6.5.117 The effects of the Project are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Medium Magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse. The effects are judged Not Significant due to the elevated panoramic nature of views and the distant intervisibility of Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central, partly in the context of existing renewables infrastructure and settlement. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse.

Mynydd Bodafon Open Access Land (OAL)

6.5.118 Mynydd Bodafon Open Access Land (OAL) forms an accessible landscape 2.47km east of Maen Hir South A and 1.89km north-east of Maen Hir South B (see Figure 6-15.ii, Specific Viewpoint ii / Figure 6.16.S, ILL Viewpoint S). Open access land is judged to be of **High-Medium Sensitivity** (Local / District Value + High Susceptibility). The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central and South A and B would be visible to varying degrees from the open access land covering the dome shaped escarpment at Mynydd Bodafon. Within the elevated panoramic views from Mynydd Bodafon towards interior areas of Anglesey to the west, Maen Hir South A and B would be partially visible within lower lying areas within the midground and distant view. The Solar PV Arrays and 132kV substations would appear set down within the landscape and compartmentalised by the undulating landform, field pattern, hedgerows and woodland.

6.5.119 The effects of the Project are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Medium Magnitude** and effects that are **Major-Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse due to the embedded mitigation including the management of existing vegetation that would further subdivide, compartmentalise and contain the Solar PV Sites within the lower lying areas. The residual effect is considered to be Significant due to the sensitivity of the OAL within the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) and the elevated and panoramic nature of the views from the upper slopes and to the west of Mynydd Bodafon.

Specific Viewpoints

6.5.120 A number of specific viewpoints have been identified to consider the visual effects of the Project. These viewpoints with elevated panoramic views across the interior and coastal fringe of Anglesey are visited by walkers and are judged to be of **High Sensitivity** (National Value + High Susceptibility).

Specific Viewpoint (i) Parys Mountain

6.5.121 Specific Viewpoint (i) is an elevated viewpoint to the west of the Parys Mountain copper mine within the OAL and SLA approximately 1.7km east of Maen Hir North. From this location, elevated panoramic views are experienced to the west and

north-west of Anglesey including the coastal fringe. Holyhead mountain and Mynydd-Garn are distantly perceptible on the coastal fringe to the far west of the viewpoint. In the mid-ground view between beneath Holyhead mountain and Mynydd-Garn is Mynydd Mechell. To the north-west, a series of glacial drumlin *"basket-of-eggs"* landforms extends diagonally across Anglesey between Mynydd Mechell and Amlwch. To the west of Mynydd Mechell, towards the interior of the Isle, the landform becomes more gently rolling with larger field patterns, typically defined by hedgerows and stock proof fencing. Llyn Alaw reservoir occupies a natural basin and is visible in distance within a low lying area of former peatland at Cors-y-bol. Llyn Alaw Wind Farm and the 400kV OHL's are distantly perceptible on the higher ground to the north of reservoir. To the south of the viewpoint, the rising landform and of Mynydd Bodafon is visible to the south with the Snowdonia mountains within Eryri National Park forming a silhouette in the background. Trysglwyn Wind Farm is visible at close proximity to the south of Parys Mountain.

6.5.122 The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir North would be visible in the lower midground views from the northern and western slopes of Parys Mountain. The Solar PV Sites, Project Substation and BESS and 132kV substation options would appear nestled within drumlin landforms and partly in the context of other infrastructure and settlement concentrated towards the northern coastal fringe of Anglesey. Maen Hir North would be partially screened and visible in the context of the Former Oil Depot, the Ysgellog turbines, Rhyd-y-groes Wind Farm, 400kV pylons and OHL and the Porth Wen Solar Farm. The Solar PV Sie within Maen Hir Central would also be distantly perceptible along the northern and eastern fringes of Llyn Alaw and beneath the Llyn Alaw Wind Farm on the higher plateau further to the west of the Study Area.

6.5.123 The effects of the Project are likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Localised in extent resulting in a **Low Magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse. The effects are judged Not Significant due to the distant and partial visibility of Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central, partly in the context of existing renewables infrastructure and settlement. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse due to the

embedded mitigation including the management of existing vegetation for partial visual screening and containment.

Specific Viewpoint (ii) Mynydd Bodafon

6.5.124 Specific Viewpoint (ii) is an elevated viewpoint to south-west of Mynydd Bodafon within Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) approximately 2.5km to the east of Maen Hir South A and 1.1km north-east of Maen Hir South B. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir South A would be visible within midground views to the west within a localised basin between Pen y Foel, Llywdiarth and Llandyfrydog. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir South B would be visible at closer proximity to the south of the viewpoint within a broadly horseshoe-shaped area of lower ground to the east and west of a low ridgeline divided by a farm track between Yns Groes and Yns Fawr. Larger tracts of woodland and copses enclose the skyline to the south of Maen Hir South B providing a more intimate and enclosed character to this area. The Cors Erddreiniog Nature Reserve is visible to south of the viewpoint although separated from Maen Hir South B by a local undulation. The Snowdonia mountain range within Eryri National Park is distantly visible as a silhouette further to the south although not directly in-line with, or interrupted by, the Solar PV Site within Maen Hir South B.

6.5.125 The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central and South A and B would be visible to varying degrees from the rising Mynydd Bodafon escarpments. Within these elevated panoramic views towards interior areas of Anglesey, Maen Hir South A and B would be partially visible within lower lying areas in the midground view. The Solar PV Sites and 132kV substations would appear set down within the landscape and compartmentalised by the undulating landform, cloddiau, hedgerows and woodland enclosing the skyline to the south of Maen Hir South B. Views towards Maen Hir South B are partly influenced by the two small scale turbines at Plas Lanfihangel and the 400kV pylons and OHL's extending between Capel Coch, Llanyfrydog, Rhosybol and Rhosgoch. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central would be more distantly perceptible to the west and, to a degree, would blend into the wider expanse of the Llyn Alaw reservoir. The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir North would be barely perceptible and difficult to discern at this distance from Mynydd Bodafon.

6.5.126 The effects of the Project are likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Intermediate in extent resulting in a **Medium Magnitude** and effects that are **Major-Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Moderate** (Significant) and Adverse. This is due to the embedded mitigation that would further subdivide, compartmentalise and contain the Solar PV Sites within the lower lying areas across wider views of the interior of Anglesey. The residual effect is considered to remain Significant due to the sensitivity of the viewpoint within the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB).

Designated Landscapes

6.5.127 The relevant designated landscapes are further described in Section 6.3.48 to 6.3.55, Tables 6-14 and 6-15 of this LVIA. The following statutory and non-statutory designated landscapes are located within the ZVI (see Figure 6-6).

Anglesey National Landscape (AONB)

6.5.128 The Project is located outside of the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) although may be regarded as being within its setting (see Figure 6-6). At its closest point, the boundary of this designation is approximately 1.4km to the north of Maen Hir North along the A5025 at Burwen, 1.5km to the east of Maen Hir South A at Mynydd Bodafon, and 0.3km to the north-east Maen Hir South B at Maenaddwyn. Visitors to the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) are generally considered to be of **High Sensitivity** (National Value + High Susceptibility).

6.5.129 The Anglesey AONB Management Plan 2023-2028 identifies the special qualities which define its designation status. On review of these special qualities and through consultation with NRW within the EIA Scoping Opinion (see Appendix 2-2), it is considered that the Project located outside of the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB), would have the potential to impact on the *"expansive views"* and *"peace and tranquillity"* special qualities in the surroundings of this designation.

"Expansive Views" Special Quality

6.5.130 In terms of the *"expansive views"* special quality, the ZTV and ZVI mapping (see Figure 6-12 and 6-13) indicates that relatively limited areas of the Anglesey

National Landscape (AONB) would be visually affected by the Project. Views of the development parcels from within the designation would include from the A5025 at Burwen and Graig Wen on the coastal fringe approximately 1.5km to the north of Maen Hir North and from the inland elevated viewpoint at Mynydd Bodafon approximately 1.5km to the east of Maen Hir South A and 0.3km to the north-east Maen Hir South B.

6.5.131 The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir North would be distantly perceptible from the A5025 at Burwen (see Figure 6-14.1, Rep Viewpoint 1) and the higher rocky outcrops at Graig Wen near Porth Wen (see Figure 6-16.J, ILL Viewpoint J). Within these elevated views from the north, Maen Hir North would be distantly perceptible in the context of the Former Oil Depot and beyond the Porth Wen Solar Farm intervening the Project. The elevated views from the higher rocky outcrops of Graig Wen are less frequently visited and separate from the Coast Path at Porth Wen. Views from Graig Wen are generally focussed along the rugged coastline across Porth Wen to the north and east of the receptor and not towards inland areas of Anglesey or the Project which is generally located beyond intervening landform and the Porth Wen Solar Farm to the south.

6.5.132 The Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central and South A and B would be visible to varying degrees from the higher escarpments, rocky outcrops and trig point at Mynydd Bodafon to the south-east of the Study Area (see Figure 6-15.ii, Specific Viewpoint (ii) / Figure 6.16.S, ILL Viewpoint S). Within these elevated panoramic views across interior areas of the Anglesey to the west, the Solar PV Site within Maen Hir South A and B would be partially visible within the lower lying areas, although would appear subdivided, fragmented and compartmentalised by the undulating landform and field pattern.

"Peace and Tranquillity" Special Quality

6.5.133 In terms of the *"peace and tranquillity*" special quality, there is potential for some disturbance to varying degrees during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Project. Figure 6-19 utilising data from the LUC Tranquillity and Place Resource (Theme 5, Visually Tranquill Area: NRW Report

569) [Ref 6-16] indicates the existing baseline levels of visual tranquillity within the parcels on scale of 2 (least tranquil) and 10 (most tranquil).

6.5.134 The LUC tranquillity mapping provides GIS mapping and viewshed analysis from various datasets including:

- Theme 1: naturalness of landcover; seeing open spaces; the sea; streams, rivers and canals; standing water; time depth; LANDMAP Visual and Sensory outstanding and high landscapes; natural designations; conservation areas;
- Theme 2: seeing larger settlements; scattered villages and houses; roads; railways; quarries, large non-natural infrastructure,
- Theme 3: relative dark skies, and Theme 4: hearing moving water; the sea; nature; low flying aircraft; lots of people; non-natural sounds; and
- Theme 5 which combines all the above datasets to identify the Visually tranquil areas.

6.5.135 Whilst the NRW tranquillity mapping is comprehensive and useful as a GIS database and resource to inform the design process, the findings of the data do need to be verified further through field investigations to understand the local context. The Study Area exhibits a range of tranquillity scales between 4 and 9. Within the PEIR Boundary the tranquillity scale is typically 6 and 7 with smaller areas of 8 at more isolated locations. Within the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) the NRW visual tranquillity levels are generally lower in extent and typically at grade 6 at Porth Wen to the north although higher grades of 8, 9 and 10 are located at Mynydd Bodafon to the east of the Study Area. It is notable that the existing renewables infrastructure including Porth Wen Solar Farm, the Ysgellog Wind Turbines, the Rhyd-y-groes Wind Farm, Trysglwn Wind Farm are already located with the higher grade tranquillity areas.

6.5.136 The Project is likely to result in a degree of effect on *"peace and tranquillity*" special quality although not within the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) designation itself. The impacts of the Project on the visual aspects of tranquillity have been assessed above and through field investigation would be restricted to Graig Wen near Porth Wen (see Figure 6-16.J, ILL Viewpoint J) to the north of

Maen Hir North and the higher escarpments at Mynydd Bodafon (see Figure 6-15.ii, Specific Viewpoint (ii) / Figure 6.16.S, ILL Viewpoint S). The temporary and intermittent visual impacts of construction traffic, plant and machinery and low-level motion sensor lighting limited to the Project Substation, BESS and 132kV and 33kV Substations within the construction and operational phases would impact the visual tranquillity levels in the surroundings of the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB). During the operation phase, infrequent maintenance traffic would be evident to a lesser degree within the Solar PV Sites.

6.5.137 The Project would generally be viewed in the context of relatively dark skies with infrequent lighting associated with farms, settlements and wind farms. The parts of the Solar PV Site including the Project Substation, BESS and 132kV Substations within motion sensor lighting may result in localised impacts on dark skies although these above ground components would appear set back from the designations within the development parcels in the context of other sporadic light sources across in the interior and northern fringe of Anglesey. As the Project design evolves following Statutory Consultation, and through ongoing survey work, the proposed locations of these parts of the Solar PV Site with above ground components will become better defined; however under the Rochdale Envelope principles, these will be identified on the Work Area Plans which will form part of the ES at DCO Application. Further assessments will be undertaken in terms of the potential impacts on dark skies and tranquillity as the design of the Project progresses including a review of NRW Report 514 Tranquillity and Place – Dark Skies and Online Mapping 2021 [Ref 6-17].

6.5.138 In summary, the overall effects on the special qualities of the Anglesey National Landscape (AONB) arising from the Project are likely to be Low-Negligible scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Limited in extent resulting in a **Low-Negligible Magnitude** and effects that are **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to remain as **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse. This overall assessment balances the isolated impacts on the *"expansive views"* and *"peace and tranquillity"* special qualities with the conclusion that the majority of the

designation covering the coastal fringe of Anglesey would remain unaffected by the Project.

Parys Mountain and Slopes Special Landscape Area (SLA)

6.5.139 The Project is not located within the Parys Mountain and Slopes SLA. The boundary of the non-statutory designation is located directly to the east of Maen Hir North (Fields 70 and 71, see Figure 5-5) near Penrhyd. Visitors to the SLA are considered to be of **High-Medium Sensitivity** (Local / District Value + High Susceptibility).

6.5.140 The Project would not result in any physical effects to fabric of the Parys Mountain and Slopes SLA. The ZTV and ZVI mapping (see Figure 6-12 and 6-13) indicates that northern and western slopes of Parys Mountain would be visually affected by Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central in terms of the *"long distance views"* special quality. Views towards the Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir South A and B would be distant and barely perceptible. The higher plateau of Parys Mountain and central basin is further set back from the northern and western slopes and therefore would be less affected by the development parcels within Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central.

6.5.141 Views of the Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central from the western and northern slopes of Parys Mountain (see Figure 6-15.i, Specific Viewpoint (i) / Figure 6.16.H, ILL Viewpoint H) would appear partly screened by the undulating landform of the drumlin fields and forestry enclosing the Former Oil Depot near Rhosgoch. The Solar PV Site would also be partly viewed in the context of other renewables infrastructure including the existing Porth Wen Solar Farm, Ysgellog Wind Turbines and Rhyd-y-groes Wind Farm.

6.5.142 In terms the overall effects on the Parys Mountain and Slopes SLA, the Project is likely to be Small scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Localised in extent resulting in a **Medium Magnitude** and effects that are **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse. The majority of the special qualities of the Parys Mountain and Slopes SLA would remain unaffected by the Project.

Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds Special Landscape Area (SLA)

6.5.143 The non-statutory Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds SLA covers part of Maen Hir North within Fields 51, 52, 63, 64 and 65 (see Figure 5-5) to the west and falls adjacent to Fields 70 and 71 (see Figure 5-6) to the north-west of Maen Hir Central. However, these fields are proposed for mitigation and enhancement areas only. Visitors to the SLA are considered to be of **High-Medium Sensitivity** (Local / District Value + High Susceptibility).

6.5.144 The Project would not include any Solar PV or Substation infrastructure within the non-statutory Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds SLA designation. The ZVI mapping (see Figure 6-12 and 6-13) indicates that northern, eastern and southern areas of the Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds SLA would be visually affected by the Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir North and Central. However, field investigations have shown that characteristics of the SLA including frequent rocky outcrops, irregular field pattern and gorse scrub mosaic would enclose the majority of outward views located within the SLA.

6.5.145 Views towards the Solar PV Sites within Maen Hir North and Central would be relatively restricted although would be partially visible from the unclassified lane at Clegyrog Blas (see Figure 6-14.6, Rep Viewpoint 6) and from the unclassified lane near Garreg Fawr (see Figure 6-14.9, Rep Viewpoint 9). Both of these views from within the SLA would be partly intervened by the 400kV pylons and OHL's crossing the development parcels. Views from Garreg Fawr towards the north-western part of the Solar PV Site within Maen Hir Central are located beneath the Llyn Alaw Wind Farm.

6.5.146 In terms the overall effects on the Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds SLA, the Project is likely to be Medium scale, Medium-Term in duration, and Localised in extent resulting in a **Medium Magnitude** and **Moderate** (Not Significant) and Adverse effects. The effects are judged Not Significant as the Solar PV Site and above ground components would not be located within the SLA and the visual influence of the Maen Hir North and Central would be localised by the key characteristics. Following the establishment of the mitigation measures, the Long-Term residual effects are likely to reduce to **Slight** (Not Significant) and Adverse.

The majority of the special qualities of the Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds SLA would remain unaffected by the Project.

6.6 Additional Mitigation

6.6.1 Further mitigation and enhancement measures will be considered as the design develops for the DCO application and through consultation and engagement with local communities and stakeholders. It is anticipated that additional mitigation and enhancement measures will come forward through consultation and the iterative design and assessment process. The additional mitigation measures would be embedded into the design to further consider the preliminary effects assessed under Section 6.5.

6.7 Residual Effects

6.7.1 In the absence of any additional mitigation being identified at this stage, the preliminary conclusions on residual effects are the same as the potential effects presented in Section 6.5. A summary of these effects is presented in Appendix 6-6.

6.8 Effects Interactions

6.8.1 This LVIA chapter has been informed by other technical studies such as the Access and Recreation Assessment (see Appendix 6-4) which combines assessments of the visual impact, glint and glare and noise impacts arising from the Project on the overall experience of PRoW, recreational trails and cycle routes.

6.8.2 This LVIA chapter has also assessed the impacts on the LANDMAP aspects which considers the interactions of effects with regards to the geology, habitats, visual and sensory, historic and cultural landscape aspects.

6.8.3 The ZTV and ZVI mapping (see Figure 6-12 and 6-13) has informed the heritage assessments in Chapter 8 in relating to impacts on the setting of built heritage assets.

6.8.4 The Green Infrastructure Strategy will be informed by both this LVIA and the ecological assessment presented in Chapter 7 of this PEIR to develop solutions

that provide both landscape screening for sensitive visual receptors and ecological enhancement.

6.9 References

Ref 6-1 Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Ed, 2013) – Landscape Institute / Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (GLVIA3)

Ref 6-2 Draft Technical Guidance Note 05/23, Notes and Clarifications on aspects of the Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Ed) – Landscape Institute

Ref 6-3 Technical Guidance Note 06/19, Visual Representation of development proposals (2019) – Landscape Institute

Ref 6-4 Technical Guidance Note 02/19, Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) – Landscape Institute

Ref 6-5 Technical Information Note 05/17, Townscape Character Assessment (Rev April 2018) – Landscape Institute

Ref 6-6 Technical Guidance Notes 02-21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations – Landscape Institute

Ref 6-7 NRW Guidance Note 017: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment guidance for Wales – Natural Resources Wales

Ref 6-8 NRW Guidance Note 46 Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments

Ref 6-9 Designing for Renewables Energy in Wales (Nov 2023) prepared by the Design Commission for Wales – Section 6.0 Designing solar farms

Ref 6-10 Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales (NRW) – National Landscape Character Areas

Ref 6-11 Isle of Anglesey County Council (IoACC) – The Anglesey Landscape Strategy: Landscape Character Areas (Update 2011)

Ref 6-12 Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales LANDMAP resource – comprising Geological, Habitats, Visual and Sensory, Historic and Cultural aspects

Ref 6-13 IoACC Assessment of the potential for solar PV farms in Gwynedd and Ynys Môn undertaken by LUC (July 2016)

Ref 6-14 Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2023 – 2028 (prepared by IoACC)

Ref 6-15 Review of Special Landscape Areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey (prepared by LUC, Dec 2012)

Ref 6-16 NRW Report 569 Tranquillity and Place and the accompanying online StoryMap for visually tranquil places (Tranquillity and Place (arcgis.com)

Ref 6-17 NRW Report 514 Tranquillity and Place – Dark Skies and online dark skies mapping undertaken in 2021. Wales Dark Skies (arcgis.com)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