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MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Environmental Statement

Volume 6, Annex 8.5: International and nationally designated landscape study

Document Number: MOCNS-J3303-RPS-10085

Document Reference: F6.8.5

APFP Regulations: 5(2)(a)

February 2024

F01

Image of an offshore wind farm

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Document status

Version	Purpose of document	Authored by	Reviewed by	Approved by	Review date
F01	Application	RPS	Mona Offshore Wind Ltd	Mona Offshore Wind Ltd	Feb 2024

Prepared by:

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Prepared for:

Mona Offshore Wind Limited.

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
Access land	Land designated as open access as defined in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (the CRoW Act)
Characteristics	Elements, or combinations of elements, which make a contribution to distinctive landscape character.
Effect	Best practice guidance defines effect as the change resulting from an impact (which is defined as "*the action being taken*") (e.g. the effect erecting a building/structure of removing a tree on seascape/landscape character or views/visual amenity). (GLVIA3, pages 8-9).
Feature	Prominent elements in the landscape, such as tree clumps, church towers or wooded skylines.
Heritage	The historic environment and especially valued assets and qualities, such as historic buildings and cultural traditions.
Landscape	An area, as perceived by people, the character of which is a result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
Landscape character	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.
Landscape Character Areas (LCA)	These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type.
Magnitude (of impact)	A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the impact or change, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long-term in duration.
Marine character area (MCA)	Each marine character area has its own individual character and identity, even though it can share the same generic characteristics as other areas. The use of MCAs provides a good framework within which to draw out patterns of local distinctiveness and those factors influencing sense of place. They can be used to develop more tailored policies or strategies, reflecting the things that make a particular area different, distinctive or special. Character areas may also be more recognisable and identifiable for non-specialists (than 'character types').
Seascape	The visual and physical conjunction of land and sea which combines maritime, coast and hinterland character.
Special Qualities	A term usually used in relation to National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is given to those qualities for which the area is designated.
Visual amenity	The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy in their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.
Visual effects	Effects on specific views and on general visual amenity experienced by people.
Visual receptors	Individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by a proposal.
Visualisation	A computer simulation, photomontage or other technique illustrating the predicted appearance of a proposed development.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)	A map, usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which, a development is theoretically visible.

Acronyms

Acronym	Description
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
LAT	Lowest Astronomical Tide
LCA	Landscape Character Area
MCA	Marine Character Area
MDS	Maximum Design Scenario
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
NL	National Landscape
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
SLVIA	Seascape and Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
SCA	Seascape Character Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Units

Unit	Description
%	Percentage
m	Metres
km	Kilometres
km^2	Square kilometres

1 International and nationally designated landscape study

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Overview

1.1.1.1 This report presents the assessment of the potential impact of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on nationally and internationally designated landscapes and is part of the Seascape Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) in Volume 2, Chapter 8 Seascape and visual resources and Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources, of the Environmental Statement.

1.1.2 Study area

1.1.2.1 The SLVIA study area for the purpose of assessment of effects on nationally and internationally designated landscapes is defined below and illustrated in Figure A1. Nationally and Internationally designated landscapes and viewpoint locations. The SLVIA study area has been based on the findings of an analysis of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and is described as:

- The area of land to be temporarily and permanently occupied during construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning of the offshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project together with:
  - 60 km buffer from the Mona Array Area. This study area incorporates the Mona Offshore Cable Corridor. This study area has been selected to support the further detailed assessment on designated landscapes as raised in the S.42 consultation process
  - 1 km buffer from the Mona Onshore Development Area (i.e., the area landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) to be temporarily or permanently occupied during the construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning of the Mona Offshore Wind Project onshore transmission assets
  - 10 km from the Mona Onshore Substation.

1.1.2.2 The ranges used to define the SLVIA study area are based on the Maximum Design Scenario (MDS) set out in Volume 2, Chapter 8: Seascape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement and are illustrated in Appendix, Figures: Figure A.1: Viewpoints and Nationally / Internationally designated landscapes. This figure shows the location (boundary extents) of each of the nationally / internationally designated landscapes.

1.2 Policy Context

1.2.1.1 The policy context for the Mona Offshore Wind Project is set out in Volume 1, Chapter 2: Policy and legislative context of the Environmental Statement. Specific policy relevant to seascape, landscape and visual resources is set out in Volume 6, Annex 8.1 Seascape and visual resources legislation and planning policy context and Volume 7, Annex 6.1 Landscape and visual resources legislation and planning policy context of the Environmental Statement.

1.3 Consultation

1.3.1.1 A summary of the key issues raised during consultation activities undertaken to date specific to seascape, landscape and visual resources is presented in Volume 2, Chapter 8: Seascape and visual resources, Table 8.6, of the Environmental Statement, and Table 6.7 of Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Resources, of the Environmental Statement.

1.3.1.2 In response to Natural England's request for a 60 km study area, it was decided to extend the study area, where that 60 km might overlap with an international or nationally designated landscape in both England and Wales, for this further detailed assessment of designated landscapes as described in section 1.1.2. Natural England stated that they would provide feedback following the submission of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (email, March 2022).

1.3.1.3 The study area for the Mona Onshore Substation extends to a distance of 10 km from the Onshore Substation platform, which includes part of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape (NL) but excludes Eryri National Park and the Isle of AngleseyNL. The study area for the Mona Onshore Substation was agreed with NRW.

1.4 Baseline Environment

1.4.1 Methodology to inform baseline

1.4.1.1 The seascape, landscape and visual resources baseline of the Mona Offshore Wind Project is described in detail in the following reports:

- Volume 6, Annex 8.2: Seascape and landscape character baseline technical report of the Environmental Statement
- Volume 6, Annex 8.3: Visual baseline technical report – offshore development
- Volume 7, Annex 6.2: Landscape and seascape character baseline technical report of the Environmental Statement
- Volume 7, Annex 6.3: Visual baseline technical report – onshore development of the Environmental Statement.

1.4.2 Identification of designated sites

1.4.2.1 All nationally and internationally designated landscape areas within the wider 60 km SLVIA study area that could be affected by the construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project were identified and considered for assessment using the six-step process described below:

- Step 1: All designated landscape/seascape areas of international and national importance within the SLVIA study area were identified using a number of sources. These sources included Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Isle of Man Government and Natural England environmental datasets
- Step 2: Information was compiled on the relevant qualifying interests for each of the areas, such as their reasons for designation and/or special landscape/seascape qualities
- Step 3: Using the above information and expert judgement, designated landscape/seascape areas were included for further consideration if:

  - A designated area directly overlapped with the Mona Offshore Wind Project SLVIA study area
  - A designated area was located within the ZTV of the Mona Array Area
- Step 4: All statutory designated landscape/seascape areas of international and national importance within the SLVIA study area overlapping with the ZTV of the Mona Array Area were carried forward for consideration in the SLVIA
- Step 5: Non statutory and local landscape/seascape designations were scoped out of the SLVIA.

1.4.2.2 Nationally and internationally designated landscapes that occur entirely or partially within the SLVIA study areas referenced above are presented in Table 1.1 together with approximate distances to the Mona Array Area and Mona onshore development area.

Table 1.1: Nationally and internationally designated landscapes in the Mona Offshore Wind Project SLVIA study area.

Designated site	Closest distance to the Mona Array Area (km)	Closest distance to the Mona Onshore Development Area (km)
Eryri National Park	35.9 km	14.1 km
Isle of Anglesey NL	28.8 km	26.3 km
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL	41.1 km	5.2 km
The Lake District National Park and The English Lake District World Heritage Site	59.0 km	102.1 km

1.4.2.3 It is noted that a very small part of the nationally designated Lake District National Park and internationally designated English Lake District World Heritage Site occurs within the 60 km study area (59 km from the revised Mona Array Area location). The primary reason Natural England wanted to extend the study area to 60 km, was to include some of the higher peaks of this area of nationally and internationally designated landscape. However, following the reduction of the Mona Array Area, the very small part of the Cumbrian coast that falls within the 60 km study area is a low-lying coastal landscape, featuring a variety of development types, including an onshore wind farm and a prison between Silecroft and Haverigg. At this distance of almost 60 km, considering the baseline conditions (low-lying topography and built development) and the limited extent of the designated landscape that falls within the study area, there is no potential for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to experience significant effects on the special qualities of The Lake District National Park and The English Lake District World Heritage Site. The Lake District National Park and English Lake District World Heritage Site is therefore not taken forward for further assessment.

1.4.2.4 The assessment is thus focussed on effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on the nationally designated landscapes listed below during the operations and maintenance phase and is supported by ZTV data as illustrated in Appendix, Figures: Figure A.2: Nationally Designated Landscapes in relation to Zone of Theoretical Visibility for Mona Offshore Array and Appendix, Figures: Figure A.3: Nationally / internationally designated landscapes within 60 km SLVIA study area:

- The Isle of Anglesey NL

- The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL
- Eryri National Park.

1.4.3 Desktop study

1.4.3.1 Information on the special qualities of these nationally designated landscapes considered in this assessment was collected through a detailed desktop review of published studies and datasets. These are summarised in Table 1.2 below.

Table 1.2: Summary of key desktop characterisation sources.

Title	Source	Year	Author
The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan Review 2015 to 2020	Isle of Anglesey NL/Isle of Anglesey County Council	2015	Isle of Anglesey NL Authority/Isle of Anglesey County Council
The Isle of Anglesey AONB Management Plan Review 2015 to 2020 – Appendix 1 Summary of evidence base, legislative and policy context	Isle of Anglesey NL/Isle of Anglesey County Council	2015	Isle of Anglesey NL Authority/Isle of Anglesey County Council
Anglesey Landscape Strategy	The Isle of Anglesey County Council	2011	The Isle of Anglesey County Council
Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment	Isle of Anglesey Council	2013	Fiona Fyfe Associates
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Management Plan 2014 - 2019	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL	2014	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL Partnership
Supplementary Planning Guidance Note Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB	Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council	2018	Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council
The Snowdonia National Park Partnership Plan 2020	Eryri National Park (Snowdonia National Park) Authority	2020	Eryri National Park (Snowdonia National Park) Authority
Supplementary Planning Guidance: Landscapes and Seascapes of Eryri	Eryri National Park (Snowdonia National Park) Authority	2014	Eryri National Park (Snowdonia National Park) Authority
Supplementary Planning Guidance: Landscapes Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment	Eryri National Park (Snowdonia National Park) Authority	2016	Eryri National Park (Snowdonia National Park) Authority
National Seascape Assessment for Wales NRW Evidence Report No 80	NRW website	2015	Land Use Consultants (LUC)
National Landscape Character	NRW website	Various (2013)	NRW

1.4.4 Site specific surveys

1.4.4.1 To inform the Environmental Statement, site-specific surveys were undertaken in relation to the photography and assessment of the representative viewpoints agreed

with statutory consultees. In addition, extensive fieldwork was carried out during preparation of the SLVIA to support the seascape, landscape and visual resources baseline and impact assessments. A summary of the site-specific surveys undertaken is provided in Volume 2, Chapter 8 Seascape and visual resources and Volume 3, Chapter 6 Landscape and visual resources, of the Environmental Statement.

1.5 Impact Assessment Methodology

1.5.1.1 The assessment of effects on the special qualities of nationally designated landscapes has followed the methodology set out in Volume 6, Annex 8.4 and Seascape, landscape and visual resources impact assessment methodology of the Environmental Statement.

1.6 Baseline – special qualities of nationally designated landscapes

1.6.1.1 Baseline descriptive data on the special qualities for each designated landscape is presented below, drawn from publications listed in Table 1.2 and supported by observations in the field.

Isle of Anglesey National Landscape

1.6.1.2 The baseline data on the Isle of Anglesey NL as documented in the published management plan (Isle of Anglesey AONB Management Plan Review 2015 to 2020 – Appendix 1 Summary of evidence base, legislative and policy context) is presented below.

1.6.1.3 The Isle of Anglesey AONB Management Plan (2023-2028) refers to this designated landscape as being predominantly a coastal designation, covering most of Anglesey's 201 km coastline but also encompasses Holyhead Mountain and Mynydd Bodafon along with substantial areas of land which form the essential backdrop to the coast. The total coverage of the NL on Anglesey is approximately 221 km^2 (21,500 hectares).

1.6.1.4 The landscape of the Isle of Anglesey reflects the varied underlying geology and is a diverse mixture of marine and terrestrial habitats, including rugged cliffs, heathland, sand dunes, salt marshes and mudflats. Holyhead Mountain, the cliffs of North and South Stack and rocky coves are the dominant features of the island's north coastline. The east coast is characterised by vertical limestone cliffs and sandy beaches, whilst the west coast is less rugged and consists of stretches of sand dunes and beaches. The Menai Strait can be considered in two parts, east and west. The east section from Beaumaris to Menai Bridge is well wooded with relatively large settlements. The west section is similarly wooded but is much more rural in character.

1.6.1.5 Three sections of open, undeveloped coastline have also been designated as Heritage Coasts. Heritage Coast is a non-statutory tourist designation (not a landscape or heritage designation). These cover approximately 50 km of the coastline. The sections of Heritage Coast are, but are not assessed within this annex, or within the seascape or landscape chapters. For information only, the areas of Heritage Coast are:

- North Anglesey 28.6 km (17 miles)
- Holyhead Mountain 12.9 km (8 miles)
- Aberffraw Bay 7.7 km (4.5 miles).

1.6.1.6 The AONB Management Plan lists features of the Isle of Anglesey NL as follows:

- Coastal Landscape/Seascape Features

- Traditional Agricultural Landscape Features
- Geological and Geomorphological features.

1.6.1.7 The AONB Management Plan lists the special qualities of the Isle of Anglesey NL as follows:

- 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.

1.6.1.8 The AONB Evidence Base Appendix 1 refers to Special Qualities categorised into four themes along with an evaluation of these as shown in Table 1.3 to Table 1.6.

Table 1.3: Landscape/Seascape resource – special qualities of the Isle of Anglesey National Landscape.

Special qualities	Extent of resource	Condition	Why important	Factors affecting condition
Coastal Landscape Features: • Sea Cliffs and Rocky shores • Sand Dunes • Sandy Beaches • Saltmarsh.	Sea cliffs are prominent on the west and north coasts, in particular at: • Rhoscolyn • South Stack • Ynys y Fydlyn • Ynys Llanddwyn.	Variable	The AONB is a landscape designation. The coastal landscape helps to define the character of Anglesey. These features are distinctive, appealing and integral elements of the coastal landscape. Beaches are an important economic asset for Anglesey. Saltmarsh is an important buffer between land and	• Changes in land management practices • Changes in legislation • Inappropriate development • Economic pressures and threats • Sea level rise, and the subsequent need for sea defences tied into this is managed retreat • Development pressures • Recreational pressures • Pollution • Decline of traditional light grazing
	Large dune systems are located at Newborough and Aberffraw. Dunes also located at Traeth Dulas, Red Wharf Bay and Rhosneigr.	Variable		
	Sandy beaches are located throughout the AONB. Includes beaches at Lligwy, Aberffraw, Llanddona and Llanddwyn.	Variable		

Special qualities	Extent of resource	Condition	Why important	Factors affecting condition
	Saltmarshes are located throughout the AONB and Include: Traeth Melynog, Cefni Estuary, Cymyran Strait and Inland Sea, Traeth Dulas and Traeth Coch.	Good	sea and provides coastal protection.	• Scrub development • Conifer planting • Common Agricultural Policy (European, National and Regional policy implications) • Non-native Invasive Species.
Traditional Agricultural Landscape Features: • Ancient Hedgerows • Stone Walls • Cloddiau	Ancient hedgerows are more concentrated in the south and east of the AONB. Associated with boundaries (parish, estate and Project) country lanes and trackways.	Declining	The AONB is a landscape designation. The agricultural landscape helps to define the character of Anglesey. These features are a valuable wildlife habitat and are link corridors for flora and fauna. These features are an integral element of the AONB's landscape.	• Changes in land management practices • Changes in legislation • Inappropriate development • Economic pressures and threats • General neglect • Removal to increase field sizes • Road widening • Inappropriate cutting regimes • Changes in grant schemes • Non-native Invasive Species.
Expansive Views	Throughout the AONB	Good	Such views provide a significant contrast and backdrop to the landscape of Anglesey	• Changes in land management practices • Inappropriate development • Energy production and transmission.
Peace and Tranquillity	Majority of the AONB	Poor to Good	The landscape provides a rewarding experience for both residents and tourists. The landscape is an economic asset.	• Changes in land management practices • Changes in legislation • Inappropriate development • Energy production • Inappropriate recreation • Transport • Racetrack developments.
Islands around Anglesey	30 islands are included in the AONB designation	Variable	These islands are an important physical link between the landscape and seascape of Anglesey.	• Climate change and sea level rise • Changes in legislation • Natural processes • Offshore developments.

Table 1.4: Geology – Special qualities of the Isle of Anglesey National Landscape

Special Qualities	Extent of Resource	Condition	Why important	Factors affecting condition
Geological and Geomorphological Features:	21 GCR's and 31 RIGS have been designated in the AONB. Since 2009 the entire island has been designated a UNESCO European Geopark and is a member of the Global Geoparks Network.	Variable	The Island's geology and geomorphology has a dramatic effect on the AONB's landscape and biodiversity. Anglesey consists of some of the most ancient tracts of rocks in Great Britain. The features provide an insight into the geological evolution of the Island. The geology has influenced the location and nature of Anglesey's communities, economic activities and the transport infrastructure. A Geopark is a territory with a geological heritage of European significance and a sustainable development strategy with a strong management structure. It aims to protect geodiversity, to promote geological heritage to the general public as well as to support sustainable economic development of geopark territories primarily through the development of geological tourism.	• Changes in land management practices • Changes in legislation • Inappropriate development including sea defences • Economic pressures and threats • Climatic change and sea level rise • Recreational pressures • Management agreements and the availability of funding • Vegetation and non-native invasive species • Quarrying • Accessibility of exposure.

Table 1.5: Ecology and biodiversity – Special qualities of the Isle of Anglesey National Landscape

Special Qualities	Extent of Resource	Condition	Why important	Factors affecting condition
Broadleaved Woodland	The majority of the seminatural woodland on Anglesey (1000ha) is located in the AONB, in particular along the Menai Strait and the east coast.	Declining	Anglesey is one of the least wooded counties in the UK. There is limited natural woodland coverage in the AONB. Woodlands are a distinctive, appealing and integral element of the AONB's landscape.	Increasing isolation between woodlands • General neglect • Grazing of ground layer restricts natural regeneration • Changes in land management practices • Competition from non-native invasive species.
Lowland and Coastal Heath	The majority of the heathland on Anglesey is located in	Unfavourable recovering	On a world scale, heathland is a rare habitat, with its major	•Overgrazing leading to loss of dwarf shrubs

Special Qualities	Extent of Resource	Condition	Why important	Factors affecting condition
	the AONB. Present at many Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) including: • Tre Wilmot • Penrhoslligwy • Fedw Fawr • Mariandrys • Bwrdd Arthur • Ty Croes • Holyhead Mountain • Mynydd Bodafon • Breakwater Country Park.		stronghold in Western Europe. Anglesey's heathland constitutes approximately 12.5% of the lowland heathland in Wales and 1.7% of the heathland in the UK. Heathland is a distinctive and integral element of the AONB's landscape.	•Abandonment of cliff top grazing due to recreational pressure •Scrub development •Changing agricultural practices •Abandonment of Commons •The decline in appropriate burning regimes of heathland •Atmospheric eutrophication

Table 1.6: Historic environment – special qualities of the Isle of Anglesey National Landscape

Special Qualities	Extent of Resource	Condition	Why important	Factors affecting condition
The Built Environment	Throughout the AONB 4 Conservation Areas have been designated in the AONB. They are: • Beaumaris • Aberffraw • Holyhead Mountain Village • Menai Bridge 403 Listed Buildings are located within the AONB.	Variable	These features provide an insight into past activities in the AONB and are a record of human evolution on the Island. These features are an integral element of the AONB's landscape. The variety of the built environment helps to define the AONB. Located within the AONB are examples of industrial, religious, cultural and agricultural features.	• Neglect and lack of management, leading to decay and disrepair • Land management practices • Changes in legislation • 'Conversion Appeal' • Inappropriate development • Management agreements and the availability of funding • Lack of public awareness.
Archaeology and Ancient Monuments	75 Statutorily Protected Scheduled Ancient Monuments and numerous Non-Scheduled Archaeological Sites have been designated in the AONB.	Variable	These features provide an insight into past activities in the AONB and are a record of human evolution of the Island. These features are an integral element of the AONB's landscape. The historic landscape of the AONB has a cultural, economic and educational value.	• Neglect and lack of management, leading to decay and disrepair • Land management practices • Changes in legislation • Inappropriate development • Agricultural practices • Management agreements and the availability of funding • Lack of public awareness.

Special Qualities	Extent of Resource	Condition	Why important	Factors affecting condition
	Two Outstanding Historic Landscapes are located in the AONB.			

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape

1.6.1.9 The baseline data on the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL as documented in the published management plan entitled Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Management Plan 2014 - 2019 is presented below.

1.6.1.10 The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB management plan refers to five special qualities, each of which has a number of components of quality as follows.

1.6.1.11 Landscape Character and Quality comprising the following components of quality:

- *"Tranquillity - Tranquillity is associated with an atmosphere of calm and stillness; peace and quiet; and with dark night skies*
- *Remoteness and Wildness, Space and Freedom – Remoteness and wildness is associated with a feeling of trepidation and sometimes even danger. The sublime. Space and freedom are related to access to the landscape and the uninterrupted and extensive views from the high places within it. Bro and the link between communities and their landscape. A sense of belonging and attachment to the landscape."*

1.6.1.12 Habitats and Wildlife comprising the following components of quality:

- *"Heather Moorland and Rolling ridges – The dramatic moorland ridges of the central Clwydian Range, expansive Llandegla and Ruabon Moors, Llantysilio and North Berwyn*
- *Broadleaved woodlands and Veteran trees - Bishops Wood, Cwm and Wheeler Valley. Ash dominated Alyn Valley woods and the small copses of the upper Alyn and upland oak woods of the Dee Valley*
- *River Valleys and the River Dee – The dramatic and powerful River Dee contrasted with the smaller twisting and winding River Alyn and River Wheeler*
- *Limestone grasslands, cliffs and screes – Graig Fawr, Loggereads and Bryn Alyn – Llanarmon yn lal and the spectacular Eglwyseg Escarpment."*

1.6.1.13 Historic Environment comprising the following components of quality:

- *"Historic Settlement and Archaeology – Historic settlement patterns and conservation areas. The diverse patterns and features in the landscape left by previous generations*
- *Industrial Features and the World Heritage Site - Limestone quarrying and lead mining, slate quarries and associated tramways and workings – the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and canal, Horseshoe Falls*
- *Historic Defence Features – The dramatic chain of Iron Age Hillforts of the Clwydian Range, Castell Dinas Bran and Chirk Castle and medieval Motte and Baileys at Tomen y Rhodwydd, Tomen y Fadre and Glyndwr's Mount, Carrog*

- *Small historic features - Often unlisted or scheduled a rich mixture of small historic features that are an important part of the rich cultural layer of the landscape – wells, village pumps, boundary stones, way-markers, milk stands and K6 telephone boxes*
- *Traditional boundaries – Drystone walls and hedges reflecting traditional skills and craftsmanship and often reflecting local styles and geology."*

1.6.1.14 Access Recreation and Tourism comprising the following components of quality:

- *"Iconic Visitor and Cultural Attractions – Sites that have helped to shape the identity of the AONB as a visitor destination – Loggerheads Country Park, Moel Famau, Castell Dinas Bran, Valle Crucis Abbey, the Horseshoe Pass and Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Horseshoe Falls*
- *The Offa's Dyke National Trail and Promoted Routes - Stretching from Prestatyn Hillside in the north to Llangollen in the south, the National Trail makes the AONB particularly accessible. The Dee Valley Way, North Berwyn Way and a network of community paths. Together with extensive areas of Access Land the landscape of the AONB is particularly accessible."*

1.6.1.15 Culture and People comprising the following components of quality:

- *"The Built Environment – The villages and towns, hamlets and scattered settlements.*
- *People and Communities – A rich mix of culture and strong sense of community – the facilities and services that are essential to sustaining rural life."*

Eryri National Park

1.6.1.16 The baseline data on the Snowdonia National Park as documented in the published management plan (Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-2031, Snowdonia National Park Authority, 2019) is presented below.

1.6.1.17 The nine special qualities outlined in the Eryri Local Development Plan are set out at paragraph 1.31 of the Local Development Plan, are as follows:

- Diverse landscapes
- Community cohesion
- Vibrancy of the Welsh Language
- Inspiration for the arts
- Tranquillity and solitude
- Extensive recreation opportunities
- Historic landscapes
- Renowned geology
- Internationally important species and habitats.

1.6.1.18 The detail of each special quality is contained within the Cynllun Eryri/Snowdonia Park Partnership Plan (Snowdonia National Park Authority, 2020) which sits alongside the Eryri Local Development Plan.

1.6.1.19 *"**Diverse landscapes** - Diverse, high-quality landscapes and seascapes within a small geographic area, ranging from coast to rolling uplands to rugged mountains for which Snowdonia is famed.*

1.6.1.20 *Snowdonia is comprised of a diverse mix of landscapes, many of which are highly valued for their natural beauty and tranquillity. The National Park is renowned for its vast mountainous backdrops, but also offers beautiful and unspoilt valley and coastal settings. In 2019 Snowdonia was named the most beautiful National Park in Europe. There are very few places in the world where it is possible to experience all of these environments within such a short distance of each other. The complex and diverse geology of Snowdonia is the initial reason for the varied landscape and nature within. This geology is a result of millions of years of continental shift, volcanoes, erosion, sedimentation, weathering and other natural powerful forces. The imprint of the last Ice Age has created vast lakes, waterfalls, wide green valleys, bogs and wild river torrents. Oak, Ash, Rowan and Hazel woodlands are found scattered throughout the area. Upland hill Projecting and forestry along with the relics of slate mining exemplify the interaction of human and landscape. The beautiful Dyfi, Mawddach and Dwyryd estuaries along with 23 miles of sweeping coastline and sandy beaches contribute to the overall diversity of our unique and dramatic landscape which has inspired artists, scientists, residents and visitors for centuries.*

1.6.1.21 *Special places referenced in the plan under this special quality include Nantlle Ridge, Llyn Idwal, Castell y Gwynt, Beddgelert and Aberglaslyn Gorge, Cnicht, Carneddau, Rhaeadr Ddu, The Sychnant Pass."* (Snowdonia Park Partnership Plan, page 29 to 32).

1.6.1.22 *"**Community Cohesion** - A robust sense of community identity, cohesion, continuity and inclusivity combine to give a strong 'sense of place and belonging' within Snowdonia.*

1.6.1.23 *To describe a sense of place, and belonging, is an elusive task, but it can perhaps be best described by the positive emotion felt of being valued by a community that has a strong sense of self. The beauty and enduring nature of Snowdonia has been carved throughout history by the combined forces of nature and human activity. Our communities have been moulded and shaped by their tough and beautiful environment, and we represent one of the last strongholds of the original post Ice Age inhabitants of the British Isles. Change and continuity have been considerable influences both from within the Park and beyond. This flux continues to be vital in defining, diversifying and strengthening the identity of our communities.*

1.6.1.24 *What creates a 'sense of place' and belonging?*

- *A strong identity that is deeply felt by inhabitants and visitors*
- *Authentic human attachment and care*
- *The connection of the community to their environment, homeland and shared history*
- *The combination of characteristics that make a place and its people feel special, unique and valued.*

1.6.1.25 *Within the Park boundaries, there are 24 small villages and five towns of which Bala and Dolgellau are our two principal centres. These two towns are important ancient market towns in their own right. In Snowdonia, approximately 58% of the population speak Welsh and our traditional heritage is thriving with local eisteddfodau, societies and Welsh literature groups which contribute to the success of keeping alive local traditions. Newer community activities and ways of living, will one day also become*

known as 'traditions'...for example our regular food fairs like the Snowdonia Market, and outdoor sporting events such as the International Snowdon Race.

1.6.1.26 *Our towns and villages are places where changes have occurred over many years making them unique settlements, sharing common links from ancient Bronze Age traders to the Drovers routes of more recent history. Trade and commerce continue to be central to the activities of the area, which create new traditions often based around tourism and Snowdonia's high profile as an inspirational destination. The preparation for, and arrival of, tourists for the Spring Bank Holiday now involves many more people than the arrival of the Spring lambs or the sheep 'Gathering' in Autumn, although these traditional activities remain vital and much valued by residents and visitors alike.*

1.6.1.27 *Special places referenced in the plan under this special quality include Betws y Coed, Dolgellau, Bala and Gateway towns and villages lying just outside the National Park including Bala, Bethesda, Conwy, Llanberis and Machynlleth to name but a few."* (Snowdonia Park Partnership Plan, pages 35 to 39).

1.6.1.28 *"**Vibrancy of the Welsh language** - The vibrancy of Welsh is most obvious in Eryri as it continues to be the choice of language in many social and professional environments. It is evident in local place names, the wildlife and history therein and is therefore intrinsic to the uniqueness of our cultural and natural heritage.*

1.6.1.29 *Snowdonia is in the ancient Kingdom of Gwynedd and is a stronghold of 'Cymraeg' Eryri means 'upland' or 'high place'. Welsh is one of the oldest living languages in Europe. Breton and Cornish are closely related, with Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Manx originating from the same source. It is an indigenous language of the British Isles, that has had to compete with Latin, Norman-French and English. Although having declined at moments in our history, Welsh has survived, often against all the odds, and now has protected status via Welsh Government legislation. There is a growing awareness of the benefits of a 'bilingual brain' with a wider recognition that Welsh lies at the heart of what makes Wales and Snowdonia unique and that it is a priceless asset to be nurtured for the whole of the nation.*

1.6.1.30 *The Welsh language, the language of legendary leaders such as Llywelyn the Great and Owain Glyndwr, has been, and continues to be, an integral part of our identity and is at the heart of everyday family life. Welsh language and culture has continued to evolve and is now an integral part of a new, inclusive, vibrant and contemporary culture, being spurred on by the arts and music, food and drink festivals, and especially by younger generations embracing the benefits of working and socialising multilingually.*

1.6.1.31 *History and culture is everywhere in Snowdonia and Welsh is spoken by 58% of our population with the percentage as high as 85% in some communities. If you're a visitor to the area you're sure to see, hear and also get the opportunity to use the Welsh language.*

1.6.1.32 *Special places referenced in the plan under this special quality include Tywyn church (memorial stone featuring earliest written Welsh), Tŷ Mawr Wybrnant in the Gwydyr Forest, Betws y Coed, Welsh historic place names (Moel Cynghorion, Castell y Gwynt, Dinas Emrys), Nant Gwyrthern (Welsh Language Centre on the north side of the Lleyn Peninsula) and Bwlch y Saethau on Snowdon's Watkin Path (an arrow shot from this location mortally wounded King Arthur).*

1.6.1.33 ***Inspiration for the Arts** - Snowdonia is a place which has inspired some of the nation's most notable culture, folklore, art, literature and music; an influence which continues across all creative pursuits to the present day.*

1.6.1.34 *Across all the creative disciplines, questions of style and the aesthetics of landscape and content have been set against social and cultural implications, representing this awe inspiring area of rural Wales across eras of urbanisation, industrialisation and now digitalisation.*

1.6.1.35 *Ancient Welsh traditions of folk singing and poetry have remained strong in Eryri since the days when bards entertained at the Princes' courts. Modern versions include events like the National Eisteddfod and locally organised festivals such as the Sesiwn Fawr in Dolgellau where Welsh and Celtic bands perform and share with a worldwide audience.*

1.6.1.36 *The views from our summits inspired numerous English Romantic poets of the 18th and 19th centuries, notably Shelley and Wordsworth. Of the many poets whose work reflects this powerful landscape, the best-known within Wales is Hedd Wyn, the shepherd-poet killed at Pilckem Ridge in 1917 on the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele, whilst serving with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. He is commemorated in a film about his life, which received an Oscar-nomination in 1996 and his childhood home at Yr Ysgwrn near Trawsfynydd is also open to the public.*

1.6.1.37 *Equally, modern poets such as the Chief Bard, Myrddin ap Dafydd, have been influenced by Eryri's impressive topography. In Myrddin's words: "I wonder regularly in the Park, in all seasons and in all types of weather. Beauty and history interweave through the scenery and it is not under blue skies alone that Snowdonia's marvels are to be discovered. Traces of human activity and society, scraping a living and survival are a huge part of the appeal for me."*

1.6.1.38 *Artists and printmakers have been visiting the area for well over 250 years. From the pioneer Welsh landscape artist Richard Wilson and his famous view of Snowdon from Nantlle, to J.M.W. Turner who went in search of drama, relishing the stormy, changeable weather and the stunning light effects that this produced. In the early twentieth century, J.D. Innes regularly visited the remote areas between Ffestiniog and Bala. Welsh artists have also been influenced by the landscape, such as Kyffin Williams, Charles Wyatt Warren, William Selwyn and the dramatic work of up-and-coming artists such as Lisa Eurgain Tayor. Lisa takes inspiration from our striking mountains, transforming them into imaginary, otherworldly magical scenes. Hers are paintings of hope in an unsure world, with an emphasis on the importance of not taking things for granted and the protection of the natural world at all times. Others, inspired again by the landscapes use natural materials and nature to create wonderful pieces, for example in gold, slate, wood and wool in the form of sculpture, pottery, jewellery and art. Many items produced by people during their spare time are now highly sought after craft pieces...including slate items carved by quarry workers. The mountains which define this area have become immensely strong cultural symbols. Myths and legends surrounding the mountains, lakes, rivers and other significant features are intertwined with the historical place names and artistic works.*

1.6.1.39 *Special places referenced in the plan under this special quality include Yr Ysgwrn (the childhood home of Hedd Wyn), Dinorwig Quarry (Llanberis is the dramatic backdrop for many films), Cae'r Gors (birthplace of author Kate Roberts in Rhosgadfan, on the outskirts of the Park), Hillside homes of the quarry workers such as Rhiw-bach, high on the slopes of Manod Mawr and Y Lasynys Fawr, outside Harlech (was the home of the author, Ellis Wynne)."* (Snowdonia Park Partnership Plan, pages 41 to 45).

1.6.1.40 *"**Tranquillity and solitude** – Peaceful Areas - The opportunity for people to understand and enjoy Snowdonia National Park actively, whilst maintaining areas of silence, tranquillity and solitude, thus promoting vital aspects of health, well-being and personal reflection.*

1.6.1.41 *Today many of us live in a world that thrives on being busy, productive and over scheduled. We have become normalised to living in a noisy 'always on' culture. Technology means we are constantly connected and our 'devices' are always nearby, ready to provide us with a constant source of information, entertainment and distractions. Our senses are regularly being bombarded. Naturally occurring periods of tranquillity or silence are increasingly rare and valuable.*

1.6.1.42 *Being alone or just having time and space to reflect, is essential for our mental health. Spending time in nature brings a whole host of further benefits. It has been proven to have a therapeutic effect as it relieves stress, it restores attention and the ability to focus. Being active in the outdoors also provides personal challenges that can lead to creative problem-solving and increased self-confidence. It provides the space for people to step back, evaluate problems clearly, resolve difficult issues and to clarify thoughts, hopes, and dreams.*

1.6.1.43 *Tranquillity still prevails in many parts of Eryri, both during the day, in its large, remote and rugged mountain ranges; and at night, when the vast, awe-inspiring dark skies are revealed. For us and for visitors to our area, Snowdonia provides the ultimate escape, a place to breathe and reset.*

1.6.1.44 *Recognition of these benefits are not new..."Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over civilised people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity". (John Muir 'Father of The National Parks' 1838-1914)*

1.6.1.45 *In a world that should be increasingly concerned about problem solving and sustainable productivity, then...*

1.6.1.46 *"It makes sense that meditation, and indeed any other state of enforced silence and solitude, can be a prerequisite to creative thought and idea generation. Art-making is often linked to the pop-psychological notion of being 'in the zone' – a sort of trance-like creative state analogous to that achieved through meditation, yoga, or other focusing pursuits that link the mind and body in a state of near silence." (Emily Gosling – Creative Review 2018).*

1.6.1.47 *For thousands of years, pilgrims and people seeking understanding, spiritual enlightenment, safety and peace have travelled to and through Snowdonia.*

1.6.1.48 *Special places referenced in the plan under this special quality include 1,497 miles of public footpaths, Vast areas of native woodlands, ancient trees, river valleys and lakesides, where the mountains meet the sea, seek big skies and wide horizons, then drink in the views and On a quest for inner peace...follow the ancient footsteps of our ancestors along thousands of years of trails; at the end of the day look west...where the setting sun touches the sea."* (Snowdonia Park Partnership Plan, pages 53 to 57).

1.6.1.49 *"**Recreation, Leisure and Learning** - Extensive opportunities for recreation, leisure and learning for people of all ages and abilities.*

1.6.1.50 *The breadth of potential opportunities to get outside and active in Eryri is endless. North Snowdonia is well known for hill walking, mountaineering and climbing opportunities and famously, the Everest teams came here to hone their climbing skills in Snowdonia. The first recorded climbs in the UK happened in Snowdonia, by Victorian botanists in search of elusive arctic alpine flowers.*

1.6.1.51 *Aside from these classic activities, Snowdonia is also well known for opportunities to get energetic and adventurous within wonderful landscapes; from mountain and road biking, fell-running and ice climbing to winter walking and bouldering as well as mine exploration.*

1.6.1.52 *We are planning to help make activities in Snowdonia accessible to as many people as possible. One such initiative is the Snowdon Circular Route which, when complete, will be approximately 42 km around the base of Snowdon. The walking route will be close to stations on the Welsh Highland Railway so that there is the option to use this multi-user path in one direction and use other transport to make a return journey. The path will bring health and well-being benefits for residents providing an additional connection between rural communities.*

1.6.1.53 *Snowdonia has long established itself as one of the best mountain biking destinations in the UK. Coed y Brenin is famous for its world class mountain bike trails and visitor facilities. Antur Stiniog, nestled in the heart of Snowdonia is home to six downhill and free-ride trails that range from easy to extreme and best of all include an uplift service. Tucked away near Betws-y-Coed, Penmachno offers year-round natural riding in beautiful ancient woodland.*

1.6.1.54 *As well as hill and bike-based activities, we have abundant water sports, from surfing and sea kayaking, to coasteering and windsurfing, plus white-water rafting, gorge-walking, canoeing, paddle boarding and open water swimming. Llyn Tegid is a particularly important hub for water sports within the National Park.*

1.6.1.55 *Other slightly more relaxed pursuits, such as fishing are equally as exciting and accessible with varied and stunning reservoirs, lakes, rivers, estuaries and shores providing a wealth of coarse, fly and sea fishing opportunities. Some of the UK's best golf courses also exist around the Park, not least the famous links at Harlech and Aberdyfi designed by James Braid.*

1.6.1.56 *More recently around Snowdonia are man-made adrenaline fuelled activities, from the exhilarating experience of Zip-World to the incredible man-made engineering feat of Surf Snowdonia – an in-land surfing lagoon. These sites utilise the historic industrial landscape on the boundaries of the National Park.*

1.6.1.57 *Special places referenced in the plan under this special quality include Mawddach Estuary from Barmouth to Dolgellau, Lon Gwyrfai – a multiuser path connecting Rhyd Ddu and Beddgelert. Nantlle Valley to Rhyd Ddu."* (Snowdonia Park Partnership Plan, pages 59 to 62).

1.6.1.58 *"**Historic Landscapes** - The changing relationship between people and nature over time has produced landscapes of great beauty and variety in Eryri; a national asset that is essential both to our identity and to our individual 'sense of place' and wellbeing.*

1.6.1.59 *The diversity and imprint of human activity on Snowdonia's landscape is everywhere to be seen. From the enigmatic stone monuments of the prehistoric period and the magnificent castles and abbeys of the medieval period, to vernacular representations and commonplace features like field boundaries that can often be of great age. But our landscape is more than just attractive scenery or a record of the past; it also provides a place for us to live, work and sustain ourselves, through Projecting, forestry, tourism and so on, processes which shape, and will continue to shape, the landscape.*

1.6.1.60 *The landscapes and townscapes of Snowdonia have been crafted by centuries of human activity from Neolithic times to the present day. Our vernacular architecture distinguishes us. Historical events, ways of life, traditions and beliefs are captured in monuments, sites and buildings, in the patterns of settlements and of fields, and in place names. Living links with our heritage are maintained in present-day land management practices, traditional building skills and language.*

1.6.1.61 *Some of the most enduring and cherished places are those built as an expression of belief such as the great burial chambers of the Neolithic in Ardudwy, the enigmatic*

barrows, cairns, circles and standing stones of the Bronze Age scattered across the outer rim of the mountains, the medieval churches of the countryside, and the chapels of the nineteenth century in our towns and villages.

1.6.1.62 *Around these hallowed places are backdrops shaped to the needs of daily life. For at least 2,000 years, the unmistakable signs of agriculture – field systems and enclosures – have been laid on the landscape almost everywhere, the earliest traces faint now but still visible alongside the network of walling added by agricultural improvers in the nineteenth century. Within the fields were habitations - the long-abandoned roundhouse settlements of the Iron Age, then from the late medieval period onwards, the farmsteads, the field barns and the cottages which are still the bedrock of settlement today.*

1.6.1.63 *Alongside agriculture, the landscape also bears the marks of industrial activity: the winning and working of stone and slate, the extraction of metals and minerals, and the production of woollen cloth. To meet the needs of industry new settlements sprang up, and old ones were reshaped, and new transport routes were added to the mesh of early routes dating back to prehistoric times.*

1.6.1.64 *The traditional buildings of Snowdonia reflect investment in times of prosperity and peace, but the landscape also contains evidence of conquest and defence, from the hill-forts of the Iron age, the forts and camps of the Romans, to the castles of Welsh princes and English kings and even to the anti-tank obstacles of World War 2 found on Fairbourne beach and Bwlch yr Oerddrws. Some of these have made their way into story: Tomen y Mur and Harlech were courts in the Mabinogi.*

1.6.1.65 *Generations of writers, poets and painters have found inspiration in our landscape, their work in turn adding depth to a sense of place. In the words and names of every day, too, a thousand invisible connections are made to our history that is everywhere around us.*

1.6.1.66 *Special places referenced in the plan under this special quality include:*

- *Extensive prehistoric settlements and fields. These early houses and land boundaries are scattered widely across Snowdonia's valley sides and its upland fringes overlooking the coast*
- *Bryn Cader Faner (Talsarnau) is one of the most beautiful Bronze Age monuments in Britain*
- *The Roman fort at Tomen y Mur (Trawsfynydd)*
- *The mountain castles of the Princes of Gwynedd. Llywelyn Fawr (1173 – 1240) became ruler of most of Wales. His castles at Dolwyddelan, Dolbadarn (Llanberis) and Castle y Bere (Tywyn) together with Cwm Prysor (Trawsfynydd) and Castell Carndochan (Llanuwchllyn) protected the important royal pastures, controlled routes through the mountains, and defended the boundaries of the ancient kingdom of Gwynedd."* (Snowdonia Park Partnership Plan, pages 65 to 69).

1.6.1.67 *"**Renowned Geology** - Complex, varied and renowned geology, which has been vital in influencing the disciplines of geology and geography internationally.*

1.6.1.68 *The landscape of Snowdonia and the nature and activities within, are founded on its geological history.*

1.6.1.69 *It is a complex detective story of colliding continents, volcanoes, mountain-building, changing sea levels and glaciations that were involved in creating Eryri as we know it today. It is difficult to completely unravel our mountain scenery, to understand how this*

haunting landscape came about. However, with a knowledgeable guide or even a good guide book or app, we can start to recognise clues and understand why and how the landscape developed over millennia. We can see some of the rocks created by volcanoes or sedimentary deposits. We can learn how to interpret features and signs of mountain-building and glaciations on the ground...evidence is all around when you know what to look for.

1.6.1.70 *Ice Age activity has done much to shape the landscape in Snowdonia. The glaciers that were at their peak 18,000 years ago scoured out great U-shaped valleys including Llanberis and Nant Gwynant in the north and Tal y Llyn in the south.*

1.6.1.71 *Snowdonia presents a richly varied landscape composed of mountain peaks and ridges, deep valleys and moorland plateaux. The bedrock geology is dominated by Cambrian, Ordovician and Silurian sedimentary and volcanic rocks. A large area of Cambrian sandstones and shales, known as the Harlech Dome, underlies the Rhinogydd and extends west into Coed y Brenin and south to the foothills of Cader Idris. Coarse-grained sedimentary rocks form some of the higher peaks in the Rhinogydd and are some of the oldest rock formations in the UK.*

1.6.1.72 *Around the Harlech Dome, major volcanic centres developed at different intervals during the Ordovician period and these erupted vast quantities of lava and ash that are now preserved in upland areas such as Rhobell Fawr (705m) and Cader Idris (893m) in the south, and farther north around Yr Wyddfa (1085m) and the Carneddau. This volcanic activity was also accompanied by the widespread emplacement of igneous intrusions of granitic and basaltic composition that now form distinctive, erosion resistant features throughout the landscape.*

1.6.1.73 *There was a major phase of mountain building during early to mid- Devonian times, the consequence of which was to create the important slate belts of the Bethesda, Llanberis, Nantlle, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Corris districts. The industrial exploitation of slate from the mid-18th to the mid-20th centuries transformed the landscape of these districts to leave a legacy of slate quarrying and mining remains that are of international renown.*

1.6.1.74 *Ancient volcanic activity created several types of mineral deposit in the area and copper, lead and zinc mineralisation is a particular feature of Snowdonia. These deposits too became the focus of much exploration causing characteristic remains to be left within the landscape. Manganese was mined from around the flanks of the Harlech Dome, whilst copper and gold were won from quartz veins that outcrop to the west and north of Dolgellau. Collectively known as the Dolgellau gold-belt, this mining district experienced a major gold-rush during the last half of the 19th century when large gold deposits were found at the Clogau and Gwynfynydd mines.*

1.6.1.75 *The glacial history of the area has resulted in a very rich and often spectacular upland scenery that we see today, with over-deepened U-shaped valleys caused by glaciers radiating out from the upland core down slopes and valleys such as Nant Ffrancon and Nant Peris. There are a wealth of classic features such as high cwms or cirques, pinnacle 'knife-edge' ridges, moraine dammed lakes, glacial striations, roche moutonees, dramatic waterfalls and so on.*

1.6.1.76 *Snowdonia played a key role in the development of geology as a science and the very challenging terrain has had a profound influence on the pattern of transport, Projecting, industry, tourism and culture throughout the area.*

1.6.1.77 *Special places referenced in the plan under this special quality include Vivian Quarry (Llanberis), Cwm Idwal, The Snowdon Horseshoe and Crib Goch."* (Snowdonia Park Partnership Plan, pages 71 to 75).

1.6.1.78 *"**Internationally important habitats and species** - There are 17 National Nature Reserves in Snowdonia; more than in any other National Park in England and Wales; and 56 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The tremendous biodiversity reflects the varied landscape, geology, climate and land management. The richness of plants and animals is fundamental to the history, culture, language, economy and ongoing well-being of all people who live in and visit the area.*

1.6.1.79 *A multitude of land and seascapes exist within a relatively small area, and this combines to provide a variety of habitats, cross-over habitats and wildlife corridors. This multitude of fauna and flora are fed by mild, moist weather sweeping in from the Atlantic, resulting in thousands of plant and animal species.*

1.6.1.80 *Some species and habitats are of national and international significance, for example, those which are remnants of the last Ice-Age and provide a glimpse of semi-Arctic habitats. Snowdonia is the most southerly point in the UK for many such species. Amongst the most rare and well known plants and animals found in the high peaks, the Snowdon Lily is unique, as too is the Snowdon or Rainbow Leaf Beetle.*

1.6.1.81 *We have a stunning upland landscape of plateau, cliffs, and screes, criss-crossed by wooded river valleys and lakes. Heaths, alpine cliff and scree habitats are common and these support the unique group of both rare arctic alpine higher and lower plants. These also include alpine meadow-grass, tufted saxifrage, alpine saxifrage, alpine saw-wort, alpine woodsia and alpine cinquefoil. Mosses and liverworts thrive here as a result of the relative humidity, and in the extensive areas of igneous rock scree, bryophytes and lichens, with associated plant species such as fir clubmoss, scorched rustwort and Cornicularia normoerica are also found.*

1.6.1.82 *As well as its rivers and glacial valley lakes, we also have a considerable number of small mountain lakes scattered throughout the uplands. There are large populations of the rare floating water-plantain, which occurs in standing water and has specific requirements for survival. The area is also home to endemic eyebright (Euphrasia cambrica and E. rivularis); these being some of the identified priority species within the Park.*

1.6.1.83 *The main upland cover beyond the north peaks, consists largely of heather-dominated heathland and acid grassland, together with extensive coniferous woodland plantations. Much of this moorland includes heath, acid grassland and blanket bog and is of considerable ecological value; this is recognised in the Snowdonia, Migneint-Arenig-Dduallt, Rhinog, Cader Idris and Berwyn SSSIs.*

1.6.1.84 *The coniferous woodland is generally of lesser ecological value although can still be important for biodiversity, as at Coed y Brenin and the Gwydir Forest. However, deciduous 'native' woodland of much higher diversity is still also evident, particularly on lower land and valley sides. Since the 1980s in particular, conservation management has proliferated, with active reforestation of this type of woodland habitat.*

1.6.1.85 *A few examples of the animal species which call Snowdonia their home, include the Lesser Horseshoe Bat Rhinolophus hipposideros, the Pine Marten Martes martes, the Chough Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax, the Twite Carduelis flavirostris, the Curlew and the Freshwater Pearl Mussel Margaritifera margaritifera.*

1.6.1.86 *Semi-natural habitats are also extensive across many parts of Eryri, with relatively low intensive Projecting, often summer sheep pastures exist across many other areas. Some traditional pasture and grassland areas, which in particular have been little disturbed or 'improved' by agriculture are also recognised as precious; there is increasing impetus to further protect these bio-diverse areas as well.*

1.6.1.87 *The range of habitats in the Park, from Local Conservation Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves to Special Areas of Conservation and the Dyfi Estuary (which is a proposed World Biosphere site) are all recognised and protected nationally and internationally.*

1.6.1.88 *Special places referenced in the plan under this special quality include Moel Hebog SSSI, Coedydd Nantgwynant and Coedydd Aber (include deciduous 'native' woodland areas) and Celtic Rainforests (oak forests)."* (Snowdonia Park Partnership Plan, pages 77 to 81).

1.7 Assessment of effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on the special qualities of nationally designated landscapes

1.7.1 Introduction

1.7.1.1 The impacts of the construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project have been assessed on the special qualities of the nationally designated landscapes referenced above. The MDS against which each impact has been assessed arising from the construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Mona Offshore Wind Project generation assets is outlined in Volume 2, Chapter 8: Seascape and visual resources and Volume 3, Chapter 6 Landscape and visual resources, of the Environmental Statement.

1.7.1.2 A review of all the special qualities for each of the three nationally designated landscapes is presented below in order to identify the particular special qualities that are relevant to the SLVIA which are then taken forward for more detailed assessment.

Offshore generation assets

1.7.1.3 Impacts may arise on the special qualities of nationally and internationally designated landscapes during construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning phases as a result of the following Mona Offshore Wind Project:

- 68 wind turbines and foundation components (blades, nacelles, towers, navigation and aviation lighting) (364 m maximum blade-tip height above Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT))
- Four OSPs, each measuring 55m x 65m x 45m (height above LAT x length x width, excluding antenna and lightning protection)
- Construction and service vessels/helicopters.

1.7.1.4 The Mona Offshore Wind Project offshore generation assets may affect the special qualities of the Isle of Anglesey NL and Eryri National Park.

1.7.1.5 Although the Mona Array Area may be theoretically visible from the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL and the Lake District National Park and the English Lake District WHS, distance, context and/or intervening offshore development result in no potential for significant effects from the Mona Array Area on these designated landscapes.

Onshore transmission assets

1.7.1.6 Landscape and visual impacts may be caused by both static and moving elements of the construction within the Mona Onshore Development Area during the operations and maintenance phase and decommissioning phase of the Onshore Substation.

These impacts may affect the special qualities of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL.

1.7.1.7 The impact of construction within the Mona Onshore Development Area does not have the potential to significantly affect the special qualities of the Isle of Anglesey NL and Eryri National Park, due to distance and/or lack of visibility.

1.7.2 Isle of Anglesey National Landscape

1.7.2.1 Baseline conditions – The Isle of Anglesey NL comprises a coastal landscape, a part of which overlooks the Irish Sea and the site for the offshore elements of the Mona Wind Project. It is located approximately 29 km from the Mona Array Area at the closest point at Point Lynas.

1.7.2.2 Impact considerations - The Mona Offshore Wind Project would be located outside the Isle of Anglesey NL and therefore, direct effects will not arise.

1.7.2.3 There is potential for effects on the special qualities of this designated landscape to arise as a result of the visibility of the Mona Offshore Wind Project generation assets.

1.7.2.4 A review of the special qualities of the Isle of Anglesey NL is presented in Table 1.7 to Table 1.10 in order to identify the particular special qualities, highlighted in bold in the table below, that are relevant to the SLVIA which are then taken forward for more detailed assessment. The tables are presented in accordance with the themes presented in the AONB (now NL) management plan:

- Landscape and Seascape
- Geological and geomorphological features
- Ecology and Biodiversity
- Historic Environment.

Table 1.7: The Isle of Anglesey NL – Special qualities associated with landscape and seascape.

Special Qualities	Relevance to the SLVIA
Coastal Landscape Features (sea cliffs and rocky shores, Sand dunes, Sandy Beaches and Saltmarsh)	The offshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project would not directly affect the coastal landscape features which are important in helping to define the character of Anglesey. There would be no change to this special quality.
	The importance of beaches as an economic asset is outside the scope of the SLVIA and is excluded from further consideration in this annex.
	The importance of Saltmarsh as a buffer between land and sea providing coastal protection is outside the scope of the SLVIA and is excluded from further consideration in this annex.
Traditional Agricultural Landscape Features (Ancient Hedgerows, Stone Walls and Cloddiau)	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not directly affect the traditional agricultural landscape features which are important in helping to define the character of Anglesey. There would be no change to this special quality.
	The importance of the traditional agricultural landscape features as a valuable wildlife habitat and corridor for fauna and flora is outside the scope of the SLVIA and is excluded from further consideration in this annex.

Special Qualities	Relevance to the SLVIA
	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not directly affect traditional agricultural landscape features as integral components that make up the fabric of the agricultural landscape in the NL. There would be no change to this special quality.
Expansive Views	**The expansive views, available throughout the NL and their importance in terms of providing significant contrast and backdrop to the landscape of Anglesey would potentially be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project.**
Peace and Tranquillity	**A rewarding experience for viewers of the landscape and seascape of Anglesey in particular their experience of peace and tranquillity has the potential to be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project.**
	The importance of the landscape as an economic asset is outside the scope of the SLVIA and is excluded from further consideration.
Islands around Anglesey	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not directly affect the fabric of the islands (30 no.) and their physical link between the landscape and seascape of Anglesey. There would be no change to this special quality.

Table 1.8: The Isle of Anglesey National Landscape – Special qualities associated with geological and geomorphological features.

Special Qualities	Relevance to the SLVIA
Geological and Geomorphological Features - the entire island has been designated a UNESCO European Geopark	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not directly affect the fabric of the Island's landscape and associated geomorphological features. There would be no change to this special quality.
	The importance of the Island's geology and geomorphology in terms of the dramatic effect on biodiversity outside the scope of the SLVIA and is excluded from further consideration in this annex.
	The importance attached to some of the most ancient tracts of rocks in Great Britain, present on Anglesey is outside the scope of the SLVIA and is excluded from further consideration in this annex.
	The appreciation of the geological evolution of the Island is outside the scope of the SLVIA and is excluded from further consideration in this annex.
	The importance of geology in influencing the location and nature of Anglesey's communities, economic activities and the transport infrastructure is outside the scope of the SLVIA and is excluded from further consideration in this annex.
	The importance of Anglesey as a Geopark, a territory with a geological heritage of European significance is outside the scope of the SLVIA and is excluded from further consideration in this annex.

Table 1.9: The Isle of Anglesey National Landscape –Special qualities associated with ecology and biodiversity.

Special Qualities	Relevance to the SLVIA
Broadleaved Woodland	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not directly affect broadleaved woodland within the NL. There would be no change to this special quality.
Lowland and Coastal Heath	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not directly affect heathland within the NL. There would be no change to this special quality.

Table 1.10: The Isle of Anglesey National Landscape – Special qualities associated with the historic environment.

Special Qualities	Relevance to the SLVIA
The Built Environment - Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings	The Built Environment - Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings is outside the scope of the SLVIA and is excluded from further consideration in this annex.
Archaeology and Ancient Monuments – Scheduled Ancient monuments and non-scheduled archaeological sites.	Archaeology and Ancient Monuments – Scheduled Ancient Monuments and non-scheduled archaeological sites are outside the scope of the SLVIA and are excluded from further consideration in this annex.

1.7.2.5 Based on the above review, the special qualities taken forward for assessment are as follows:

- Expansive views - The expansive views, available throughout the NL and their importance in terms of providing significant contrast and backdrop to the landscape of Anglesey would potentially be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project generation assets
- Peace and Tranquillity - A rewarding experience for viewers of the landscape and seascape of Anglesey in particular their experience of peace and tranquillity has the potential to be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project generation assets.

Construction and decommissioning phases

1.7.3 Magnitude of Impact - Isle of Anglesey National Landscape special qualities

1.7.3.1 A direct impact will arise to the visual amenity of individuals within the Isle of Anglesey NL where views of the coast and the Irish Sea are attained along with the construction and decommissioning activities associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project. These direct visual impacts have the potential to result in effects on special qualities, namely the expansive views attained by viewers along with the sense of peace and tranquillity experienced by these viewers. These impacts will potentially result from the erection and dismantling of the wind turbines and OSPs and the associated vessel and equipment activities/movements.

1.7.3.2 The impact on the special qualities is predicted to be of short-term duration, continuous (increasing during construction, decreasing during decommissioning) and high reversibility.

1.7.3.3 The magnitude of impact on the two special qualities, these being expansive views and the sense of peace and tranquillity is **negligible**. This reflects the short term and reversible nature of the effects and the scale of the change in views which will diminish with increasing distance from the Mona Array Area.

1.7.4 Sensitivity of the receptor - Isle of Anglesey National Landscape special qualities

1.7.4.1 The two special qualities, these being expansive views and the sense of peace and tranquillity experienced by the individual are assessed to be of high value and high susceptibility to the proposed development resulting in a **high** sensitivity.

1.7.5 Significance of the effect - Isle of Anglesey National Landscape special qualities

1.7.5.1 The magnitude of impact during construction and decommissioning on expansive views and the sense of peace and tranquillity experienced by the individual is **negligible** and the sensitivity of the receptors is **high**. The temporary effects will be **negligible to minor adverse**, which are not significant.

Operation and maintenance phases

1.7.6 Magnitude of Impact - Isle of Anglesey National Landscape special qualities

1.7.6.1 A direct impact will arise to the visual amenity of individuals within the Isle of Anglesey NL where views of the coast and the Irish Sea are attained along with the Mona Offshore Wind Project during the operations and maintenance phase. These direct visual impacts have the potential to result in effects on special qualities, namely the expansive views attained by viewers along with the sense of peace and tranquillity experienced by these viewers. These impacts will result from the presence of both moving and static project components occupying the Mona Array Area, namely the wind turbines, service vessels/helicopters and the stationary OSPs which have the potential to affect perceptions of the coastal landscape.

1.7.6.2 The assessment of these effects is supported by fieldwork and the assessment of visual effects at the following representative viewpoints documented in Seascape Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) in Volume 2, Chapter 8 Seascape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement. Visualisations of the Mona Array Area from the Isle of Anglesey NL are within Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, of the Environmental Statement. The representative viewpoints are:

- Representative viewpoint 1 – Mynydd y Garn trig point, Isle of Anglesey NL at 42.4 distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 1.1 and 1.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Representative viewpoint 2 – Llanlleiana Head, Isle of Anglesey NL at 33.8 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 2.1 and 2.2 of the Environmental Statement)

- Representative viewpoint 4 – Bwrdd Arthur trig point, Isle of Anglesey NL at 36.6 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 4.1 and 4.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Representative viewpoint 24 – Bull Bay, Amlwch, Isle of Anglesey NL at 31.9 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 20.1 and 20.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Representative viewpoint 25 – Moelfre Headland, Isle of Anglesey NL at 33.2 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 21.1 and 21.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Representative viewpoint 26 – Yr Arwydd trig point, near Mynydd Bodafon, Isle of Anglesey NL at 36.4 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 22.1 and 22.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Representative viewpoint 28 – Penmon Point, Isle of Anglesey NL at 35.2 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 24.1 and 24.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Representative viewpoint 55 – Trwyn Eilian (Point Lynas), Isle of Anglesey NL at 28.8 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 44.1 and 44.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Representative viewpoint 56 – Caer y Twr on Holyhead Mountain, Isle of Anglesey NL at 54.8 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 45.1 and 45.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Representative viewpoint 57 – Trwyn Cemlyn, Isle of Anglesey NL at 39 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 46.1 and 46.2 of the Environmental Statement).

1.7.6.3 The Mona Array Area will be located approximately 28.8 km from the Isle of Anglesey NL at the closest point at Point Lynas on the coast overlooking the Irish Sea. The ZTV shows theoretical visibility of the Mona Array Area in parts of the Isle of Anglesey NL which has implications for the special qualities of relevance, namely expansive views and sense of tranquillity.

1.7.6.4 The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of the Mona Array Area primarily along the northeast coastal landscape of Anglesey overlooking the Irish Sea. These areas of theoretical visibility coincide mainly with the adjacent Wales National Marine Character Areas Marine Character Area (MCA) 03: Red Wharf and Conwy Bays, MCA04: North Wales Open Waters, MCA05: North West Anglesey Open Waters and MCA06: North Anglesey Coastal Waters, as well as Wales NL Character Areas NLCA 01: Afordir Môn/Anglesey Coast and NLCA 02: Canolbarth Môn/Central Anglesey. The published baseline for these MCAs and NLCAs is documented in Volume 6, Annex 8.2: Seascape and landscape character baseline technical report of the Environmental within Appendix A.

1.7.6.5 The ZTV indicates very limited or indeed no effects elsewhere along the coastal landscape within the NL apart from small areas in the vicinity of Holyhead Mountain and Rhoscolyn. Small areas of coastal landscape in the vicinity of Holyhead on the northwest side of the island and Rhoscolyn on the southwest side of the island would potentially be affected by the Mona Array Area. The coastal landscape overlooking the

Menai Strait on the southeast side of the island would be scarcely affected apart from small, isolated patches of coastal landscape north of Beaumaris.

1.7.6.6 The ZTV indicates theoretical effects along the northeast coast of the NL as follows and with reference to the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in the Isle of Anglesey AONB Landscape Strategy 2011 and the Seascape Character Areas (SCAs) in the Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment as follows:

- Puffin Island and rocky coastline extending westwards to Pentrellwyn and inland to the highest point at Bwrdd Arthur (hillfort) at representative viewpoint 4 (SCA 5 Penmon and LCA 10 Penmon and Puffin Island)
- Red Wharf Bay extending eastwards to Moelfre comprised of an expansive sandy beach, the landward setting of which features Projectland along with pine and broadleaved woodlands including Benllech and Pentraeth. Caravan and camping sites are identified in the landscape strategy as visual detractors. (SCA 6 Red Wharf Bay to Moelfre and LCA 9 Red Wharf Bay)
- Dulas Bay extending from Moelfre to Point Lynas featuring beaches at Dulas and Lligwy Bays along with rocky coastline, headlands and island at Ynys Dulas. Areas inland affected by the Project, that are coincidental with the ZTV feature woodlands of varying size (SCA 7 Dulas Bay and LCA 8 Dulas Bay Hinterland)
- Rocky coastline from Bull Bay westwards to the sandy beach at Cemaes Bay with islands at East Mouse and Middle Mouse and further east, a section of rocky coastline from Cemlyn Bay with shingle beach and lagoon extending west to Carmel Head at the northwest corner of Anglesey (SCA 8 Amlwch and Cemaes, SCA 9 Cemlyn Bay, LCA 4 North West Coast and LCA 5 North West Anglesey).

1.7.6.7 The extent of visibility will be less than indicated on the ZTV due to the screening afforded by vegetation and built structures. These include the extensive wooded areas at Pentraeth Forest, overlooking Red Wharf Bay and numerous wooded areas in the vicinity of Benllech, Moelfre and the hinterland overlooking Dulas Bay. Coastal settlements will also restrict views out to the Mona Array Area, including Benllech, and Moelfre.

1.7.6.8 In terms of the **expansive views** attained by the viewer, only those expansive views of the north coastline with the Irish Sea and the Mona Array Area would be affected. Expansive views of inland landscapes away from the Irish Sea or indeed along the south, west and east coastlines would generally be unaffected. Although elevated areas such as Holyhead Mountain are highlighted on the ZTV, effects would be extremely limited, if any, at a distance exceeding 50 km (representative viewpoint 56).

1.7.6.9 The viewer would experience expansive views within their overall setting and in the context of the wider surrounding coastal landscape including the coastal landscape features in the foreground, Projected hinterland, coastal settlements and in some areas, extensive caravan parks along with the outlook to the Irish Sea in which the offshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project would be visible, subject to weather conditions, as a relatively small element extending across the horizon and along with sea traffic of varying size.

1.7.6.10 At some locations, the viewer would see the offshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project alongside existing offshore wind Projects (representative viewpoints 1, 4, 26, 28, 55). At some locations, the proposed development would be visible along with existing infrastructure in the foreground such as the Wylfa Nuclear Power Plant

(representative viewpoints 1 and 57) or Holyhead and harbour (representative viewpoint 56). The Mona Array Area would have a limited effect on the individuals experience of the expansive views that would be influenced by the Mona Offshore Wind Project. This is due to the distance and the scale of the change in views due to the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

1.7.6.11 Due to the distance to the Mona Array Area, and the geographic extent of the effects, being largely confined primarily to the northeast coastline of the NL overlooking the Irish Sea, a **small** magnitude of impact will arise on the expansive views attained by individuals during the operations and maintenance phase.

1.7.6.12 In terms of **peace and tranquillity** experienced by viewers within the NL this special quality has the potential to be affected by the Mona Array Area. These effects on this special quality would generally be limited to views from the northeast coast, overlooking the Irish Sea. The viewer' s experience of peace and tranquillity along the northwest, southwest and southeast coasts would generally be unaffected.

1.7.6.13 Taking into account the distance to the Mona Array Area, the effects on the viewer's experience of peace and tranquillity is expected to be limited and this takes into account the distance to the Mona Offshore Wind Project, the scale of the change in views and current activities or elements visible in existing views including sea shipping of varying size, existing offshore wind Projects and the presence of existing infrastructure and settlements on the coast.

1.7.6.14 Due to the distance to the Mona Array Area at a minimum, and the geographic extent of the effects, being largely confined primarily to the northeast coastline of the NL overlooking the Irish Sea, a **negligible to small** magnitude of impact is considered to arise to the viewer's sense of tranquillity during the operations and maintenance phase.

1.7.7 Sensitivity of the receptor - Isle of Anglesey National Landscape special qualities

1.7.7.1 The two special qualities, these being expansive views and the sense of peace and tranquillity experienced by the individual are assessed to be of high value and high susceptibility to the proposed development resulting in a **high** sensitivity.

1.7.8 Significance of the effect - Isle of Anglesey National Landscape special qualities

1.7.8.1 The magnitude of the impacts during the operations and maintenance phase on expansive views and the sense of peace and tranquillity experienced by the individual are deemed to be **negligible to small** and the sensitivity of these special qualities is **high**. The effects will be **minor to moderate adverse**, which are not significant.

1.7.8.2 Night time effects resulting from proposed navigation and aviation lighting on the turbines, on the special qualities (expansive views and peace and tranquillity) are not expected to arise due to distance to the Mona Array Area (28.8 km at the closest point at Point Lynas). At this minimum distance, the night time effects associated with lighting would be barely visible or not visible at all and therefore there is no potential for significant night time effects on the special qualities. Furthermore, these special qualities are generally experienced by the viewer during daylight hours. In this regard, the assessment of effects on NLs at night, documented in paragraphs 8.8.2.58 to 8.8.2.61 of Volume 2, Chapter 8 Seascape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement is focused on populated areas where the majority of visual receptors would

be located during hours of darkness. Representative viewpoint 27 – Benllech Bay, on the Isle of Anglesey, the closest viewpoint with a night time visualisation to the NL, illustrates this point (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figure 27.4 of the Environmental Statement).

1.7.9 Cumulative effects

1.7.9.1 Cumulative effects on the special qualities: expansive views and peace and tranquillity may arise but would be confined to the northeast coastline of this designated landscape.

1.7.9.2 The potential cumulative effects with Tier 1 existing offshore wind farms will arise due to the visibility of Mona offshore Wind Project along with the North West England offshore wind farm Cluster (Barrow, Ormonde, Walney 1, Walney 2, Walney Extension and West of Duddon Sands offshore wind farms) and the North Wales offshore wind farm Cluster (Burbo Bank, Burbo Bank Extension, Gwynt y Môr, North Hoyle and Rhyl Flats offshore wind farms). The Mona Array Area will be located closer to the Isle of Anglesey NL than the North West England offshore wind farm Cluster which is located approximately 79 km away from the nearest point of this NL at Point Lynas. At these distances, the North West England offshore wind farm Cluster is scarcely visible at all and so the potential for cumulative effects on the relevant special qualities would be very limited. A similar conclusion is arrived at in regard to Robin Rigg which is even further away from this NL.

Tier 1 Existing offshore Wind Farms

1.7.9.3 There is potential for cumulative effects on special qualities of the NL due to the addition of the Mona Array Area along with the North Wales offshore wind farm Cluster. These effects would generally be limited to a part of the northeast coast of Anglesey, the character of which is influenced, to a degree, by the North Wales offshore wind farm Cluster. Taking into account the limited section of coast that would be affected by the cumulative addition of the Mona Array Area and the visual screening by intervening islands, a **small to medium** magnitude of cumulative impact would arise to the special qualities of **high** sensitivity resulting in a **moderate** and not significant cumulative effect.

Tier 1 Existing and Consented offshore Wind Farms

1.7.9.4 The consented Tier 1 Awel y Mor offshore wind farm, if built, will be perceived as an extension of the existing Gwynt y Mor offshore wind farm in the North Wales offshore wind farm Cluster. A **small** magnitude of cumulative impact would arise to the special qualities of **high** sensitivity as a result of the addition of Mona Offshore Wind Project along with the North Wales offshore wind farm Cluster of existing offshore wind farms and the consented Gwynt y Môr offshore wind farm. A **minor to moderate** and not significant cumulative effect would arise to the special qualities of high sensitivity.

Tier 2 Proposed offshore Wind Farms

1.7.9.5 There is potential for cumulative effects to arise on the special qualities due to Mona Offshore Wind Project and the proposed Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms. The Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind farm, at a distance of approximately 80 km from the Isle of Anglesey would be scarcely visible and would therefore not contribute to cumulative effects.

1.7.9.6 Mona Offshore Wind Project will be closer to Isle of Anglesey than the proposed Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms. Taking into account distance overall and the extent of the coastline that would be affected, being limited to the northeast coast, a **medium** magnitude of cumulative impact would arise to the special qualities of **high** sensitivity resulting in a **moderate** and not significant cumulative effect.

1.7.10 Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape

1.7.10.1 Baseline conditions – The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL comprises a mountain range which extends southwards from the coastline. A small part of this landscape overlooks the overlooks the Irish Sea and the site for the offshore elements of the Mona Wind Project. It is located 40.9 km distance to the Mona Array Area at the closest point at Prestatyn.

1.7.10.2 Impact considerations - The Mona Offshore Wind Project would be located outside the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL and therefore, direct effects will not arise.

1.7.10.3 There is potential for effects on the special qualities of this designated landscape to arise as a result of the visibility of the Mona Offshore Wind Project generation assets.

1.7.10.4 The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL is located within the 10 km study area from onshore substation and the 60 km SLVIA study area for the offshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. The assessment is therefore focussed on these elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

1.7.10.5 A review of the special qualities and components of quality of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL is tabulated below in Table 1.11 order to identify the particular special qualities, highlighted in bold in the table below, that are relevant to the SLVIA which are then taken forward for more detailed assessment.

Table 1.11: Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape – Special qualities and components of quality.

Special Quality and components of quality	Relevance to the SLVIA
Landscape Character and Quality - Tranquillity - associated with an atmosphere of calm and stillness; peace and quiet; and with dark night skies.	**The experience of tranquillity is a perceptual aspect of landscape and seascape for which the viewer would potentially be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project**
Landscape Character and Quality - Remoteness and Wildness, Space and Freedom – Remoteness and wildness is associated with a feeling of trepidation and sometimes even danger. The sublime. Space and freedom are related to access to the landscape and the uninterrupted and extensive views from the high places within it. Bro and the link between communities and their landscape. A sense of belonging and attachment to the landscape	**The experience of remoteness, wildness and sense of space and freedom is a perceptual aspect of landscape and seascape for which the viewer would potentially be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project**
Habitats and Wildlife - Heather Moorland and Rolling ridges – The dramatic moorland ridges of the central Clwydian Range, expansive Llandegla and Ruabon Moors, Llantysilio and North Berwyn	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not directly affect the fabric of the heather moorland and rolling ridges. There would be no change to this special quality.
Habitats and Wildlife - Broadleaved woodlands and Veteran trees - Bishops Wood, Cwm and Wheeler Valley. Ash dominated Alyn Valley woods and the small copses of the upper Alyn and upland oak woods of the Dee Valley.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not directly affect the fabric of Broadleaf Woodland and Veteran trees. There would be no change to this special quality.

Special Quality and components of quality	Relevance to the SLVIA
Habitats and Wildlife - River Valleys and the River Dee – The dramatic and powerful River Dee contrasted with the smaller twisting and winding River Alyn and River Wheeler	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not directly affect the fabric of the River Valleys and The River Dee. There would be no change to this special quality.
Habitats and Wildlife - Limestone grasslands, cliffs and screes – Graig Fawr, Loggereads and Bryn Alyn – Llanarmon yn lal and the spectacular Eglwyseg Escarpment.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not directly affect the fabric of the limestone grasslands, cliffs and screes. There would be no change to this special quality.
Historic Environment - Historic Settlement and Archaeology – Historic settlement patterns and conservation areas. The diverse patterns and features in the landscape left by previous generations.	The historic settlement and archaeology are outside the scope of the SLVIA and is excluded from further consideration.
Historic Environment - Industrial Features and the World Heritage Site - Limestone quarrying and lead mining, slate quarries and associated tramways and workings – the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and canal, Horseshoe Falls.	Industrial Features and the World Heritage Site is outside the scope of the SLVIA and is excluded from further consideration in this annex.
Historic Environment - Historic Defence Features – The dramatic chain of Iron Age Hillforts of the Clwydian Range, Castell Dinas Bran and Chirk Castle and medieval Motte and Baileys at Tomen y Rhodwydd, Tomen y Fadre and Glyndwr's Mount, Carrog.	Historic defence features are outside the scope of the SLVIA and are excluded from further consideration in this annex.
Historic Environment - Small historic features - Often unlisted or scheduled a rich mixture of small historic features that are an important part of the rich cultural layer of the landscape – wells, village pumps, boundary stones, way-markers, milk stands and K6 telephone boxes.	Small historic features are outside the scope of the SLVIA and are excluded from further consideration in this annex.
Historic Environment - Traditional boundaries – Drystone walls and hedges reflecting traditional skills and craftsmanship and often reflecting local styles and geology.	Traditional boundaries and craftsmanship are outside the scope of the SLVIA and are excluded from further consideration in this annex.
Access Recreation and Tourism - Iconic Visitor and Cultural Attractions – Sites that have helped to shape the identity of the NL as a visitor destination – Loggerheads Country Park, Moel Famau, Castell Dinas Bran, Valle Crucis Abbey, the Horseshoe Pass and Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Horseshoe Falls.	The physical attributes of the Iconic Visitor and Cultural Attractions would not be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project. There would be no change to this special quality.
Access Recreation and Tourism - The Offa's Dyke National Trail and Promoted Routes - Stretching from Prestatyn Hillside in the north to Llangollen in the south, the National Trail makes the NL particularly accessible. The Dee Valley Way, North Berwyn Way and a network of community paths. Together with extensive areas of Access Land the landscape of the NL is particularly accessible.	**There is potential for the Mona Offshore Wind Project to directly affect the visual amenity of individuals along the Offa's Dyke Path.**
Culture and People - The Built Environment – The villages and towns, hamlets and scattered settlements.	The physical attributes of the built environment would not be affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project. There would be no change to this special quality.
Culture and people - People and Communities – A rich mix of culture and strong sense of community – the facilities and services that are essential to sustaining rural life.	

1.7.10.6 Based on the above review, the special qualities taken forward for assessment are as follows:

- Landscape Character and Quality - Tranquillity - associated with an atmosphere of calm and stillness; peace and quiet; and with dark night skies;
- Landscape Character and Quality - Remoteness and Wildness, Space and Freedom – Remoteness and wildness is associated with a feeling of trepidation and sometimes even danger. The sublime. Space and freedom are related to access to the landscape and the uninterrupted and extensive views from the high places within it. Bro and the link between communities and their landscape. A sense of belonging and attachment to the landscape; and
- Access Recreation and Tourism - The Offa's Dyke National Trail and Promoted Routes - Stretching from Prestatyn Hillside in the north to Llangollen in the south, the National Trail makes the NL particularly accessible. The Dee Valley Way, North Berwyn Way and a network of community paths together with extensive areas of Access Land also facilitate access to this landscape.

Construction and decommissioning phases

1.7.11 Magnitude of Impact – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape special qualities

1.7.11.1 A direct impact will arise to the visual amenity of individuals within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL where views of the coast and the Irish Sea are obtained along with the construction and decommissioning activities associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project. These direct visual impacts have the potential to result in effects on special qualities, namely the viewer's sense of tranquillity and sense of remoteness and wildness, space and freedom and the visual amenity attained along the Offa's Dyke Path. These impacts will potentially result from the erection and dismantling of the wind turbines and OSPs and the associated vessel and equipment activities/movements.

1.7.11.2 The impact on the special qualities is predicted to be of short-term duration, continuous (increasing during construction, decreasing during decommissioning) and high reversibility.

1.7.11.3 The magnitude of impact on the three above referenced relevant special qualities is considered to be **negligible**. This reflects the short term and reversible nature of the effects and the scale of the change in views which will diminish with increasing distance from the Mona Array Area.

1.7.12 Sensitivity of the receptor – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape special qualities

1.7.12.1 The two special qualities, these being tranquillity and the sense of remoteness and wildness, space and freedom experienced by the individual are assessed to be of high value and high susceptibility to the proposed development resulting in a high sensitivity to the proposed change.

1.7.12.2 Views attained by users of the Offa's Dyke National trail are assessed to be of very high value. Viewers along this trail are considered to be of very high susceptibility and very high sensitivity to the proposed change.

1.7.13 Significance of the effect – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape special qualities

1.7.13.1 The magnitude of impact during construction and decommissioning on tranquillity and the sense of remoteness and wildness, space and freedom experienced by the individual is deemed to be **negligible** and the sensitivity of these special qualities is **high**. The effects will be **negligible to minor adverse**, which are not significant.

1.7.13.2 The magnitude of impact during construction and decommissioning on viewers along the Offa's Dyke Path is deemed to be **negligible** and the sensitivity of the receptors is **very high**. The effects will be **minor adverse**, which are not significant.

Operation and maintenance phases

Magnitude of Impact – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape special qualities

1.7.13.3 A direct impact will arise to the visual amenity of individuals within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL where views of the coast and the Irish Sea are attained along with the Mona Offshore Wind Project. These direct visual impacts have the potential to result in effects on special qualities, namely the viewers sense of tranquillity and sense of remoteness and wildness, space and freedom and the visual amenity attained along the Offa's Dyke Path. These impacts will result from the presence of both moving and static project components occupying the Mona Array Area, namely the wind turbines, service vessels/helicopters and the stationary OSPs which have the potential to affect perceptions of the coastal landscape.

1.7.13.4 Further detailed assessment of the magnitude of impact of the Mona Array Area on the above referenced special qualities experienced by individuals within the NL are outlined below supported by fieldwork and also the assessment of visual effects at the following representative viewpoints which are documented in Seascape Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) in Volume 2, Chapter 8 Seascape and visual resources and Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement:

- Viewpoint 10 offshore – Graig Fawr, Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL at 42.3 km distance to the offshore components of the Mona Offshore Wind Project (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 10.1 and 10.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Viewpoint 11 offshore – Moel-y-Parc, Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL at 54.1 km distance to the offshore components of the Mona Offshore Wind Project (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 11.1 and 11.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Viewpoint 39 offshore – Prestatyn Hillside, Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL at 42.1 km distance to the offshore components of the Mona Offshore Wind Project (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 35.1 and 35.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Viewpoint 54 offshore- Public Right of Way (205/4), Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL at 42.6 km distance to the offshore components of the Mona Offshore Wind Project (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 43.1 and 43.2 of the Environmental Statement)

- Viewpoint 11 onshore - View west-southwest from Offa's Dyke Path to the south of Moel Maenefa at 7.1 km distance to the onshore substation (Volume 6, Annex 6.5: Landscape visualisations, Figures 21 and 22 of the Environmental Statement)
- Viewpoint 12 onshore - View west-southwest from Offa's Dyke Path to the south of Pen-y-Mynydd at 6.5 km distance to the onshore substation (Volume 6, Annex 6.5: Landscape visualisations, Figures 23 and 24 of the Environmental Statement)
- Viewpoint 18 onshore - View southwest from Graig Fawr summit, NL, National Trust and Open Country Land at 8.5 km distance to the onshore substation (Volume 6, Annex 6.5: Landscape visualisations, Figures 35 and 36 of the Environmental Statement)
- Viewpoint 19 onshore - View southwest from Offa's Dyke Path/public footpath 405/12 on Prestatyn hillside within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL at 10.1 km distance to the onshore substation (Volume 6, Annex 6.5: Landscape visualisations, Figures 37 and 38 of the Environmental Statement).

1.7.13.5 The offshore elements of the Mona Offshore wind Project will be located 40.9 km from the Clwydian range and Dee Valley NL at the closest point in the vicinity of the large coastal settlement at Prestatyn. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of the Mona Array Area primarily along the coastal landscape which features development including settlements along with road and rail transport routes. These areas of theoretical visibility coincide mainly with Wales National Marine Character Areas MCA 01 Dee Estuary and MCA 02 Colwyn Bay and Rhyl Flats, as well as Wales NL Character Area NLCA 11 Dyffryn Clwyd/Vale of Clwyd and NLCA 12 Bryniau Clwyd/Clwydian Range. The published baseline for these MCAs and NLCAs is documented in Volume 6, Annex 8.2: Seascape and landscape character baseline technical report of the Environmental Statement.

1.7.13.6 Further inland, theoretical visibility is limited to isolated patches of hill farmland or elevated mountain areas. The extent of visibility will, in reality be more limited due to the screening afforded by built up areas and also individual areas of mature woodland which occur frequently throughout the coastal farmland and further inland. Further south, within the main massif of the Clwydian Range, very small, isolated patches of this more remote landscape would be theoretically affected by The Mona Array Area. In reality, the extent of actual visibility will be less owing to the screening afforded by intervening areas of mature woodland which can occur at elevations of 250-300 m.

1.7.13.7 The Onshore Substation associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project will be located 6.3 km from the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL at the closest point in the vicinity of the settlement at Tremeirchion. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed substation on parts of the west facing slopes of the Clwydian Hills extending from the north side of Dyserth south to the Afon Chwiler/River Wheeler Valley within NLCA 09: Bryniau Rhos/Rhos. In reality, the substation will be screened from view by tracts of woodland within the NL such as that at Coed Cwm together with wooded areas and hedgerows in the wider farmland between the NL and the Onshore Substation site. In addition, built up areas associated with settlements in the NL, and the intervening farmed landscape will screen the proposed substation from views within the NL.

1.7.13.8 The effects of the offshore components of the Mona Offshore Wind Project and the onshore substation on views and visual amenity and the associated special qualities of the NL will be very limited and will arise in the context of a baseline featuring

development including settlements and transport routes and with the influence of existing offshore wind Projects. Further inland, the extent of the effects in more remote mountain areas will be extremely limited to occasional summits such as Moel-y-Parc (representative viewpoint 11 onshore), for which, the Mona Array Area at distances of over 50 km will have very limited influence.

1.7.13.9 In terms of the sense of tranquillity experienced by the viewer, the baseline conditions, influenced by development such as the coastal settlements, transport routes and existing offshore wind farms are such that the offshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project at distances exceeding 40 km would bring about little if any change to any sense of tranquillity experienced at these locations. Further south, inland within the more mountainous and remote areas of the NL, the extent of the effects of the Mona Array Area offshore would be extremely limited to the occasional mountain summit. Owing to the distance to the Mona Array Area, exceeding 50 km at representative viewpoint 11 onshore, limited if any effects on the sense of tranquillity experienced by the viewer would arise.

1.7.13.10 The onshore substation would be scarcely visible at all from within the NL.

1.7.13.11 The magnitude of impact on this special quality is considered to be so limited as to amount to a **negligible** level of impact.

1.7.13.12 In regard to the viewer's sense of remoteness and wildness, space and freedom, the boundary of the NL is located away from the coastline, located south of the A548 road where the experience of remoteness and wildness associated with the coast and the sea would be relatively limited along the coastal landscape due to its settled nature and the influence of existing offshore wind Projects. The experience of remoteness, wildness, feeling of trepidation and sense of space and freedom is more associated with the remote upland farmland or mountainous part of the NL. As the extent of the effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project would be extremely limited in these areas, there would be almost no change to the overall sense of remoteness or wildness, space and freedom.

1.7.13.13 The magnitude of impact on this special quality is so limited as to amount to a **negligible** level of impact.

1.7.13.14 The Mona Array Area would directly affect the visual amenity of users of the Offa's Dyke National Trail in particular at the north end of the trail, on Prestatyn Hillside (representative viewpoint 39 offshore). At this viewpoint, located over 40 km from the offshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, and with the influence of existing offshore wind Projects in front of and closer to the viewer than the Mona Array Area, effects are expected to be relatively limited. Further south and further afield from the Mona Array Area, The ZTV overall indicates theoretical visibility of the offshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project over short intermittent sections of the Offa's Dyke Path, in reality, the extent of the trail that would be affected would be less than that indicated in the ZTV due to screening by vegetation and built structures including the woodland at Coed Cwm.

1.7.13.15 The Onshore Substation would be barely visible at all from the Offa's Dyke Path within the NL.

1.7.13.16 The magnitude of impact on this special quality is **negligible**.

1.7.14 Sensitivity of the receptor – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape special qualities

1.7.14.1 The two special qualities, these being tranquillity and the sense of remoteness and wildness, space and freedom experienced by the individual are assessed to be of high sensitivity. Viewers along the Offa's Dyke National Trail are of very high sensitivity to the proposed change.

1.7.15 Significance of the effect – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape special qualities

1.7.15.1 The magnitude of impact during the operations and maintenance phase on tranquillity and the sense of remoteness and wildness, space and freedom experienced by the individual is deemed to be **negligible** and the sensitivity of these special qualities is **high**. The effects will be **negligible to minor adverse** and not significant.

1.7.15.2 The magnitude of impact during the operations and maintenance phase on the visual amenity of individuals along the Offa's Dyke Path is deemed to be **negligible** and the sensitivity of the receptors is **very high**. The effects will be **minor adverse**, which are not significant.

1.7.15.3 At night time, a **no change** and not significant effect will arise on the special qualities (tranquillity and the sense of remoteness and wildness, space and freedom experienced by the individual). Night time effects resulting from the proposed navigation and aviation lighting of the turbines from the Offa's Dyke Path are not expected to arise due to distance to the Mona Array Area (39 km at the closest point at the coastal settlement of Prestatyn and beyond the existing offshore wind farms). At this distance, the night time effects associated with lighting would be barely visible or not visible at all and therefore there is no potential for significant night time effects on this special quality. The assessment of effects at night time, documented in paragraphs 8.8.2.58 to 8.8.2.61 of Volume 2, Chapter 8: Seascape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement, is focused on populated areas where visual receptors may be outdoors availing of night time views and concludes no significant effects.

1.7.15.4 The Mona onshore substation will not be lit at night. Lighting would only be used if emergency work had to be undertaken during hours of darkness.

1.7.16 Cumulative effects

1.7.16.1 Additional, cumulative effects on the special qualities: tranquillity and remoteness and wildness, sense of space and freedom and the Offa's Dyke Path may arise but would be confined to a small part of this designated landscape overlooking the coast.

Tier 1 Existing offshore wind farms

1.7.16.2 There is limited potential for cumulative effects on special qualities due to the addition of the Mona Array Area together with existing offshore wind farms due to screening by intervening woodland and the presence of coastal development. A **negligible** magnitude of cumulative impact would arise to the special qualities of **high** sensitivity resulting in a **negligible to minor adverse** and not significant cumulative effect.

1.7.16.3 A **negligible** magnitude of cumulative impact would arise on the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail of **very high** sensitivity resulting in a **minor adverse** and not significant cumulative effect.

Tier 1 Existing and consented offshore wind farms

1.7.16.4 The consented Tier 1 Awel y Môr offshore wind farm, if built, will be perceived as an extension of the existing Gwynt y Môr offshore wind farm in the North Wales offshore wind farm Cluster. A **negligible** magnitude of cumulative impact would arise as a result of the addition of the Mona Array Area together with the North Wales offshore wind farm Cluster of existing offshore wind farms and the consented Awel y Môr offshore wind farm. A **negligible to minor adverse** and not significant cumulative effect would arise to the special qualities of **high** sensitivity.

1.7.16.5 A **minor adverse** and not significant effect would arise no the users of the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail.

Tier 2 Proposed offshore wind farms

1.7.16.6 There is potential for cumulative effects to arise on the special qualities due to the Mona Array Area and the proposed Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms. The Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind farm would be barely visible and would not contribute to cumulative effects.

1.7.16.7 Given the limited extent of the designated landscape that would be affected, a **negligible** magnitude of impact would arise. The cumulative effects are expected to be in the range of **negligible to minor adverse** on the special qualities of **high** and **very high** sensitivity.

1.7.17 Eryri National Park

1.7.17.1 Baseline conditions – Eryri National Park comprises and extensive mountain range which overlooks a busy settled coastline at Conwy Bay, the Irish Sea and the site for the offshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. It is located 35.9 km distance to the Mona Array Area at the closest point at Penmaen Point.

1.7.17.2 Impact considerations - The Mona Offshore Wind Project would be located outside Snowdonia National Park and therefore, direct effects will not arise.

1.7.17.3 There is potential for effects on the special qualities of this designated landscape to arise as a result of the visibility of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

1.7.17.4 Eryri National Park is located outside the 10 km and 1 km SLVIA study areas for the onshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project and therefore impacts and effects arising from these project components are excluded from further consideration.

1.7.17.5 The assessment is therefore focussed on potential effects arising from the offshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project.

1.7.17.6 A review of the special qualities of Eryri National Park is presented in the table below in Table 1.12 in order to identify the particular special qualities, highlighted in bold in the table below, that are relevant to the SLVIA which are then taken forward for more detailed assessment.

Table 1.12: Eryri National Park – Preliminary assessment of the effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project on special qualities.

Special quality	Preliminary assessment
Diverse landscapes - Diverse, high-quality landscapes and seascapes within a small geographic area, ranging from coast to rolling uplands to rugged mountains for which Snowdonia is famed.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not affect the fabric of the diverse landscapes. There would be no change to this special quality.
Community Cohesion - A robust sense of community identity, cohesion, continuity and inclusivity combine to give a strong 'sense of place and belonging' within Snowdonia.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not affect the physical attributes of towns and villages which are associated with community cohesion and sense of place and belonging. There would be no change to this special quality.
Vibrancy of the Welsh language - The vibrancy of Welsh is most obvious in Eryri as it continues to be the choice of language in many social and professional environments. It is evident in local place names, the wildlife and history therein and is therefore intrinsic to the uniqueness of our cultural and natural heritage.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not affect the vibrancy of the Welsh language. There would be no change to this special quality.
Inspiration for the Arts - Snowdonia is a place which has inspired some of the nation's most notable culture, folklore, art, literature and music; an influence which continues across all creative pursuits to the present day.	Inspiration for the arts is outside the scope of the SLVIA and is excluded from further consideration.
Tranquillity and solitude – Peaceful Areas - The opportunity for people to understand and enjoy Snowdonia National Park actively, whilst maintaining areas of silence, tranquillity and solitude, thus promoting vital aspects of health, well-being and personal reflection.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project has the potential to affect the views attained by people in the National Park, thereby affecting their experience of silence, tranquillity and solitude.
Recreation, Leisure and Learning - Extensive opportunities for recreation, leisure and learning for people of all ages and abilities.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not affect opportunities for recreation, leisure and learning and is excluded from further consideration. There would be no change to this special quality.
Historic Landscapes - The changing relationship between people and nature over time has produced landscapes of great beauty and variety in Eryri; a national asset that is essential both to our identity and to our individual 'sense of place' and wellbeing.	The fabric of historic landscapes, crafted by centuries of human activity would not be directly affected by the Mona Offshore Wind Project. Effects on the perception of historic landscapes could potentially arise as a result of the Mona Offshore Wind Project. This is outside the scope of the SLVIA and is excluded from further consideration.
Renowned Geology - Complex, varied and renowned geology, which has been vital in influencing the disciplines of geology and geography internationally.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not affect the complex varied and renowned geology nor its role in influencing the disciplines of geology and geography internationally. There would be no change to this special quality.
Internationally important habitats and species - There are 17 National Nature Reserves in Snowdonia; more than in any other National Park in England and Wales; and 56 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The tremendous biodiversity reflects the varied landscape, geology, climate and land management. The richness of plants and animals is fundamental to the history, culture, language, economy and ongoing well-being of all people who live in and visit the area.	The Mona Offshore Wind Project would not affect the fabric of the landscape that reflects these internationally important habitats and species. There would be no change to this special quality.

1.7.17.7 Based on the above review, the special quality taken forward for assessment is as follows:

- Tranquillity and solitude – Peaceful Areas - The opportunity for people to understand and enjoy Eryri National Park actively, whilst maintaining areas of silence, tranquillity and solitude, thus promoting vital aspects of health, well-being and personal reflection.

Construction and decommissioning phases

1.7.18 Magnitude of Impact – Eryri National Park special qualities

1.7.18.1 A direct impact will arise to the visual amenity of individuals within Eryri National Park where views of the coast and the Irish Sea are attained along with the construction and decommissioning activities associated with the Mona Offshore Wind Project. These direct visual impacts have the potential to result in effects on the special quality, namely the sense of tranquillity and solitude – Peaceful Areas experienced by these viewers. These impacts will potentially result from the erection and dismantling of the wind turbines and OSPs and the associated vessel and equipment activities/movements.

1.7.18.2 The impact on the special quality is predicted to be of short-term duration, continuous (increasing during construction, decreasing during decommissioning) and high reversibility.

1.7.18.3 The magnitude of impact is **negligible**. This reflects the short term and reversible nature of the effects and the scale of the change in views which will diminish with increasing distance from the Mona Array Area.

1.7.19 Sensitivity of the receptor – Eryri National Park special quality

1.7.19.1 The special quality entitled tranquillity and solitude – peaceful areas experienced by the individual is assessed to be of high value and high susceptibility to the proposed development resulting in a **high** sensitivity to the proposed change.

1.7.20 Significance of the effect – Eryri National Park special quality

1.7.20.1 The magnitude of impact during construction and decommissioning on the special quality entitled tranquillity and solitude – peaceful areas experienced by the individual is assessed to be negligible and the sensitivity of this special quality to the proposed change is high. The effects will be **negligible to minor adverse**, which are not significant.

Operations and Maintenance phases

1.7.21 Magnitude of Impact – Eryri National Park special qualities

1.7.21.1 A direct impact will arise to the visual amenity of individuals within Eryri National Park where views of the coast and the Irish Sea are attained along with the Mona offshore Wind Project during the operations and maintenance phase. These direct visual impacts have the potential to result in effects on the special quality, namely the sense of tranquillity and solitude – Peaceful Areas experienced by these viewers. These impacts will result from the presence of both moving and static project components occupying the Mona Array Area, namely the wind turbines, service vessels/helicopters

and the stationary OSPs which have the potential to affect perceptions of the coastal landscape.

1.7.21.2 Further detailed assessment of the magnitude of impact of the Mona Array Area on the above referenced special quality experienced by individuals within the NL are outlined below supported by fieldwork and assessment of visual effects at the following representative viewpoints documented in Seascape Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) in Volume 2, Chapter 8 Seascape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement:

- Viewpoint 6 – Carnedd Llewelyn, Eryri National Park at 50.7 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 6.1 and 6.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Viewpoint 29 – Base of Moel Wnion, Eryri National Park at 45.5 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 25.1 and 25.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Viewpoint 30 – North Wales Path, Garreg Fawr, Eryri National Park at 42.1 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 26.1 and 26.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Viewpoint 31 – Tal-y-Fan summit, Eryri National Park (at 42 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 27.1 and 27.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Viewpoint 32 – Foel Lus, Eryri National Park at 38.5 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 28.1 and 28.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Viewpoint 33 – Conwy Mountain summit, Eryri National Park at 36.7 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 28.1 and 29.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Viewpoint 52 – Carnedd Dafydd, Eryri National Park at 52.4 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 41.1 and 41.2 of the Environmental Statement)
- Viewpoint 53 – Elidir Fawr, Eryri National Park at 55.2 km distance to the Mona Array Area (Volume 6, Annex 8.6: Seascape visualisations, Figures 42.1 and 42.2 of the Environmental Statement).

1.7.21.3 The Mona Array Area will be located 35.9 km from the Eryri National Park at the closest point in the vicinity of Penmaen Point on the coast overlooking Conwy Bay. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of the offshore components of the Mona Offshore Wind Project in parts of the Eryri National Park which has implications for the special quality referenced above.

1.7.21.4 The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of the Mona Array Area along most of the northwest edge of the national park and its coastal setting at Conwy Bay and Traeth Lafan (Seascape Character Areas 2 and 3 of the Snowdonia National Park seascape assessment). These areas of theoretical visibility coincide mainly with Wales National Marine Character Areas MCA 03 Red Wharf and Colwyn Bays and Wales NL Character Areas NLCA 06 Eryri/Snowdonia. The published baseline for this MCA and NLCA is documented in Volume 6, Annex 8.2: Seascape and landscape character baseline technical report, of the Environmental Statement.

1.7.21.5 The project offshore wind turbines and OSPs would present in views of the seascape framed by the nearby headlands of Penmon Point and Puffin Island to the west and Great Orme's Head to the east thereby resulting in potential effects on the viewer's sense of tranquillity and solitude – peaceful areas (representative viewpoints 32 and 33).

1.7.21.6 Theoretical visibility of the Mona Array Area is limited inland, primarily affecting the mountain landscape of LCA 1 Ucheldir Y Gogledd where patches of the north facing slopes of these uplands would be affected. These include the summit of Tal Y Fan (representative viewpoint 31), Moel Wnion, Drosgl and Conwy Mountain.

1.7.21.7 Further inland and south of LCA 1 the ZTV indicates some very limited theoretical effects on mountain summits and isolated small patches of upland landscapes. These include the summit of Carnedd Llewelyn (viewpoint 6) in LCA 2 Carneddau through which The Cambrian Way walking route passes. Very limited small, isolated patches of the mountain landscape of the national park would be affected according to the ZTV.

1.7.21.8 In reality, the extent of visibility will be less than indicated on the ZTV due to the screening afforded by vegetation and built structures. Of note, in this regard, are the wooded areas that extend along the National Park boundary near the coast from Bethesda to Llanfairfechan and rising up the valleys and mountain foothills.

1.7.21.9 The effects of the Mona Array Area on the viewer's sense of tranquillity and solitude – peaceful areas will be very limited due to the distance and the limited extent of the designated landscape where views of the Mona Array Area would be attained. The effects would arise in the context of a baseline coastal landscape featuring development including settlements and transport routes and, in some cases, with the influence of existing offshore wind Projects. Further inland, the extent of the effects in more remote mountain areas will be extremely limited to occasional summits such as Carnedd Llewelyn (representative viewpoint 6), for which, the Mona Array Area at distances of over 50 km will have limited influence only on occasions when the weather conditions favour visibility.

1.7.21.10 In respect of the sense of tranquillity and solitude – peaceful areas experienced by the viewer, effects arising from the Mona Array Area are likely to be limited mostly to the north boundary of the National Park which overlooks the coastline in the vicinity of Conwy Bay and Traeth Lafan. The Snowdonia National Park seascape assessment described Conwy Bay as a busy and varied area with a long history of settlement and tourism. The coastline which forms part of the setting for the National Park features busy road and rail routes and coastal settlements at Bangor, Llanfairfechan, Penmaenmawr and Conwy.

1.7.21.11 The viewer's sense of tranquillity and solitude is likely to be experienced to a greater extent further inland within the mountains and valleys of Eryri National Park which are more remote and where views of the sea are generally limited or unavailable.

1.7.21.12 The Mona Array Area may affect some level of tranquillity and solitude experienced from isolated patches of hill and mountain landscape overlooking the coast where the influence of the Mona Array Area would be very limited due to distance and weather conditions. Further inland, within the mountains and valleys, The Mona Array Area would not be visible, and the sense of tranquillity and solitude would be unchanged.

1.7.21.13 The magnitude of impact during the operations and maintenance phase on the viewer's sense of tranquillity and solitude – peaceful areas experienced in views from the National Park is considered to be **small**.

1.7.22 Sensitivity of the receptor – Eryri National Park special quality

1.7.22.1 The special quality entitled tranquillity and solitude – peaceful areas experienced by the individual is assessed to be of **high** sensitivity to the proposed change.

1.7.23 Significance of the effect – Eryri National Park special quality

1.7.23.1 The magnitude of impact during the operations and maintenance phase on the viewer's experience of tranquillity and solitude – peaceful areas is assessed to be negligible and the sensitivity of this special quality to the proposed change is high. The effects will be **moderate adverse**, which are not significant.

1.7.23.2 Potentially significant night time effects resulting from proposed lighting on the turbines on the special quality (tranquillity and solitude – peaceful areas) are not expected to arise due to distance to the Mona Array Area (almost 36 km at the closest point). At this minimum distance, the night time impact of the navigation and aviation lighting would be negligible, as due to distance from the Mona Array Area, the lights would be barely visible and therefore there is no potential for significant night time effects on this special quality. Furthermore, the special quality is generally experienced by the viewer during daylight hours. In this regard, the assessment of effects at night time, documented in paragraphs 8.8.2.58 to 8.8.2.61 of Volume 2, Chapter 8 Seascape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement, is focused on populated areas where visual receptors may be outdoors availing of night time views.

1.7.24 Cumulative effects

1.7.24.1 Cumulative effects on the special quality entitled Tranquillity and Solitude – Peaceful Areas may arise but would be confined to the northern part of the National Park overlooking the coastline and including some of the tallest peaks in Snowdonia, closest to the coast.

1.7.24.2 The potential cumulative effects with Tier 1 existing offshore wind farms will arise due to the visibility of Mona offshore Wind Project along with the North West England offshore wind farm Cluster and the North Wales offshore wind farm Cluster of existing offshore wind farms. The Mona Array Area will be located closer to Snowdonia National Park than the North West England offshore wind farm Cluster which is located approximately 77 km away. At these distances, the North West England offshore wind farm Cluster is scarcely visible at all and so the potential for cumulative effects on the relevant special qualities would be very limited. A similar conclusion is arrived at in regard to Robin Rigg, which is even further from the National Park.

Tier 1 Existing offshore Wind Farms

1.7.24.3 There is potential for cumulative effects on the special quality due to the addition of the Mona offshore Wind Project along with the North Wales offshore wind farm Cluster. These effects would generally be limited to the northern part of this landscape overlooking the sea. Taking into account the limited section of coast that would be affected by the cumulative addition of the Mona offshore Wind Project, a **small to medium** magnitude of additional, cumulative impact would arise to the special quality of **high** sensitivity resulting in a **moderate adverse** and not significant cumulative effect.

Tier 1 Existing and Consented offshore Wind Farms

1.7.24.4 The consented Tier 1 Awel y Mor offshore wind farm, if built, will be perceived as an extension of the existing Gwynt y Mor offshore wind farm in the North Wales offshore wind farm Cluster. A **small** magnitude of cumulative impact would arise to the special quality as a result of the addition of Mona Offshore Wind Project along with the North Wales offshore wind farm Cluster of existing offshore wind farms and the consented Gwynt y Mor offshore wind farm. A **minor to moderate adverse** and not significant cumulative effect would arise to the special quality of **high** sensitivity.

Tier 2 Proposed offshore Wind Farms

1.7.24.5 There is potential for cumulative effects to arise on the special qualities due to the Mona Array Area and the proposed Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms. The Mooir Vannin Offshore Wind farm, at a distance of approximately 80 km from Eryri National Park would be scarcely visible and would therefore not contribute to cumulative effects.

1.7.24.6 The Mona Array Area will be closer to the National Park than the proposed Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms. Taking into account distance overall and the extent of the coastline that would be affected, being limited to the north coast and the most northerly mountain summits, a **medium** magnitude of cumulative impact would arise to the special quality of **high** sensitivity resulting in a **moderate adverse** effect, which would be significant cumulative effect, with these projects.

1.8 Summary

1.8.1.1 This report presents the assessment of effects of the Mona Offshore Wind Project as a whole (both onshore and offshore transmission assets) on the special qualities of three nationally designated landscapes, these being:

- The Isle of Anglesey NL
- The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL
- Eryri National Park.

1.8.1.2 A review of the special qualities of each designated landscape was undertaken and those special qualities of relevance to the SLVIA were selected for assessment. The assessment concludes that there will be no significant effects on the special qualities of the three nationally designated landscapes from the Mona Offshore Wind Project on it's own. However, there will be a moderate cumulative effect on the 'Tranquillity and Solitude – Peaceful Areas' special quality of Eryri National Park in combination with the Tier 2 projects, which is significant, due to the views from the higher land within Eryri National Park.

1.8.1.3 This conclusion was arrived at based on a number of factors including distance and the extent of theoretical visibility (as presented in Appendix A, Figure A.2 and Figure A.3) in relation to Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Mona Offshore Array Area and actual visibility having regard for screening by vegetation and built structures.

1.8.1.4 Table 1.13 and Table 1.14, below summarise the findings of the assessment.

Table 1.13: Summary of potential effects on the special qualities of nationally designated landscapes resulting from the Mona Offshore Wind Project, mitigation and monitoring.

[a] C=construction, O=operations and maintenance, D=decommissioning

Seascape, landscape and visual resources and receptors	Phase[a] C	O	D	Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect	Further mitigation	Residual effect	Proposed monitoring
Mona Offshore Wind Project										
Isle of Anglesey NL, special quality: Expansive views Note: The Mona Onshore Substation is not visible from the Isle of Anglesey NL and this assessment refers to the Mona offshore infrastructure only.	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: negligible O: negligible to small D: negligible	C: high O: high D: high	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: minor to moderate (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: minor to moderate (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None
Isle of Anglesey NL, special quality: Peace and tranquillity Note: The Mona Onshore Substation is not visible from the Isle of Anglesey NL and this assessment refers to the Mona offshore infrastructure only.	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: negligible O: negligible to small D: negligible	C: high O: high D: high	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: minor to moderate (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: minor to moderate (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None

Seascape, landscape and visual resources and receptors	Phase[a] C	O	D	Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect	Further mitigation	Residual effect	Proposed monitoring
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL, special quality: Tranquillity	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: negligible O: negligible D: negligible	C: high O: high D: high	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL, special quality: Remoteness and wildness, space and freedom	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: negligible O: negligible D: negligible	C: high O: high D: high	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL, special quality: Access, recreation and freedom (Offa's Dyke Path)	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: negligible O: negligible D: negligible	C: very high O: very high D: very high	C: minor adverse (not significant) O: minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: minor adverse (not significant)	None

Seascape, landscape and visual resources and receptors	Phase[a] C	O	D	Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect	Further mitigation	Residual effect	Proposed monitoring
							D: minor adverse (not significant)		O: minor adverse (not significant) D: minor adverse (not significant)	
Eryri National Park, special quality: Tranquillity and solitude – peaceful areas Note: The Mona Onshore Substation SLVIA does not include the Eryri National Park and this assessment refers to the Mona offshore infrastructure only.	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: negligible O: small D: negligible	C: high O: high D: high	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: minor to moderate adverse (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: minor to moderate adverse (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None

Table 1.14: Summary of potential cumulative environmental effects on the special qualities of nationally designated landscapes resulting from the Mona Offshore Wind Project, mitigation and monitoring.

[a] C=construction, O=operations and maintenance, D=decommissioning

Description of effect	Phase[a] C	O	D	Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect	Further mitigation	Residual effect	Proposed monitoring
Tier 1 Cumulative Projects										
Isle of Anglesey NL special quality: Expansive views Note: The Mona Onshore Substation is not visible from the Isle of Anglesey NL and this assessment refers to the Mona offshore infrastructure only.	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: small to medium O: small to medium D: small to medium	C: high O: high D: high	C: minor to moderate adverse (not significant) O: minor to moderate (not significant) D: minor to moderate adverse (not significant)	None	C: minor to moderate adverse (not significant) O: minor to moderate (not significant) D: minor to moderate adverse (not significant)	None
Isle of Anglesey NL, special quality: Peace and tranquillity Note: The Mona Onshore Substation is not visible from the Isle of Anglesey NL and this assessment refers to the Mona offshore infrastructure only.	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: small to medium O: small to medium D: small to medium	C: high O: high D: high	C: minor to moderate adverse (not significant) O: minor to moderate (not significant) D: minor to moderate adverse (not significant)	None	C: minor to moderate adverse (not significant) O: minor to moderate (not significant) D: minor to moderate adverse (not significant)	None

Description of effect	Phase[a] C	O	D	Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect	Further mitigation	Residual effect	Proposed monitoring
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL, special quality: Tranquillity	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: negligible O: negligible D: negligible	C: high O: high D: high	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL, special quality: Remoteness and wildness, space and freedom	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: negligible O: negligible D: negligible	C: high O: high D: high	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL, special quality: Access, recreation and freedom (Offa's Dyke Path)	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: negligible O: negligible D: negligible	C: very high O: very high D: very high	C: minor adverse (not significant) O: minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: minor adverse (not significant)	None

Description of effect	Phase[a] C	O	D	Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect	Further mitigation	Residual effect	Proposed monitoring
							D: minor adverse (not significant)		O: minor adverse (not significant) D: minor adverse (not significant)	
Eryri National Park, special quality: Tranquillity and solitude – peaceful areas Note: The Mona Onshore Substation SLVIA does not include the Eryri National Park and this assessment refers to the Mona offshore infrastructure only.	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: small to medium O: small to medium D: small to medium	C: high O: high D: high	C: minor to moderate adverse (not significant) O: minor to moderate adverse (not significant) D: minor to moderateadverse (not significant)	None	C: minor to moderate adverse (not significant) O: minor to moderate adverse (not significant) D: minor to moderate adverse (not significant)	None
Tier 2 Cumulative Projects										
Isle of Anglesey NL special quality: Expansive views Note: The Mona Onshore Substation is not visible from the Isle of Anglesey NL and this assessment refers to the Mona offshore infrastructure only.	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: small O: medium D: small	C: high O: high D: high	C: minor adverse (not significant) O: moderate (not significant) D: minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: minor adverse (not significant) O: moderate (not significant) D: minor adverse (not significant)	None

Description of effect	Phase[a] C	O	D	Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect	Further mitigation	Residual effect	Proposed monitoring
Isle of Anglesey NL, special quality: Peace and tranquillity Note: The Mona Onshore Substation is not visible from the Isle of Anglesey NL and this assessment refers to the Mona offshore infrastructure only.	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: small O: medium D: small	C: high O: high D: high	C: minor adverse (not significant) O: moderate (not significant) D: minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: minor adverse (not significant) O: moderate (not significant) D: minor adverse (not significant)	None
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL, special quality: Tranquillity	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: negligible O: negligible D: negligible	C: high O: high D: high	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: minor adverse (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: minor adverse (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL, special quality: Remoteness and wildness, space and freedom	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: negligible O: negligible D: negligible	C: high O: high D: high	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: minor adverse (not significant) D: negligible to minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: negligible to minor adverse (not significant) O: minor adverse (not significant) D: negligible to minor	None

Description of effect	Phase[a] C	O	D	Measures adopted as part of the Mona Offshore Wind Project	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect	Further mitigation	Residual effect	Proposed monitoring
									adverse (not significant)	
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL, special quality: Access, recreation and freedom (Offa's Dyke Path)	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: negligible O: negligible D: negligible	C: very high O: very high D: very high	C: minor adverse (not significant) O: minor adverse (not significant) D: minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: minor adverse (not significant) O: minor adverse (not significant) D: minor adverse (not significant)	None
Eryri National Park, special quality: Tranquillity and solitude – peaceful areas Note: The Mona Onshore Substation SLVIA does not include the Eryri National Park and this assessment refers to the Mona offshore infrastructure only.	✓	✓	✓	Turbines painted grey	C: small O: medium D: small	C: high O: high D: high	C: minor adverse (not significant) O: moderate adverse (significant) D: minor adverse (not significant)	None	C: minor adverse (not significant) O: moderate adverse (significant) D: minor adverse (not significant)	None
Tier 3 Cumulative Projects										
There are currently no Tier 3 cumulative projects considered as part of the cumulative effects assessment.										

1.9 References

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Partnership (2014) Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Management Plan 2014 – 2019

Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council (2018) Supplementary Planning Guidance Note Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Eryri National Park (Snowdonia National Park) Authority (2014) Supplementary Planning Guidance: Landscapes and Seascapes of Eryri

Eryri National Park (Snowdonia National Park) Authority (2016) Supplementary Planning Guidance: Landscapes Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment

Eryri National Park (Snowdonia National Park) Authority (2020) The Snowdonia National Park Partnership Plan 2020

Fiona Fyfe Associates (2013) Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment

Isle of Anglesey AONB/Isle of Anglesey County Council (2015) The Isle of Anglesey AONB Management Plan Review 2015 to 2020

Isle of Anglesey AONB/Isle of Anglesey County Council (2015) The Isle of Anglesey AONB Management Plan Review 2015 to 2020 – Appendix 1 Summary of evidence base, legislative and policy context

Snowdonia National Park Authority (2019) Snowdonia National Park Local Development Plan 2016-2031

The Isle of Anglesey County Council (2011) Anglesey Landscape Strategy

Appendix A: Figures

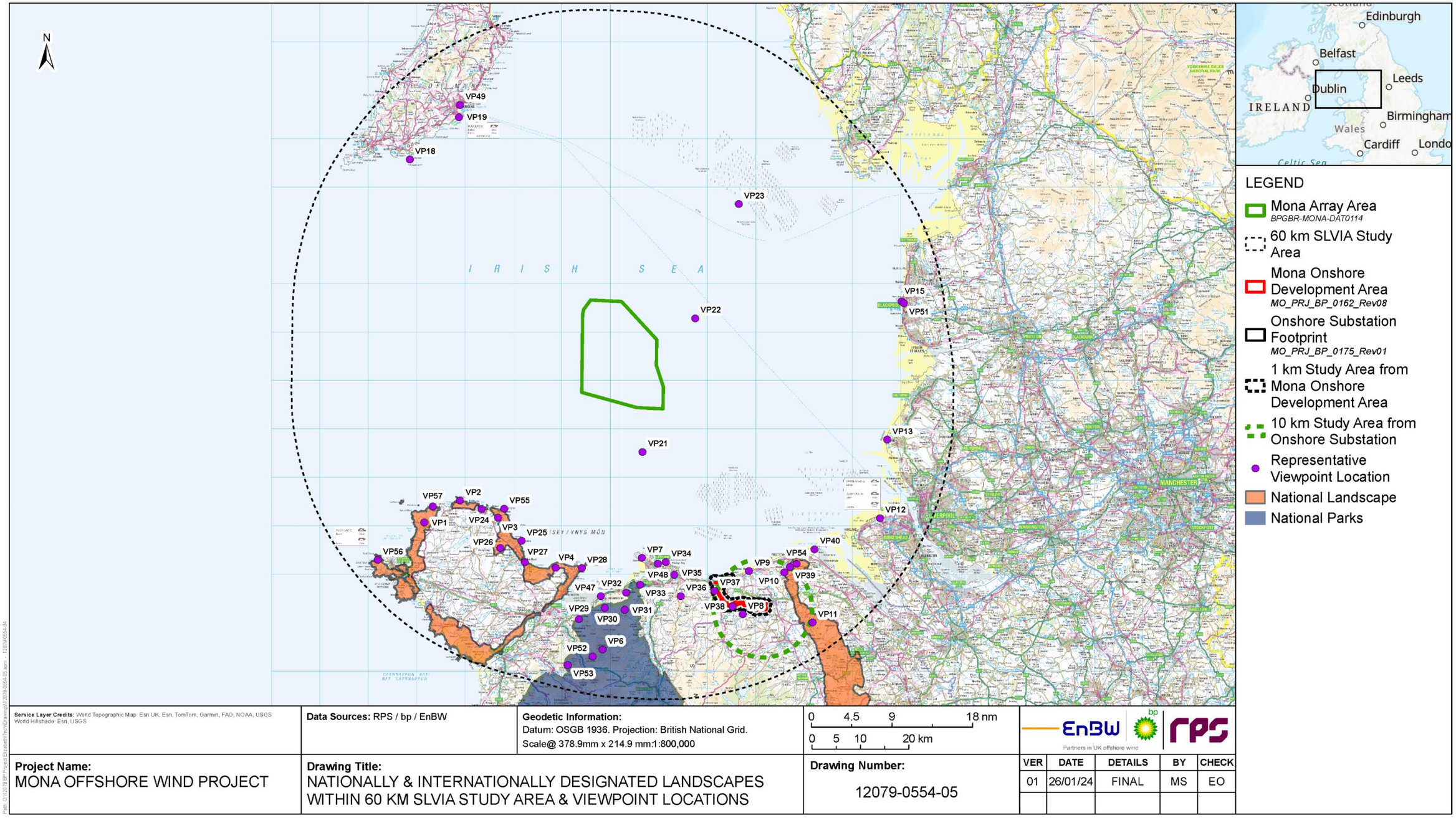

Figure A.1: Nationally / Internationally designated landscapes within 60 km SLVIA study area and viewpoint locations.

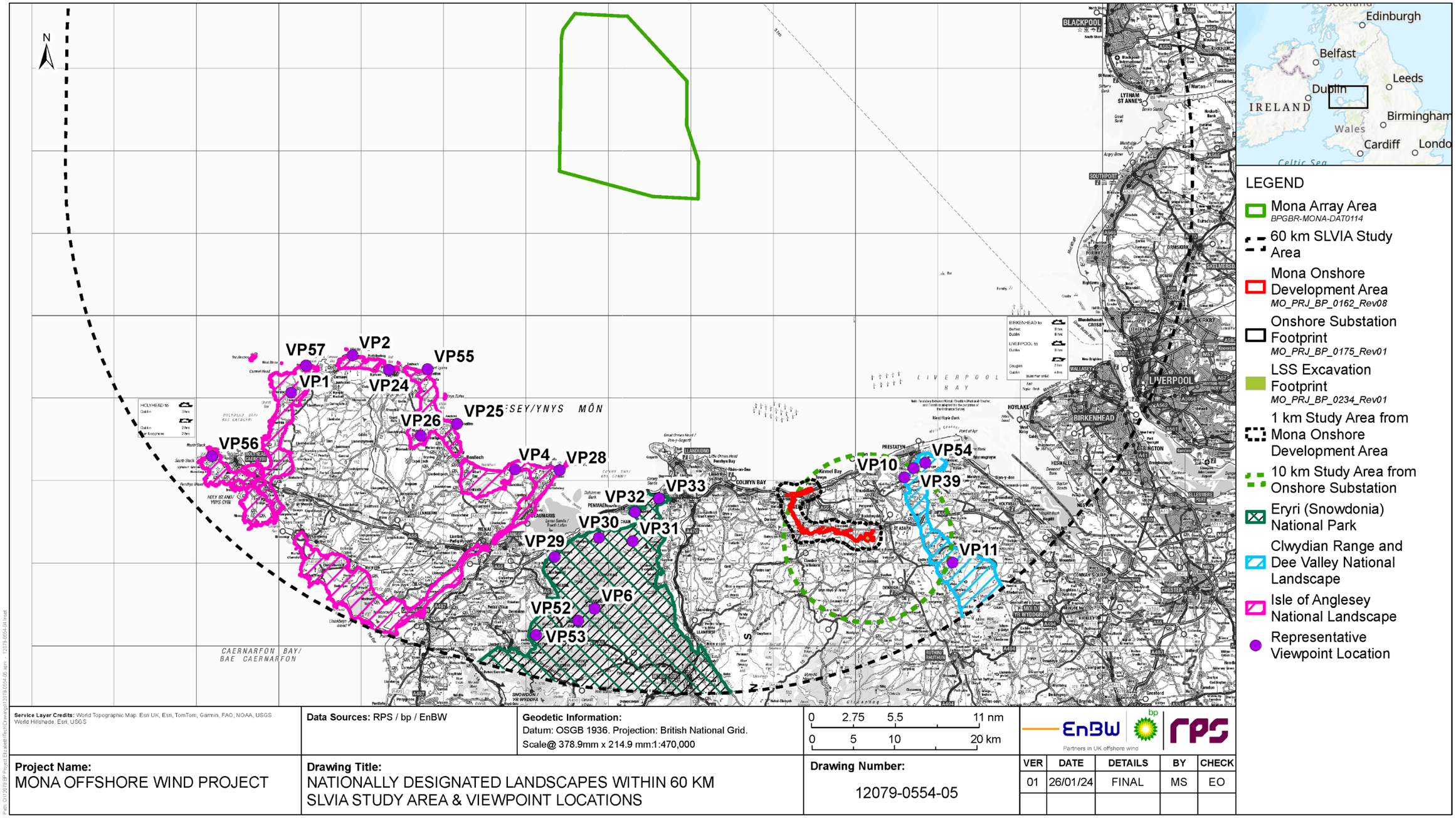

Figure A.2: Nationally designated landscapes within 60 km SLVIA study area and viewpoint locations.

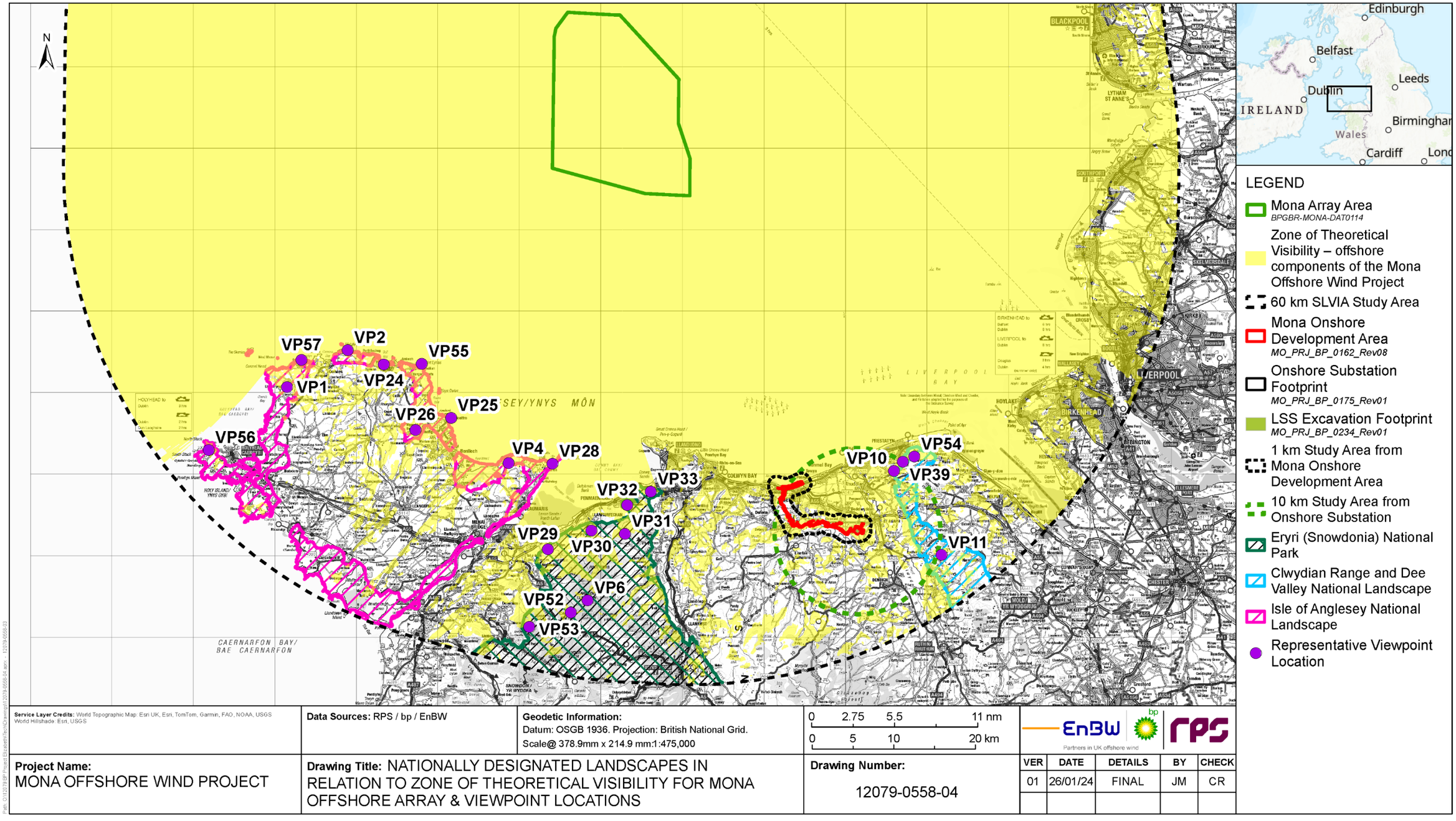

Figure A.3: Nationally designated landscapes in relation to zone of theoretical visibility for Mona Array Area offshore components and representative viewpoint locations.