

MONA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Environmental Statement

Volume 7, Annex 6.2: Landscape and seascape character baseline technical report Part 1

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Image of an offshore wind farm

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
Aspect Area	Five nationally consistent, quality assured spatial datasets (available from LANDMAP, NRW). The five Aspect Area layers are Visual and Sensory, Historic landscape, Cultural Landscape Services, Landscape Habitats and Geological Landscape.
Essential setting	An area that is considered (by NRW or a local planning authority) to be the setting for a nationally designated landscape. It has no statutory weight.
LANDMAP	Welsh system of characterising the landscape, in five separate Aspect Layers: Visual and Sensory, Historic, Cultural Ecological and Geological.
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	These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type.
Landscape character assessment	The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscape distinctive. The process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment.
Landscape character types	These are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historical land use, and settlement pattern.
Marine Character Areas	An area of sea with distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements that makes one area of the sea different from another, rather than better or worse.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility	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 (now termed a National Landscape)
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LVIA	Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
MCA	Marine Character Area
MDS	Maximum Design Scenario
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
NL	National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)
NLCA	National Landscape Character Area (Wales)
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site
SCA	Seascape Character Area

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Acronym	Description
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SLVIA	Seascape and Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Units

Unit	Description
km	Kilometres

1 LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE CHARACTER BASELINE TECHNICAL REPORT

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1.1 This technical report describes the landscape and seascape character baseline that will form the onshore part of the landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) provided in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.
- 1.1.1.2 A separate technical report relates to the offshore seascape and landscape character baseline and is provided in Volume 6, Annex 8.2: Seascape and landscape character baseline technical report of the Environmental Statement. The latter report forms part of the seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA) within Volume 2, Chapter 8: Seascape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.
- 1.1.1.3 Baseline data on designated landscapes is documented in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: Internationally and nationally designated landscapes of the Environmental Statement, along with the assessment of effects on their special qualities.

1.2 Study area

- 1.2.1.1 The LVIA onshore study area for the transmission assets of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, hereafter referred to as 'the LVIA onshore study area', is shown on **Error! Reference source not found.** The LVIA onshore study area is based on the height of the Mona onshore substation, which in turn formed the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). This was agreed with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) at a SLVIA workshop, held in September 2022 (refer to Table 6.7 of Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement). The LVIA onshore study area comprises the area of land to be temporarily and permanently occupied during construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning of the onshore elements of the Mona Offshore Wind Project, which includes areas of the sea, together with:
 - 1 km buffer from the Mona Onshore Development Area (i.e. the area landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS)); and
 - 10 km from the Onshore Substation, which includes areas of the sea.
- 1.2.1.2 The buffers used to define the LVIA for the Mona onshore substation study area and Mona onshore cable corridor study area are based on the Maximum Design Scenario (MDS) set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

1.3 Desktop study

1.3.1 Overview

- 1.3.1.1 Information on the baseline seascape and landscape character within the LVIA onshore study area was collected through a detailed desktop review of published studies and datasets. These are summarised in Table 1.1 below.

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Table 1.1: Summary of key desktop characterisation sources

Title	Source	Year	Author
Wales National Landscape Character	NRW website	Various (2013)	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
National Seascape Assessment for Wales containing Wales' National Marine Character Areas	NRW website	2015	Land Use Consultants (LUC)
LANDMAP Guidance Note 1: LANDMAP & Special Landscape Areas	NRW website	2017	NRW
LANDMAP – the Welsh landscape baseline	NRW website	2023	NRW

1.3.2 Introduction to results

- 1.3.2.1 The following sections provide summary descriptions of Wales' National Marine Character Areas (MCAs), the Wales National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs) and LANDMAP Aspect Areas relevant to the Mona Onshore Development Area.
- 1.3.2.2 The landscape character descriptions are drawn from published assessments and are supported by observations in the field. The extent of the ZTV has been used to identify those character areas and designated landscapes which have the potential to experience direct and indirect impacts of the Mona onshore substation.
- 1.3.2.3 Data on the special qualities of nationally and internationally designated landscapes within the onshore and offshore SLVIA study areas is documented in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: Internationally and nationally designated landscape study of the Environmental Statement.
- 1.3.2.4 The LVIA onshore study area is shown in context with the Welsh National MCAs, the Welsh NLCAs and LANDMAP data. Photographs portraying these character areas are provided in Appendix B: Wales National Marine, National Landscape Character and LANDMAP Aspect Areas. Onshore character photographs are presented in Appendix C: Onshore Character Photographs.

1.3.3 Wales National MCAs

- 1.3.3.1 The Wales National Seascape Assessment undertaken by LUC in 2015, identified and described MCAs within coastal and inshore areas of Welsh territorial waters. One MCA falls within the LVIA onshore study area as follows:

MCA 02 – Colwyn Bay and Rhyl Flats

- 1.3.3.2 Relevant key characteristics of this MCA include:
- *'Low-lying coastline backed by coastal levels associated with the broad mouth of the Vale of Clwyd to the east half of the area*
 - *High, exposed, rocky limestone hills and open headlands with intermediate developed bays to the western half of the area. Little Orme and Great Orme headlands form dramatic rugged landmarks*
 - *Developed coastline with many seaside resort towns, notably Llandudno (and pier) Colwyn Bay (and pier), Rhyl and Prestatyn, the latter having many caravan and chalet parks on their fringe. The coast serves as a traditional holiday destination*

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- *Wales Coast Path and a popular cycleway run the length of the coastline. Collectively, the A55, A548 and main Holyhead to Chester railway line follow close to the coastline*
- *Rhyl Flats Offshore Wind Farm forms a dominating offshore feature. The moving turbines are supplemented by further turbines beyond (in MCA 29)*
- *Limestone hills form a backdrop, in the east linking to the adjacent slopes of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB¹. From further out to sea, views reach beyond to the mountains of Eryri National Park (Snowdonia National Park).’ (National Seascape Assessment for Wales, MCA 02, page 2).*

1.3.4 Wales NLCAs

- 1.3.4.1 The national landscape character of Wales within the LVIA onshore study area is described by NRW in its online NLCA resource. Those that occur within the LVIA onshore study area are shown in Appendix A, **Error! Reference source not found..** They are also summarised below.

NLCA 08 Arfordir Gogledd Cymru/North Wales Coast

- 1.3.4.2 Relevant key characteristics of this NLCA include:

- *‘Carboniferous limestone hills and coastal headlands - resulting in distinctive light-coloured rocky escarpments with cliffs and scree, including most prominently Great Orme’s Head, with characteristic clints, grykes, stepped crags and scree slopes*
- *The mouth of the Vale of Clwyd – a broad flat coastal plain centred on Rhyl, including the small estuary of the River Clwyd, including a network of medium scale pastoral fields of regular pattern, with ditches and, to a lesser extent mixed, managed hedgerow, and occasionally interspersed with small stands of mixed farm woodland*
- *Seaside resort towns - urban development and arterial road and railway routes along coast, constricted in places by topography and rising hills. Much 19th century development with more recent suburbia. Some caravan parks and holiday camps between Llanddulas to Prestatyn coalesce settlements*
- *Steep sided hill back drop to coastal towns - wooded, or exposed limestone and sheep pasture*
- *A generally man-made coastal edge – promenades, sea walls, groynes, rock armour and other forms of protecting the coastal edge run for most of the length of the coastline*
- *Hinterland away from the coast – with intervening hills makes for a quiet, sheltered, inland, rural feel, with some classic limestone outcrops, notably south of Llanddulas*
- *Rhuddlan Castle is strategically sited at a crossing point over the Clwyd, at what was once the east boundary of the Medieval kingdom of Gwynedd*

¹ All AONBs in England and Wales have become National Landscapes from 22 November 2023. The term ‘AONB’ is retained in character area descriptions from published assessments.

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- *A number of historic parklands - lie within the area, while the estate architecture of Gwrych Castle and wooded parkland is a locally prominent feature*
- *Iconic image of historic Llandudno and its famed natural setting – between two rocky headlands, with its pier, grand sweeping promenade and Victorian building façades, arguably the finest of their type in Wales, the town is known as the ‘Queen of resorts’ and is known nationally for seaside holidays.’ (National Landscape Character Area, NLCA08, pages 2 and 3).*

NLCA 09 Bryniau Rhos/Rhos

1.3.4.3 Relevant key characteristics of this NLCA include:

- *‘Rural inland foothills and valleys – that rise to the adjacent Denbigh Moors to the south*
- *Sheep grazed pasture – predominant land cover*
- *Occasional woodlands – often occurring on the river valley slopes, for example on the Clywedog and the Ystrad, and running up riverside slopes*
- *Mixed field patterns – often geometric but varies widely in scale, from small to large size fields. A denser network of mixed hedgerows with more trees in sheltered valleys, running up to sparse, windswept hedges and fences occupying areas of former moorland*
- *Sparsely settled – affording rural peace and tranquillity, with wide views from the higher points and a sense of intimacy and enclosure in the valleys close by.’ (National Landscape Character Area, NLCA09, page 2).*

NLCA 11 Dyffryn Clwyd/Vale of Clwyd

1.3.4.4 Relevant key characteristics of this NLCA include:

- *‘A broad agricultural vale - between adjacent upland areas*
- *Distinctive line of hills forming the eastern boundary, also forming an upland-lowland boundary, following a geological fault line*
- *Arable and pasture, well managed hedges*
- *Many hedgerow and parkland trees and some woodland blocks – and of ecological importance, some Alder woodland, swamp and rush pasture and some ash-wych elm dominated woodland*
- *Rural – dispersed, scattered farms, settlement confined to small villages and hamlets and the three towns.’ (National Landscape Character Area, NLCA11, pages 2 and 3).*

NLCA 12: Bryniau Clwyd / Clwydian Range

1.3.4.5 Parts of the area are designated within the Clwydian Range NL, and include:

- *‘Rounded, heather clad open hills in two main groups’. The LVIA onshore study area includes parts of the northern chain rising to Moel Famau (554 m). Although this peak is outside the ZTV, peaks further north coincide with part of the ZTV for the Mona onshore substation and include Moel y Gaer (258 m), Cefn Du (268 m), Moel Maenefa (287 m) and St Elmos Summer House (235 m)*

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- *'Hedgerows and numerous hedgerow trees – improved hill sheep grazing and lowland pasture*
- *Culturally a divide – the area reflects the historical divide between English influences to the east and Welsh influences to the west. Parts of the area are designated as an AONB.'* (National Landscape Character Area, NLCA12, pages 2 and 3).

1.3.5 LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas that are directly affected by the Mona Onshore Development Area

1.3.5.1 The LANDMAP visual and sensory Aspect Areas within which the Mona Onshore Development Area is located are listed below, together with summary descriptive data (see Appendix B: Figures Figure B.2 and Figure B.3).

CNWVS052 Llandudno to Kinmel Bay Intertidal, lies within Wales NLCA 8 North Wales Coast

1.3.5.2 The LANDMAP summary description for the Aspect Area is:

- *'Intertidal Zone - a unique, dynamic and expansive natural intertidal area of the north Wales coast consisting of broad sweeping sandy beaches enclosed by headlands such as around Llandudno, Colwyn Bay and a linear beach at Kinmel Bay plus a pebbly beach at Penrhyn Bay. There is coastal protection in the form of Groynes and a masonry wall behind the two main settlement beaches, sea defences at Rhos and rubble protected seawall elsewhere. The beaches have wide sea views to the north affected by offshore windfarms to the north and further east. The jetties relating to quarries are detractors.'* (Q3 – Summary Description).

1.3.5.3 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – High
- Integrity – High
- Character – High
- Rarity – High
- Overall evaluation – High
- Justification: *'The area is open with panoramic views to the sea and the backcloth of hills with aesthetically pleasing wild elements and patterns. The area is in moderate condition with consistent character throughout slightly spoilt by intrusive development. The area has a highly distinctive character as an exposed coast. An intertidal area is relatively rare in Conwy.'*

1.3.5.4 The Mona landfall site is located in this Aspect Area.

CNWVS062 Llandulas Urban Coast, lies within Wales NLCA 08 North Wales Coast

1.3.5.5 The LANDMAP summary description for the Aspect Area is:

- *'Narrow linear strip of 20c development including caravans, chalet parks, car parks, minor promenades, sea defences and railway line. The North Wales Coast Path follows the coast and the area is used primarily for recreation although there are permanent dwellings for some in the chalet parks. The strip is very exposed*

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with little vegetation apart from marram grass and grass and runs to the high tide mark. The quality of built form is limited as the area serves the need for low cost tourism. There are positive views out to sea and along to the Great Orme at a distance. However, Rhyl Flats and Gwynt y Mor wind farms are noticeable in clear weather conditions. Coastal hills enclose the area set back from the coast.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).

1.3.5.6 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – Low
- Integrity – Low
- Character – Moderate
- Rarity – Low
- Overall evaluation – Low
- Justification: *‘The seafront allows positive views of the coast although it is linear in form here and the built form is a detractor. The area is incoherent and detractive in parts. The strip has a very weak character in itself although its location right on the coast is distinctive. The development form is relatively common in type on the coast.’*

1.3.5.7 The Mona landfall site is located in this Aspect Area.

CNWVS021 Cefn yr Ogof and Environs, lies within Wales NLCA 8 North Wales Coast

1.3.5.8 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *‘Limestone coastal hill forming a strong landform with steep slopes to the north, east and west. Dramatic rock outcrops are apparent to the west with cliffs and scree slopes and semi-natural grassland and scrub vegetation. Mixed woodland lies on the northern upper slopes and with the landform acts as a strong backcloth to the coastal lowlands. The light grey limestone Gwrych Castle and associated tower folly and battlemented farm buildings are prominent features in and around the woodland giving the area a distinctive character. To the south, the gentler slopes are covered a mix of regular arable and pasture with low cut hedges and interspersed with woodland. Settlement is limited with some intrusion from development including a caravan site to the west. The area forms a strong boundary to Abergele. There are views out to sea of the Rhyl Flats and Gwynt y Mor windfarms.’ (Q3 – Summary Description)*

1.3.5.9 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – High
- Integrity – Moderate
- Character – High
- Rarity – High
- Overall evaluation – High
- Justification: *‘The mixed woodland on the steep northern slopes is complemented by the light limestone castle and associated features creating a picturesque and striking composition. The area is generally in good condition with only the western edges eroded by some development. Strongly wooded hills with stone castle and*

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other associated landmarks provide a distinct character when viewed from north with added distinctiveness of limestone rock outcrops to the east. The combination of elements is rare in the County.'

- 1.3.5.10 The route of the Mona onshore cable corridor crosses this LANDMAP Aspect Area (see Appendix B, Figure B.2).
- 1.3.5.11 This Aspect Area and the Mona Onshore Development Area fall within the Rhyd Y Foel to Abergele Special Landscape Area (SLA) which is also taken forward to assessment.

CNWVS023 Dulas Lowlands, lies within Wales NLCA 8 North Wales Coast

- 1.3.5.12 The LANDMAP summary description is:
- *'A gently sloping undulating basin sheltered behind the coastal hills and linked to the coast by the steep valley of the River Dulas. The valley sides are clothed in irregular small- medium sized fields with low cut hedges with trees. Woodland strips lie along watercourses, on steep slopes and in occasional small copses. Settlement is generally scattered rural farmsteads although there are some clustered settlements on higher ground to the south and a distinctive dispersed settlement to the north at Llysfaen, possibly associated with quarry landscape over the hill. Suburban developments and a caravan site are impinging on the rural character. The area is generally open with wide views and glimpses of the sea and associated offshore wind turbines although it becomes more enclosed in the Dulas valley to the north. Only one Broad and small lanes cross the area, making it fairly tranquil.'* (Q3 – Summary Description).
- 1.3.5.13 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:
- Scenic Quality – Moderate
 - Integrity – Moderate
 - Character – Moderate
 - Rarity – Moderate
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification: *'The area is quietly pleasing generally with the picturesque valley of the Dulas to the north and also glimpsed views of the sea. The rural landscape is generally in good condition although some coastal related development such as caravan parks and suburban detailing is spoiling the area's rural character in parts. The area has a moderate sense of place as a quiet rural area with its northern slopes and northern part of the Dulas valley becoming both more distinctive although also more affected by development spilling over from the coastal fringe. The landscape type is fairly common in Conwy.'*
- 1.3.5.14 The route of the Mona onshore cable corridor crosses this LANDMAP Aspect Area (see Appendix B, Figure B.2).
- 1.3.5.15 This Aspect Area and the Mona Onshore Development Area fall within the Rhyd Y Foel to Abergele SLA, which is also taken forward to assessment.

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CNWVS010 Mynydd Bodrochwyn, lies within Wales NLCA 10 Denbigh Moors

1.3.5.16 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *'Upland undulating hills and ridges with undulating skyline which can be more complex in places with steep sides falling to adjacent valleys. The landcover is characterised by open large to medium scale improved grassland with pockets of rough land, wetland and woodland on the hill shoulders and valley sides. Field boundaries are usually fences with gorse and occasional small trees such as rowan, willow or thorn. The area feels exposed at the top decreasing with height. Access is generally limited to minor roads and footpaths accessing very sparsely scattered farmsteads making the area tranquil. Wide views are possible across adjacent valleys and to the surrounding uplands.'* (Q3 – Summary Description).

1.3.5.17 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – Moderate
- Integrity – Moderate
- Character – Moderate
- Rarity – Moderate
- Overall evaluation – Moderate
- Justification: *'Simple undulating topography with occasional hillocks on the skyline with irregular fields allow wide views to valleys and surrounding uplands. The area is in moderate/poor condition due to intensification but is of consistent character. The undulating hill tops, views and exposure give the area a sense of place. These high upland improved pastures are relatively rare in the county.'*

1.3.5.18 The route of the Mona onshore cable corridor crosses the most northerly point of the LANDMAP Aspect Area. However, this is a small impact on a moderately valued Aspect Area. Therefore, it is not considered that this Aspect Area has the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment. This has been supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

1.3.5.19 This Aspect Area and the Mona Onshore Development Area fall within the Rhyd Y Foel to Abergele SLA, which is taken forward to assessment.

CNWVS070 Abergele coastal plain, lies within Wales NLCA 08 North Wales Coast

1.3.5.20 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *'A wide strip of coastal levels narrowing to the west with a diverse mixture of fertile arable and pastoral farmland drained by ditches. The field boundary/ditch pattern changes from irregular to rectilinear west to east. The land rises gently to the break of slope of the coastal hills to the south. There is some poorly drained land and standing water in places. Hedgerows are overgrown and gappy in places and replaced by fences. There is some mixed plantation tree cover to the south east around Kinmel Place but generally the area is open and exposed to coastal winds and views of development to the north. A golf course has been developed to the west. There are other tourism uses dominated by caravan sites and development along the A548. Tranquillity is reduced by the busy A55 which*

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passes through the area and from which views across the area are possible.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).

- 1.3.5.21 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:
- Scenic Quality – Moderate
 - Integrity – Low
 - Character – Moderate
 - Rarity – Moderate
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification: *‘The linear pattern of watercourses and field boundaries is pleasing although there are detractors adjacent. The integrity of the area is reduced by hedgerows in poor condition in parts, golf courses and visually intrusive development including the A55. The area has a distinctive levels character and some visual unity. Coastal levels are rare in the County although occur in several places along the North Wales coast.’*
- 1.3.5.22 The cable route crosses a western section of this large Aspect Area (see Appendix B, Figure B.2).

DNBGHVS037 Limestone Valley-Cefn, lies within Wales NLCA 9 Rhos

- 1.3.5.23 The LANDMAP summary description is:
- *‘Strongly wooded river valley with limestone outcrops exposed in places linking St Asaph in the north and Henllan to the south. The valley itself is strongly influenced by the well-defined mixed woodland structure that delineates the underlying topography - in places this becomes more evident as limestone outcropping occurs on the upper slopes. A more open and larger scale valley complex than the adjacent Upper Elwy complex displaying a consistent landscape pattern of field parcels bounded by sinuous interconnected mixed woodland blocks, development is scattered and consists in the main of farmsteads and small hamlets.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*
- 1.3.5.24 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:
- Scenic Quality – High
 - Integrity – Moderate
 - Character – High
 - Rarity – High
 - Overall evaluation – High
 - Justification: *‘Character, Landscape quality and rarity all display characteristics that are relatively uncommon within the county wide area. Management appears to be appropriate but is difficult to fully assess hence the moderate evaluation however the overall evaluation - high.’*
- 1.3.5.25 The route of the Mona onshore cable corridor crosses this LANDMAP Aspect Area. The easternmost part of this Aspect Area also falls within the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation (see Appendix B, Figure B.2).

DNBGHVS033 Cefn Estate, lies within Wales NLCA 11 Vale of Clwyd

1.3.5.26 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *‘Wooded former estate landscape lying on the edge of St Asaph and the industrial areas surrounding Bodelwyddan. The area displays a fine array of woodland blocks and a well-defined field pattern delineated by hedgerow with a high incidence of mature hedgerow trees. Settlements are limited to small hamlets/villages and scattered farmsteads although the more urban influence of St Asaph forms a definite boundary to the north and east, the area still has a relatively enclosed nature largely contained by intervening vegetation.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*

1.3.5.27 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – High
- Integrity – Moderate
- Character – Moderate
- Rarity – Moderate
- Overall evaluation – Moderate
- Justification: *‘The attractive landscape quality of the aspect area whilst high, does not enable the overall evaluation of the area to achieve more than moderate due to the proximity of industrial development and frequency of this landscape type within the wider area - moderate’*

1.3.5.28 The Mona onshore cable corridor passes through this LANDMAP Aspect Area. The Mona onshore substation is also located within this Aspect Area.

1.3.6 LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas that are indirectly affected by the Mona onshore substation

1.3.6.1 The LANDMAP visual and sensory Aspect Areas from which the Mona onshore substation has the potential to be seen (i.e. indirectly affected) are listed below, together with summary descriptive data (see Appendix B, Figure B.3).

CNWVS020 Kinmel Manor Environs, lies within Wales NLCA 08 North Wales Coast

1.3.6.2 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *‘Hills rising steeply from the coastal plain with an undulating skyline. The northern slopes are dominated by a mix of large blocks of deciduous and coniferous woodland. The woodlands are interspersed with regular pastures with low cut, sometimes gappy hedges. To the east, the parkland and buildings of Kinmel Manor are well screened by woodland. The overall area has an estate character with lodges and various historic settlements eg St George and features. On some of the quiet winding narrow lanes there are limestone walls. A quarry disturbs the tranquillity in its environs and is visible from the south, although the related plant at the foot of the hill is more obtrusive. Abergele Hospital is a surprising large feature in the landscape visible from the north. Though the area appears well managed there is evidence of fly tipping indicating the proximity of the area to the urbanised coastal strip. From higher ground there are views out to the Rhyl Flats and Gwynt y Mor windfarms.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*

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- 1.3.6.3 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:
- Scenic Quality – High
 - Integrity – Moderate
 - Character – High
 - Rarity – High
 - Overall evaluation – High
 - Justification: *'The area has a pleasing character of undulating landform with woodland, pasture and historic stone buildings and long views over the coast to the north at points. It has a consistent, relatively unspoilt character, generally in good condition although the quarry is a detractor and there is evidence of flytipping. The estate character of parkland, large woodland/plantation blocks interspersed with pasture and historic settlement and features give the area a distinct sense of place. The area is area in the county in terms of it estate character.'*
- 1.3.6.4 A sliver of land to the southeast of this large Aspect Area is coincidental with the ZTV of the onshore substation (see Appendix B, Figure B.3). Due to the limited area and its wooded nature, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment.
- CNWVS034 Abergele coastal plain, lies within Wales NLCA 08 North Wales Coast**
- 1.3.6.5 The LANDMAP summary description is:
- *'The settlement is one of a series of mid 20c expanded settlements on the north Wales coast with a seafront. The settlement is rectilinear in form and lies on the levels and though not specifically orientated towards the beach there are a series of access roads with associated leisure uses and amusements. The predominant built forms on the coast are large caravan sites with virtually no woody vegetation, separated from the beach by the railway line. The settlement expands to the south, east and west in housing estates and parks mitigate the built form to an extent. Positive views are possible out to sea, now with an offshore windfarm to add interest, and coastal hills enclose the area at a distance.'* (Q3 - Summary Description).
- 1.3.6.6 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:
- Scenic Quality – Moderate
 - Integrity – Moderate
 - Character – High
 - Rarity – Moderate
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification: *'High quality historic core degraded by surrounding residential, industrial and hospital developments that bear little relationship either to the original settlement or the surrounding wider countryside - moderate.'*
- 1.3.6.7 Southern edges of this urban LANDMAP Aspect Area are coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation. Given the low elevation of this Aspect Area, the distance from the Mona onshore substation and the very limited amount of land that is covered

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by the ZTV, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment. This has been supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

CNWVS070 Abergele coastal plain, lies within Wales NLCA 08 North Wales Coast

1.3.6.8 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *'A wide strip of coastal levels narrowing to the west with a diverse mixture of fertile arable and pastoral farmland drained by ditches. The field boundary/ditch pattern changes from irregular to rectilinear west to east. The land rises gently to the break of slope of the coastal hills to the south. There is some poorly drained land and standing water in places. Hedgerows are overgrown and gappy in places and replaced by fences. There is some mixed plantation tree cover to the south east around Kinnel Place but generally the area is open and exposed to coastal winds and views of development to the north. A golf course has been developed to the west. There are other tourism uses dominated by caravan sites and development along the A548. Tranquillity is reduced by the busy A55 which passes through the area and from which views across the area are possible.'* (Q3 – Summary Description).

1.3.6.9 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – Moderate
- Integrity – Low
- Character – Moderate
- Rarity – Moderate
- Overall evaluation – Moderate
- Justification: *'The linear pattern of watercourses and field boundaries is pleasing although there are detractors adjacent. The integrity of the area is reduced by hedgerows in poor condition in parts, golf courses and visually intrusive development including the A55. The area has a distinctive levels character and some visual unity. Coastal levels are rare in the County although occur in several places along the North Wales coast.'*

1.3.6.10 Central and eastern parts of this Aspect Area lie within the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation.

DNBGHVS004 Prestatyn/Rhyl, lies within Wales NLCA 08 North Wales Coast

1.3.6.11 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *'Continuous urban coastal development that has resulted from the coalescence of Prestatyn and Rhyl, through coastal fringe - tourist accommodation development which does little to protect or enhance the coastline. Prestatyn and Rhyl are two distinct settlement centres with Prestatyn maintaining much of its original small coastal town character with a fine display of stone fronted buildings and less developed tourist influenced atmosphere. Rhyl is the focus on the north Wales coastline for budget holiday travel and has undergone much rapid over development in the last 30-40 years. Economic decline of the tourist industry has*

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led to much deprivation and neglect within the town which is beginning to be counteracted through new economic input and regeneration.’ (Q3 - Summary Description).

1.3.6.12 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – Low
- Integrity – Low
- Character – Moderate
- Rarity – Moderate
- Overall evaluation – Low
- Justification: *‘General appearance within the seafront area of neglected and derelict properties and of inappropriate seafront development i.e amusement park at Ocean View Amusement Park (W Rhyl) and the ribbon development of holiday camps and caravan parks between Prestatyn and Rhyl and to the west at Kinmel Bay. This dominates the area’s character and this together with the out of town sprawl of caravan and amusement parks degrades the overall perceived value of the settlement - low.’*

1.3.6.13 Southwestern edges of this urban LANDMAP Aspect Area are coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation (i.e. it has the potential to be indirectly affected by the Mona onshore substation). Given the low elevation of this Aspect Area, the distance from the Mona onshore substation and the very limited amount of land that is covered by the ZTV, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment. This has been supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS005 Clwyd Estuary and River, lies within Wales NLCA 08 North Wales Coast

1.3.6.14 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *‘Clwyd estuary retains strong coastal features in spite of proximity to urban development and provides some exceptional views. Tidal estuary gives the area an added value as the appearance changes throughout the day, ostensibly a working coastal environment although in present day more with recreational vessels rather than working ships the area includes the Fforyd Harbour and Marina at Rhyl and further downstream is crossed by the Fforyd Harbour bridge and fronted on both sides with the settlement edges of western Rhyl (Marine Lake) and more densely at Kinmel Bay on the Conwy CBC side.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*

1.3.6.15 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – High
- Integrity – Moderate
- Character – High
- Rarity – High
- Overall evaluation – High

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- Justification: *'Unique and important fluvial/coastal feature and landscape feature prominent in its location and as the principal river outfall onto the coastline in the study area. Area has a diverse and constantly changing appearance throughout the day with traffic, human and tidal movement - high.'*

1.3.6.16 Small areas in the southwest and the northwest of this LANDMAP Aspect Area are coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation. Given the low elevation of this Aspect Area, its distance from the Mona onshore substation and the very limited amount of land that is covered by the ZTV, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment. This has been supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS007 Coastal Farmland – West and South of Rhyl, lies within Wales NLCA 08 North Wales Coast

1.3.6.17 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *'Open coastal flat land almost featureless although characterised by ditches and some hedgerows, with sense of being near the coast. An open and regular, almost rectilinear field pattern weakly enclosed by ditches and fence lines rather than hedgerows and vegetation as is more common elsewhere within the study area. The aspect lies close to the southern extents of Rhyl and is closely adjacent to the retail and light industrial elements of the settlement to the north lies the former landfill site whilst to the west the area is bounded by the River Clwyd.'* (Q3 – Summary Description).

1.3.6.18 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – High
- Integrity – High
- Character – High
- Rarity – High
- Overall evaluation – High
- Justification: *'The area is open with panoramic views to the sea and the backcloth of hills with aesthetically pleasing wild elements and patterns. The area is in moderate condition with consistent character throughout slightly spoilt by intrusive development. The area has a highly distinctive character as an exposed coast. An intertidal area is relatively rare in Conwy [sic].'*

1.3.6.19 Areas of this LANDMAP Aspect Area are coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation. Given the low elevation of this Aspect Area, and its distance from the Mona onshore substation, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment. This has been supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS009 Coastal Fields – West of Prestatyn, lies within Wales NLCA 08 North Wales Coast

1.3.6.20 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *'Flat almost treeless coastal landscape characterised by boundary ditches and ponds, the area is surrounded on its northern, eastern and western sides by*

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dense urban developments of Rhyl and Prestatyn and could therefore be seen as probably being under threat from erosion through further development. The area exhibits some examples of this in the occasional caravan development and diversification from traditional farming practice towards a more tourism orientated land use. Farming is predominantly intensive arable agriculture which in places is leading to the degradation of field patterns as smaller fields are amalgamated into one and hedgerow boundaries are lost, however a contributory factor to this is the distinctly open exposed and coastal aspect of the area. General landscape character is one of open exposure, dominated by large open skies and distinct coastal presence especially towards the northern extents. Light pollution is constant throughout night-time hours due to the close proximity of Prestatyn and Rhyl.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).

- 1.3.6.21 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:
- Scenic Quality – Moderate
 - Integrity – Low
 - Character – Moderate
 - Rarity – Low
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification: *‘Relatively open and poorly defined agricultural landscape does however play an important role as a distinct settlement edge boundary giving open views from settlement into the surrounding countryside - moderate.’*
- 1.3.6.22 Three slivers of this LANDMAP Aspect Area are coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation. Given the distance from the Mona onshore substation, the low elevation and intervening woodland/mature hedgerows with trees, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment. This has been supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS011 Wooded Estate and Parkland - South, lies within Wales NLCA 08 North Wales Coast

- 1.3.6.23 The LANDMAP summary description is:
- *‘A wooded estate landscape at the edge of Rhyl and Rhuddlan centred upon and including Bodrhyddan Country House, woods and parkland. The majority of short distance views are dominated by woodland and the original landscape features of the parkland such as tree lined avenues on the approach to the house and mixed deciduous woodland. The wider aspect area displays a well-defined vegetated field pattern typified by dense hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees and individual specimen trees within field parcels. Settlement within the area is limited to the house immediate gardens and adjacent farm complex on the southern boundary of the aspect, however the settlement of Dyserth forms the eastern boundary and provides a distinct and hard urban edge to the formal parkland and the main source of night-time light pollution.’ (Q3 - Summary Description).*
- 1.3.6.24 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:
- Scenic Quality – High

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- Integrity – High
- Character – High
- Rarity – Moderate
- Overall evaluation – High
- Justification: *‘Distinctive parkland atmosphere forms an important transition between adjacent settlement and open countryside and attractive ‘traditional’ landscape quality. Forms a green wedge/barrier role between settlement and open countryside and relatively high integrity and of an intimate scale and settled atmosphere. Slightly moderated by the fact that this is one of several similar remnant/former parkland estate commons across the northern extent of the study area - high.’*

1.3.6.25 Two slivers of this LANDMAP Aspect Area are coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation. Given the distance from the Mona onshore substation and the wooded nature of the landscape, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment. This has been supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS012 Rhuddlan, lies within Wales NLCA 08 North Wales Coast

1.3.6.26 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *‘Historic town of Rhuddlan with vernacular buildings and historic castle. Intimate historic core has maintained much of its original character and is a good example of historic settlement in the coastal area where many towns have suffered at the hands of modern development and the requirements of the tourist industry’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*

1.3.6.27 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – High
- Integrity – Moderate
- Character – High
- Rarity – High
- Overall evaluation – High
- Justification: *‘Important crossing point of the River Clwyd relatively untouched by the tourist development that has struck the coastal towns of Rhyl and to a lesser extent Prestatyn. Maintains much of the original historic core and character making it relatively rare/unique in the study area - high.’*

1.3.6.28 Southern edges of this urban LANDMAP Aspect Area are coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation. Given the distance from the Mona onshore substation and the very limited amount of land that is covered by the ZTV, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment. This has been supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

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DNBGHVS013 Coastal Fields near Towyn, lies within Wales NLCA 08 North Wales Coast

1.3.6.29 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *‘Coastal fields with open, regular and angular field pattern often delineated by post and wire fences and gappy hedge-lines. Largely featureless, with wide open skies and some sense of being near coast. Field pattern bisected by long lengths of straight track and road corridors, with the occasional scattered farmstead, the main settlement development borders the aspect area on the north (Kinmel Bay/Conwy CBC) and east (Rhuddlan) sides. General lack of vegetation cover other than arable crops and gappy hedge-lines results in a subtle colouring with seasonal contrasts dictated by the crops cultivated i.e Oil Seed Rape and cereal crops.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*

1.3.6.30 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – Moderate
- Integrity – Low
- Character – Moderate
- Rarity – Low
- Overall evaluation – Moderate
- Justification: *‘No particular character evident but provides some continuity in its agricultural land use and transition zone between settlement and countryside. Also provides an important setting for the adjacent settlement and although not highly unique or apparently well managed has the potential to provide increased biodiversity and an improved the overall visual appearance with relatively little input - moderate.’*

1.3.6.31 Central northern and eastern parts of this Aspect Area lie within the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation.

DNBGHVS014 Area North and East of Bodelwyddan, lies within Wales NLCA 8 North Wales Coast

1.3.6.32 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *‘Degraded agricultural landscape at north end of Vale of Clwyd with neglected tree cover with most hedgerow trees lost although some estate woods provide partial tree cover... The area is bisected by the A55 dual carriageway and is dominated by the surrounding settlement edges and light industrial development at Bodelwyddan and St Asaph... Field patterns are open and predominantly turned over to intensive arable and livestock farming, though relatively well defined by hedgerow boundaries this is being degraded through lack of management and inappropriate maintenance... Settlements are scattered and comprise mainly of farms with sometimes large associated ranges of low rise modern agricultural buildings...’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*

1.3.6.33 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – Moderate
- Integrity – Low
- Character – Moderate

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- Rarity – Low
- Overall evaluation – Moderate
- Justification: *‘Despite the ongoing neglect in land management the aspect has the potential to improve through relatively simple changes in management and enhancement and still functions as an important transition between settlement, industrial and rural areas - moderate.’*

1.3.6.34 Parts of this Aspect Area lie within the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation.

DNBGHVS015 River Valley of Clwyd/Elwy – North of St. Asaph, lies within Wales NLCA 8 North Wales Coast

1.3.6.35 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *‘Highly attractive meandering river valley with dominant riverside trees, some localised steep slopes but generally opens up into a wider valley and transition to the surrounding agricultural lands to the east and west. Valley slopes are partly wooded and field pattern well defined by tree lined hedgerows, general field pattern is small to medium in size reflecting the underlying topography. Settlement is very limited with the occasional isolated farmstead, overall field and vegetation patterns and topography dictates a relatively complex and attractive landscape.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*

1.3.6.36 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – High
- Integrity – High
- Character – High
- Rarity – Moderate
- Overall evaluation – High
- Justification: *‘Relatively unspoilt and attractive river valley with good definition of field boundaries and distribution of native species woodland and hedgerows. Becomes very valuable given its proximity to the dense settlements of the north coastal plain - high’*

1.3.6.37 Parts of this Aspect Area lie within the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation.

DNBGHVS016 Vale Wooded Estate – South of Dyserth, lies within Wales NLCA 11 Vale of Clwyd

1.3.6.38 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *‘Agriculturally improved pastoral and estate wooded landscape. Hedgerow trees give the area a strong wooded effect character and provide good visual containment for views into and out of the area. A small to medium intimate field pattern gives the area a very rural agrarian appearance with the emphasis increasing on livestock rather than arable farming to the south of the area. Settlements are isolated and limited in the main to scattered farmsteads and small hamlets/clusters of houses. Transport links through the area are largely relatively quiet rural roads with mature hedgerow and tree lined boundaries reinforcing the rural character, generally an attractive and settled area.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*

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- 1.3.6.39 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:
- Scenic Quality – High
 - Integrity – High
 - Character – High
 - Rarity – Moderate
 - Overall evaluation – High
 - Justification: *‘Highly attractive, well defined and vegetated pastoral agricultural landscape that remains relatively intact and unspoilt considering its proximity to the large settlement spread of the northern study area. Field pattern is of a relatively intimate scale instilling a feeling of settled security and traditional rural landscape - high.’*
- 1.3.6.40 Parts of this Aspect Area lie within the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation.
- 1.3.6.41 Part of this Aspect Area lies within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL The effects on the special qualities of the NL are considered in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: Internationally and nationally designated landscapes study of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS018 Coastal Limestone Hills Prestatyn, lies within Wales NLCA 8 North Wales Coast

- 1.3.6.42 The LANDMAP summary description is:
- *‘Limestone escarpment and hill well wooded below grading into open pasture with limestone rock outcrops, very distinctive and dramatic in parts. Feeling of open space and naturalness. Numerous access links for pedestrian and recreational users such as the Prestatyn - Dyserth Way, Offa's Dyke long distance footpath and a disused railway line along lower edge. Good views are available at several points giving panoramic views over Prestatyn and out towards the coast and Dee / Irish Sea. North Hoyle offshore wind farm is prominent in views to the north and north west. General vegetation pattern is one of mixed deciduous woodland clothing the lower slopes and escarpments with open rough grassland on the upper ridge backed by a typical small to medium scale agricultural field pattern. The area forms an important green boundary to the eastern extents of Prestatyn and easily accessible wooded green wedge between built development and open agricultural pasture land.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*
- 1.3.6.43 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:
- Scenic Quality – Outstanding
 - Integrity – High
 - Character – Outstanding
 - Rarity – Outstanding
 - Overall evaluation – Outstanding
 - Justification: *‘Unusual and distinctive landform largely seen or read as a single entity – has not been degraded overly by intensive agriculture or development. The area is easily recognised in the region and has excellent public access with*

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the general management seen as continual, long term, appropriate to the maintenance of the integrity of the area and improving - outstanding.'

1.3.6.44 More elevated parts of this LANDMAP Aspect Area are coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation. Given the distance from the Mona onshore substation and the limited amount of land that is covered by the ZTV, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment. This has been supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

1.3.6.45 Part of this Aspect Area lies within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL The effects on the special qualities of the NL are considered in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: Internationally and nationally designated landscapes study of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS021 Limestone Plateau Trelawnyd, lies within Wales NLCA 12 Clwydian Range

1.3.6.46 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *'An extensive plateau characterised by a number of limestone features including stone buildings, stone walls and limestone outcrops. Some small scale conifer plantations also dominate the scene in places. Settlement pattern is scattered with no significant villages or settlements apparent other than dispersed and scattered farmsteads within an open field pattern well defined by managed hedgerows and stone walls, punctuated with occasional copses and field edge/corner plantations.'* (Q3 – Summary Description).

1.3.6.47 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – Moderate
- Integrity – Moderate
- Character – High
- Rarity – Moderate
- Overall evaluation – Moderate
- Justification: *'Distinctive rural, predominantly traditionally farmed aspect area made more distinctive through the use of stone as a building material that is less frequent in the wider study area. The use of vernacular detailing in use of local stone as a boundary and building material heightens the character of the area but overall considered to be moderate rather than high value – moderate.'*

1.3.6.48 Small areas in the east of this LANDMAP Aspect Area are coincidental with the ZTV of the onshore substation. Given the distance from the Mona onshore substation and the limited amount of land that is covered by the ZTV, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment. This has been supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

1.3.6.49 Part of this Aspect Area lies within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL The effects on the special qualities of the NL are considered in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: Internationally and nationally designated landscapes study of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS024 Coed Cwm, lies within Wales NLCA 12 Clwydian Range

1.3.6.50 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *'A forested outcrop rising to 290m AOD, dominant vegetation is coniferous and mixed woodland/forestry plantation with little species diversity, however very good footpath and public access including part of the route of the Offa's Dyke long distance footpath. Good views are available at points through the dominant mixed woodland cover and from clearings along the northern side to the surrounding countryside and coastal plain. The northern most section displays an attractive array of steep wooded slopes mixed with farmland. There has been felling of part of the plantation leaving bare slopes in places.'* (Q3 – Summary Description).

1.3.6.51 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – Moderate
- Integrity – Moderate
- Character – High
- Rarity – Moderate
- Overall evaluation – Moderate
- Justification: *'A combination of the good public access, vegetation cover and views from this hill rising out of the coastal plain, and apparently stable management of land use with the underlying topography ensuring that little development is likely to be undertaken to spoil the area gives the aspect area a High evaluation however this is moderated in some part by the lack of species diversity within the plantation areas and limited views to the surrounding area - moderate.'*

1.3.6.52 Areas in the east of this LANDMAP Aspect Area are coincidental with the ZTV of the onshore substation. Given the distance from the Mona onshore substation and the intervening woodland/mature hedgerows, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment. This has been supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

1.3.6.53 Part of this Aspect Area lies within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL. The effects on the special qualities of the NL are considered in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: Internationally and nationally designated landscapes study of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS026 A55, lies within Wales NLCA 11 Vale of Clwyd

1.3.6.54 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *'Major busy trunk road with urban character in middle of countryside. Majority of the road lies in cutting but appears with clear views over the Dee Estuary to the north in the higher elevated sections. Highway lighting is present at junctions and within more developed areas such as at junctions, through settlements and adjacent to industrial areas, this combined with constant traffic use throughout the day and night leads to a notable increase in light pollution from headlights and overhead lighting. This gives the aspect area an urbanised feel with little relationship to the surrounding countryside or land uses.'* (Q3 – Summary Description).

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- 1.3.6.55 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:
- Scenic Quality – Low
 - Integrity – Moderate
 - Character – Moderate
 - Rarity – Low
 - Overall evaluation – Low
 - Justification: *‘Overall considered to be a low evaluation due to the dominant typical highway character with little direct reference to the surrounding countryside to warrant a direct influence or raise the overall Low evaluation, generally views out of the corridor are fleeting and outweighed by traffic dominated views within the corridor and traffic noise for those at a close proximity to the corridor - low.’*

- 1.3.6.56 Although there are areas of the A55 that are coincidental with the ZTV of the onshore substation, due to the nature and value of this Aspect Area, it is considered that it does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment.

DNBGHVS027 Trelawnyd Plateau – South of A55, lies within Wales NLCA 2 Clwydian Range

- 1.3.6.57 The LANDMAP summary description is:
- *‘Enclosed farmland and scattered small plantations on a plateau area characterised by limestone features. A fairly uniform area of open lowland with a mixture of traditional & improved farmland lying on plateau spurs and associated lower wooded valley/scarp slopes. The area is typified by a large and relatively open field pattern, regular in appearance and enclosed with managed hedgerows. Three rural roads bisect the area and serve the four isolated farmsteads that amount to the only settlement in the area, the area is cut off from the northern extents of the landform by the course of the A55 running in a broadly east to west orientation.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*

- 1.3.6.58 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:
- Scenic Quality – Moderate
 - Integrity – Moderate
 - Character – Moderate
 - Rarity – High
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification: *‘This aspect is a relatively small plateau area lacking the character of adjacent aspects both within Denbighshire and Flintshire due to the lack of diversity of field boundary and woodland vegetation. Relatively unusual within the study area as the majority of this landform/type is in the adjacent county of Flintshire - moderate.’*

- 1.3.6.59 A small area in the northeast of this LANDMAP Aspect Area is coincidental with the ZTV of the onshore substation. Given the distance from the Mona onshore substation and the limited amount of land that is covered by the ZTV, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken

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forward to assessment. This has been supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS028 Clwydian Slopes South of Rhualt, lies within Wales NLCA 12 Clwydian Range

1.3.6.60 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *‘Northern part of Clwydian Hills which form a distinctive, partly wooded range of hills characterised by an intimate small scale well defined field pattern bounded by mixed species hedgerows with hedgerow trees, stone walls and small woodland blocks. Areas of woodland tend to lie along small valleys and depressions leading from the side slopes, whilst the upper slopes and ridge line is more open with a larger field pattern of rough grazing. Settlement pattern is dispersed largely concentrating on isolated farmsteads and their associated buildings. Views are clear and long distance carrying far inland and to the west and east over the adjacent county of Flintshire.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*

1.3.6.61 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – Outstanding
- Integrity – High
- Character – Outstanding
- Rarity – Outstanding
- Overall evaluation – Outstanding
- Justification: *‘Combination of highly attractive, distinctive and traditional upland farming landscape which is unusual within the study area and arguably of at least national importance in terms of its landscape quality - outstanding.’*

1.3.6.62 Parts of this Aspect Area lie within the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation.

1.3.6.63 This Aspect Area lies within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL The effects on the special qualities of the NL are considered in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: Internationally and nationally designated landscapes study of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS029 Graig Tremerschion, lies within Wales NLCA 11 Vale of Clwyd

1.3.6.64 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *‘Fine limestone outcrop with woodland and pasture, displays distinctive and prominent rock outcrops that make the area distinct from the remainder of the upland Clwydian range. An attractive balance of heath and woodland vegetation covers the northern slopes and further emphasises the landform and separate identity of this small aspect area.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*

1.3.6.65 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – High
- Integrity – Outstanding
- Character – High
- Rarity – Outstanding
- Overall evaluation – High

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- Justification: *'A prominent and distinctive rock outcrop (limestone) on the western edge of the Clwydian Range. The area is made more prominent by the good woodland and scrub vegetation cover on its northern edge. An uncommon occurrence in the study area with rock outcropping and associated habitats - high/outstanding.'*

1.3.6.66 Parts of this Aspect Area lie within the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation.

1.3.6.67 Part of this Aspect Area lies within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL. The effects on the special qualities of the NL are considered in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: Internationally and nationally designated landscapes study of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS030 St. Asaph, lies within Wales NLCA 11 Vale of Clwyd

1.3.6.68 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- 'Historic market town with vernacular architecture, fine medieval cathedral and attractive small town appearance. The town has some modern expansion development on the southern extents but largely retains its original character. The A55 runs on an elevated highway to the immediate north of the town which leads to some detractive element to this side of the settlement although this is at some distance and detached from the historic core.'* (Q3 – Summary Description).

1.3.6.69 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – High
- Integrity – Moderate
- Character – High
- Rarity – Moderate
- Overall evaluation – Moderate
- Justification: *'The historic core is very attractive and has a number of areas that still retains much of the original character - especially in the vicinity of the cathedral of valuable architectural and townscape value. The towns setting has been degraded to some extent by the proximity of the A55 which now blocks views and disrupts the towns setting from the north - moderate/high.'*

1.3.6.70 Very limited areas within this urban LANDMAP Aspect Area are coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation. It is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment. This has been supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS031 Vale of Clwyd – North of Denbigh, lies within Wales NLCA 11 Vale of Clwyd

1.3.6.71 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- 'Vale of Clwyd landscape but here displays a more wooded and stronger estate wooded character on the gently undulating flat valley floor. Hedgerow trees give the area a strong wooded effect character and provide good visual containment for views into and out of the area. A small to medium intimate field pattern gives the area a very rural agrarian appearance with the emphasis increasing on*

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livestock rather than arable farming to the south of the area. Settlements are limited to a few small village/market towns settlements. Transport links through the area are largely relatively quiet rural roads with mature hedgerow and tree lined boundaries reinforcing the rural character, generally an attractive and settled area.' (Q3 – Summary Description).

1.3.6.72 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – High
- Integrity – Moderate
- Character – High
- Rarity – High
- Overall evaluation – High
- Justification: *'Very attractive rural landscape character, giving appearance of a traditional agrarian landscape although would benefit from instigation of long term management to promote greater diversity and to ensure stability in the maturity of the vegetation cover - high'*

1.3.6.73 Few areas of the southern part of this large Aspect Area are coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation. More extensive areas to the north and east are covered by the ZTV.

DNBGHVS034 Bodelwyddan and Industrial Fringe, lies within Wales NLCA 8 North Wales Coast

1.3.6.74 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *'Some fine stone buildings including church make this town centre distinctive although other areas have no sense of identity. The wider settlement area is dominated by modern cul-de-sac residential development and on the southern fringes large areas of light industrial complexes. The northern fringe is dominated by Ysbyty Glan Clwyd hospital. these peripheral developments have degraded the overall integrity of the historic core and lead to little sense of place or individuality.'* (Q3 – Summary Description).

1.3.6.75 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – Moderate
- Integrity – Moderate
- Character – High
- Rarity – Moderate
- Overall evaluation – Moderate
- Justification: *'High quality historic core degraded by surrounding residential, industrial and hospital developments that bear little relationship either to the original settlement or the surrounding wider countryside - moderate'*

1.3.6.76 Very limited areas within this urban LANDMAP Aspect Area are coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation. Due also to the industrial nature of the southern fringes, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment. This has been supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS035 Wooded Parkland and Parkland Remnants, lies within Wales NLCA 8 North Wales Coast

- 1.3.6.77 The LANDMAP summary description is:
- *'Wooded parkland open character with fine views of stone-built castle at Bodelwyddan. A good example of a formal estate parkland landscape with public access and showing the mature specimen trees and woodland blocks or covers. The area suffers from visual detractors being bounded by the A55 corridor to the north and containing an extensive industrial area on the boundary with Bodelwyddan at Kinnel Industrial Estate.'* (Q3 – Summary Description).
- 1.3.6.78 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:
- Scenic Quality – High
 - Integrity – High
 - Character – High
 - Rarity – Moderate
 - Overall evaluation – High
 - Justification: *'Good public access and one of the few former parkland estates in the wider county area to maintain public access in conjunction with well-maintained formal parkland landscape features - high'*
- 1.3.6.79 The southeastern section of this Aspect Area is coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation.

DNBGHVS036 Kinnel Park Fringes, lies within Wales NLCA 9 Rhos

- 1.3.6.80 The LANDMAP summary description is:
- *'Densely wooded parkland of the former and privately owned and inaccessible Kinnel Estate. Only the edge of the estate is visible with no views in due to the dense vegetation.'* (Q3 – Summary Description).
- 1.3.6.81 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:
- Scenic Quality – Moderate
 - Integrity – Moderate
 - Character – High
 - Rarity – Moderate
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification: *'Private access makes overall evaluation on the ground difficult to assess, however this also means that the landscape elements of the parkland have remained intact and will presumably continue to be well maintained - moderate'*
- 1.3.6.82 A sliver of land to the southwest of this Aspect Area is coincidental with the ZTV of the onshore substation. Due to the limited area and its wooded nature, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment.

DNBGHVS039 Limestone Plateau – Denbigh/Henllan, lies within Wales NLCA 9 Rhos

1.3.6.83 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *‘Rolling countryside dominated by wooded estate - gently undulating pastoral farmland with a patchwork of medium sized mostly improved grassland fields enclosed by managed hedgerows with scattered trees & woodland... Attractive traditional farming landscape centre around the small market town of Henllan, other settlement comprise scattered rural farmsteads and residential dwellings with the historic market town of Denbigh lying to the south east...’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*

1.3.6.84 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – Moderate
- Integrity – Moderate
- Character – Moderate
- Rarity – Low
- Overall evaluation – Moderate
- Justification: *‘Pleasant almost archetypal rolling farming aspect area with domestic scale landscape with few visual detractors... Not unusual within the study area and typical of much of this part of the region - moderate’*

1.3.6.85 The tops of hills, running northwest to southeast, are coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation. However, due to a combination of the wooded nature of the Aspect Area and distance, particularly to the southeast, it is considered that this large Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment.

DNBGHVS044 Vale of Clwyd-Denbigh-Ruthin, lies within Wales NLCA 12 Clwydian Range

1.3.6.86 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- *‘A pastoral vale with typical enclosed farmland with hedgerow field boundaries with a large density of hedgerow tree cover. The area covers the floor and lower slopes of the wide and meandering course of the River Clwyd and as such contains the main north south transport links through the county - A525 and the highest concentration of settlements - Ruthin, Denbigh and St Asaph. Generally, an attractive and appearance of a traditionally farmed landscape and patchwork of small to medium sized fields displaying a maturing vegetated boundaries and incidental tree cover/ small woodland blocks.’ (Q3 – Summary Description).*

1.3.6.87 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – High
- Integrity – Low
- Character – High
- Rarity – High
- Overall evaluation – High

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- Justification: *'Pleasant almost archetypal rolling farming aspect area with domestic scale landscape with few visual detractors... Not unusual within the study area and typical of much of this part of the region - moderate'*

1.3.6.88 Elevated land in the northeast of this large Aspect Area are coincidental with the Mona onshore substation ZTV. However, due to the size of the Aspect Area and the distance from the Mona onshore substation, it is considered that this large Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment.

1.3.6.89 Part of this Aspect Area lies within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL. The effects on the special qualities of the NL are considered in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: Internationally and nationally designated landscapes study of the Environmental Statement.

DNBGHVS046 Clwydian Slopes Main Ridge, lies within Wales NLCA 12 Clwydian Range

1.3.6.90 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- 'Long line of rolling hills defined by a distinct ridge line rising steeply from the Vale of Clwyd, dominated by moorland vegetation. A series of intersecting valleys and spur slopes define the western edge. Spectacular views from and of the Vale.'* (Q3 – Summary Description).

1.3.6.91 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:

- Scenic Quality – Outstanding
- Integrity – High
- Character – Outstanding
- Rarity – Outstanding
- Overall evaluation – Outstanding
- Justification: *'Combination of spectacular views, strong, distinctive landform and attractive scenery. a highly valued landscape type and landform - outstanding'*

1.3.6.92 Elevated land in the northwest of this large Aspect Area are coincidental with the Mona onshore substation ZTV. However, due to the size of the Aspect Area and the distance from the Mona onshore substation, it is considered that this large Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and it is not taken forward to assessment.

1.3.6.93 This Aspect Area lies within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL. The effects on the special qualities of the NL are considered in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: Internationally and nationally designated landscapes study of the Environmental Statement.

FLNTVS016 Upland, lies within Wales NLCA 12 Clwydian Range

1.3.6.94 The LANDMAP summary description is:

- 'Coastal Hills - limestone coastal hills with a generally smooth profile & steep scarp slopes and a mixture of open calcareous & improved grassland & traditional farmland with areas of scrub & dwarf woodland on steeper slopes & banks - with a strong exposed coastal influence. There are views out to sea from the north facing slopes and offshore windfarms are noticeable in these views depending on weather conditions.'* (Q3 – Summary Description).

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- 1.3.6.95 The evaluation matrix (Q46 to Q50) for the LANDMAP Aspect Area is set out below:
- Scenic Quality – High
 - Integrity – Moderate
 - Character – High
 - Rarity – High
 - Overall evaluation – High
 - Justification: *‘area of county importance as unique example of type - requiring special conservation and enhancement’*
- 1.3.6.96 Areas in the southwest part of this LANDMAP Aspect Area are coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation. Given the distance from the Mona onshore substation and the limited amount of land that is covered by the ZTV, it is considered that this Aspect Area does not have the potential to be significantly affected and so it is not taken forward to assessment. This is supported by fieldwork, as set out in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement.
- 1.3.6.97 This Aspect Area lies within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley NL. The effects on the special qualities of the NL are considered in Volume 6, Annex 8.5: Internationally and nationally designated landscapes study of the Environmental Statement.
- 1.3.7 LANDMAP Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas that coincide with the Mona Onshore Development Area (directly affected)**
- 1.3.7.1 The LANDMAP landscape habitat aspect areas that occur within the Mona Onshore Development Area are listed below (see Appendix B: Figures Figure B.4 and Figure B.5):
- CNWLH001 Kinmel Bay Dunes and Foreshore:
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – High
 - Justification *‘Despite many of the sand dunes in the area being damaged by recreation or development this part of the coast still supports a good dune system at Kinmel Bay and an important shingle community at Traeth Pensarn. It is also an important bird area for coastal species, giving a high overall evaluation.’* In part designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
 - CNWLH004 Abergele grassland mosaic
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Low
 - Justification *‘An area of little immediate interest, although it does about and provide a buffer to other more interesting areas. The coastal strip adjoins the Traeth Pensarn shingle beach SSSI. The golf course adjoins the Gwyrch Woods SSSI. It borders on the low to moderate value.’*
 - CNWLH005 Llanddulas urban area and caravan sites
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Low

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- Justification *‘This town has some short grassland and remnants of grey sand dunes together with much woodland giving some connectivity, which is broken by the A55 dual carriageway. Several butterfly species are recorded from the area giving it a low to moderate evaluation.’*
- CNWLH036 Moelfre grasslands
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification *‘Although largely improved and well managed grassland and arable cropping, the patchwork nature of the small irregular fields, hedges, copses and tree-lined streams does provide some habitat interest giving a moderate to low value.’*
- CNWLH039 Gwrych castle wood and mosaic
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Outstanding
 - Justification *‘A nationally important area for calcareous grassland, of special interest for vascular plants, bryophytes, butterflies, moths and lesser horseshoe bat. The woodland is largely planted beech and scots pine, but over a former ancient woodland site, still retaining much of its original ground flora.’* In parts a SSSI.
- CNWLH062 Mynydd Bodrochwyn grasslands
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Low
 - Justification *‘As a very improved grassland area, much of the original habitat diversity will have been destroyed, although diversity may remain in and around the many rocky outcrops...’*
- DNBGHLH021 Bodelwyddan Lowland Parkland
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification *‘Although predominantly a lowland parkland with characteristic features such as veteran trees and woodland, including a semi-natural broadleaved woodland Wildlife Site, it is dominated by improved or amenity grassland.’*
- DNBGHLH023 Cefn Improved Grassland
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification *‘Although predominantly improved grassland, there is a good network of hedges with many mature trees, some parkland and plentiful cover of broadleaved woodland, including semi-natural woodland with a high biodiversity value.’*
- DNBGHLH027 Elwy Hills Improved Grassland
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate

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- Justification – *‘Although largely improved grassland, there is a variable network of hedges and scattered trees, together with pockets of broadleaved woodland.’*

1.3.7.2 LANDMAP Aspect Area CNWLH001 Kinmel Bay Dunes and Foreshore contains a SSSI. This Aspect Area is contiguous with Visual and Sensory Aspect Area CNWVS052 Llandudno to Kinmel Bay Intertidal. While the presence of the SSSI raises the value of CNWVS052, the temporary construction works do not directly impact the SSSI and the cables will be routed via trenchless techniques under the adjoining land.

1.3.7.3 LANDMAP Aspect Area CNWLH039 Gwrych castle wood and mosaic contains areas that are designated a SSSI. This Aspect Area is contiguous with part of CNWVS021 Cefn yr Ogof and Environs. The onshore cables will be routed under the SSSI via trenchless techniques at this point. While the presence of the SSSI raises the value of the Visual and Sensory Aspect Area, the temporary construction works do not have the potential to cause significant effects to CNWLH039.

1.3.7.4 No other sites designated for ecology or nature conservation are directly, or indirectly (within the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation) affected. For the reasons given above, no Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas are taken forward to the assessment stage.

1.3.8 LANDMAP Geological Landscape Aspect Areas that coincide with the Mona Onshore Development Area (directly affected)

1.3.8.1 The LANDMAP geological landscape aspect areas that occur within the Mona Onshore Development Area are listed below (see Appendix B: Figures Figure B.6 and Figure B.7):

- CNWGL046 Cefn yr Ogof
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – High
 - Justification *‘Carboniferous Limestone ridge; Cefn yr Ogof RIGS [Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site] (Stratigraphy/Quaternary and Geomorphology).’*
- CNWGL048 Abergele
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification *‘N-facing dip slope in Carboniferous Limestone draped by boulder clay.’*
- CNWGL050 Betws yn Rhos
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – High
 - Justification *‘Dissected Silurian (Elwy Formation) mudstone-dominated slopes covered with boulder clay with drumlins.’*
- CNWGL051 Towyn
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification *‘Extensive tidal flat area at mouth of Afon Clwyd.’*

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- CNWGL052 Penmaen Rhos to Kimmel Bay coast
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – High
 - Justification *‘Sand beaches fringing coast.’*
- CNWGL054 Moelfre Uchaf
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification *‘Dissected E-W upland terrain with limited drift cover in Silurian (Elwy Formation) mudstone-dominated succession.’*
- DNBGHGL016 Bodelwyddan
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification *‘Classic glacial terrain transition from limestone upland to estuarine/floodplain. Extensive drift cove.’*
- DNBGHGL031 Cefn Meiriadog
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – High
 - Justification *‘1 RIGS for limestone pavement.’*

1.3.8.2 The RIGS within CNWGL046 Cefn yr Ogof, lies within the most northwesterly part of CNWVS021 Cefn yr Ogof and Environs. It is surrounded in woodland. While the RIGS adds value to the Visual and Sensory Aspect Area, it is separated from the rest of it and by the route of the onshore cable corridor, by its location and woodland. Due to the negligible impact there is no potential for the presence of this RIGS to raise the value of CNWVS021.

1.3.8.3 The two parts of the RIGS within DNBGHGL031 Cefn Meiriadog, lies within the central area of DNBGHVS037 Limestone Valley-Cefn, to the south of the Mona Onshore Development Area. It is in part physically and visually separated from the route of the Mona onshore cable corridor and the Mona onshore substation by woodland. However, part of the RIGS is coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation, and so this Geological Landscape Aspect Area is taken forward to assessment.

1.3.8.4 No other Geological Landscape Aspect Areas, within the LVIA study area, contain regionally designated geological sites.

1.3.8.5 For the reasons given above, all Geological Aspect Areas, with the exception of DNBGHGL031 Cefn Meiriadog, are considered not to have the potential to be significantly affected and so are not taken forward to assessment.

1.3.9 LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas that coincide with the Mona Onshore Development Area (directly and indirectly affected)

1.3.9.1 The LANDMAP historic landscape aspect areas that occur within the Mona Onshore Development Area are listed below (see Appendix B: Figures Figure B.8 and Figure B.9):

- CNWHL006 Moelfre Uchaf

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- Directly affected
- Overall evaluation – Moderate
- Justification *‘A large and fairly non-descript upland area.’*
- CNWHL032 Conwy eastern foreshore
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification *‘Foreshore with some potential but otherwise limited historic value.’*
- CNWHL049 Kinmel Park
 - Indirectly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Outstanding
 - Justification *‘An exceptional example of post medieval parkland.’* This Aspect Area contains/is Kinmel Park Registered Park and Garden.
- CNWHL051 Gwrych Castle
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification *‘A much degraded area of parkland, but with a number of (similarly degraded) associated buildings and structures.’* This Aspect Area contains Gwrych Castle Registered Park and Garden.
- CNWHL052 Llandulas
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Low
 - Justification *‘Originally medieval settlement but with most of its original focus removed.’*
- CNWHL053 Abergele & Pensarn
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification *‘Although much diluted by modern development Abergele still retains a number of its historic elements’*
- CNWHL080 Rhyd-y-foel
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – High
 - Justification *‘Although a large area of fairly uneventful mixed fieldscape, the area’s diverse archaeological contents drive up its overall evaluation.’*
- DNBGHHL005 Bodelwyddan Park
 - Indirectly affected
 - Overall evaluation – High
 - Justification *‘Noted in Register of Parks and Gardens, building also listed.’* This Aspect Area includes Bodelwyddan Castle, Registered Park and Garden.

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- DNBGHHL041 Pentre-mawr
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – Moderate
 - Justification ‘Empty Value.’

1.3.9.2 Historic Landscape Aspect Area CNWHL049 Kinmel Park includes Kinmel Park, Registered Park and Garden. This Aspect Area is contiguous with Visual and Sensory Aspect Area CNWVS020 Kinmel Manor Environs and the northern avenue/drive lies within CNWVS070 Abergele coastal plain. The presence of the Registered Park and Garden raises the value of CNWVS020. However, only a small sliver of CNWHL049 is coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation. Only the northernmost part of the avenue/drive appears to be coincidental with the ZTV. As such Aspect Area CNWHL049 is not taken forward to assessment, as there is no potential for significant effects.

1.3.9.3 Historic Landscape Aspect Area CNWHL051 Gwrych Castle, includes Gwrych Castle park, Registered Park and Garden. This Aspect Area partly falls within Visual and Sensory Aspect Area CNWVS021 Cefn yr Ogof and Environs and partly within CNWVS070 Abergele coastal plain (western section). While the presence of the Registered Park and Garden raises the value of the Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas, the temporary construction works to trenchless techniques under the woodland within the park, is not considered to have the potential to have significant effects on Aspect Area CNWHL051.

1.3.9.4 Historic Landscape Aspect Area DNBGHHL005 Bodelwyddan Park, includes Bodelwyddan Castle, Registered Park and Garden. This Aspect Area falls partly within Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas DNBGHVS014 Area North and East of Bodelwyddan and partly within DNBGHVS035 Wooded Parkland and Parkland Remnants. The presence of the Registered Park and Garden raises the value of both Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas. While not directly affected, the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation is coincidental with DNBGHHL005 and for this reason it is taken forward to assessment.

1.3.9.5 For the reasons given above, all Historic Landscape Aspect Areas, with the exception of DNBGHHL005 Bodelwyddan Park, are considered not to have the potential to be significantly affected and so are not taken forward to assessment.

1.3.10 LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas that coincide with the Mona Onshore Development Area (directly affected)

1.3.10.1 The LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas that occur within the Mona Onshore Development Area are listed below (see Appendix B: Figure B.10 and Figure B.11). These Aspect Areas are in the process of being updated and no overall evaluation or justification has been given for the new areas. The evaluation stated is from the areas set out in the 2020 review. Note - the 2020 evaluations correspond to the 2020 Aspect Areas. They do not correspond to the 2023 Aspect Area boundaries. The 2023 Aspect Areas affected are:

- CNWCLS018 Mynydd Bodrochwyn
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – not given (2020 – High)
 - Justification – not given
- CNWCLS028 Kinmel Manor environs

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- Directly affected
- Overall evaluation – not given (2020 – High)
- Justification – not given
- CNWCLS029 Cefn yr Ogof and environs
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – not given (2020 – High)
 - Justification – not given
- CNWCLS036 Dulas Lowlands
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – not given (2020 – High)
 - Justification – not given
- CNWCLS076 Llandudno to Kinmel Bay intertidal
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – not given (2020 – High)
 - Justification – not given
- CNWCLS077 A55
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – not given (2020 – Outstanding)
 - Justification – not given
- CNWCLS091 Llandulas coast
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – not given (2020 – High)
 - Justification – not given
- CNWCLS104 Abergele Coastal Plain
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – not given (2020 – High)
 - Justification – not given
- DNBGHCLS015 Area North and East of Bodelwyddan
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – not given (2020 – High)
 - Justification – not given
- DNBGHCLS030 Cefn Estate
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – not given (2020 – Outstanding)
 - Justification – not given
- DNBGHCLS034 Kinmel Park Fringes
 - Directly affected

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- Overall evaluation – not given (2020 – High)
- Justification – not given
- DNBGHCLS035 Limestone Valley-Cefn
 - Directly affected
 - Overall evaluation – not given (2020 – Outstanding)
 - Justification – not given.

1.3.10.2 There are three Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas that fall within the 2020 evaluation areas of Outstanding value: CNWCLS077 A55; DNBGHCLS030 Cefn Estate; and DNBGHCLS035 Limestone Valley-Cefn. No justification has been given for the new Aspect Area boundaries and there are no new evaluations. In the absence of updated evaluations and justifications, no Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas are taken forward to assessment.

LANDMAP Aspect Areas taken forward to assessment

1.3.10.3 Directly affected Visual and Sensory LANDMAP Aspect Areas taken forward to assessment in Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement are:

- CNWVS052 Llandudno to Kinnel Bay intertidal – Landfall
- CNWVS062 Llandulas Urban Coast – Mona onshore cable corridor
- CNWVS070 Abergele Coastal Plain (western section) – Mona onshore cable corridor
- CNWVS021 Cefn yr Ogof and Environs – Mona onshore cable corridor
- CNWVS023 Dulas Lowlands – Mona onshore cable corridor
- DNBGHVS037 Limestone Valley-Cefn – Mona onshore cable corridor
- DNBGHVS033 Cefn Estate – Mona onshore substation.

1.3.10.4 Indirectly affected Visual and Sensory LANDMAP Aspect Areas, within the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation taken forward to assessment are:

- CNWVS070 Abergele Coastal Plain (eastern section)
- DNBGHVS013 Coastal Fields near Towyn
- DNBGHVS014 Area North and East of Bodelwyddan
- DNBGHVS015 River Valley of Clwyd/Elwy – North of St. Asaph
- DNBGHVS016 Vale Wooded Estate – South of Dyserth
- DNBGHVS028 Clwydian Slopes South of Rhualt
- DNBGHVS029 Graig Tremerechion
- DNBGHVS031 Vale of Clwyd – North of Denbigh
- DNBGHVS035 Wooded Parkland and Parkland Remnants.

1.3.10.5 Whilst the other LANDMAP Aspect Area layers might have lent value to the visual and sensory layers, only two have been taken forward to assessment within Volume 3, Chapter 6: Landscape and visual resources of the Environmental Statement. These are Geological Landscape Aspect Area DNBGHGL031 Cefn Meiriadog (direct affects – in the same Geological Landscape Aspect Area as the Mona onshore substation)

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and Historic Landscape Aspect Area DNBGHHL005 Bodelwyddan Park (indirect effects – within the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation).

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1.4 Summary

- 1.4.1.1 This technical baseline report identifies the landscape and seascape character areas that have the potential to be affected by the Mona Onshore Development Area. The LVIA onshore study area and ZTV is based on the MDS for the Mona onshore substation.
- 1.4.1.2 Wales National MCAs, the Wales NLCAs and LANDMAP data which have the potential to be affected by the Mona Onshore Development Area, have been identified. The seascape and landscape characteristics with potential to be affected by the Mona Onshore Development Area have been identified and described in sections 1.3.3 to 1.3.10 of this baseline technical report.
- 1.4.1.3 Those character/LANDMAP areas which are not directly affected by the Mona Onshore Development Area and that are coincidental with the ZTV of the Mona onshore substation, but which are not likely to experience a significant effect as a result of implementing the Mona Onshore Development Area MDS, have been identified in this report but scoped out of the LVIA, as noted.

1.5 References

LUC (2015) National Seascape Assessment for Wales. Available at: <https://naturalresources.wales/?lang=en>. Accessed: February 2024.

NRW, LANDMAP – the Welsh landscape baseline. Available at: <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/landmap-the-welsh-landscape-baseline/?lang=en>. Accessed: February 2024

NRW, 2017, LANDMAP Guidance Note 1: LANDMAP and Special Landscape Areas. Available at: <https://naturalresources.wales/media/680614/landmap-guidance-note-1-landmap-slas-2017.pdf>. Accessed: February 2024.

NRW, National landscape Character Areas. Available at: <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/nlca/?lang=en#:~:text=NLCAs%20are%20defined%20at%20a%20broad%20landscape%20scale,their%20regionally%20distinct%20natural%2C%20cultural%20and%20perceptual%20characteristics>. Accessed: February 2024.

Appendix A: LVIA onshore study areas

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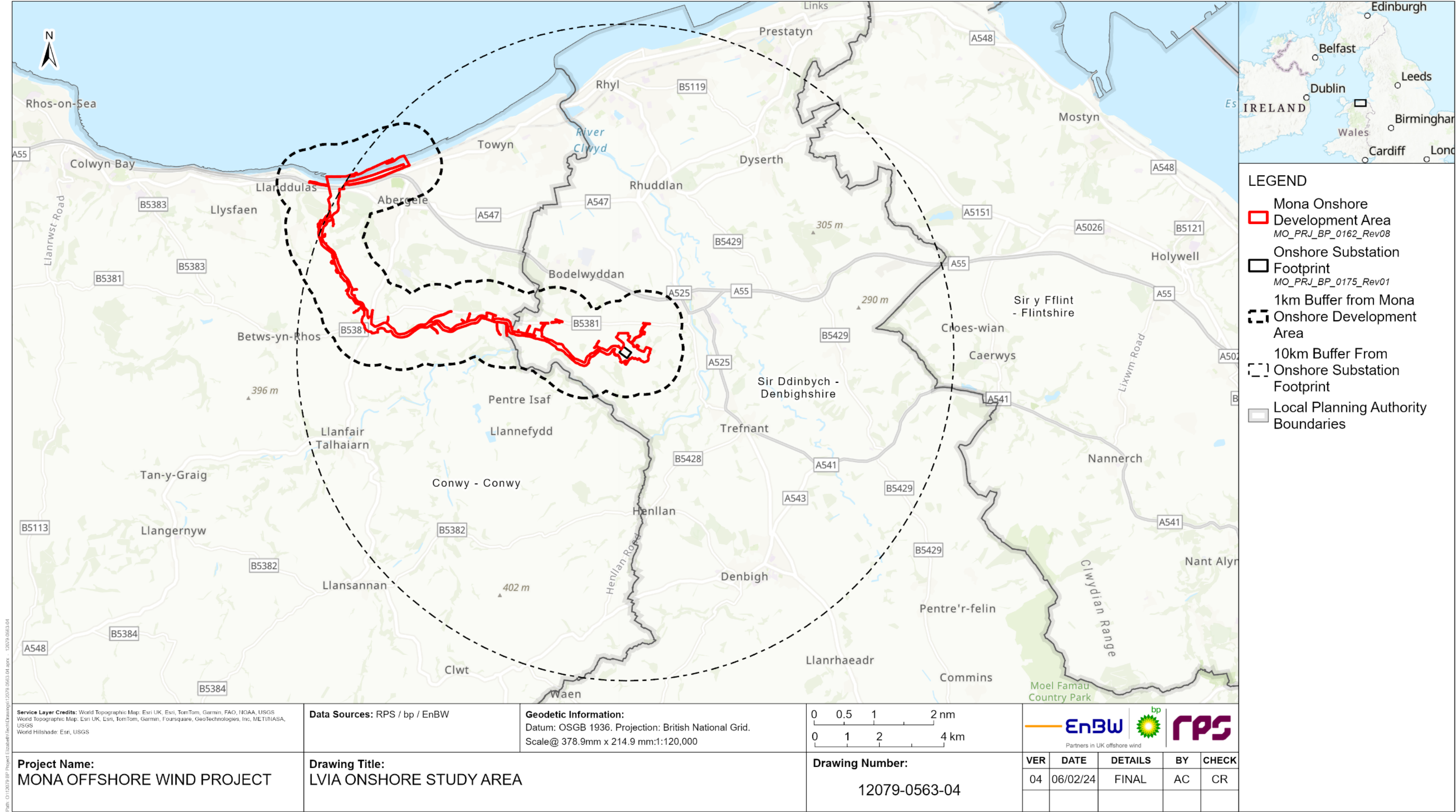


Figure A.1: LVIA onshore study area.

Appendix B: Wales National Marine, National Landscape Character and LANDMAP Aspect Areas

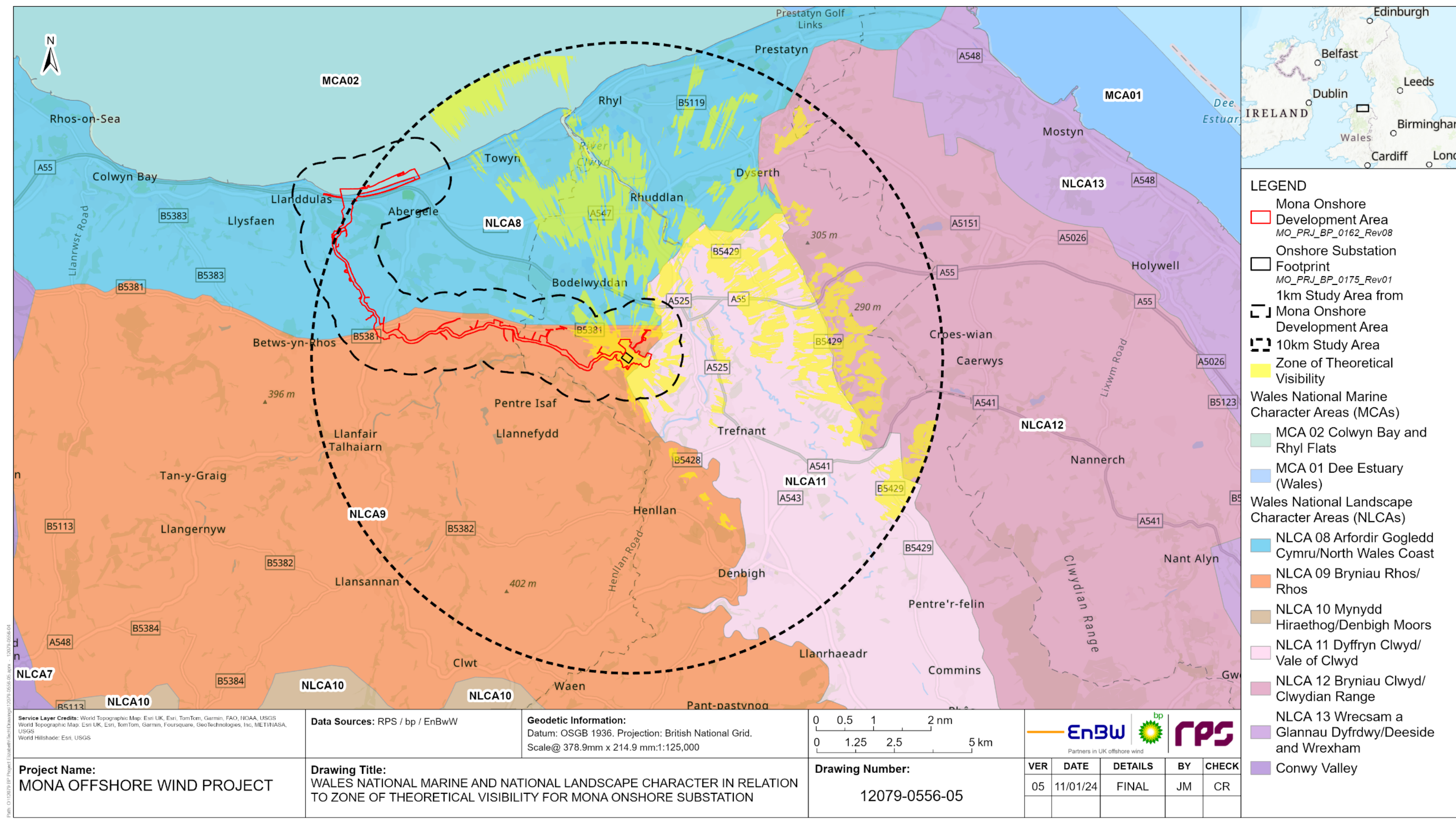


Figure B.1: Wales National Marine and National Landscape Character in relation to zone of theoretical visibility for Mona Onshore Substation

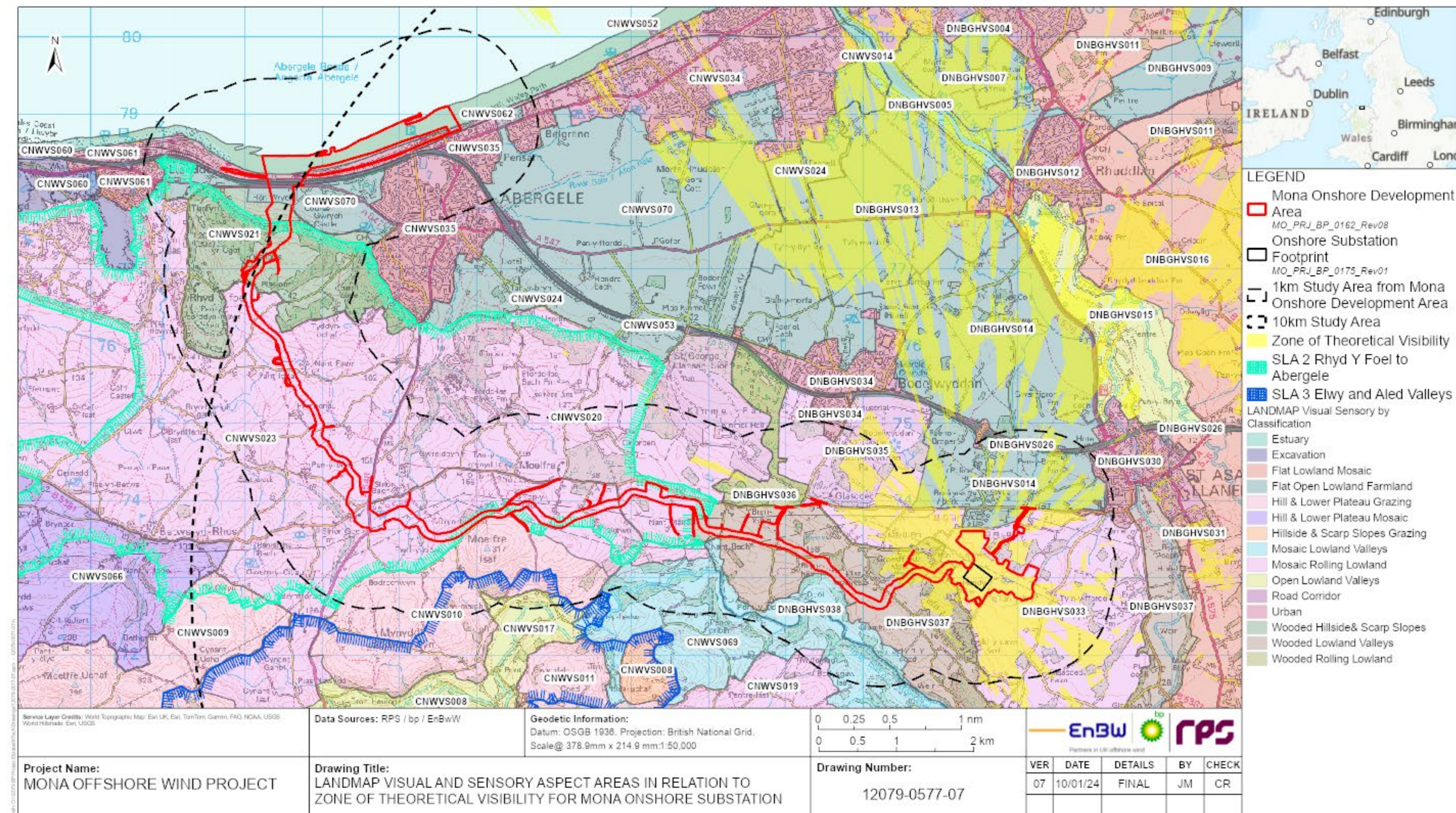


Figure B.2: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas in relation to zone of theoretical visibility for Mona Onshore Substation

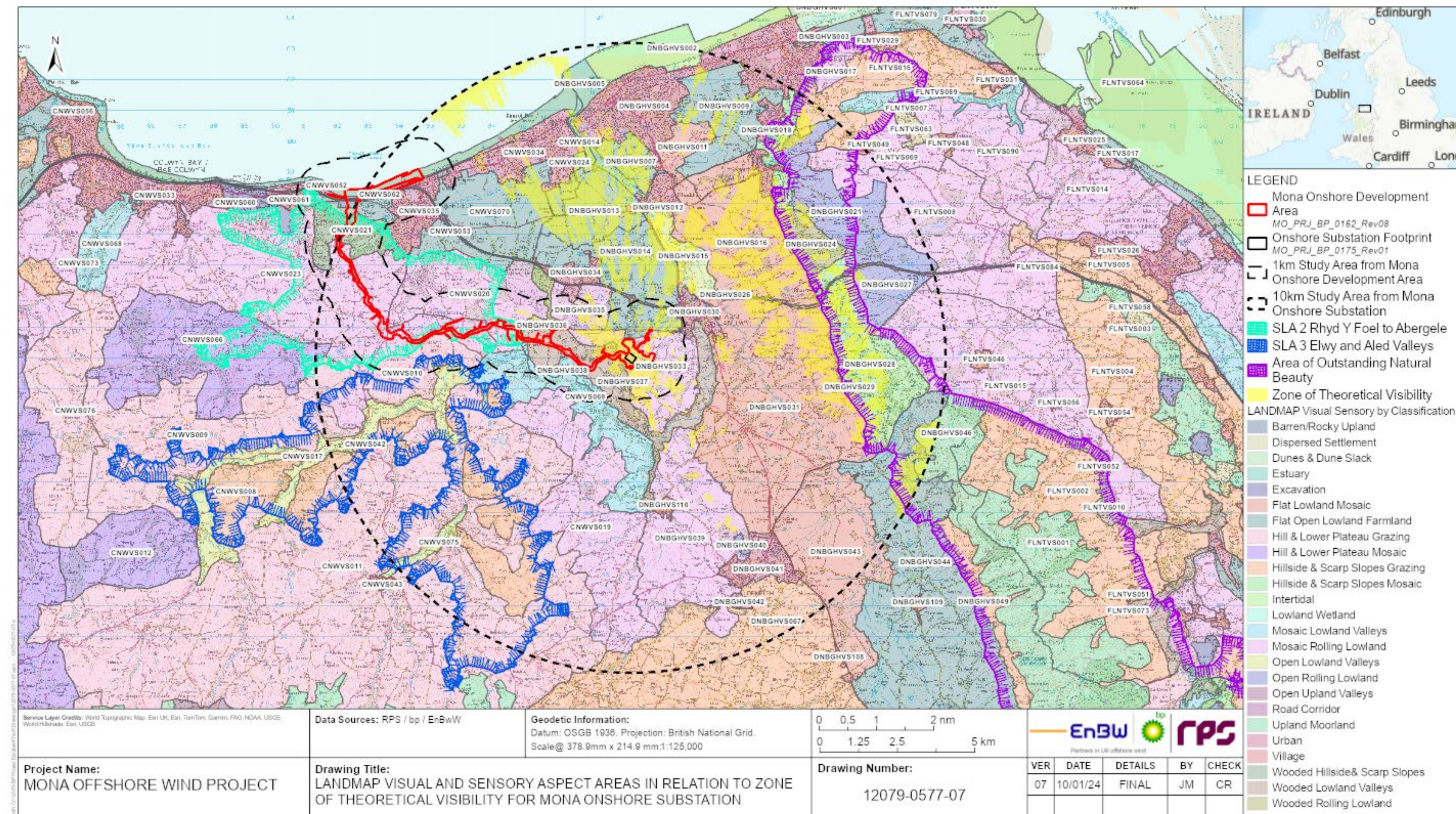


Figure B.3: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas in relation to zone of theoretical visibility for Mona Onshore Substation

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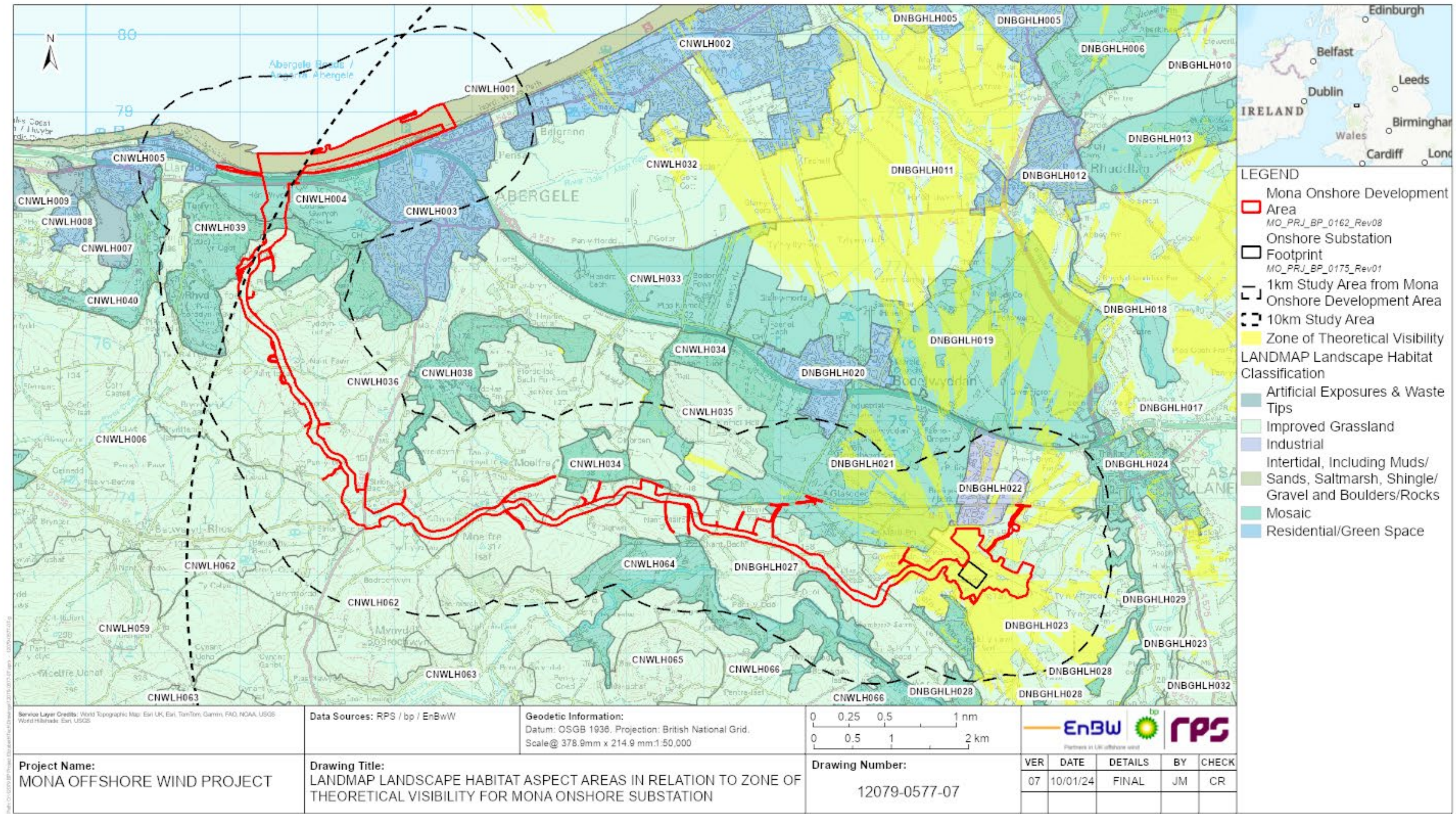


Figure B.4: LANDMAP Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas in relation to zone of theoretical visibility for Mona Onshore Substation

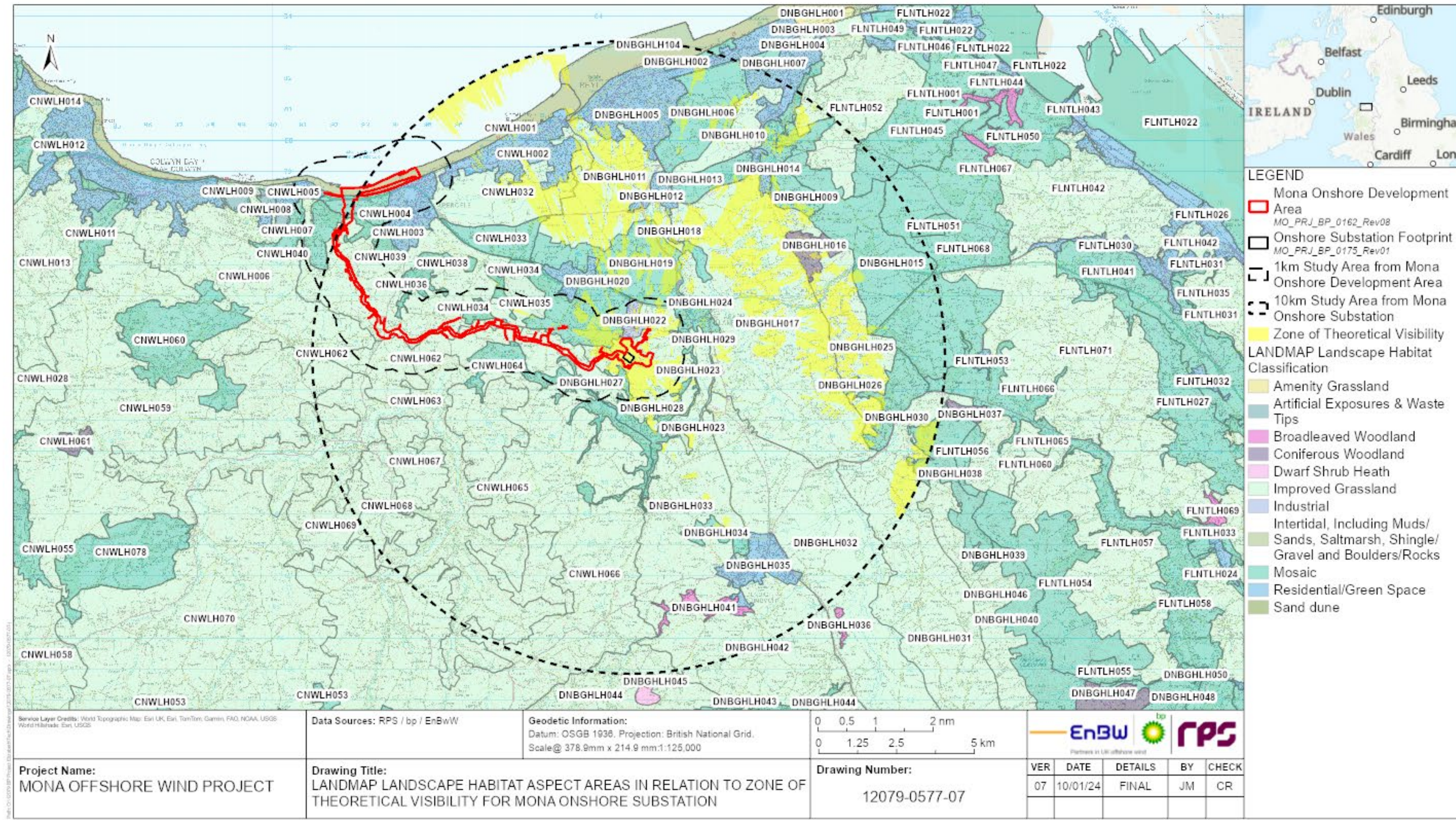


Figure B.5: LANDMAP Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas in relation to zone of theoretical visibility for Mona Onshore Substation

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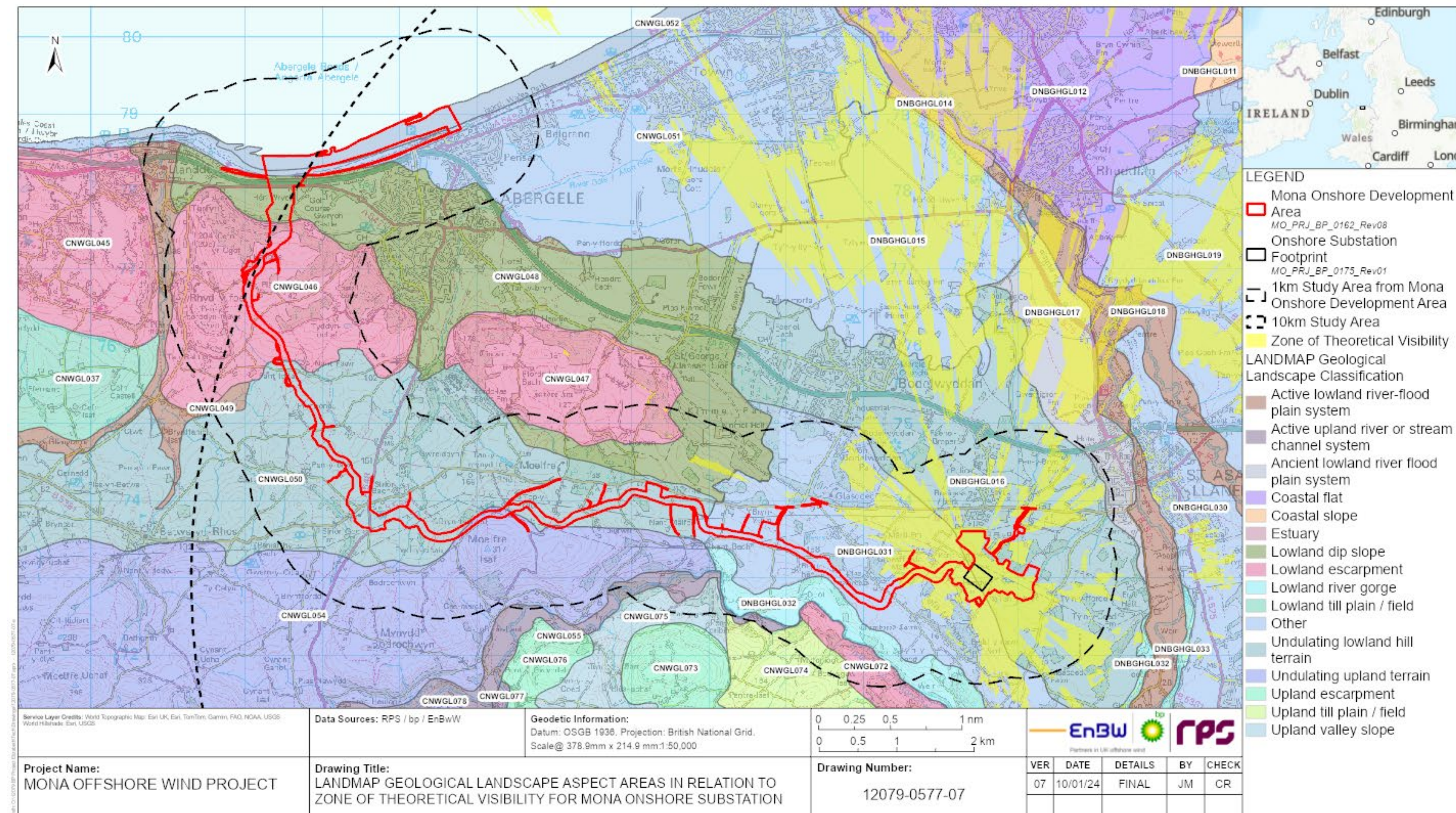


Figure B.6: LANDMAP Geological Landscape Aspect Areas in relation to zone of theoretical visibility for Mona Onshore Substation

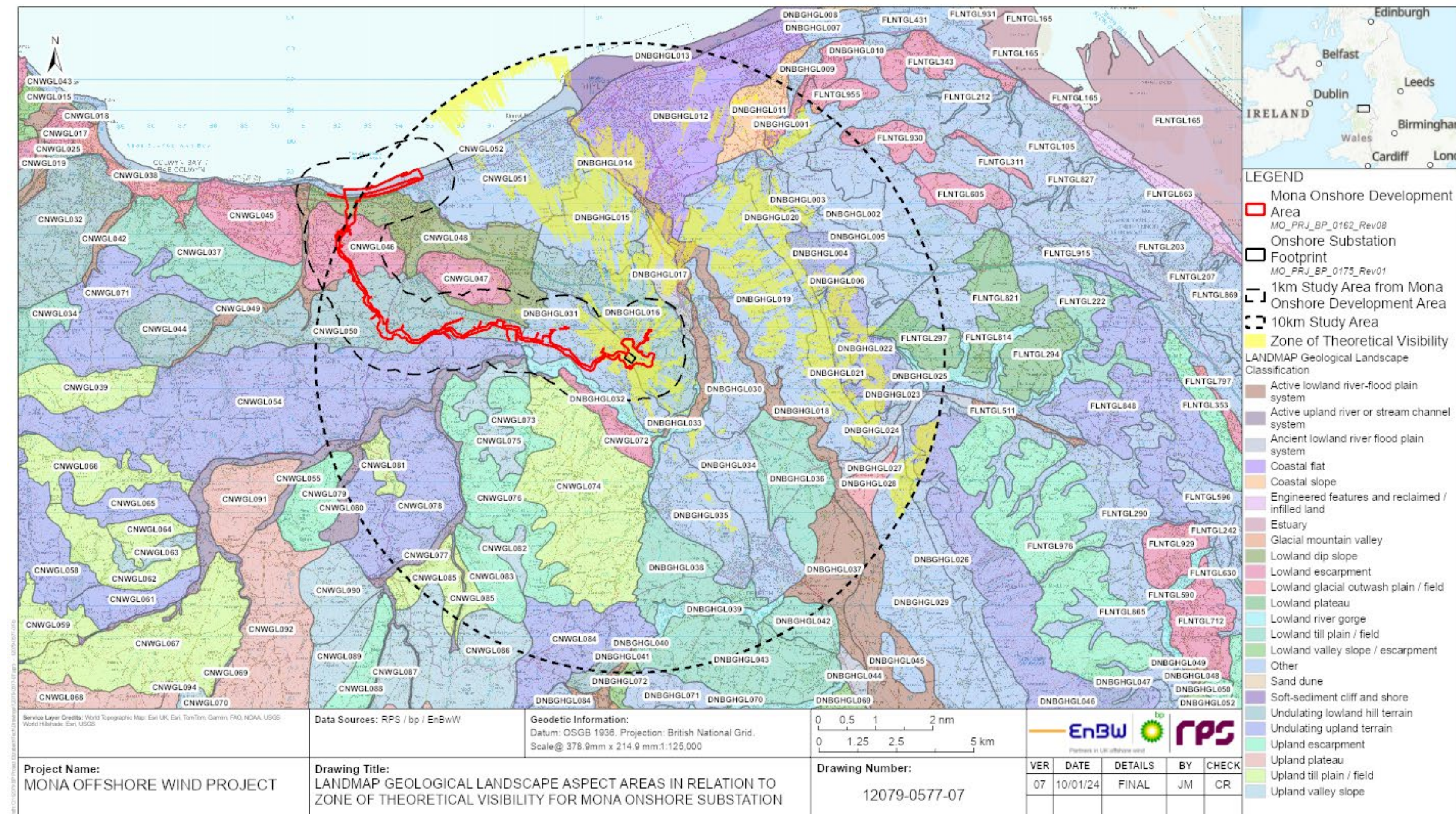


Figure B.7: LANDMAP Geological Landscape Aspect Areas in relation to zone of theoretical visibility for Mona Onshore Substation.

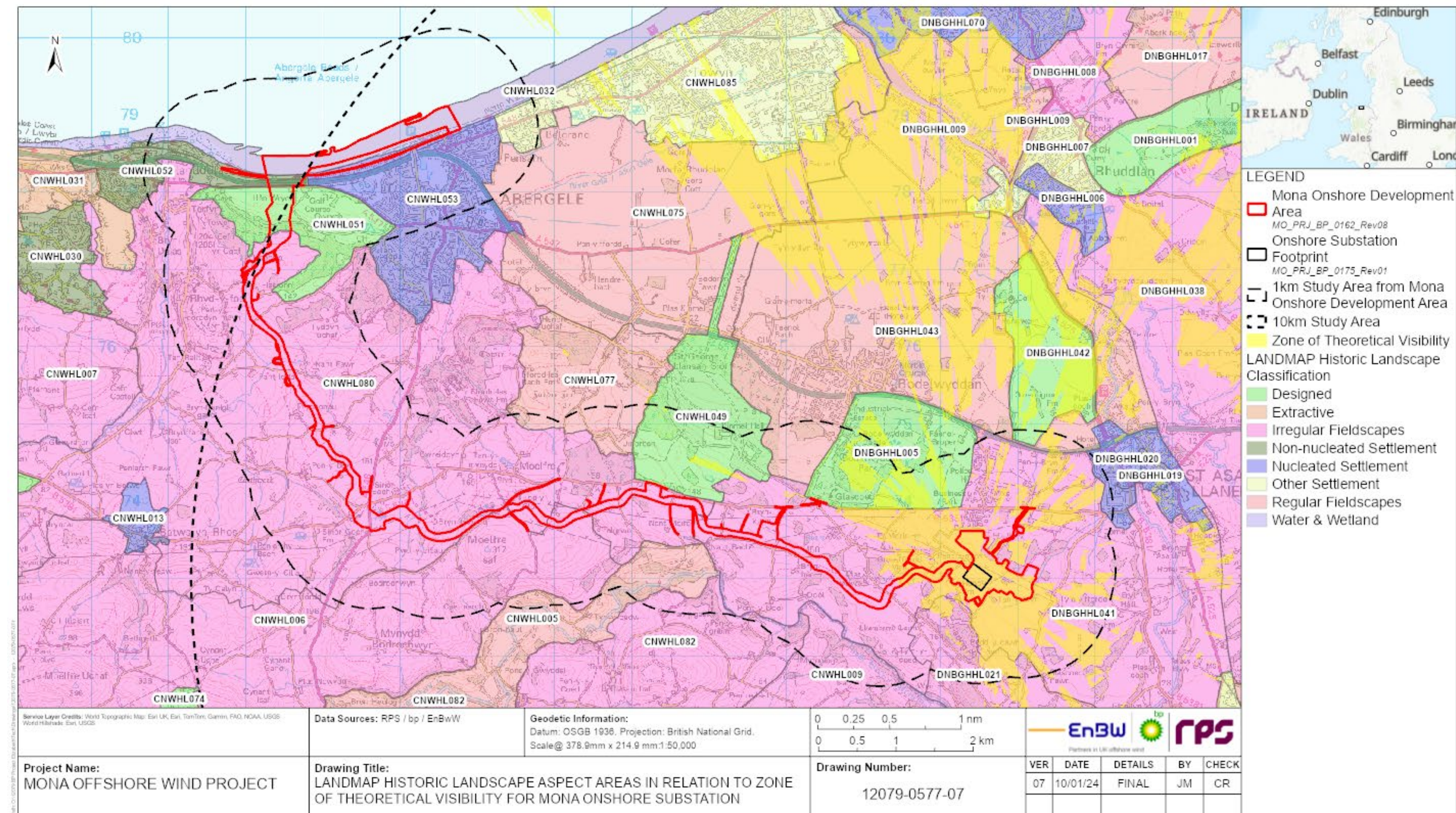


Figure B.8: LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas in relation to zone of theoretical visibility for Mona Onshore Substation

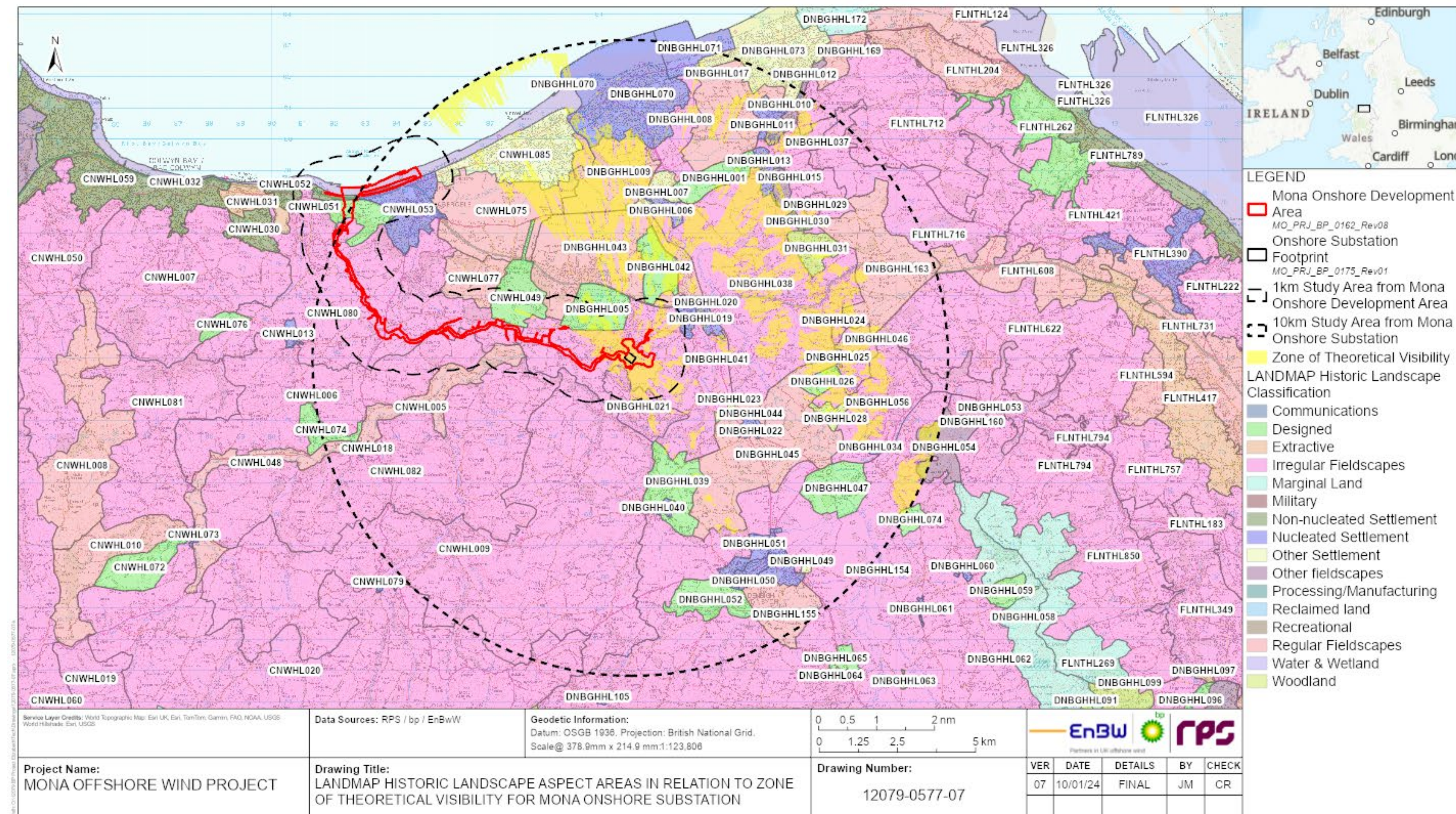


Figure B.9: LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas in relation to zone of theoretical visibility for Mona Onshore Substation