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Prif Weithredwr – Chief Executive

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| RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD | NOTICE OF MEETING |
| PWYLLGOR POLISI CYNLLUNIO | PLANNING POLICY PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE |
| DYDD MERCHER, 11 MEHEFIN, 2025 am 11.00 o'r gloch yb | WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE 2025 at 11.00 am |
| YSTAFLL BWYLLGOR, SWYDDFEYDD Y CYNGOR, LLANGFNI AC YN RHITHIOL DRWY ZOOM | COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICES, LLANGFNI AND VIRTUALLY THROUGH ZOOM |
| Swyddog Pwyllgor | Mrs Mairwen Hughes 01248 752518 Committee Officer |

AELODAU / MEMBERS

Cynghorwyr / Councillors:-

Y Grwp Annibynnol / The Independent Group

Ieuan Williams

Plaid Lafur Cymru / Wales Labour Party

Pip O'Neill

Plaid Cymru / The Party of Wales

John Ifan Jones, Jackie Lewis, Llio Angharad Owen, Nicola Roberts, Ken Taylor and Robin Williams

Annibynnwyr Môn/Anglesey Independents

Jeff Evans, Kenneth P Hughes, Robert LI Jones,

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A G E N D A

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

To elect a Chairperson for the Planning Policy Committee.

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

To elect a Vice-Chairperson for the Planning Policy Committee.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive any declaration of interest by any Member or Officer in respect of any item of business.

4 MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To submit, for confirmation, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 May, 2025.

5 INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (ISA) AND HABITATS' REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (HRA) SCOPING REPORTS (Pages 5 - 190)

To submit a report by Head of Regulation and Economic Development in relation to the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats' Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Reports.

6 YNYS MÔN AND GWYNEDD JLDP - UPDATE ON PREPARATION OF ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT (Pages 191 - 192)

To submit, for information, a report by the Head of Regulation and Economic Development.

PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 14 May 2025

- PRESENT:** Councillor Ieuan Williams (Chair)
- Councillors Kenneth Hughes, John Ifan Jones, Jackie Lewis, Llio Angharad Owen, Nicola Roberts and Ken Taylor
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Planning Policy Manager (JIW),
Planning Policy Team Leader (LW),
Committee Officer (MEH).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Robert Ll Jones, Pip O'Neill and Robin Williams
- ALSO PRESENT:** None
-

1 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Councillor Ken Taylor was elected Vice-Chair for the Planning Policy Committee.

2 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 October, 2024 were confirmed as correct.

5 KEY ISSUES, VISION AND OBJECTIVES PAPER

Submitted – a report by the Head of Regulation in relation to the above.

The Planning Policy Manager reported that the main purpose of the report is to set out the key issues, challenges and opportunities faced by Anglesey over the Plan period; set out a vision for the Island over the period of the new Local Development Plan and set objectives for the new Local Development Plan that will help realise the vision. He noted that Appendix 1 of the report was shared with Members of the Planning Policy Committee who have had the opportunity to review the document and to date, no responses to the document contents has been received. The document identifies 17 key issues and challenges faced by the Island, covering a wide spectrum of interests, clear and realistic objectives have been formulated to address the issues concerned and these objectives contribute to setting the vision for the Local Development Plan. The vision reads :-

'By 2039, Anglesey will be an Island of vibrant, lively, bilingual and engaged communities where people choose to live, work and visit, committed to the resilience of its economy, culture, heritage, environment and natural resources and to health and wellbeing.'

Councillor Kenneth P Hughes said that a Local Development Plan should have an emphasis on 'local', and the Plan should address local needs. He questioned whether there will be an influence from Welsh Government to produce a general Plan that does not cater for local issues. He noted that Wrexham County Borough Council was the last Council to adopt their Local Development Plan as they challenged Welsh Government due to local housing market assessments as it undermined democracy. The Planning Policy Manager responded that National Planning Policy needs to be complied with. He noted that the planning policies will respond to local circumstances but must be in general conformity with higher ranking regional and national plans.

Councillor Nicola Roberts said that gathering requirements of local needs within the Authority is important and that the local plan feeds into the National plans.

Councillor Ken Taylor ascertained whether there will be changes to the process as regards to the creation of a Local Development Plan if there is a new government within the Senedd following the elections in May next year. The Planning Policy Manager responded that there are uncertainties, but the Planning Policy Wales document was adopted last year, and it is unlikely that imminent changes will be made to the document.

It was RESOLVED to endorse the Key Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper as the basis for preparing the draft Preferred Strategy for the new Anglesey Local Development Plan.

6 UPDATE ON THE CALL FOR SITES PROCESS - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Submitted – a report, for information, by the Head of Regulation and Economic Development.

The Planning Policy Team Leader reported that the report focuses on confirming the launch of the call for sites process, outlining the extent of the relevant time period and next steps following expiry of the call for sites process. She noted that the call for sites extends for a period of six weeks commencing from 12 May, 2025 to 23 June, 2025. It will invite landowners to propose sites for inclusion in the new Local Development Plan for future development or for safeguarding from development where the need arises. Proposed sites will be assessed against set criteria to establish their suitability for inclusion in the new Local Development Plan. A Candidate Sites Register will be retained and will include all sites proposed regardless of whether they are progressed as potential development sites for inclusion in the Plan or not. All sites progressed as potential development sites will be subject to the need to prove their viability and deliverability. As such, proposers will provide viability assessments at this stage of consideration if the sites are to progress to inclusion in the Local Development Plan. Assessment of proposed sites will be by way of a two-stage filter process with consultation with the Local Authority and specific bodies, in particular Natural Resources Wales, Dŵr Cymru, the Health Board being carried out at stage 2. This will ensure that consultees will only be commenting on sites which have a reasonable chance of inclusion in the Local Development Plan. The preferred strategy and deposit stages of the Local Development Plan preparation provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to comment on the sites proposed, submitting representations requesting an amendment of allocation boundaries or propose the deletion or addition of new sites.

Members wished to thank the staff of the Planning Policy Unit for their work and encouraged people to submit development sites within the timeframe. Councillor Ken Taylor ascertained whether there is a specific figure of candidates' sites that is required for potential development sites and whether the consultation process will be extended. The Planning Policy Manager responded that there is no specific figure of

potential development sites, but it is anticipated that there will be an adequate number of sites proposed on Anglesey.

It was RESOLVED to note the report for information.

The meeting concluded at 2.25 pm

**COUNCILLOR IEUAN WILLIAMS
CHAIR**

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| Isle of Anglesey County Council | |
|--|---|
| Report to: | Planning Policy Committee |
| Date: | 11 th June 2025 |
| Subject: | Ynys Môn LDP – Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats’ Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Reports |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | Cllr. Nicola Roberts (Planning, Public Protection and Climate Change) |
| Head of Service / Director: | Christian Branch Head of Regulation & Economic Development Service |
| Report Author: | John I. Williams (Planning Policy Manager) |
| Tel: | |
| E-mail: | JohnWilliams2@ynysmon.llyw.cymru |
| Local Members: | Applicable to all Elected Members |

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Advise members of the statutory requirements relating to ISA and HRA applicable to LDP in relation to assessing the impacts of spatial and policy choices;
- Outline the statutory consultation processes for both ISA and HRA;

2.0 Decision required

2.1 The following decisions are required:

- Consider and accept the ISA and HRA scoping reports; and
- Acknowledge the statutory consultation requirements and agree to consult on both documents over a 5-week period in line with those requirements and best practice advice.

3.0 Reason for the decision

3.1 The scoping reports provide the foundation for assessing the potential impacts of policy choices contained in the new LDP. Given their technical and specialist content, consultation with statutory consultees (Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Cadw) is mandatory to ensure that the scope of assessments will adequately address the potential impacts of policy choices. However, best practice advises consulting with general consultees and the wider public to

ensure community and stakeholder involvement at each stage of the plan preparation process.

4.0 Background and relevant considerations

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

- 4.1 The Development Plans Manual confirms the need for sustainable development to be at the heart of the development plan process. As such, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are both statutory requirements. These requirements are set out in s39 (2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and SEA Regulations 5(2) and 5(4) respectively.
- 4.2 Whereas the scope of SEA is limited to environmental impacts of plans, SA has a wider remit to cover social, economic and wellbeing effects as well as environmental effects. However, the Manual advises that local planning authorities (LPAs) should consider the value and opportunities for an integrated assessment approach to preparing a development plan. It advises that an ISA will enable a more transparent, holistic and rounded assessment of the sustainability implications of growth options, objectives, policies and proposals. In doing so, it will enable integration of statutory and key elements such as Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 requirements, Equalities Act, Welsh language, Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and the Environment Act (section 6 biodiversity duty) (where relevant) into a single ISA.
- 4.3 The Manual continues that an ISA “can maximise efficiencies, avoid duplication, and provide a clear audit trail to communities and plan users on how the range of issues have been considered, and how they have influenced the plan. An ISA approach provides a robust and thorough mechanism to identify issues, assess effects and assist with monitoring in a holistic manner.”
- 4.4 The ISA Scoping Report, prepared by Land Use Consultants (LUC), provides the context for, and determines the scope of, the ISA of the LDP and sets out the framework for undertaking the later stages of the ISA.
- 4.5 In summary, the Scoping stage involves reviewing other relevant plans, policies and programmes; considering the current state of the environment as well as social and economic conditions on Anglesey; identifying any key environmental, social and economic issues or problems which may be affected by the LDP; and setting out the ‘ISA framework’, which comprises a set of sustainability objectives against which the likely effects of the LDP can be assessed. The Scoping Report also presents the proposed methodology that will be used for the later stages of the ISA including the assessment of Candidate Sites.
- 4.6 The Manual advises consulting on the ISA Scoping Report with statutory authorities (NRW and Cadw) over a period of 5 weeks and adds that it would be best practice “to make the scoping report publicly available.” Given the best practice advice provided in the Manual and the commitment made in the

Delivery Agreement to publish the Scoping Report for public consultation, it is proposed that the document be consulted upon with the following participants/stakeholders:

- Specific consultation bodies;
- General consultation bodies;
- Council Services;
- Environmental consultation bodies; and
- General public.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 4.7 The requirement to undertake a HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations 2007; the currently applicable version being the Habitats Regulations 2017, as amended.
- 4.8 HRA should not be integrated with the SA, or in this case ISA, as it uses a different precautionary testing mechanism. However, the ISA should summarise the HRA findings as part of its assessment of effects on biodiversity
- 4.9 In terms of consulting on the HRA Scoping Report, this should be with NRW as the Welsh Government's statutory nature advisory body and should, as per the arrangements for consulting on the ISA Scoping Report, be held over a period of 5 weeks.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that this Committee considers and accepts the scoping reports and agrees to consultation on both documents for the minimum periods suggested in the report (5 weeks) and in line with the statutory requirements for specific consultees and the best practice advice in relation to general consultees, other stakeholders and the public.

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Isle of Anglesey County Council

**Integrated Sustainability
Appraisal for the New Local
Development Plan
Scoping Report**

Final report

Prepared by LUC

May 2025

Isle of Anglesey County Council

**Integrated Sustainability Appraisal for the New
Local Development Plan
Scoping Report**

| Version | Status | Prepared | Checked | Approved | Date |
|---------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. | Draft ISA Scoping Report | R Finnigan L Haddad S Temple | K Nicholls | K Nicholls | 21.03.2025 |
| 2. | Final ISA Scoping Report | R Finnigan L Haddad S Temple | K Nicholls | K Nicholls | 08.05.2025 |

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OHS627041

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Isle of Anglesey County Council commissioned LUC in February 2025 to carry out Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the new Local Development Plan (LDP). As recommended in the Development Plans Manual¹, the SA/SEA will also incorporate other assessments such as Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Welsh language assessment, as well as addressing the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Section 6). The process is therefore referred to as an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA).

1.2 The purpose of this Scoping Report is to provide the context for, and determine the scope of, the ISA of the LDP and to set out the framework for undertaking the later stages of the ISA.

1.3 In summary, the Scoping stage involves reviewing other relevant plans, policies and programmes; considering the current state of the environment as well as social and economic conditions on Anglesey; identifying any key environmental, social and economic issues or problems which may be affected by the LDP; and setting out the 'ISA framework', which comprises a set of sustainability objectives against which the likely effects of the LDP can be assessed. This Scoping Report also presents the proposed methodology that will be used for the later stages of the ISA including the assessment of Candidate Sites.

The Plan Area

1.4 Anglesey County encompasses the Isle of Anglesey, including Holy Island, and is located in north west Wales (see **Figure 1.3**). It is the largest island in England and Wales at 275 square miles and has a population of 68,900. It is the sixth-least densely populated local authority area out of all 22 local authorities in Wales. The largest settlement is Holyhead, followed by Llangefni and Amlwch.

1.5 Anglesey is surrounded by smaller islands, and large parts of the coastline have been designated as the Anglesey Coast National Landscape (formerly referred to as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or AONB). Parts of the coast have also been designated as Heritage Coast. Anglesey borders

¹ Welsh Government (March 2020) Development Plans Manual (Edition 3).

the counties of Conwy and Gwynedd, both of which contain parts of Eryri National Park (formerly known as Snowdonia).

1.6 Key strategic routes within Anglesey include the A55, which runs through the county to Holyhead, in addition to the North Wales coastal railway line which connects Anglesey to wider North Wales and beyond. Holyhead railway station, the western terminus of the North Wales Main Line, provides direct train services to London Euston. These services are predominantly operated by Avanti West Coast, with five direct trains running daily. The port of Holyhead provides a ferry service with Ireland and is the main road and rail link between Ireland and North Wales, the midlands and the North of England.

The new Local Development Plan

1.7 Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council adopted the current Joint LDP in July 2017, which set out the planning strategy for the area (excluding the parts of Gwynedd that fall within Eryri National Park) over the 15 years up to 2026.

1.8 Initially the two Councils intended to prepare a new Joint LDP; however in March 2023 a decision was made to cease the joint working agreement on planning policy matters and Anglesey County Council has commenced work on preparing its own new LDP.

1.9 The Council is now in the early stages of preparing the new LDP, following consultation on a Draft Delivery Agreement during Summer 2024.

1.10 The new LDP is expected to include a vision and objectives for the plan area, an overall strategy for development on Anglesey, site allocations for different types of development including housing and employment, and development-management style policies for managing applications that come forward.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.11 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Section 62(6)), SA is mandatory for Local Development Plans. It is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC), transposed into Welsh law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004. Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the new Anglesey LDP to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.

1.12 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process (as recommended in the Development Plans Manual)

whereby users can comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive through a single integrated SA process – this is the process that is being undertaken on Anglesey. From here on, the term ‘SA’ (or ISA, as an integrated process is being undertaken in this case) should therefore be taken to mean ‘SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Regulations’.

1.13 The SA process comprises a number of stages, with Scoping being Stage A as shown in **Figure 1.1** below.

Figure 1.1: Main stages of Sustainability Appraisal

- Stage A:** Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.
- Stage B:** Developing and refining options and assessing effects.
- Stage C:** Preparing the SA Report.
- Stage D:** Consulting on the Plan and the SA report.
- Stage E:** Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan.

1.14 **Figure 1.2** below sets out the tasks involved in the Scoping stage.

Figure 1.2: Stages in SA scoping (Stage A)

- A1:** Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.
- A2:** Collecting baseline information.
- A3:** Identifying sustainability issues and problems.
- A4:** Developing the SA framework.
- A5:** Consulting on the scope of the SA.

Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations

1.15 The SEA Directive was transposed into Welsh law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (commonly referred to as the ‘SEA Regulations’). The SEA Regulations remain in force post-Brexit and it is a legal requirement for the Anglesey LDP to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.

1.16 This Scoping Report includes some of the required elements of the final ‘Environmental Report’ (the output required by the SEA Regulations). **Table 1.1** below signposts the relevant sections of this Scoping Report that are considered to meet the SEA Regulations requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the ISA of the LDP, as indicated in the table). This table will be included in the ISA Report at each stage of plan making to show how

the SEA Regulations requirements have been met through the ISA process.

Table 1.1: Requirements of the SEA Regulations (Wales) and where these have been met

| SEA Regulations (Wales) requirements | Where covered in this report |
|--|--|
| Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated (Reg. 12). The information to be given is (Schedule 2): | |
| a) An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship (if any) with other relevant plans and programmes. | Chapters 1 and 3 and Appendix A |
| b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme. | Chapters 4 and 5 |
| c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected. | Chapter 4 |
| d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive. | Chapter 5 |
| e) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation. | Chapter 3 and Appendix A |
| f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues including - biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. | Requirement will be met at a later stage in the ISA process. |
| g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme. | Requirement will be met at a later stage in the ISA process. |
| h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information. | Requirement will be met at a later stage in the ISA process. |
| i) a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Regulation 17. | Requirement will be met at a later stage in the ISA process. |
| j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings. | Requirement will be met at a later stage in the ISA process. |
| The report must include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 as may reasonably be required, taking account of - current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, the status of the plan or programme in the decision-making process, and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment (Reg. 12(3)). | This Scoping Report and the Environmental Reports will adhere to this requirement. |
| Consultation requirements | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority must consult the consultation bodies (Reg. 12(5)). | Consultation with the statutory bodies on the ISA Scoping Report is taking place for at least five weeks from Spring 2025. |

| SEA Regulations (Wales) requirements | Where covered in this report |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Reg. 13). | Requirement will be met at a later stage in the ISA process. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Reg. 14). | N/A |
| Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Reg. 16) | |
| <p>Provision of information on the decision:</p> <p>When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Reg. 14 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the plan or programme as adopted; a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report, the opinions expressed and the results of consultations entered into have been taken into account, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and the measures decided concerning monitoring. | Requirement will be met at a later stage in the ISA process. |
| <p>Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Reg. 17).</p> | Requirement will be met at a later stage in the ISA process. |
| <p>Quality assurance: environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.</p> | This Scoping Report and the Environmental Reports will adhere to this requirement. |

Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.17 Under Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) land-use plans, including LDPs, are also subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations published for England and Wales in 2007². The currently applicable version is the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017³ (as amended). The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of the plan against the conservation objectives of a European site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site.

1.18 The HRA for the Anglesey LDP will be undertaken and reported on separately to the ISA, as recommended by the Development Plans Manual. However, the findings will be taken into account in the ISA where relevant (for example to inform judgements about the likely effects of the LDP on biodiversity).

Structure of this Scoping Report

1.19 This chapter has described the background to the preparation of the new Anglesey LDP and the requirement to undertake ISA. The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 2** describes how the LDP has been screened against the requirements for SEA and other assessment processes.
- **Chapter 3** describes the relationship between the LDP and other plans, policies and programmes of relevance to the ISA of the LDP and summarises their key objectives (more detail is provided in **Appendix A**).
- **Chapter 4** presents the baseline information about Anglesey which will inform the ISA.
- **Chapter 5** identifies the key environmental, social and economic issues on Anglesey and considers their likely evolution without the LDP.
- **Chapter 6** presents the ISA framework that will be used for the LDP and describes the proposed methodology for

² The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (2007) SI No. 2007/1843. TSO (The Stationery Office), London.

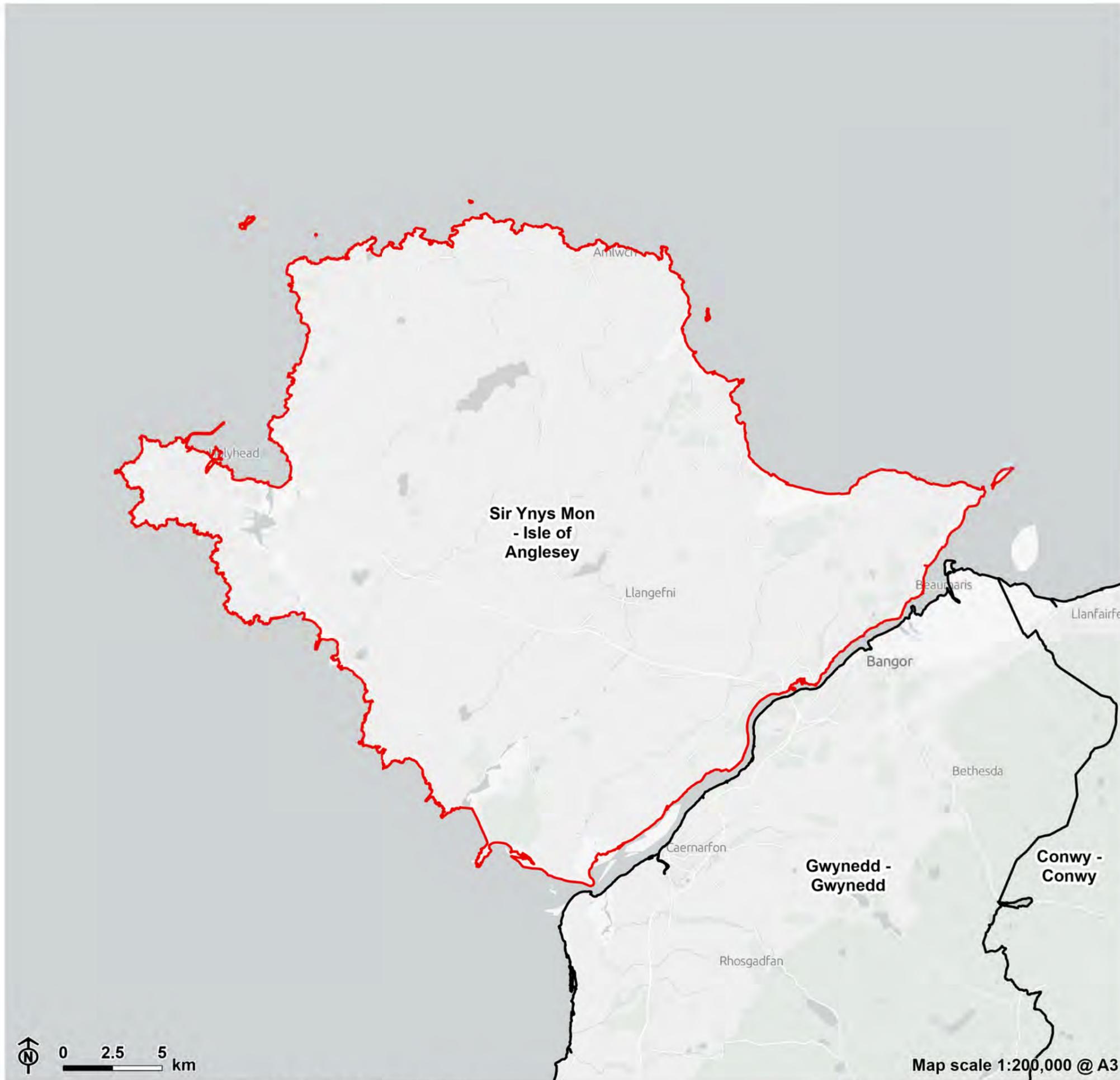
³ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (2017) SI No. 2017/1012, TSO (The Stationery Office), London.

carrying out the ISA, including the assessment of Candidate Sites.

- **Chapter 7** describes the next steps to be undertaken in the ISA of the LDP.

Figure 1.3: Plan Area

- Isle of Anglesey boundary
- Neighbouring local authority



Chapter 2

Screening

2.1 As recommended by the Development Plans Manual⁴, Isle of Anglesey County Council is taking an integrated approach to the SA/SEA and other assessment processes for the new LDP. This chapter sets out the screening exercise that has been carried out in relation to these other assessments. For each one, consideration is given to:

- The legislative requirements.
- Relevant guidance documents.
- Whether and how the assessment will be undertaken including whether it will be integrated within the SA/SEA or carried out separately.

2.2 Where it is concluded that the requirements of other assessments will be addressed through the ISA framework, more information about this can be found in **Chapter 6** which presents the framework.

SA/SEA

2.3 As described in **Chapter 2**, it is a legal requirement for the LDP to be subject to SA and SEA; therefore there is no requirement to carry out SEA Screening. The integrated SA/SEA will be the main component of the wider ISA process and it will be undertaken to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations (Wales) as detailed in **Table 1.1**.

Health Impact Assessment

2.4 As set out in the Development Plans Manual, the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 requires a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to be carried out by public bodies. The circumstances in which an HIA must be undertaken and how this should be carried out will be set out in detail in statutory regulations, as directed by the First Minister⁵. Between December 2023 and March 2024, Welsh Government consulted on these draft regulations⁶ and according to its website, details of the outcome will be published in due course. Once the new regulations are published, they will be reviewed and their implications for the new Anglesey LDP will be considered.

2.5 HIA is defined in the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 as

⁴ Welsh Government (2020) Development Plans Manual (Edition 3).

⁵ Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (2021) Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Local Development Plans (LDPs): A Toolkit for Practice.

⁶ Welsh Government (2023) [Health impact assessment regulations](#)

“...an assessment of the likely effect, both in the short term and in the long term, of a proposed action or decision on the physical and mental health of the people of Wales or of some of the people of Wales.”

2.6 The importance of ensuring good health through planning is emphasised in Planning Policy Wales (PPW)⁷. PPW highlights the important contribution that HIA can make to plan-making. It also states that information to assess potential impacts on health can be required through various mechanisms, including SA, and that where relevant, health impacts should be incorporated into these assessments. A shared and integrated approach to evidence gathering and assessments is noted by PPW to generally offer the most effective and collaborative ways of working. While HIA can be undertaken as a separate standalone assessment, the Development Plans Manual notes that HIA can be integrated into the SA from the start. It is also noted that, because the SEA Regulations require human health to be considered as part of the assessment of environmental effects, the health component of an SEA can be broadened to include both physical and mental health objectives of an HIA.

2.7 The Welsh Government’s Practical Guide to HIA⁸ and the Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) guidance on HIA^{9,10} set out the steps required to undertake an HIA, with screening being the first step. The guidance states that there is no fixed way of making a decision about whether to conduct HIA, but that the screening stage should set out a preliminary picture of the potential health impacts on the relevant population. This guidance also states that while HIAs can be carried out as part of a wider ISA process, the health and well-being and inequalities components of the assessment must be explicit.

2.8 In summary, screening should give consideration to the following:

- whether the proposal is likely to impact on health;
- which sections of the population, particularly vulnerable groups, are likely to be affected; and
- the potential scale of any positive or negative impacts.

2.9 As a strategic level plan, the LDP can affect public health through the policies and site allocations included within it. As well as policies specifically relating to health and wellbeing, the location of development sites in relation to healthcare facilities and the allocation of sites for open space and other green infrastructure can influence health-related effects.

2.10 Baseline information relating to public health on Anglesey is presented in **Chapter 4** and shows that the health profile of Anglesey is broadly in line with the rest of Wales, although the number of people who consider themselves to be in bad or very bad health is slightly higher than the national average. The new LDP offers opportunities to improve public health by including relevant policies and allocating development in the most sustainable locations (which will have associated health benefits).

2.11 The effects of the LDP on health are expected to be largely limited to the plan area, i.e. Anglesey, and would mainly be long-term and permanent although any health-related effects from the construction process of new development (such as noise impacts) would be short term.

Given the strategic nature of the LDP and the fact that ‘human health’ is one of the topics required to be addressed by the SEA Regulations, it is proposed that the HIA will be integrated within the ISA process for the LDP, to be addressed via a relevant ISA objective (**see Chapter 6**). The ISA report at each stage of plan-making will include a section clearly summarising the health-related impacts of the LDP in order to ensure that this element of the ISA is explicit.

Equalities Impact Assessment

2.12 The legal requirement for Equalities Impact Assessment (EqlA) is set out through the Equality Act 2010. The Welsh Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149 of the Act) came into force in April 2011. It requires public bodies to assess the impact of policies on different population groups to ensure discrimination does not take place, and where possible, to promote equality of opportunity. Through the Equality Act, having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- removing or minimising disadvantages experienced by people due to their protected characteristics;
- taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people; and
- encouraging people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

2.13 A plan-making authority should screen the nine protected characteristic groups in the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy

⁷ Welsh Government (2024) Planning Policy Wales Edition 12.

⁸ Welsh Government (2004) ‘Improving Health and Reducing Inequalities: A Practical Guide to HIA.

⁹ Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (2012) Health Impact Assessment: A Practical Guide.

¹⁰ Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (2021) Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Local Development Plans (LDPs): A Toolkit for Practice.

and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) to identify and justify which characteristics the plan can influence. Those characteristics which can be influenced should be integrated into the assessment framework; those that cannot be influenced should be screened out and justified.

2.14 In March 2021 Welsh Government adopted the Socio-economic Duty to complement the Equality Act, 2010 with the aim of further contributing towards Wales' long term well-being goals, in particular "a more equal Wales" and "a Wales of cohesive communities". The Duty places a legal responsibility on bodies when they are taking strategic decisions to have due regard to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage¹¹. In effect, the duty results in an extension of EqIA to considering the potential effects relating to socio-economically affected groups.

2.15 It is possible that the LDP could impact upon any of the protected characteristics as well as socio-economic disadvantaged groups to some degree, as part of the overall effects of the plan on the local population, although some groups may be more directly affected (i.e. older people could be directly affected by the provision or not of appropriate housing to meet their particular needs). It can be challenging to identify how individual policies would affect some of the characteristics – effects may be more easily identified when considering the plan as a whole.

It is proposed that an EqIA will be prepared in parallel to the ISA process for the LDP and will be presented in an appendix to the ISA Report. An EqIA matrix will be prepared to assess the likely effects of the LDP on each of the nine protected characteristics and other potentially affected groups when considering socio-economic factors, with reference being made to any particularly relevant policies. The main ISA Report will include a summary of the likely equalities effects of the LDP and will make any necessary recommendations for avoiding or mitigating negative effects and maximising positive effects. The findings of the equalities assessment will also be taken into account in relation to the relevant ISA objectives (see **Chapter 6**).

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (WBFGA) 2015

2.16 The WBFGA (2015) places a duty on public bodies to carry out sustainable development. It sets out seven well-being goals which all public bodies are required to achieve:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

2.17 More information about what these goals mean is provided in the Welsh Government's guide to the Act¹². The WBFGA signifies the dedication of Wales' contribution towards all of the UN's Sustainable Development goals, including Goal 3¹³ which is to 'ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages'.

2.18 The WBFGA puts in place a 'sustainable development principle' which identifies how organisations should go about meeting their duty under the Act. In applying the sustainable development principle, public bodies need to demonstrate that they have considered the following five issues:

- Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring or getting worse.
- Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.
- Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them.
- Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.

2.19 The Development Plans Manual states that:

'The LDP must demonstrate how it contributes to achieving the well-being goals. The approach taken to appraise the plan through the SA can enable LPAs to understand where the plan can maximise its contribution. The well-being goals should be integral to the preparation of the SA Scoping Report and used to inform the review of evidence, identify issues and

¹¹ Welsh Government (March 2021) A More Equal Wales: The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010 - Statutory Guidance

¹² Welsh Government (May 2015) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: The Essentials.

¹³ United Nations (2015) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

structure the SA framework which will assess the plan's growth options, objectives, policies and proposals'.

2.20 It also states that *'the well-being goals, objectives and the five ways of working should be integral to the development of the SA framework'*.

2.21 The publication 'Creating Healthier Places and Spaces for our Present and Future Generations' has been developed by Public Health Wales¹⁴ in response to the Act. It sets out an approach which focuses on six priority areas¹⁵ of the built and natural environment that can positively impact upon health and well-being, and support delivery of the well-being goals. These priority areas are highly relevant to the LDP and the assessment of the policies and sites within the LDP will therefore also help to assess how well those priorities are being addressed.

It is proposed that the requirements of the WBFGA will be integrated within the ISA process for the LDP, through the inclusion of relevant ISA objectives (see **Chapter 6**). The ISA Report will also include a summary assessment (as part of the report conclusions) of the overall well-being impacts of the plan, with specific reference to the well-being goals set out in the WBFGA.

2.22 Consideration has been given to whether the ISA framework should be structured in line with the well-being goals, i.e. whether the objectives could be grouped according to which goal they relate to. However, many of the well-being goals are cross-cutting and would be influenced by more than one of the ISA objectives; therefore presenting the ISA framework in this way would be too simplistic. Instead, the ISA framework in **Chapter 6** shows how each ISA objective helps to address the seven well-being goals.

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

2.23 PPW sets the policy requirements for Welsh language and makes it clear that the Welsh language is *"part of the social and cultural fabric"* (of Wales) and that *"the land use planning system should take account of the conditions which are essential to the Welsh language and contribute to its use and thriving Welsh language goal"*.

2.24 The Development Plans Manual specifies that the Welsh language must be considered from the outset of the development plan process. The requirement for the SA to include "an assessment of the likely impacts of the plan on the

use of the Welsh Language in the plan area" is set out through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 (section 11). The Act states that *"the purpose of this is to ensure that the scale and location of change set out in the plan supports the Welsh language and ensure appropriate mitigation measures are in place, if required"*.

2.25 The overarching requirement to undertake SA is set out through section 62 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Welsh Language Commissioner's Guidance on Policy Making Standards¹⁶ requires that Welsh language be considered from the outset of policy making and notes that: *"the Commissioner does not consider that the requirement under section 62 of Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act means that the requirement to comply with Welsh language standards is removed. As they arise from two separate statutory requirements, it is entirely appropriate to expect bodies to ensure that they go beyond the requirements of section 62 in order to consider the wider effects on the Welsh language and to comply with the policy making standards under the Welsh Language Measure."*

2.26 Technical Advice Note 20 (TAN 20): Planning and the Welsh Language¹⁷ provides guidance on the consideration of Welsh language as part of the development plan and SA processes. In summary, local planning authorities must consider the likely effects of their development plan on Welsh language as part of the SA process and include a statement within the deposit plan on how this has been considered and/or addressed within the development plan.

It is proposed that the ISA framework will include an objective specifically addressing the likely effects of the LDP on the use of the Welsh language (see **Chapter 6**). The ISA report will also include a summary conclusion about the overall effects of the LDP on Welsh language, as part of the assessment of the likely cumulative effects of the plan.

Environment (Wales) Act

2.27 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 seeks to legislate for the planning and management of natural resources in Wales in a manner which is a proactive, sustainable and integrated. The Act also introduces guidance on the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR).

¹⁴ Public Health Wales (2018) Creating healthier places and spaces for our present and future generations.

¹⁵ The walking and cycling infrastructure, open green /blue spaces and green infrastructure, the food growing and retail environment, community, health and social care services provided from local facilities, low levels of air pollution and building design.

¹⁶ Welsh Language Commissioner (2020) Policy Making Standards: Creating opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. Good practice advice document

¹⁷ Welsh Government (2017) Technical advice note (TAN) 20: planning and the Welsh language.

2.28 Planning Policy Wales 11 (PPW11) specifies that LDPs must have regard to the Natural Resources Policy and Area Statements that follow on from it. PPW11 therefore translates the principles of SMNR for the planning system.

2.29 As required by Section 6 of the Act, public authorities have responsibility to “*maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.*” There is a requirement for authorities to report on actions taken to promote ecosystem resilience as well as to improve biodiversity.

2.30 Section 7 of the Act requires that “*Welsh Ministers must prepare and publish a list of the living organisms and types of habitat which in their opinion are of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales.*”

2.31 Prior to publication, appropriate consultation regarding the list must be undertaken with Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The list must be kept under review and all reasonable steps should be taken to maintain and enhance the living organisms and types of habitats on the list without prejudice to Section 6.

2.32 PPW states that a proactive approach should be taken by all those engaged in the planning process to facilitate the delivery of biodiversity and resilience outcomes. To allow for the implementation of the Section 6 duties, PPW sets out a framework of considerations (DECCA), that should be addressed:

- Diversity – ensuring mechanisms are in place to minimise species loss given that more diverse ecosystems are more resilient to external influences;
- Extent – ensuring planning decisions support measures which seek the creation, restoration and appropriate management of green networks and linkages as well as other existing assets;
- Condition – ensuring planning decisions do not compromise the condition of ecosystems and support the long term management of retained habitats;
- Connectivity – ensuring opportunities for the creation of functional habitat and ecological networks;
- Adaptability to change – primarily ensuring that action is taken to protect the extent, condition and connectivity of habitats, features and ecological networks from climate change. The actions can also help to facilitate social and economic resilience aspirations of the WBFGA.

2.33 The Act (section 8) also states that NRW must prepare a report containing its assessment of the state of natural

resources in relation to Wales (SoNaRR). The requirement for NRW to prepare and maintain Area Statements for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the national natural resources policy is set out through section 11 of the Act. Anglesey falls within the North West Wales Area Statement alongside Conwy and Gwynedd.

2.34 The Development Plans Manual recommends that the requirements of the Act (Section 6) can be met through the ISA. The ISA provides a means to consider how the various elements of the PPW framework of considerations could be addressed by the LDP.

It is proposed that the requirements of Environment (Wales) Act 2016 will be met through the ISA process for the LDP, to be addressed within a relevant ISA objective relating to biodiversity (see Chapter 6).

Chapter 3

Relevant Plans and Programmes

3.1 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations (Wales) requires that the Environmental Report includes:

(a) “an outline of the...relationship with other relevant plans or programmes”; and

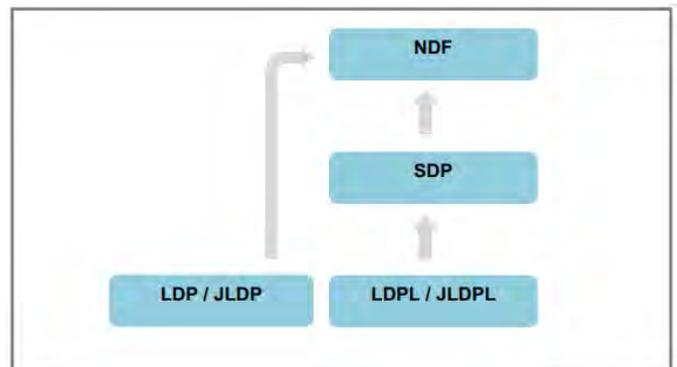
(e) “the environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation”

3.2 In order to establish a clear scope for the ISA it is necessary to review and develop an understanding of the environmental, social and economic objectives contained within international and national policies, plans and strategies that are of relevance to the new Anglesey LDP. Given the requirements of the SEA Regulations set out above, it is also necessary to consider the relationship between the LDP and other relevant plans, policies and programmes.

3.3 This chapter presents the relevant international and national plans, policies and programmes which sit above the LDP and need to be taken into consideration in the LDP and the ISA, as well as those plans and programmes which are of relevance to the LDP at the local level. A more detailed review of the relevant documents is provided by topic in **Appendix A**. The objectives of these documents have been taken into account when drafting the ISA framework in **Chapter 6**.

3.4 **Figure 3.1** below is taken from the Development Plans Manual and illustrates the hierarchy of conformity of development plans.

Figure 3.1: Hierarchy of General Conformity and Development Plans



International policy context

3.5 At the international level, there is a wide range of plans and programmes which act to inform and shape national level legislation. Planning policy in Wales at a national and local level (i.e. Planning Policy Wales (PPW)¹⁸ and the LDP) should take account of and be in conformity with the relevant legislation. The sustainability objectives of international plans and programmes which are most relevant to the LDP and the ISA are set out in **Appendix A**.

National policy context

3.6 There is an extensive range of national policies, plans and programmes that are of relevance to the LDP and the ISA process. A pragmatic and proportionate approach has been taken with regards to identifying key national policies, plans and programmes, focusing on those that are of most relevance. A summary of the main objectives of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) of relevance to the LDP and the ISA is provided below.

3.7 In addition, the main sustainability objectives of other national plans and programmes which are most relevant to the LDP and the ISA are provided in **Appendix A**. This includes Future Wales – the National Plan 2040 and the emerging North Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP).

Planning Policy Wales

3.8 PPW sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Alongside a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars and policy clarification letters it provides the national planning policy framework for Wales. PPW is underpinned by the concept of ‘placemaking’, which it defines as a holistic approach to the planning and design of development and spaces, focused on positive outcomes and adding social, economic, environmental and cultural value to development proposals resulting in benefits which go beyond a physical development boundary and embed wider resilience into planning decisions.

3.9 Anglesey’s LDP should be consistent with the requirements of PPW which states that:

“Up-to-date development plans are the basis of the planning system and set the context for rational and consistent decision making. Plans at all levels of the development plan hierarchy must be prepared in accordance with national planning policies ... Development plans must show how places are expected

to change to accommodate development needs over the plan period”

3.10 The overarching nature of PPW means that its implications for the ISA relate to multiple topics which this report seeks to address. The relevance of this policy and its implications for the plan making process and the ISA is summarised in more detail below.

3.11 PPW presents five Key Principles as a guiding vision for the preparation of all development plans. These relate to topics of importance to the ISA as highlighted below:

3.12 The **growth of the economy** in a sustainable manner making use of existing infrastructure and planning for new supporting infrastructure and services is supported through PPW. The document also seeks to ensure the benefits of economic growth can be felt by all.

3.13 Efficient use of resources is also promoted to underpin sustainable development. This is to include the **efficient use of land and other natural resources**. PPW recognises the role the planning system has to play in making development resilient to climate change. It also highlights its role in terms of decarbonising society and developing a circular economy. These principles set out the approach development plans should take in relation to **climate change mitigation** as well as **climate change adaptation**.

3.14 PPW highlights the role that planning has to play in the creation of places that are accessible for all and that support **health and wellbeing**. It is stated that the creation of high-quality places can allow for people to live, work, travel and play in a way that supports good **physical and mental health**. From this, built and natural environments should be planned to promote mental and physical well-being. It should also consider the potential implications of development in terms of **transport**.

3.15 The creation of sustainable communities is to involve the appropriate balance of uses and density, making places where people want to be and interact with others. This will involve the **delivery of good quality/well designed homes, jobs, services, infrastructure and facilities**.

3.16 PPW sets out the need to ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of natural, historic and cultural assets. This sets out the approach that development plans should take in terms of development and potential impacts relation to **biodiversity, the historic environment and landscape**. This includes areas on the register of historic landscapes in Wales.

¹⁸ Welsh Government (2024) Planning Policy Wales Edition 12.

3.17 Furthermore, negative environmental impacts should be avoided in the wider public interest. This will include the protection of **air quality** and **water quality** as well as limiting the potential for the adverse impacts of **noise pollution**. Development should be delivered in an integrated way so that resources and/or assets are not irreversibly damaged or depleted. PPW also adopts a 'polluter pays principle' where pollution cannot be prevented and applies the precautionary principle to ensure cost effective measures to prevent environmental damage.

3.18 From the Key Principles, PPW has developed national sustainable placemaking outcomes which development plans should take forward. These build on the Key Principles to help ensure the planning system can support the delivery of sustainable places.

Other national policies, plans and programmes

3.19 In July 2020 Welsh Government published Building Better Places¹⁹, which sets out the Government's planning policy priorities to assist in taking action in the recovery period after the COVID-19 pandemic. It recognises the importance of the planning system in addressing the built and natural environment issues that have arisen from the pandemic. In relation to LDPs, it recognises the importance of having an up-to-date plan in place in order to address current priorities and the role that plans can play in improving health and well-being more generally.

3.20 Future Wales: The National Plan 2040²⁰ was published in February 2021 by Welsh Government as the national development framework for Wales, replacing the Wales Spatial Plan (WSP). The document is informed by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 by attempting to meet the demands that development and use of land contribute to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It recognises the importance of PPW as the principal statement of national planning policy and all policies set out in Future Wales have been cross-referenced against relevant parts of PPW. It has been published to include 11 Outcomes as overarching ambitions based on the national planning principles and national sustainable placemaking outcomes to set out a statement of where the country is expected to be at the end of the 20-year plan period. Once adopted, Spatial Development Plans (SDPs) and LDPs will be required to be in conformity with Future Wales.

3.21 Future Wales sets out the spatial strategy for the country. The plan identifies and connects key national and regional centres, provides a basis for long term infrastructure

investment, identifies priorities for the planning system and a framework for the management of natural resources. Included in the spatial strategy are three National Growth Areas (Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys; Swansea Bay and Llanelli; and Wrexham and Deeside), the continued growth and regeneration of which is supported as internationally and nationally significant places. These are complemented by Regional Growth Areas in three of the Welsh regions (The South West, Mid Wales and The North), . In North Wales there are four Regional Growth Areas, one of which is Holyhead on Anglesey. Regional Growth Areas are the centres for employment, services, shops and tourism in those areas and Local and Strategic Development Plans will focus on those areas when planning services.

3.22 Future Wales identifies four regions of Wales: The North, Mid Wales, The South West and The South East. This emphasises the important role regional planning is to play in the future of the country. The regional approach is set out as a way to ensure the successful co-ordination and management of strategic development across the regions and to ensure that wider than local issues are tackled collaboratively.

3.23 Numerous other policies, plans and programmes at a national level are relevant to the LDP and the ISA. Unlike PPW and Future Wales, most of the documents address a specific topic area relevant to the ISA. There will be some overlap between ISA topics covered by these plans and programmes, particularly where those documents contain high level or cross cutting objectives. With that in mind, the plans and programmes considered to be of most relevance to the ISA have been grouped by the topics they most directly seek to address, and green boxes below each topic heading summarise the implications of the national plans, policies and programmes (including the PPW) for the LDP and the ISA.

Climate change adaption and mitigation, energy efficiency and waste minimisation

3.24 The relevant national plans, policies and programmes under this topic are:

- TAN 15: Development and Flood Risk (2025)
- The Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024
- Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WeITAG) (2024)
- Planning Policy Wales: Edition 12 (2024)
- Working Together for a Healthier Wales: Our Long-Term Strategy 2023-2035 (2023)
- Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023

¹⁹ Welsh Government (July 2020) Building Better Places: The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures – Placemaking and the Covid 19 Recovery.

²⁰ Welsh Government (2021) Future Wales – the National Plan 2040

- British Energy Security Strategy (2022)
- National Transport Delivery Plan 2022 to 2027
- Programme for Government 2021 to 2026 (2021)
- Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales: Action Plan (2021)
- Net Zero Carbon Status by 2030: A Route Map for Decarbonisation Across the Welsh Public Sector (2021)
- Llwybr Newydd The Wales Transport Strategy 2021
- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act (2020)
- The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales (2020)
- Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales (2019)
- Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Statutory Guidance (2019)
- Energy Efficiency in Wales: A Strategy for the Next 10 Years 2016-2026 (2017)
- TAN 21: Waste (2017)
- Environment (Wales) Act (2016)
- Planning (Wales) Act (2015)
- Active Travel (Wales) Act (2013)
- Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition (2012)
- Towards Zero Waste – Waste Strategy for Wales (2010)
- Flood Risk Regulations (2009)
- Climate Change Act 2008
- TAN 18: Transport (2007)
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)
- TAN 2: Simplified Planning Zones (1996)
- Natural Resources Wales Flood Risk Management Plan: North West Wales Place

Implications for the LDP and ISA: The LDP should consider setting out policies to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation while also encouraging development which would help to minimise carbon emissions. This can be done through siting development allocations in areas where sustainable transport patterns can be best achieved, encouraging active and sustainable travel modes to reduce reliance on the private car, and encouraging development to make use of more sustainable construction methods and sources of energy. The role of green infrastructure in adapting to and mitigating climate change should be thoroughly considered during policy development. This includes the drafting of the LDP to contain policies to encourage the

incorporation of SuDS as part of this type of provision. Policies should also support the handling of waste in line with the waste hierarchy.

The ISA can test policy options in relation to the contributions they make towards these aims and identify national growth zones. It should also appraise the contribution that individual site options can make to limiting carbon emissions (including through the uptake of more sustainable sources of energy). Sites should also be considered in terms of the impact they will have in terms of promoting climate change adaptation as well as reducing flood risk, coastal erosion and the amount of waste that goes to landfill.

Health and well-being

3.25 The relevant national plans, policies and programmes under this topic are:

- TAN 15: Development and Flood Risk (2025)
- The Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024
- Planning Policy Wales: Edition 12 (2024)
- Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024
- 2024 Plan for Health and Social Care (2024)
- Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023
- Noise and Soundscape Plan for Wales: Our Nation Strategy on Soundscapes, 2023-2028 (2023)
- Working Together for a Healthier Wales: Our Long-Term Strategy 2023-2035 (2023)
- Public Health Wales Strategic Plan 2022-25 (2022)
- Programme for Government 2021 to 2026 (2021)
- Re-imagining Social House Building in Wales: A Modern Methods of Construction Strategy for Social Housing (2020)
- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act (2020)
- Building Better Places (2020)
- The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales (2020)
- The Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales (2020)
- Independent Review of Affordable Housing Supply (2019)
- Clean Air Strategy 2019
- A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2019)

- Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Statutory Guidance (2019)
- Public Health Wales Long Term Strategy – Working to Achieve a Healthier Future for Wales (2018)
- European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018
- Circular 005/2018 (2018)
- Environmental Noise (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
- Creating Healthier Places and Spaces for Our Present and Future Generations (2018)
- Prosperity for All: The National Strategy (2017)
- Public Health (Wales) Act (2017)
- Measuring the Health and Well-being of a Nation: Public Health Outcomes Framework for Wales (2016)
- Climbing Higher: The Welsh Assembly Government Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity (2015)
- Well-Being Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Planning (Wales) Act (2015)
- Together for Mental Health: A Strategy for Mental Health and Wellbeing in Wales (2012)
- Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations (2010)
- Equality Act (2010)
- TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space (2009)
- Flood Risk Regulations (2009)
- TAN 2: Planning and Affordable Housing (2006)
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)
- The Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002
- TAN 11: Noise (1997)
- TAN 3: Simplified Planning Zones (1996)
- Natural Resources Wales Flood Risk Management Plan: North West Wales Place

Implications for the LDP and ISA: The LDP needs to consider the need for infrastructure as this has a significant impact on the environment, and it should be prepared to ensure that the population has access to sustainable low carbon infrastructure and services and facilities and that there is sufficient capacity within them to serve the increased population. This should include healthcare, education and open space with potential for positive implications relating to mental health as well as physical health given the potential to limit social isolation. Development allocations should be located in areas where facilities are most accessible, where issues

of overcapacity would be less likely to result. Consideration should be given to the potential for using active modes of travel and the implications that flood risk may have in relation to health and well-being.

The provision of an appropriate level of housing over the plan period will help address issues of disparity in terms of access to decent housing in the plan area. The provision of new housing should be considerate of local needs with regards to housing size, tenure and type, including the needs of Travellers and Gypsies.

Policy options considered for the LDP can be tested through the ISA in relation to the contributions they make towards these aims. The ISA should also appraise the contribution individual site options can make to health and wellbeing. This should be considered through the site's ability to support the delivery of new infrastructure and facilities which might benefit public health, as well as accessibility to existing infrastructure and facilities of this nature. It may be necessary to consider the capacity of existing facilities when considering individual site options. Consideration should also be given to the capacity of sites to deliver new homes, including affordable homes. Policy options should also seek to support the improvement of air quality which can have both direct and indirect impacts on physical and mental health, as well as life expectancy. There is potential for policies in the LDP to help facilitate the supply of healthy local food.

The health impact assessment and equalities impact assessment components of the ISA will be of particular importance to ensuring these issues are thoroughly considered.

Environment (biodiversity/geodiversity, landscape, soils, and green infrastructure)

3.26 The relevant national plans, policies and programmes under this topic are:

- Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023
- TAN 14: Coastal Planning (2021)
- The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales 2020-21 (2020)
- Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Statutory Guidance (2019)
- European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018
- Woodlands for Wales Strategy (2018)
- Natural Resources Policy (2017)
- Natural Resources Policy (2017)
- TAN 12: Design (2016)
- Environment (Wales) Act (2016)

- Planning (Wales) Act (2015)
- One Wales: One Planet – The Sustainable Development Scheme of the Welsh Assembly Government (2009)
- TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009)
- MTAN 2: Coal (2009)
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)
- MTAN 1: Aggregates (2004)
- TAN 10: Tree Preservation Orders (1997)
- TAN 7: Outdoor Advertisement Control (1996)

Implications for the LDP and SA: The LDP should limit the potential for adverse impacts on biodiversity sites. As part of this consideration, decision making should reflect on potential impacts on the wider ecological network and the contribution sites make to the resilience of ecosystems. Planning Policy Wales 11 states that *“development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity”*.

Important landscapes should be protected. The plan should protect high value agricultural soils from development and encourage the re-use of brownfield land where appropriate. Policies and site allocations can be used to direct development to less sensitive locations and promote green/blue infrastructure to support habitat connectivity.

The plan should also take into account non-designated landscapes which are particularly sensitive to development and non-designated habitats which form part of wider ecological network. The plan also presents opportunities to promote the achievement of biodiversity gains.

It will be role of the ISA to test the policy options in terms of the effect they will have on green infrastructure (including biodiversity/geodiversity sites), habitats, species, and on valued landscapes. The effects of these options in relation to promoting the development of brownfield land and limiting the loss of valuable agricultural soils should also be appraised. Site options should be considered in these terms also, making use of the findings of the HRA and green infrastructure assessment work where appropriate.

Historic environment and culture

3.27 The relevant national plans, policies and programmes under this topic are:

- Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023
- Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023

- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act (2020)
- European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018
- Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers (2017)
- TAN 24: The Historic Environment (2017)
- TAN 20: Planning and The Welsh Language (2017)
- TAN 12: Design (2016)
- Planning (Wales) Act (2015)
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure (2011)
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- TAN 7: Outdoor Advertisement Control (1996)

Implications for the LDP and SA: The potential impact of new development on the historic environment, including local character as well as designated and non-designated heritage assets and their respective settings should inform the preparation of the LDP. Particular regard may be given to protecting heritage assets which have been identified as being ‘at risk’ (both at the national and local level). Policies should be included to address these issues and site options should be considered with regard to the potential for related issues. The preparation of the LDP should also have regard to Welsh language and consider the areas in which it is more widely spoken, also seeking to increase its use.

The ISA should appraise both policy and site options in terms of the potential for effects on the historic environment. It should identify those locations at which development would have the greatest potential to adversely impact the historic environment, as informed by any heritage impact assessment work that is undertaken to inform the LDP.

The ISA, through the objective addressing Welsh language impact assessment, should also appraise all elements of the LDP in terms of the potential impacts on Welsh language. This should consider the support of the plan for existing and new speakers of the language as well associated cultural impacts the plan may have.

Natural resources including air quality and water quality

3.28 The relevant national plans, policies and programmes under this topic are:

- The Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024
- Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024

- Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023
- National Transport Delivery Plan 2022 to 2027
- Llwybr Newydd The Wales Transport Strategy 2021
- Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales (2021)
- Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales: Action Plan (2021)
- Net Zero Carbon Status by 2030: A Route Map for Decarbonisation Across the Welsh Public Sector (2021)
- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act (2020)
- The Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales (2020)
- Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales (2019)
- Clean Air Strategy 2019
- Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Statutory Guidance (2019)
- European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018
- Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations in Wales: Welsh Government Supplemental Plan to the UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations 2017 (2018)
- Energy Efficiency in Wales: A Strategy for the Next 10 Years 2016-2026 (2017)
- Natural Resources Policy (2017)
- Environment (Wales) Act (2016)
- Planning (Wales) Act (2015)
- Water Strategy for Wales (2015)
- Active Travel (Wales) Act (2013)
- Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition (2012)
- Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations (2010)
- One Wales: One Planet – The Sustainable Development Scheme of the Welsh Assembly Government (2009)
- MTAN 2: Coal (2009)
- Climate Change Act 2008
- TAN 18: Transport (2007)
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)
- MTAN 1: Aggregates (2004)
- The Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002
- TAN 3: Simplified Planning Zones (1996)

Implications for the LDP and ISA: The LDP should consider setting out policies to promote the efficient use of water and limit all types of pollution including water and air pollution. It should also seek to limit pressure on the wastewater treatment (WwT) infrastructure and water supply where it is established that this is an issue. The allocation of sites for development should take account of areas which have highest sensitivity in relation to these issues, including Source Protection Zones (SPZ). To limit the potential for air quality issues to be intensified as development is delivered over the plan period, the LDP should also factor in the contribution specific site options can make to achieving modal shift and limiting the need for residents to travel. Air quality can have both direct and indirect effects on physical and mental health, and healthy life expectancy.

The contribution that policy options can make to achieving these aims can be tested through the ISA. Individual site options can be considered in relation to particular sensitivities of the WwT infrastructure and other identified areas (such as SPZs).

Economic growth

3.29 The relevant national plans, policies and programmes under this topic are:

- The Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024
- Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023
- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act (2020)
- Welcome to Wales: Priorities for the Visitor Economy 2020-2025
- European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018
- Prosperity for All: The National Strategy (2017)
- UK Industrial Strategy (2017)
- TAN 4: Retailing and Commercial Development (2016)
- TAN 4: Retailing and Commercial Development (2016)
- Planning (Wales) Act (2015)
- Wales Rural Development Plan 2014-2020
- TAN 23: Economic Development (2014)
- Partnership for Growth: Strategy for Tourism 2013-2020
- TAN 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities (2010)
- Economic Renewal: A New Direction (2010)
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)
- TAN 19: Telecommunications (2002)

- TAN 13: Tourism (1997)
- TAN 3: Simplified Planning Zones (1996)
- TAN 7: Outdoor Advertisement Control (1996)
- The Growth Deal
- Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan

Implications for the LDP and SA: The LDP should allocate land to support the projected level of economic growth required over the plan period. LDP policies should be included to help promote sustainable economic and employment growth to benefit all members of the community and reduce disparity within the plan area. This should include support for the infrastructure (including that which supports digital connectivity) required for the economy to function successfully. Local economic growth should be considered in the light of wider economic growth. Employment sites should be located to enable local people to be able to access the new employment opportunities. Policies may also seek to promote the viability of town centre areas on Anglesey.

The ISA should test individual site and policy options in relation to the contribution they can make to achieving these aims. Employment site options should be appraised in terms of the contribution they can make to meeting the employment land requirements of the Isle of Anglesey as well as the access that residents would have to the employment opportunities delivered.

Transport

3.30 The relevant national plans, policies and programmes under this topic are:

- The Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024
- Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) (2024)
- Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024
- Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023
- National Transport Delivery Plan 2022 to 2027
- Llwybr Newydd The Wales Transport Strategy 2021
- Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales (2021)
- Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales: Action Plan (2021)
- Net Zero Carbon Status by 2030: A Route Map for Decarbonisation Across the Welsh Public Sector (2021)
- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act (2020)

- The Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales (2020)
- Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales (2019)
- European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018
- Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations in Wales: Welsh Government Supplemental Plan to the UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations 2017 (2018)
- Planning (Wales) Act (2015)
- Active Travel (Wales) Act (2013)
- Equality Act (2010)
- Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations (2010)
- Climate Change Act 2008
- TAN 18: Transport (2007)
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)
- The Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002
- TAN 11: Noise (1997)

Implications for the LDP and SA: The potential for reducing the need to travel, limiting congestion and associated benefits for air quality and climate change as well as public health should inform the preparation of the policies for the LDP and its site allocations. The LDP can also be supportive of more sustainable modes of transport including active travel. This may include support for the infrastructure necessary for cycling and electric vehicles/e-bikes. Furthermore, the selection of site options for development should be informed by issues such as the potential for access to new and existing public transport nodes and active transport routes and specific highways capacity issues. The selection of individual site options should also be informed by their proximity to essential services and facilities which is likely to reduce the need for residents to regularly travel long distances.

The ISA should be used to test policy and site options in terms of the contribution they can make to making transport choices more sustainable. As well as testing site options in terms of limiting the need to travel within Anglesey, policy options should be tested with regard the contribution they make to the uptake of more sustainable transport options, such as walking and cycling and public transport.

Sub-national policy context

3.31 Below the national level there are further plans and programmes which are of relevance for the Anglesey LDP and the ISA process.

3.32 This includes the emerging North Wales SDP and the North West Wales Area Statement. Preparation of the North Wales SDP will be taken forward by a Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) comprising Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council, Gwynedd Council, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Wrexham County Borough Council and Eryri National Park Authority. The SDP is at a very early stage of preparation, however, PPW clarifies that LDPs must be in general conformity with Future Wales and the relevant SDP.

3.33 Most plans and programmes which sit below the national level are at the county borough level. Details of those plans and programmes are provided in **Appendix A**.

Chapter 4

Baseline Information

4.1 Baseline information provides the context for assessing the sustainability of proposals in the LDP and it provides the basis for identifying trends, predicting the likely effects of the plan and monitoring its outcomes. The requirements for baseline data vary widely, but it must be relevant to environmental, social and economic issues, be sensitive to change and should ideally relate to records which are sufficient to identify trends.

4.2 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations (Wales) requires data to be gathered on biodiversity, population, human health, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors. As an integrated SA and SEA is being carried out as part of a wider ISA process, baseline information relating to other sustainability topics has also been included; for example information about housing, education, deprivation, Welsh language, transport, energy, waste and economic growth.

4.3 The collection and interpretation of baseline information is a valuable way in which we can gain an understanding and strategic overview of what kind of place Anglesey is. Given the breadth of topics covered, it reflects on the current state of the environment, the economy, societal issues and those characteristics which are most likely to be affected by the plan. This understanding allows us to not only consider the likely effects and impacts of the LDP but also how it can make a positive contribution towards the overall quality of human life and social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

4.4 This chapter presents the baseline information for Anglesey. The data referred to have been chosen primarily for regularity and consistency of collection, in order to enable trends in the baseline situation to be established, and also subsequent monitoring of potential sustainability effects. The baseline information will be reviewed and updated at each stage of the LDP in order to reflect the most up-to-date evidence available.

4.5 A number of maps have been prepared to illustrate the baseline information, as referenced throughout this chapter. The maps can be found at the end of **Chapter 4**.

Environmental Baseline Information

Climate change

4.6 The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment²¹ found that average temperatures over land across Wales have

increased, with the decade from 2005-2014 being 0.9°C warmer than the 1961-1990 average. In terms of future predicted changes, the latest set of projections for Wales comes from the 2018 UK Climate Projections (see **Table 4.1** and **Table 4.2**)²².

Table 4.1: UKCP18 2040-2059 Mean temperature - Summer changes compared to 1981-2000

| | 10 th percentile | 50 th percentile | 90 th percentile |
|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| RCP8.5 | 0 - 1°C | 2 - 3°C | 3 - 4°C |
| RCP6.0 | 0 - 1°C | 1 - 2°C | 2 - 3°C |
| RCP4.5 | 0 - 1°C | 1 - 2°C | 2 - 3°C |
| RCP2.6 | 0 - 1°C | 1 - 2°C | 2 - 3°C |

Table 4.2: UKCP18 2040-2059 Rainfall - Winter changes compared to 1981-2000

| | 10 th percentile | 50 th percentile | 90 th percentile |
|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| RCP8.5 | -10 - 0% | 10 - 20% | 10 - 40% |
| RCP6.0 | -10 - 0% | 0 - 10% | 20 - 30% |
| RCP4.5 | -10 - 0% | 0 - 20% | 20 - 30% |
| RCP2.6 | -10 - 0% | 0 - 10% | 20 - 30% |

4.7 Reducing CO₂ emissions is a key component of tackling climate change. After declaring a climate emergency in September 2020, Isle of Anglesey County Council committed to reducing energy consumption and CO₂ emissions across its properties, with a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030²³. The most recent available CO₂ emissions estimates (2022)²⁴ show that Wales has higher emissions per capita than most other regions due to it having the highest emissions per capita

from the industrial sector (2.9 tCO₂e per person), reflecting its higher level of industrial installations (see Figure 4.1). However, as shown in **Table 4.3**, in comparison to the rest of Wales, Anglesey has had consistently lower emissions per capita since 2005. CO₂ emissions on Anglesey have fallen at a slightly faster rate than across Wales as a whole, with a reduction of 85.33% (compared to 52.27% nationally) between 2005 and 2022²⁵.

²¹ ASC (2016) *UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report – Summary for Wales*. Adaptation Sub-Committee of the Committee on Climate Change, London.

²² Met Office (2018) Climate change projections over land [online] Available at: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp/summaries/c/imate-change-projections-over-land>

²³ Isle of Anglesey Council (no date) Climate change. Available at: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Council/Climate-change.aspx>

²⁴ Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2024) UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2022. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/667ad4f0aec8650b1008ffc6/local-authority-ghg-one-page-summary-2022.pdf>

²⁵ Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2024) UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2022. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/667ad5b45b0d63b556a4b305/2005-22-uk-local-authority-ghg-emissions.xlsx>

Table 4.3: CO₂ Emissions per Capita in the Isle of Anglesey and Wales 2005-2022

| Year | CO ₂ Emissions per Capita in tonnes | |
|------|--|-------|
| | Isle of Anglesey | Wales |
| 2005 | 10.7 | 11.1 |
| 2006 | 10.7 | 11.2 |
| 2007 | 10.5 | 11.0 |
| 2008 | 9.8 | 10.6 |
| 2009 | 8.7 | 9.1 |
| 2010 | 7.3 | 10.1 |
| 2011 | 6.5 | 9.1 |
| 2012 | 6.8 | 8.9 |
| 2013 | 6.4 | 9.7 |
| 2014 | 5.9 | 9.2 |
| 2015 | 5.7 | 8.7 |
| 2016 | 5.3 | 8.0 |
| 2017 | 5.1 | 7.8 |
| 2018 | 5.0 | 7.5 |
| 2019 | 4.9 | 7.4 |
| 2020 | 4.3 | 6.7 |
| 2021 | 4.6 | 7.1 |
| 2022 | 4.3 | 6.5 |

4.8 The Government produces annual figures on land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) which give an insight on the value of land in the Isle of Anglesey as terrestrial sinks which can remove CO₂ from the air. These figures account for the net emissions in the County from areas of forest, crops, grassland, settlements, peatland, bioenergy and ‘other’ emissions that do not fall into any of these categories. Between 2005 and 2022 there has been a decrease in the net LULUCF emissions in the Isle of Anglesey from -9.7kt to -17.8kt. While net emissions associated with settlements in the County have fallen from 16.4kt to 10.6kt, cropland from 16.4kt to 10.6kt and those associated with ‘other’ emissions from 4.1kt to 3.7kt during this period, net emissions from forest land have risen from -49.0kt to -34.6kt and grassland associated net emissions from 26.7kt to 25.2kt. This reflects the fact that the area of the Isle of Anglesey covered by forests and

grassland which can act as a sink to benefit CO₂ storage has fallen during this period. Emissions associated with peatland have remained constant, accounting for 0.5kt of emissions and there have consistently been no emissions from bioenergy²⁶.

4.9 Energy consumption and generation is also an important factor in reducing CO₂ emissions. In 2017, the Welsh Government announced a target of meeting 70% of its energy demand from Welsh renewable energy sources by 2030. The latest figures²⁷ show that as a result of falling fossil gas generation, renewable energy sources contributed 34% of all electricity generated in Wales in 2023.

4.10 Wales generated a total of 23.2 TWh of electricity in 2023, 7.8 TWh of which came from renewables and 15.4 TWh from fossil fuels (from 21.1 TWh in 2022, closest to the lowest

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Welsh Government (2025) Energy Generation in Wales: 2023. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2025-02/energy-generation-in-wales-2023.pdf>

levels in the last two decades). Wales is estimated to have consumed in the order of 14.8 TWh of electricity in 2023. This means that Wales generated almost twice as much electricity as it consumed. Consequently, Wales remains a net exporter of electricity to the rest of Great Britain, Ireland and the wider European electricity network²⁸.

4.11 68% of all Welsh renewable electricity generation is from onshore and offshore wind, with most of the remainder from solar PV and biomass electricity generation²⁹.

4.12 As of the end of 2023, Anglesey had a total of 4,765 renewable electricity installations. The majority of these were photovoltaic systems (4,725) with an installed capacity of 97.9MW, followed by onshore wind installations (37) with an installed capacity of 39.0MW and a small number of individual sites utilising anaerobic digestion, landfill gas and plant biomass, which contribute to a combined installed capacity of 3.1MW³⁰. This totals 140MW of installed capacity. According to the most recent 'Energy Generation in Wales' report, the Isle of Anglesey contributes to around 2% of Wales' annual renewable energy generation³¹.

4.13 Recently, Anglesey announced its ambitions for 'Energy Island', a strategic initiative aimed at transforming Anglesey into a centre for low-carbon energy production, supporting economic growth, job creation and Wales' net-zero commitments. The programme seeks to attract public and private sector investment to develop a range of renewable and low-carbon energy projects, including nuclear power, hydrogen and onshore and offshore wind development³².

4.14 A key focus of the project is tidal and marine energy, particularly through the Morlais tidal energy project. This initiative has the potential to generate up to 240MW of renewable electricity, providing enough power for over 180,000 homes. However, the project extends beyond energy generation, serving as a testbed for innovative tidal energy technologies. The Morlais project aims to facilitate the development, deployment and optimisation of tidal energy systems from a range of international companies, fostering innovation in efficient and sustainable tidal power extraction³³.

4.15 Car ownership and the number of people with one or more cars per household have risen on Anglesey between

2011 and 2021, by 3.1%. Car ownership rates in 2021 were above the Welsh average, with an average of 85% of households on Anglesey with one or more car / van, compared to 80% in Wales³⁴. This percentage is higher in more rural areas of Anglesey, reaching 95% of households with car ownership around Llanfairynghornwy and Llanrhwydrys and is as low as 42% of households with car ownership in Lower Super Output Areas in more urbanised areas such as Holyhead³⁵.

4.16 There are 86 total public electric vehicle charging devices available on Anglesey, which equates to 124.5 devices per 100,000 people. There are only 8 rapid devices on Anglesey. Anglesey is in the 20% to <40% category of all local authorities for the number of total devices, but in the top 20% for devices per 100,000 people³⁶. Up to March 2024, the network has provided enough charging to save 221 tonnes of travel carbon emissions, which equates to 1327 trees - a significant contribution to improving the environment and towards net zero carbon³⁷.

Flood risk

4.17 Climate change is predicted to increase the frequency and the intensity of flooding, increasing the risk on Anglesey and across the UK. Flooding can have serious consequences including loss of life, damage to the economy, social implications and environmental damage.

4.18 Most recently, Storms Bert and Darragh caused significant damage across Wales over two weeks in late 2024. Towns from Pontypridd to Holyhead experienced widespread flooding, landslides and severe winds. As a result, more than 700 properties across Wales were flooded and rivers reached some of their highest recorded levels. The storms also caused extensive damage to property and infrastructure, including berthing facilities at the Port of Holyhead, which was forced to close entirely for over a month following Storm Darragh³⁸.

4.19 Welsh Government published the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in 2020, replacing the 2011 strategy. The newest strategy sets out how Welsh Government intends to manage the risks posed by flooding and coastal erosion across Wales and sets out five

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2024) Renewable electricity by local authority 2014 – 2023. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67226ea53ce5634f5f6ef5a1/Renewable_electricity_by_local_authority_2014_-_2023.xlsx#:~:text=Cover%20sheet&text=Revisions%20for%20previous%20years%20have,in%202019%2C%202021%20and%202022.&text=The%20data%20tables%20and%20accompanying,see%20LINK%20or%20contact%20EMAIL.

³¹ Welsh Government (2022) Energy Generation in Wales. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-11/energy-generation-in-wales-2022.pdf>

³² Ynni ar Energy on Ynys Mon (no date) Energy Island: Ynys Mon's unique position. Available at: <https://ynniarynysmon.cymru/energy-island>

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ ONS (2024) 2021 Census: Car or van availability by household composition. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/RM008/editions/2021/versions/3>

³⁵ ONS (2021) 2021 Census: Census Maps. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/?lad=W06000001>

³⁶ Department for Transport (2025) Electric vehicle charging devices by local authority. Available at: <https://maps.dft.gov.uk/ev-charging-map/index.html>

³⁷ Isle of Anglesey County Council (2024) Towards Net Zero Plan 2023 – 2024 Annual Report. Available at: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/documents/Docs-en/Council/Climate-change/Annual-report/Towards-Net-Zero-Plan-Annual-report-2023-to-2024.pdf>

³⁸ Welsh Parliament – Senedd Research (2025) After the flood: reflecting on Storms Bert and Darragh. Available at: <https://research.senedd.wales/research-articles/after-the-flood-reflecting-on-storms-bert-and-darragh/>

key objectives for all Risk Management Authorities to work towards. These objectives are as follows:

- Improving our understanding and communication of risk
- Preparedness and building resilience
- Prioritising investment to the most at risk communities
- Preventing more people becoming exposed to risk
- Providing an effective and sustained response to events

4.20 Anglesey includes the operational catchments of Braint Cadnant Lleiniog, Cefni, Crigyll Caradog, Alaw Goch, Wygyr and Lligwy – Ynys Mon³⁹.

4.21 TAN15 previously identified flood zones A, B, C, C1 and C2 as follows:

- Zone A: Considered to be at little or no risk of fluvial or tidal/coastal flooding. This zone encompasses all areas that are not recognised as Zone B/Zone C.
- Zone B: Areas known to have been flooded in the past evidenced by sedimentary deposits.
- Zone C: Based on NRW extreme flood outline, equal to or greater than 0.1% (river, tidal or coastal) (i.e.: greater than 1 in 1,000 chance of flooding in any one year). This zone is further subcategorised into zones C1 and C2.
- C1 is areas of the floodplain which are developed and served by significant infrastructure, including flood defences.
- C2 is Areas of the floodplain without significant flood defence infrastructure.

4.22 The revised TAN15 document (which came into force in March 2025) outlines the details of flood zones 1, 2, and 3, along with the TAN15 defended zones. Flood Zone 2 is important from a planning context as it forms the basis of Zone C. Flood zone 3 refers to highly vulnerable development land where certain development will not be permitted unless they are essential to the Development Plan Strategy. TAN15 defended zones refer to areas protected by flood defences that meet specific design standards. In relation to the plan-led system:

- In Zone 1: Planning authorities should prioritise all types of development to Zone 1.
- In Zone 2: Allocations may be made for new development and redevelopment of any vulnerability that

is necessary to implement the strategy of an LDP, a strategy to regenerate or revitalise existing settlements or to achieve key economic or environmental objectives, provided that a Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment has identified an acceptable level of risk. Land in Zone 2 may also be allocated for new developments and redevelopment that address national security or energy security needs, mitigate the impacts of climate change, that are necessary to protect and promote public health or that the planning authority can demonstrate are essential to the realisation of the strategy of the LDP provided that a Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment has identified an acceptable level of risk. Essential infrastructure of this type should not be accompanied by ancillary or non-essential developments. Flood resilient design is more important in Zone 2 than Zone 1 and authorities should make it a requirement through the inclusion of appropriate LDP policies and use of planning conditions.

- In Zone 3: Allocations for highly vulnerable new development must not be made as the risks and consequences of flooding are not considered acceptable for these types of development. Allocations for less vulnerable new development should only be made in exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances are addressing national security or energy security needs, reasons of public health or to mitigate the impacts of climate change which have a clear locational need and cannot be located elsewhere.

4.23 There are areas of Flood Zones 2 and 3, as well as areas of flood risk (ranging from high to low risk) associated with the sea, rivers, surface water, watercourses and reservoirs across Anglesey⁴⁰, as shown in Figure 4.2.

4.24 The Stage 1 Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (SFCA) produced for the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan⁴¹ reviews flood risk across Gwynedd and Anglesey. It maps flood risk across the area from a range of sources including rivers and sea, surface water, small watercourses and groundwater. It maps Flood Zones 2 and 3, as described above.

4.25 Most of the flooding on the island is attributed to surface water flooding, causing overload of the existing sewer systems which is particularly prevalent in Beaumaris, Holyhead, Dwyran and Llangefni. Llangefni and Dwyran are located on

³⁹ Natural Resources Wales (2016) Ynys Mon Management Catchment Summary. Available at: https://naturalresources.wales/media/679396/2016_updated_ynys_mon_catchment_summary_nrw.pdf

⁴⁰ Natural Resources Wales (2022) Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Maps. Available at: <https://flood-risk-maps.naturalresources.wales/?locale=en>

⁴¹ Gwynedd and Anglesey Joint Unit (2016) Topic Paper 8A: Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (Stage 1). Available at: [https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Supporting-documents/Topic-Paper-8A---SFCA-\(PT.015\).pdf](https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Supporting-documents/Topic-Paper-8A---SFCA-(PT.015).pdf)

rivers and the flood risks here are from surface water run-off, sewer systems and also tidally influenced river flooding⁴².

4.26 On Anglesey flooding attributed directly to groundwater is extremely difficult to apportion as groundwater flooding usually occurs in combination with pluvial and fluvial flooding. As groundwater flooding occurs in low lying areas, basements of residential housing are usually impacted by this type of flooding⁴³.

4.27 In comparison to other county councils, the Isle of Anglesey has a relatively low number of properties at risk of flooding. Specifically, there are 150 properties at low risk, 70 at medium risk and 86 at high risk, totalling 306 properties⁴⁴.

4.28 The Isle of Anglesey has developed a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy⁴⁵ with ten detailed objectives to reduce the consequences of flood risk. These include the use of local planning policy to ensure that no new flood risk is created and that where possible, opportunities to reduce flood risk are taken.

4.29 There are a number of flood defence structures on Anglesey. Notable schemes include:

- Holyhead Breakwater
- Dwyran Natural Flood Management Scheme
- Beaumaris Flood Reduction Scheme
- Llangefni Flood Defence Works

Biodiversity and geodiversity

4.30 Biodiversity is the term used to describe wildlife species, their habitats, and the relationships between ecosystems.

4.31 Anglesey has many species and a number of priority habitats. These include lowland and coastal heath, reedbeds, fens, broadleaved woodlands, ancient and species-rich hedgerows, ponds and flower-rich road verges. Added to these are some of the most extensive sand dunes in Wales⁴⁶.

4.32 There are seven terrestrial Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) on Anglesey and one marine SAC. These are designated at the European level for specific habitats and species:

- Cemlyn Bay SAC

- Menai Strait Conwy Bay SAC
- Corsydd Mon SAC
- Llyn Dinam SAC
- Abermenai – Aberffraw dunes SAC
- Anglesey Coast saltmarsh SAC
- Glantraeth SAC
- Glannau Ynys Gybi SAC

4.33 There are four Special Protection Areas (SPAs) on Anglesey⁴⁷:

- Glannau Ynys Gybi SPA
- North Anglesey Tern colonies SPA
- Ynys Seiriol SPA
- Liverpool Bay SPA

4.34 On Anglesey, the fens of Cors Erddreiniog, Cors Goch, Cors Bodeilio and Cors y Farl, along with similar areas at Cors Geirch and Cors Hirdre on the Llyn Peninsula, form the Anglesey and Lleyn Fens Ramsar site⁴⁸.

4.35 North Anglesey Marine Protection Area (MPA) stretching from Trearddur round to Porth Eilian has been designated for the harbour porpoise. Porpoise and dolphins are often seen along this rocky stretch of coastline⁴⁹.

4.36 There are 60 nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) on Anglesey. Some of these are also designated as SACs/SPAs/Ramsar sites.

4.37 There are six Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) on Anglesey:

- Coed Cyrnol LNR (Menai Bridge)
- Y Dingl LNR (Llangefni)
- Llandegfan LNR
- Llangoed LNR
- Llanddona LNR
- Wylfa Head LNR (Cemaes)

4.38 There are areas of Ancient Woodland scattered throughout Anglesey, including much of the Dingle Local

⁴² The Isle of Anglesey County Council (2013) Anglesey Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Available at: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/documents/Docs-en/Highways/Flooding/Anglesey-Local-Flood-Risk-Management-Strategy.pdf>

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Welsh Government (2024) Properties at Risk of Flooding 2024. Available at: <https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Flooding/propertiesatriskofflooding2024>

⁴⁵ The Isle of Anglesey County Council (2013) Anglesey Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Available at:

<https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/documents/Docs-en/Highways/Flooding/Anglesey-Local-Flood-Risk-Management-Strategy.pdf>

⁴⁶ Isle of Anglesey County Council (2021) Corporate Biodiversity Plan 2021 – 2022. Available at: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/documents/Docs-en/Biodiversity/Biodiversity-Plan.pdf>

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

Nature Reserve⁵⁰ and Newborough National Nature Reserve and Forest⁵¹.

4.39 There are four RSPB reserves on Anglesey:

- South Stack
- Valley Lakes
- Malltraeth marsh
- The Skerries

4.40 Figure 4.3 shows the distribution of designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites on the Isle of Anglesey.

Protected and priority species

4.41 The presence of protected species is a material planning consideration. Such species are detailed within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000⁵².

4.42 Produced by Isle of Anglesey County Council in 2021, the 'Corporate Biodiversity Plan (2021-2022)⁵³ focuses on a programme for the conservation and enhancement of Anglesey's biodiversity, listing the habitats and species of particular importance to the Isle.

4.43 A list of some locally important species to Anglesey is provided within the document. Certain notable species include:

- Red Squirrel
- Tern
- Porpoise
- Seal
- Chough
- Sand Lizard
- Otter
- Crested Newt

4.44 The Biodiversity Plan also acknowledges the island's wealth of rare plants, such as the county flower, the Spotted Rock Rose. Additionally, the South Stack Fleawort is only found at South Stack, and nowhere else in the world. Other

plants that are in decline on the island include Chamomile, Pale Dog Violet and Lesser- Butterfly Orchid⁵⁴.

Landscape

4.45 Anglesey is the largest of the Welsh islands, covering around 720km², and is separated from the mainland by the Menai Strait. The main towns on the island are Llangefni, Holyhead, Amlwch, Benllech, Menai Bridge and Llanfair PG. Its topography is generally low-lying and undulating, punctuated by prominent rocky outcrops such as Holy Island, Mynydd Parys, Mynydd Bodafon, Mynydd y Garn and Mynydd Llwydiarth. The landform slopes from east to west, with several low-lying areas along the western coast, including Aberffraw, Malltraeth Marsh and Newborough Warren. This topographical pattern is mirrored in the north east-south west alignment of the island's watercourses⁵⁵.

4.46 Despite its generally subdued character, Anglesey has a complex underlying geology shaped by geomorphological processes such as glaciation. The island contains some of the oldest rocks in Wales and Britain, which are evident in its topography. Tree cover is generally sparse, though ancient semi-natural woodlands can be found along the Menai Strait and extensive plantations exist around Mynydd Llwydiarth and Newborough Warren⁵⁶.

4.47 Anglesey has a rich cultural history, with evidence of human activity spanning roughly 8,000 years. The island is home to over 200 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, ranging from Bronze Age burial chambers to medieval structures. More recent landscape features include the planned parklands of large estates such as Plas Newydd, major transport routes and industrial developments, including nuclear power and wind farms⁵⁷.

4.48 The coastline of Anglesey was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), now referred to as a National Landscape, in 1967 in order to protect the aesthetic appeal and variety of the island's coastal landscape and habitats from inappropriate development. The National Landscape is 221km² covering a third of the island, principally the coastal strip but also including Holyhead Mountain and Mynydd Bodafon⁵⁸.

⁵⁰ Visit Anglesey (no date) Dingle Local Nature Reserve. Available at: <https://www.visitanglesey.co.uk/en-gb/explore/wildlife/dingle-local-nature-reserve#:~:text=Another%20name%20for%20the%20Dingle,literally%20means%20steep%20wooded%20valley.>

⁵¹ Natural Resources Wales (no date) Newborough National Nature Reserve and Forest, Anglesey. Available at: <https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/places-to-visit/north-west-wales/newborough/?lang=en>

⁵² UK Government (2000) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

⁵³ Isle of Anglesey County Council (2021) Corporate Biodiversity Plan 2021 – 2022. Available at: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/documents/Docs-en/Biodiversity/Biodiversity-Plan.pdf>

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ The Isle of Anglesey County Council (2011) Anglesey Landscape Strategy. Available at: <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Supporting-documents/Anglesey-Landscape-Strategy-Update-2011.pdf>

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Geomôn Global Geopark (no date) Biodiversity, Conservation and protected areas. Available at: <https://www.geomon.co.uk/geomon-unesco-global-geopark/biodiversity-conservation-and-protected-areas/>

4.49 There are three sections of open, undeveloped coastline which have been designated as Heritage Coast stretching along 50 kms (31 miles) of the coastline⁵⁹:

- North Anglesey 28.6kms (17 miles) – largely rugged cliffs with small bays, including the historically important port of Cemaes, the brickworks at Porth Wen and the copper exporting harbour at Porth Amlwch.
- Holyhead Mountain 12.9kms (8 miles) – including the iconic lighthouse on Ynys Lawd (South Stack) and cliffs extremely important for breeding seabirds, especially guillemot, razorbill and puffin.
- Aberffraw Bay 7.7kms (4.5 miles) – a sandy beach backed by a large area of sand dunes. The small town was once home to palace of the Kings of Gwynedd and a thriving port, now all silted up.

4.50 Anglesey lies within the North Wales and Caernarfon Bay national seascape units and includes nine regional units. These include⁶⁰:

- Great Orme Head to Puffin Island
- Puffin Island to Point Lynas
- Point Lynas to Carmel Head
- Carmel Head to Holyhead Mountain North Stack
- Holyhead Mountain North Stack to Penrhyn Mawr
- Holy Island Straits
- Penrhyn Mawr to Pen y Parc/Malltraeth Bay
- Menai Strait 13
- Malltraeth Bay to Trefor

4.51 National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs) are defined at a broad landscape scale throughout Wales and highlight what distinguishes one landscape from another, with reference to their regionally distinct natural, cultural and perceptual characteristics. They help to identify how the landscape is perceived and valued by people, providing integral information that can be used to inform plan-making that may impact the existing landscape.

4.52 Specific uses include:

- Planning policies and decisions

- Sensitivity and capacity studies
- Landscape and visual impact assessments
- Place making
- Forest and woodland strategies

4.53 The Isle of Anglesey is split between NLCA01: Anglesey Coast and NLCA02: Anglesey Interior⁶¹.

4.54 NLCA01: Anglesey Coast covers all coastal areas of the Isle of Anglesey, including Holy Island. The shape and form of the coastline are influenced by north east–south west geological faults and varying rock types. While much of Anglesey is low-lying, the northern half of the coastal area features higher hills, with Holyhead Mountain standing as the most prominent, its exposed, heath-covered slopes descending steeply into the sea. The prevailing winds create a notably more exposed south-westerly coastline, where well-developed dune systems and lagoons extend inland. Although much of the former estuary of the Afon Cefni has been reclaimed, the resulting coastal levels remain a defining feature of this landscape character area⁶².

4.55 NLCA02: Anglesey Interior forms the agricultural heart of the island, earning it the name Môn Mam Cymru - 'Anglesey, Mother of Wales.' Although primarily a gentle lowland landscape, the south west–north east geological fault lines influence variations in topography, creating occasional hills and rocky outcrops. The landscape also features several fens and extensive areas of drumlins, particularly in the north and west. Aside from hedgerows, cloddiau (hedge banks), occasional sheltered copses and areas of scrub, the landscape has an open, rolling and windswept character. It is the least wooded lowland landscape in Wales⁶³.

4.56 The Anglesey Landscape Strategy⁶⁴, updated in 2011, further identifies Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), which splits the Island between 18 LCAs. These character descriptions delve into more detail than those set out at National level.

4.57 Local Development Plans include policies to protect Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). In 2012 Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Planning Policy Unit (JPPU) commissioned LUC to undertake a thorough review of local landscape designations (Special Landscape Areas) in the two counties⁶⁵. Table 24 of the Joint LDP specifies that there are six SLAs on

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Natural Resources Wales (2023) NLCA Map. Available at: <https://nrwcmv13-a3hwekacajb3frbw.a02.azurefd.net/682542/nlca-map-and-names.pdf?rmode=pad&v=1d32570108590b0>

⁶² Natural Resources Wales (2014) Anglesey Coast. Available at: <https://nrwcmv13-a3hwekacajb3frbw.a02.azurefd.net/682546/nlca01-anglesey-coast-description.pdf?rmode=pad&v=1d35c894417ed10>

⁶³ Natural Resources Wales (2014) Central Anglesey. Available at: <https://nrwcmv13-a3hwekacajb3frbw.a02.azurefd.net/682548/nlca02-central-anglesey-description.pdf?rmode=pad&v=1d35c8bc5b10a80>

⁶⁴ The Isle of Anglesey County Council (2011) Anglesey Landscape Strategy. Available at: <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Supporting-documents/Anglesey-Landscape-Strategy-Update-2011.pdf>

⁶⁵ LUC (2012) Review of Special Landscape Areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey. Available at: <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning->

Anglesey⁶⁶. The location of the Special Landscape Areas is presented in **Figure 4.4** and the following descriptions are outlined in LUC's 2012 review.

- Malltraeth Marsh and Surrounds
 - A distinctive low-lying reclaimed marshland with a strong semi-natural, rural character, featuring regular fields, rock outcrops and woodland. It holds high landscape value (Outstanding for Historic Landscapes), offers views of Eryri and contributes to the setting of the Anglesey National Landscape.
- Parciau Estatelands
 - A distinctive parkland and managed estate landscape with high tranquillity and a coherent character. It is lightly settled, rated 'Outstanding' for Historic Landscapes and forms the setting for the Anglesey National Landscape and A5025 coastal road.
- Parys Mountain and Slopes
 - Parys Mountain is a unique and visually prominent feature in north Anglesey, with high cultural significance and a distinctive, colourful landscape shaped by geology and land use. It scores highly across LANDMAP aspects ('Outstanding' for Visual & Sensory) and forms a key part of the Anglesey National Landscape's setting, with strong intervisibility between the mountain, coast, and sea.
- Mynydd Mechell and Surrounds
 - A distinctive, wild landscape with heathland, rough grazing, rock exposures and a hummocky topography, creating a sense of remoteness and tranquillity. It scores highly across LANDMAP aspects, forms part of the National Landscape's setting in the west and faces pressure from surrounding wind farms that contrast with its semi-natural, small-scale character.
- Beaumaris Wooded Slopes and Llangoed Vale
 - A distinctive landscape of wooded slopes and rolling pastoral land, including Llanddona Commons Nature Reserve, offering relative tranquillity near Beaumaris, Llangoed and Llanddona. Rated 'Outstanding' for Cultural Landscapes, with strong time depth, rare broadleaved woodland, intervisibility

with the Menai Straits and Eryri and under pressure from tourism-related development.

- Southern Anglesey Estatelands
 - An area of strong estate character, linked to the Marquis of Anglesey's estate, forming the immediate backdrop to the Anglesey National Landscape and Menai Straits. Rated 'Outstanding' for Historic Landscapes and 'High' for Cultural Landscapes. It faces pressure from wind energy development.

4.58 SLAs are designated to protect areas of high landscape quality on the Isle of Anglesey. A regionally agreed upon methodology is applied when determining the designation of these landscapes, but the assessments are undertaken at a local level.

4.59 To protect the visual qualities of SLAs, development proposals in SLAs are required to conform to the highest possible design standards.

Water quality

4.60 The Water Framework Directive (WFD) provides a major overarching framework for river basin management and sets out a strategic approach to flood risk management planning. The purpose of the Directive is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater. Groundwater is an important natural resource that supports river flows as well as ecological diversity in rivers, lakes and wetlands. It is also available for use, across the United Kingdom, for water supply by abstraction from boreholes, wells and springs.

4.61 There are no Source Protection Zones within the Isle of Anglesey.

4.62 The Isle of Anglesey falls within the Western Wales River Basin District (RBD). In line with the WFD, River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) for each RBD are prepared for local governments involved in regulating, operating, influencing and undertaking projects in the RBD. According to the RBMP for the Western Wales RBD⁶⁷, there are 566 water bodies within the river basin, of which 232 are in good ecological status, 256 are moderate, 48 are poor and three are bad. 496 are in good chemical status and 45 are failing in relation to their chemical status.

policy/Supporting-documents/Review-of-SLAs-in-Gwynedd-and-Anglesey-(DC.008).pdf

⁶⁶ Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Planning Policy Unit (2016) Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan 2011 - 2026. Available at: <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies->

and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Anglesey-and-Gwynedd-Joint-Local-Development-Plan-Written-Statement.pdf

⁶⁷ Natural Resources Wales (2022) Western Wales River Basin Management Plan 2021 – 2027 Summary. Available at: https://naturalresources.wales/media/695227/western-wales-rbmp-2021_2027-summary.pdf

Water resources

4.63 The Anglesey Abstraction Management Strategy (2015)⁶⁸ sets out how water resources are to be managed in Anglesey's river catchments. The Strategy identifies where water is likely to be available for abstraction in the main river catchments of Anglesey. It identifies that there is water availability in the Braint, Crigyll and Tan yr Rallt catchments and no water availability in the Alaw and Cefni catchments.

4.64 Since January 2018, most abstraction exemptions (if over 20 cubic meters per day) have been removed. This includes abstractions in areas that were previously exempt. Most abstractions now require a licence to continue legally abstracting water⁶⁹.

4.65 Wastewater on Anglesey is presently handled by 29 wastewater treatment works (WwTW) that are owned and operated by Welsh Water (Dwr Cymru). These are split between small size WwTWs that serve a population under 2,000 and full sized WwTWs that serve a population greater than 2,000.

Open spaces

4.66 The most recent Open Space Assessment⁷⁰ was undertaken in 2016. This study identified that aside from Llangefni, there is no settlement on Anglesey that fully meets all targets for open space provision. This is particularly the case in larger settlements such as Holyhead and Menai Bridge. Holyhead, with the highest population, faces the largest deficits, particularly in outdoor sports facilities (12.34 ha 'actual' against a target of 19.71 ha) and playing pitches (11.26 ha 'actual' against a target of 14.78 ha). However, it does have the most children's playing space (17.28 ha 'actual' against a 9.85 ha target).

4.67 A consistent pattern across Anglesey is the under provision of sports facilities and playing pitches. This is most notable in settlements such as Beaumaris and Rhosneigr. While rural settlements may have informal access to open countryside, the provision of designated recreational spaces remains an issue.

Air quality

4.68 The Environment Act 1995 introduced the requirement for local authorities to determine if statutory air quality objectives (AQOs) are likely to be exceeded. All local authorities now report to Welsh Government on an annual basis and have the obligation to declare Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and develop action plans for improvement of air quality if objectives are likely to be exceeded.

4.69 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires that the Welsh Ministers must publish national indicators to be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the well-being goals. National indicator number 4 is the level of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) pollution in the air. The National Indicator drives an alternative burden reduction approach aimed at achieving a reduction in the population weighted general level of NO₂ a population is exposed to. An approach for the achievement of cleaner air in Wales is set out in the Clean Air Plan for Wales which includes a number of actions to enable collaborative approaches to reducing air pollution⁷¹.

4.70 There are currently no AQMAs on the Isle of Anglesey⁷².

Noise

4.71 In total 20,445 noise complaints were received by local authorities in Wales in 2019/20, 65 complaints for every 10,000 population. Anglesey accounted for just 67 of these - the lowest out of all authorities⁷³.

4.72 Figures 4.6 and 4.7 map noise levels across Anglesey during the day and at night. It can be seen that areas experiencing higher noise levels correspond with the main strategic roads. However, noise pollution is not limited to the road network and consideration should also be given to noise when considering development proposals near other noise sources. These may include, but are not limited to, industry and industrial estates, shopping centres/supermarkets and entertainment venues. Notably, noise can be amplified by the topography of an area.

4.73 Given the nature of many areas where noise pollution is prevalent (i.e. those affected by the strategic road network),

⁶⁸ Natural Resources Wales (2015) Anglesey Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy. Available at: https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/674754/anglesy_cams_2015_english.pdf?mode=pad&md=131596369485030000

⁶⁹ Natural Resources Wales (2024) Water available in our catchments. Available at: <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/what-we-do/our-roles-and-responsibilities/water/water-available-in-our-catchments/?lang=en#:~:text=From%201%20January%202018%2C%20most,b,e%20downloaded%20from%20Gov.uk.>

⁷⁰ Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan (2016) Topic Paper 14: Open Space Assessment. Available at:

[https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Supporting-documents/Topic-Paper-14A---Open-Space-Assessment-\(PT.025\).pdf](https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Supporting-documents/Topic-Paper-14A---Open-Space-Assessment-(PT.025).pdf)

⁷¹ Welsh Government (2020) The Clean Air Plan for Wales

⁷² Air Quality in Wales (2025) Air Quality Management Areas. Available at:

<https://www.airquality.gov.wales/laqm/air-quality-management-areas>

⁷³ Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (2021) CIEH Noise Survey

2019/20 Report on findings – Wales. Available at:

<https://www.cieh.org/media/6318/wales-noise-survey-2019-2020.pdf>

the potential for these areas to also be adversely affected by air pollution also needs to be considered.

Soil quality

4.74 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system provides a framework for classifying land according to the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose long-term limitations on agricultural use. The principal factors influencing agricultural production are climate, site and soil. These factors, together with interactions between them, form the basis for classifying land into one of five grades, where Grade 1 describes land as excellent (land of high agricultural quality and potential) and Grade 5 describes land as very poor (land of low agricultural quality and potential). Land falling outside of these scores is deemed to be 'primarily in non-agricultural use', or 'land predominantly in urban use'⁷⁴.

4.75 Planning policy defines grades 1 to 3a as the 'best and most versatile' agricultural land. This is about 10 - 15% of the land in Wales. Planning applications and local development plans should include survey evidence when they cover grade 1, 2 or 3a land⁷⁵. There is no Grade 1 land on Anglesey, however a significant proportion of the Island is made up of Grade 2 and Grade 3a land, as shown in **Figure 4.8**.

Peatland

4.76 Peatland within Wales covers around 4.3% of the landmass, equating to circa 90,000 hectares. This acts as the largest terrestrial ecosystem store of carbon within Wales. However, owing to human activity it is now thought to be a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emitter.

4.77 Policy areas relating to maintenance of peatland on Anglesey and Wales more widely include, but are not limited to:

- Mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.
- Mitigating and reducing flood risk.
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity.
- Protecting the quality and quantity of water resources.
- Promoting the efficient use of land, soils, and minerals.

4.78 The Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP) provides data on Welsh peatlands. However,

information available about the programme indicates that it has not been actively maintained since 2016.

4.79 The Welsh Peatlands Data Portal launched in April 2022 and contains information on the extent and depth of peatlands in Wales, including how much carbon they store and an estimate of carbon released into the atmosphere when in a poor condition. The portal indicates that Anglesey has some small pockets of peatland scattered over the Island. Some areas of peatland can be up to 120cm thick and have a carbon stock in the mid-range of 100.1 – 200.0 kg/m² of carbon⁷⁶.

Historic environment

4.80 The Register of Historic Landscapes in Wales (RHLW) is a non-statutory and advisory guide used to assist Local Authorities regarding how much weight to give to information in the historic register when determining planning applications. 'Penmon'⁷⁷ and 'Amlwch and Parys Mountain'⁷⁸ are included as two of these Historic Landscape Character Areas.

4.81 Penmon, located on the south eastern tip of Anglesey, is both a historically and archaeologically significant area with a rich heritage spanning from prehistory to modern day. It features dramatic limestone cliffs, medieval monastic sites and important defensive structures, including the Iron Age hillfort known as Bwrdd Arthur and the unfinished Beaumaris Castle, a 'pinnacle of medieval military architecture in Wales'. Religious and cultural heritage is evident in areas at Llanddona, Llangoed, Llaniestyn and Puffin Island, while industrial activity, including limestone quarrying, has shaped the landscape. The area played a strategic role in trade and governance, with Llanfaes and later Beaumaris serving as important settlements.

4.82 Parys Mountain, in northeast Anglesey, is a historically significant copper mining site that was the largest in the world during the 18th and 19th century, transforming the nearby town of Amlwch into an important trading hub. The vast opencast mines, known for their striking, barren 'moonscape' appearance, have evidence of copper extraction dating back to the Bronze Age. Mining operations peaked in the 1780s, employing thousands and supplying global markets, before declining in the 19th century due to overseas competition. The landscape retains industrial archaeological features, including dressing floors and kilns.

⁷⁴ Welsh Government (2019) Agricultural land classification: predictive map. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/agricultural-land-classification-predictive-map#:~:text=grade%201%3A%20excellent%20quality%20agricultural,3b%3A%20moderate%20quality%20agricultural%20land>

⁷⁵ Welsh Government (2019) Agricultural land classification: predictive map. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/agricultural-land-classification-predictive-map#:~:text=grade%201%3A%20excellent%20quality%20agricultural,3b%3A%20moderate%20quality%20agricultural%20land>

⁷⁶ Natural Resources Wales (2022) Welsh Peatlands Data Portal. Available at: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/d18ef8c74ecc4dc4a0cbf71ab6935ba0>

⁷⁷ Welsh Government (2001) Full Reports of Registered Historic Landscape. Penmon. Available at: [https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/historiclandscape/FullReport?lang=en&id=HLW%20\(Gw\)%2015](https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/historiclandscape/FullReport?lang=en&id=HLW%20(Gw)%2015)

⁷⁸ Welsh Government (2001) Full Reports of Registered Historic Landscape. Amlwch and Parys Mountain. Available at: [https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/historiclandscape/FullReport?lang=en&id=HLW%20\(Gw\)%201](https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/historiclandscape/FullReport?lang=en&id=HLW%20(Gw)%201)

4.83 There are ten Historic Parks and Gardens on Anglesey⁷⁹. These include:

- Bodowen
- Bodorgan
- Carreglwyd
- Cestyll
- Llanidan
- Plas Berw
- Plas Gwyn
- Plas Newydd
- Plas Rhianfa
- Ty Fry

4.84 There are 1,125 listed buildings across Anglesey, with 39 being Grade I. 100 are Grade II* listed and 986 are Grade II⁸⁰. They are distributed fairly evenly across Anglesey although there are concentrations around towns such as Holyhead, Beaumaris, and Amlwch, as might be expected. This pattern is illustrated in **Figure 4.9**, which shows designated heritage features across the Anglesey and the neighbouring local authority.

4.85 There are also 12 Conservation Areas on Anglesey, distributed across the Island⁸¹.

4.86 There are 432 Scheduled Monuments on Anglesey, including historic assets such as castles, hillforts and cairns.

4.87 Anglesey also contains numerous non-designated heritage assets which also contribute to the sense of place and value of the Island. These are detailed within the Historic Environment Record.

4.88 listed buildings at risk

Mineral resources

4.89 There are four working aggregate quarries on Anglesey, including Gwalchmai Quarry and Gwyndy Quarry.

4.90 In terms of economic need, there has been no metal mining on Anglesey since the 1800's. Parys Mountain near Amlwch is a major polymetallic mine which has been worked extensively over several centuries and its workings date back to the Bronze Age. More recently planning permission was granted to develop a modern mine at the site to include shaft sinking, construction of a processing plant and waste disposal. This activity is now suspended, although geological exploration and investigation continues to take place. In late 2024, the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report for the Parys Mountain mine was approved by Anglesey County Council. The objective of the proposal is for the use of the site as a metal mine, carried out by underground methods. The existing price of metals does not favour production although it is difficult to predict how the global availability and price of metals will vary in the future⁸².

4.91 In terms of non-energy minerals, Minerals Planning Policy Wales⁸³ stresses that policies and proposals in development plans should make clear where mineral extraction should or is most likely to take place. Anglesey contains a number of Minerals Safeguarding Areas, mainly for crushed rock. The role of Minerals Safeguarding Areas is to alert those proposing sites for future development to the presence of valuable mineral resources which they might not have otherwise considered.

4.92 Paragraph 5.10.17 of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12)⁸⁴ states that the safeguarding of primary coal resources is not a requirement but may be implemented at the discretion of the local planning authority. The decision about whether to continue the safeguarding of these minerals will be considered as part of the preparation of the LDP. Should Isle of Anglesey County Council choose to continue the safeguarding of coal resources, the PPW requires that the LDP include appropriate policies including those relating to pre-extraction policy.

Waste

4.93 There are currently two Household Waste Recycling Centres on Anglesey, as well as 13 recycling banks (SORT Centres) collecting a range of materials including paper, glass, cans and textiles⁸⁵. The amount of waste that is recycled and energy recovered on Anglesey is shown in **Table 4.6**⁸⁶. In

⁷⁹ Cadw (2025) Search Cadw records. Available at: <https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/cof-cymru/search-cadw-records>

⁸⁰ Ibid,
⁸¹ Isle of Anglesey County Council (no date) Where are the conservation areas? Available at: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Residents/Planning-building-control-and-conservation/Built-and-natural-environment/Conservation-areas/Where-are-the-conservation-areas.aspx>

⁸² Gwynedd and Anglesey Joint Unit (2016) Topic Paper 11A: Minerals. Available at: [https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Supporting-documents/Topic-Paper-11A---Minerals-\(PT.022\).pdf](https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Supporting-documents/Topic-Paper-11A---Minerals-(PT.022).pdf)

⁸³ Welsh Government (no date) Planning policy and guidance: minerals and mining. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/planning-policy-and-guidance-minerals-and-mining>

⁸⁴ Welsh Government (2024) Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12). Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-07/planning-policy-wales-edition-12.pdf>

⁸⁵ Isle of Anglesey County Council (no date) Recycling centres and recycling banks. Available at: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Residents/Bins-and-recycling/Recycling-centres-and-recycling-banks/Section.aspx>

⁸⁶ StatsWales (2025) Annual waste collected for reuse/recycling/composting (tonnes) by material and source. Available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Waste-Management/Local-Authority-Municipal-Waste/annualwastereusedrecycledcomposted-by-material-source-year>

2023/24, 64.7% of all waste on Anglesey was either reused, recycled or composted; up from 55.2% in 2012/13⁸⁷.

⁸⁷ StatsWales (2025) Annual reuse/recycling/composting rates by local authority. Available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Waste-Management/Local-Authority-Municipal-Waste/annualreuserecyclingcompostingrates-by-localauthority-year>

Table 4.4: Annual waste collected for reuse/recycling/composting (tonnes) on Anglesey

| Year | Municipal waste (reused/ recycled) | Municipal waste (composted) | Total municipal waste (generated/ collected) |
|---------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 2016/17 | 10,863 | 9,668 | 38,831 |
| 2017/18 | 10,988 | 10,100 | 37,562 |
| 2018/19 | 10,773 | 9,008 | 36,134 |
| 2019/20 | 10,895 | 9,363 | 36,360 |
| 2020/21 | 8,480 | 9,962 | 35,116 |
| 2021/22 | 10,187 | 8,084 | 35,603 |
| 2022/23 | 9,647 | 7,215 | 32,845 |
| 2023/24 | 9,469 | 7,591 | 33,901 |

4.94 There are two inert landfill sites on Anglesey (Rhuddlan Bach Quarry and Nant Newydd Quarry). There are no hazardous waste landfills on the Isle of Anglesey⁸⁸.

4.95 In 2022, it was announced that three former landfill sites on Anglesey and Gwynedd were to be transformed into a haven for biodiversity and conservation. Local Places for Nature funding from Welsh Government has since helped to restore 30 acres of land at Clegir Mawr (Gwalchmai, Anglesey), 74 acres at Ffridd Rasmus (Harlech, Gwynedd) and 32 acres at Llwyn Isaf (Penygroes, Gwynedd) into rich and varied habitats for plants and wildlife⁸⁹. Penhesgyn Landfill, a fourth site, remains an operational waste management site but the landfill part has been closed and been transformed into a Wild Landfill site. It covers an area of about 50 acres and was filled with up to 4 million tonnes of waste from the 1960s onwards⁹⁰.

Social Baseline Information

Equalities

4.96 The Equality Act 2010 identifies nine 'protected characteristics' and seeks to protect people from discrimination on the basis of these characteristics. It presents three main duties: to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited under the Act; to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do

not share it; and to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The nine protected characteristics identified through the Act are:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex; and
- sexual orientation.

4.97 The potential effects of the LDP in relation to groups covered by the nine 'protected characteristics' will be assessed separately in addition to the ISA, as described in **Chapter 2**. This work will comprise the EqIA which will be presented in an appendix to the ISA.

Age

4.98 According to the 2021 Census, 56.5% of people on Anglesey are aged between 16-64⁹¹. Between the last two censuses, the average (median) age of the Isle of Anglesey

⁸⁸ Wylfa Newydd Project (2018) Local and regional waste management facilities. Available at: [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010007/EN010007-001427-6.3.30%20App%20C6-1-Local%20and%20regional%20waste%20management%20facilities%20\(Rov%201.0\).pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010007/EN010007-001427-6.3.30%20App%20C6-1-Local%20and%20regional%20waste%20management%20facilities%20(Rov%201.0).pdf)

⁸⁹ Isle of Anglesey County Council (2022) Landfill sites to become haven for wildlife. Available at: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/newsroom/news/landfill-sites-to-become-haven-for-wildlife>

⁹⁰ Wild Landfill (2025) Our Sites. Available at: <https://www.wildlandfill.com/sites>

⁹¹ ONS (2023) Census maps. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth?lad=W06000001>

increased by three years, from 45 to 48 years of age. This is higher than the average (median) age in Wales as a whole (42 years).

4.99 The number of people aged 65 to 74 years rose by around 1,200 (an increase of 14.2%), while the number of residents aged between 35 and 49 years fell by around 2,300 (17.2% decrease)⁹². This indicates an ageing population, reflecting similar trends in Wales and the wider UK.

Disability

4.100 In the 2021 Census, 81.0% of Anglesey's population stated that they are not disabled under the Equality Act, while 19.1% stated that they were disabled under the Equality Act. Of those, 10.6% were 'limited a little' during day-to-day activities, whilst 8.5% were 'limited a lot'⁹³. The proportion of people on Anglesey who are 'limited a lot' is lower than the Welsh average (10.0%)⁹⁴.

Marriage and civil partnership

4.101 In the 2021 Census, 46.5% of Anglesey's population was married or in a registered civil partnership whilst 33.0% have never been married and have never registered a civil partnership. Marriage and civil partnership rates are higher than the average in Wales⁹⁵.

4.102 These figures include same-sex marriages and opposite-sex civil partnerships in 2021, neither of which were legally recognised in England and Wales in 2011. Same-sex marriages have been legally recognised in England and Wales since 2014 and opposite-sex civil partnerships have been recognised since 2019⁹⁶.

Race

4.103 Data from the 2021 Census shows that 98.1% of Anglesey's population identify as white. This is higher than the Wales average of 93.8%⁹⁷. On Anglesey, this is followed by 0.9% of people who identify as mixed or multiple ethnic groups, 0.6% of people who identify as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh and 0.2% who identify as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African⁹⁸.

Religion or belief

4.104 In the 2021 Census, 51.5% of Anglesey's residents described themselves as Christian, dropping from 65.1% in 2011. A further 40.7% of Isle of Anglesey residents reported having 'no religion', up from 25.5% in 2011. The rise of 15.2 percentage points was the largest increase of all broad religious groups in the Isle of Anglesey. Across Wales, the percentage of residents who described themselves as having "no religion" increased from 32.1% to 46.5%⁹⁹ between 2011 and 2021.

4.105 There are many factors that can cause changes to the religious profile of an area, such as a changing age structure or residents relocating for work or education. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to self-identify between censuses. Religious affiliation is the religion with which someone connects or identifies, rather than their beliefs or religious practice¹⁰⁰.

Sex

4.106 In the 2021 Census, Anglesey's population was 51.1% female and 48.9% male¹⁰¹.

Sexual orientation

4.107 In the 2021 Census, 89.99% of Anglesey's population identified as straight or heterosexual. 2.04% of residents identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other (LGB+), whilst 7.97% did not answer¹⁰².

4.108 Also in the 2021 Census, 93.12% of Anglesey's population identified as the same sex registered at birth. 0.06% identified as trans women and 0.05% as trans men while 0.03% identified as non-binary. 6.59% of respondents did not answer.

4.109 No data were available relating to the remaining protected characteristics, specifically pregnancy and maternity.

Population

4.110 According to Census 2021 figures, between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of the Isle of

⁹² ONS (2023) How life has changed on the Isle of Anglesey: Census 2021. Available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/W06000001/>

⁹³ ONS (2023) Census maps. Available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth?lad=W06000001>

⁹⁴ ONS (2023) How life has changed on the Isle of Anglesey: Census 2021.

Available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/W06000001/>

⁹⁵ ONS (2023) How life has changed on the Isle of Anglesey: Census 2021.

Available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/W06000001/>

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ Welsh Government (2022) Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion in Wales (Census 2021). Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/ethnic-group-national-identity-language-and-religion-wales-census-2021-htm/#:~:text=On%20Census%20Day%2C%2021%20March,Irish%20or%20British%20in%202021.>

⁹⁸ ONS (2023) Census maps. Available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth?lad=W06000001>

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ ONS (2023) Census maps. Available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth?lad=W06000001>

¹⁰² Ibid.

Anglesey fell by 1.3%, from just under 69,800 in 2011 to around 68,900 in 2021¹⁰³.

4.111 This means the Isle of Anglesey was one of seven local authority areas in Wales to see its population decline. The population of Wales increased by 1.4%, from 3,063,000 to 3,107,000¹⁰⁴.

Deprivation

4.112 Wales is divided into 1,909 Lower-Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) each having about 1,600 people. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) ranks these LSOAs according to their relative deprivation levels across eight types of deprivation, and these are combined to produce an overall index. The most deprived LSOA is ranked 1, and the least deprived 1,909. One area has a higher deprivation rank than another if the proportion of people living there who are classed as deprived is higher.

4.113 39% of LSOAs on Anglesey are ranked as being within the 50% most deprived in Wales¹⁰⁵. This is the sixth lowest percentage of any Welsh local authority. The spatial distribution of deprivation across the island is illustrated in **Figure 4.10**.

Crime and community safety

4.114 In relation to the community safety domain, WIMD data show that 41% of the LSOAs within Anglesey are within the 50% most deprived in Wales. This is the tenth lowest of the 22 Welsh local authority areas¹⁰⁶.

4.115 At the end of 2023, there were 4,061 counts of total recorded crime on Anglesey. This is the fourth lowest count out of the 22 Welsh local authority areas. The highest recorded crime was theft, accounting for 38% of all crime committed on Anglesey¹⁰⁷.

Education

4.116 In relation to the education domain, WIMD data show that 48% of the LSOAs within Anglesey are within the 50%

most deprived in Wales. This is the ninth lowest of the 22 Welsh local authority areas¹⁰⁸.

4.117 At the end of 2023, 90.4% of Anglesey's population was qualified to level 2 or above (equivalent to achieving GCSE grades 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, or 4 previously graded A*, A, B, or C). This is higher than the Wales average of 87.4%. Just 3.2% of Anglesey's population had no qualifications. This is lower than the Wales average (7.9%)¹⁰⁹.

Health and wellbeing

4.118 Data from the 2021 Census shows that 81.9% of Anglesey's population reported themselves as being in very good, or good health. This is slightly higher than across Wales where 79.1% of people reported themselves as being in very good or good health. The proportions of people on Anglesey reporting themselves as being in bad or very bad health were 3.9% and 1.1% respectively. These figures are lower than the national figures for Wales of 5.1% and 1.6%, respectively¹¹⁰.

4.119 In relation to the health domain, WIMD data show that around 27% of the LSOAs within Anglesey are within the 50% most deprived in Wales. This is the fifth lowest percentage of any Welsh local authority¹¹¹.

Life Expectancy

4.120 Life expectancy at birth for the period 2018-2020 on Anglesey was 79.3 years for males and 82.9 years for females, which is higher than the national figures of 78.3 years and 82.1 years respectively for Wales. From the period 2017-2019 there has been a slight decrease in life expectancy for males and females within Anglesey and more widely within Wales¹¹².

4.121 Within Anglesey for the period 2018-2020, there is a gap in healthy life expectancy at birth (comparing the least to most deprived fifth) of 7.8 years for males and 7.4 years for females. The gap at the national level for males and females is larger than that reported for Anglesey at 13.3 years and 16.9 years, respectively. Healthy life expectancy for the period 2018-2020 is higher on Anglesey than the national level for both males (64.2 years, compared to 61.5 years nationally)

¹⁰³ ONS (2023) How life has changed on the Isle of Anglesey: Census 2021. Available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/W06000001/>

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ StatsWales (2019) WIMD 2019 – Local Authority Analysis. Available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2019/localauthorityanalysis>

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Powys County Council (no date) Number of recorded crimes in Wales and by local authority, at a rate of 10,000 population. Available at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/11115/Wellbeing-Information-Bank-View-information-about-police-recorded-crime>

¹⁰⁸ StatsWales (2019) WIMD 2019 – Local Authority Analysis. Available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2019/localauthorityanalysis>

¹⁰⁹ StatsWales (2024) Highest qualification level of working age adults by region and local authority. Available at:

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Education-and-Skills/Post-16-Education-and-Training/Data-For-Regions-of-Wales/highestqualificationlevelofworkingageadults-by-region-localauthority>

¹¹⁰ ONS (2023) How life has changed on the Isle of Anglesey: Census 2021. Available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/W06000001/>

¹¹¹ StatsWales (2019) WIMD 2019 – Local Authority Analysis. Available at:

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2019/localauthorityanalysis>

¹¹² NHS Wales (2022) Health expectancies in Wales with inequality gap. Available at:

https://publichealthwales.shinyapps.io/PHWO_HealthExpectanciesWalesProfile_v2a/

and females (63.6 years, compared to 62.4 years nationally)¹¹³.

Obesity

4.122 Being overweight or obese carries numerous health risks, including increased likelihood of type 2 diabetes, cancer, heart and liver disease, stroke and related mental health conditions. It is estimated this health issue places a cost of at least £5.1 billion on the NHS and tens of billions on the wider UK society every year¹¹⁴.

4.123 In 2021-2023 28% of adults on Anglesey were reported to be obese, and 58% overweight or obese. In comparison, the Welsh national average of obesity is 25% and 62% respectively. Additionally, it was found that only 16% of adults on Anglesey achieved their 5-a-day target of fruit and vegetables, compared to 29% across Wales. Furthermore, 47% of adults on Anglesey reported having undertaken no physical activity or exercise in the previous week. This compares to the Welsh national average of 31%¹¹⁵.

Perception of well-being

4.124 Anglesey residents reported having slightly higher levels of life satisfaction (7.5 out of 10) than the average for Wales (7.4) in the 2022/23 period. Average figures recorded relating to 'feeling the things done in life are worthwhile' on Anglesey were 7.9 out of 10, while 'happiness' was 7.3 out of 10. The figure is slightly higher for 'feeling the things done in life are worthwhile' than the average for Wales at 7.7 and the equal for 'happiness' at 7.3. Average levels of anxiety recorded for Anglesey were recorded at 3.5, higher than the average for Wales at 3.3¹¹⁶.

4.125 In 2022-23, the National Survey included questions to assess people's mental wellbeing. These were 14 statements designed to measure mental well-being known as the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being scale. Scores range from 14 to 70, with a higher score representing better mental well-being¹¹⁷.

4.126 The average mental wellbeing score in Wales was 48.2. Better mental wellbeing was found to be associated with each of the following factors:

- Being older
- Not being in material deprivation
- Being religious
- Having better general health
- Not having a long-term health condition or illness
- Being a Welsh speaker
- Participating in sport 3 or more times a week

Communities and housing

4.127 The Isle of Anglesey is a predominantly rural area, characterised by a mix of small towns, villages and dispersed rural communities. The island's settlement pattern is shaped by its coastal and inland geography, with key centres of population and economic activity including Holyhead, Llangefni and Amlwch (Urban Service Centres), Beaumaris, Menai Bridge, Benllech and Gaerwen (Local Service Centres)¹¹⁸.

4.128 The 2021 Census recorded 36,217 dwellings on Anglesey, an increase of 2.9% from the 2011 Census (35,200)¹¹⁹. Of these, 68.4% were owned (either outright or with a mortgage) 15.6% were social rented and a further 15.9% were privately rented or rent-free.

4.129 According to the Land Registry, house prices decreased by 2.2% between November 2023 (£245,440) and November 2024 (240,082) on Anglesey¹²⁰. For comparison, house prices in Wales increased to an average of £204,197, which represents a 1.0% increase over the year ended December 2024¹²¹. As of November 2024, average house prices on Anglesey are amongst the top ten most expensive local authorities in Wales, ranking sixth. The top five are Monmouthshire (£346,479), Vale of Glamorgan (£292,490),

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Obesity Health Alliance (2017) OHA Briefing Paper: Costs of Obesity [online] Available at: <http://obesityhealthalliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/OHA-briefing-paper-Costs-of-Obesity-.pdf>

¹¹⁵ StatsWales (2023) Adult lifestyles by local authority and health board, 2020-21 onwards. Available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/National-Survey-for-Wales/Population-Health/Adult-Lifestyles/adultlifestyles-by-healthboard-from-202021>

¹¹⁶ ONS (2023) Personal well-being estimates by local authority. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/wellbeing-local-authority/editions/time-series/versions/4>

¹¹⁷ Welsh Government (2024) Mental well-being (National Survey for Wales): April 2022 to March 2023. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/mental-well-being-national-survey-wales-april-2022-march-2023.html>

¹¹⁸ Gwynedd and Anglesey Joint Unit (2016) Topic Paper 5A: Developing the Settlement Hierarchy. Available at:

[https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Supporting-documents/PT.012---Topic-Paper-5A-Developing-the-Settlement-Strategy-\(March-2016\).pdf](https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Supporting-documents/PT.012---Topic-Paper-5A-Developing-the-Settlement-Strategy-(March-2016).pdf)

¹¹⁹ Statistics for Wales (2022) Dwelling Stock Estimates for Wales. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2023-09/dwelling-stock-estimates-31-march-2022-398.pdf>

¹²⁰ Land Registry (2024) UK House Price Index Wales: November 2024. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-house-price-index-for-november-2024/uk-house-price-index-wales-november-2024>

¹²¹ Land Registry (2025) UK House Price Index. House Price Statistics. Available at: <https://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/ukhpi/browse?from=2023-12-01&location=http%3A%2F%2Flandregistry.data.gov.uk%2Fid%2FRegion%2Fisle-of-anglesey&to=2025-01-01&lang=en>

Cardiff (£272,692), Ceredigion (£242,025) and Powys (241,821).

4.130 The Joint LDP set a target of delivering 7,184 new housing units over the Plan period. However, a comparison of housing completions against this target in the years leading up

Table 4.5: Number of units delivered in the JLDP area versus actual number

| Year | Target | Actual number |
|---------|--------|---------------|
| 2016/17 | 376 | 402 |
| 2017/18 | 505 | 462 |
| 2018/19 | 617 | 548 |

to the latest monitoring report¹²² indicates that the number of new homes built has fallen below the expected level. This is shown below in **Table 4.5**.

4.131 The most recent Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) undertaken in 2025¹²³ identified a shortfall of 398 affordable units per annum. The LHMA identifies a net annual gross need of 167 affordable housing units over the first five years to 2028, after accounting for planned supply and turnover of existing housing stock. This includes 73 social rent, 31 intermediate rent, and 63 low-cost homeownership units. There is a net need for all sizes of affordable housing, although the greatest demand is for one-bedroom social rent units, requiring 65 per year.

4.132 Plans to increase the Council's housing stock from 4,000 to over 5,000 homes are included in the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2023-2053, which was approved by Executive members in early 2023¹²⁴.

4.133 It will see Anglesey's Housing Services build 45 new Council houses every year for the next 30 years to help meet the significant demand for social housing. One of the largest projects includes the redevelopment of the former Ysgol Thomas Ellis site in Holyhead to include total of 45 new social homes. Other Council housing projects are planned for Amlwch (40 homes) and Niwbwrch (14 homes) as well as several other significant projects across the island¹²⁵.

4.134 In 2023, the average household size on Anglesey was 2.20, which is roughly equivalent to Wales as a whole (2.26)¹²⁶. Anglesey's household size has decreased year on

year over the past decade, where in 2012 the average size was 2.25.

4.135 In 2021, 47.4% of households on Anglesey were detached (whole house or bungalow) housing, 22.9% were semi-detached, 22.1% were terraced, 7.0% were flats, maisonettes or apartments and 0.6% were caravans or other mobile or temporary structures.

4.136 as per the 2021 Census, 0.1% of people on the Isle of Anglesey identified as Gypsy or Irish Traveller (WGoIT) ethnicity¹²⁷. This equates to around 69 people. The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2022¹²⁸ identifies that in 2011, most of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population lived in bricks and mortar accommodation.

4.137 The latest caravan county data (January 2021) reports a total of one caravan on an unauthorised site on Anglesey. There is one tolerated caravan on public land on Anglesey. The GTAA further assesses the future accommodation needs for residential pitches. For Anglesey, the assessment identifies that by 2036, a total of 11 pitches will be required, meaning only two more pitches will be needed between 2025 and 2036.

Welsh language

4.138 In 1921, there were a little under a million people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales (922,100 people). This decreased over the last century, reaching a low of around 503,500 in 1981. The number of people able to

¹²² Gwynedd and Anglesey Joint Unit (2019) Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan 2011 - 2026 Annual Monitoring Report 1 August 2017 31 March 2019. Available at: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/documents/Docs-en/Planning/Planning-policy/Annual-monitoring-report/Annual-Monitoring-Report-1-August-2017-31-March-2019.pdf>

¹²³ Isle of Anglesey County Council (2025) Anglesey Local Housing Market Assessment 2023-2028. Available at: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/documents/Docs-en/Housing/Anglesey-Local-Housing-Market-Assessment-2023-to-2028-draft.pdf>

¹²⁴ Isle of Anglesey (2023) County Council committed to building more than 1,000 new homes. Available at: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/newsroom/news/county-council-committed-to-building-more-than-1000-new-homes>

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ StatsWales (2024) Average household size (persons) by Local Authority and Year. Available at: <https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Housing/Households/Estimates/average-householdsize-by-localauthority-year>

¹²⁷ ONS (2023) Census maps. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth?lad=W06000001>

¹²⁸ Arc4 (2022) Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2022. Available at: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/documents/Docs-en/Housing/Housing-Strategy/Anglesey-and-Gwynedd-Gypsy-and-Travellers-Accommodation-Needs-Assessment.pdf>

speak Welsh increased between 1981 and 2001 but has since decreased¹²⁹.

4.139 At the time of the 2021 Census, an estimated 538,300 usual residents in Wales aged three years or older were reported as being able to speak Welsh. This is around 17.8% of the population in Wales, the lowest proportion ever recorded in a census. This is a decrease of around 23,700 people since Census 2011, or a decrease of 1.2 percentage points. The highest percentages of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh are in north-west Wales (Gwynedd and Anglesey)¹³⁰.

4.140 At the time of the 2021 Census, 58.1% of Anglesey's population could speak, read or write Welsh and 11.1% could understand spoken Welsh only. 30.7% of people had no skills in Welsh. The number of people who can speak, read or write Welsh has decreased by 0.7% between 2011 and 2021¹³¹.

4.141 Anglesey's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022 – 2032 (WESP)¹³² sets out the approach to improve the use and access to the Welsh language. This includes increasing the use of Welsh amongst school children, transferring Welsh language skills from one stage of statutory education to another, creating more opportunities for learners to use Welsh and increasing the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh, amongst other objectives.

4.142 Figure 4.11 maps the proportion of Welsh speakers across Anglesey.

Education

4.143 The authority has one of the smallest school populations numbering under 10,000 students. Isle of Anglesey County Council has responsibility for 49 schools. There are 43 primary schools with an average size of 129 pupils, ranging from Ysgol Gymuned Garreglefn with just over 20 pupils, to Ysgol Cybi in Holyhead with over 425 pupils. There are five secondary schools all of which have sixth forms¹³³.

4.144 Almost all of Anglesey's primary schools are Welsh medium – one is dual language and one is English medium.

Four of the secondary schools are Bilingual and one is English medium.

Economic Baseline Information

Economy and employment

4.145 In 2019, the main employment sector for residents of Anglesey was 'Wholesale, retail, transport, hotels and food' (9,200 people), followed by 'Public administration, defence, education and health' (6,300 people) and production (3,000)¹³⁴.

4.146 Tourism and recreation are vital to Anglesey's economy, with the island attracting 1.71 million visitors annually, generating £304 million per year¹³⁵. The tourism sector employs approximately 20% of the island's population – the highest proportion of any local authority in Wales. This highlights the sector's role as a critical component of Anglesey's economy¹³⁶.

4.147 The growth in the tourism sector on Anglesey far outstrips that of the rest of Wales with a 64% increase in revenue between 2006 and 2017, representing growth of 7% (4% higher than the national average). Although Anglesey predominately attracts tourists from the North West of England, Holyhead has also become a destination of choice for cruise ship operators. 2018 saw 43 cruise ships visit with approximately 32,700 passengers potentially disembarking. With an average spend of between £80 and £100 per head, passengers contribute significantly to the island's economy¹³⁷.

4.148 In 2021, 31.0% of Anglesey's population worked less than 10km from home and 30.5% worked over 10km from home and 15.9% worked mainly at an offshore installation, in no fixed place, or outside the UK. 22.5% of Anglesey's residents worked mainly from home¹³⁸ – this percentage is likely to have increased significantly as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic and it is not known whether the proportion of home workers will have remained as high as it was in 2021.

¹²⁹ Welsh Government (2022) Welsh language in Wales (Census 2021). Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/welsh-language-wales-census-2021-html>

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ ONS (2023) Census maps. Available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth?lad=W06000001>

¹³² Isle of Anglesey (2022) Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022 – 2032.

Available at: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/documents/Docs-en/Learning/Strategic-Plan-for-Welsh-in-Anglesey-Education/Welsh-in-Education-Strategic-Plan-2022-to-2032.pdf>

¹³³ Level the Playing Field (no date) Isle of Anglesey Overview. Available at:

<https://www.leveltheplayingfield.wales/local-authorities/isle-of-anglesey>

¹³⁴ Stats Wales: Workplace employment by Welsh local areas and broad industry. Available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/People-and-Work/Workforce/Whole-Workforce/workplaceemployment-by-welshlocalareas-industry>

¹³⁵ Bangor University (2020) Supplementary Tourism and Recreation Assessment. Available at:

<https://publicregister.naturalresources.wales/Search/Download?RecordId=29307#:~:text=Anglesey%20is%20highly%20dependent%20on,annum%20to%20the%20local%20economy.>

¹³⁶ Welsh Government (2024) Wales visitor economy profile: 2024. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/wales-visitor-economy-profile-2024-html>

¹³⁷ Bangor University (2020) Supplementary Tourism and Recreation Assessment. Available at:

<https://publicregister.naturalresources.wales/Search/Download?RecordId=29307#:~:text=Anglesey%20is%20highly%20dependent%20on,annum%20to%20the%20local%20economy.>

¹³⁸ ONS (2023) Census maps. Available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth?lad=W06000001>

4.149 The average gross weekly earnings on Anglesey in 2024 was £704.90. This is higher than the Welsh average (£674.50)¹³⁹.

4.150 In the year ending 30 September 2024, 17.7% of Anglesey's residents were classed as economically inactive. This is lower than the Welsh average (20.8%) and in line with the UK average (17.7%)¹⁴⁰.

4.151 The Employment Land Review (2012) leads to the requirement to safeguard 642.9 ha of existing employment land in the Plan area (including Gwynedd) and to allocate 55.1 ha of new sites in the Plan area, plus an additional 144.1 ha in reserve on the island¹⁴¹.

Transport infrastructure

4.152 The geography of Anglesey influences its transport network, with key routes stemming from major settlements and linking to the mainland via the A55, the island's primary strategic route. The A55, also known as the North Wales Expressway, provides a vital connection to North Wales, the M56 and the wider UK road network, supporting local travel and freight movement. Britannia Bridge, which carries the A55 road and the North Wales Coast railway line across the Menai Strait, regularly experiences closures, traffic restrictions, and reduced speed limits, due to extreme weather conditions. This affects local traffic and traffic travelling to/from the Port of Holyhead. There are, however, plans to build a third crossing to the east of Britannia Bridge, with intentions of starting construction in 2027¹⁴².

4.153 Other key roads, such as the A5025 and A4080, connect rural communities but are often constrained by their rural nature, limited capacity and seasonal congestion, particularly in popular tourist areas. While external connectivity is strong, internal transport links can be more challenging, with some routes passing through narrow village centres and coastal areas that are less suited to heavy traffic.

4.154 Public transport on Anglesey is primarily provided by bus and rail services, facilitating connectivity within the island and to the mainland. The bus network serves key settlements, including Holyhead, Llangefni, Amlwch and Beaumaris, with routes extending to smaller rural communities. However, services can be infrequent in more remote areas, limiting

accessibility for those without private transport. The main railway line serving Anglesey crosses the Menai Straits on the re-modelled Britannia Bridge, before arriving at the first station, Llanfairpwll. After this station, the route is striking in that it avoids the larger towns and villages, taking a curving route along the western side of the island before terminating at Holyhead. This route was borne out of a need to create a fast link between London and Dublin, and the potential revenue from local passengers was therefore a secondary consideration. Aside from Holyhead and Llanfairpwll, all railways on Anglesey are request stops, whereby trains only halt if signalled¹⁴³. While public transport links are vital for residents and visitors, challenges remain in terms of service frequency, rural coverage, and integration between bus and rail networks, particularly for those reliant on public transport for daily commuting and essential services.

Traffic flows, travel to work/commuting patterns

4.155 At the time of the 2021 Census, 26,002 people were recorded as working on the Isle of Anglesey. Of these, 11,007 either worked from home or had no fixed place of work, while 11,723 commuted within Anglesey itself¹⁴⁴.

4.156 There is a notable inflow and outflow of workers between Anglesey and mainland North Wales. The largest inbound movement came from Gwynedd (2,341 people), followed by Conwy (349 people) and Denbighshire (60 people). Conversely, outward commuting from Anglesey was significantly higher, with 4,595 residents travelling to work in Gwynedd, followed by 562 to Conwy and 127 to Denbighshire.

4.157 Commuting patterns show that Llangefni had the largest workday population of 2,940 people commuting in from other areas. Additionally, 805 people travelled within Llangefni for work, while 974 people either worked from home or had no fixed workplace. The largest inbound flows to Llangefni came from Newborough (355 people), Holyhead (316 people), and Amlwch and Llannerch-y-medd (309 people). In contrast, the largest outward flows from Llangefni were to Bangor South (222 people), Newborough (161 people) and Bodedern and Rhosneigr (88 people).

4.158 According to the 2021 Census, the primary method used to travel to work on Anglesey is by driving a car or van, accounting for 61.3% of the working population. An additional

¹³⁹ StatsWales (2024) Average (median) gross weekly earnings by Welsh local areas and year (£) Available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/People-and-Work/Earnings/medianweeklyearnings-by-welshlocalareas-year>.

¹⁴⁰ StatsWales (2025) Economic inactivity rates (excluding students) by Welsh local area and year. Available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/People-and-Work/Economic-Inactivity/economicinactivityratesexcludingstudents-by-welshlocalarea-year>

¹⁴¹ Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Planning Policy Unit (2016) Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan 2011 - 2026. Available at:

<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Anglesey-and-Gwynedd-Joint-Local-Development-Plan-Written-Statement.pdf>

¹⁴² Welsh Government (2023) A55_3rd Menai Crossing. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/a55-3rd-menai-crossing-0>

¹⁴³ Mon Mam Cymru (no date) Railways of Anglesey. Available at: <http://www.allaboutanglesey.co.uk/railways#:~:text=Railways%20of%20Anglesey&text=Aside%20from%20Holyhead%20and%20Llanfairpwll,these%20are%20request%20stops%20only>.

¹⁴⁴ ONS (2023) Visualising people flows. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusorigindestination/#workplace>

4.6% travel as a passenger in a car or van. The second most common mode of transport (not including the 22.5% of those who work from home) is on foot, accounting for 6.8% of the working population. Just 1.6% travel to work on using a bus, minibuss or coach and 0.4% travel to work using the train¹⁴⁵.

Difficulties encountered

4.159 It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration is given to any data limitations or other difficulties that are encountered during the SA process. Difficulties and limitations that arose during the preparation of the ISA Scoping Report are outlined below:

- Anglesey has a high proportion of second homes and short-term holiday lets, but data on their exact impact on housing availability and affordability is often incomplete

and inaccessible. The presence of second homes and short-term holiday lets may also skew statistics on housing availability and economic data.

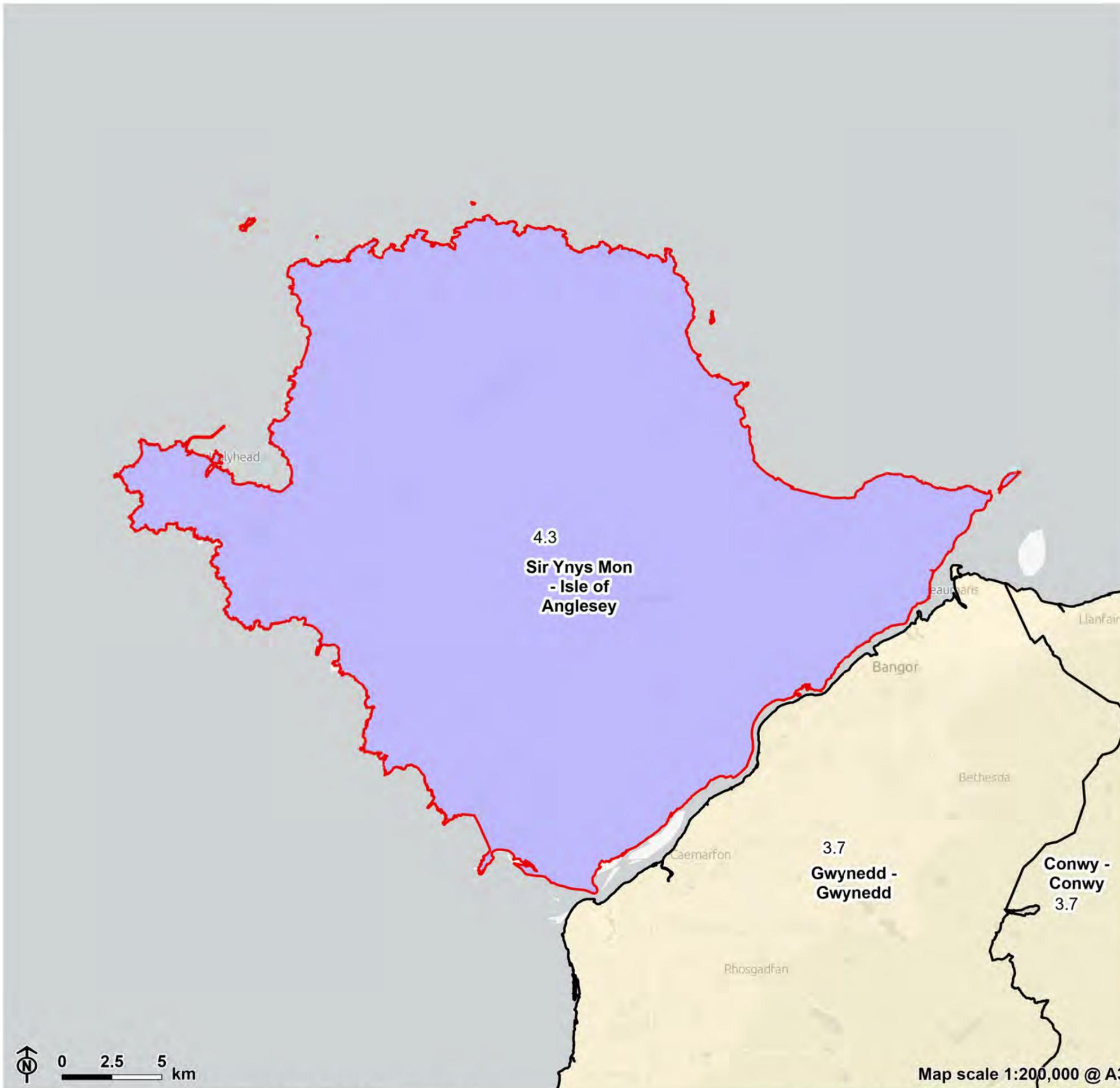
- While general transport infrastructure data (e.g. roads and rail lines) is available, detailed passenger usage statistics (e.g. for rural bus services) is limited. There is also a lack of commissioned research into local travel and transport statistics. For example, the most applicable Transport Plan is regional and applies to the entirety of North Wales rather than Anglesey¹⁴⁶.
- Reliance on outdated data sources, including The Employment Land Review (2012) and Annual Monitoring Reports, which may not reflect current economic and development trends.

¹⁴⁵ ONS (2022) Method used to travel to work. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS061/editions/2021/versions/6>

¹⁴⁶ North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (2025) North Wales Regional Transport Plan (draft). Available at:

<https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/documents/s43230/Appendix%203%20-%20NW%20CJC%20RTP.pdf>

Figure 4.1: Carbon Emissions



- Isle of Anglesey boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- UK local authority CO2 emissions 2022**
- Per Capita Emissions (tonnes per person)
- 3.0-4.0
- 4.0-5.0

Figure 4.2: Flood zones 2 and 3

-  Isle of Anglesey boundary
-  Neighbouring local authority
-  Flood Zone 2
-  Flood Zone 3

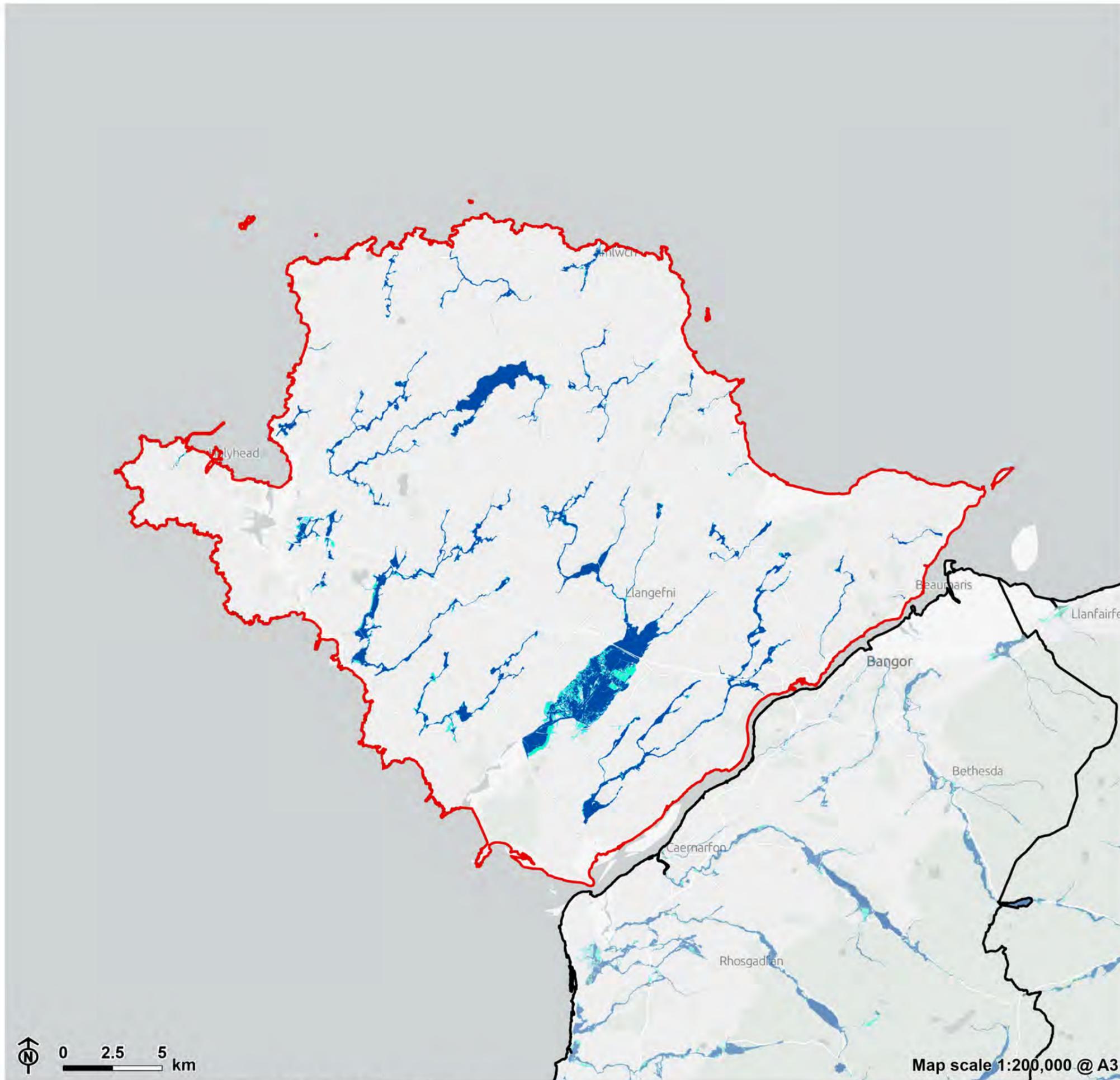
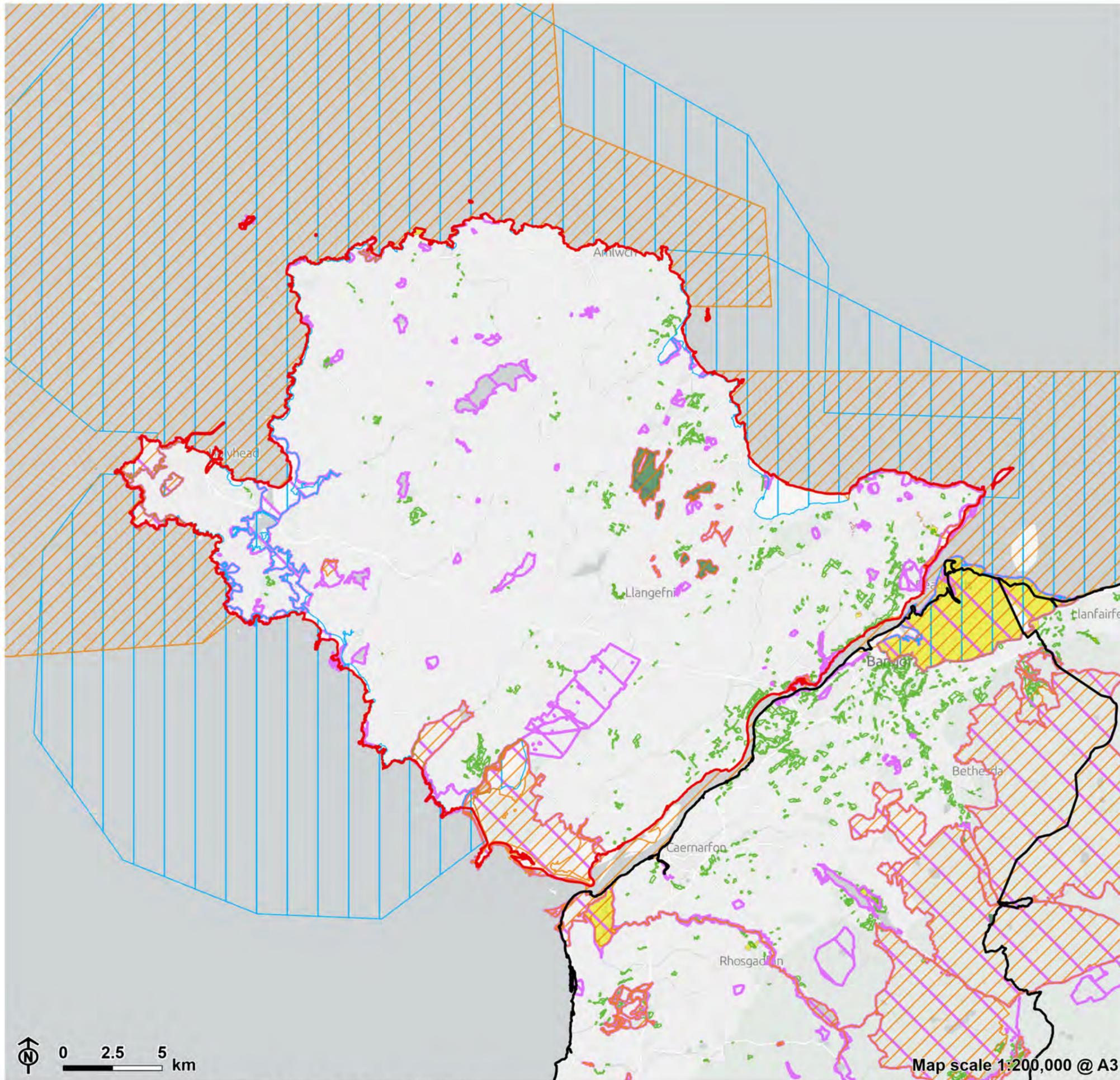


Figure 4.3: Designated biodiversity and geodiversity assets



- Isle of Anglesey boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area
- Ramsar Site
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Ancient Woodland
- Local Nature Reserve

Figure 4.4: Landscape designations

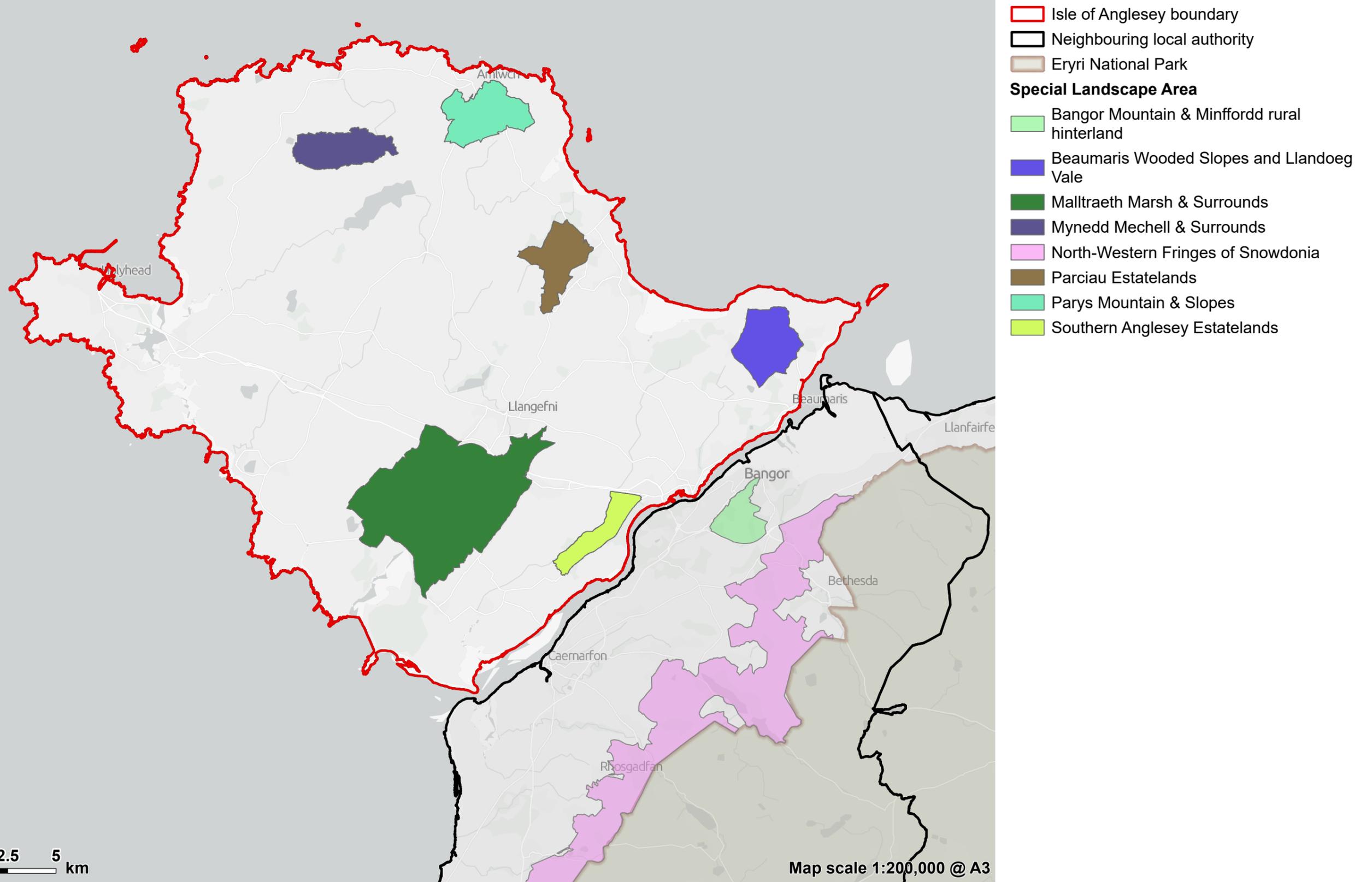
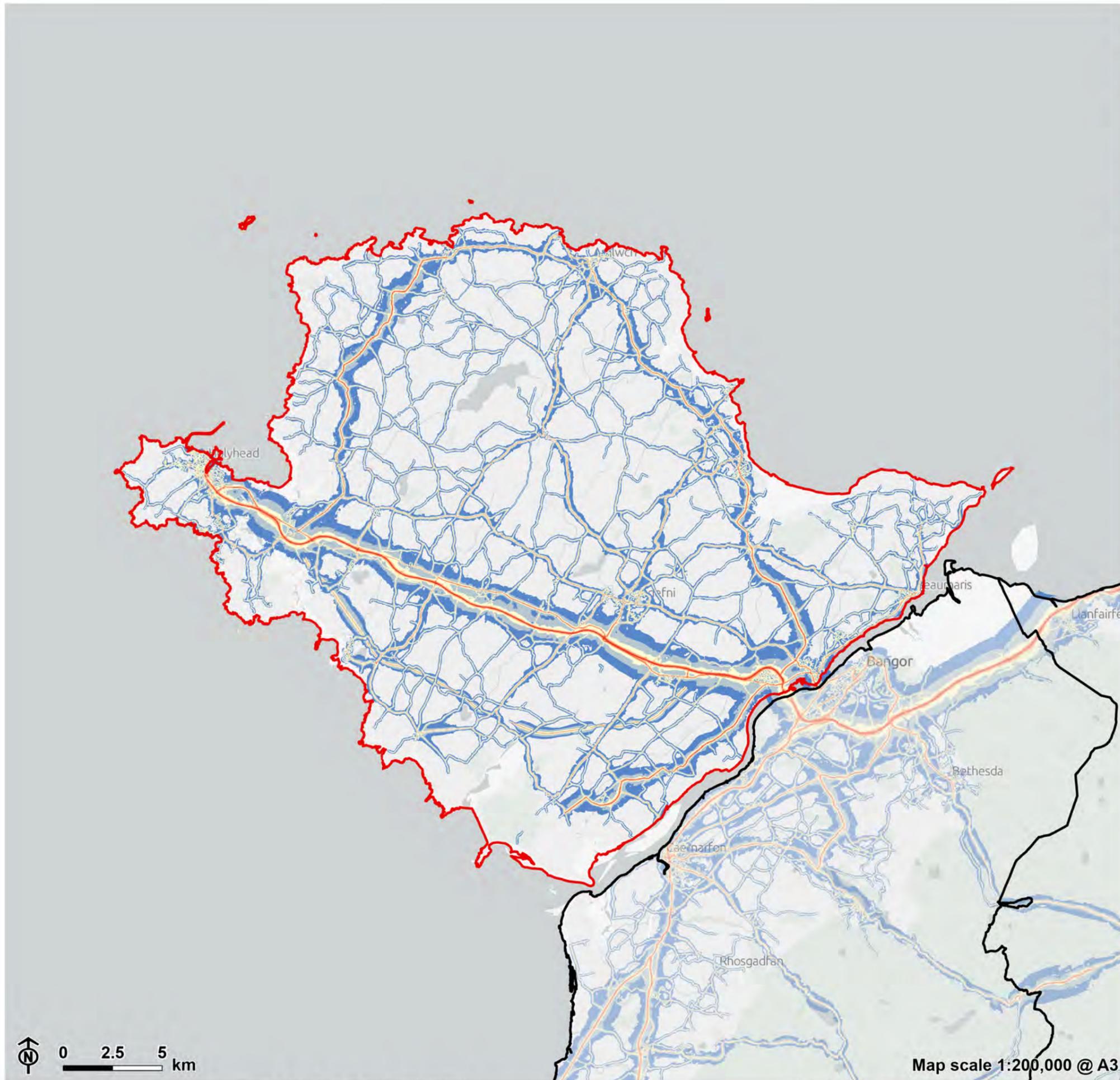


Figure 4.5: Watercourse

- Isle of Anglesey boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Watercourse

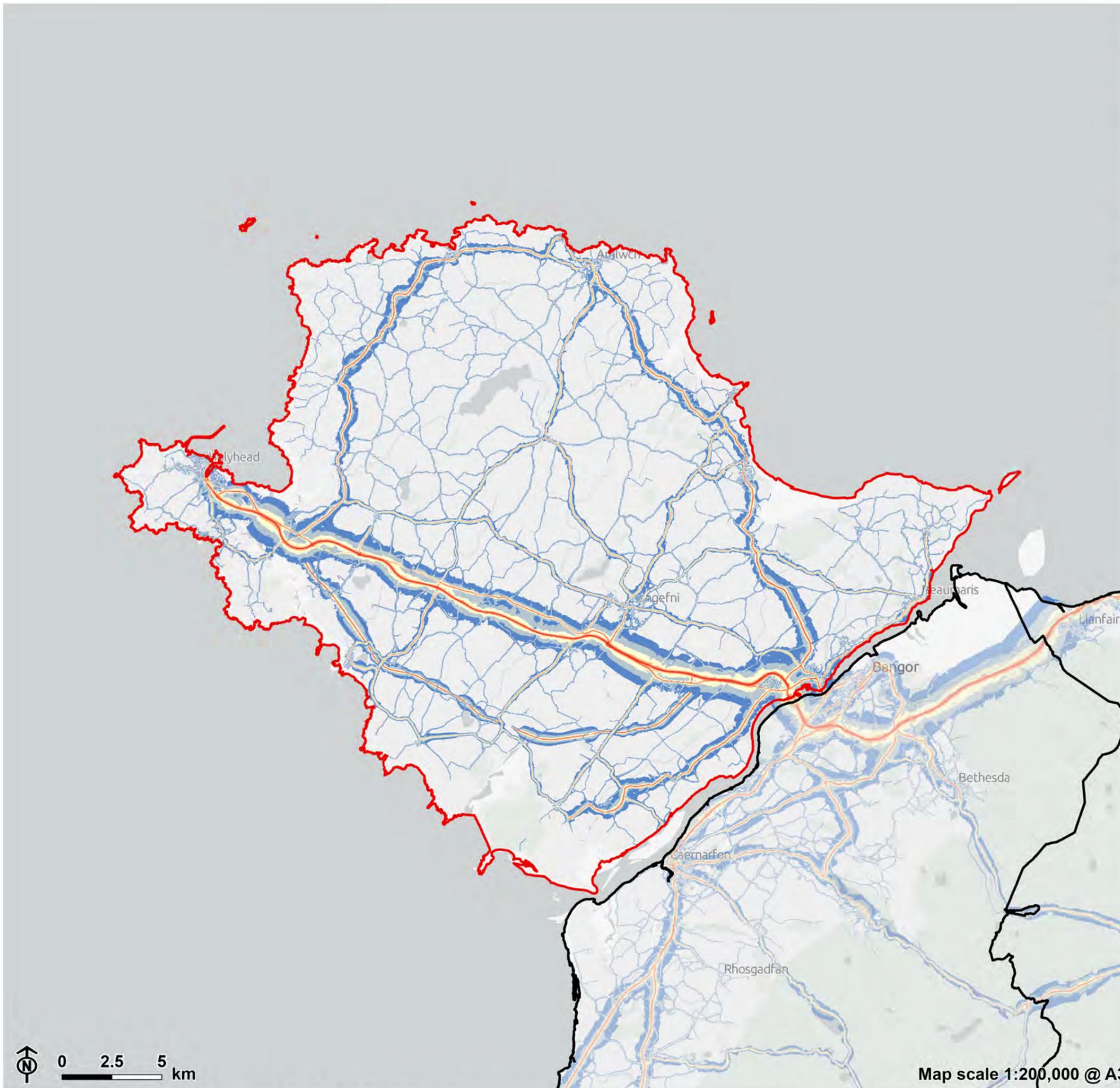


Figure 4.6: Noise levels (day)



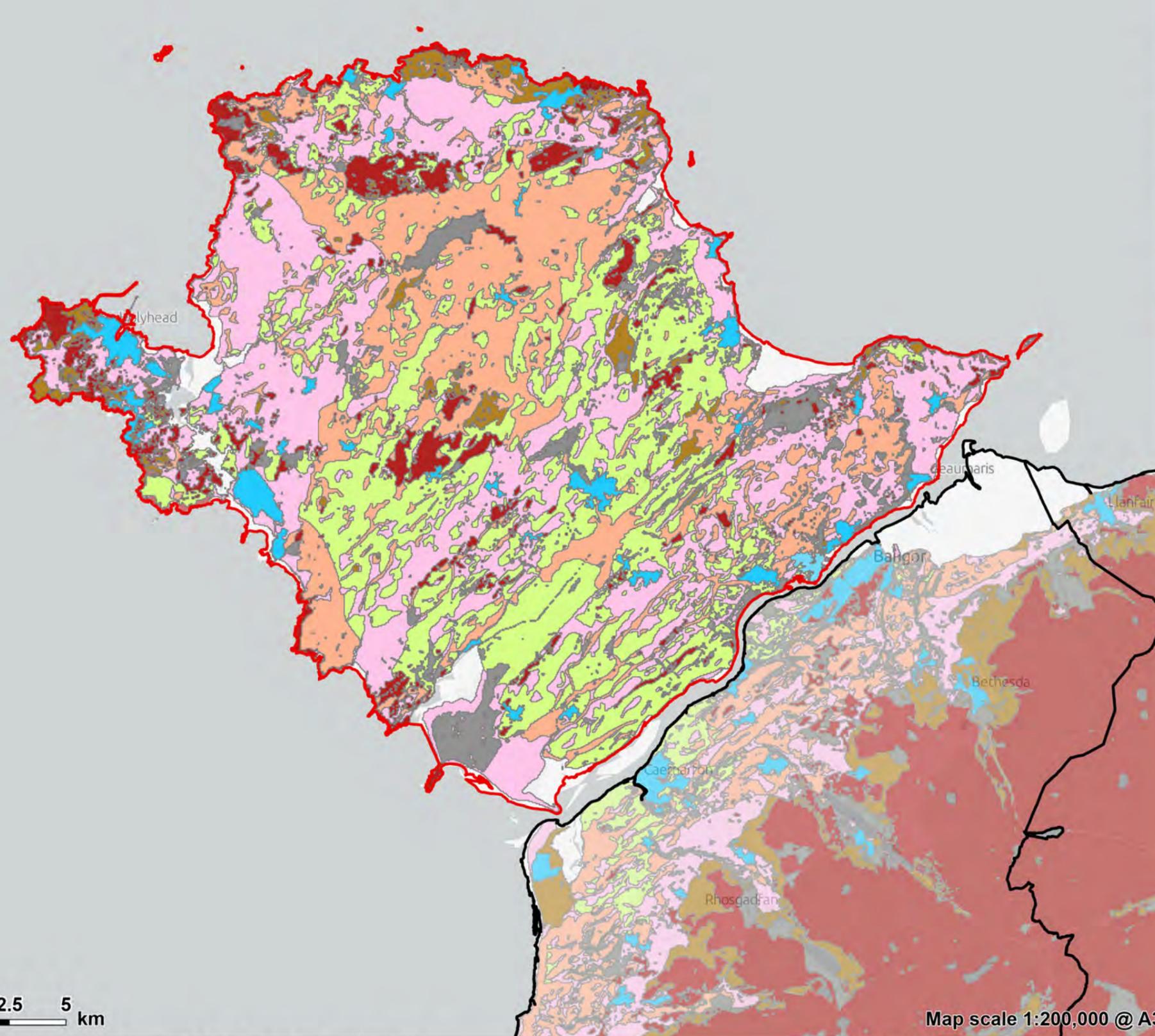
- Isle of Anglesey boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Road and rail noise during the day (LAeq 16h - between 07:00-23:00)**
- Annual average noise levels (decibel)
- 40.1 - 45
- 45.1 - 51
- 51.1 - 58
- 58.1 - 66
- ≥ 66.1

Figure 4.7: Noise levels (night)



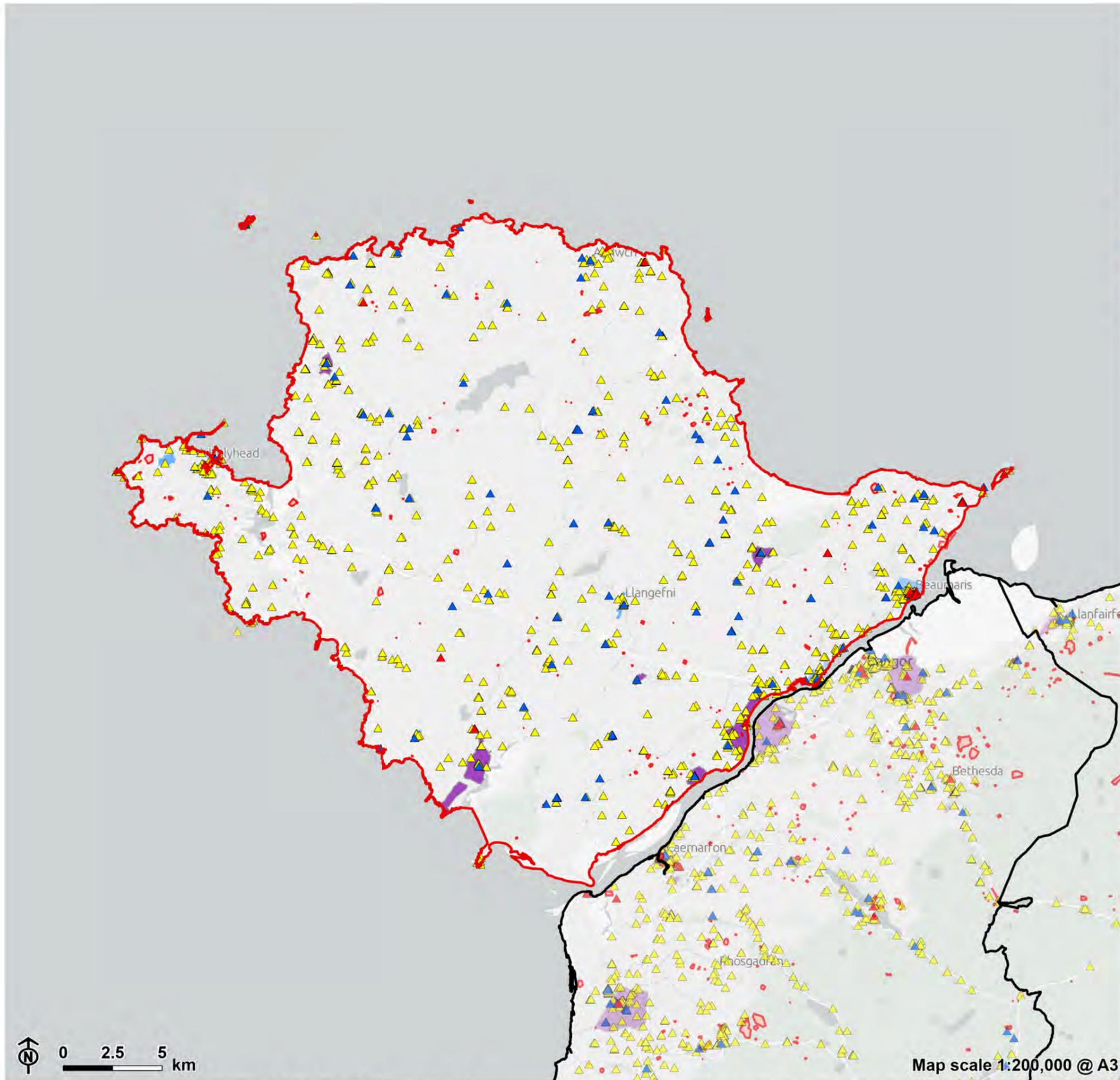
- Isle of Anglesey boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Road and rail noise during the night (L_{night} - between 23:00-07:00)**
- Annual average noise levels (decibel)
- 35.1 - 39
- 39.1 - 44
- 44.1 - 51
- 51.1 - 59
- ≥ 59.1

Figure 4.8: Agricultural land quality



- Isle of Anglesey boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)**
- Grade 1 - Excellent
- Grade 2 - Very Good
- Grade 3a - Good
- Grade 3b - Moderate
- Grade 4 - Poor
- Grade 5 - Very Poor
- NA - Non Agricultural
- U - Urban

Figure 4.9: Designated heritage features



- Isle of Anglesey boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Conservation Area
- Scheduled monument
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Listed building**
 - Grade I
 - Grade II*
 - Grade II

Figure 4.10: Deprivation

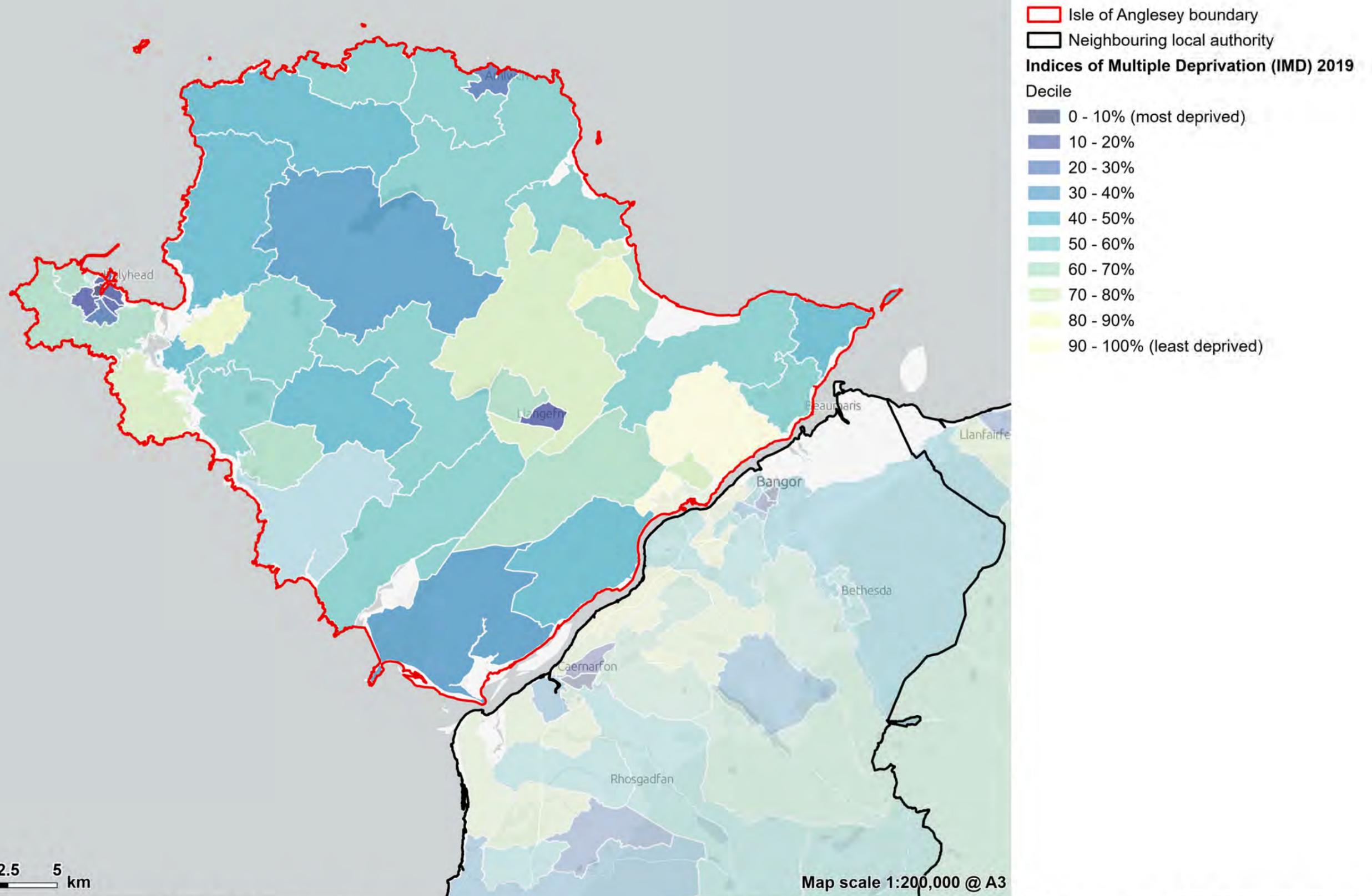
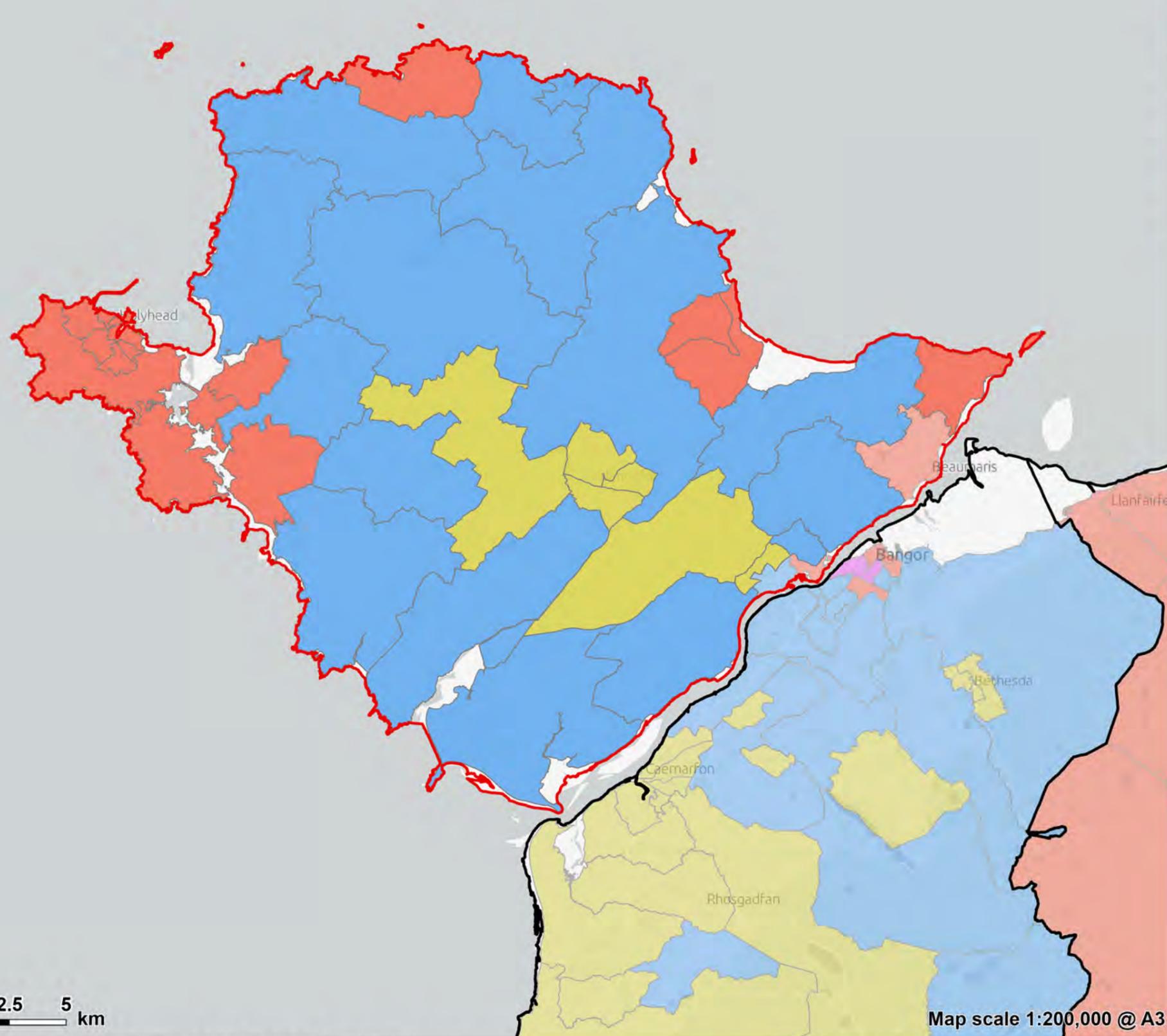


Figure 4.11: Welsh speakers



- Isle of Anglesey boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Percentage of welsh speakers above the age of 3**
- 10% or less
- Between 10% and 30%
- Between 30% and 50%
- Between 50% and 70%
- Over 70%

Chapter 5

Key Sustainability Issues and likely Evolution without the Plan

5.1 Analysis of the baseline information has enabled a set of key sustainability issues facing Anglesey to be identified. Identification of the key sustainability issues and consideration of how these issues might develop over time if the LDP is not implemented helps to meet the requirements of Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations (Wales) to provide information on:

“the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme; and any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme.”

5.2 The current set of key sustainability issues for Anglesey, as identified through the baseline information in **Chapter 4**, is presented in **Table 5.1** overleaf.

5.3 It is also a requirement of the SEA Regulations (Wales) that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area (in this case Anglesey) if the new LDP was not to be implemented. This analysis is also presented in **Table 5.1** in relation to each of the key sustainability issues.

5.4 The information in **Table 5.1** shows that, in general, the current trends in relation to the various social, economic and environmental issues affecting Anglesey would be less well addressed without the implementation of the new LDP, although the policies in the adopted Joint LDP (2017) as well as national policy set out in PPW and Future Wales (as detailed in **Chapter 3**) would still go some way towards addressing many of the issues. In most cases, the new LDP offers opportunities to directly affect existing trends in a positive way, through an up-to-date plan which reflects national policy.

Table 5.1: Key Sustainability Issues for Anglesey and their likely evolution without the new LDP

| Key Sustainability Issues | Likely Evolution without the new LDP |
|---|--|
| The need to mitigate and adapt to the ongoing impacts of climate change. | Relevant policies from the adopted Joint LDP (2017) would still apply, including policies PS 7: Renewable Energy Technology, ADN 1: On-shore Wind Energy, ADN 2: PV Solar Energy and ADN 3: Other Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies, which could help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions by supporting the provision of alternative, renewable energy sources. Policy PS 5: Sustainable Development supports development in the main settlements, which have good access to public transport, and services and facilities are within walking distance of one another. This would help reduce reliance on the private car and greenhouse gas emissions associated with private car use. Other policies in the adopted Joint LDP support alternatives to the private car, such as PS 4: Sustainable Transport, Development and Accessibility and TRA 1: Transport Network Developments. Improvements to vehicle technology (as well as policies in PPW and other national policy and legislation) may also contribute to reducing emissions, in the absence of the adopted Joint LDP. Policy PS 6: Alleviating and Adapting to the Effects of Climate Change in the adopted Local Plan requires proposals to demonstrate how they will respond to climate change. Other plans and policies will also continue to apply in the absence of the adopted Joint LDP, including those relating to flood risk. The new LDP offers an opportunity to strengthen and develop up-to-date locally specific policies to address the issue of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to allocate sites for new development on Anglesey that are not in areas at risk of flooding, within close proximity of sustainable transport links, and that can incorporate the provision of new sustainable transport infrastructure. |
| High levels of car ownership and limited access to public transport in rural areas. | Relevant policies from the adopted Joint LDP (2017) would still apply, including policies ISA 1: Infrastructure Provision, PS 4: Sustainable Transport, Development and Accessibility and TRA 1: Transport Network Developments, which support improvements to public transport infrastructure and encourage walking and cycling. This, and other relevant policies (including in PPW and other national policy and legislation), would continue to apply in the absence of a new LDP. The new LDP offers an opportunity to reduce reliance on the private car by focusing development in more urban, built-up areas, and improving public transport infrastructure in rural areas, although it will be a challenge to do so compared with urban areas, due to lack of viability. |
| The need to protect and enhance designated and undesignated biodiversity features, particularly in line of the nature emergency that has been declared at the national level. | Relevant policies from the adopted Joint LDP (2017) would still apply, including policies AMG 5: Local Biodiversity Conservation and AMG 6: Protecting Sites of Regional or Local Significance, which seek to preserve and enhance Anglesey's distinctive natural heritage, including ecological networks and designated sites. This, and other relevant policies (including in PPW and other national policy and legislation), would continue to apply in the absence of the new LDP. However, the new LDP offers the chance to develop up-to-date locally specific policies addressing environmental protection and to direct development on Anglesey (through appropriate site allocations) to locations where harm to biodiversity will be avoided. |
| The need to protect and enhance the sensitive landscape, particularly around the Anglesey National Landscape. | Relevant policies from the adopted Joint LDP (2017) would still apply, including policies AMG1 1: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans, AMG 2: Special Landscape Areas and AMG 3: Protecting and Enhancing Features and Qualities that are Distinctive to the Local Landscape Character. Policies PCYFF 3: Design and Place Shaping and PCYFF 4: Design and Landscaping would also help protect and enhance the landscape and townscape through high quality design. These, and other relevant policies (including in PPW and other national policy and legislation), would continue to apply in the absence of the Joint LDP; however, the new LDP offers the chance to develop up-to-date locally specific policies, including on Anglesey National Landscape, in addition to directing development on Anglesey (through appropriate site allocations) to locations where harm to sensitive landscapes will be avoided. Design policies and codes can also be developed to ensure that new development is appropriately designed to further minimise impacts. This issue would not be as well addressed in the absence of the new LDP. |
| Shortages in open space provision including sports facilities and playing pitches. | Relevant policies from the adopted Joint LDP (2017) would still apply, including policies ISA 1: Infrastructure Provision, ISA 2: Community Facilities and ISA 5: Provision of Open Spaces in New Housing Developments, which support the development of and contributions towards open space, including sports and leisure facilities. Further to this, Policy ISA 4: Safeguarding Existing Open Space discourages loss of open space. The new LDP presents the opportunity to maintain and improve open space quality, in addition to protecting and enhancing access to open space, including sports facilities and playing pitches. The plan-making process will also allow for new open spaces to be planned and incorporated alongside new development. |
| Some areas of high flood risk. | Policy ISA 1: Infrastructure Provision seeks contributions towards flood risk management measures, while policies PCYFF 3: Design and Place Shaping and PCYFF 6: Water Conservation support the implementation of flood minimisation or mitigation measures where possible to limit surface water run-off and its contribution to flood risk, in addition to sea and river flood risk. |

| Key Sustainability Issues | Likely Evolution without the new LDP |
|--|--|
| | <p>Additionally, the adopted Joint LDP designates a Coastal Change Management Area where there is a requirement for a TAN 15 compliant Flood Consequences Assessment to be submitted, so as to prevent any increase in flood risk. The new LDP presents an opportunity for new development required over the plan period to be minimised within areas of higher flood risk. Policies included in the new LDP should require mitigation where areas of flood risk cannot be avoided, in addition to requiring installation of sustainable drainage systems.</p> |
| <p>Sensitive heritage features requiring protection.</p> | <p>There are numerous policies contained within the adopted Joint LDP that seek to protect heritage assets, namely PS 20: Preserving and Where Appropriate Enhancing Heritage Assets, AT 1: Conservation Areas, World Heritage Sites and Registered Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens, AT 2: Enabling Development, AT 3: Locally or Regionally Significant Non-designated Heritage Assets and AT 4: Protection of Non-Designated Archaeological Sites and Their Setting. The new LDP offers an opportunity to limit development in more historically sensitive areas and to ensure that development does not result in adverse effects on the historic environment through policy requirements.</p> |
| <p>Declining population between the last two Census's.</p> | <p>The policies contained within the adopted Joint LDP seek to make Anglesey an attractive place to live, including policies PS 5: Sustainable Development and PCYFF 4: Design and Place Shaping, which focus on the sustainable location of development and place making. There are also policies that support economic growth within Anglesey, including CYF 1: Safeguarding, Allocating and Reserving Land and Units for Employment Use and CYF 2: Adwy'r Hafan Pwllheli, while housing demand is addressed through policies such as PS 16: Housing Provision. These, and other relevant policies (including in PPW and other national policy and legislation), would continue to apply in the absence of the Joint LDP. However, the new LDP offers the opportunity to create and safeguard jobs through the allocation and promotion of employment generating uses, including office and industrial spaces and the promotion of the rural economy, while also promoting access and opportunity for all.</p> |
| <p>Some pockets of deprivation.</p> | <p>Relevant policies from the adopted Joint LDP (2017) would still apply, including policies CYF 7: Regeneration Sites, CYF 8: Holyhead Regeneration Area, TAI 5: Local Market Housing, TAI 8: Appropriate Housing Mix and PS 18: Affordable Housing, which promote regeneration in areas that need it the most, while also ensuring different types of housing are available, including affordable housing. The new LDP presents an opportunity to address deprivation head on and in areas not identified in the Joint LDP (regeneration of Holyhead is almost complete).</p> |
| <p>Declining levels of Welsh language speaking.</p> | <p>The adopted Joint LDP contains a policy relating to the Welsh language, namely PS 1: Welsh Language and Culture, which requires a Welsh Language Impact Assessment to be submitted as part of most applications. Therefore, support for use of the Welsh language will continue in the absence of a new LDP. However, the new LDP offers an opportunity to update this policy and reinforce the need to protect and encourage use of the Welsh language.</p> |

Chapter 6

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Framework and Methodology

ISA framework

6.1 The development of a set of ISA objectives (known as the ISA framework) is a recognised way in which the likely sustainability effects of a plan can be described, analysed and compared.

6.2 The proposed ISA framework for the new Anglesey LDP is presented in **Table 6.1** overleaf. All of the topics required by the SEA Regulations (set out in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations (Wales)) are clearly addressed by the ISA objectives, as shown in the third column of the table. The final column shows how the objectives address the other assessment processes that are to be integrated within the ISA.

Table 6.1: ISA Framework for the new Anglesey LDP

| ISA objective | Decision aiding questions Will the policy/strategy option...? | Relevant SEA Regulations topic(s) | Relevance to other assessment processes incorporated within the ISA |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change and reduce flood risk | <p>Minimise greenhouse gas emissions?</p> <p>Contribute to a carbon-neutral community?</p> <p>Reduce flood risk to people, property and maintain integrity of floodplain?</p> <p>Promote the use of SuDS and other flood resilient design?</p> <p>Consider the likely impacts of climate change on all types of infrastructure?</p> <p>Encourage the development of renewables, including micro-generation?</p> <p>Encourage high standards of energy efficiency in all new developments?</p> <p>Promote design which will help to mitigate the effects of climate change (for example through appropriate building orientation)?</p> <p>Steer development away from the floodplain where possible, and prevent increased flood risk elsewhere?</p> <p>Promote design which will support green infrastructure?</p> | Climatic factors | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resilient Wales - A healthier Wales - A globally responsible Wales |
| 2. Provide an appropriate amount and mix of housing to meet local needs | <p>Deliver good quality housing?</p> <p>Promote a mix of housing sizes, types and tenures?</p> <p>Promote housing that meets the requirements of those with particular needs including older people and people with disabilities?</p> <p>Help meet affordable housing needs to allow local people to remain within their communities?</p> | <p>Population</p> <p>Material assets</p> | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A more equal Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities <p>Access to appropriate housing to meet particular needs is a key issue for the EqIA and HIA component of the ISA.</p> |

| ISA objective | Decision aiding questions Will the policy/strategy option...? | Relevant SEA Regulations topic(s) | Relevance to other assessment processes incorporated within the ISA |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>3. Promote vibrant communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all</p> | <p>Encourage provision of community facilities in accessible locations?</p> <p>Promote access to education for all?</p> <p>Consider the needs of specific groups including those with protected characteristics?</p> <p>Plan places with opportunities for active citizenship to promote community engagement?</p> <p>Accommodate meeting places for different cultures?</p> <p>Promote mixed development?</p> <p>Provide equality of access for all?</p> <p>Help to promote design solutions that will help protect communities from crime and reduce the fear of crime?</p> | <p>Population</p> <p>Material assets</p> | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A more equal Wales - A Wales of cohesive communities <p>Access to community services and facilities relevant to particular groups is a key issue for the EqIA component of the ISA, and reducing isolation is important for the HIA component.</p> |
| <p>4. Encourage healthy and safe lifestyles that promote well-being and improve overall health levels on Anglesey.</p> | <p>Promote provision of and access to healthcare facilities?</p> <p>Prevent unacceptable impacts on amenity (such as noise, odour and light pollution)?</p> <p>Provide spaces such as allotments and community gardens which will promote healthy eating?</p> <p>Protect existing open spaces?</p> <p>Promote provision of facilities for physical recreational activities and play (including for walking and cycling)?</p> <p>Promote the importance of protecting natural play spaces?</p> <p>Improve public access to natural greenspace and/or the countryside?</p> <p>Make provision for personal private outdoor space within new developments?</p> <p>Protect and improve people's mental health?</p> | <p>Human health</p> | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A healthier Wales - A more equal Wales <p>Addresses the requirement for Health Impact Assessment.</p> |

| ISA objective | Decision aiding questions Will the policy/strategy option...? | Relevant SEA Regulations topic(s) | Relevance to other assessment processes incorporated within the ISA |
|--|---|---|---|
| | <p>Help to improve overall health levels and reduce health inequalities?</p> <p>Promote the importance of protecting natural play spaces?</p> <p><i>Please note that the extent to which options will promote the use of active modes of transport is addressed under SA objective 5 below.</i></p> | | |
| 5. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport | <p>Provide for alternatives to the private car and improve public transport links, particularly in rural areas?</p> <p>Provide for safe and attractive walking and cycling routes?</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel in new developments?</p> <p>Ensure connectivity to high speed broadband?</p> <p>Reduce the need for out commuting for work?</p> <p>Promote the provision of supporting infrastructure for and the use of electric vehicles?</p> | <p>Material assets</p> <p>Climatic factors</p> <p>Air</p> | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resilient Wales - A globally responsible Wales - A healthier Wales |
| 6. Promote, protect and enhance cultural heritage and the built environment | <p>Protect and enhance areas and buildings of historical or cultural importance?</p> <p>Protect and enhance archaeology?</p> <p>Protect and enhance industrial heritage?</p> <p>Promote sustainable access to cultural sites?</p> <p>Ensure high standards of design in all new development?</p> <p>Protect and enhance local character and distinctiveness, while recognising the role of innovation?</p> | <p>Cultural heritage</p> <p>Material assets</p> | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language |
| 7. Promote the use of the Welsh language | <p>Promote the use of the Welsh language amongst different groups of people, including in the workplace and in education?</p> | <p>Cultural heritage</p> <p>Population</p> | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language |

| ISA objective | Decision aiding questions Will the policy/strategy option...? | Relevant SEA Regulations topic(s) | Relevance to other assessment processes incorporated within the ISA |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| | <p>Promote the sustainability of Welsh-speaking communities?</p> <p>Promote the status of the Welsh language?</p> | | <p>Addresses the requirement for a Welsh language impact assessment.</p> |
| 8. Protect and enhance the quality and character of the landscape | <p>Protect and enhance designated areas, including the National Landscape and Heritage Coast?</p> <p>Protect and enhance historic landscapes?</p> <p>Protect and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness?</p> <p>Protect and enhance tranquillity and dark skies?</p> | Landscape | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language - A healthier Wales |
| 9. Protect and enhance biodiversity | <p>Improve the diversity of habitats and species and maintain and enhance populations of species?</p> <p>Enhance the extent of habitats and populations of protected and priority species by seeking the creation, restoration and appropriate management of green networks and linkages?</p> <p>Improve and protect the condition of ecosystems and support the long term management of habitats?</p> <p>Enhance connectivity by maximising opportunities for the creation of functional habitat and ecological networks?</p> <p>Achieve adaptability to change, in particular the effects of climate change?</p> <p>Limit the potential for disruption of natural processes or connectivity?</p> <p>Support the restoration of natural processes which could mitigate or remove other impacts?</p> | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resilient Wales - A globally responsible Wales <p>The considerations of the Environment Act (Section 6) are reflected in the decision-aiding questions.</p> |

| ISA objective | Decision aiding questions Will the policy/strategy option...? | Relevant SEA Regulations topic(s) | Relevance to other assessment processes incorporated within the ISA |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| | Enhance and protect connections between people and nature? | | |
| 10. Protect the quality and quantity of Anglesey's water resources | <p>Reduce and/or avoid pollution to water environment?</p> <p>Support efficient use of water, including greywater recycling in new developments?</p> <p>Protect quality and quantity of groundwater sources?</p> <p>Prevent new development that will cause drainage problems (including in relation to the proliferation of soil sealing)?</p> <p>Protect the quality and quantity of surface water?</p> <p>Help to ensure adequate levels of sewerage infrastructure and capacity to treat wastewater at sewage treatment works?</p> | Water | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resilient Wales - A healthier Wales - A globally responsible Wales |
| 11. Protect and enhance air quality | <p>Avoid increasing air pollution and achieve improvements in air quality?</p> <p>Promote policy and development that enables and supports communities in adopting lifestyles and actions that can protect or enhance local air quality?</p> | Air | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resilient Wales - A healthier Wales - A globally responsible Wales |
| 12. Promote the efficient use of land, soils and minerals | <p>Encourage the re-use of previously developed land and buildings as a priority, where appropriate?</p> <p>Prevent and control pollution to land?</p> <p>Promote the remediation of land contamination?</p> <p>Safeguard mineral resources?</p> <p>Reuse and recycle aggregates on site?</p> <p>Promote higher densities of development (where considered appropriate) to support more efficient use of land resources?</p> | Soil Material assets | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resilient Wales - A globally responsible Wales |

| ISA objective | Decision aiding questions Will the policy/strategy option...? | Relevant SEA Regulations topic(s) | Relevance to other assessment processes incorporated within the ISA |
|---|--|---|--|
| 13. Continue to minimise waste generation and promote more sustainable waste management | <p>Reduce waste generation?</p> <p>Avoid, reduce, re-use, recycle and recover before disposal to landfill?</p> <p>Further improve on good recycling performance including provision of facilities (domestic and commercial)?</p> <p>Support development of alternatives to landfill, including composting facilities and energy from waste?</p> <p>Promote self-sufficiency in terms of waste management where appropriate?</p> | <p>Material assets</p> <p>Human health</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Soil</p> | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resilient Wales - A globally responsible Wales |
| 14. Provide for a sustainable economy | <p>Encourage economic growth?</p> <p>Encourage appropriate inward and indigenous investment?</p> <p>Support the rural economy?</p> <p>Promote sustainable tourism?</p> <p>Ensure the allocation of land to accommodate the economic needs of the population?</p> <p>Maintain an appropriate land bank of employment sites?</p> <p>Promote the vitality and viability of town centres?</p> <p>Support the achievement of a greener lower carbon economy which can benefit all members of the community?</p> | <p>Material assets</p> | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prosperous Wales - A more equal Wales |
| 15. Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities | <p>Maximise employment opportunities within Anglesey?</p> <p>Provide opportunities for a range of skills levels?</p> <p>Provide jobs in accessible locations?</p> <p>Accommodate training facilities to help develop a flexible skills base?</p> | <p>Population</p> <p>Material assets</p> | <p>Addresses the following WBFGA well-being goal(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prosperous Wales - A more equal Wales |

ISA Methodology

6.3 The reasonable alternative policy options for the LDP will be appraised against the objectives in the ISA framework, with symbols being used to indicate the likely effects of each option or policy on each ISA objective as follows:

Figure 6.1: Key to symbols and colour coding to be used in the ISA of the Anglesey LDP

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| ++ | Significant positive effect likely |
| + +/- OR + +/-- | Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects likely |
| + | Minor positive effect likely |
| +/- | Mixed minor or significant effects likely |
| - | Minor negative effect likely |
| -/+ | Mixed significant negative and minor positive effects likely |
| -- | Significant negative effect likely |
| 0 | Negligible effect likely |
| ? | Likely effect uncertain |

6.4 Where a potential positive or negative effect is uncertain, a question mark will be added to the relevant symbol (e.g. +? or -?) and the symbol will be colour coded as per the potential positive, negligible or negative effect (e.g. green, yellow, orange, etc.).

6.5 The likely effects of options and policies need to be determined and their significance assessed, which inevitably requires a series of judgments to be made. The appraisal will attempt to differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of the symbols shown above. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either (++) or (--) will be used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -) this will be because the effect of an option or policy on the ISA objective in question is considered to be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective. However, the effects identified will be relative to the scale of proposals under consideration.

6.6 Mixed effects will only be presented where directly opposing effects (i.e. positive and negative) have been identified through the appraisal (e.g. +/-, + +/-, -/+ and + +/--).

For some ISA objectives, it is possible that a policy might have a minor positive effect in relation to one aspect of the policy and a significant positive effect in relation to another aspect (giving a score of +/++). However, in these instances, only the most significant score will be shown in the appraisal tables. Similarly, if a policy or site could have a minor and significant negative effect (-/--) for the same ISA objective, only the significant negative score will be shown in the appraisal tables. The justification text relating to the appraisal will describe where the various elements of the policy being appraised might have potential to result in effects of differing magnitude.

Candidate Site Assessment Methodology

6.7 The ISA process for Candidate Sites will be integrated within the wider Candidate Site Assessment process. The ISA framework will be incorporated within the Candidate Site Assessment form and sites will be assessed in relation to each of the ISA objectives. In order to ensure consistency in the appraisal, and to ensure that the Candidate Site Assessment process meets the requirements of the SEA Regulations (Wales), the criteria set out in **Table 6.2** overleaf will be applied in order to determine the circumstances under which minor and significant effects, both positive and negative, will be identified.

6.8 The criteria in **Table 6.2** relate to sites proposed for residential and employment development. If sites are proposed for other uses (i.e. minerals or waste development) the criteria will need to be adapted as appropriate. Where distance-based criteria relating to access to services and facilities and infrastructure (e.g. facilities that would benefit health and sustainable transport nodes) are to be used, these are to be applied based on 'easy walking distance'. There are a number of pieces of research that give a variety of recommended guidance distances for walking. For example, the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation found that the average length of a walk journey is one kilometre.

6.9 The decision aiding questions have been included in **Table 6.2** below as well as in **Table 6.1** earlier in this chapter, which set out the overarching ISA framework for the ISA. The decision aiding questions are of most importance for the appraisal of the policy and spatial strategy options considered for inclusion in the LDP. While the assessment criteria included in the final column of **Table 6.2** will be used to ensure consistency for the appraisal of site options, the decision aiding questions have also been included in this table to demonstrate how the site assessment criteria flow from and are in line with these questions. In effect, the site assessment criteria presented in **Table 6.2** allow for a consistent appraisal of the site options against the overarching ISA framework (**Table 6.1**) which is to be used to 'test' all elements (policy,

site and spatial strategy options) considered for inclusion in the LDP.

Table 6.2: Assessment criteria for the LDP Candidate Sites

| ISA objective | Decision aiding questions Will the Candidate Site...? | Assessment criteria |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1. Mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change and reduce flood risk</p> | <p>Minimise greenhouse gas emissions? Contribute to a carbon-neutral community? Reduce flood risk to people, property and maintain integrity of floodplain? Promote the use of SuDS and other flood resilient design? Consider the likely impacts of climate change on all types of infrastructure? Encourage the development of renewables, including micro-generation? Encourage high standards of energy efficiency in all new developments? Promote design which will help to mitigate the effects of climate change (for example through appropriate building orientation)? Steer development away from the floodplain where possible, and prevent increased flood risk elsewhere? Promote design which will support green infrastructure?</p> | <p>The location of development will not affect the achievement of some parts of this objective – effects on greenhouse gas emissions from built development and the generation and use of renewables, for example, will depend largely on the detailed proposals for sites and their design, which are not known at this stage. The extent to which the location of sites would facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport in place of cars is considered under SA objective 4 below.</p> <p>Where Candidate Sites are located in areas of high flood risk, it could increase the risk of flooding in those areas (particularly if the sites are not previously developed) and would increase the number of people and assets at risk from flooding. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites that are entirely or mainly (i.e. >50%) on greenfield land that is within flood zones 3a or 3b or on brownfield land within flood zones 3a or 3b are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect. - Sites that are either entirely or mainly on greenfield outside of flood zones 3a and 3b are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect. - Sites that are on brownfield land outside of flood zones 3a and 3b are likely to have a negligible (0) effect. |
| <p>2. Provide an appropriate amount and mix of housing to meet local needs</p> | <p>Deliver good quality housing? Promote a mix of housing sizes, types and tenures? Promote housing that meets the requirements of those with particular needs including older people and people with disabilities? Help meet affordable housing needs to allow local people to remain within their communities?</p> | <p>All site options that would deliver housing will have a positive effect on this objective due to the nature of the development proposed. Larger sites will provide opportunities for the development of a greater number of homes and may also offer particular opportunities for incorporating affordable housing and a range of housing types. The remaining decision aiding questions would be influenced by policies in the new LDP rather than housing site locations. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites that would deliver 100¹⁴⁷ or more homes would have a significant positive (++) effect. - Sites that would deliver fewer than 100 homes would have a minor positive (+) effect. - Sites that would not deliver housing would have a negligible (0) effect. |

¹⁴⁷ Note that the threshold used to identify larger sites for the purposes of the ISA may change once the range of site options is known.

| ISA objective | Decision aiding questions Will the Candidate Site...? | Assessment criteria |
|--|--|--|
| <p>3. Promote vibrant communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all</p> | <p>Encourage provision of community facilities in accessible locations?</p> <p>Promote access to education for all?</p> <p>Consider the needs of specific groups including those with protected characteristics?</p> <p>Plan places with opportunities for active citizenship to promote community engagement?</p> <p>Accommodate meeting places for different cultures?</p> <p>Promote mixed development?</p> <p>Provide equality of access for all?</p> <p>Help to promote design solutions that will help protect communities from crime and reduce the fear of crime?</p> | <p>Several of the issues addressed by this objective would not be influenced by the location of development and would instead be influenced by policies in the new LDP. However, sites that are located at the larger settlements within the Isle of Anglesey will generally have better access to a wider range of existing services and facilities, including educational facilities, compared to sites located at smaller settlements. Any new services and facilities that may be provided as a result of the new development would also be accessible to a higher number of existing nearby residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites that are located at one of the urban service centres would have a significant positive (++) effect. - Sites that are located at one of the local service centres would have a minor positive (+) effect. - Sites that are located away from the urban and local service centres would have a minor negative (-) effect but are recognised to boost the local economy and education offering. |
| <p>4. Encourage healthy and safe lifestyles that promote well-being and improve overall health levels on Anglesey.</p> | <p>Promote provision of and access to healthcare facilities?</p> <p>Prevent unacceptable impacts on amenity (such as noise and light pollution)?</p> <p>Provide spaces such as allotments and community gardens which will promote healthy eating?</p> <p>Protect existing open spaces?</p> <p>Promote provision of facilities for physical recreational activities and play (including for walking and cycling)?</p> <p>Promote the importance of protecting natural play spaces?</p> <p>Improve public access to natural greenspace and/or the countryside?</p> <p>Make provision for personal private outdoor space within new developments?</p> <p>Protect and improve people's mental health?</p> | <p>Residential sites that are within close proximity of existing healthcare facilities (i.e. GP surgeries) will ensure that residents have good access to healthcare services. If a number of sites are allocated within close proximity of one another, this could lead to existing healthcare facilities becoming overloaded. If at any point information becomes available regarding the capacity of existing healthcare facilities, this will be taken into account in the ISA. It is also recognised that new development could stimulate the provision of new healthcare facilities, but this cannot be assumed at this stage.</p> <p>Public health will also be influenced by the proximity of sites to open spaces, walking and cycle paths, easy access to which can encourage participation in active outdoor recreation.</p> <p>Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residential sites that are within 400m of a healthcare provider would have a significant positive (++) effect. - Residential sites that are within 400-800m of a healthcare provider would have a minor positive (+) effect. - Residential sites that are not within 800m of a healthcare provider would have a minor negative (-) effect. - Sites that would not incorporate residential development would have a negligible (0) effect on this part of the objective. |

| ISA objective | Decision aiding questions Will the Candidate Site...? | Assessment criteria |
|---|---|---|
| | <p>Help to improve overall health levels and reduce health inequalities?</p> <p>Promote the importance of protecting natural play spaces?</p> <p><i>Please note that the extent to which site options will promote the use of active modes of transport is addressed under SA objective 5 below.</i></p> | <p>In addition, which could lead to mixed effects overall¹⁴⁸:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites that are within 800m of an area of open space <u>and</u> within 400m of a walking or cycle path will have a significant positive (++) effect. - Sites that are within 800m of an area of open space <u>or</u> within 400m of a walking or cycle path (but not both) will have a minor positive (+) effect. - Sites that are more than 800m from an area of open space <u>and</u> more than 400m from a walking or cycle path will have a minor negative (-) effect. - Sites that contain an existing area of open space (including allotments) or a walking or cycle path which could therefore be lost as a result of new development could have a significant negative (--?) effect, although this is uncertain depending on whether the development of the site would in fact result in the loss of that facility. <p>In addition, which could lead to mixed effects overall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residential sites that would expose residents to noise levels of L_{night} >=55.0 dB, or L_{aeq,16} >= 60.0 dB would have a significant negative (--) effect. - Residential sites that would expose residents to noise levels of L_{night} 50.0-54.9 dB, or L_{aeq,16} 55.0-59.9 dB would have a minor negative (-) effect. - Employment site options would have a negligible (0) effect as noise levels experienced by workers will be heavily influenced the type of work carried to be out on the premises, whether hearing protection is worn by employees, and the design of the building (e.g. offices are more likely than dwellings to be air conditioned and acoustically insulated). |
| <p>5. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport</p> | <p>Provide for alternatives to the private car and improve public transport links, particularly in rural areas?</p> <p>Provide for safe and attractive walking and cycling routes?</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel in new developments?</p> <p>Ensure connectivity to high speed broadband?</p> <p>Reduce the need for out commuting for work?</p> | <p>Convenient access to public transport links will reduce levels of car use and encourage modal shift. New development may stimulate the provision of new links such as bus routes; however this cannot be assumed. In addition, information is not available in relation to the frequency of bus services and it is recognised that some bus stops, particularly in rural areas, may offer only limited services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites that are within 400m of a railway station <u>and</u> 400m of a bus stop will have a significant positive (++) effect. - Sites that are within 400m of a railway station <u>or</u> a bus stop (but not both) will have a minor positive (+) effect. |

¹⁴⁸ In all cases, if the two parts of a score are the same type of effect, e.g. positive and negative, then a best or worst case scenario will be recorded, i.e. a score comprising '+' and '++' would be recorded as '++', while a score comprising '-' and '--' would be recorded as '--'. Mixed effects will only be recorded where a score comprises both positive and negative effects e.g. '+/-' or '++/-'.

| ISA objective | Decision aiding questions Will the Candidate Site...? | Assessment criteria |
|---|---|--|
| | Promote the provision of supporting infrastructure for and the use of electric vehicles? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites that are not within 400m of a railway station or a bus stop will have a minor negative (-) effect. In addition, which may lead to mixed effects overall, sites that are located at the larger settlements within Anglesey will generally require shorter journeys to access jobs, services and facilities compared to sites located at smaller settlements. This will increase the likelihood of journeys being undertaken on foot or by bicycle rather than by car. - Sites that are located at one of the urban or local service centres would have a minor positive (+) effect. - |
| 6. Promote, protect and enhance cultural heritage and the built environment | Protect and enhance areas and buildings of historical or cultural importance? Protect and enhance archaeology? Protect and enhance industrial heritage? Promote sustainable access to cultural sites? Ensure high standards of design in all new development? Protect and enhance local character and distinctiveness, while recognising the role of innovation? | The methodology to be used in the ISA in relation to appraising the likely effects of site options on the historic environment will be determined once the Council has determined what historic environment evidence will be produced to inform the LDP preparation process. |
| 7. Promote the use of the Welsh language | Promote the use of the Welsh language amongst different groups of people, including in the workplace and in education? Promote the sustainability of Welsh-speaking communities? Promote the status of the Welsh language? | While new housing in areas of high Welsh language use could be seen to increase the population in those areas and encourage the use of the Welsh language, it is also possible that people moving into those areas to access the new housing could 'dilute' Welsh language use in those areas and have the opposite effect. It is therefore not possible to conclude that the spatial location of Candidate Sites will directly affect this objective and so all site options will have a negligible (0) effect. |
| 8. Protect and enhance the quality and character of the landscape | Protect and enhance designated areas, including the National Park, National Landscape and Heritage Coast? Protect and enhance historic landscapes? | Development within close proximity of the National Park, National Landscape and Heritage Coast could have a significant negative effect on this objective due to the sensitivity of those landscapes; however this is uncertain until detailed proposals for sites are known. Therefore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites that are within 1km of the National Landscape or Heritage Coast could have a significant negative (-?) effect. |

| ISA objective | Decision aiding questions Will the Candidate Site...? | Assessment criteria |
|--|--|---|
| | <p>Protect and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness?</p> <p>Protect and enhance tranquillity and dark skies?</p> | <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites that are within a Special Landscape Area could have a significant negative effect (--?). <p><i>For sites outside of these areas, any landscape sensitivity assessment work that may be undertaken as part of the LDP-making process will be drawn upon, and criteria will be set out here to show how such evidence has been used to inform the ISA.</i></p> |
| <p>9. Protect and enhance biodiversity</p> | <p>Improve the diversity of habitats and species and maintain and enhance populations of species?</p> <p>Enhance the extent of habitats and populations of protected and priority species by seeking the creation, restoration and appropriate management of green networks and linkages?</p> <p>Improve and protect the condition of ecosystems and support the long term management of habitats?</p> <p>Enhance connectivity by maximising opportunities for the creation of functional habitat and ecological networks?</p> <p>Achieve adaptability to change, in particular the effects of climate change?</p> <p>Limit the potential for disruption of natural processes or connectivity?</p> <p>Support the restoration of natural processes which could mitigate or remove other impacts?</p> <p>Enhance and protect connections between people and nature?</p> | <p>Development sites that are within close proximity of an international, national or local designated conservation site have the potential to affect the biodiversity or geodiversity of those sites/features, e.g. through habitat damage/loss, fragmentation, disturbance to species, air pollution, increased recreation pressure etc. Conversely, there may be opportunities to promote habitat connectivity if new developments include green infrastructure. Therefore, while proximity to designated sites provides an indication of the potential for an adverse effect, uncertainty exists, as appropriate mitigation may avoid adverse effects and may even result in beneficial effects. In addition, the potential impacts on biodiversity present on each site, or undesignated habitats and species adjacent to the potential development sites, cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. This would be determined once more specific proposals are developed and submitted as part of a planning application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites that are within 250m of one or more internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites may have a significant negative (--?) effect. - Sites that are between 250m and 1km of one or more internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites, or that are within 250m of a locally designated site may have a minor negative (-?) effect. - Sites that are more than 1km from any internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites and that are over 250m from a locally designated site could have a negligible (0?) effect. |
| <p>10. Protect the quality and quantity of Anglesey's water resources</p> | <p>Reduce and/or avoid pollution to water environment?</p> <p>Support efficient use of water, including greywater recycling in new developments?</p> <p>Protect quality and quantity of groundwater sources?</p> | <p>Levels of water consumption within new development will be determined by its design and onsite practices and therefore influenced by policies in the new LDP, rather than the location of the site. However, the location of development could affect groundwater quality during construction depending on its proximity to Source Protection Zones. The extent to which water quality is affected would depend on construction techniques and the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) within the design, therefore effects are uncertain at this stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development within a Source Protection Zone could result in significant negative (--?) effects on water quality although this is uncertain at this stage of assessment. |

| ISA objective | Decision aiding questions Will the Candidate Site...? | Assessment criteria |
|--|--|--|
| | <p>Prevent new development that will cause drainage problems (including in relation to the proliferation of soil sealing)?</p> <p>Protect the quality and quantity of surface water?</p> <p>Help to ensure adequate levels of sewerage infrastructure and capacity to treat wastewater at sewage treatment works?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development outside of a Source Protection Zone would have a negligible (0) effect. |
| 11. Protect and enhance air quality | <p>Avoid increasing air pollution and achieve improvements in air quality?</p> <p>Promote policy and development that enables and supports communities in adopting lifestyles and actions that can protect or enhance local air quality?</p> | <p>Development in areas where there are already issues of poor air quality could expose new residents to air pollution and affect their health and well-being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites that have a pollutant concentration of >40µg/m³ NO₂ or PM₁₀, or >20µg/m³ PM_{2.5} would have a significant negative (--) effect. - Sites that have a pollutant concentration of 10-40µg/m³ NO₂, 15-40µg/m³ PM₁₀ or 5-20µg/m³ PM_{2.5} would have a minor negative (-) effect. - Sites that do not have the pollutant concentrations described above would have a negligible (0) effect. |
| 12. Promote the efficient use of land, soils and minerals | <p>Encourage the re-use of previously developed land and buildings as a priority, where appropriate?</p> <p>Prevent and control pollution to land?</p> <p>Promote the remediation of land contamination?</p> <p>Safeguard mineral resources?</p> <p>Reuse and recycle aggregates on site?</p> <p>Promote higher densities of development (where considered appropriate) to support more efficient use of land resources?</p> | <p>Development on brownfield land represents more efficient use of land in comparison to the development of greenfield sites. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites that are on brownfield land would have a significant positive (++) effect. - Sites that are on greenfield land classed as high quality agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 or 3a) would have a significant negative (--) effect. - Sites that are on greenfield land which is not classed as high quality agricultural land (Grades 3b, 4, 5 and urban land) would have a minor negative (-) effect. - In addition, sites that are on greenfield land and that are within a Minerals Safeguarding Area could have a minor negative effect although this is uncertain (-?) as it may be possible to extract mineral resources before development takes place and there is potential for the mineral resource to already be sterilised. |
| 13. Reduce waste and promote more sustainable waste management waste | <p>Reduce waste generation?</p> <p>Avoid, reduce, re-use, recycle and recover before disposal to landfill?</p> <p>Further improve on good recycling performance including provision of facilities (domestic and commercial)?</p> | <p>The effects of development on waste generation and the sustainable management of waste will depend on the practices used onsite, rather than the location of the development. However, development on brownfield land may offer opportunities to re-use onsite buildings and materials. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites that are on brownfield land could have a minor positive (+?) effect. - Sites that are on greenfield land could have a negligible (0) effect. |

| ISA objective | Decision aiding questions Will the Candidate Site...? | Assessment criteria |
|--|--|---|
| | <p>Support development of alternatives to landfill, including composting facilities and energy from waste?</p> <p>Promote self-sufficiency in terms of waste management where appropriate?</p> | |
| 14. Provide for a sustainable economy | <p>Encourage economic growth?</p> <p>Encourage appropriate inward and indigenous investment?</p> <p>Support the rural economy?</p> <p>Promote sustainable tourism?</p> <p>Ensure the allocation of land to accommodate the economic needs of the population?</p> <p>Maintain an appropriate land bank of employment sites?</p> <p>Promote the vitality and viability of town centres?</p> <p>Support the achievement of a greener lower carbon economy which can benefit all members of the community?</p> | <p>Candidate Sites that would be used for employment-related development will all have positive effects on the economy as they will provide high quality new sites for businesses to locate and may encourage inward investment. Larger sites will provide particular opportunities for economic growth. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment sites that are more than 5ha¹⁴⁹ in size would have a significant positive (++) effect. - Employment sites that are smaller than 5ha would have a minor positive (+) effect. - Sites that would not deliver employment development would have a negligible (0) effect. <p>Residential sites could have a negative effect on the achievement of this objective if they would result in the loss of existing employment uses. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residential sites that are in employment use currently would have a significant negative (--) effect on this objective. |
| 15. Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities | <p>Maximise employment opportunities within Anglesey?</p> <p>Provide opportunities for a range of skills levels?</p> <p>Provide jobs in accessible locations?</p> <p>Accommodate training facilities to help develop a flexible skills base?</p> | <p>Candidate Sites that would be used for employment-related development will all have positive effects on this objective, due to the nature of the development proposed. Larger sites will provide higher numbers of jobs, as well as the associated opportunities for work-based learning and skills development. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment sites that are more than 5a in size would have a significant positive (++) effect. - Employment sites that are smaller than 5ha would have a minor positive (+) effect. - Sites that would not deliver employment development would have a negligible (0) effect. |

¹⁴⁹Note that the threshold used to identify larger sites for the purposes of the ISA may change once the range of site options is known.

Chapter 7

Next steps

7.1 In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations (Wales), the views of the statutory environmental bodies (Natural Resources Wales and Cadw) are being sought in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the ISA Report.

7.2 In particular, the consultees are requested to consider:

- Whether the scope of the ISA generally is appropriate as set out.
- Whether the approach to integrating other assessment processes, described in **Chapter 2**, is appropriate and in conformity with legislation and guidance.
- Whether there are any additional plans, policies or programmes that are relevant to the ISA and should be included in **Chapter 3**.
- Whether the information provided in **Chapter 4** is robust and comprehensive and provides a suitable baseline for the ISA of the Anglesey LDP.
- Whether there are any additional key sustainability issues within Anglesey (**Chapter 5**) that should be included.
- Whether the ISA framework (**Chapter 6**) is appropriate and includes a suitable range of objectives.
- Whether the proposed methodology for assessing Candidate Sites (**Chapter 6**) is appropriate.

7.3 As the LDP is prepared it will be subject to the later stages of the ISA using the ISA framework presented in **Chapter 6**. A full ISA Report (incorporating the later stages of the ISA process) will then be produced and made available to other stakeholders and the general public for wider consultation alongside the Pre-Deposit version of the LDP.

LUC
May 2025

Appendix A

Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

A.1 This appendix presents a review of international, national, sub-national and policies, plans and programmes that are relevant to the undertaking of the ISA and the preparation of the LDP. These are outlined below, along with a summary of the implications for both the ISA and the LDP.

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|---|---|--|
| INTERNATIONAL | | |
| UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972) | <p>Countries are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure that measures are taken for the protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and natural heritage ■ Adopt a general policy that gives cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community ■ Integrate the protection of heritage into comprehensive planning programmes. ■ Sets out guidance for the designation of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. | The ISA should include an objective on heritage and archaeological issues. |
| World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) Our Common Future (The Brundtland Report) | <p>The Brundtland Report is concerned with the world's economy and its environment. The objective is to provide an expanding and sustainable economy while protecting a sustainable environment. The Report was a call by the United Nations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ to propose long-term environmental strategies for achieving sustainable development by the year 2000 and beyond; ■ to recommend ways concern for the environment may be translated into greater co-operation among countries of the global South and between countries at different stages of economic and social development and lead to the achievement of common and mutually supportive objectives that take account of the interrelationships between people, resources, environment, and development; ■ to consider ways and means by which the international community can deal more effectively with environment concerns; and ■ to help define shared perceptions of long-term environmental issues and the appropriate efforts needed to deal successfully with the problems of protecting and enhancing the environment, a long term agenda for action during the coming decades, and aspirational goals for the world community. | <p>The Brundtland Report provided the original definition of sustainable development.</p> <p>The accumulated effects of the ISA objectives should seek to achieve sustainable development.</p> |
| UNFCCC (1997) The Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC | <p>The Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC established the first policy that actively aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by industrialised countries.</p> <p>Construction is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions due to the consumption of materials and use of energy. The Kyoto Protocol aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the UK by 12.5%, compared to 1990 levels, by 2008 – 2012.</p> | The Kyoto Protocol is influential to achieving sustainable development as it encourages transition to a low carbon economy. Therefore it is an integral factor in planning documents. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|--|---|---|
| <p><i>The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg, September 2002</i></p> | <p>Commitments arising from Johannesburg Summit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sustainable consumption and production patterns. ■ Accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production - 10-year framework of programmes of action; Reverse trend in loss of natural resources. ■ Renewable Energy and Energy efficiency. ■ Urgently and substantially increase [global] share of renewable energy ■ Significantly reduce rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. <p>No targets or indicators, however actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Greater resource efficiency; ■ Support business innovation and take-up of best practice in technology and management; ■ Waste reduction and producer responsibility; and ■ Sustainable consumer consumption and procurement. | <p>The LDP can encourage greater efficiency of resources. Ensure policies cover the action areas.</p> <p>The LDP can encourage renewable energy. Ensure policies cover the action areas.</p> <p>The LDP can protect and enhance biodiversity. Ensure policies cover the action areas.</p> |
| <p><i>The Cancun Agreement-UNFCCC (2011)</i></p> | <p>Shared vision to keep global temperature rise to below two degrees Celsius, with objectives to be reviewed as to whether it needs to be strengthened in future on the basis of the best scientific knowledge available.</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective on greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The LDP should aim to reduce emissions.</p> |
| <p><i>United Nations (2015) United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) Paris Agreement</i></p> | <p>The agreement's main aim is to keep a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.</p> <p>The 1.5 degree Celsius limit is a significantly safer defence line against the worst impacts of a changing climate.</p> <p>Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the ability to deal with the impacts of climate change.</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective on climatic factors.</p> <p>The LDP should positively contribute to a low carbon economy.</p> |
| <p><i>United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN, 2015)</i></p> | <p>Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) address interconnected global challenges including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The Goals and targets aim to be achieved by 2030. In Wales the goals are translated into the WBFGA goals, with a target date of 2030.</p> | <p>The ISA should consider the SDGs when developing objectives.</p> <p>The LDP should consider the SGDs when developing policies/proposals.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|---|--|---|
| | The UK Government has yet to localise the SDGs and determine a UK level plan for their implementation. | |
| EUROPEAN | | |
| <i>The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention 1985)</i> | The main purpose of the convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage and to foster closer European co-operation in defence of heritage. Recognition that conservation of heritage is a cultural purpose and integrated conservation of heritage is an important factor in the improvement of quality of life. | The ISA should include an objective on the conservation and enhancement of heritage and decision making criteria on architectural heritage. |
| <i>The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention 1992)</i> | Agreement that the conservation and enhancement of an archaeological heritage is one of the goals of urban and regional planning policy. It is concerned in particular with the need for co-operation between archaeologists and planners to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage. | The ISA should include an objective on the conservation and enhancement of heritage and decision making criteria on architectural heritage. |
| <i>Council Directive 91/271/EEC for Urban Waste-Water Treatment</i> | <p>Its objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water discharges and discharges from certain industrial sectors and concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Domestic waste water ■ Mixture of waste water ■ Waste water from certain industrial sectors <p>The Directive includes requirement with specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Collection and treatment of waste water standards for relevant population thresholds ■ Secondary treatment standards | ISA objectives should include priorities to minimise adverse effects on ground and/or surface water. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A requirement for pre-authorisation of all discharges of urban wastewater <p>Monitoring of the performance of treatment plants and receiving waters and Controls of sewage sludge disposal and re-use, and treated waste water re-use.</p> | |
| <p>European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)</p> | <p>The aim of spatial development policies is to work towards a balanced and sustainable development of the territory of the European Union. The ESPD aims to ensure that the three fundamental goals of European policy are achieved equally in all the regions of the EU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Economic and social cohesion; ■ Conservation and management of natural resources and the cultural heritage; ■ More balanced competitiveness of the European territory. <p>European cultural landscapes, cities and towns, as well as a variety of natural and historic monuments are part of the European Heritage. Its fostering should be an important part of modern architecture, urban and landscape planning in all regions of the EU.</p> <p>A big challenge for spatial development policy is to contribute to the objectives, announced by the EU during international conferences concerning the environment and climate, of reducing emissions into the global ecological system.</p> | <p>The ISA should include objectives related to promoting economic and social cohesion, conserving natural resources, protecting historic heritage and reducing CO2 emissions. The contribution to the form and function of the rural and urban areas of the county should be viewed positively and the plan's objectives should reflect this.</p> <p>The LDP should consider an approach which promotes economic benefits for all and social cohesion as well as preserving and enhancing the historic environment. This could include policies related to impacts upon landscape, townscape, historic structures and features.</p> |
| <p>EU Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</p> | <p>Provides for the quality of drinking water.</p> <p>The standards included are legally binding.</p> | <p>The ISA should consider objectives relating to water quality.</p> <p>The LDP should recognise that development can impact upon water quality and include policies to protect the resources.</p> |
| <p>EU Directive on the Landfill of Waste (99/31/EC)</p> | <p>Sets out requirements ensuring that where landfilling takes place the environmental impacts are understood and mitigated against.</p> | <p>The ISA should include objectives setting out priorities to minimise waste, increased recycling and re-use.</p> <p>The LDP should take into consideration landfilling with respect to environmental factors.</p> |
| <p>EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</p> | <p>Establishes a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prevents further deterioration and protects and enhances the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystems; ■ Promotes sustainable water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources; | <p>The ISA should consider effects upon water quality and resource.</p> <p>The LDP policies should consider how the water environment can be protected and enhanced. This will come about through reducing pollution and abstraction.</p> <p>Protection and enhancement of water courses can be can also come about through physical modification. Spatial planning will need to consider whether watercourse enhancement can be achieved through working with developers.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|--|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Aims at enhanced protection and improvement of the aquatic environment, inter alia, through specific measures for the progressive reduction of discharges, emissions and losses of priority substances and the cessation or phasing-out of discharges, emissions and losses of the priority hazardous substances; ■ Ensures the progressive reduction of pollution of groundwater and prevents its further pollution, and ■ Contributes to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. | |
| Århus Convention (2001) | The Aarhus Convention is a multilateral environmental agreement through which the opportunities for citizens to access environmental information are increased and transparent and reliable regulation procedure is secured. It encourages access to information, public participation and access to justice. | The ISA will be consulted upon and open to scrutiny as per the requirement of the relevant regulations. Public consultation and access to information supporting the decision-making process must be introduced in the procedures for the drawing up of the LDP. |
| EU Environmental Noise Directive (Directive 2002/49/EC) | <p>The underlying principles of the Directive are similar to those underpinning other overarching environment policies (such as air or waste), i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Monitoring the environmental problem; by requiring competent authorities in Member States to draw up "strategic noise maps" for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators Lden (day-evening-night equivalent level) and Lnight (night equivalent level). These maps will be used to assess the number of people annoyed and sleep-disturbed respectively throughout Europe; ■ Informing and consulting the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise, in line with the principles of the Aarhus Convention; ■ Addressing local noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good. The directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities; ■ Developing a long-term EU strategy, which includes objectives to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term, and provides a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source. With this respect, the Commission has made a declaration concerning the provisions laid down in Article 1.2 with regard to the preparation of legislation relating to sources of noise. | The ISA should include an objective which addresses the minimisation of excessive noise. The LDP will need to have regard to the requirements of the Environmental Noise Directive. |
| European Landscape Convention | Convention outlined the need to recognise landscape in law, to develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and creation of landscapes, and to establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation | The ISA should consider how landscape will be integrated into all relevant areas of policy, considering how the outcomes of the European Landscape Convention feed into the LDP and |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|---|---|--|
| 2000 (became binding March 2007) | <p>and implementation of landscape policies. It also encourages the integration of landscape into all relevant areas of policy, including cultural, economic and social policies.</p> <p>Specific measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ raising awareness of the value of landscapes among all sectors of society, and of society's role in shaping them; ■ promoting landscape training and education among landscape specialists, other related professions, and in school and university courses; ■ the identification and assessment of landscapes, and analysis of landscape change, with the active participation of stakeholders; ■ setting objectives for landscape quality, with the involvement of the public; and ■ the implementation of landscape policies, through the establishment of plans and practical programmes. | <p>its associated documents. The LDP should develop policies dedicated to the protection, management, and creation of landscapes.</p> |
| EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC | <p>Aims to provide a consistent approach to managing flood risk across Europe.</p> | <p>The ISA should consider objectives relating to flood risk.</p> <p>The LDP should recognise that development can impact vulnerability to flooding and increase risk due to climate change.</p> |
| EU Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) and previous directives (96/62/EC; 99/30/EC; 2000/69/EC & 2002/3/EC) | <p>New Directive provided that most of existing legislation be merged into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive) with no change to existing air quality objectives.</p> <p>Relevant objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maintain ambient air quality where it is good and improve it in other cases; and ■ Maintain ambient-air quality where it is good and improve it in other cases with respect to sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead. | <p>The ISA should include objectives relating to air quality.</p> <p>LDP policies should consider the maintenance of good air quality and the measures that can be taken to improve it through, for example, an encouragement to reduce vehicle movements.</p> |
| European Union (EU) Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) | <p>This Directive has the objective of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources; and ■ preventing further such pollution. <p>Provides for the identification of vulnerable areas.</p> | <p>The LDP should consider impacts of development upon any identified nitrate sensitive areas where such development fails to be considered within its scope.</p> <p>Policies should consider objective to promote environmentally sensitive agricultural practices.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|--|--|--|
| <p>EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (09/147/EC) (codified version of Council Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)</p> | <p>Identifies 181 endangered species and sub-species for which the Member States are required to designate Special Protection Areas.</p> <p>Makes it a legal requirement that EU countries make provision for the protection of birds. This includes the selection and designation of Special Protection Areas.</p> <p>Target Actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Creation of protected areas; ■ Upkeep and management; and ■ Re-establishment of destroyed biotopes. | <p>The ISA should consider objectives to protect and enhance biodiversity including wild birds.</p> <p>The LDP should include policies to protect and enhance wild bird populations, including the protection of SPAs.</p> |
| <p>EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) & Subsequent Amendments</p> | <p>Directive seeks to conserve natural habitats and species. Conservation of natural habitats requires member states to identify special areas of conservation and to maintain, where necessary, landscape features of importance to wildlife and flora.</p> <p>The amendments in 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ simplify the species protection regime to better reflect the Habitats Directive; ■ provide a clear legal basis for surveillance and monitoring of European protected species (EPS); ■ toughen the regime on trading EPS that are not native to the UK; and ■ ensure that the requirement to carry out appropriate assessments on water abstraction consents and land use plans is explicit. | <p>The ISA should include priorities for the protection of landscape features for ecological benefit.</p> <p>LDP policies should seek to protect landscape features of habitat importance and ensure the protection of Natura 2000 sites and European Protected Species.</p> |
| <p>EU Directive on Waste (Directive 75/442/EEC, 2006/12/EC 2008/98/EC as amended)</p> | <p>Seeks to prevent and reduce the production of waste and its impacts. Where necessary waste should be disposed of without creating environmental problems</p> <p>Seeks to protect the environment and human health by preventing or reducing the adverse impacts of the generation and management of waste and by reducing overall impacts of resource use and improving the efficiency of such use.</p> <p>Promotes the development of clean technology to process waste, promoting recycling and re-use.</p> <p>The Directive contains a range of provision including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The setting up of separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the | <p>The ISA should include priorities to minimise waste, increased recycling and re-use.</p> <p>LDP policies should seek to minimise waste, and the environmental effects caused by it. Policies should promote recycling and re-use.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|--|--|---|
| | <p>relevant recycling sectors – including by 2015 separate collection for at least paper, metal, plastic and glass.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Household waste recycling target – the preparing for re-use and the recycling of waste materials such as at least paper, metal, plastic and glass from households and possibly other origins as far as these waste streams are similar to waste from households, must be increased to a minimum of 50% by 2020. ■ Construction and demolition waste recovery target – the preparing for re-use, recycling and other material recovery of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste must be increased to a minimum of 70% by weight by 2020. | |
| EU Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC) | <p>This Directive establishes a common framework for the use of energy from renewable sources in order to limit greenhouse gas emissions and to promote cleaner transport. It encourages energy efficiency, energy consumption from renewable sources and the improvement of energy supply.</p> <p>Each Member State to achieve a 10% minimum target for the share of energy from renewable sources by 2020.</p> | <p>The ISA should include consideration of use of energy from renewable energy sources.</p> <p>The LDP should contribute towards increasing the proportion of energy from renewable energy sources where appropriate.</p> |
| EU (2009) Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy | <p>In June 2001, the first European sustainable development strategy was agreed by EU Heads of State. The Strategy sets out how the EU can meet the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The Strategy proposes headline objectives and lists seven key challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Climate change and clean energy; ■ Sustainable transport; ■ Sustainable consumption and production; ■ Conservation and management of natural resources; ■ Public health; ■ Social inclusion, demography and migration; and ■ Global poverty. | <p>The LDP should aim to create a pattern of development consistent with the objectives of the Strategy and in turn promote sustainable development.</p> |
| European Commission (EC) (2011) A Resource- | <p>This flagship initiative aims to create a framework for policies to support the shift towards a resource-efficient and low-carbon economy which will help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Boost economic performance while reducing resource use; | <p>The ISA assessment framework should include objectives, indicators and targets that relate to resource use.</p> <p>The LDP should take into account the objectives of the Flagship Initiative.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Efficient Europe-Flagship Initiative Under the Europe 2020 Strategy, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM 2011/21)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identify and create new opportunities for economic growth and greater innovation and boost the EU's competitiveness; ■ Ensure security of supply of essential resources; and ■ Fight against climate change and limit the environmental impacts of resource use. <p>Each Member State has a target calculated according to the share of energy from renewable sources in its gross final consumption for 2020. The UK is required to source 15 per cent of energy needs from renewable sources, including biomass, hydro, wind and solar power by 2020.</p> <p>From 1 January 2017, biofuels and bioliquids share in emissions savings should be increased to 50 per cent.</p> | |
| <p>Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) (Office of Gas and Electricity Markets, 2018)</p> | <p>Heating makes up 46% of the UK's total energy consumption and this is therefore a key initiative in reaching 2020 targets of 15% energy from renewable sources. The incentive is to give a household a fixed income to produce their own renewable heat energy from either solar or wind power.</p> <p>The RHI aims to increase the amount of renewable energy used for heating. Targets have been set for both the non-domestic and domestic sectors. This will increase the overall level of renewable energy used for heating to 12% from the 1.5% that it is now.</p> | <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to increasing energy provided from renewable sources.</p> <p>The LDP should support renewable energy provision.</p> |
| <p>Directive 2015/1513 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 98/70/EC relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels</p> | <p>This Directive creates a common framework for the use of renewable energy in the EU so as to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promote cleaner transport. To do so, Member states require suppliers of fuel or energy to reduce the life cycle GHG per unit of energy of fuels used by at least 6% by 31 December 2020. The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for fossil fuel suppliers to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of the fossil fuels supplied. Each Member State must also ensure that the share of energy from renewable sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of the final consumption of energy in transport.</p> <p>Each EU country is to make a national action plan for 2020, setting a share for renewable energy sources in transport, heating and the production of electricity.</p> | <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to increasing energy provided from renewable sources.</p> <p>The LDP should support renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|--|--|--|
| <p><i>and amending Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources</i></p> | | |
| <p>Strategic Plan 2016-2020 (Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, 2016)</p> | <p>In order to contribute to achieving the overall goals set at EU level, the Commission has set a number of General Objectives based on the priorities outlined by President Juncker. DG MOVE's activities contribute actively to these and in particular the following 5 General Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Commission General Objective 1: "A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment" ■ Commission General Objective 2: "A Connected Digital Single Market" ■ Commission General Objective 3: "A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy" ■ Commission General Objective 4: "A Deeper and Fairer Internal Market with a Strengthened Industrial Base" ■ Commission General Objective 5: "A Stronger Global Actor" <p>DG MOVE's actions contributing to the General Objectives for the Commission fall under 3 Specific Objectives, which correspond to the main instruments available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ DG MOVE Specific Objective 1: "An efficient, sustainable, safe and secure Single European Transport Area: Improve regulation, ensure a high degree of implementation of EU legislation in the transport area and open and fair competition both in the EU and in relations with key partner countries." ■ DG MOVE Specific Objective 2: "A modern European transport infrastructure: Ensure the effective implementation of the Trans-European Transport Network with the help of the Connecting Europe Facility and the innovative financial instruments (EFSI)." ■ DG MOVE Specific Objective 3: "An innovative transport sector: Ensure the effective implementation of funding for research and innovation activities in the transport area under Horizon 2020." | <p>The ISA should consider the general and specific objectives when developing the sustainability framework.</p> <p>The LDP should consider the general and specific objectives of the Strategic Plan when developing policies/proposals</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | <p>To measure the progress made by DG MOVE towards implementing its policies and attaining its specific objectives, a number of indicators are presented in annex to the Strategic Plan. The following three indicators will be given special attention:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transposition rate in transport legislation (see specific objective 1) 2. Total amount of Connecting Europe Facility grants, delegations, contributions signed for transport projects and programmes (see specific objective 2) 3. Total amount of Horizon 2020 grants, delegations, contributions signed for transport projects and programmes (see specific objective 3) | |
| <p>SEA Directive 2001 Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment</p> | <p>Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p> | <p>Requirements of the Directive must be met in Sustainability Appraisal where an integrated SA/SEA is being undertaken (as is the case for the new Anglesey LDP).</p> <p><i>Relates to the overall ISA process.</i></p> <p>Allocate sites and develop policies that are selected based on the SEA findings (as well as other relevant factors).</p> |
| NATIONAL (UK and Wales) | | |
| <p>The Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024</p> | <p>The Act establishes a unified consenting process for infrastructure in Wales (and Welsh waters), called an Infrastructure Consent, for specified types of major infrastructure called Significant Infrastructure Projects.</p> <p>The Act also includes the ability for ministers to add, vary or remove projects as long as the projects are in the fields of energy, flood prevention, minerals, transport, water, wastewater and waste.</p> | <p>The ISA should consider the sustainability impacts of infrastructure development.</p> <p>The LDP will have to be prepared in accordance with the Act. The Act could decrease the amount of time it takes for major infrastructure to be consented and delivered.</p> |
| <p>Programme for Government 2021 to 2026 (2021)</p> | <p>The Programme for Government sets out the well-being objectives the Welsh Government will deliver over the next five years under the Well-being for Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The ten well-being objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide effective, high quality and sustainable healthcare. ■ Protect, re-build and develop our services for vulnerable people. | <p>The ISA should include an objective which addresses health and well-being (and the HIA component of the ISA) to consider the effects of the LDP across the range of issues which could affect this topic area.</p> <p>The LDP should seek to address the ten well-being objectives outlined in the Programme for Government.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Build an economy based on the principles of fair work, sustainability and the industries and services of the future. ■ Build a stronger, greener economy as we make maximum progress towards decarbonisation. ■ Embed our response to the climate and nature emergency in everything we do. ■ Continue our long-term programme of education reform, and ensure educational inequalities narrow and standards rise. ■ Celebrate diversity and move to eliminate inequality in all of its forms. ■ Push towards a million Welsh speakers, and enable our tourism, sports and arts industries to thrive. ■ Make our cities, towns and villages even better places in which to live and work. ■ Lead Wales in a national civic conversation about our constitutional future, and give our country the strongest possible presence on the world stage. | |
| <i>The Growth Deal</i> | <p>The Growth Deal is an agreement that will generate a total investment of over £1 billion for North Wales in order to generate over 4,000 new jobs and increase GVA by £2.4 billion. The aims of the agreement are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy in North Wales. ■ To build our strengths, to boost productivity while tackling long-term challenges and economic barriers to deliver inclusive growth. ■ To promote growth in a scalable, inclusive and sustainable way, in line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. | <p>The ISA should include objective which addresses economic growth and health and well-being (and the HIA component of the ISA) to consider the effects of the LDP across the range of issues which could affect this topic area.</p> <p>The LDP should seek to support economic growth and health and well-being.</p> |
| <i>Re-imagining Social House Building in Wales: A Modern</i> | <p>The strategy sets out expectations relating to the production of homes built, providing a guide for social and affordable housing providers in Wales on using Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) to build new homes. The strategy targets local government, housing associations, and private businesses, encouraging them to complement traditional</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective which addresses the potential to deliver housing through MMC, ensuring that new developments contribute to sustainability, energy efficiency, and affordability.</p> <p>Housing policies in the LDP should be considerate of the Strategy, aligning with its objectives to enhance the quality and availability of homes. The LDP should actively support MMC</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| <p>Methods of Construction Strategy for Social Housing (2020)</p> | <p>construction with new technologies and approaches. MMC products provide clear and tangible benefits which make a compelling case for its widespread use. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Better quality buildings and infrastructure ■ A more skilled workforce and increased productivity ■ Improved building performance <p>The aim of this strategy is to focus resources to deliver more social homes using MMC and in doing so, help develop the supply chain in Wales. Welsh Ministers will support MMC in Wales in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Standardise rings of assurance, warranties and accreditation to support lender and third party confidence in MMC ■ Set standards for all social new build homes in Wales ■ Explore high value rather than low cost procurement models to reflect whole life costs of new build and provide more development options for housing providers ■ Develop standardised approaches to design and manufacture to drive up volume, drive down cost and build more homes ■ Identify and coordinate skills and qualification requirements to support greater use of MMC ■ Support the manufacture of homes in Wales, in a way which contributes to broader governmental social and economic ambitions ■ Collaboration and partnerships ■ Provide support to Welsh MMC producers and their supply chains to help the industry grow and flourish ■ More than just housing (additional focus on aspects of the planning process and encouraging more local groundworks companies to get into residential sites preparation). | <p>adoption by encouraging innovation in construction methods, ensuring land allocations are suitable for MMC developments.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 | <p>The Act sets out the direction for planning and makes provisions to support the levelling-up agenda. It seeks to streamline the planning process whilst attaching greater weight to development plans. It also aims to improve infrastructure delivery with a new levy system, improve alignment between plans to address cross-boundary issues, and will introduce added protection for heritage assets. The Act also states that existing EU-generated systems of SEA, HRA and EIA will eventually be replaced by a simpler process known as 'Environmental Outcomes Reports'.</p> | <p>The ISA must be prepared in accordance of the legislative requirements of the Act, ensuring that it assesses the environmental, social, and economic impacts of the LDP.</p> <p>The LDP will have to be prepared in accordance with the legislation, ensuring that local planning policies align with the objectives of the Act, including through improving housing supply.</p> |
| British Energy Security Strategy (2022) | <p>The Strategy sets out how the UK will enhance its energy security, setting out plans for future deployment of wind, new nuclear, solar and hydrogen, and for supporting the production of domestic oil and gas in the nearer term. The strategy builds on the Prime Minister's 'Ten point plan for a green industrial revolution', and the 'Net zero strategy'. Key aims and commitments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ New commitments to supercharge clean energy and accelerate deployment, which could see 95% of Great Britain's electricity set to be low carbon by 2030. ■ Supporting over 40,000 more jobs in clean industries, totaling 480,000 jobs by 2030. ■ Accelerated expansion of nuclear, wind, solar, hydrogen, oil and gas, including delivering the equivalent to one nuclear reactor a year instead of one a decade. ■ Offshore wind – aim of providing up to 50GW by 2030, of which 5GW is planned to be from floating offshore wind in deeper seas. This is aimed to be underpinned by new planning reforms to cut the approval times for new offshore wind farms from 4 years to 1 year and an overall streamlining which will aims to reduce the time it takes for new projects to reach construction stages while improving the environment. ■ Oil and gas - a licensing round for new North Sea oil and gas projects is planned to launch in Autumn, with a new taskforce providing bespoke support to new developments. ■ Onshore wind – The Government plant to consult on developing partnerships with a limited number of supportive communities who wish to host new onshore wind infrastructure in return for guaranteed lower energy bills. | <p>The ISA should include consideration of use of energy from renewable energy sources.</p> <p>The LDP should contribute towards national energy targets set out in the Strategy, increasing the proportion of energy from renewable energy sources where appropriate.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Heat pump manufacturing: The Government aim to run a Heat Pump Investment Accelerator Competition in 2022 worth up to £30 million to make British heat pumps, with hopes to reduce demand for gas. | |
| <p>Public Health Wales Strategic Plan 2022-25 (2022)</p> | <p>The Strategic Plan sets out the key actions that Public Health Wales will deliver in 2022/23 against a small number of strategic themes, focusing on reducing health inequalities, preventing disease, and promoting healthier lifestyles.</p> <p>In the next three years the Plan seeks to deliver key public health improvements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthening the capability of the wider and core public health system to influence the wider determinants of health ■ Working with employers and national, regional and local partners to positively influence how work and education can improve health and equity ■ Successfully embed health equity solutions in key Welsh policies affecting the wider determinants of health <p>Indicators for success include improved life expectancy, reduced health disparities, increased uptake of preventative healthcare</p> | <p>The ISA should include objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA) to consider the effects of the LDP across range of issues which could affect this topic area. This includes access to healthcare facilities, access to open space and recreation facilities, noise pollution, air pollution and mental well-being (including social isolation).</p> <p>The LPD should contain policies that seek to promote health and well-being.</p> |
| <p>Public Health Wales Long Term Strategy – Working to Achieve a Healthier Future for Wales (2018)</p> | <p>The Strategy seeks to achieve a healthier future for Wales, reflecting the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. There are seven strategic priorities which form the basis of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Influencing the wider determinants of health ■ Improving mental well-being and building resilience ■ Promoting healthy behaviours ■ Securing a healthy future for the next generation through a focus on early years ■ Protecting the population from infection and environmental threats to health | <p>As above.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Supporting the development of a sustainable health and care system focused on prevention and early intervention ■ Building and mobilising knowledge and skills to improve health and wellbeing across Wales | |
| Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) | The Act provided reform to the handling of planning applications to ensure a quicker and more efficient process, as well as reform to the development plan system. Introduced local development orders and established sustainable development as a key objective of the planning system. | The LDP will have to be prepared in accordance with the legislation. |
| Equality Act (2010) | The Equality Act provides legal protection to people from discrimination in wider society and in the workplace. | <p>The ISA (through the equalities impact assessment component) should consider the potential implications of the LDP in relation to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act.</p> <p>The Equality Act provides legal protection to people from discrimination in wider society and in the workplace.</p> |
| European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 | The Act repeals the European Communities Act 1972 and makes other provisions in connection with the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU. | The implications for the LDP and ISA are not yet fully known, however, withdrawing from the EU may have implications in the future on plan preparation. |
| European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act (2020) | The Act makes legal provision for withdrawing the United Kingdom from the European Union. The Act provides for a financial settlement and agreement on citizens' rights. | The implications for the LDP and ISA are not yet fully known, however, withdrawing from the EU may have implications in the future on plan preparation. |
| Planning (Wales) Act (2015) | <p>The Act seeks to modernise and improve the Welsh planning system to facilitate in the delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure. The Act promotes a cultural change in planning to help make planning more positive and support appropriate development.</p> <p>The requirements for the National Development Framework (NDF) and Strategic Development Plans (SDP) are set out in the legislation.</p> | The LDP will need to have regard to the Act, and associated implications (NDF, SDPs etc) |
| Planning Policy Wales: Edition 12 (2024) | Key themes and well-being goals for Wales that are addressed in PPW are: | The ISA should include an objective relating to climate change mitigation, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, preserving the historic environment, ensuring access to sufficient and high quality housing, promoting access to employment and other services, protecting and |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact (including in relation to biodiversity, landscapes, green infrastructure, climate change and the historic environment). ■ Facilitating accessible and healthy environments (including in relation to high quality green space, the creation of safe and inclusive places, active travel and public transport and access to goods and services). ■ Making best use of resources (including in relation to making best use of natural resource limiting waste and promoting use of previously developed land). ■ Growing the economy in a sustainable manner (including in the area of renewable energy and smart and innovative technology). ■ Creating and sustaining communities (including support for the Welsh language, providing housing and jobs to meet society's needs, supporting cultural experiences and community based services and facilities). | <p>enhancing landscapes, promoting and providing green infrastructure, and ensuring public health and well-being.</p> <p>The LDP will need to include a wide range of measures identified by PPW in order to assist sustainable development and the place making agenda. Planning also has a direct role to play in relation to the effects of climate change, and the location and design of buildings.</p> |
| <p>Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (2021)</p> | <p>Future Wales sits as the highest tier development plan in Wales, and all other plans must be in compliance with the policies contained within that document. The plan sets out the direction for growth, development and infrastructure investment in Wales until 2040.</p> | <p>The LDP will have to be in compliance with Future Wales, policies have been cross referenced to a number of high level topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strategic and Spatial Choices ■ Active and Social Places ■ Productive and Enterprising Places ■ Distinctive and Natural Places <p>The issue of sustainability and placemaking should be integral to the policy making process.</p> |
| <p>Building Better Places (2020)</p> | <p>Sets out the Government's planning policy priorities to assist in taking action in the recovery period after the COVID-19 pandemic. It recognises the importance of the planning system in addressing the built and natural environment issues that have arisen from the pandemic. In relation to Local Development Plans, it recognises the importance of having an up-to-date plan in place in order to address current priorities and the role that plans can play in improving health and well-being more generally.</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective which addresses health and well-being.</p> <p>The LDP should seek to address the current priorities of the plan area and include policies that support the recovery of the area following the pandemic as well as health and well-being more generally.</p> |
| <p>Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition (2012)</p> | <p>The plan ensures Welsh Government works towards the aim of creating a sustainable, low carbon economy for Wales.</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective which addresses the potential to provide renewable schemes and integrate new development into new and existing networks (such as CHP and heat networks).</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | | The LDP should encourage the use of renewable energy where appropriate, taking into account the potential environmental implications of such developments. |
| Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales (2019) | The 'Prosperity of All' collection of strategies and policies includes plans for tackling climate change and reduction of carbon emissions. The Plan sets the foundations for Wales to transition to a low carbon nation. The Plan recognises the planning system has a role to play in facilitating decarbonisation. Key changes to PPW have been made that have been designed to help Wales lower carbon emissions, for example the promotion of Active Travel and promoting renewable energy development. | The ISA should include an objective which seeks to promote a reduced contribution to climate change through transport, energy requirements and other sources. The LDP should place emphasis on the climate change and de-carbonisation agenda where opportunities are available, particularly in relation to policy development. |
| Energy Efficiency in Wales: A Strategy for the Next 10 Years 2016-2026 (2017) | The Plan aims to ensure that Wales is in the best position for realise full energy efficiency potential. It identifies the planning system as a method to facilitate low carbon and renewable energy developments. | The ISA should include an objective which seeks to promote a reduced contribution to climate change through energy requirements, including a promotion of energy efficient design. The LDP should plan positively for renewable and low carbon development, through policy development. |
| TAN 3: Simplified Planning Zones (1996) | The TAN provides guidance on the implementation of Simplified Planning Zones (SPZ) schemes in Wales, setting out the role of local planning authorities, and the ability of such schemes to streamline planning control. | The ISA should include objectives relating to ensuring sustainable economic growth, with consideration to SPZs and their potential for economic growth and regeneration. The LDP should take a proactive approach in identifying areas SPZs, ensuring they align with local economic and regeneration priorities. |
| TAN 7: Outdoor Advertisement Control (1996) | The TAN provides guidance on how local planning authorities should regulate outdoor advertisements to ensure that they contribute positively to the visual amenity and public safety of an area. | The ISA should include objectives which address design in terms of promoting heritage preservation, the natural environment, local character and safety. The LDP should promote design that seeks to enhance visual amenity, heritage preservation and public safety. |
| TAN 10: Tree Preservation Orders (1997) | The TAN sets out the purpose of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO), as well as outlines the process for designating, managing and enforcing TPOs. | The ISA should consider impacts on woodland (including ancient woodland and other mature trees where appropriate) as part of its biodiversity objective. The LDP should incorporate policies that safeguard trees protected by TPOs, ensuring that they are considered in planning decisions, and development proposals. |
| TAN 14: Coastal Planning (2021) | This TAN describes the role of local planning authorities and the range of sectoral and regulatory controls over marine and coastal development. The guidance details a number of issues which must be taken into account because of their potential effects on physical | The ISA should include an objective which seeks to protect and sustainably manage coastal zones in the County Borough, with consideration for the effects of climate change. |

Appendix A
Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal
March 2025

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | processes and ground conditions, as well as the overall balance, sensitivity and conservation of the area. These include visual impact from both land and sea, and the potential need for remedial and defence works. It covers planning considerations and issues to be included in development plans and in the determination of planning applications. | The LDP should take a place-based approach to flood risk management. Policies should seek to limit the potential for increased flood risk in the plan area and where appropriate seek to provide solutions for existing issues of flood risk, particularly in relation to coastal protection. |
| TAN 13: Tourism (1997) | The TAN sets out how the planning system can encourage sustainable forms of tourism, maximising economic benefits while improving and safeguarding environmental interests. | The ISA should include objectives relating to ensuring sustainable economic growth as well as protecting and enhancing the natural environment. The LDP should provide strategic framework for tourism development opportunities, whilst limiting impacts on the environment and local communities. |
| TAN 2: Planning and Affordable Housing (2006) | The TAN aims to ensure the provision of affordable housing. | The ISA should include an objective relating to the provision of affordable housing. LDPs should be informed by a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA), and must set an affordable housing target based on the need identified in the LHMA. Local authorities must indicate how the target will be achieved through policy approaches. The LDP must consider how affordable housing is included in development. |
| Independent Review of Affordable Housing Supply (2019) | Welsh Government published the Independent Review of Affordable Housing Supply in April 2019. The document includes recommendations for changes designed to increase supply and improve delivery of affordable homes in Wales. This includes that local authorities should be required to provide Local Housing Market assessments (LHMAs) based on a consistent timetable, data and methodology across housing tenures. New consolidated and simplified standards for new build grant funded and S106 homes are also recommended in the review document. | The ISA should include an objective relating to the provision of affordable housing. LDPs should be informed by a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) and must set an affordable housing target based on the need identified in the LHMA. Housing policies in the LDP should also be considerate of the recommendations in the review document. |
| TAN 18: Transport (2007) | The TAN sets out how planning can promote more sustainable methods of travel, and forms of transport. | The ISA should include an objective relating to transport and travel and in particular the promotion of sustainable and active modes. The LDP should encourage sustainable transport methods, whilst reducing the need to travel. Transport is integral to most development, and is important consideration on sustainability issues. |
| Llwybr Newydd The Wales Transport Strategy 2021 | The 2021 strategy should be read alongside the sub-national planning policy guidance documents including regional guidance, regional transport plans, and national transport delivery plans. The strategy sets out three priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bring services to people in order to reduce the need to travel. ■ Allow people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable and efficient transport services and infrastructure. | The ISA should include an objective relating to transport and travel including in relation to encouraging sustainable transport choices and limiting environmental impacts. The strategy will need to be incorporated as part of the Local Development Plan. There is potential to address transport and travel through the LDP. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Encourage people to make the change to more sustainable transport. | |
| <p>National Transport Delivery Plan 2022 to 2027</p> | <p>The national transport delivery plan 2022 to 2027 is the first 5 year delivery plan for the Welsh Government to implement Llwybr Newydd: The Wales Transport Strategy 2021. The plan sets out and aims to achieve the three priorities of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring services to people in order to reduce the need to travel. 2. Allow people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable and efficient transport services and infrastructure. 3. Encourage people to make the change to more sustainable transport. | <p>The ISA should include an objective relating to transport and travel including in relation to encouraging accessible and sustainable transport choices and limiting environmental impacts. The delivery plan will need to be incorporated as part of the Local Development Plan. There is potential to address transport and travel through the LDP.</p> |
| <p>Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) (2024)</p> | <p>The Welsh transport appraisal guidance (WelTAG) aids in the planning of transport programmes, policies and projects. The guidance is designed to help develop programmes and projects that address the nations transport priorities from the outset.</p> <p>WelTAG 2022 sets five criteria that will be used to decide whether to consider supporting a programme or project. These are based on ideals of strategic fit, wellbeing, affordability, deliverability and management. Unless a project, programme or policy meets the first two criteria, it will not be considered for further development, funding or support. In addition, all projects, policies and programmes must be supported by a business case that shows how they will deliver value-for-money against these criteria.</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective relating to transport and travel, particularly incorporating the criteria set out in the guidance, including the need of developments to meet the priorities and wellbeing benefits set out in the Wales transport strategy.</p> |
| <p>Climate Change Act 2008</p> | <p>The Climate Change Act is the basis for the UK's approach to climate change. The Act requires the UK as a whole to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to pre-1990 levels by 2050. This refers to net UK emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective that seeks to reduce the contribution Anglesey makes to climate change.</p> <p>The strategy to achieve greenhouse gas levels below those seen in 1990 should be incorporated as part of the LDP and policy should be included to help limit the level of carbon emissions in the County Borough. This could include through support for more sustainable modes of transport and locating development in areas which will reduce the need for residents to have to travel long distances regularly.</p> |
| <p>Towards Zero Waste – Waste Strategy for Wales (2010)</p> | <p>This strategy is the Welsh Government's national waste strategy for Wales. It provides the high level, long-term framework for the sustainable use of resources and waste management in Wales up to 2050. The strategy ultimately aims to achieve 70% recycling rate for Municipal Solid Waste across all sectors by 2025, and by 2050 raise this to 100%.</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective relating to waste and the promotion of its treatment in line with the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>This strategy will have to be incorporated as part of the LDP. The LDP should consider an approach which helps to ensure the treatment of waste in line with the waste hierarchy</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| TAN 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities (2010) | <p>The TAN covers: sustainable rural communities and economics, rural affordable housing, rural enterprise dwellings, one planet development, sustainable rural services and agriculture.</p> <p>LDPs should facilitate diversification of rural economy by accommodating needs of traditional and new rural enterprises. Diverse range of sites should be identified and consider the need for exception site policies.</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective relating access to services and facilities as well as impacts on character, including landscape and the historic environment. It should also include an objective relating to the promotion of sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>Through the evidence base, local need will need to be defined and the provision of services facilitated where new developments are of a sufficient scale. A reduction of development in the countryside should be observed as impacts are difficult to reverse, and development policies included in the LDP must take into consideration cumulative effects.</p> <p>Department for Rural Affairs and Welsh Government to be consulted for information on quality of agricultural land.</p> |
| Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan | <p>Is drafted to support delivery of Prosperity for All – the national strategy for Wales. The Plan sets out a vision for inclusive growth, built on strong foundations, supercharged industries of the future and productive regions. The overarching goals of the Plan are to grow the economy and reduce inequality. The Economic Contract is set out as the centrepiece of the Plan's approach. This approach is to frame the reciprocal relationship between Government and business and drive public investment with a social purpose.</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective which is considerate of sustainable economic growth as well as reducing disparity in the County Borough.</p> <p>The LDP will have to have regard to this strategy and policies should support an appropriate level of economic growth that allows for employment in high value employment sectors that will support the narrowing of measurements of disparity on Anglesey.</p> |
| Economic Renewal: A New Direction (2010) | <p>The Welsh Government policy aims to facilitate a stronger and more sustainable economy through investing in infrastructure, skills, research and development.</p> <p>The five policy priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Investing in high quality and sustainable infrastructure; ■ Making Wales a more attractive place to do business; ■ Broadening and deepening the skills base; ■ Encouraging innovation; and ■ Targeting the business support we offer to help us gain competitive advantage. | <p>The ISA should include objectives which address accessibility to services and facilities for residents as well as infrastructure which will support economic growth. It should also include an objective which considers the support for sustainable economic growth itself.</p> <p>The LDP will have to have regard to this strategy and should consider an approach which secures investment in infrastructure, residents' skills and the required development to support sustainable economic growth.</p> |
| One Wales: One Planet – The Sustainable Development Scheme of the Welsh Assembly | <p>One Planet Development is development that either enhances or does not significantly diminish environmental quality. One Planet Developments can be located within or adjacent to existing settlements, or in the open countryside. In the open countryside, such developments should be evidenced by a management plan.</p> | <p>The ISA should include objectives which address the protection of environmental qualities (including air, noise and water).</p> <p>Policies that seek to control development in the open countryside will need to be updated as part of the LDP.</p> <p>Sustainability issues should be integral to the policy making process.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| Government (2009) | | |
| Active Travel (Wales) Act (2013) | The Act makes provision for local authorities to deliver improvements to active travel routes and related facilities, producing maps for both existing and new/improved active travel routes. | The ISA should include an objective relating to transport and travel and in particular the promotion of sustainable and active modes. The LDP will have to have regard to the Act, new and amended proposals for active travel and/or integrated maps. It presents an opportunity to adopt an approach which strengthens the potential for travel by active and sustainable modes. |
| Partnership for Growth: Strategy for Tourism 2013-2020 (no publication date) | The strategy sets out the ambitions of Welsh Government for Tourism up to 2020, and details how this is to be achieved. | The strategy sets out that flexibility in the planning system can ensure that appropriate development can support future prosperity in the tourism sector. The LDP will have to have regard to this strategy in the consideration of tourism policies. |
| The Housing (Wales) Act (2014) | The Act aims to improve the supply, quality and standards of housing in Wales and sets out a number of requirements on local authorities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Assessment of needs for Gypsies and Travellers | The ISA should include an objective which addresses the provision of the required number of homes and a high quality of housing stock in the plan area. The ISA should also consider the potential to meet the needs of Gypsy and Travellers. The legislation requires an up to date Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) to be produced. The needs of affordable housing and Gypsy and Traveller accommodation will need to be considered by the LDP. |
| TAN 23: Economic Development (2014) | The TAN sets out that the planning system needs to recognise the economic aspects of all development, and that planning decisions are made in a sustainable way that balances social, economic and environmental considerations. | The ISA should include an objective which addresses the maintenance of suitable levels of sustainable economic growth across the plan area. LDPs should use a sequential approach when identifying sites for economic uses. LDP vision should be consistent and coherent so that economic, environmental and social considerations support each other and point in the same direction. |
| TAN 12: Design (2016) | Provides detailed guidance on 'Promoting sustainability through good design' and how 'Planning for sustainable building' can be facilitated through the planning system. Design issues should be considered early on in the development process. The planning system needs to be pro-active in raising awareness about the importance of design issues. | The ISA should include objectives which address design in terms of promoting inclusivity of access, the natural environment, local character and safety. Local authorities have a dual role to ensure stakeholder involvement in developing design policies, and providing information on design issues. |

Appendix A
Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal
March 2025

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|---|---|--|
| | | LDP policies on design should set out design expectations, and policies should address local issues and be based on evidence. |
| TAN 4: Retailing and Commercial Development (2016) | The TAN provides further advice in relation to retail strategies, tests of need, retail and commercial frontages, and indicators of vitality and viability. | The ISA should include an objective which considers the vitality and viability of town centre locations. LDPs should use a sequential approach when identifying sites for economic uses. LDP vision should be consistent and coherent so that economic, environmental and social considerations support each other and point in the same direction. |
| Prosperity for All: The National Strategy (2017) | This strategy sets out the aim of Welsh Government to 'build a Wales that is prosperous and secure, healthy and active and ambitious and learning, and united and connected'. | The ISA should include an objective which considers health and well-being as well as the potential to address deprivation in the plan area. The aim of the strategy is to join up all the different elements that the Government influence which affect people's lives such as housing, education and employment. The LDP should have to have regard to this strategy. |
| TAN 21: Waste (2017) | Provides advice on how planning should contribute towards sustainable waste management and resource efficiency. | The ISA should include an objective relating to waste and the promotion of its treatment in line with the waste hierarchy. LDPs should identify suitable sites for the provision of all types of waste management. Strategies and policies should indicate that developers should reduce waste as part of the design and construction of new buildings. Consultation with relevant stakeholders when developing waste policies of the LDP will be necessary. |
| Circular 005/2018 (2018) | The Circular is in relation to Gypsies and Travellers. It places an obligation on local authorities to discuss accommodation needs directly with Gypsies and Travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups. | The ISA should include an objective which addresses the provision of accommodation to meet all relevant needs, including those of Gypsies and Travellers. The LDP will need to have regard to the specifics of the Circular in preparing the evidence base in relation to Gypsy and Travellers. The Circular specifies criteria based policies will be required, and they must be fair, reasonable, realistic and effective in delivering sites. |
| Clean Air Strategy 2019 | The Clean Air Strategy shows how the UK will tackle all sources of air pollution, making the air healthier to breathe, protecting nature and boosting the economy. It sets out comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of government and society to meet these goals. | The ISA should include an objective which seeks to limit the potential for air pollution from all sources. The ISA should have regard for existing air quality issues in the plan area. The LDP should consider the air quality impacts of development, and the potential effects of traffic associated with that development. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| Welcome to Wales: Priorities for the Visitor Economy (2020-2025) | The Welcome to Wales Plan outlines the vision of Welsh Government for the tourism economy over a five year period. The plan highlights the positive impact outdoor leisure and recreation can have on the tourist economy. | The ISA should include an objective which addresses sustainable economic growth in the plan area and this may include reference to the role tourism, outdoor leisure and recreation can play in this regard. The LDP will need to have regard to the plan, particularly in relation to any tourism/leisure proposals and policies. |
| Environmental Noise (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 | Under the Environmental Noise Regulations, the Welsh Ministers have an obligation to produce and keep updated noise maps for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ agglomerations (large urban areas with populations of over 100,000); ■ major roads (roads with over three million vehicles passing each year); and ■ major railways (railways with over 30,000 trains passing each year). Under the Environmental Noise Regulations, the Welsh Ministers have an obligation to draw up action plans for places near major roads and major railways, and for agglomerations. The Regulations apply to environmental noise to which humans are exposed in particular in built-up areas, in public parks or other quiet areas in an agglomeration, and near schools, hospitals and other noise-sensitive buildings and areas. | Through the inclusion of objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA), the ISA should consider the potential for residents, employees and visitors in the plan area to be affected by noise pollution. The noise maps inform a range of activities carried out by public bodies in Wales, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ prioritised noise mitigation works, such as noise barriers and resurfacing; ■ the planning process; ■ air quality, green infrastructure and transport plans and strategies; ■ the assessments of local well-being produced by public services boards; ■ the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) and area statements produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 The LDP will have to have regard to the noise maps, and associated plans. |
| Noise and Soundscape Plan for Wales: Our Nation Strategy on Soundscapes, 2023-2028 (2023) | The Noise and Soundscape Plan 2023-2028 is Wales's national strategy on soundscapes, meaning the sound environment as perceived or experiences and/or understood by a person or people, in context. All forms of airborne sound that may be heard by the people of Wales are considered to be within scope of the document. It sets out a summary of the evidence, current policies and the Welsh Government's priorities for the next five years. This includes finalising the new TAN 11: Noise, developing guidance regarding soundscape design and taking measures to reduce noise at priority sites adjacent to the Welsh Strategic Road Network. | Through the inclusion of objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA), the ISA should consider the potential for residents, employees and visitors in the plan area to be affected by noise pollution. The LDP will need to contain updated policies that allow for the assessment of noise impacts. |
| Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 | The Act seeks to improve the quality of the air environment and reduce the impacts of airborne pollution on human health, nature, the environment and the economy. The Act creates a framework for the Welsh Ministers to set targets in relation to air quality and amends existing air quality legislation in relation to local air quality management, road user charging, anti-idling and smoke control. The Act also creates new duties for the Welsh | Through the inclusion of objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA), the ISA should consider the potential for residents, employees and visitors in the plan area to be affected by noise pollution. The ISA should also include an objective to achieve cleaner air in the county. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | <p>Ministers to take steps to promote awareness of the risks of human health and the natural environment caused by air pollution, and ways of reducing or limiting air pollution.</p> <p>The Act also places the Welsh Ministers and local authorities under a duty to promote active travel as a way of reducing or limiting air pollution and makes provision for this duty to be imposed by regulations, on other public authorities. The Act also requires the Welsh Ministers to produce a national strategy on soundscapes.</p> | <p>The LDP will need to contain updated policies regarding noise pollution, in addition to policies that look to place limits and targets on all forthcoming development to ensure air quality impacts of such developments meet the standards set by the Act.</p> |
| TAN 11: Noise (1997) | <p>The TAN sets out how the planning system can minimise the adverse impact of noise without placing unreasonable restrictions on development or unduly adding to the costs and administrative burdens of business.</p> | <p>Through the inclusion of objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA), the ISA should consider the potential for residents, employees and visitors in the plan area to be affected by noise pollution.</p> <p>The LDP should promote design that minimises or mitigates noise and should seek to limit the delivery of noise sensitive uses in areas affected by noise. Area specific noise policies may be necessary for some areas.</p> |
| TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space (2009) | <p>The TAN provides guidance on planning for sport, open spaces and protecting existing facilities.</p> | <p>Through the inclusion of objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA), the ISA should consider the accessibility of open space and recreation facilities in the plan area, as well as the potential loss of these types of assets as new development is delivered.</p> <p>The LDP should set out a framework for sport and recreation, with a strategic approach to such development. It should also protect areas of open space that have recreation, amenity and/or conservation value.</p> |
| Climbing Higher: The Welsh Assembly Government Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity (2015) | <p>The strategy sets out that by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The percentage of people in Wales using the natural environment for outdoor activities will increase to 60% from 36% ■ 95% of people will have a foot or cycle path within a 10 minute walk ■ No one should live more than a 6 minute (300m) from their nearest natural green space ■ All public sector employees and 75% of all other employees will have access to sport facilities at, or within 10 minutes walk of the workplace | <p>Through the inclusion of objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA), the ISA should consider the accessibility of open space and recreation facilities in the plan area.</p> <p>The LDP should provide a framework for sport and recreation and set out a strategic approach to such development. The LDP should support the aims of the strategy.</p> |
| Together for Mental Health: A Strategy for Mental Health | <p>The strategy sets out the goals of Welsh Government for improving mental health and mental health services in Wales. It covers all ages; children and young people, adults of working age and older people. It looks to promote the mental wellbeing of all people in Wales and to ensure that people with mental health problems and mental illness get the support they need.</p> | <p>Through the inclusion of objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA), the ISA should consider potential impacts of development on mental health and issues of isolation. The EqIA component of the ISA should consider potential impacts on the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010, including older people and younger people.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| and Wellbeing in Wales (2012) | | The strategy sets out issues such as housing needs to be tackled in order to build resilience, protecting and promoting mental health. The LDP should have regard to this. |
| Well-Being Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 | The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (the WBFG Act) requires public bodies (inclusive of local authorities) to think more about the long term; to work more effectively with people, communities and each other; to look at problem prevention and to take a more joined-up approach. | The ISA should include objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA) to consider the effects of the LDP across range of issues which could affect this topic area. This includes access to healthcare facilities, access to open space and recreation facilities, noise pollution, air pollution and mental well-being (including social isolation). Importantly, the Act sets out a 'sustainable development principle', which must be considered by local authorities in the decision-making process. It requires decisions to be made that 'the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. |
| Measuring the Health and Well-being of a Nation: Public Health Outcomes Framework for Wales (2016) | The Framework will help organisations to work together to improve health now and in the future. Within the framework, each outcome as individual indicators. The framework was developed to underpin the national indicators of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. | The ISA should include objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA) to consider the effects of the LDP across range of issues which could affect this topic area. This includes access to healthcare facilities, access to open space and recreation facilities, noise pollution, air pollution and mental well-being (including social isolation). The ISA should also consider the impact access to a good quality of housing can have in terms of promoting health and wellbeing. The Framework sets out 'good quality housing' is an indicator of good health. The LDP will have to accord with the local well-being plan, PPW and the Well-being and Future Generations Act 2015. |
| Public Health (Wales) Act (2017) | The Public Health Act improves and protects the health and well-being of Wales. The Act responds to new and emerging health challenges. | The ISA should include objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA) to consider the effects of the LDP across range of issues which could affect this topic area. This includes access to healthcare facilities, access to open space and recreation facilities, noise pollution, air pollution and mental well-being (including social isolation). One of the provisions in the Act requires Welsh Ministers to make regulations that requires public bodies to carry out Health Impact Assessments in specific circumstances. These regulations have yet to be made, however, during the process of preparing the LDP these could be published. |
| Creating Healthier Places and Spaces for Our Present and | The document identifies LDPs as a strategic level action through incorporating policies in relation to green infrastructure, active travel, retail environment, health services, air pollution and building design therefore can help shape and promote Health and Well-being. 'Planners' have been identified as influencers of these priority areas, and can also support delivery of the well-being goals. | The ISA should include objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA) to consider the effects of the LDP across range of issues which could affect this topic area. This includes access to healthcare facilities, access to open space and recreation facilities, noise pollution, air pollution and mental well-being (including social isolation). |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| Future Generations (2018) | | The document provides examples of how other LPAs have used LDPs to further the Health and Well-being agenda. |
| Working Together for a Healthier Wales: Our Long-Term Strategy 2023-2035 (2023) | <p>The strategy sets out Public Health Wales's vision for achieving a healthier future for Wales by 2035. They will achieve this by focusing on the delivery of six strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Influence the wider determinants of health ■ Promote mental and social well-being ■ Promoting healthy behaviours ■ Supporting the development of a sustainable health and care system focused on prevention and early intervention ■ Delivering excellent public health services to protect the public and maximise population health outcomes ■ Tackling the public health effects of climate change | <p>The ISA should include objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA) to consider the effects of the LDP across range of issues which could affect this topic area. This includes access to healthcare facilities, access to open space and recreation facilities, noise pollution, air pollution and mental well-being (including social isolation).</p> <p>The LPD should contain policies that seek to promote health and well-being.</p> |
| A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2019) | This plan sets out a long term future vision of a 'whole system approach to health and social care', which is focussed on health and wellbeing, and on preventing illness. Various models and approaches are suggested as to how healthcare is provided in the future, and it is suggested that more healthcare will be community based. | <p>The ISA should include objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA) to consider the effects of the LDP across range of issues which could affect this topic area. This includes access to healthcare facilities, access to open space and recreation facilities, noise pollution, air pollution and mental well-being (including social isolation).</p> <p>Whilst the planning system is not specifically referenced as a tool for helping achieving the integration of health and social care in Wales, the implementation of future plans and policies may be helped by development plans.</p> |
| 2024 Plan for Health and Social Care (2024) | This plan identifies a set of refreshed actions that have been agreed to support the delivery of A Healthier Wales (see above). | As above. |
| TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009) | The planning system should protect and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation. To ensure that development plans are based on adequate information about geology, landform, habitats and species, nature conservation issues should be included in surveys of local authority areas. | The ISA should be undertaken in a manner which accepts the primacy of nature conservation objectives, and should clearly take note of these designations in setting SA objectives and defining options. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | <p>Authorities must ensure that developments are not in breach of the habitats directive.</p> | <p>Local authorities should work in partnership with NRW and other key stakeholders to achieve nature conservation objectives. Links to national and local Biodiversity Action plans through habitat creation and management. Mitigation measure to be included where policies and proposals are taken forward in the LDP which are likely to have a negative impact.</p> |
| <p>The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales 2020-21 (2020)</p> | <p>This plan is a framework for Wales that identifies actions to deliver short term goals, and longer-term commitments post 2020 relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity's 'Strategic Plan to 2050'. The plan, originally published in December 2015 as the 'Nature Recovery Plan', addresses the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by putting nature at the heart of decision making and increasing the resilience of ecosystems by taking specific action focused around the six objectives for habitats and species. Part one of the plan sets out the strategy for nature and commitments to reversing the loss of biodiversity in Wales. Part two sets out the action plan to meet the objectives and reverse the decline of biodiversity. Part three focuses on the Nature Recovery Framework, setting out the governance, partnerships, and relationships that will be integral to undertake the actions set out under part two.</p> | <p>Similar to the biodiversity duty, the ISA and the LDP will both need to have regard to the recovery plan.</p> |
| <p>Environment (Wales) Act (2016)</p> | <p>The Act provides a new biodiversity duty, to manage the natural resources of Wales proactively and sustainably. The Act introduces an enhanced biodiversity duty for local authorities to have regard to conserving and enhancing biodiversity. This includes an approach that seeks to build resilience into ecosystems and recognise the benefits that they provide for the human population. It also introduces the sustainable management of natural resources as a new approach which ensures that the way in which the use of and the impacts on our natural resources do not result in their long term decline. The development of Area Statements is a further requirement of the Act to help deliver the Welsh Government's Natural Resources Policy. The Act states that NRW must prepare a report containing its assessment of the state of natural resources in relation to Wales; State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR).</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective which address the need to protect and enhance biodiversity assets as well as other natural resources.</p> <p>The LDP will have to have regard to the biodiversity duty, particularly in relation to policy development.</p> |
| <p>Natural Resources Policy (2017)</p> | <p>The statutory Natural Resources Policy was introduced as part of the implementation of the Environment (Wales) Act. It sets out policies to achieve the sustainable management of natural resources and sets out three national priorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Delivering nature-based solutions; ■ Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency; and, ■ Taking a place-based approach. | <p>The ISA should include objectives relating to the sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>The LDP should have regard to the aims of the Natural Resources Policy when developing relevant policies.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| Woodlands for Wales Strategy (2018) | <p>The strategy sets out the strategic direction for Welsh forestry. The strategy aims to achieve a minimum planting rate of 2,000ha each year from 2020, in line with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.</p> <p>The vision of the strategy is as follows:</p> <p>Wales will be known for its high-quality woodlands that enhance the landscape, are appropriate to local conditions and have a diverse mixture of species and habitats. These will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ provide real social and community benefits, both locally and nationally; ■ support thriving woodland-based industries; and ■ contribute to a better quality environment throughout Wales | <p>The ISA should consider impacts on woodland (including ancient woodland and other mature trees where appropriate) as part of its biodiversity objective.</p> <p>The strategy sets out that woodlands and trees can play a role as a component in green infrastructure, which will be considered as part of the LDP process. It also sets out that local authorities should further programmes of tree planting and woodland management, and this should be promoted through elements of land use planning.</p> <p>The strategy also sets out 'we want to find ways to ensure that planning policy reflects the need for compensatory planting, when permanent removal of woodland is permitted for development.' The LDP present an opportunity to incorporate policies which would move towards supporting these aims.</p> |
| Welsh Language (Wales) Measure (2011) | <p>The Measure provides the Welsh Language with official status and treats Welsh as equal status to English. This equal status for English and Welsh extends to the delivery of services and policy making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ When creating policy the policy maker must consider what effects if any (positive and negative) the policy decision would have on: ■ Opportunities for other persons to use the Welsh language; or ■ Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. | <p>The ISA should consider the impact of the LDP on Welsh language.</p> <p>The LDP will have to have regard to the Welsh Language, particularly in relation to policy development.</p> |
| Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers (2017) | <p>The Welsh Governments, Welsh language strategy sets out a vision that by the year 2050: 'The Welsh language is thriving, the number of speakers has reached a million, and it is used in every aspect of life. Among those who do not speak Welsh there is goodwill and a sense of ownership towards the language and a recognition by all of its contribution to the culture, society and economy of Wales.'</p> <p>In order to do this three strategic themes are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increasing the number of Welsh Speakers ■ Increasing use of Welsh ■ Creating favourable infrastructure | <p>The ISA should consider the impact of the LDP on Welsh language.</p> <p>As a local authority, education need for Welsh Medium Schools will need to be identified in the LDP.</p> |
| Historic Environment | <p>The Act provides the legislative framework for the protection and management of the historic environment in Wales. The legislation was prepared with three main aims:</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective which seeks to protecting and enhance the historic environment including the settings of heritage assets.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| (Wales) Act 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To give more effective protection to Wales’s scheduled monuments and listed buildings. ■ To enhance existing mechanisms for the sustainable management of the historic environment. ■ To introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment. | The LDP should take account of the provisions of the Act and should include locally specific policies for the conservation and enhancement of historic assets. |
| TAN 24: The Historic Environment (2017) | The TAN provides guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment, and provides specific guidance on certain aspects of the historic environment. | <p>The ISA should include an objective which seeks to protecting and enhance the historic environment including the settings of heritage assets.</p> <p>LDPs must include locally specific policies for the conservation and enhancement of historic assets, if appropriate.</p> |
| TAN 20: Planning and The Welsh Language (2017) | <p>The TAN provides guidance on how the Welsh language should be considered in planning, and on compliance with the requirements of planning and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>The TAN also sets out a ‘step by step’ of how and when the Welsh language might be considered in the preparation of an LDP.</p> | <p>The ISA should consider the impact of the LDP on Welsh language.</p> <p>Where Welsh is spoken in the community, the LDP presents an opportunity to include policy which will have regard for social implications of development and the preservation of the cultural heritage.</p> |
| Flood Risk Regulations (2009) | The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 implement the EU Flood Directive in Wales. The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 set out the duties regarding producing preliminary flood risk assessments, flood hazard maps and flood risk maps and flood risk management plans. | <p>The ISA should include an objective which addresses flood risk in the light of climate change.</p> <p>The LDP should include policies that are considerate of areas on Anglesey that of highest flood risk.</p> |
| TAN 15: Development and Flood Risk (2025) | <p>The TAN sets guidance on flood risk, and how any risk should be managed and addressed. Sets out a precautionary framework to reduce the risk to people and development from flooding.</p> <p>The overarching aim of the precautionary framework is, in order of preference, to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Direct new development away from those areas which are at high risk of flooding. ■ Where development has to be considered in high risk areas (zone C) only those developments which can be justified on the basis of the tests outlined in section 6 and section 7 are located within such areas. | <p>The ISA should include an objective which addresses flood risk in the light of climate change.</p> <p>LDPs should take a precautionary approach to flood risk, the potential consequences of flooding and ensure that the location of development has regard to the potential risk, causes and consequences of flooding.</p> |
| Natural Resources Wales Flood Risk Management | The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) North West Wales Place covers the Local Authorities of Conwy, Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd, and provides information on the scale of flood risk, as well as Natural Resources Wales priorities for managing the risk of flooding, and measures that we propose to take, over the coming years. The FRMP covers flooding from | The ISA should include an objective which seeks to limit flood risk in the North West Wales, with consideration for the effects of climate change. The ISA will need to consider how flood risk management policies will effectively target the objectives laid out within the FRMP. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| <p>Plan: North West Wales Place (no publication date)</p> | <p>rivers, reservoirs and the sea. It does not include flooding from surface water and smaller watercourses, for which Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) have powers and take the lead.</p> <p>The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) outlines the community-scale measures implemented following the first cycle of Flood Risk Management Plans (2016), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Llanfair Talhaiarn: Completion of the first phase of flood risk management improvements, enhancing protection for 29 homes and 4 businesses. Additionally, appraisal work has been undertaken to assess the feasibility of a potential flood risk management scheme in Llangefni. ■ Llyn Tegid: Commencement of works to manage reservoir safety, flood risk and ensure continuity of service for water resources into the future. <p>The Plan also sets out a delivery plan for planned flood risk management measures across communities and location North West Wales place, including updating existing hydraulic models, and design and construction of flood risk asset improvements.</p> | <p>The LDP should consider the findings of the FRMP in its approach to flood risk management. Policies should seek to limit the potential for increased flood risk in the plan area, particularly in relation to North West Wales, and where appropriate seek to provide solutions for existing issues of flood risk. This may include through policies which directly address design measures to alleviate issues of flood risk and the directing of development at areas at which flood risk is less likely to result.</p> |
| <p>MTAN 1: Aggregates (2004)</p> | <p>The Minerals TAN provides guidance ensuring that mineral extraction is managed in a sustainable way. To ensure supply is managed in a sustainable way so that the best balance between environmental, economic and social considerations is struck, while making sure that the environmental and amenity impacts of any necessary extraction are kept to a level that avoids causing demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance.</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective which addresses the preservation and appropriate use of natural resources including the extraction of minerals.</p> <p>There are specific policies in relation to designated areas and specific issues, such as groundwater, and how they should be managed. This guidance should be taken into account while formulating the LDP in order to ensure that effects of mineral extraction are minimised and mitigated.</p> |
| <p>MTAN 2: Coal (2009)</p> | <p>The Minerals TAN provides best practice guidance ensuring that mineral extraction is managed in a sustainable way.</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective which addresses the preservation and appropriate use of natural resources.</p> <p>This guidance should be taken into account while formulating the LDP in order to ensure that effects of mineral extraction are minimised and mitigated. Coal working should be directed away from sensitive locations and ensuring environmental and community impacts can be mitigated. The PPW makes clear that safeguarding of coal is not required but individual LPAs may wish to do so depending on their circumstances. This should be considered as part of drafting the policies for the LDP.</p> |
| <p>Air Quality Standards (Wales)</p> | <p>The Regulations sets out measures in relation to the assessment and management of air quality and compliance with air quality limit values, target values and objectives.</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective which seeks to limit the potential for air pollution from all sources. The ISA should have regard for existing air quality issues in the plan area.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| Regulations (2010) | | The LDP should consider the air quality impacts of development, and the potential effects of traffic associated with that development. |
| Water Strategy for Wales (2015) | The strategy sets out how Welsh Government will make best use of water resources, and how it will deliver sustainable integrated water management. | The ISA should include an objective which seeks to ensure the protection of water quality and promote its use in an efficient manner. The ISA should have regard for areas which are currently experiencing stresses in terms of quantity or quality. The LDP should consider the impact of development on water. Sustainable management of natural resources will also be considered as part of the LDP. |
| Natural Resources Policy (2017) | The policy sets out the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales, building on the framework of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The policy sets out three national priorities for the sustainable management of natural resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ delivering nature-based solutions;■ increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency; and■ taking a place-based approach. These approaches aim to support the development of resilient ecological networks, improve biological diversity, support climate change mitigation and flood risk management, and improve green infrastructure. | The ISA should include an objective which seeks to ensure the appropriate management of natural resources in the plan area. Area Statements, and the Natural Resources Policy, will provide a baseline for the sustainable management of natural resources which will be considered as part of the LDP. |
| The Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales (2020) | This plan sets out the Welsh Government's commitment to improve air quality and reduce the burden of poor air quality on human health, biodiversity and the natural environment. It sets out a range of policies and actions which will make a positive differences to health and well-being, natural environment, ecosystems and biodiversity and sustainable communities. The plan states the potential of a Clean Air Act for Wales. The Plan uses themes to address areas of impact, complementing each other to create a sustainable approach to improving air quality. The themes are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Protecting the health and well-being of current and future generations.■ Taking action to support our natural environment, ecosystems and biodiversity.■ Working with industry to reduce emissions, supporting a cleaner and more prosperous Wales.■ Creating sustainable places through better planning, infrastructure and transport. | The ISA should include an objective which seeks to limit the potential for air pollution from all sources. The ISA should have regard for existing air quality issues in the plan area. The LDP should protect and enhance the environment, of which air quality is a key component. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| <i>The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales (2020)</i> | The FCERM lays out national objectives and targets for flood risk management in Wales and the approach that local planning authorities and county boroughs should follow, and the measures that should be taken, over the course of the next 10 years. The main focus is for an improvement in communication between all stakeholders and authorities to improve responses and preparation for future flood events. Furthermore, 'place-based' decisions should be implemented, meaning there is an understanding that flood prevention measures that work in one county borough, may not be as effective in another. The FCERM was produced in line with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. | The ISA should include an objective which seeks to limit flood risk in the County Borough, with consideration for the effects of climate change. The ISA will need to consider how flood risk management policies will effectively target the objectives laid out within the FCERM. The LDP should take a place-based approach to flood risk management. Policies should seek to limit the potential for increased flood risk in the plan area and where appropriate seek to provide solutions for existing issues of flood risk. This may include through policies which directly address design measures to alleviate issues of flood risk and the directing of development at areas at which flood risk is less likely to result. |
| <i>The Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002</i> | Sets out national air quality objectives for Wales as pragmatic thresholds above which Welsh Government considers the health risks associated with air pollution to be unacceptable. | The ISA should include an objective that addresses air quality and air pollution. The LDP should include policies to help address air quality in relation to amenity and human health as well as the natural environment. |
| <i>Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations in Wales: Welsh Government Supplemental Plan to the UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations 2017 (2018)</i> | Notes that the only statutory air quality limit that Wales, and the rest of the UK, is currently failing to meet is on NO2 concentrations. The report states that action is necessary to reduce concentrations around roads. It provides support to ensuring necessary actions are taken to meet the legal obligations and improve health, regardless of the cost or unpopularity of decisions. | The ISA should include an objective related to air pollution and reducing the need to travel by car in the County Borough. The LDP should include policies to address air pollution and its impacts in the locality. Policies should also be included to help support modal shift in the county. |
| <i>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</i> | The Act legislates to protect the archaeological heritage of England, Wales and Scotland provides specific protection for monuments of national interest. It relates to the ancient monuments, and matters of archaeological or historical interest, this includes provision for the investigation, preservation and recording, and regulation of such matters. The Act addresses the recovery and provision of grants. The Act defines 'scheduled monuments' (sites that | The ISA should include an objective related to the protection of monuments of national interest. The LDP should include policies that protect, and mitigate harm to the setting of, monuments of national interest, including ancient monuments. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | warrant protection) and makes damage to and metal detecting on scheduled monuments a criminal offence. | |
| Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 | the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest. It altered laws regarding the granting of planning permission for building works, notably including those of the listed building system in England and Wales. | The ISA should include an objective related to the protection of buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest. The LDP should include policies that protect, and mitigate harm to, the setting of buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest, including listed buildings. |
| Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales (2021) | The Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales sets out the Welsh Governments vision for EV charging in Wales. A shared framework is provided by the plan, which lays out an equitable vision for electric car charging, which aids both the public and private sectors as well as people in their transition to net zero. | The ISA should include an objective related to equitable electric car charging. The LDP should include policies that aim to increase the number of charging points on Anglesey. |
| Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales: Action Plan (2021) | The action plan explains how the government plans to continue growing its electric charging infrastructure in line with the increased demand that will come as fossil fuel vehicles are phased out. It envisions infrastructure investments, including the private sector, to install charging points every 20 miles at trunks crisscrossing Wales by 2025. The plan sets out an approach to ensure that the number of charging points continue to grow to meet increasing demand as fossil fuel vehicles are phased out. | The ISA should include an objective related to electric charging infrastructure provision. The LDP should include policies that aim to increase the number of charging points on Anglesey. |
| Net Zero Carbon Status by 2030: A Route Map for Decarbonisation Across the Welsh Public Sector (2021) | The route map provides a strategic overview of the key priority areas for action and milestones needed for the Welsh public sector to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. It is a strategic framework to aid in assessing what is in place and what is needed, and to monitor progress over time. The documents focus is the Public Sector's own footprint, and aims to guide the development of its contribution to future all Wales Low Carbon Delivery Plans. | The ISA should include an objective seeking to reduce carbon emissions. The LDP should include policies that aim to reduce carbon emissions. |
| Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Statutory Guidance (2019) | This document is statutory guidance to which local authorities must have regard in relation to their SuDS approving body function which is required under paragraph 6 of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. It should be read in conjunction with Schedule 3 to the 2010 Act and the statutory instruments listed above. | The ISA should include an objective seeking to mitigate flood risk, with a decision aiding question referencing SuDS. The LDP should include policies regarding the implementation of SuDS. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| REGIONAL (NORTH/NORTH WEST WALES) | | |
| North West Regional Planning Guidance (2002) | <p>The guidance document has been adopted by the constituent local authorities of North West Wales, and cover the period 1996 – 2011. The document provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A strategic context for the preparation of Unitary Development Plans (UDPs) in North Wales ■ a context for resolving cross border planning issues ■ a land use framework for inward investment, for the revised EU structural funds and to protect and enhance the built and natural environment ■ a basis for a positive dialogue with the National Assembly for Wales over the future planning of North Wales. <p>The fundamental aim of the guidance is to develop the region’s assets and to spread economic growth and its benefits throughout the Region within the context of sustainable development.</p> | <p>The ISA should align with the North West Wales Regional Planning Guidance, ensuring that sustainability objectives reflect regional priorities. It should assess how policies in the LDP contribute to balanced growth, environmental protection, climate resilience, and infrastructure development across North West Wales.</p> <p>The LDP should be informed by the guidance, ensuring that local policies align with regional growth strategies and development priorities, in relation to housing, transport, economic development, climate and flood risk,</p> |
| North Wales Regional Plan 2023 to 2028 (2017) | <p>The plan sets out high level principles, outcomes and priorities for regional working across health and social care in North Wales. The plan seeks to deliver services in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children and young people with complex needs ■ Older people including people with dementia ■ People with learning disabilities and neurodevelopmental conditions ■ Unpaid carers ■ People with emotional and mental health wellbeing needs. | <p>The ISA should include objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA) to consider the effects of the LDP across range of issues which could affect this topic area. This includes access to healthcare facilities, access to open space and recreation facilities, noise pollution, air pollution and mental well-being (including social isolation).</p> <p>Whilst the planning system is not specifically referenced as a tool for helping achieving the integration of health and social care in Wales, the implementation of future plans and policies may be helped by development plans.</p> |
| West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan 2 (2012) | <p>The Shoreline Management Plan provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner. The objectives of the West of Wales SMP2, which are based on the Shoreline Management Plan Guidance Volume 1: Aims and Requirements (Defra, 2006a), will aim to:</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective which seeks to limit flood risk in the North West Wales, with consideration for the effects of climate change. In alignment with the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), the ISA should assess how flood risk management policies can effectively support coastal resilience to effectively target the objectives laid out within the Shoreline Management Plan.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Set out risks from flooding and erosion to people and developed, historic and natural environment within the SMP2 study area; ■ Identify opportunities to maintain and improve the environment by managing the risks from floods and coastal erosion; ■ Identify the preferred policies for managing risks from floods and erosion over the next century; ■ Identify the consequences of putting the preferred policies into practice; □ Set out procedures for monitoring how effective these policies are; □ Inform others so that future land use, planning and development of the shoreline takes account of the risk and the preferred policies; ■ Discourage inappropriate development in areas where the flood and erosion risks are high; and ■ Meet international and national nature conservation legislation and aim to achieve the biodiversity objectives. | <p>The LDP should consider the objectives laid out in the Shoreline Management Plan, guiding development away from vulnerable coastal areas, and where appropriate seek to provide solutions for existing issues of flood risk. This may include through policies which directly address design measures to alleviate issues of flood risk and the directing of development at areas at which flood risk is less likely to result.</p> |
| <p>Actif North Wales 10 Year Strategy 2023 – 2033 (no date)</p> | <p>The ten-year joint strategy sets out our vision, mission and priorities for achieving a more active North Wales. The framework of the strategy is based on four strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active people - Create and promote opportunities for everyone to be active ■ Active environment – Make the best use of local places and spaces to be active ■ Active societies - Sustain, maintain and grow by listening to, supporting and working with communities to make 'being active' the norm ■ Active systems - Multi sector engagement, coordination and collaboration <p>The strategy emphasises the importance of physical activity not only for improving mental and physical health but also for fostering social connections, enhancing self-confidence, reducing isolation, and building stronger, safer communities.</p> | <p>Through the inclusion of objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA), the ISA should consider the accessibility of open space and recreation facilities in the plan area.</p> <p>The LDP should provide a framework for sport and recreation and set out a strategic approach to such development. The LDP should support the aims of the strategy.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| <p>North Wales Energy Strategy (2021)</p> | <p>The overall objective of the North Wales Energy Strategy is to develop a strategic pathway identifying key interventions to deliver on the region’s ambitions for decarbonising its energy system and ensure the region benefits from the transition. An Energy Vision scenario has been modelled to set out a potential decarbonisation route that will put the region on track to achieve a net zero energy system by 2050. The priorities outlined for achieving this vision are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To harness the abundance of local low carbon resource to become a green powerhouse and diversify the energy mix. ■ To become a world-leader in offshore wind and marine technologies. ■ To improve the energy efficiency of the region’s housing and accelerate the decarbonisation of North Wales’ building stock. ■ To achieve a shift to lower carbon transport <p>The strategy notes that to meet Welsh Government targets and to be on track for net zero by 2050, North Wales needs to reduce emissions from its energy system by 55% by 2035, split by sector in the pathway modelled as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 57% reduction in domestic heat and power emissions; ■ 54% reduction in commercial and industrial emissions; ■ 55% reduction in road transport emissions. <p>The strategy also provides three next steps for the region to take forward in order to address the climate emergency in North Wales. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Defining the strategy governance. ■ Communicating and socialising the strategy. ■ Establishing an action plan. | <p>The ISA should include consideration of use of energy from renewable energy sources.</p> <p>The LDP should contribute towards regional energy targets set out in the Strategy, increasing the proportion of energy from renewable energy sources where appropriate. The LDP should also plan positively for renewable and low carbon development, through policy development.</p> |
| <p>Natural Resources Wales North</p> | <p>Natural Resources Wales has produced Area Statements for each area of Wales – the North West Wales Area Statement covers Anglesey as well as Conwy and Gwynedd. Each Area Statement outlines the key challenges facing that particular locality, what we can all do to meet those challenges, and how we can better manage our natural resources for the benefit</p> | <p>The ISA will need to consider the objectives of the Area Statement and should seek opportunities to contribute to those objectives.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| West Wales Area Statement | <p>of future generations. They will be updated regularly. Viewed together, the seven Area Statements can be seen as a collaborative response to what is known as the Natural Resources Policy, published by the Welsh Government in 2017, which sets out the key challenges and opportunities for the sustainable management of Wales's natural resources into the future. The North West Wales Area Statement addresses the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ways of working. ■ Climate and nature emergency. ■ Reconnecting people with nature. ■ Encouraging a sustainable economy. ■ Supporting sustainable land management. ■ Opportunities for resilient ecosystems. | |
| Emerging North Wales Strategic Development Plan | <p>The Strategic Development Plan will foster sustainable economic growth, enhance infrastructure, and improve the overall quality of life for residents. The plan will help ensure that development is balanced and inclusive, reflecting the aspirations of the population. It will be a midpoint between the National Plan and LDP, and will provide a strategic context for the preparation of subsequent LDPs.</p> | <p>The LDP will need to have regard to the Strategic Development Plan as it is developed, ensuring it is aligned with the plan and reflects its ambitions.</p> |
| North Wales Joint Local Transport Plan 2015 | <p>A Joint Local Transport Plan known as North Wales Joint Local Transport Plan comprises Conwy County Borough, Denbighshire County, Flintshire County, Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey and Wrexham County Borough. The plan covers only the northern part of Gwynedd with Meirionnydd being included in the Local Transport Plan for Mid Wales. Part of the Eryri National Park is within the North Wales area and the National Park Authority has also been involved in the development of the plan. The seven authorities have jointly prepared the plan to identify issues and opportunities for transport in the plan area.</p> <p>Many of the issues identified are common to the seven authorities, and transport has a role to play in reducing disparity across the area and connecting to the rest of Wales.</p> | <p>The LDP will need to have regard to the Local Transport Plan, in the creation of transport policies and route safeguarding. Opportunities for sustainable travel should also be considered.</p> |
| Conwy Local Development Plan 2007-2022 (2013) | <p>The Conwy Local Development Plan outlines a strategic framework for sustainable development within Conwy County Borough, excluding the Eryri National Park. The LDP addresses key challenges such as population growth, economic development, housing needs, and environmental conservation.</p> <p>In relation to housing, the Plan seeks to deliver approximately 6,520 new housing units, with a contingency level of up to 7,170 dwellings. This includes a target of 1,875 new affordable</p> | <p>Public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries. It is therefore important for local authorities to be aware of the relevant strategic objectives and/or any specific requirements in the Core Strategies of its neighbouring authorities that would have particular cross-boundary effects.</p> <p>The LDP should consider the implications of its policies on surrounding areas, and how surrounding areas may affect the local plan area.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | housing units, with 1,000 from new builds. The Plan also seeks to create approximately 2,350 new jobs, with a contingency up to 2,585. | |
| Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2006-2021 (2013) | The Denbighshire Local Development Plan provides a collection of policies which set out the long-term vision and strategic context for managing and accommodating growth within Denbighshire until 2021. It focuses on key areas such as housing, economic growth, and environmental conservation. Of the 7,500 dwellings required, 1,410 have already been built since the start of the plan period (2006). A further 1,749 have planning permission. The Local Development Plan makes new allocations for approximately 3,300 new dwellings principally in Bodelwyddan and other settlements to the north of the A55 together with sites in Denbigh, St Asaph, Ruthin and Corwen. | Public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries. It is therefore important for local authorities to be aware of the relevant strategic objectives and/or any specific requirements in the Core Strategies of its neighbouring authorities that would have particular cross-boundary effects. The LDP will therefore need to have regard to the Denbighshire Local Development Plan, ensuring alignment where appropriate to support sustainable development, infrastructure planning, and economic growth across the region. |
| Flintshire Local Development Plan 2015-2030 (2023) | The Flintshire Local Development Plan provides a collection of policies which set out the long-term vision and strategic context for managing and accommodating growth within Flintshire until 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strategic policies in the plan relate to the following themes: ■ Creating Sustainable Places and Communities ■ Supporting a Prosperous Economy ■ Meeting Housing Needs ■ Valuing the Environment | Public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries. It is therefore important for local authorities to be aware of the relevant strategic objectives and/or any specific requirements in the Core Strategies of its neighbouring authorities that would have particular cross-boundary effects. The LDP should consider the implications of its policies on surrounding areas, and how surrounding areas may affect the local plan area. |
| Wrexham Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) 2013 to 2028 (2023) | The Wrexham Local Development Plan provides a collection of policies which set out the long-term vision and strategic context for managing and accommodating growth within Wrexham until 2023. A key component of LDP2 is the allocation of land for over 8,000 new homes and 111 acres of employment space to address housing needs and stimulate economic growth. | Public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries. It is therefore important for local authorities to be aware of the relevant strategic objectives and/or any specific requirements in the Core Strategies of its neighbouring authorities that would have particular cross-boundary effects. The LDP should consider the implications of its policies on surrounding areas, and how surrounding areas may affect the local plan area. |
| Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-2031 (2019) | Eryri Local Development Plan serves as the strategic framework guiding land use and development within Eryri National Park. The plan aims to balance the protection of the park's natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage with the needs of its communities. This LDP will guide development in a way which will ensure that within the lifetime of the plan, Eryri will continue to be a protected and evolving landscape, safeguarded and enhanced to provide a | Public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries. It is therefore important for local authorities to be aware of the relevant strategic objectives and/or any specific requirements in the Core Strategies of its neighbouring authorities that would have particular cross-boundary effects. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | rich and varied natural environment; providing social, economic and well-being benefits nationally and internationally. | The LDP should consider the implications of its policies on surrounding areas, and how surrounding areas may affect the local plan area. |
| Regional Technical Statement 2nd Review (2019) | <p>The Regional Technical Statement (RTS) sets out the requirements of each Local Planning Authority (LPA) with regards to the quantities of construction aggregate which need to be supplied from their area (apportionments) over a given time. If the RTS identifies shortfalls, it also sets out the scale of necessary new allocations in an LDP to ensure that adequate supply is maintained throughout the plan period.</p> <p>The document sets out detailed calculations to determine a projected demand of aggregates in the South Wales region from December 2010 until 2036. It subsequently apportions a tonnage of aggregates that each of the 18 local authorities in the region need to provide in the form of land-banks of permission.</p> | The outcomes of the RTS 2nd Review will require consideration in the preparation of LDP policies during the course of revision. |
| North Wales Regional Economic Framework (2022) | The framework serves as a strategic guide for aligning regional efforts and resources to improve the well-being of communities throughout North Wales. The mission through the framework is to create innovative opportunities to ensure that the natural environment is protected and enhanced, whilst communities are also allowed to thrive. Priorities of the framework include supporting public services and private business with a focus on local indigenous SMEs, and supporting the acceleration in home building by councils, housing associations and private developers whilst ensuring these are delivered for the benefits of local communities using local skills and materials wherever possible. | <p>The ISA should include an objective which considers promoting sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>The LDP will need to consider policies which promote the achievement of sustainable economic growth across Anglesey supported by appropriate levels of infrastructure.</p> |
| LOCAL PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES | | |
| Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026 (2017) | The Local Development Plan serves as the strategic framework for land use and development within the jurisdictions of Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council, excluding the Eryri National Park. The plan outlines policies and proposals to guide sustainable development, address housing needs, stimulate economic growth, and protect the natural and built environment. It identifies specific sites for various types of development, including housing, employment, and retail, while also designating areas for conservation to maintain and enhance the region's unique landscape and cultural heritage. | <p>The housing and economic growth targets set in the Joint Local Development Plan must be assessed for their environmental, social, and economic sustainability. This includes evaluating the impact of large-scale housing developments on infrastructure, natural resources, and climate resilience, particularly in coastal and rural areas of Anglesey.</p> <p>The LDP will have to have regard to the strategic objectives of the Local Development Plan.</p> |
| Wylfa Newydd: Supplementary Planning Guidance (2018) | <p>The document provides detailed guidance to inform the planning and development of the proposed Wylfa Newydd nuclear power station on the Isle of Anglesey. The guidance notes that the County Council's vision for the Wylfa Newydd project is:</p> <p>'The New Nuclear Build at Wylfa is a positive driver for the transformation of the economy and communities on Anglesey, providing sustainable employment opportunities, improving the</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective which seeks to reduce carbon emissions.</p> <p>The LDP should ensure that policies related to Wylfa Newydd align with the broader objectives of economic regeneration and sustainable growth, and mitigate climate change.</p> |

Appendix A
Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal
March 2025

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| | quality of life and wellbeing of existing and future generations and enhancing local identity and distinctiveness. | |
| Housing Mix Supplementary Planning Guidance (2018) | The guidance on achieving a balanced and sustainable housing mix in new residential developments across Anglesey. | The ISA should include an objective relating to high-quality and sustainable housing development, drawing on the provision of a mix of housing types. |
| Open Spaces in New Residential Development (2019) | The document provides detailed guidance to ensure that new housing developments within Anglesey and Gwynedd incorporate adequate and high-quality open spaces. It stipulates that new residential development should contribute to the provision of open spaces, adhering to the Fields in Trust (FiT) benchmark standard of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population. | Through the inclusion of objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA), the ISA should consider the accessibility of open space and recreation facilities in the plan area, particularly in relation to new residential development as well as the potential loss of these types of assets as new development is delivered. The LDP should set out a framework for sport and recreation, with a strategic approach to such development. It should also protect areas of open space that have recreation, amenity and/or conservation value, and promote open space in new residential development. |
| Local Market Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance (2019) | The document defines the criteria for occupancy of local market housing, and outlines mechanisms to maintain the affordability of local market housing in perpetuity, ensuring long-term benefits for local residents. | The ISA should include an objective relating to the provision of local market and affordable housing. LDPs should be informed by a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA), and must set an affordable housing target based on the need identified in the LHMA. Local authorities must indicate how the target will be achieved through policy approaches. The LDP must consider how affordable housing is included in development. |
| Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance (2019) | The document provides guidance regarding affordable housing in the County. The document includes recommendations for changes designed to increase supply and improve delivery of affordable homes in Wales. This includes that local authorities should be required to provide Local Housing Market assessments (LHMAs) based on a consistent timetable, data and methodology across housing tenures. New consolidated and simplified standards for new build grant funded and S106 homes are also recommended in the review document. | The ISA should include an objective relating to the provision of affordable housing. LDPs should be informed by a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA), and must set an affordable housing target based on the need identified in the LHMA. Local authorities must indicate how the target will be achieved through policy approaches. The LDP must consider how affordable housing is included in development. |
| Replacement Dwellings and Conversions in the Countryside Supplementary Planning | The supplementary planning document provides guidance on proposals for replacing existing dwellings and converting buildings in rural areas, ensuring that such developments align with sustainable development principles and respect the character of the countryside. | The ISA should include an objective to ensure that replacement dwellings and conversions in the countryside preserve the character of the countryside, as well as support local housing needs. Policies that seek to control development in the open countryside will need to be updated as part of the LDP. Sustainability issues should be integral to the policy making process. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| Guidance (2019) | | |
| Maintaining and Creating Distinctive and Sustainable Communities Supplementary Planning Guidance (2019) | The SPG provides detailed guidance to ensure that developments contribute positively to the sustainability and distinctiveness of local communities. The SPG emphasises the importance of considering the Welsh language, cultural heritage, and social cohesion in planning proposals. | The ISA should include objectives which address design in terms of promoting inclusivity of and distinctiveness of communities, local character and safety. Local authorities have a dual role to ensure stakeholder involvement in developing design policies, and providing information on design issues. LDP policies on design should set out design expectations, and policies should address local issues and be based on evidence. |
| Change of use of community facilities and services, employment sites and retail units (2021) | The SPG provides detailed guidance with regards to the change of use of community facilities and services, employment sites and retail units | The ISA should include objectives which seek to safeguard community, retail, and economic facilities. Through the evidence base, local need will need to be defined and the provision of services facilitated where new developments are of a sufficient scale |
| Tourism Facilities and Accommodation Supplementary Planning Guidance (2021) | The document provides detailed guidance to support the implementation of tourism-related policies within the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP). This SPG aims to promote sustainable tourism development that benefits the local economy while preserving the cultural and environmental integrity of the region. | The ISA should include objectives relating to ensuring sustainable economic growth as well as protecting and enhancing the natural environment. The LDP should provide a strategic framework for tourism development opportunities, whilst limiting impacts on the environment and local communities. |
| Design Guide for the Urban and Rural Environment Supplementary Planning Guidance (2008) | The SPG seeks to clarify the fundamental design issues and how they should be addressed. One notable guidance note within this series is Guidance Note 14: Conversions in Rural Areas, which offers specific advice on converting rural outbuildings into residential dwellings. This note emphasises the importance of maintaining the character and integrity of existing structures while ensuring that any modifications contribute positively to the rural landscape | The ISA should include an objective which seeks address design issues (including impacts on the historic environment and landscape as well as wider sustainability issues). The LDP should promote high quality and sustainable design. |

Appendix A
Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal
March 2025

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
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| Holiday Accommodation Supplementary Planning Guidance (2007) | The SPG provides detailed guidance regarding holiday accommodation on Anglesey. The document provides definitions for types of development covered by the SPG on holiday accommodation, and criteria to help define high quality development in terms of land use considerations. | The ISA should include an objective which seeks to ensure sustainable economic growth of which tourism is likely to play an important role. It should also include an objective which seeks to ensure the protection of the natural environment including important biodiversity assets, wider ecological networks and the natural landscape. The LDP will have to plan accordingly for Tourism within the County. |
| Hot Food Take-Away Establishments in Anglesey Supplementary Planning Guidance (1993) | The SPG provides a framework for evaluating proposals for hot food take-away establishments on Anglesey. This guidance aims to balance the benefits of such businesses with potential impacts on local communities. | The ISA should include an objective which seeks to minimise environmental and social impacts of hot food take-away establishments. The LDP should consider appropriate policies to manage the location of hot food take-away establishments, ensuring they support economic activity while minimising negative effects on residential areas and local amenities. |
| Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Guidance (2013) | The SPG provides a framework to guide the development of onshore wind turbines on Anglesey. | The ISA should include consideration of use of energy from renewable energy sources, specifically promoting onshore wind energy. The LDP should contribute towards increasing the proportion of energy from renewable energy sources where appropriate, specifically promoting onshore wind energy. |
| Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Guidance (2008) | The document provides detailed guidelines for parking provision associated with new developments and change-of-use applications. | The ISA should include an objective which seeks address design issues (including impacts on the historic environment and landscape as well as wider sustainability issues). The LDP should promote high quality and sustainable design. Policies should also be included to help support modal shift in the county. |
| Towards Net Zero Plan 2022-2025 (2022) | The plan aims to "Modernise and adapt to become a Net Zero Council by 2030". This aim will be achieved by delivering the following objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reduce and decarbonise the energy use of the Council's buildings and assets2. Continue to deliver Council services while reducing carbon emissions from our vehicles and working practices | The ISA should include an objective which seeks to reduce carbon emissions. The LDP will have regard to the plan and presents an opportunity to include policies which will mitigate climate change. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|--|---|--|
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Enhance biodiversity and tree cover on the Council's land and assets 4. Facilitate the development of new low carbon energy generation 5. Adapt the policies, processes, culture, values and behaviours (of Council staff and elected members) 6. Understand the Council's total carbon footprint, establish effective, efficient monitoring and reporting arrangements | |
| <p>Council Plan 2023-2028 (no date)</p> | <p>The vision of the plan is "Creating an Anglesey that is healthy and prosperous where people can thrive". It focuses on six objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Welsh Language – increasing opportunities to learn and use the language ■ Social Care and Wellbeing – providing the right support at the right time ■ Education – ensuring an effective provision for today and for future generations ■ Housing – ensuring that everyone has the right to call somewhere home ■ Economy – promoting opportunities to develop the island's economy ■ Climate Change – responding to the crisis, tackling change and working towards becoming a net zero organisation by 2030 | <p>The ISA should include objectives that cover the objectives of the Council Plan.</p> <p>The LDP will have regard to the plan and presents an opportunity to include policies covering the objectives of the Council Plan.</p> |
| <p>Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2021)</p> | <p>The plan cover the period 2022-2032 and seeks to help the people of Anglesey thrive and fulfil their long-term potential to sustain the language, culture and economy locally and provide for our pupils for the future. The vision of the plan is for "all pupils who go through Anglesey's education system are fully bilingual by the age of 16 and are confident to communicate in both languages equally in the world of work, culturally and socially." This will be achieved through aims such as offering more nurse children / three year olds their education through the medium of Welsh.</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective which addresses Welsh language.</p> <p>The LDP should provide policy basis for increasing and protecting the use of Welsh in educational institutions.</p> |
| <p>Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2021-2026 (2021)</p> | <p>The Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2021-2026 builds on the foundations of the first strategy and adopts a consistent target and priority areas. The strategic themes of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increasing the number of Welsh speakers | <p>As above.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|---|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increasing the use of Welsh ■ Creating favourable conditions – Context and infrastructure | |
| Empty Homes Strategic Plan 2023-2028 (no date) | The purpose of the Empty Homes Strategic Plan is to ensure that the number of empty properties are kept to a minimum and to encourage owners to bring them back into use. It provides information on how the Council will deal with empty properties. | The ISA should include objectives that support the reuse of empty homes to promote sustainable housing solutions. LDPs should be informed by a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA). Housing policies in the LDP should be considerate of the objectives set out in the Empty Homes Strategic Plan, recognising how empty homes impact housing availability. |
| Anglesey's Housing Strategy 2022-27 (2021) | <p>The overall strategic aim of strategy is to ensure that the people of Anglesey have a place to call home, are empowered and supported to contribute to their local community. The strategy concentrates on six key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Theme 1 – Development of the right homes for Anglesey's future ■ Theme 2 – Making best use of existing housing stock and improving homes and communities ■ Theme 3 – Preventing housing crisis and increasing housing options ■ Theme 4 – Support to promote housing independence ■ Theme 5 – Homes for longer lives ■ Theme 6 – Housing is a contributor to the local economy | The ISA should include an objective which addresses the provision of the required number of homes and a high quality of housing stock in the plan area. The ISA should also consider the potential to meet the needs of Gypsy and Travellers. LDPs should be informed by a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA). The needs of affordable housing and Gypsy and Traveller accommodation will need to be considered by the LDP. |
| Môn Actif Strategic Plan 2024-2029 (no date) | The plan sets out the key priority areas and vision for creating healthy communities over the next five years. The aim is to ensure the Council has an achievable, sustainable and fit for purpose plan, to provide services to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors to the island. | Through the inclusion of objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA), the ISA should consider potential impacts of development on mental health and issues of isolation. The EqlA component of the ISA should consider potential impacts on the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010, including older people and younger people. The plan sets out issues such as lack of accessibility to open spaces which should be tackled in order to build resilience, protecting and promoting mental health. The LDP should have regard to this. |
| Tackling Poverty Strategic Plan | The plan provides a set out key priorities to tackle poverty in the County: | The ISA should include an objective which considers health and well-being as well as the potential to address deprivation in the County. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|---|--|--|
| 2024-2029 (no date) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide access to support to manage expenditure and debt ■ Ensure that children and young people are able to achieve their full potential ■ Collaborate to ensure local people can access and take advantage of local employment opportunities ■ Ensure that the population is healthy, safe and independent ■ Support our communities to be age friendly ■ Work in partnership to ensure the provision of quality, affordable and accessible homes | The strategy sets out issues such as housing needs to be tackled in order to build resilience, and reduce poverty. The LDP should have regard to this. |
| Children Looked After and Leaving Care Strategy 2023-2028 (2023) | The strategy is committed to supporting children and young people in its care. Key priorities include ensuring safe and nurturing homes, promoting health and well-being, supporting educational attainment, and preparing young people for independent living. | <p>The ISA should include objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA) to consider the effects of the LDP across range of issues which could affect this topic area. This includes access to healthcare facilities, access to open space and recreation facilities, noise pollution, air pollution and mental well-being (including social isolation). The ISA should also consider the impact access to a good quality of housing can have in terms of increased stability for children and young people.</p> <p>The LDP should have regard to the strategy through policies which support high-quality housing that supports children and young people, ensuring access to essential services, and fostering safe and inclusive communities.</p> |
| Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy (2023) | This programme outlines the Council's potential plans for Anglesey schools for the next 9 years, up to 2033. The main focus of the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Strategic Outline Plan will be the secondary sector. In order to increase the proportion of Foundation Phase pupils who achieve Welsh language targets as outlined in strategic documents by Welsh Government and local plans, it is also intended to use childcare models to increase the childcare capacity of Wales on Anglesey. The childcare partnership model has the potential to be a key contributor towards Welsh Government's ambition of having a million Welsh speakers by 2050. | <p>The ISA should include an objective which addresses Welsh language.</p> <p>The LDP should provide policy basis for increasing and protecting the use of Welsh in educational institutions.</p> |
| Resources and Waste Strategic Plan 2023-2028 (no date) | The plan sets out our goal to move towards a Circular Economy on Anglesey; keeping resources circulating in the economy for as long as possible before throwing them away, this will help towards the journey to net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The Plan provides four strategic priorities: | <p>The ISA should include an objective relating to waste and the promotion of its treatment in line with the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>This strategy will have to be incorporated as part of the LDP. The LDP should consider an approach which helps to ensure the treatment of waste in line with the waste hierarchy</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|---|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduce waste and increase reuse ■ Increase recycling rates and improve quality ■ Improve street cleansing and reduce fly tipping ■ Lead by example | |
| <p>Isle of Anglesey Fleet Transition Plan: Leading the Transition to Zero Emission Vehicles (2023)</p> | <p>The plan supports the Council's objective of becoming a net zero organisation by 2030, promoting a shift to electric vehicles. The plan focuses on a phased approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Short-Term (2023): Prioritise the replacement of small to medium-sized vehicles with electric models. ■ Medium-Term (2024 onwards): Transition larger fleet vehicles to electric or other ultra-low emission alternatives. | <p>The ISA should include an objective related to air pollution and reducing the need to travel by car in the County Borough.</p> <p>The LDP should include policies to address air pollution and its impacts in the locality. Policies should also be included to help support modal shift in the county.</p> |
| <p>Town Centres Improvement Strategy 2023-28 (2023)</p> | <p>The strategy provides a framework for achieving the aim set out in the Council Plan of 'improving the vitality and viability of our town centres'. It also supports our well-being objective 'that the people of Anglesey and its communities enjoy, protect and enhance their built and natural environment for future generations'. The focus of this document is the centres of the settlements legally designated as towns and having town councils, namely Holyhead, Llangefni, Amlwch, Menai Bridge and Beaumaris. Many villages in the County are also very important to the Island's economy, with several being popular visitor destinations, and they may require similar improvements and projects to be considered under relevant plans and programmes.</p> | <p>The ISA should include an objective which considers the vitality and viability of town centre locations.</p> <p>LDPs should use a sequential approach when identifying sites for economic uses.</p> <p>LDP vision should be consistent and coherent so that economic, environmental and social considerations support each other and point in the same direction.</p> |
| <p>Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2023-2028 (no date)</p> | <p>The overarching vision of the management plan is that the Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) will be continued to be recognised as a local and national asset, critical to Anglesey's economy, environment, culture and the well-being of its communities and those who visit.</p> <p>There is an increased connection to the special qualities, and these are conserved, enhanced, appreciated, understood and able to be at the heart of the community, and a visitor industry which is both environmentally responsible and economically sustainable. The continuation and reinforcement of customs and traditions, and use of the Welsh language has added to the unique identity and sense of place. Anglesey's AONB has been able to redress the decline in biodiversity, and is managed in a way that adapts to, and mitigates against the</p> | <p>The ISA (through the inclusion of appropriate objectives) and LDP should seek to enhance the policies and vision of the Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The purposes and special qualities of the AONB should be taken into account, particularly when considering potential development sites within its setting.</p> |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|--|---|---|
| | impacts of climate change to protect its natural beauty whilst supporting the needs of local communities and rural businesses. | |
| Isle of Anglesey Destination Management Plan 2023 to 2028 (no date) | The plan provides a vision for Anglesey between 2023 -2028, stating that the plan seeks to provide a visitor economy which is empathetic to the Island's sense of place, and is seen to benefit the people, environment, culture, heritage and language, and continues to play a pivotal role in the economic stability of the island. This plan seeks to enhance a spirit of collaboration and holistic thinking to develop an offer which enhances these key qualities, and delivers economic and social benefits to the local communities. | The ISA should include an objective which seeks to ensure sustainable economic growth of which tourism is likely to play an important role. It should also include an objective which seeks to ensure the protection of the natural environment including important biodiversity assets, wider ecological networks and the natural landscape. The LDP will have to plan accordingly for Tourism within Anglesey County. |
| Public Participation Strategic Plan 2023-2028 (no date) | The plan outlines the council's objectives, approach and mechanisms for encouraging and enabling public participation, together with information on how local people can influence decision-making. This includes through raising awareness, encouraging participation through communication without digital resources and engaging with all members of the public, and improving ways of receiving and incorporating feedback by using available traditional and digital resources. | The ISA objectives should also have regard to the needs of all sections of the community. This should be supplemented by the findings of the EqlA which will consider the effects of the LDP in relation to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires councils to encourage local people to participate in their decision making. This includes where councils are making decisions in partnership with another principal council or in conjunction with another individual or body such as a local health board. The LDP should reflect this requirement by promoting community engagement in planning decisions, ensuring that local voices are considered in shaping development policies. |
| Treating People Fairly: Our Plan for 2024 to 2028 (2024) | The plan sets out how the Council aims to meet its commitment to equality and how it will meet its legal obligations contained national strategies, including Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and the Public Sector Equality Duty. The Equality Objectives for 2024 – 2028 are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Design equitable services ■ Be an employer of choice ■ Lead by example ■ Create allyship | The ISA objectives should also have regard to the needs of all sections of the community. This should be supplemented by the findings of the EqlA which will consider the effects of the LDP in relation to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010. The LDP will need to consider the needs of all members of the community when policies are being developed. |
| Strategic Equality Plan 2024-2028 (no date) | The plan looks at wellbeing in the context of social, economic, environmental, and cultural factors. In particular, the plan seeks to mitigate the effect of poverty on the wellbeing of communities as well as plan preventative services and activities together to support families before the need for intensive intervention arises. We will encourage children, young people | Through the inclusion of objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA), the ISA should consider potential impacts of development on community health, access to services, and overall wellbeing. The EqlA component of the ISA should consider potential impacts on the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010, including older people and younger people. |

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|--|---|--|
| | and their families to improve their health so that they can live healthily and independently within their communities in the long-term. | The strategy sets out issues such as poverty, gaps in education attainment, and living standards, which needs to be tackled in order to build resilience, protecting and promoting mental health. The LDP should have regard to this. |
| Strategic Communications Plan 2023 to 2028 (no date) | <p>The plan outlines a proactive approach to engaging with the public and key partners. Aligned with the Council Plan, this strategy emphasises the importance of clear, consistent, and transparent communication to enhance public trust and participation. the communications team will do this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To promote the use of the Welsh language by sharing our communications bilingually (e.g. press releases and social media posts). ■ Provide residents with up-to-date key supportive social-care and well-being messages e.g. cost of living crisis, budget announcements, economic developments and transport issues. ■ Share key messages around the new Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy, free school meals, school admissions and school / pupils' success stories. ■ Update residents of current support for first time buyers, new housing development, grant support and tenant participation events. ■ Provide key updates regarding Anglesey Freeport, Energy Island and business unit developments. Share grant funding opportunities which would support new and existing local businesses. ■ To highlight climate change projects as part of our Towards Net Zero 2022-25 Plan and Biodiversity Plan. | <p>The ISA should consider the sustainability impacts of telecommunications development.</p> <p>The LDP should consider the potential to strengthen digital connectivity when balancing the need for economic growth, with social and environmental impacts.</p> |
| Corporate Digital Strategic Plan 2024 to 2029 (no date) | The main aim of the strategic plan is to ensure that residents and visitors to Anglesey have access to high quality services through a variety of digital and traditional channels. | <p>Through the inclusion of objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA), the ISA should consider the potential of digital services for providing social care and wellbeing, education, and increasing opportunities to learn and use the Welsh language.</p> <p>The ISA should consider the sustainability impacts of telecommunications development.</p> |

Appendix A
 Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal
 March 2025

| Title and legislation | Summary, objectives, key targets and indicators | Implications for the ISA and LDP |
|--|--|---|
| | | The LDP should consider the potential to strengthen digital connectivity when balancing the need for economic growth, with social and environmental impacts. |
| <i>Anglesey and Gwynedd Well-being Plan 2023-28 (no date)</i> | <p>The plan outlines a collaborative strategy by local public service providers to enhance the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities. The Plan identifies three wellbeing objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We will work together to mitigate the effect of poverty on the well-being of our communities. ■ We will work together to prioritise the well-being and achievement of our children and young people to realise their full potential. ■ We will work together to support our communities to move towards Zero Net Carbon. | <p>The ISA should include objectives which address health and wellbeing (and the HIA component of the ISA) to consider the effects of the LDP across range of issues which could affect this topic area. This includes access to healthcare facilities, access to open space and recreation facilities, noise pollution, air pollution and mental well-being (including social isolation). The EqIA component of the ISA should consider potential impacts on the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010, including older people and younger people.</p> <p>Whilst the planning system is not specifically referenced as a tool for helping achieving the integration of health and social care in Wales, the implementation of future plans and policies may be helped by development plans.</p> |

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Habitats Regulations Assessment for the New Local Development Plan Scoping Report

Final report
May 2025



Isle of Anglesey County Council

**Habitats Regulations Assessment for the New
Local Development Plan
Scoping Report**

Project Number
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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 LUC has been commissioned by Isle of Anglesey County Council (hereafter referred to as 'the Council') to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in relation to its new Local Development Plan (LDP). At this early stage in the plan making process, this HRA Scoping Report contains high level commentary on issues that are intended to be considered within the HRA of the LDP. As the LDP develops, further iterations of the HRA report will be produced which will include Screening and Appropriate Assessment where required.

1.2 The purposes of this report are as follows:

- To identify which European sites have the potential to be affected by the new Local Development Plan, including establishing key information such as threats and vulnerabilities, current pressures and any species and habitat interdependencies; and
- To set out the scope of the HRA Screening and subsequent Appropriate Assessment if required.

Context for the Local Development Plan

1.3 A Local Development Plan sets out a local planning authority's strategy for the development and use of land in its area. Once adopted, the LDP forms the basis of planning decisions in the area.

The Isle of Anglesey Local Development Plan

1.4 Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council adopted the current Joint LDP in July 2017, which set out the planning strategy for the area (excluding the parts of Gwynedd that fall within Eryri National Park) over the 15 years up to 2026.

1.5 Initially the two Councils intended to prepare a new Joint LDP; however in March 2023 a decision was made to cease the joint working agreement on planning policy matters and Anglesey County Council has commenced work on preparing its own new LDP.

1.6 The Council is now in the early stages of preparing the new LDP, following consultation on a Draft Delivery Agreement during Summer 2024.

1.7 The new LDP is expected to include a vision and objectives for the plan area, an overall strategy for development in Anglesey, site allocations for different types of development including housing and employment, and

development-management style policies for managing applications that come forward.

The requirement to undertake a Habitat Regulations Assessment

1.8 The requirement to undertake a HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations published for England and Wales in 2007¹; the currently applicable version is the Habitats Regulations 2017, as amended².

1.9 When preparing the new Local Development Plan, Anglesey County Council is therefore required by law to carry out an HRA. The Council can commission consultants to undertake HRA work on its behalf and this (the work documented in the HRA report) is then reported to and considered by the Council as the 'competent authority'. The Council will consider this work and would usually only progress a plan if it considers that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity³ of any 'European site', as defined below (the exception to this would be where 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' can be demonstrated). The requirement for authorities to comply with the Habitats Regulations when preparing a Plan is also noted in Planning Policy Wales (PPW)⁴.

1.10 HRA refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a plan on one or more sites afforded the highest level of protection in the UK: Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). These were classified under European Union (EU) legislation but since 1 January 2021 are protected in the UK by the Habitats Regulations 2017² (as amended). Although the EU Directives from which the UK's Habitats Regulations originally derived are no longer binding, the Regulations still make reference to the lists of habitats and species that the sites were designated for, which are listed in annexes to the EU Directives:

- SACs are designated for particular habitat types (specified in Annex 1 of the EU Habitats Directive⁵) and species (Annex II). The listed habitat types and species (excluding birds) are those considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level. Before EU exit day, designation of SACs also had regard to the

coherence of the 'Natura 2000' network of European sites. After EU exit day, regard is had to the importance of such sites for the coherence of the UK's 'national site network'.

- SPAs are classified for rare and vulnerable birds (Annex I of the EU Birds Directive⁶), and for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I.

1.11 The term 'European sites' was previously commonly used in HRA to refer to 'Natura 2000' sites⁷ and Ramsar sites (internationally designated under the Ramsar Convention). However, a Government Policy Paper⁸ on changes to the Habitats Regulations 2017 post-Brexit states that:

- Any references to Natura 2000 in the 2017 Regulations and in guidance now refer to the new 'national site network'.
- The national site network includes existing SACs and SPAs; and new SACs and SPAs designated under these Regulations.
- Designated Wetlands of International Importance (known as Ramsar sites) do not form part of the national site network. Many Ramsar sites overlap with SACs and SPAs and may be designated for the same or different species and habitats.

1.12 Although Ramsar sites do not form part of the new national site network, Government guidance⁴ and practice guidance⁹ states that Ramsar sites should be treated within the planning system in the same way as SACs and SPAs.

1.13 Furthermore, sites which have been formally proposed as SPAs and SACs but which are not yet subject to legal protection under the Habitats Regulations, should be treated within the planning system in the same way as if they were legally designated. The same considerations should, as a matter of policy, be applied to proposed Ramsar sites.⁴

"Any proposals affecting the following sites [in addition to Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)] would also require a HRA because these are protected by government policy¹⁰:

- Proposed SACs

¹ The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (2007) SI No. 2007/1843. TSO (The Stationery Office), London.

² The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (2017) SI No. 2017/1012, as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/579).

³ The integrity of a site is the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was designated. (Source: UK Government Planning Practice Guidance)

⁴ Welsh Government (2024) Planning Policy Wales Edition 12.

⁵ Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive')

⁶ Directive 2009/147/EC of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the 'Birds Directive')

⁷ The network of protected areas identified by the EU: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-habitats-regulations-2017/changes-to-the-habitats-regulations-2017>

⁹ The HRA Handbook, Section A3. David Tyldesley & Associates, a subscription based online guidance document:

<https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/European>

¹⁰ Welsh Government (2021) Habitats Regulations Assessments: Protecting a European Site. Accessible at:

<https://www.gov.wales/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-european-site-html>

- Potential SPAs
- Ramsar sites - wetlands of international importance (both listed and proposed)
- Areas secured as sites compensating for damage to a European site.”

1.14 The legislative requirement for HRA does not apply to other nationally designated wildlife sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or National Nature Reserves.

1.15 For simplicity, this report uses the term 'European site' to refer to all types of designated site for which Government guidance¹⁰ requires an HRA.

1.16 The overall purpose of a HRA is to conclude whether or not a proposal or policy, or a whole plan, would adversely affect the integrity of the European site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex I habitats, Annex II species, and Annex I bird populations for which it has been designated). Significantly, HRA is based on the precautionary principle. Where uncertainty or doubt remains, an adverse effect should be assumed.

Structure of this report

1.17 This chapter has introduced the requirement to undertake a HRA of the new Anglesey Local Development Plan. The remainder of the report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 2** describes the approach being taken to the HRA for the new LDP. It also describes case law changes, summarises the key issues that will need to be considered during the HRA process and describes the identification of European sites in and around Anglesey that could be affected by the new Local Development Plan.
- **Chapter 3** describes the European sites in and around Anglesey and their key vulnerabilities.
- **Chapter 4** sets out the assumptions that will underpin the HRA and explores each impact pathway in turn.
- **Chapter 5** describes the next steps that will be carried out in the HRA of the new Local Development Plan.

1.18 The information in the main body of the report is supported by the following appendices:

- **Appendix A** presents a map (**Figure A.1**) showing the European sites in and around Anglesey and a map (**Figure A.2**) showing the location of those European sites in relation to the strategic road network.
- **Appendix B** sets out detailed information about the European sites that are the focus of the HRA.

Chapter 2

Approach to HRA

2.1 The HRA should be undertaken by the ‘competent authority’, in this case Isle of Anglesey County Council. LUC has been commissioned by the Council to carry out HRA work on its behalf, although this is to be reported to and considered by the Council as the competent authority during the development of the new Local Development Plan, before adopting the LDP. The HRA also typically requires close working with Natural Resources Wales as the statutory nature conservation body¹¹ to obtain the necessary information, agree the process, outcomes and mitigation proposals. Where a plan or project requires Appropriate Assessment, consultation with Natural Resources Wales is a statutory requirement.

Stages of HRA

2.2 The HRA of plans is undertaken in stages (as described below) and should conclude whether or not a proposal would adversely affect the integrity of the European site in question.

2.3 HRAs are carried out at all levels of plan making, including higher tier plans such as national plans to lower tier local plans and at a project level. The process for carrying out a HRA is the same for any plan or project. However, HRAs carried out for local level plans and projects will be more specific to a certain area or development proposal covering a smaller area than a HRA of a national plan. In turn, project-level HRAs will be able to be more specific.

2.4 The HRA process should inform the preparation of a plan by seeking to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of European sites. Therefore, the outcome of a HRA will help to inform whether a plan should be adopted. If it is determined that adverse effects are unavoidable, recommendations are made through the HRA to ensure that mitigation is included in the policies within the plan to ensure the delivery of appropriate mitigation. This will reduce the likelihood or severity of any adverse impact on European sites. Mitigation could include the requirement for project-level/site specific HRAs for specific proposals within a plan.

Requirements of the Habitats Regulations

2.5 In assessing the effects of a plan in accordance with Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the ‘Habitats Regulations’),

¹¹ Regulation 5 of the Habitats Regulations 2017.

there are potentially two tests to be applied by the competent authority: a ‘Significance Test’, followed if necessary, by an Appropriate Assessment which would inform the ‘Integrity Test’. The relevant sequence of questions is as follows:

- Step 1: Under Reg. 105(1)(b), consider whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites. If not, proceed to Step 2.
- Step 2: Under Reg. 105(1)(a) consider whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects (the ‘Significance Test’). If yes, proceed to Step 3.

2.6 [Steps 1 and 2 are undertaken as part of Stage 1: HRA Screening, shown in **Table 2.1** below.]

- Step 3: Under Reg. 105(1), make an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the European site in view of its current conservation objectives (the ‘Integrity Test’). In so doing, it is mandatory under Reg. 105(2) to consult Natural Resources Wales, and optional under Reg. 105(3) to take the opinion of the general public.

2.7 [This step is undertaken during Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment, shown in **Table 2.1**.]

- Step 4: In accordance with Reg. 105(4), but subject to Reg. 107, give effect to the plan only after having ascertained that the plan would not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

2.8 [This step follows Stage 2 where a finding of ‘no adverse effect’ is concluded. If it cannot be it proceeds to Step 5 as part of Stage 3 of the HRA process]

- Step 5: Under Reg. 107, if Step 4 is unable to rule out adverse effects on the integrity of a European site and no alternative solutions exist then the competent authority may nevertheless agree to the plan or project if it must be carried out for ‘imperative reasons of overriding public interest’ (IROPI).

2.9 [This step is undertaken during Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives exist and adverse impacts remain taking into account mitigation shown in **Table 2.1**]

Typical stages

2.10 **Table 2.1** summarises the stages and associated tasks and outcomes typically involved in carrying out a full HRA of a plan, based on various guidance documents^{12,13,14}.

Table 2.1: Stages of HRA

| Stage | Task | Outcome |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Stage 1: HRA Screening | Description of the plan and confirmation that it is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites. Identification of potentially affected European sites and their conservation objectives ¹⁵ . Assessment of likely significant effects of the plan alone or in combination with other plans and projects, prior to consideration of avoidance or reduction (‘mitigation’) measures ¹⁶ . | Where effects are unlikely, prepare a ‘finding of no significant effect report’. Where effects judged likely, or lack of information to prove otherwise, proceed to Stage 2. |
| Stage 2: | Information gathering (plan and European Sites ¹⁷). Impact prediction. | Appropriate Assessment report describing the plan, European site baseline conditions, the adverse effects of the plan on the European site, how |

¹² Welsh Assembly Government (2009) Planning Policy Wales, Technical Advice Note, 5. Nature Conservation and Planning, available from <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan5-nature-conservation.pdf>

¹³ European Commission (2001) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting European Sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

¹⁴ The HRA Handbook. David Tyldesley & Associates, a subscription based online guidance document: <https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/European>

¹⁵ Conservation objectives are published by Natural Resources Wales for SACs and SPAs – located within the Core Management Plans.

¹⁶ In line with the CJEU judgment in Case C-323/17 People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta, mitigation must only be taken into consideration at this stage and not during Stage 1: HRA Screening.

¹⁷ In addition to European site citations and conservation objectives, key information sources for understanding factors contributing to the integrity of European sites include (where available): Core Management Plans (prepared by Natural Resources Wales).

| Stage | Task | Outcome |
|---|--|--|
| Appropriate Assessment (where Stage 1 does not rule out likely significant effects) | Evaluation of plan impacts in view of conservation objectives of European sites. Where impacts are considered to directly or indirectly affect qualifying features of European sites, identify how these effects will be avoided or reduced ('mitigation'). | these effects will be avoided or reduced, including the mechanisms and timescale for these mitigation measures. If effects remain after all alternatives and mitigation measures have been considered proceed to Stage 3. |
| Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives exist and adverse impacts remain taking into account mitigation | Identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI). Demonstrate no alternatives exist. Identify potential compensatory measures. | This stage should be avoided if at all possible. The test of IROPI and the requirements for compensation are extremely onerous. |

2.11 It is normally anticipated that an emphasis on Stages 1 and 2 of this process will, through a series of iterations, help ensure that potential adverse effects are identified and eliminated through the inclusion of mitigation measures designed to avoid or reduce effects. The need to consider alternatives could imply more onerous changes to a plan document. It is generally understood that so called 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) are likely to be justified only very occasionally and would involve engagement with the Government.

Case Law

2.12 This HRA will be prepared in accordance with relevant case law findings, including most notably the 'People over Wind' and 'Holohan' rulings from the Court of Justice for the European Union (CJEU).

2.13 The *People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* (April 2018) judgment ruled that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive should be interpreted as meaning that mitigation measures should be assessed as part of an Appropriate Assessment and should not be taken into account at the Screening stage. The precise wording of the ruling is as follows:

"Article 6(3)must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an appropriate assessment of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the Screening stage, to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site.

2.14 In light of the above, the HRA Screening stage will not rely upon avoidance or mitigation measures to draw

conclusions as to whether the new Local Development Plan could result in likely significant effects on European sites, with any such measures being considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage as relevant.

2.15 This HRA will also fully consider the *Holohan v An Bord Pleanala* (November 2018) judgement which stated that:

"Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora must be interpreted as meaning that an 'appropriate assessment' must, on the one hand, catalogue the entirety of habitat types and species for which a site is protected, and, on the other, identify and examine both the implications of the proposed project for the species present on that site, and for which that site has not been listed, and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site."

2.16 In undertaking the HRA, LUC will fully consider the potential for effects on species and habitats, including those not listed as qualifying features, to result in secondary effects upon the qualifying features of European sites, including the potential for complex interactions and dependencies. In addition, the potential for offsite impacts, such as through impacts to functionally linked land, and/or species and habitats located beyond the boundaries of the European site, but which may be important in supporting the ecological processes of the qualifying features, will also be fully considered in this HRA.

2.17 In addition to this, the HRAs will take into consideration the 'Wealden' judgement from the CJEU.

2.18 *Wealden District Council v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Lewes District Council and South Downs National Park Authority* (2017) ruled that it was not appropriate to scope out the need for a detailed assessment for an individual plan or project based on the annual average daily traffic (AADT) figures detailed in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges or the critical loads used by Defra or Environmental Agency without considering the in-combination impacts with other plans and projects.

2.19 In light of this judgement, the HRA will therefore consider traffic growth based on the effects of development from the new Local Development Plan in combination with other drivers of growth such as development proposed in neighbouring districts and demographic change.

2.20 The HRA will also take into account the *Grace and Sweetman* (July 2018) judgement from the CJEU which stated that:

“there is a distinction to be drawn between protective measures forming part of a project and intended avoid or reduce any direct adverse effects that may be caused by the project in order to ensure that the project does not adversely affect the integrity of the area, which are covered by Article 6(3), and measures which, in accordance with Article 6(4), are aimed at compensating for the negative effects of the project on a protected area and cannot be taken into account in the assessment of the implications of the project.”

“As a general rule, any positive effects of the future creation of a new habitat, which is aimed at compensating for the loss of area and quality of that habitat type in a protected area, are highly difficult to forecast with any degree of certainty or will be visible only in the future.”

“A mitigation strategy may only be taken into account at AA (a.6(3)) where the competent authority is “sufficiently certain that a measure will make an effective contribution to avoiding harm, guaranteeing beyond all reasonable doubt that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of the area.”

“Otherwise, it falls to be considered to be a compensatory measure to be considered under a.6(4) only where there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

2.21 The Appropriate Assessment of the Local Development Plan will therefore only consider the existence of measures to avoid or reduce their direct adverse effects (mitigation) if the expected benefits of those measures are beyond reasonable doubt at the time of the assessment.

Screening Methodology

2.22 HRA Screening of the new Local Development Plan will be undertaken in line with current available guidance and seek to meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.

2.23 The purpose of the Screening stage is to:

- Identify all aspects of the plan which would have no effect on a European site, so that they can be eliminated from further consideration in respect of this and other plans.
- Identify all aspects of the plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site (i.e. would have some effect, because of links/connectivity, but which are not significant), either alone or in combination with other aspects of the same plan or other plans or projects, which therefore do not require ‘appropriate assessment’.
- Identify those aspects of the plan where it is not possible to rule out the risk of significant effects on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This provides a clear scope for the parts of the plan that will require appropriate assessment.

Identification of European sites which may be affected by the new Local Development Plan

2.24 To initiate the search of European sites that could potentially be affected by the LDP, it is established practice in HRAs to consider European sites within the local planning authority area covered by a plan, and also within a buffer distance from the boundary of the plan area.

2.25 A distance of 15km from the Anglesey boundary has been used as a starting point to identify European sites that could be affected by impacts relating to the LDP. The use of this distance is common practice in HRAs of plans.

Assessment of 'likely significant effect'

2.26 As required under Regulation 105 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI 2017/1012), as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/579), an assessment will be undertaken of the 'likely significant effects' of the policy approaches set out within the new Local Development Plan. The assessment will be undertaken to identify which policies would be likely to have a significant effect on European sites in Anglesey (+15km). This assessment will need to be repeated with each iteration of the HRA. The Screening assessment will be conducted without taking mitigation into account in accordance with the 'People over Wind' judgment.

2.27 Consideration will be given to the potential for the development proposed as part of the plans to result in significant effects associated with:

- Physical loss or damage to habitat;
- Non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution);
- Non-toxic contamination;
- Air pollution;
- Recreational pressure; and
- Changes to hydrology, including water quantity and quality.

2.28 This thematic/impact category approach will allow for consideration to be given to the cumulative effects of the plan rather than focusing exclusively on individual developments provided for by the new Local Development Plan.

2.29 A risk-based approach involving the application of the precautionary principle will be adopted in the assessment, such that a conclusion of 'no significant effect' will only be reached where it is considered very unlikely, based on current knowledge and the information available, that a proposal in the plan in question would have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site.

2.30 For some types of impacts, the potential for likely significant effects can be determined on a proximity basis. This Scoping Report identifies the European sites that could potentially be affected by the LDP and considers the types of impacts that could be relevant to the plan's possible impact pathways to European sites. This is detailed in **Chapter 4**.

Interpretation of 'likely significant effect'

2.31 Relevant case law helps to interpret when effects should be considered as being likely to result in a significant effect, when carrying out a HRA of a Plan.

2.32 In the Waddenzee case¹⁸, the European Court of Justice ruled on the interpretation of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (translated into Reg. 102 in the Habitats Regulations), including that:

- An effect should be considered 'likely', "if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on the site" (para 44).
- An effect should be considered 'significant', "if it undermines the conservation objectives" (para 48).

- Where a plan or project has an effect on a site "but is not likely to undermine its conservation objectives, it cannot be considered likely to have a significant effect on the site concerned" (para 47).

2.33 An opinion delivered to the Court of Justice of the European Union¹⁹ commented that:

"The requirement that an effect in question be 'significant' exists in order to lay down a de minimis threshold. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on the site are thereby excluded. If all plans or projects capable of having any effect whatsoever on the site were to be caught by Article 6(3), activities on or near the site would risk being impossible by reason of legislative overkill."

2.34 This opinion (the 'Sweetman' case) therefore allows for the authorisation of plans and projects whose possible effects, alone or in combination, can be considered 'trivial' or de minimis; referring to such cases as those "which have no appreciable effect on the site". In practice such effects could be screened out as having no likely significant effect; they would be 'insignificant'.

2.35 The HRA Screening assessment will therefore consider whether the Anglesey LDP could have likely significant effects either alone or in combination.

Mitigation Provided by the new Local Development Plan

2.36 Some of the potential effects of the plans could be mitigated through the implementation of other policies in the plan itself. For example, the provision of green infrastructure within new developments allocated in the LDP could help mitigate increased pressure from recreation activities at European sites. Nevertheless, in accordance with the 'People over Wind' judgment, avoidance and mitigation measures cannot be relied upon at the Screening stage, and therefore, where such measures exist, they will be considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage for impacts and policies where likely significant effects, either alone or in-combination, could not be ruled out.

Assessment of potential in-combination effects

2.37 Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations 2017 requires an Appropriate Assessment where "a land use plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site". Therefore, it will be necessary to consider whether

¹⁸ European Court of Justice in Case C-127/02 Landelijke Vereniging tot Behoud van de Waddenzee

¹⁹ Advocate General's Opinion to CJEU in Case C-258/11 Sweetman and others v An Bord Pleanala 22nd Nov 2012.

any impacts identified from the LDP may combine with other plans or projects to give rise to significant effects in-combination.

2.38 Where the LDP is likely to have an effect on its own e.g. due to water pollution (due to impact pathways being present), but it is not likely to be significant, the in-combination assessment at Screening stage will need to determine whether there may also be the same types of effect from other plans or projects that could combine with the plan to produce a significant effect. If so, this likely significant effect (e.g., water pollution) arising in combination with other plans or projects, would then need to be considered through the Appropriate Assessment stage (for example to determine if water pollution would have an adverse effect on the integrity of the relevant European site). Where the Screening assessment has concluded that there is no impact pathway between development that may be proposed in the LDP and the conditions necessary to maintain qualifying features of a European site, then there will be no in-combination effects to assess at the Screening or Appropriate Assessment stage. This approach accords with recent guidance on HRA²⁰.

2.39 The potential for in-combination impacts will focus on plans prepared by local authorities that overlap with European sites that are within the scope of the HRA. The findings of any associated HRA work for those plans will be reviewed where available. Where relevant, any strategic projects in the area that could have in-combination effects with the plans will also be identified and reviewed. This will include a review of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects as detailed on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

2.40 The online HRA Handbook suggests the following plans and projects may be relevant to consider as part of the in-combination assessment:

- Applications lodged but not yet determined, including refusals subject to an outstanding appeal or legal challenge.
- Projects subject to periodic review e.g. annual licences, during the time that their renewal is under consideration.
- Projects authorised but not yet started.
- Projects started but not yet completed;
- Known projects that do not require external authorisation.
- Proposals in adopted plans.
- Proposals in draft plans formally published or submitted for final consultation, examination or adoption.

2.41 The need for in-combination assessment also arises at the Appropriate Assessment stage, as discussed in the section below.

Appropriate Assessment methodology

2.42 Following the Screening stage, if likely significant effects on European sites are unable to be ruled out, the plan-making authority is required under Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations 2017 to make an 'Appropriate Assessment' of the implications of the plan for European sites, in view of their conservation objectives. European Commission Guidance states that the Appropriate Assessment should consider the impacts of the plan (either alone or in combination with other projects or plans) on the integrity of European sites with respect to their conservation objectives and to their structure and function.

Assessing the effects on site integrity

2.43 A site's integrity depends on it being able to sustain its 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex 1 habitats, Annex II species, and Annex 1 bird populations for which it has been designated) and to ensure their continued viability. A high degree of integrity is considered to exist where the potential to meet a site's conservation objectives is realised and where the site is capable of self-repair and renewal with a minimum of external management support.

2.44 A conclusion needs to be reached as to whether or not the new Local Development Plan would adversely affect the integrity of a European site. As stated in the European Commission Guidance, assessing the effects on the site(s) integrity involves considering whether the predicted impacts of the plan policies (either alone or in combination) have the potential to:

- Cause delays to the achievement of conservation objectives for the site.
- Interrupt progress towards the achievement of conservation objectives for the site.
- Disrupt those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site.
- Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site.
- Cause changes to the vital defining aspects (e.g. nutrient balance) that determine how the site functions as a habitat or ecosystem.

²⁰ Available online at - The HRA Handbook. David Tyldesley & Associates, a subscription based online guidance document

- Change the dynamics of relationships that define the structure or function of the site (e.g. relationships between soil and water, or animals and plants).
- Interfere with anticipated natural changes to the site.
- Reduce the extent of key habitats or the population of key species.
- Reduce the diversity of the site.
- Result in disturbance that could affect the population, density or balance between key species.
- Result in fragmentation.
- Result in the loss of key features.

2.45 The conservation objectives for each European site (**Appendix B**) are generally to maintain the qualifying features in favourable condition. The Standard Data Forms, Core Management Plans and if relevant Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) for each European site provide a high-level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the European features on the site(s) and outline the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. These have been drawn on to help to understand what is needed to maintain the integrity of the European sites.

2.46 For each European site where an uncertain or likely significant effect is identified in relation to the LDP, the potential impacts will be set out and judgements made (based on the information available) regarding whether the impact will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site. Consideration will be given to the potential for mitigation measures to be implemented that could reduce the likelihood or severity of the potential impacts such that there would not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

Chapter 3

European Sites in and around Anglesey

3.1 Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data has been used to map the locations and boundaries of European sites in and within 15km of the Anglesey boundary (**Figure A.1, Appendix A**), using publicly available data from Natural Resources Wales. All European sites lying partially or wholly within 15km have been included. A distance of 15km is generally considered appropriate for identifying potential impact pathways. European sites located beyond 15km can be included if they share functional ecological connectivity to the plan area, for example via river systems. However, in this instance, no European sites beyond 15km of Anglesey have been scoped in for further assessment as there are no potential pathways by which they could be impacted as a result of the new Local Development Plan.

3.2 European sites scoped in which are within Anglesey or within 15km are listed in **Table 3.1** below. Detailed information about each site is provided in **Appendix B**.

Table 3.1 European sites within Anglesey and within 15km of the district

| European Site | Closest Distance / Direction from Anglesey |
|--|--|
| Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) | |
| Llyn Dinam | Within the Anglesey boundary |
| Cemlyn Bay / Bae Cemlyn | Within the Anglesey boundary |
| Anglesey Fens / Corsydd Mon | Within the Anglesey boundary |
| Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes / Y Twyni o Abermenai i Aberffraw | Within the Anglesey boundary |
| Menai Strait and Conwy Bay / Y Fenai a Bae Conwy | Within the Anglesey boundary |
| Holy Island Coast / Glannau Ynys Gybi | Within the Anglesey boundary |
| Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh / Glannau Mon: Cors heli | Within the Anglesey boundary |
| Glan-traeth | Within the Anglesey boundary |

| European Site | Closest Distance / Direction from Anglesey |
|---|--|
| North Anglesey Marine / Gogledd Môn Forol | Within the Anglesey boundary |
| Afon Gwyrfai a Llyn Cwellyn | 2.4km south east |
| Glynllifon | 5.3km south |
| Coedydd Aber | 5.8km east |
| Snowdonia / Eryri | 5.8km east |
| Great Orme's Head / Pen y Gogarth | 9.4km east |
| Eifionydd Fens / Corsydd Eifionydd | 9.7km south |
| Creyddyn Peninsula Woods / Coedwigoedd Penrhyn Creuddyn | 14km east |
| Special Protection Areas (SPAs) | |
| Holy Island Coast / Glannau Ynys Gybi | Within the Anglesey boundary |
| Puffin Island / Ynys Seiriol | Within the Anglesey boundary |
| Anglesey Terns / Morwenoliaid Ynys Môn | Within the Anglesey boundary |
| Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl | Within the Anglesey boundary |
| Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay / Traeth Lafan | 0.2km east |
| Ramsar Sites | |
| Anglesey and Llyn Fens / Corsydd Môn a Llyn | Within the Anglesey boundary |
| Llyn Idwal | 14.5km south east |

European site interest features to be identified, along with the features of each site which determine site integrity and the specific sensitivities of the site. This information will allow an analysis of how the potential impacts of the new LDP may affect the integrity of each site.

3.3 The attributes of these European sites which contribute to and define their integrity have been described within **Appendix B**. In doing so, reference was made to the Standard Data Forms published on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website,²¹ Core Management Plans including Conservation Objectives published by Natural Resources Wales and if relevant Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands. This analysis enables

²¹ Available at: <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ramsar-sites/>

Chapter 4

Assessment Assumptions

4.1 For many of the broad impacts that could arise from the new Local Development Plan, the potential for significant effects will be determined by location, using GIS data to determine the proximity of potential development locations to the European sites that are the subject of the assessment.

4.2 However, there are many uncertainties associated with using set distances as there are very few standards available as a guide to how far impacts will travel. Therefore, a number of assumptions will be applied in relation to assessing the potential effects on European sites that may result from the LDP, as described below.

4.3 Other types of potential effect may be identified during the HRA process. If so, any assumptions that the assessment of those effects is based on will be set out in the full HRA reports.

Physical Damage and Loss of Habitat - onsite

4.4 Any development resulting from the new Local Development Plan would take place within Anglesey. Therefore, only European sites within the Council's administrative boundary could be affected through physical damage or loss of habitat from within the European site's boundaries as a result of the plan. The following European sites are located within the boundary of Anglesey and therefore impacts from physical damage and/or loss of habitat onsite could arise from the LDP:

- Llyn Dinam SAC
- Cemlyn Bay SAC
- Anglesey Fens SAC
- Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC
- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC
- Holy Island Coast SAC
- Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC
- Glan-traeth SAC
- North Anglesey Marine SAC
- Holy Island Coast SPA
- Puffin Island SPA

- Anglesey Terns SPA
- Liverpool Bay SPA
- Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar

4.5 Further consideration of these European sites will be required at the Screening stage.

4.6 All other European sites are located outside of the area covered by the Council's LDP and are therefore scoped out of the assessment in relation to onsite physical damage and loss.

Therefore, the following European sites have been scoped in for assessment at the Screening stage in relation to onsite physical damage and loss:

- Llyn Dinam SAC
- Cemlyn Bay SAC
- Anglesey Fens SAC
- Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC
- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC
- Holy Island Coast SAC
- Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC
- Glan-traeth SAC
- North Anglesey Marine SAC
- Holy Island Coast SPA
- Puffin Island SPA
- Anglesey Terns SPA
- Liverpool Bay SPA

Physical Loss of Habitat - Functionally Linked Habitat

4.7 Habitat loss from development in areas outside of the European site boundaries (offsite) may also result in likely significant effects where that habitat contributes towards maintaining the interest feature for which the European site is designated. This includes land which may provide offsite movement corridors or feeding and sheltering habitat for mobile species such as bats, birds and fish (usually referred to as 'functionally linked' habitat).

4.8 The following European sites are located within 15km of Anglesey and support species susceptible to impacts from physical damage and loss of functionally linked land:

- Llyn Dinam SAC - otter

- Anglesey Fens SAC – otter, marsh fritillary butterfly, great crested newt, Geyer's whorl snail, southern damselfly
- Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC – great crested newt
- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC – sea lamprey, European river lamprey, twaite shad, allis shad, grey seal
- Holy Island Coast SAC – grey seal
- Holy Island Coast SPA – chough
- Glan-traeth SAC – great crested newt
- Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC – lesser horseshoe bat
- Eifionydd Fens SAC – marsh fritillary butterfly, Atlantic salmon
- Great Orme's Head SAC – lesser horseshoe bat
- Snowdonia SAC – Atlantic salmon
- Coedydd Aber SAC – otter, Atlantic salmon
- Glynliffon SAC – otter, lesser horseshoe bat
- Afon Gwyrfai a Llyn Cwellyn SAC – otter, Atlantic salmon, sea lamprey, European river lamprey
- Puffin Island SPA – great cormorant
- Anglesey Terns SPA – roseate tern, common tern, Arctic tern, sandwich tern
- Liverpool Bay SPA – red-throated diver, little gull, common scoter, little tern, common tern
- Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA – Eurasian oystercatcher, red-breasted merganser, Eurasian curlew, great crested grebe, common redshank

4.9 Cemlyn Bay SAC, Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar site, Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC, North Anglesey Marine SAC and Llyn Idwal Ramsar site do not support any qualifying species that may be impacted through functionally linked habitat and as a result these sites are also scoped out from further assessment.

4.10 In addition to this, North Anglesey Marine SPA has been scoped out of the assessment, as it designated for porpoises, which are reliant on marine habitat and as such will not be impacted by proposed growth within Anglesey.

Functionally linked habitat – otter

4.11 Otters are highly dependent on (and therefore likely to be found in close proximity of) freshwater habitats and can

have particularly large home ranges of up to 32km,²² though this is likely for continuous areas of freshwater habitat. Llyn Dinam SAC and Anglesey Fens SAC lie within Anglesey, and therefore development affecting freshwater habitats which are ecologically connected to the freshwater habitats at these SACs could affect the associated otter populations, a qualifying feature of these sites. These sites are therefore scoped in for further assessment at the Screening stage.

4.12 Afon Gwyrfaï a Llyn Cwellyn SAC, Coedydd Aber SAC and Glynliffon SAC all lie outside of Anglesey at distances of 2.4km, 5.3km and 5.8km respectively. While these distances are within 32km, given the physical marine barrier between the Isle of Anglesey and mainland Wales (the location of these European sites) it is unlikely that development as part of the new LDP will impact these otter populations, and they are therefore scoped out from further assessment.

Functionally linked habitat – marsh fritillary butterfly

4.13 Conservation objectives for marsh fritillary butterfly require a minimum of 50ha of suitable habitat should be protected, of which at least 10ha must be in good condition. It is reasoned that not all of this habitat is expected to be found within the European sites and that some will be on nearby land within a radius of about 2km.

4.14 Anglesey Fens SAC is located within the boundary of Anglesey and therefore will be considered further in relation to loss of functionally linked habitat for marsh fritillary butterfly as suitable habitat within 2km of the SAC has the potential to be lost.

4.15 Eifionydd Fens SAC, however, is 9.7km south of Anglesey and due to that distance has therefore been scoped out from further assessment in relation to marsh fritillary butterfly.

Functionally linked habitat – southern damselfly

4.16 The lifetime dispersals of southern damselfly are on average short distances; however some have been found to disperse up to 1km.²³ Anglesey Fens SAC is located within the Anglesey boundary and therefore will be scoped in for further assessment at the Screening stage.

Functionally linked habitat – Geyer's whorl snail

4.17 There is limited research into the range of Geyer's whorl snails, however other whorl snail species disperse up to 100m

from known sites.²⁴ The species is known to have a localised range, specifically found on relatively exposed, constantly humid calcareous flush-fens²⁵. Due to this, the species is considered likely to be primarily concentrated within the European site boundary, however there is potential for this species to utilise habitat in close proximity to the designated site. The ability of this species to self-fertilise makes it possible for a single coloniser to establish a new population, meaning it is possible the species could use adjacent habitat and therefore, in line with a precautionary approach, impacts on functionally linked habitat affecting the species cannot be ruled out. Anglesey Fens SAC is within Anglesey and has therefore been scoped in for further assessment at Screening stage.

Functionally linked habitat – great crested newt

4.18 Great crested newt will typically disperse up to 500m away from breeding ponds and therefore this range has been applied to assess for impacts on functionally linked habitat. Anglesey Fens SAC, Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC and Glan-traeth SAC are all within Anglesey and have therefore been scoped in for further assessment at Screening stage.

Functionally linked habitat – migratory fish assemblage

4.19 The populations of qualifying migratory fish (Atlantic salmon, European river lamprey, sea lamprey, allis shad, twaite shad) depend upon freshwater habitats of the European sites in which they are present. Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC, which is designated for supporting sea lamprey, European river lamprey, twaite shad, allis shad, is within Anglesey and therefore any impacts on ecologically connected freshwater habitats outside of this site need to be considered further at Screening stage.

4.20 Eifionydd Fens SAC, Snowdonia SAC, Coedydd Aber SAC and Afon Gwyrfaï a Llyn Cwellyn SAC all lie outside of Anglesey in mainland Wales and therefore can be scoped out due to the distance and marine barrier.

Functionally linked habitat – bats

4.21 Lesser horseshoe bats can forage up to 2km away from roosting sites as identified in the Bat Conservation Trust's guidance on Core Sustenance Zones, which relate to areas surrounding a roost within which habitat availability and quality will have a significant influence on the resilience and

²² NatureScot (2024) Otters. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/plants-animals-and-fungi/mammals/land-mammals/otter>

²³ Thompson DJ, Rouquette JR & Purse BV (2003). Ecology of the Southern Damselfly. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Ecology Series No. 8.

²⁴ Office of Public Works (2009) Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) of the Effects of Statutory Arterial Drainage Maintenance Activities on Fens, Mires & Whorl Snails.

²⁵ Special Areas of Conservation: JNCC: Geyer's whorl snail *Vertigo geyeri*: <https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/species/S1013/>

conservation status of the colony²⁶²⁷. Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC, Great Orme's Head and Glynliffon SAC are 14km, 9.4km and 5.3km respectively from Anglesey and have therefore been scoped out of further assessment.

Functionally linked habitat – bird assemblage

4.22 From our experience of HRA work elsewhere, the recognised distance for the consideration of offsite functionally linked habitat for birds is generally 2km, but for certain species a greater distance may be appropriate, including most notably, whooper swan (5km buffer), curlew, golden plover and lapwing (15km buffer), and pink footed goose (20km). None of the sites support these species and therefore the 2km buffer has been applied.

4.23 Holy Island Coast SPA, Puffin Island SPA, Anglesey Terns SPA and Liverpool Bay SPA are within Anglesey and have therefore been scoped in for further assessment at Screening stage. Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA has also been scoped in, as it is 0.2km away from Anglesey and therefore within the 2km buffer.

Functionally linked habitat – grey seal

4.24 Grey seals make use of coastal habitats such as beaches, rocky shores and sandbars. There is no dispersal data for grey seals from haul-out sites and it is possible these species use multiple haul out sites, some of which may fall outside of the European site areas. Therefore, in line with a precautionary approach, Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC and Holy Island Coast SAC, which are designated for this species and are located within Anglesey, have been scoped in for further assessment.

Therefore, the following European sites have been scoped in for assessment at the Screening Stage in relation to physical damage and loss of functionally linked habitat (offsite):

- **Llyn Dinam SAC**
- **Anglesey Fens SAC**
- **Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC**
- **Glan-traeth SAC**
- **Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC**
- **Holy Island Coast SAC**
- **Holy Island SPA**
- **Puffin Island SPA**

- **Anglesey Terns SPA**
- **Liverpool Bay SPA**
- **Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA**

Non-Physical Disturbance

4.25 Noise and vibration effects, e.g. during the construction of new housing, transport infrastructure or other development, are most likely to disturb bird species and are thus a key consideration with respect to European sites where birds are the qualifying features, although such effects may also impact upon some mammals and fish species. Artificial lighting at night (e.g. from internal lighting from structures through windows, street lamps, flood lighting and security lights) has the potential to affect species where it occurs in close proximity to key habitat areas, such as movement or foraging of bats and otter, movement of fish species and key roosting sites for bird species.

Non-Physical Disturbance - onsite

4.26 It has been assumed (on a precautionary basis and based on our experience of previous HRAs and consultation with statutory bodies) that the effects of noise, vibration and light pollution are capable of causing an adverse effect if development takes place within 500m of a European site with qualifying features sensitive to these disturbances. This approach has been applied to HRAs of Local Plans and Local Development Plans for numerous local authorities in the UK and it has been considered the application of this buffer is appropriate and in line with a precautionary principle.

4.27 European sites which may be affected by noise, vibration and light pollution as a result of the Local Development Plan therefore include those within Anglesey or those within 500m of the plan area, which support species susceptible to non-physical disturbance. This includes:

- Llyn Dinam SAC – otters
- Anglesey Fens SAC – otters
- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC – sea lamprey, European river lamprey, twaite shad, allis shad, grey seal
- Holy Island SAC – grey seal
- Holy Island Coast SPA – chough
- Glan-traeth SAC – great crested newt

²⁶ Bat Conservation Trust (2016) Core Sustainance Zones: Determining Zone Size: [Core Sustainance Zones Explained 04.02.16.pdf](#)

²⁷ Bat Conservation Trust (2019) Species information guide: lesser horseshoe bat.

- Puffin Island SPA – great cormorant
- Anglesey Terns SPA – roseate tern, common tern, Arctic tern, sandwich tern
- Liverpool Bay SPA – red-throated diver, little gull, common scoter, little tern, common tern
- Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA – Eurasian oystercatcher, red-breasted merganser, Eurasian curlew, great crested grebe, common redshank
- North Anglesey Marine SAC - Porpoises

4.28 All remaining sites either do not support features susceptible to impacts from non-physical disturbance or are located over 500m from the boundary of Anglesey and therefore, were scoped out from further assessment.

Therefore, the following European sites have been scoped in for assessment at the Screening stage in relation to non-physical disturbance (onsite):

- **Llyn Dinam SAC**
- **Anglesey Fens SAC**
- **Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC**
- **Holy Island SAC**
- **Holy Island Coast SPA**
- **Glan-traeth SAC**
- **Puffin Island SPA**
- **Anglesey Terns SPA**
- **Liverpool Bay SPA**
- **Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA**
- **North Marine Anglesey SAC**

Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land

4.29 Non-physical disturbance may also affect qualifying species at functionally linked habitat. It was established in the Physical Loss of Habitat - Functionally Linked Habitat section above that the following qualifying species may use functionally linked habitat occurring within the Council's boundary:

- Llyn Dinam SAC - otter
- Anglesey Fens SAC – otter, marsh fritillary butterfly, great crested newt, Geyer's whorl snail, southern damselfly
- Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC – great crested newt

- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC – sea lamprey, European river lamprey, twaite shad, allis shad, grey seal
- Holy Island Coast SAC – grey seal
- Holy Island Coast SPA – chough
- Glan-traeth SAC – great crested newt
- Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC – lesser horseshoe bat
- Eifionydd Fens SAC – marsh fritillary butterfly, Atlantic salmon
- Great Orme's Head SAC – lesser horseshoe bat
- Snowdonia SAC – Atlantic salmon
- Coedydd Aber SAC – otter, Atlantic salmon
- Glynliffon SAC – otter, lesser horseshoe bat
- Afon Gwyrfai a Llyn Cwellyn SAC – otter, Atlantic salmon, sea lamprey, European river lamprey
- Puffin Island SPA – great cormorant
- Anglesey Terns SPA – roseate tern, common tern, Arctic tern, sandwich tern
- Liverpool Bay SPA – red-throated diver, little gull, common scoter, little tern, common tern
- Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA – Eurasian oystercatcher, red-breasted merganser, Eurasian curlew, great crested grebe, common redshank
- North Anglesey SAC - Porpoises

4.30 All remaining European sites were not considered to support features susceptible to impacts from non-physical disturbance and have therefore been scoped out from further assessment. Eifionydd Fens SAC and Anglesey Fens SAC impacts have been scoped out in relation to marsh fritillary, southern damselfly and Geyer's whorl snail, which are not considered sensitive to impacts from non-physical disturbance.

Functionally linked land – otters

4.31 Otters, as discussed above, are a qualifying feature for Llyn Dinam SAC, Anglesey Fens SAC, Coedydd Aber SAC, Glynliffon SAC and Afon Gwyrfai a Llyn Cwellyn SAC. They are a predominantly nocturnal species and as a result could be impacted by artificial lighting within 500m of the European Site or functionally linked habitat. In addition, indirect effects could also occur if prey species such as fish are impacted by non-physical disturbance. Llyn Dinam SAC and Anglesey Fens SAC are both within Anglesey and have functionally linked habitat that could be affected within 500m, and as a result are scoped in for further assessment.

4.32 Coedydd Aber SAC, Glynliffon SAC and Afon Gwyrfai a Llyn Cwellyn SAC are within mainland Wales, and although this species can use home ranges up to 32km provided there is continuous freshwater habitat, given the physical marine barrier between Anglesey and the main land Wales, it is unlikely that this species will be impacted by development coming forwards as part of the Local Development Plan and as such has been scoped out from further assessment.

Functionally linked habitat – great crested newt

4.33 Anglesey Fens SAC and Glan-traeth SAC support qualifying support great crested newt as a qualifying species. Great crested newt will typically disperse up to 500m away from breeding ponds and therefore, there is potential for this species using functionally linked land to be impacted by non-physical disturbance. These European sites are located within Anglesey and therefore have been scoped in for further assessment.

Functionally linked land – lesser horseshoe bats

4.34 As a nocturnal species, the lesser horseshoe bat relies on unlit and undisturbed habitat to roost and forage and linear landscape features to commute to other foraging and roosting areas. They are particularly sensitive to impacts from lighting, as well as impacts from disturbance as a result of vibration and noise.

4.35 As outlined in the Physical Damage and Loss Section on functionally linked land in paragraph 4.20 above, this species is considered to utilise habitat within 2km of their roosting site, as identified in the Bat Conservation Trust's guidance on Core Sustenance Zones. This distance has been applied in this assessment to determine the potential for impacts to arise from proposed development in the LDP.

4.36 Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC, Great Orme's Head and Glynliffon SAC are designated for roosting colonies of lesser horseshoe bats. The sites are 14km, 9.4km and 5.3km away from Anglesey respectively and therefore due to the distance of these designated sites and its associated functionally linked land from Anglesey, it is not considered likely that this species will be impacted by non-physical disturbance from development proposed in the LDP. Therefore, these European sites have been scoped out of further assessment at the Screening stage.

Functionally linked land – bird assemblage

4.37 Holy Island Coast SPA, Puffin Island SPA, Anglesey Terns SPA, Liverpool Bay SPA and Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA all support qualifying breeding and wintering bird populations, a time particularly sensitive to non-physical disturbance.

4.38 As outlined in the Physical Damage and Loss Section on functionally linked land in paragraph 4.20 above, a buffer distance of 2km has been applied. The following European sites support qualifying bird species, which may utilise habitat within Anglesey and a 500m buffer:

- Holy Island Coast SPA
- Puffin Island SPA
- Anglesey Terns SPA
- Liverpool Bay SPA
- Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA

4.39 These designated sites have been scoped in for further assessment at the Screening stage.

Functionally linked land – migratory fish

4.40 Migratory fish, and in particular Atlantic salmon, can be sensitive to non-physical disturbance such as noise and it is important to consider any impacts on the fish and offspring.

4.41 Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC is within Anglesey and therefore it is expected that qualifying fish species of the SAC will use functionally linked land within the Council's boundary and as such have potential to be affected by proposed development in LDP as a result of non-physical disturbance. This designated site has therefore been scoped in for further consideration at the Screening stage.

4.42 Eifionydd Fens SAC, Snowdonia SAC, Coedydd Aber SAC and Afon Gwyrfai a Llyn Cwellyn SAC all lie outside of Anglesey in mainland Wales and therefore can be scoped out due to the distance and the marine barrier.

Functionally linked land – grey seals

4.43 Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC and Holy Island Coast SAC are designated for supporting grey seals. There is no dispersal data for grey seals from haul out sites, however there is potential for this species to utilise functionally linked land along the coastline. These European sites are located within Anglesey and therefore there is potential for impacts to this species using functionally linked land to arise as a result of development proposed in the LDP.

Functionally linked land – porpoises

4.44 North Anglesey Marine SAC is designated for porpoises, which rely on marine and coastal habitat. This species is particularly sensitive to noise and vibration and as such there is potential for impacts to occur if present within coastal water outside of the SAC adjacent to the coastline. This SAC has therefore been scoped in for further consideration.

Therefore, the following European sites have been scoped in for assessment at the Screening Stage in relation to non-physical disturbance of functionally linked land:

- Llyn Dinam SAC
- Anglesey Fens SAC
- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC
- Holy Island Coast SAC
- Holy Island Coast SPA
- Puffin Island SPA
- Anglesey Terns SPA
- Liverpool Bay SPA
- Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA
- North Anglesey Marine SAC
- Glan-traeth SAC

Non-Toxic Contamination

4.45 Non-toxic contamination can include the creation of dust which can smother habitats preventing natural processes and may also lead to effects associated with increased sediment and dust which can potentially affect the turbidity of aquatic habitats and can also contribute to nutrient enrichment which can lead to changes in the rate of vegetative succession and habitat composition.

4.46 The effects of non-toxic contamination are most likely to be significant if development takes place within 500m of a European site with qualifying features sensitive to these disturbances, such as riparian and wetland habitats, or sites designated for habitats and plant species. This is the distance that, in our experience, provides a robust assessment of effects in plan-level HRA and meets with the agreement of statutory bodies.

4.47 All sites located within the Anglesey boundary that are designated for wetland/coastal habitats are susceptible to impacts from non-toxic contamination. These include:

- Llyn Dinam SAC
- Cemlyn Bay SAC
- Anglesey Fens SAC
- Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC
- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC
- Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC
- Glan-traeth SAC

- North Anglesey Marine SAC
- Holy Island Coast SAC

4.48 European sites with wetland habitats within 500m of Anglesey that could be susceptible to impacts from non-toxic contamination include:

- Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA

4.49 As discussed above, the effects associated with increased sediment and dust can affect the turbidity of wetlands and have knock-on effects on vegetation growth and nutrient enrichment. All the above listed European sites within Anglesey and Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA comprise wetland habitats which are susceptible to non-toxic contamination and are within 500m of potential development. These sites are therefore scoped in for further assessment at the Screening stage.

4.50 The remaining European sites are not considered sensitive to impacts from non-toxic contamination and as such can be scoped out of further assessment.

Therefore, the following European sites have been scoped in for assessment at the Screening stage in relation to non-toxic contamination:

- Llyn Dinam SAC
- Cemlyn Bay SAC
- Anglesey Fens SAC
- Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC
- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC
- Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC
- Glan-traeth SAC
- North Anglesey Marine SAC
- Holy Island Coast SAC
- Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA

Air Pollution

4.51 In terms of vehicle traffic, nitrogen oxides (NOx, i.e. NO and NO₂) are considered to be the key pollutants. Deposition of nitrogen compounds may lead to both soil and freshwater acidification, and NOx can cause eutrophication of soils and water. The HRA will refer to the UK Air Pollution Information

System²⁸ to determine whether concentrations of NO_x at the European sites are currently exceeding critical loads or not.

4.52 Based on the Highways Agency Design Manual for Road and Bridges (DMRB) Document LA105: Air Quality²⁹ (which was produced to provide advice regarding the design, assessment and operation of trunk roads (including motorways)), it is assumed that air pollution from roads is unlikely to be significant beyond 200m from the road itself. Where increases in traffic volumes are forecast, this 200m buffer needs to be applied to the relevant roads in order to make a judgement about the likely geographical extent of air pollution impacts.

4.53 The DMRB Guidance for the assessment of local air quality in relation to highways developments provides criteria that should be applied to ascertain whether there are likely to be significant impacts associated with routes or corridors. Based on the DMRB guidance, affected roads which should be assessed are those where:

- Daily traffic flows will change by 1,000 AADT (Annual Average Daily Traffic) or more; or
- Heavy duty vehicle (HDV) flows will change by 200 AADT or more; or
- Daily average speed will change by 10 km/hr or more; or
- Peak hour speed will change by 20 km/hr or more; or
- Road alignment will change by 5m or more.

4.54 In line with the Wealden judgment³⁰, statutory consultees now expect to see in-combination air pollution effects assessed. The implication of the judgment is that, where the road traffic effects of other plans or projects are known or can be reasonably estimated (including those of adopted plans or consented projects), then these should be included in road traffic modelling by the local authority whose local plan or project is being assessed. The screening criteria of 1,000 AADT should then be applied to the traffic flows of the plans in combination.

4.55 Roads forming part of the strategic road network³¹ (motorways and trunk roads) are most likely to experience any significant increases in vehicle traffic as a result of development (i.e. greater than 1,000 AADT etc.) alongside some important major roads. As such, where a site is within 200m of only minor roads, no significant effect from traffic-related air pollution is considered to be the likely outcome.

4.56 The JNCC's 'Guidance on decision-making thresholds for air pollution'³² states that, when assessing the air pollution impacts of a plan, 10km should be used as a zone of influence within which the plan is likely to have significant effects on air quality. This buffer has been applied in this assessment.

4.57 Strategic roads within the Anglesey boundary plus a 10km buffer include the A5, A5025, A5108, A5154, A55, A4080, A5114, A5152, A545, A487, A4087, A4871, A499, A487, A4085, A4086 and A4244. These are shown in **Figure A.2, Appendix A**.

4.58 The following European sites are located within 200m of a strategic road:

- Afon Gwyrfai a Llyn Cwellyn SAC – A4085, A487, A4871
- Coedydd Aber SAC – A55
- Snowdonia SAC – A4086, A5
- Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC A4080
- Glan-traeth SAC – A4080
- Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC – A4080

4.59 Glynllifon SAC, North Anglesey Marine SAC, Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC, Anglesey Terns SPA, Liverpool Bay SPA and Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA are also located within 200m of a strategic road. However, the qualifying features of these European sites are not considered susceptible to impacts and therefore have been scoped out from further assessment.

4.60 All other European sites are located further than 200m from the strategic road network or further than 10km from the Anglesey Council boundary and therefore are scoped out of further assessment of the new Local Development Plan in relation to air pollution.

Therefore, the following European sites have been scoped in for assessment at the Screening stage in relation to air pollution:

- **Afon Gwyrfai a Llyn Cwellyn SAC**
- **Coedydd Aber SAC**
- **Snowdonia SAC**
- **Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC**
- **Glan-traeth SAC**

²⁸ <http://www.apis.ac.uk/>

²⁹ <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmrb/search/10191621-07df-44a3-892e-c1d5c7a28d90>

³⁰ Wealden District Council v. (1) Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government; (2) Lewes District Council; (3) South Downs National Park Authority and Natural England

³¹ For the purposes of this HRA, the strategic road network relates to the primary road network within Anglesey and a 10km buffer.

³² JNCC (2021) Guidance on decision-making thresholds for air pollution, <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/6ccea4f2e-e481-4ec2-b369-2b4026c88447>

■ **Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC**

Recreational Pressure

4.61 Recreational activities and human presence can result in significant effects on European sites as a result of erosion and trampling, associated impacts such as fire and vandalism or disturbance to sensitive features, such as birds through both terrestrial and water-based forms of recreation.

4.62 The LDP will result in housing growth and associated population increase within Anglesey. Where increases in population are likely to result in significant increases in recreation at a European site, either alone or in-combination, the potential for likely significant effects will require assessment. At this stage, there is no definitive figure of how many homes the plan will make provision for over the plan period.

4.63 European sites typically have a 'Zone of Influence' (ZOI) within which increases in population would be expected to result in likely significant effects. ZOIs are usually established following targeted visitor surveys and the findings are therefore typically specific to each European site (and often to specific areas within a European site). The findings are likely to be influenced by a number of complex and interacting factors and therefore it is not always appropriate to apply a generic or non-specific ZOI to a European site. This is particularly the case in relation to coastal European sites, which have the potential to draw large number of visitors from areas much further afield. Specifically, Anglesey is a known and popular tourist destination in North Wales and as such there is potential for likely significant effects to arise as a result of increased growth from the proposed LDP in combination with existing levels of recreation, including in relation to tourism, occurring in this area.

4.64 In contrast to coastal European sites, the ZOI for non-coastal European sites are typically less variable, with visitors travelling from areas more local to a site. Although these sites are unique in their own right, they tend to not have the same draw as coastal sites and with recreational activities more easily managed and directed to alternative greenspace in the area. Using a precautionary approach and based on the Wales Outdoor Recreation Survey 2014³³, a ZOI of 8km was used for non-coastal European sites where an alternative ZOI is not available. This has been applied to all non-coastal European sites as not existing data was available on site specific ZOIs. The 8km ZOI derived from the Outdoor Recreation Survey data relates to the distance of '1 to 5 miles' that 75% of visitors from Wales travel to reach a natural

environment. ZOIs are typically based on the distance that 75% of visitors travel from; therefore, 8km is considered likely to represent a highly precautionary ZOI in this assessment, and one which may be modified following the emergence of new information.

4.65 Based on the information above, a ZOI of 8km has been applied. The following European sites have been identified within that distance and scoped in for further consideration:

- Anglesey and Lyn Fens Ramsar site
- Anglesey Fens SAC
- Liverpool Bay SPA
- Anglesey Terns SPA
- Puffin Island SPA
- Holy Island Coast SAC
- Holy Island Coast SPA
- North Anglesey Marine SAC
- Cemlyn Bay SAC
- Glan-traeth SAC
- Anglesey Coast Saltmarsh SAC
- Lyn Dinam SAC
- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC
- Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC
- Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA
- Afon Gwyrfa i Llyn Cwellyn SAC
- Glynllifon SAC
- Coedydd Aber SAC
- Snowdonia SAC

4.66 All remaining European sites are located over 8km from Anglesey and as such are not considered likely to be impacted by increased recreation pressure as a result of development in the LDP and are scoped out from further assessment.

Therefore, the following European sites have been scoped in for assessment at the Screening Stage in relation to recreational pressure:

- **Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar site**
- **Anglesey Fens SAC**
- **Liverpool Bay SPA**

³³ Natural Resources Wales (2015). Wales Outdoor Recreation Survey 2014: Final Report. Published: July 2015

- Anglesey Terns SPA
- Puffin Island SPA
- Holy Island Coast SAC
- Holy Island Coast SPA
- North Anglesey Marine SAC
- Cemlyn Bay SAC
- Glan-traeth SAC
- Anglesey Coast Saltmarsh SAC
- Llyn Dinam SAC
- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC
- Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC
- Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA
- Afon Gwyrfaï a Llyn Cwellyn SAC
- Glynllifon SAC
- Coedydd Aber SAC
- Snowdonia SAC

Water

4.67 An increase in demand for water abstraction and treatment, and changes in land use resulting from the growth proposed in the new LDP could result in changes in hydrology at European sites. Depending on the qualifying features and particular vulnerabilities of the European sites, this could result in likely significant effects; for example due to changes in environmental or biotic conditions, water chemistry and the extent and distribution of preferred habitat conditions. Habitats can also be affected by changes in water quality such as nutrient enrichment, changes in salinity, smothering from dust, and run-off, discharge or spillage from industry, agriculture or construction. Changes in water abstraction, discharge and land use can also affect water quality, for example a change in land use from agriculture to residential reduces direct nutrient run-off to watercourses but increases the volume of nutrients discharges from wastewater treatment works.

4.68 The following European sites have qualifying features that have potential to be sensitive to changes in water quantity or quality:

- Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar site
- Anglesey Fens SAC
- Glan Traeth SAC
- Holy Island Coast SAC
- Holy Island Coast SPA

- Llyn Dinam SAC
- Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC
- Afon Gwyrfaï a Llyn Cwellyn SAC
- Snowdonia SAC
- Eifionydd Fens SAC
- Llyn Idwal SAC
- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC
- Cemlyn Bay SAC
- Anglesey Coast Saltmarsh SAC
- North Anglesey Marine SAC

4.69 All remaining European sites are scoped out of the assessment as they are not considered to be sensitive to impacts from changes in water quantity or quality.

Water Quantity

4.70 The Isle of Anglesey is supplied by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water and located within the North Eryri / Ynys Môn Water Resource Zone (WRZ). This WRZ covers the mainland adjacent to the Menai Straits (North Eryri) and Anglesey (Ynys Môn). The water resources within the zone consist of five impounding reservoirs, including Ffynnon Llugwy, Llyn Cwellyn and Llyn Marchlyn Bach on the mainland and Llyn Alaw and Llyn Cefni on Anglesey.

4.71 The following European sites are hydrologically connected to the WRZ which supplies Anglesey and as such have potential to be affected by increased demand for abstraction as a result of growth in the LDP:

- Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar site
- Anglesey Fens SAC
- Glan Traeth SAC
- Holy Island Coast SAC
- Llyn Dinam SAC
- Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC
- Afon Gwyrfaï a Llyn Cwellyn SAC
- Snowdonia SAC
- Eifionydd Fens SAC
- Llyn Idwal SAC
- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC
- Cemlyn Bay SAC
- Anglesey Coast Saltmarsh SAC

■ North Anglesey Marine SAC

Therefore, the following European sites have been scoped in for assessment at the Screening stage in relation to water quantity:

- Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar site
- Anglesey Fens SAC
- Glan Traeth SAC
- Holy Island Coast SAC
- Llyn Dinam SAC
- Abergmenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC
- Afon Gwyrfai a Llyn Cwellyn SAC
- Snowdonia SAC
- Eifionydd Fens SAC
- Llyn Idwal SAC
- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC
- Cemlyn Bay SAC
- Anglesey Coast Saltmarsh SAC
- North Anglesey Marine SAC

Water Quality

Water treatment and discharge

4.72 Habitats can also be affected by changes in water quality such as nutrient enrichment, changes in salinity, smothering from dust, and run-off, discharge or spillage from industry, agriculture, or construction. Changes in water abstraction, discharge and land use can also affect water quality, for example a change in land use from agriculture to residential reduces direct nutrient run-off to watercourses but increases the volume of nutrients discharges from wastewater treatment works.

4.73 NRW has identified a number of European sites in unfavourable condition due to excessive nutrients, which require nutrient neutrality as mitigation³⁴ and therefore are sensitive to changes in water quality resulting from proposed development within the LDP. A review of European sites identified by NRW confirmed that there were no European sites hydrologically connected to Anglesey, which are in unfavourable condition and as such no impacts are predicted in relation to this impact pathway. All European sites have therefore been scoped out from further assessment.

Direct pollution / run off

4.74 Development resulting from the LDP has the potential to increase pollution from direct run-off at nearby European sites or functionally linked land. Distances can vary depending on topography and connectivity. Typically, a 500m buffer is applied, however due to the separation of Anglesey from the main land by a marine barrier impacts from direct pollution/run off is not considered likely outside of the boundary of Anglesey. Therefore, only sites within Anglesey have been scoped in.

4.75 The following sites are located within Anglesey:

- Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar site
- Anglesey Fens SAC
- Glan Traeth SAC
- Holy Island Coast SAC
- Llyn Dinam SAC
- Abergmenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC
- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC
- Cemlyn Bay SAC
- Anglesey Coast Saltmarsh SAC
- North Anglesey Marine SAC

4.76 All remaining European sites are scoped out due to their being located over 500m from the Council's boundary and as such they are not considered likely to be affected by direct pollution/runoff impacts arising from proposed growth in Anglesey.

Therefore, the following European sites have been scoped in for assessment at the Screening stage in relation to water quality:

- Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar site
- Anglesey Fens SAC
- Glan Traeth SAC
- Holy Island Coast SAC
- Llyn Dinam SAC
- Abergmenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC
- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC
- Cemlyn Bay SAC
- Anglesey Coast Saltmarsh SAC

³⁴ Available: [Natural Resources Wales / Principles of nutrient neutrality in relation to development or water discharge permit proposals](#)

- North Anglesey Marine SAC
- Anglesey Terns SPA
- Puffin Island SPA

Summary of Screening Assumptions

The outcome of the Scoping assessment and a summary of which European sites will require further assessment at the Screening stage in relation to each broad impact type is summarised in **Table 4.1** below.

Table 4.1 Summary of Screening Assumptions

| European site | Physical damage/loss of habitat | Non-physical disturbance | Non-toxic contamination | Air Pollution | Recreational Pressure | Water Quantity | Water Quality |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Llyn Dinam SAC | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in |
| Cemlyn Bay SAC | Scoped in (onsite only) | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in |
| Anglesey Fens SAC | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in |
| Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in |
| Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in |
| Holy Island Coast SAC | Scoped in (onsite only) | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in |
| Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC | Scoped in (onsite only) | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in |
| Glan-traeth SAC | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in |
| North Anglesey Marine SAC | Scoped in (on site only) | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in |
| Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out |
| Eifionydd Fens SAC | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped out |
| Great Orme's Head SAC | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out |
| Snowdonia SAC | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped out |

| European site | Physical damage/loss of habitat | Non-physical disturbance | Non-toxic contamination | Air Pollution | Recreational Pressure | Water Quantity | Water Quality |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Coedydd Aber SAC | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped out |
| Glynllifon SAC | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped out |
| Afon Gwyrfai a Llyn Cwellyn SAC | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in |
| Holy Island Coast SPA | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped out |
| Puffin Island SPA | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped in |
| Anglesey Terns SPA | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped in |
| Liverpool Bay SPA | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped out |
| Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA | Scoped in (functionally linked habitat only) | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped out | Scoped out |
| Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar | Scoped in (onsite only) | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped in | Scoped in |
| Llyn Idwal Ramsar | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped out | Scoped in | Scoped out |

Chapter 5

Conclusion and Next Steps

5.1 This Scoping Report has introduced the HRA processes that will be undertaken in relation to the new Anglesey Local Development Plan. It has been produced to provide guidance for developing the plan in the context of European sites and as an early reference point for stakeholders wishing to comment on the scope of the HRA. As explained in **Chapter 1**, the following stages of the HRA will be undertaken and reported on separately.

5.2 This HRA Scoping Report is being published for consultation with Natural Resources Wales. Whilst there is no formal requirement to do so at this stage, this consultation will be undertaken to confirm that the proposed scope of the assessment is considered appropriate before HRA Screening (and Appropriate Assessment, if required) is carried out in relation to both plans.

5.3 NRW is requested to consider the following questions in particular:

- Have we correctly identified the European sites that should be scoped in to the HRA of the new Local Development Plan (see **Chapter 3** and **Appendix A**)?
- Have we correctly identified the sensitivities of the scoped-in European sites to potential impacts from the new Local Development Plan (see **Chapter 4** and **Appendix B**)?
- Is the proposed approach to HRA of the new Local Development Plan reasonable (see **Chapters 2** and **4**)?

5.4 NRW's response will be reviewed and any necessary amendments to the approach to and information in the HRA will be made prior to the first iteration of HRA Screening for the plan.

5.5 Following the methodology set out in **Chapter 2**, the HRA report will be progressed throughout the new Local Development Plan preparation process, with the HRA reports relating to each iteration of the plan being published during consultation periods. Specific consultation on subsequent HRA Reports will be undertaken with NRW as the statutory consultation body for HRA as the new Local Development Plan progresses.

5.6 After the Scoping consultation, the next stage of the HRA process (Screening) will determine whether the new Local Development Plan will result in any likely significant effects (LSEs) on the European sites scoped in. Alongside

information on the emerging Plan, the following key pieces of information will be required at the Screening stage:

- Existing avoidance and mitigation strategies for European sites.
- Visitor survey information for European sites, including any defined Zones of Influence.
- Road traffic AADT calculations to determine whether thresholds are exceeded in-combination with other plans and projects as a result of the new Local Development Plan. If AADT thresholds are exceeded, air quality modelling will be required to understand whether the LDP will result in adverse effect on integrity and whether avoidance and mitigation measures can be applied which would prevent an adverse effect on integrity.
- Water resources management plans and water cycle studies for Anglesey and neighbouring authorities.

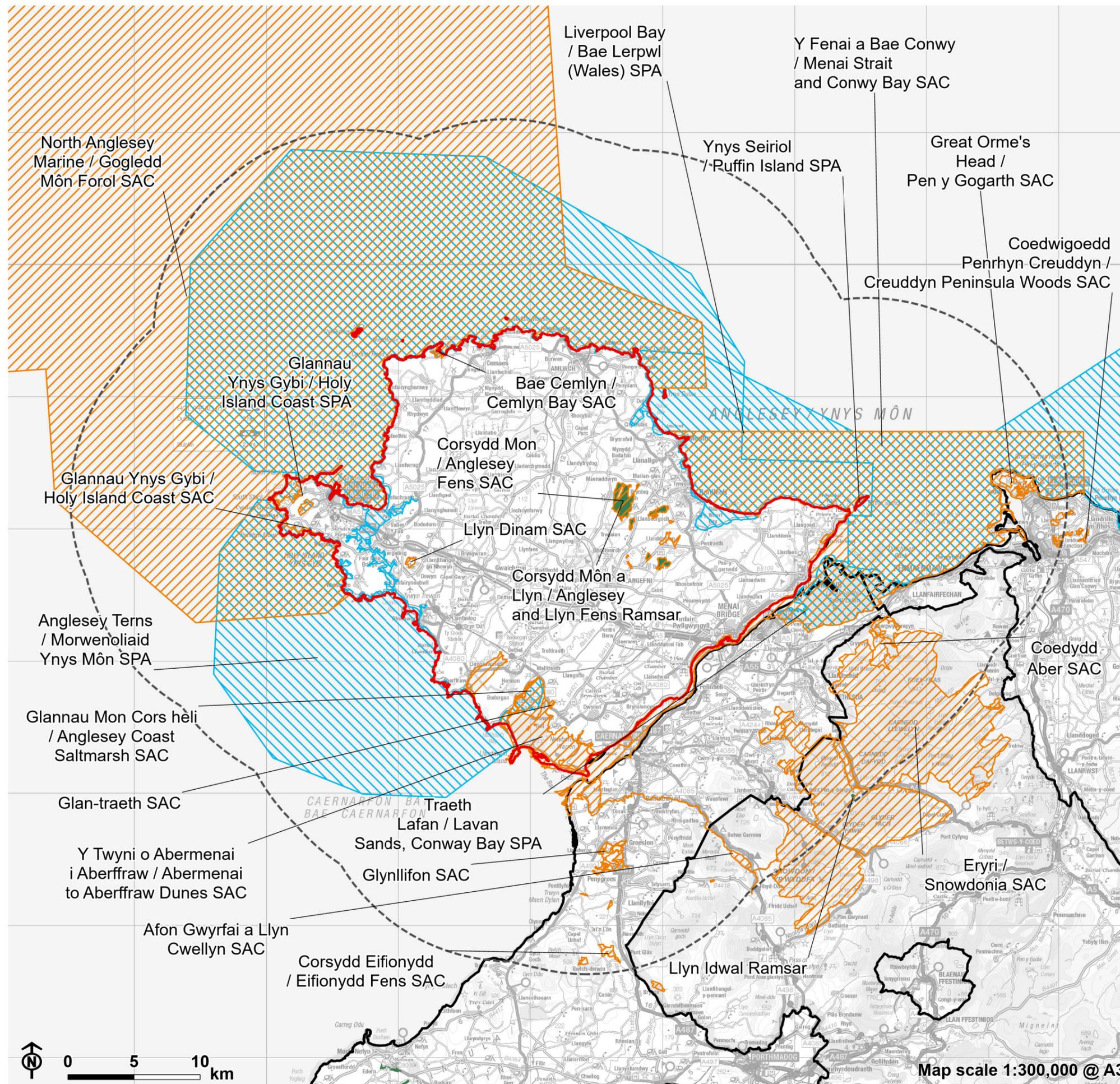
5.7 European sites where Likely Significant Effects are identified will be required to proceed to Appropriate Assessment stage to determine whether the new Local Development Plan will result in Adverse Effects on Integrity (AEoI). At that stage, the Appropriate Assessment can take into account any mitigation, such as safeguards embedded within Local Development Plan policies.

LUC
May 2025

Appendix A

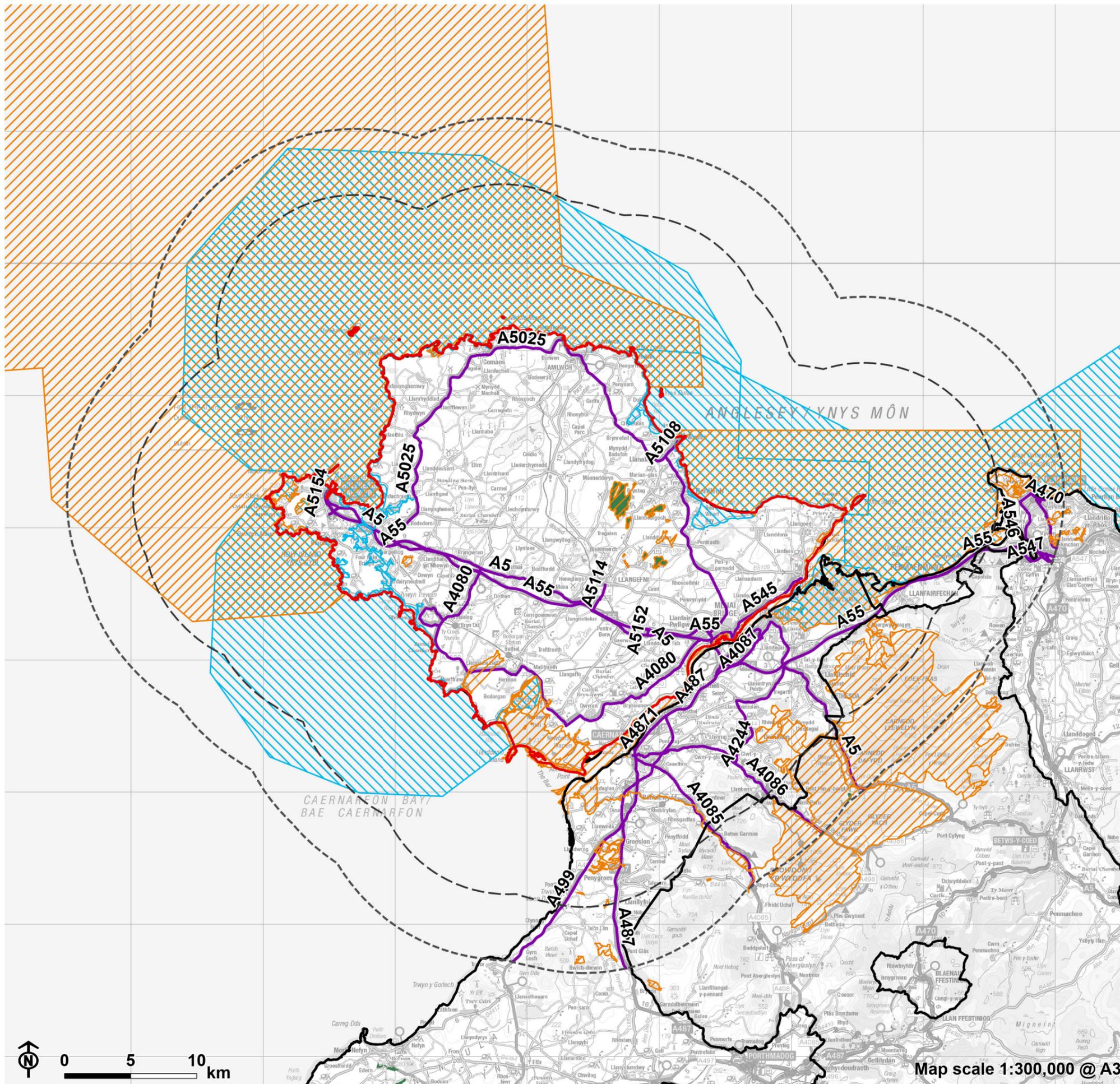
Figures

Figure 1: European sites within 15km of the Isle of Anglesey



- Isle of Anglesey
- Isle of Anglesey 15km buffer
- Local Planning Authority (LPA) boundary
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Ramsar

Figure 2: Strategic Roads within 15km of the Isle of Anglesey



- Isle of Anglesey
- Isle of Anglesey 10km buffer
- Isle of Anglesey 15km buffer
- Local Planning Authority (LPA) boundary
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Ramsar
- A Road

Appendix B

European Site Information

B.1 This appendix contains information about the European sites scoped into the HRA. Information about each site's area, the site descriptions, qualifying features and pressures and threats are drawn from Natural Resources Wales's Core Management Plans which include Conservation Objectives and the Standard Data Forms or Information Sheets on Ramsar Wetlands available from the JNCC website.

| Llyn Dinam SAC |
|--|
| Site Description |
| <p>Llyn Dinam (9.7ha) is the northernmost of the complex of lakes that form the Llynau y Fali Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in west Anglesey. These lakes are shallow and characterised by relatively high nutrient levels. Llyn Dinam is the least impacted of the lakes and is managed by RSPB as a reserve.</p> <p>The important features of the site include standing water and wetland habitats as well the population of otters <i>Lutra lutra</i>. Other features include aquatic plants such as common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i>, rigid hornwort <i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i> and marsh fern <i>Thelypteris palustris</i>. White and yellow water-lilies <i>Nymphaea alba</i> and <i>Nuphar lutea</i> also dominate in a sheltered arm on the west side. In addition, the lake is known to support breeding and overwintering birds.</p> <p>Other habitats on site include dry grassland, humid and mesophile grassland and some broad-leaved deciduous woodland.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation ■ 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ 1355 Eurasian otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Modification of cultivation practices and fertilisation: intensive agriculture covers 75% of the catchment and as a result there is risk of fertiliser run-off into the lake and impact on nearby habitats, as well as impacts from abattoir waste on farmland. The lake was listed in a survey completed in 2016 to have 'either a 'quite certain' or 'very certain' confidence of eutrophication impact.³⁵ ■ Water pollution (to surface water and groundwater): Llyn Dinam is likely affected by eutrophication. Nutrients predominantly come from diffuse sources.³⁵ Other sources of inputs to the lake may be point sources such as septic tanks. There is evidence of elevated phosphorus at Llyn Dinam, with potential ecological impacts on the freshwater plant and diatom communities. ■ Invasive non-native species: the presence of water fern <i>Azolla filiculoides</i> and duckweed such as <i>Lemna minuta</i> is unfavourable under JNCC Common Standards Monitoring (CSM) guidelines. Other invasive non-native species are unlikely to become established in open water due to wind-stress, but they do pose a threat to small, sheltered pools within the extensive reed swamp to the south and east of the lake. Pondweed <i>Elodea canadensis</i> is present, but remains at low cover values.³⁶ |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>The Eurasian otter, a qualifying species of this SAC, is dependent on freshwater habitats and other species. This means consideration should be given to these habitats and species, although non-qualifying, as they impact a qualifying feature.</p> |

³⁵ Natural Resources Wales (2016) Evidence Review of Lake Eutrophication in Wales. Accessible at:

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-01/160929-evidence-review-of-welsh-lake-nitrate-vulnerable-zones-en.pdf>

³⁶ Natural Resources Wales (2018) Ecological Surveys of Welsh Lakes. Accessible at: <https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/media/689953/nrw-evidence-report-no-343-ecological-surveys-of-welsh-lakes-2018.pdf>

| Llyn Dinam SAC |
|--|
| <p>This includes the prey species e.g., fish and amphibians on which otters feed, and the food chain in its entirety. In addition, otters rely on an abundance of dense bankside vegetation for refugia, as well as protected areas to support breeding and resting within the site. The quality of supporting freshwater habitat should be maintained and improved where possible, and there should be no significant artificial barriers to the safe passage and movement of otters into, within and away from the site.</p> <p>Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation, a qualifying habitat of this SAC, are characterised by higher nutrient levels and productivity than other waterbodies and the presence of particular plant communities such as pondweeds <i>Potamogeton</i> spp., spiked water-milfoil <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>, yellow water-lily <i>Nuphar lutea</i>, and occasionally by associations of stoneworts <i>Chara</i> spp. The over-enrichment of this habitat, however, can lead to hypertrophic conditions and a decline in species richness.</p> <p>Transition mires can be characterised by core vegetation in the United Kingdom including bottle sedge <i>Carex rostrata</i>, peat moss <i>Sphagnum recurvum</i>, spiky bog-moss <i>Sphagnum squarrosum</i>, fen peatmoss <i>Sphagnum warnstorffii</i> etc. The protection of these plant communities is vital as they influence the condition of the mires.</p> |

| Cemlyn Bay SAC |
|--|
| Site Description |
| <p>Cemlyn Bay (25ha) supports a relatively diverse set of species, several of which are specific to lagoons, including the bryozoan <i>Conopeum seurati</i>, the lagoon cockle <i>Cerastoderma glaucum</i> and the lagoonal mud-snail <i>Ventrosia ventrosa</i>. A number of uncommon plant species are also found within the lagoon, including the brackish water-crowfoot <i>Ranunculus baudotii</i> and beaked tasselweed <i>Ruppia maritima</i>.</p> <p>The site is designated for its coastal lagoon, for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom, and perennial vegetation of stony banks for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Other habitats include sea cliffs, islets, tidal rivers, estuaries, mud flats, sand flats, humid grassland and mesophile grassland.</p> <p>The site is largely owned by the National Trust and is managed by North Wales Wildlife Trust. It forms part of Ynys Feurig, Cemlyn Bay & The Skerries Special Protection Area (SPA), also known as Anglesey Terns SPA, which is considered separately in this report. As a result, for this site, only the qualifying features of the SAC will be covered with the knowledge that any impacts on birds from the new Local Development Plan that apply to Anglesey Terns SPA will also apply to Cemlyn Bay SAC.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1150 Coastal lagoons ■ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fertilisation: the prevalence of agriculture in Anglesey means there is risk of fertiliser run-off as well as impacts from abattoir waste on farmland that can impact habitats at Cemlyn Bay SAC. ■ Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions: this is often referred to as inappropriate water levels and encompasses a range of issues which relate to water and flood management, agriculture and land management such as drainage, historic water abstraction infrastructure and abstraction itself, as well as erosion control. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and |

| Cemlyn Bay SAC |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>The plant community of stony banks will be influenced by several factors including the salinity of the water in the lagoon and the physical landscape which could affect exposure to waves and/or salt spray. For example, where wave energy causes movement of the shingle, the plant communities have affinities with 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines and where sea spray is blown over the shingle, plant communities with salt-tolerant species such as thrift <i>Armeria maritima</i> and sea campion <i>Silene uniflora</i> occur. Plant communities can also be influenced by natural cycles of degeneration and regeneration of the vegetation.</p> |

| Anglesey Fens SAC and Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar |
|--|
| Site Description |
| <p>Anglesey Fens (465ha) is the second largest area of calcareous fen in the United Kingdom and comprises several designated sites including Cors Erddreiniog SSSI, Cors Goch SSSI, Cors Bodeilio SSSI, Cors y Farl SSSI, Gwenfro Rhos y Gad SSSI, Waun Eurad SSSI and Caeau Talwrn SSSI. The site also includes some of the best examples of alkaline fen in Wales along with oligotrophic (nutrient-poor) lakes. Other habitats include heathland, dry grassland, mixed woodland, bogs, and marshes.</p> <p>Anglesey Fens SAC overlaps with Anglesey and Llyn Fens, a Ramsar site, and therefore these sites share a Core Management Plan, as well as encompassing many of the same habitats. Anglesey and Llyn Fens comprises wetland habitats notable as the best sites in Wales for stoneworts such as <i>Nitella tenuissima</i>, a species that thrives in calcareous, freshwater environments.</p> <p>Anglesey Fens supports a variety of species, many of which are qualifying features of the SAC, including one of the largest known populations of Geyer's whorl snail <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> in calcareous fen at low altitude and Eurasian otters <i>Lutra lutra</i>. Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar has two qualifying features shared with the SAC and these are alkaline fens and calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ■ 7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> (also a Ramsar feature) ■ 7230 Alkaline fens (also a Ramsar feature) ■ 1044 Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> ■ 1065 Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ■ 1355 Eurasian otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> ■ 1166 Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> ■ 1013 Geyer's whorl snail <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pollution to surface waters and groundwater: as discussed above for Llyn Dinam SAC, pollution in wetland habitats which is likely caused by agricultural run-off of nitrate and phosphate for this site, increase the risks of eutrophication. |

Anglesey Fens SAC and Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar

This can disrupt vegetation growth and have trophic-level impacts, particularly for species which are adapted for nutrient-poor environments.

- Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions: past attempts at drainage and the maintenance of lowered water levels in parts of the site damaged some areas of fen, a qualifying feature of this site.
- Mowing/cutting of grassland: The management of grassland is important to prevent the fen from becoming dominated by *Cladium mariscus*. A light grazing regime by heavy livestock rather than mechanical mowing is considered to be most effective for the site to maintain areas of open sward.

Conservation Objectives

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend

As discussed above for Llyn Dinam SAC, otters are dependent on freshwater habitats, suitable vegetated areas to provide refugia and the prey species on which they feed such as fish and amphibians, as well as the food chain in its entirety.

Great crested newts require both suitable terrestrial and freshwater habitat. Breeding ponds should be extensively vegetated with a submerged plant cover of about two thirds of the pond and emergent/floating vegetation cover of one quarter to one half of a pond.³⁷ Less vegetated areas are also important to facilitate male displays during the mating season. Furthermore, terrestrial habitats should include dense ground cover such as rough grassland, leaf litter and woodland. The newts also depend on the invertebrate species on which they feed and as a result, the connected habitats/species on which the prey species depend on.

Southern damselflies, as with all damselflies, feed on insects such as mosquitoes, butterflies and moths. They rely on shallow freshwater habitats for breeding, with particular preferences for alkaline conditions.

The marsh fritillary butterfly is found in a range of habitats in which its larval food plant, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, occurs. Optimal marsh fritillary breeding habitat will be characterised by grassland where the vegetation height is 10-20cm, and includes marshy grassland and damp pastures and heaths.

The Geyer's whorl snail can be found in alkaline and calcareous fens, with preferred habitats comprising dense cover of low-growing grasses and sedges relatively free from *Sphagnum* and other mosses. Species that have been found in these habitats are black bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans* and yellow sedge *Carex viridula*.

European dry heaths typically occur on freely-draining, acidic to circumneutral soils with generally low nutrient content and ericaceous dwarf-shrubs as the dominant vegetation. The most common is heather *Calluna vulgaris*, which often occurs in combination with gorse *Ulex* spp., bilberry *Vaccinium* spp. or bell heather *Erica cinerea*, though other dwarf-shrubs are important locally. Similarly, wet heaths also usually occur on acidic, nutrient-poor substrates, such as shallow peats or sandy soils, however with impeded drainage. The vegetation is typically dominated by mixtures of cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, heather, grasses, sedges and *Sphagnum* bog-mosses.

Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils depend on moist and moderately alkaline conditions within the peat and are often components of wet pastures or fens. Purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* amongst other species can be found in this habitat. Other qualifying habitats on this site such as hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp., calcareous fens and alkaline fens are also characterised by their alkaline conditions.

Calcareous fens are a rare habitat in the United Kingdom, with small areas scattered throughout, however the majority of area is within East Anglia and Anglesey. These habitats are species-rich with great fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus* present and are often found in mosaics with other fen types such as alkaline fens.

³⁷ Froglife (2001) Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook. Available at: https://www.froglife.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/GCN-Conservation-Handbook_compressed.pdf

| Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC |
|---|
| Site Description |
| <p>Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes (1869ha) is designated for the various dune habitats on site, many of which are considered to be one of the best areas for these habitats in the United Kingdom. The dunes support different plant communities including petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> and shore dock <i>Rumex rupestris</i>, qualifying features of this site. Other habitats on site include sand beaches, shingle, sea cliffs, islets, inland water bodies, bogs, marshes, fens, heath and coniferous woodland.</p> <p>Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC is adjacent to and in some areas overlaps with Glan-traeth SAC and Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC. As a result, a single Core Management Plan covers all three European sites, however they are reported on separately. Parts of the Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC are also within the Anglesey Terns Special Protection Area (SPA) which is also reported on separately. For this site, only the qualifying features of the SAC will be covered with the knowledge that any impacts on birds from the new Local Development Plan that apply to Anglesey Terns SPA will also apply to Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") ■ 2150 Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) ■ 2170 Dunes with <i>Salix repens ssp. argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) ■ 2190 Humid dune slacks ■ 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation ■ 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs ■ 1395 Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> ■ 1441 Shore dock <i>Rumex rupestris</i> ■ 1166 Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Changes in abiotic conditions: coastal habitats are at particular risk of changes related to climate change. This includes rises in sea level and changes to groundwater tables which impact dunes and dune slacks. ■ Forest planting on open ground: afforestation of non-native conifers on dune systems have altered the ecological development of dunes, however offer suitable terrestrial habitats for great crested newt. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>The different qualifying dunes are dependent on vegetation to create and support dune structures, as well as specialised plants such as marram grass <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> which tolerate sand inundation and trap further sand. As dune soils are</p> |

| Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC |
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| <p>low in nutrients/fertility, vegetation in these habitats are adapted for these conditions. In addition, dune slacks are dependent on the groundwater table, and the distribution and conditions of these habitats are affected by water.</p> <p>As discussed above for Llyn Dinam SAC, transition mires and quaking bogs can be characterised by core vegetation and these plant communities are integral to the conditions of the mires. Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation are characterised by higher nutrient levels and productivity than other waterbodies and the presence of particular plant communities. These habitats are at risk of pollution causing hypertrophic conditions.</p> <p>Petalworts depend on open, damp (but not water-filled) calcareous dune slacks and have occasionally also been found on banks and coastal grassland with similar conditions. Interestingly, recreational pressure on some sites have increased numbers as a result of trampling and soil compaction.</p> <p>The shore dock plant grows on rocky, sandy and raised beaches, shore platforms and the lower slopes of cliffs, requiring a constant source of freshwater, whether running or static. Populations are known to fluctuate with the severity of winter storms and the plant is sensitive to the impacts of recreational pressure.</p> |

| Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC |
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| Site Description |
| <p>Menai Strait and Conwy Bay (26,502ha) covers a marine area between mainland Wales and Anglesey, designated for marine habitats such as sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Other qualifying habitats include mudflats and sandflats, estuaries, large shallow inlets and bays for which the site is considered to support a significant presence, reefs and submerged or partially submerged sea caves. Other habitats on site include lagoons, salt marshes, shingle, sea cliffs and islets. There are multiple qualifying species for this site, including grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> and migratory fish.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time ■ 1130 Estuaries ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) ■ 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves ■ 1102 Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i> ■ 1103 Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> ■ 1364 Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ■ 1099 European river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ■ 1095 Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources: there is a history of fishing in this area which has previously impacted fish species such as shad through bycatch, and impacted boulder habitats from crab fishing. ■ Invasive non-native species: these pose a threat to the reefs since they may smother the seabed or out-compete native species, resulting in changes to community structure. |
| Conservation Objectives |

| Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC |
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| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>The migratory fish species (allis shad, twaite shad, European river lamprey and sea lamprey) all depend on freshwater habitats to spawn while completing most, if not all, their life cycle in the sea. All species require clean gravel/rocky river substrates for spawning, and lampreys require marginal silt or sand for the burrowing juvenile ammocoetes, where they filter feed on diatoms, algae and bacteria. Both allis shad and twaite shad are dependent on marine crustaceans and small fish as a food source. All of these species are dependent on the habitats and species that affect their prey abundance. Pollution and physical barriers such as dams may impede migration and is therefore, an important consideration.</p> <p>Grey seals spend most of the year at sea, and may range widely in search of prey species which are predominantly fish. They come ashore in autumn to form breeding colonies on rocky shores, beaches, in caves, occasionally on sandbanks, and on small largely uninhabited islands. In such locations they may spread some distance from the shore and ascend to considerable heights.</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows are characterised by salt-tolerant vegetation and can differ widely in terms of species composition with changes in climate, frequency and duration of tidal inundation, grazing influences and locations within the saltmarsh itself. <i>Juncus maritimus</i> communities are characteristic of Welsh saltmarshes.</p> |

| Holy Island Coast SAC and SPA |
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| Site Description |
| <p>There are overlaps between Holy Island Coast SAC (464ha) and Holy Island Coast SPA (608ha) and as a result they are considered together. The SPA supports a significant number of breeding choughs <i>Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax</i>, for which the site is designated, and the SAC includes qualifying features such as wet and dry heaths, and vegetated sea cliffs. Other habitats include shingle, islets, bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation, fens, scrub, humid grassland, mesophile grassland, inland rocks and screes. The nationally rare spotted rock-rose <i>Tuberaria guttata</i> occurs within the mosaic of heath and grassland communities above the cliffs.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A346 Chough <i>Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax</i> (SPA qualifying feature) ■ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves ■ 1364 Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fire and fire suppression: there is a history of burning on site including both controlled burns and uncontrolled burns from third parties. Burning damages the bryophyte layer and encourages a vigorous re-growth of more competitive, fire-resistant species such as purple moor-grass. |

| Holy Island Coast SAC and SPA |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Grazing: the heath and grassland on site require light grazing to maintain a good open structure to support important plant species and to prevent the heath from becoming dominated by scrub, bracken and gorse. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>Choughs are dependent on key habitats such as dry heath, sea cliffs for nesting and short grassland for foraging, as well as invertebrate species such as leatherjackets <i>Tipula</i> spp. on which they feed on.</p> <p>Grey seals, as discussed above for Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC, depend on prey fish species as well as habitats to form breeding colonies such as shores, beaches, in caves, occasionally on sandbanks, and on small largely uninhabited islands.</p> |

| Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC |
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| Site Description |
| <p>Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh (1057ha) is adjacent to and in some areas overlaps with Glan-traeth SAC and Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC. As a result, a single Core Management Plan covers all three European sites.</p> <p>Qualifying habitats include estuaries for which the area is considered to support a significant presence, <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand, which are important for structural integrity in dune environments and for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom, as well as Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) for which this site is also considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Other habitats on site include lagoons, salt marshes, shingle and islets.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1130 Estuaries ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts ■ 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand ■ 1320 <i>Spartina</i> swards (<i>Spartina maritima</i>) ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Changes in abiotic conditions: coastal habitats are at particular risk of changes related to climate change. This includes rises in sea level and changes to groundwater tables which impact dunes and saltmarshes. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> |

| Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>Atlantic salt meadows are characterised by salt-tolerant vegetation and can differ widely in terms of species composition with changes in climate, frequency and duration of tidal inundation, grazing influences and locations within the saltmarsh itself. <i>Juncus maritimus</i> communities are characteristic of Welsh saltmarshes.</p> |

| Glan-traeth SAC |
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| Site Description |
| <p>Glan-traeth SAC (14ha) is adjacent to and in some areas overlaps with Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh and Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC. As a result, a single Core Management Plan covers all three European sites.</p> <p>This site is designated for its great crested newt population <i>Triturus cristatus</i>, for which it is considered one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. In addition, fixed coastal dunes are a qualifying feature of this site with other habitats also present such as sand beaches, dune slacks and inland water bodies, which support the population of great crested newts.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") ■ 1166 Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ecological succession: the process of succession can often lead to the drying out of important terrestrial and freshwater habitats for great crested newt and if improperly managed could result in the loss of key dune slack or pond habitats which support egg-laying and lekking. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>As discussed above for Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC, dune habitats are dependent on vegetation and a combination of wind/water for their development and structural integrity.</p> <p>Great crested newts require both suitable terrestrial and freshwater habitat. Breeding ponds should be extensively vegetated with a submerged plant cover of about two thirds of the pond and emergent/floating vegetation cover of one quarter to one half of a pond.³⁷ Less vegetated areas are also important to facilitate male displays during the mating season. Furthermore, terrestrial habitats should include dense ground cover such as rough grassland, leaf litter and woodland. The newts also depend on the invertebrate species on which they feed and as a result, the connected habitats/species on which the prey species depend on.</p> |

| North Anglesey Marine SAC |
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| Site Description |
| North Anglesey Marine (324,949ha) is a large marine area extending north-west from the Isle of Anglesey into the Irish Sea and is designated for its harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> populations, with the site providing good foraging habitat that may also be used for breeding and calving. |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1351 Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources: there is risk of harbour porpoises having to compete with commercial fisheries for food, as well as the potential bycatch of harbour porpoises which would directly impact the species population within North Anglesey Marine. ■ Contaminants: discharge/run-off from landfill and terrestrial/offshore industries could impact water quality and prey species, as well as the health of harbour porpoises. ■ Other human intrusions and disturbances: these are particularly noise related such as through military activity and boating activity that could lead to physiological and behavioural impacts such as an inability or hindrance to navigate, socialise and detect predators, potentially leading to displacement. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>Porpoises eat a variety of prey including gobies, sandeel, whiting, herring and sprat (some of which may have spawning grounds within the North Anglesey Marine site), and are therefore dependent on any processes that affect prey abundance. They have large ranges and can be found in both shallow and deeper waters.</p> |

| Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC |
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| Site Description |
| <p>Creuddyn Peninsula Woods (118ha) comprises Gloddaeth SSSI, Marle Hall Woods SSSI, Coed Bron Garth SSSI and Pydew SSSI. The site is a woodland habitat on limestone bedrock with a primarily ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> and sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> canopy with a calcareous understorey and ground flora. Characteristic species including dog's mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i>, hart's-tongue <i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i> and spurge laurel <i>Daphne laureola</i>. Yew <i>Taxus baccata</i> dominates locally, and there are gradations to oak <i>Quercus petraea</i> woodland. In places there are also mosaics with rich calcareous grassland containing rare species, including orchids.</p> <p>Lesser horseshoe bats <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> are also a qualifying feature of this site.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9180 <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) |

| Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8240 Limestone pavements (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ 8310 Caves not open to the public (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ 9130 <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ 91J0 <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles ■ 1303 Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mowing/cutting grassland: grassland is improperly managed and as a result areas of calcareous grassland are in unfavourable condition due to the presence of scrub and non-native species. Scrub removal should be carried out and mowing of the grassland as required. ■ Recreational pressure: some areas of the woodland are subject to trampling by walkers that damage the ground flora. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>Lesser horseshoe bats are cave-dwelling and are found in the caves and mine shafts present on site. However they are also found to roost within the roofs and cellars of buildings as well as tunnels. They feed on insects such as flies, moths, beetles and spiders and are dependent on processes that affect prey species, particularly after hibernation where energy demands are higher.³⁸</p> |

| Eifionydd Fens SAC |
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| Site Description |
| <p>Eifionydd Fens (144ha) comprises 4 SSSIs: Cors Graianog SSSI, Cors Gyfelog SSSI/NNR, Cors Llanllyfni SSSI and Cors y Wlad SSSI, with qualifying habitats including mires, bog woodland and other wetland habitats. The site supports the most significant population of marsh fritillary butterfly in North Wales and supports slender green feather-moss and Atlantic salmon, all of which are qualifying species for the site.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs ■ 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) |

³⁸ Bat Conservation Trust (2019) Lesser horseshoe bat. Available at: <https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats/what-are-bats/uk-bats/lesser-horseshoe>.

| Eifionydd Fens SAC |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ 91D0 Bog woodland (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ 1065 Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ■ 1393 Slender green feather-moss <i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i> ■ 1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Invasive non-native species: rhododendron is scattered over part of Cors Graianog, and removal is suggested by stem injection or cutting and stump treatment to prevent re-growth, seed production and further spread. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>Marsh fritillary butterflies, as discussed above for Anglesey Fens SAC, are dependent on their larval food plant, devil's-bit scabious <i>Succisa pratensis</i>. Optimal marsh fritillary breeding habitat will be characterised by grassland where the vegetation height is 10-20cm, and includes marshy grassland and damp pastures and heaths.</p> <p>Slender green feather-moss require open, wetland conditions where there is not excessive shading as well as alkaline conditions. The plants may grow with small sedges <i>Carex</i> spp., black bog-rush <i>Schoenus nigricans</i> and other characteristic mosses of base-rich flushes and fens, such as <i>Campylium stellatum</i>.</p> <p>Similar to the migratory fish described above for Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC, Atlantic salmon spend most of their life cycle in the sea and return to rivers to spawn. Atlantic salmon return to their native river, and even the same stretch of the river from which they were born, highlighting the importance of conserving these habitats. Juveniles feed on insects, invertebrates and sometimes plankton and adult fish feed on smaller fish such as capelin <i>Mallotus villosus</i>. Salmon are also dependent on trees and vegetation on river banks to support upstream movement, and woody debris is important in the formation of new gravel beds, providing cover.</p> |

| Great Orme's Head SAC |
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| Site Description |
| <p>Great Orme's Head (302ha) comprises vegetated sea cliffs, for which the site is designated as well as European dry heaths for which this site is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. The limestone headland extends to nearly 8km and reaches a height of 207m, providing a range of habitats for flora and fauna alike. Habitats include acid heath, humid grassland, limestone grassland, improved grassland, shingle, islets, inland rocks, sands as well as interesting infrastructure due to the site's history as a former mining and industrial site.</p> <p>The habitats support diverse plants species, the lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> within the disused caves and mine workings, a qualifying species of this site, and grassland invertebrates such as weevil <i>Helianthemapion aciculare</i> and pollen beetle <i>Meligethes brevis</i>. In addition, the sea cliffs regularly support a large colony of breeding sea birds of kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>, guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> and razorbill <i>Alca torda</i>.</p> |

| Great Orme's Head SAC |
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| There is also an extensive area of CG2 <i>Festuca ovina</i> – <i>Avenula pratensis</i> grassland. This is one of only three selected sites in the UK where this <i>Xerobromion</i> grassland type occurs. . |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) ■ 6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) ■ 8240 Limestone pavements ■ 8310 Caves not open to the public ■ 9180 <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines ■ 1303 Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fire and fire suppression: uncontrolled burning takes place in some areas, sometimes at inappropriate times of year often as a result of camping. If not used properly and linked to an appropriate grazing regime, it can lead to a vigorous re-growth of competitive, fire-resistant species such as western gorse <i>Ulex gallii</i>. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>Lesser horseshoe bats are cave-dwelling and are found in the caves and mines present on site. However they are also found to roost within the roofs and cellars of buildings as well as tunnels. They feed on insects such as flies, moths, beetles and spiders and are dependent on processes that affect prey species, particularly after hibernation where energy demands are higher.³⁸</p> |

| Snowdonia SAC and Llyn Idwal Ramsar |
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| Site Description |
| <p>Snowdonia (19,733ha) encompasses a diverse range of habitats with significant presences and is designated as a SAC due to these habitats and several qualifying species, including wetland habitats such as standing water, bogs and marshes, and several grassland habitats supporting different plant communities, as well as species such as slender green feather-moss <i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i> and Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>. Habitats of particular importance are montane habitats and species of particular importance are the associated arctic alpine plant communities and the Snowdon lily <i>Lloydia serotina</i>, which in the United Kingdom occurs only in Snowdonia, in rock cracks and crevices on calcareous and more siliceous substrates.</p> <p>Llyn Idwal (13.5ha), a Ramsar site, sits within the mountains of Snowdonia and therefore, these sites share a Core Management Plan. Llyn Idwal is an oligotrophic lake with plant species suitable for these habitats present including six-</p> |

| Snowdonia SAC and Llyn Idwal Ramsar |
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| <p>stamened waterwort <i>Elatine hexandra</i> which is nationally scarce and pillwort <i>Pilularia globulifera</i> which is vulnerable at a European level. The lake also supports several bird species.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 4060 Alpine and boreal heaths ■ 6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> ■ 6150 Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands ■ 6170 Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands ■ 6230 Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe) ■ 6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels ■ 7130 Blanket bogs ■ 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> ■ 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) ■ 7230 Alkaline fens ■ 7240 Alpine pioneer formations of the <i>Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae</i> ■ 8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) ■ 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation ■ 8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation ■ 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles ■ 1393 Slender green feather-moss <i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i> ■ 1831 Floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> ■ 1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Grazing of alpine plant communities: these communities are sensitive to damage from grazing stock and in some areas, particularly on ridges, from recreational pressures e.g. trampling by walkers. The more calcareous communities are highly palatable to stock and where accessible to sheep and goats are very susceptible to damage. The high altitude at which these habitats occur, in addition, makes recovery very slow. Other grazing pressures include feral goats on the upland oakwood as well as high levels of sheep grazing causing a decline of dwarf shrubs and <i>Racomitrium</i> moss. ■ Fishing: both Atlantic salmon and its prey species are susceptible to population impacts from fishing and as a result fishing in this area should be monitored. |
| Conservation Objectives |

| Snowdonia SAC and Llyn Idwal Ramsar |
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| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>Floating water-plantain have a consistent history of occurrence on this site, and can be found in freshwater habitats, which are predominantly nutrient-poor but can also be found in moderately nutrient-rich conditions. The plant thrives best in open situations with a moderate degree of disturbance, where the growth of emergent vegetation is held in check. Populations fluctuate greatly in size, often increasing when water levels drop to expose the bottom of the water body.</p> <p>Atlantic salmon spend most of their life cycle in the sea and return to rivers to spawn. Atlantic salmon return to their native river, and even the same stretch of the river from which they were born. Juveniles feed on insects, invertebrates and sometimes plankton and adult fish feed on smaller fish such as capelin <i>Mallotus villosus</i>. Salmon are also dependent on trees and vegetation on river banks to support upstream movement, and woody debris is important in the formation of new gravel beds, providing cover.</p> <p>Slender green feather-moss require open, wetland conditions where there is not excessive shading as well as alkaline conditions. The plants may grow with small sedges <i>Carex</i> spp., black bog-rush <i>Schoenus nigricans</i> and other characteristic mosses of base-rich flushes and fens, such as <i>Campylium stellatum</i>.</p> |

| Coedydd Aber SAC |
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| Site Description |
| <p>Coedydd Aber (346ha) is the largest continuous area of old sessile oak <i>Quercus petraea</i> wood along the north Wales coast, and considered one of the best areas for this habitat in the United Kingdom. The main woodland extends along a valley, rising steeply from near sea level (a vertical transition from coast to open mountain).</p> <p>The canopy consists largely of sessile oak and downy birch <i>Betula pubescens</i>, but there are intricate transitions to ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> woodland and extensive areas of alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> woodland. The ground flora is diverse, reflecting complex edaphic and management variations. There is a rich lower-plant flora in particular, including the rare mosses <i>Fissidens rufulus</i> and <i>Philonotis rigida</i>, and the lichens <i>Degelia plumbea</i> and <i>Lobaria amplissima</i>. The site is also important for its breeding bird assemblage.</p> <p>Other habitats on site include inland water bodies, humid grassland and coniferous woodland.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion</i> fluitantis and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles ■ 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) ■ 1355 Eurasian otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ 1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dutch elm disease has been recorded in this area and has impacted elm trees on site. |
| Conservation Objectives |

| Coedydd Aber SAC |
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| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>Atlantic salmon spend most of their life cycle in the sea and return to rivers to spawn. Juveniles feed on insects, invertebrates and sometimes plankton and adult fish feed on smaller fish such as capelin <i>Mallotus villosus</i>. Salmon are also dependent on trees and vegetation on river banks to support upstream movement, and woody debris is important in the formation of new gravel beds, providing cover.</p> <p>Otters are dependent on freshwater habitats, suitable vegetated areas to provide refugia and the prey species on which they feed such as fish and amphibians, as well as the food chain in its entirety.</p> |

| Glynllifon SAC |
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| Site Description |
| <p>Glynllifon (187ha) comprises large areas of mixed (deciduous and conifer) woodland, and structures such as buildings and old mine workings which are known to support both maternity and hibernating roosts of the lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>, a qualifying species for this site. These roosts are stated as one of the largest known roosts in Europe for the species. The bats use a much wider area, however, within the SAC and outside, for feeding and commuting. These important habitats include the woodland on site, as well as tree lines and hedgerows. In addition, known linked roosts have been recorded outside of the SAC boundary.</p> <p>Waterbodies on site also support Eurasian otters <i>Lutra lutra</i>, a qualifying species for this site.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1355 Eurasian otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ 1303 Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A487 – this trunk road has been linked to disturbance of the flight lines for lesser horseshoe bats and any changes/development should consider lesser horseshoe bats. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>Lesser horseshoe bats are typically cave-dwelling and are found in the buildings and mine shafts present on site. They feed on insects such as flies, moths, beetles and spiders and are dependent on processes that affect prey species, particularly after hibernation where energy demands are higher.</p> |

| Afon Gwyrfaï a Llyn Cwellyn SAC |
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| Site Description |
| <p>Afon Gwyrfaï a Llyn Cwellyn (112ha) is designated for its water bodies within the landscape of the mountains of Snowdonia. These include Llyn Cwellyn, an oligotrophic glacial lake, much larger and deeper than Llyn Idwal Ramsar (Llyn Cwellyn has an average depth of 23m), as well as smaller steeper watercourses, some of which are dominated by slightly acidic rock. These watercourses support diverse flora including floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i>, a qualifying species of this site and a feature that makes this site internationally significant, as well as migratory fish species and otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>, also qualifying species of this site. In addition, Llyn Cwellyn supports one of the few native Welsh populations of Arctic charr <i>Salvelinus alpinus</i>.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> ■ 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation ■ 1099 European river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ 1096 Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ 1831 Floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> ■ 1355 Eurasian otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> ■ 1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Invasive non-native species: this has been a regular issue with the site, whereby Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed have been identified along river banks. The removal of invasive non-native species is being managed but remains a key issue for the site. ■ There has been a slight acidification of Llyn Cwellyn, which requires further research and management but is thought to have arisen either as a result of background levels or through forestry operations within the catchment. It is important to reverse the acidification as this could have consequences for species reliant on this habitat, and cause changes in the species composition of the lake. ■ Pollution: diffuse pollution and siltation from agriculture, including fertiliser run-off, livestock manure, silage effluent and soil erosion should be monitored. The most intensively used areas such as heavily trampled gateways and tracks can be especially significant sources of polluting run-off. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>The Atlantic salmon population is largely unexploited and has a characteristically late run. Salmon require trees and vegetation on river banks to support upstream movement, and woody debris is important in the formation of new gravel beds, providing cover and a source of food for invertebrates, a prey species for juveniles. The salmon are also dependent on other prey species and the interactions and processes that affect prey abundance.</p> |

| Afon Gwyrfai a Llyn Cwellyn SAC |
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| <p>Like the salmon, European river lamprey and sea lamprey depend on freshwater habitats to spawn while completing most, if not all, their life cycle in the sea. They require clean gravel/rocky river substrates for spawning and marginal silt or sand for the burrowing juvenile ammocoetes, where they filter feed on diatoms, algae and bacteria.</p> <p>Floating water-plantain can be found in freshwater habitats, which are predominantly nutrient-poor but can also be found in moderately nutrient-rich conditions. The plant thrives best in open situations with a moderate degree of disturbance, where the growth of emergent vegetation is held in check. Populations fluctuate greatly in size, often increasing when water levels drop to expose the bottom of the water body. The diversity of growth forms and their range across the Cwellyn-Gwyrfai makes this an internationally significant site for the species.</p> <p>The abundance of prey and widespread availability of undisturbed resting and breeding sites including vegetated areas, allows an otter population to thrive. They are found along the entire length of the river and its main tributaries.</p> |

| Puffin Island SPA |
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| Site Description |
| <p>Puffin Island (31ha) is designated as a SPA supporting breeding populations of great cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>. The site is a carboniferous limestone block rising to 55m with steep cliffs on all sides and comprises other habitats such as shingle, sea cliffs, islets, heath, scrub and humid grassland. Other nesting seabirds also breed on the cliffs and open grassland areas, including guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> and puffins <i>Fratercula arctica</i>.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A017 Great cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Interspecific faunal relations: this includes interspecific competition between breeding birds and seabirds that use the site, including predation pressures and food availability. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>Great cormorants are dependent on the site for breeding and foraging habitat in the surrounding marine areas outside of the SPA, as well as the prey fish species which form their diet.</p> |

| Anglesey Terns SPA |
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| Site Description |
| <p>Anglesey Terns (101,931ha) is designated for supporting significant numbers of breeding populations of roseate, common, Arctic and sandwich terns. The site is largely a marine area with a small area of the site within the Isle of Anglesey. Typical coastal habitats are present within the SPA include estuaries, tidal rivers, sea cliffs, islets, shingle as well as salt marshes, bogs, heath and scrub. The site includes various SSSIs and Cemlyn Bay SAC, which is considered separately in this report.</p> |

| Anglesey Terns SPA |
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| The SPA was extended recently to take into account the species' protection requirements at sea, noting that the United Kingdom's obligations to identify SPAs applies equally to the land and sea area. The extension includes an area off the east coast of Anglesey which lies within the Liverpool Bay SPA. |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A192 Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ■ A193 Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ■ A194 Arctic tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ■ A191 Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There is a possibility of competition between terns and gulls for nesting areas. Expansion of the area occupied by breeding gulls has the potential to reduce the viability of the tern colony through direct occupation of nesting areas. ■ Changes in abiotic conditions: long-term changes in sea-surface temperature may be partly responsible for the consistent and continued decline of fish stocks, which would become less available to terns. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>Terns have a diet of predominately sand eels, sprats and whiting. Any impacts on prey abundance will therefore impact terns, such as unsustainable fishing of prey species. There is also some evidence that cetaceans can be significant in driving fish to the surface where they are available to terns. Changes in cetacean numbers or behaviour might therefore have a knock-on effect on terns.</p> |

| Liverpool Bay SPA |
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| Site Description |
| <p>Liverpool Bay (252,758ha) lies in both English and Welsh territorial waters and in offshore UK waters and forms part of the National Sites Network. As a result, information from Natural England was also used for this site.</p> <p>The site is designated for breeding populations of common tern <i>Sterna Hirundo</i> and little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> and non-breeding populations of little gull <i>Larus minutus</i>, red-throated diver <i>Gavia stellata</i> and common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>. A small area of the SPA is within the Isle of Anglesey, encompassing habitats such as mud flats, sandflats, lagoons and estuaries, however the majority of the site is the surrounding marine area.</p> <p>Liverpool Bay protects the largest aggregation of common scoters, supports the second largest known population of little gulls in the United Kingdom, and the third largest aggregation of red-throated divers. It also supports foraging areas for nearly 7% of the United Kingdom population of little terns, and nearly 2% of the population of common terns. Generally the site is important for sea birds, and another feature, while not qualifying, is the waterbird assemblage which includes great cormorants and red-breasted merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>.</p> <p>The site is adjacent to other European sites including Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA, and overlaps with European sites such as Puffin Island SPA (which it also entirely surrounds) and Anglesey Terns SPA.</p> |

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| Liverpool Bay SPA |
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| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A001 Red-throated diver <i>Gavia stellata</i> ■ A177 Little gull <i>Larus minutus</i> ■ A065 Common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ■ A195 Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ■ A193 Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The seabirds on site are particularly sensitive to disturbance and displacement as a result of human presence, fishing vessels and wind farms which is discussed within the main body of the report. ■ Predation from foxes, kestrels, carrion crows and magpies, are widely reported to cause colony failure or at least severe reduction to breeding success, and should be managed. ■ Natural erosion and encroachment of vegetation have in many places reduced the area of suitable nesting habitat, particularly for little terns which habitually nest very close to the high-water mark. Tidal inundation during storm surges, as a result, is a frequent cause of nest loss. Furthermore, given predictions of future sea level rise and increase in storminess, these threats would be expected to become increasingly prevalent. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>Red-throated divers are wintering birds on this site, dependent on the prey species on which they feed on, including various flatfish, herring, gobies, sand eels and sprat, and the habitats on which the prey species utilise. These include the sandbanks of Liverpool bay and both shallow and deep waters.</p> <p>Common scoters are also wintering birds on this site, wintering at numbers which are of European significance. These birds tend to prefer shallow waters and utilise seabeds to feed predominantly on cockles, clams and other bivalves. As a result, they are sensitive to any impacts on their main food source. They also feed on a variety of molluscs, crustaceans and worms.</p> <p>Little gulls are also wintering birds on this site and roost at sea within Liverpool Bay. There is limited information on the diets of little gulls but they have been found to consume insects, crustaceans, comb jellies and molluscs, and therefore depend on the habitats of these prey species and any impacts on them.</p> <p>Common terns breed on site and use intertidal habitats when inundated, as well as the deeper water column for foraging. Key foraging areas within the SPA include shallow subtidal waters, generally within 18km of breeding colonies. They feed on small fish as well as invertebrates with sprat, herring and sand eels of particular importance.</p> <p>Little terns usually nests on beaches and lagoon islands of shingle, sand, or shells sometimes only metres from the high tide mark. This makes them susceptible to predation, human disturbance, and tidal inundation and they are known to abandon nests when pressures are high. Little terns feed on small fish and crustaceans caught inshore, and occasionally from coastal freshwater bodies. In addition, feeding tends to occur within 5km which makes them especially susceptible to impacts on prey species. The coastal waters of the SPA are also used for a wide range of maintenance activities such as bathing and preening.</p> |

| Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA |
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| Site Description |
| <p>Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay (2703ha) lies in the south of Anglesey comprising mud flats, sand flats, lagoons, salt marshes and other habitats typical of coastal areas. The site is designated for the overwintering population of Eurasian oystercatchers <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>, great crested grebes <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> which gather to moult on the site, as well as several other birds such as red-breasted mergansers <i>Mergus serrator</i>, Eurasian curlews <i>Numenius arquata</i>, and common redshanks <i>Tringa tetanus</i>, all of which are qualifying features of the SPA.</p> |
| Qualifying Features |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A130 Eurasian oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ■ A069 Red-breasted merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ A160 Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ A005 Great crested grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) ■ A162 Common redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> (only listed as a qualifying feature under the JNCC Standard Data Form) |
| Key Vulnerabilities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The main risk to the population of oystercatchers arises from human disturbance associated with the cockle fishery. Human disturbance and recreational pressures, generally, is a threat to all the qualifying species. |
| Conservation Objectives |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. |
| Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend |
| <p>Eurasian oystercatchers are dependent on their main food source, cockles, and the habitats and species which impact their abundance, as well as the impacts of overfishing. This applies to all the qualifying species, whereby great-crested grebes and red-breasted mergansers are dependent on the fish species on which they feed on, and curlews and redshanks are dependent on worms, shellfish and shrimps, their main food source.</p> |

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| Isle of Anglesey County Council | |
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| Report to: | Planning Policy Committee |
| Date: | 11 th June 2025 |
| Subject: | Ynys Môn and Gwynedd JLDP – Update on preparation of Annual Monitoring Report |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | Cllr. Nicola Roberts (Planning, Public Protection and Climate Change) |
| Head of Service / Director: | Christian Branch Head of Regulation & Economic Development Service |
| Report Author: | John I. Williams (Planning Policy Manager) |
| Tel: | |
| E-mail: | JohnWilliams2@ynysmon.llyw.cymru |
| Local Members: | Applicable to all Elected Members |

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Update members on the progress of work relating to compiling the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for the period April 2024-March 2025.

2.0 Decision required

2.1 The report is submitted for information only.

3.0 Background and relevant considerations

3.1 Sub-section 76 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that Local Planning Authorities produce an AMR for their Local Development Plan (LDP). The current development plan that is effective on Anglesey is the Ynys Mon and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP). Monitoring of the policies contained in the JLDP must be undertaken over the plan's lifetime, namely from 2017 to its expiry date of 2026.

3.2 As part of the reporting process, there is a requirement to monitor all housing development granted planning permission which, in turn, will contribute to the evidence base for the preparation of future housing policy in subsequent LDPs.

3.3 The Planning Policy Team undertook a series of visits to sites with extant planning permission during the week commencing 19 May 2025 to ascertain the number of units that had either been commenced, were under construction or had been completed. Most sites were visited during the appointed week with

the remaining site visits to be carried out during the week commencing 2 June 2025.

- 3.4 The next step in the process will be to feed the data gathered into the QGIS mapping system before the final data relating to unit commencement and/or completions can be extracted and analysed. The data extracted will provide a record of the number of units that were completed over the monitoring period and will be used to update landbank numbers. The latter element will prove critical in informing the number of units that will be required for the provision of residential units in the new LDP.
- 3.5 Once the data has been inputted, extracted and analysed the formal report for the attention of Welsh Government can be compiled and reported to the Planning Policy Committee for its endorsement prior to its submission to Welsh Government.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 That the report be accepted by Committee members on the basis that the formal AMR will be reported to the Committee for formal endorsement in September 2025 prior to its submission to Welsh Government before the deadline of 31 October 2025.