

# PENTIR ENERGY STORAGE

## Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)



Pentir Energy Storage  
Landscape and Visual  
Impact Assessment  
April 2024

## REPORT

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## General

- 1.1 RPS has been commissioned by Lightsource bp to prepare a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to accompany a planning application (the Application) for a proposed Energy Storage System (ESS) (Proposed Development), on land located to the northwest of the existing Pentir substation, accessed from a minor road off the B4547 (the Application Site).
- 1.2 The Application Site, including access, totals an area of approximately 2.57 hectares, of which, the built area is limited to approximately 1.2 hectares.
- 1.3 The objective of the LVIA is to identify the likelihood of the Proposed Development giving rise to significant landscape and/or visual effects, and to propose effective and appropriate measures to mitigate such effects.
- 1.4 This LVIA has been completed by a suitably qualified Principal Landscape Architect and Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI).

## Baseline Methodology

- 1.5 For this LVIA, a desktop review of published information, including landscape character assessments, OS data, online mapping data, aerial photography and local planning documents was undertaken. To further inform the LVIA, representative views looking towards the Application Site were selected. Figures have been produced to support the LVIA as follows:
  - Figure 1: Landscape Planning Designations;
  - Figure 2: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (including Representative Viewpoint locations);
  - Figure 3: Representative Viewpoints;
  - Figure 4: National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA);
  - Figure 5: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas;
  - Figure 6: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory (Overall Evaluation);
  - Figure 7: LANDMAP Habitats Aspect Areas;
  - Figure 8: LANDMAP Cultural Aspect Areas;
  - Figure 9: LANDMAP Geology Aspect Areas;
  - Figure 10: LANDMAP Historic Aspect Areas;
  - Figure 11: Local Landscape Character Areas.
- 1.6 A site visit was carried out on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to record views from the selected Representative Viewpoints and other publicly accessible locations, as well as to gain an understanding of the local landscape character. Fieldwork assisted in the assessment of the potential effects on the landscape character of the Application Site and surrounding landscape, as well as on visual receptors.
- 1.7 The relevant planning background and policies are outlined below in Section 2 of the LVIA (paragraphs 2.1 to 2.18). The landscape baseline is outlined in Section 3 (paragraphs 3.1 to 3.42) together with the visual baseline (paragraphs 3.40 to 3.76).

## Assessment Methodology

- 1.8 The assessment methodology used to complete this LVIA is detailed at Appendix B: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology. This is summarised within Diagram 1, in Section 5 of this LVIA report. It is based on the following best practice guidance and documents:
- Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition* (May 2013).
  - Landscape Institute *Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations* (May 2021).
  - Landscape Institute, *Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals* (September 2019).
  - Planning Policy Wales, *LANDMAP Guidance Note 1: LANDMAP and Special Landscape Areas* (2016).
  - Planning Policy Wales, *LANDMAP Guidance Note 3* (2013).
- 1.9 The LVIA provides an overview of the existing or baseline conditions, and then assesses the potential significant effects of the Proposed Development upon baseline conditions during its operational phase only. This is undertaken through consideration of the sensitivity of the resources/receptor to the impact of the Proposed Development. The construction phase of the Proposed Development would be temporary in nature and not considered to give rise to any significant effects. As the development progresses the level of effect would be similar or the same to that of winter Year 1, at operation. A consideration of the construction phase has therefore not been included within the LVIA.
- 1.10 The introduction of built form to a site without any/many buildings will result in landscape and/or visual change. This report identifies whether these changes are significant or not in terms of the physical landscape and its character, and when viewed by visual receptors (people) from the surrounding countryside.

## Study Area

- 1.11 For the purposes of this LVIA the Study Area extends to 3 km from the outer edges of the Application Site in all directions. While it will be theoretically possible to see the Proposed Development beyond the 3 km Study Area, given the site location and nature of Proposed Development, it is considered that there would be no scope for significant effects to arise beyond this distance. Sensitive landscape and visual receptors within the 3 km Study Area, as defined by the extent of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (Figure 2), have been included for assessment in the LVIA.

## Limitations of the Landscape and Visual Assessments

- 1.12 The visual assessment has been based on analysis of OS mapping of the Application Site and the surrounding area and on a field survey of views towards the Application Site from publicly accessible viewpoints in the surrounding landscape. Although every effort has been made to include viewpoints in sensitive locations and locations from which the Proposed Development would be most visible, not all public viewpoints from which the Proposed Development would be seen have necessarily been included in the assessment.
- 1.13 The visual assessment and associated field work was carried out during late Summer / early Autumn 2023 (October) with near full foliage on deciduous trees and hedgerows. Views towards the Proposed Development may increase during the winter months with the absence of foliage on trees and hedgerows and conversely decrease during the summer months with trees and

hedgerows in full leaf. Given the timing of the field work, professional judgement has been used to anticipate the likely visibility of the Proposed Development during the winter months.

- 1.14 With the exception of the Application Site itself, where necessary, no access to private land or property was obtained during the course of the assessment.

## Consultation and Engagement

- 1.15 Table 1.1 below summarises the Pre Application Advice, related to the LVIA, received from the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Gwynedd Council. This advice was received on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 and is summarised in table 1.1 below, along with details of how / where these comments have been addressed within the LVIA, where applicable.

**Table 1:** Responses to Pre-Application Advice Request from Gwynedd Council (dated 18 December 2023)

Comment / advice	How / where addressed within the LVIA
<b>Gwynedd Council Pre-Application Advice Service</b>	
<p>Pre-Application Advice (Ref: Y23/0818 received from Gwynedd Council (GC))</p> <p><i>“It is noted that it is intended to produce a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment to support the planning application and it is agreed that such a document will be essential. Any assessment should include viewpoints from nearby publicly accessible locations along with higher ground to the south east e.g. Moel y Ci and Moel Rhiwen, and the Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.”</i></p>	<p>It is considered that a Study Area of 3 km (radius) for the LVIA is appropriate for a development of this nature. This has been determined through professional judgement, experience of previous schemes of this nature and the production of a ZTV which shows a limited potential intervisibility with the wider landscape. Due to the small scale and relatively low-lying nature of the Proposed Development, as shown on Figure 2.</p> <p>The Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Moel y Ci and Moel Rhiwen are located beyond the 3 km radius Study Area. Although it would be theoretically possible to view the Proposed Development beyond this distance, as illustrated on Figure 2, due to the scale and nature of the Proposed Development it is considered that would be no scope for any significant visual effects to occur beyond the Study Area.</p> <p>The Anglesey AONB, Moel y Ci and Moel Rhiwen have therefore been scoped out and are not included within the assessment.</p>
<p>Pre-Application Advice (Ref: Y23/0818 received from Gwynedd Council (GC))</p> <p><i>“A detailed Landscaping Plan should be included with any planning application – this should include measures for biodiversity mitigation and enhancement...”</i></p>	<p>A Landscape Strategy Plan (see figure JSL4893_100, Appendix D) has been produced as part of the application. This gives details of proposed soft landscape proposals to be implemented as part of the Proposed Development, as summarised in Section 4 of the LVIA.</p> <p>Detailed soft landscape proposals, suitable for construction, would be produced post planning, usually as part of the discharge of any planning conditions.</p>
<p>Pre-Application Advice (Ref: Y23/0818 received from Gwynedd Council (GC))</p> <p><i>“The site is within a designated Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest and that fact will need to be taken into account as part of any LVIA produced.”</i></p>	<p>As part of the LVIA, an assessment of the potential landscape characterising effects of the Proposed Development is included at Section 5. This includes effects upon the host LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Area (GWNDDHL024) (see paragraph 5.20) and the designated Landscape of Historic Interest (paragraphs 5.27 to 5.28). A summary of the key characteristics and description, of relevance to the Application Site, have been included within the baseline of the LVIA (see Section 3).</p>
<p>Pre-Application Advice (Ref: Y23/0818 received from Gwynedd Council (GC))</p> <p><i>“The cumulative visual impact of the existing National Grid Sub-station with this proposal will need to be fully assessed within any LVIA.”</i></p>	<p>The existing National Grid (NG) substation is part of the existing (baseline) landscape. As such, it is included as part of the overall assessment of effects in Section 5 but cannot be considered a cumulative scheme.</p> <p>Paragraph 7.13 of GLVIA3 states that <i>“Taking ‘the project’ to mean the main proposal that is being assessed, it is considered that existing schemes and those which are under construction should be included in the baseline for both landscape and visual effects assessments (the LVIA baseline). The baseline for assessing cumulative landscape and visual effects should then include those schemes considered in the LVIA and in addition potential schemes</i></p>

*that are not yet present in the landscape but are at various stages in the development and consenting process...”*

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## 2 PLANNING ENVIRONMENT

2.1 This section summarises the national and local planning policies pertinent to landscape and visual issues, which are considered to be of relevance to the Proposed Development. The policy documents described below have been reviewed as part of the study. Landscape Planning related designations are shown on Figure 1.

2.2 While planning policy of relevance to the LVIA has been referred to in this section. The LVIA does not specifically assess the Proposed Development against it. Assessment / compliance with planning policy is included within the Planning Statement accompanying the application.

### Planning Policy Context

2.3 As part of establishing the existing baseline environment, this LVIA has considered relevant planning policies in the currently adopted Local Development Plan (paragraphs 2.5 to 2.11). Other documents, of material consideration, are reviewed in paragraphs 2.12 to 2.15.

### Local Development Framework

2.4 The Development Plan for the Application Site comprises the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan 2011 to 2025 (adopted on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017). Relevant policies to the Proposed Development within the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan are described below.

### Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan 2011 to 2025

#### Policy PCYFF4: Design and Landscaping

2.5 *All proposals should integrate into their surroundings. Proposals that fail to show (in a manner appropriate to the nature, scale and location of the Proposed Development) how landscaping has been considered from the outset as part of the design proposal will be refused. A landscape scheme should, where relevant:*

- *Demonstrate how the Proposed Development has given due consideration to the Landscape Character Area Assessment or Seascape Character Area Assessment;*
- *Demonstrate how the Proposed Development respects the natural contours of the landscape;*
- *Demonstrate how the Proposed Development respects and protects local and strategic views;*
- *Respect, retain and complement any existing positive natural features, landscapes, or other features on site;*
- *Identify trees, hedgerows, water courses and topographical features to be retained*
- *Provide justification for circumstances where the removal/loss of existing trees, hedgerows, water courses and topographical features cannot be avoided and provides details of replacements;*
- *Provide details of any proposed new landscaping together with a phased programme of planting;*
- *Demonstrate that any proposed new planting includes plants and trees of mainly native species of local provenance and does not include any non-native invasive species;*
- *Ensure that selection of species and planting position of any trees allows for them to grow to their mature height without detriment to nearby buildings, services and other planting; and*
- *Provide permeable hard surface landscaping.*



**Policy ADN 3: Other Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies**

- 2.6 *Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy technologies, other than wind or solar, which contribute a low carbon future will be permitted, provided that the proposal conforms to the following criteria:*
- 1. All impacts on landscape character, heritage assets and natural resources have been adequately mitigated, ensuring that the special qualities of all locally, nationally and internationally important landscape, biodiversity and heritage designations, including, where appropriate, their settings are conserved or enhanced;*
  - 2. That the proposal does not have a significant unacceptable effect on visual amenities;*
  - 3. That the proposal is mitigated to ensure that there aren't any significant unacceptable effects on sensitive uses located nearby;*
  - 4. Where appropriate, that the proposal does not have a significant unacceptable effect on the quality and supply of water;*
  - 5. Where appropriate, existing buildings or previously developed land is used;*
  - 6. That the development does not have cumulative unacceptable effect with any prominent features in the landscape or townscape;*
  - 7. Where required, the equipment and associated infrastructure are removed from the site in accordance with a restoration and aftercare scheme submitted to and agreed by the Local Planning Authority.*
- 2.7 *Where necessary, proposals should be informed by the landscape and visual impact assessment.*

**Policy AMG 3 – Protecting and enhancing features and qualities that are distinctive to the local landscape character**

- 2.8 *Proposals that would have significant adverse impact upon landscape character as defined by the Landscape Character Areas included within the current Landscape Strategy for the relevant authority, must demonstrate through a landscape assessment how landscape character has influenced the design, scale, nature and site selection of the development.*
- 2.9 *A proposal will be granted provided it doesn't have significant adverse impact upon features and qualities which are unique to the local landscape in terms of visual, historic, geological, ecological or cultural aspects. Measures should be taken to ensure that the development does not:*
- Cause significant adverse impact to the character of the built or natural landscape;*
  - Fail to harmonise with, or enhance the landform and landscape;*
  - Lose or fails to incorporate traditional features, patterns, structures and layout of settlements and landscape of both the built and natural environment.*
- 2.10 *Particular emphasis will be given to the landscapes identified by the Landscape Character Areas as being of high and outstanding quality because of a certain landscape quality or a combination of qualities. Additional consideration will also be given to development that directly affect the landscape character and setting of the AONBs or the National Park.*

**Strategic Policy PS 19: Conserving and where appropriate enhancing the natural environment**

- 2.11 *The Councils will manage development, to conserve and where appropriate enhance the Plan area's distinctive natural environment, countryside and coastline, and proposals that have a significant adverse effect on them will be refused unless the need for and benefits of the development in that location clearly outweighs the value of the site or area and national policy protection for that site and*

area in question. When determining a planning application, consideration will need to be given to the following for landscape:

- Protect, retain or enhance the local character and distinctiveness of the individual Landscape Character Areas (in line with Policy AMG 2).

## National Policy

### Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12, 2024)

- 2.12 Edition 12 of the Planning Policy Wales (PPW) was published in February 2024 sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. The conservation and improvement of the natural heritage of Wales is one of its objectives noting the following (paragraph 6.02 and 6.03):

*“The special and unique characteristics and intrinsic qualities of the natural and built environment must be protected in their own right, for historic, scenic, aesthetic and nature conservation reasons. These features give places their unique identity and distinctiveness and provide for cultural experiences and healthy lifestyles.*

*“As well as those characteristics regarded as special or unique there are other, environmental qualities of places which are ubiquitous. Environmental components of places, such as clean air, access to open spaces and water quality, are linked to the quality of the built and natural environment. The environmental components of places influence and shape health and wellbeing as well as playing a role in sustaining and creating places which are adaptable and resilient to change. Distinctive and Natural places must maintain or incorporate green infrastructure, recognising the wide-ranging role it can play, as key components of their natural and built fabric. Doing so will maximise health and well-being of communities and the environment.”*

- 2.13 PPW also attaches considerable importance to the benefits of good design stating (paragraph 3.10) that:

*“In areas recognised for their particular landscape, townscape, cultural or historic character and value it can be appropriate to seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness. In those areas, the impact of development on the existing character, the scale and siting of new development, and the use of appropriate building materials (including where possible sustainably produced materials from local sources), will be particularly important.”*

- 2.14 In addition, PPW attaches considerable importance to the benefits of renewable energy stating (at paragraph 5.77 and 5.91) that:

*“...benefits of renewable and low carbon energy, as part of the overall commitment to tackle the climate emergency and increase energy security, is of paramount importance... ...The planning system should:*

*“...optimise energy storage... and ...maximise renewable and low carbon energy generation...”*

*“Local authorities should facilitate all forms of renewable and low carbon energy development...”*

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

- 2.15 TAN 5 provides advice about how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation. This guidance note should be read in conjunction with Planning Policy Wales Edition 11, in particular with Chapter 6: Distinctive and Natural Places, which considers matters including landscaping (Page 133).

## Summary of Planning Policy

- 2.16 The Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan incorporates strategies to conserve and enhance (where possible) the important features, elements and characteristics of the rural

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landscape by avoiding visually intrusive development and promoting good quality design which incorporates appropriate green infrastructure.

- 2.17 The Application Site is not allocated within the currently adopted Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint LDP. In addition, the Application Site is not located within or directly adjacent to the setting of any designated landscape.
- 2.18 PPW sets out overarching aims to ensure development is appropriately located, well designed and sustainable.

## 3 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL BASELINE

### Landscape Baseline

#### Introduction

- 3.1 The landscape of the Application Site and the Study Area has been assessed at various levels of detail, from national to local landscape character, to the site specific (i.e. physical landscape features). Notwithstanding the 3 km extent of the LVIA study area, the focus of assessment is on sensitive landscape receptors lying within the ZTV in proximity to the Application Site.
- 3.2 The section should be read in conjunction with Figure 4 National Landscape Character Areas and Figure 11, Local Landscape Character Areas.

#### National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA)

- 3.3 At a national level, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has prepared a National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA) map for Wales (NRW, 2014). This has divided the country into 48 character areas, the descriptions of which highlight what distinguishes one landscape from another with reference to distinct natural, cultural and perceptual characteristics within each region. The Application Site falls entirely within NLCA 3: Arfon (Figure 4).

- 3.4 NLCA 3 is described as “*Arfon is literally the land which is ar-fon, ‘against Anglesey’, being the lowland area bounded on the one side by the Menai Strait and on the other by the Snowdonia foothills and the adjacent glaciated valleys that open into it. Extending from Penmaen-bach Point in the northeast to Bryncir in the south, it includes the Anglo-Norman boroughs of Caernarfon (with its World Heritage Site castle and town walls) and the cathedral and university city of Bangor. This coastal plateau area also includes the 19th century neoNorman Penrhyn Castle, which dominates the view and whose estate extends for many miles around, as well as the less apparent, gentry houses and parklands at Faenol (now an internationally recognised concert venue) and Glynllifon.*

*As well as the dwellings of the once-wealthy and powerful, this is also pre-eminently the landscape of the Welsh gwerin, the industrious, progressive and cultured population of the farm, the small-holding, the cottage and the quarry. Their way of life, brought into being by the tremendous industrial slate quarrying workings of the late 18th and the 19th centuries, has far from vanished, and the Welsh language remains particularly strong. The landscape of the gwerin is everywhere, in the form of settlements, chapels, field-boundaries and in the unique environments of the great slate quarries, whose working faces and tips dominate the Ogwen and Nantlle valleys and the Llanberis-Llanddeiniolen area. The time depth of the area is also evident, in an exceptionally rich legacy of earlier archaeology, and in the rich traditions of myth and legend.” (NCLA3: Summary Description, Page 2, NRW 2014).*

- 3.5 The key characteristics of NLCA3: Arfon, relevant to the Application Site and the wider 3 km Study Area include:
- The Arfonian plateau – a broad, gently undulating lowland and valley landform, rising from the coast to about 200m and flanked by the much higher adjacent uplands of Eryri.
  - A dramatic inland panorama of steeply rising mountains - with many views to well-known ridges and peaks, including Snowdon.
  - Pastoral land cover – predominates.
- 3.6 The Application Site occupies a small part of the extensive NLCA3. There is no potential for the NLCA to experience a significant landscape effect. Given that the Application Site only occupies a small part of the NLCA3, the NLCA3 is considered to have a Negligible sensitivity to the Proposed Development, and it is not considered further in this assessment.

- 3.7 A very small part of the 3 km Study Area, to the extreme southeast corner, falls within NLCA6: Eryri / Snowdonia.
- 3.8 NLCA6 is described as *“This is an extensive, rural upland area, broadly coinciding with the Snowdonia National Park. It is dominated by mountain ranges of which the Snowdon massif rises to the highest peak in England and Wales, Yr Wyddfa, at 3560’ (1085m). Other ranges include the Carneddau and Glyderau in the north and Rhinogydd and Cadair Idris in the south. The area encompasses many of the country’s most spectacular uplands including all 15 of Wales’s mountain peaks over 3000 feet. There are numerous glacial features including sharp ridges, cirques, cliffs, lakes (including Llyn Tegid, Wales’ largest), bogs, rivers and waterfalls. The steep topography is challenging for travel with most main routes being limited to valley bottoms and over high passes. It is a geologically diverse area, playing an important part in the early development of geology as science, attracting the attention of some of the discipline’s founding fathers like Charles Darwin, who explored the area in 1831.*
- However, it is very far from being purely wild upland. The area became a symbol for centuries of the spirit and freedom of the country and of its people. The borough towns of Dolgellau and Bala both owe their origins to the years of Welsh independence before the Anglo-Norman conquest, as do many smaller but ancient settlements such as Dinas Mawddwy. The Methodist revival, from its centre at Bala, began its work of transforming Wales and the Welsh way of life in the C18th and C19th. Today the Welsh language is spoken by the majority of inhabitants.*
- Blaenau Ffestiniog is one of the best surviving Victorian towns in Wales, located in the middle of the area. It’s origins were purely in the industrial revolution, when the demand for slate led to large-scale transformation of the rocky fields and mountainsides in this once barely inhabited upland parish. Industrialisation left its marks in other areas too, not just from quarrying and mining for slate but also for mining for lead, zinc, manganese, copper and gold. Generally, hill farming and forestry cover much of the land that is not open mountain. Stone is the dominant building material for the many small cottages, farms, old industrial workshops, and field boundaries. A number of large areas have been afforested, notably around Betwys-y-coed, Coed-y-brenin and in the Corris area.*
- Today the area attracts many tourists, who explore and admire the natural drama of the scenery. Popular locations become ‘honeypots’ of activity in summer, the railway, café and summit of Snowdon being the most famous example.”* (NLCA6: Summary Description, Page 2, NRW 2014).
- 3.9 The key characteristics of NLCA6: Eryri / Snowdonia, relevant to the Application Site and the wider 3 km Study Area include:
- A mountainous topography - with the principal mountain range orientated broadly northeast to south west.
  - An upland character to principle land cover elements - including hill sheep grazing, forestry, heather dominated moorland and upland grassland. Rock outcrops and slate/shale ridges and screes are frequently apparent.
  - Moorland and blanket bog – substantial areas with significant ecological interest and large parts of the area are designated SSSI. Species rich crag flora and grassland is a feature of upland areas, for example, at Moel Hebog.
- 3.10 The Application Site does not fall within any part of NLCA6. There is no potential for the NLCA to experience a significant landscape effect. Given the Application Site’s location outside of the NLCA, the NLCA is considered to have a Negligible sensitivity to the Proposed Development, and it is not considered further in this assessment.

## Regional and Local Landscape Character Studies

### Regional Landscape Character

- 3.11 LANDMAP is an “all-Wales Geographical Information System (GIS) based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent dataset” (NRW, 2014). It is now administered by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and comprises five spatially related datasets or aspect layers as follows:
- Geological Landscape: “considers the physical, primarily geological, influences that have shaped the contemporary landscape and identifies those landscape qualities which are linked to the control or influence exerted by bedrock, surface processes, landforms and hydrology”;
  - Landscape Habitats: “Focuses on recording habitat features, characteristics and their spatial relationships within the context of the wider landscape”;
  - Visual and Sensory Landscape: “Maps landscape characteristics and qualities as perceived through our senses, primarily visually. The physical attributes of landform and land cover, their visible patterns and their interrelationship”;
  - Historic Landscape: “Landscape characteristics that depend on key historic land uses, patterns and features. Identifies only those classes of historic land uses, patterns and features that are prominent and contribute to the overall historic character of the present landscape.”; and
  - Cultural Landscape: “Describes the links between landscape and people, from the way in which cultural, or human activity shapes the landscape, to the way in which culture shapes the way we respond to landscape. Focus is on mapping the landscape where it has been, or is being, shaped by a particular cultural activity or process, or where it has been directly represented, depicted or described in art, literature or folklore.”
- 3.12 For each dataset the landscape is divided into discrete geographical units referred to as aspect areas. Each is given a unique identification code and is accompanied by a dataset which includes both a description and evaluation of quality and value.
- 3.13 Whilst all LANDMAP Aspect Areas have been considered, for the purposes of this Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment the main focus will be on those Aspect Areas which would be directly affected by the Proposed Development. i.e. those within which the Application Site itself is located.

### Visual and Sensory Landscape Aspect Areas

- 3.14 The Application Site is located entirely within the ‘Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor)’ (GWNDDVS006) Visual and Sensory aspect areas (Figure 6). The overall evaluation for this aspect area is Moderate. The ‘Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor)’ Aspect Area is described as ‘From Clynnog in south to Bangor in north, between the coastal lowlands and rising land to foothills of Snowdonia, five areas of rolling pasture, generally with northerly aspect, on land lying between approximately 20m to 100m AOD, separated by shallow west-flowing valleys. Gradual transition to upland in east, so boundary of area is not clear-cut. Field boundaries consist of mix of stone walls (tend to be more with elevation to east) and hedges in varied state of repair, with scattered clumps of woodland and plantation. Settlement mainly scattered farms, with few small villages. Visual detractors include electricity pylons, major north/south roads (A499, A487, A5). Views to Snowdonia and across Menai Straits to Anglesey. Slight upland feel, particularly in eastern parts where stone walls dominate and views out are more extensive.’ (survey details for GWNDDVS006 - 2023-10-05).

### Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas

- 3.15 The Application Site is entirely located within the unnamed Landscape Habitat Aspect Area (GWNDDLH653) (Figure 7). The overall evaluation (habitat and species) of this aspect area is Low. It is considered to be an area of improved grassland which is of low ecological value and is common and not threatened.
- 3.16 The Application Site is immediate adjacent to the unnamed aspect area (GWNDDLH683), to the east, parts of which are designated as ancient woodland. The overall evaluation for this aspect area is Moderate where the *'Area is of more ecological value than the surrounding area of improved grassland, the Broadleaved woodland being of value as is the small area of Purple moor grass priority habitat. Much of the area is planted however and the commonest habitat type is coniferous plantations which is of relatively low value.'*

### Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas

- 3.17 The Application Site is located entirely within the 'Arfon plain' (GWNDDCL011) Cultural Landscape Aspect Area (Figure 8). The overall evaluation of this aspect area is Outstanding. Described as *'The historic area of the Vaynol (sic) estate immediately adjacent to the park, though it also includes the village of Bethel - originally two little hamlets, both built for quarrymen on tiny pieces of land that did not belong to the estate - as well as lands not originally in Vaynol ownership, like Plas Brereton and Parciau. Unlike (10) it has worn the beak-up of the estate better and appears a little more prosperous.'*

### Geological Landscape Aspect Areas

- 3.18 The Application Site is entirely located within the 'Bangor' (GWNDDGL110) Geological Landscape Aspect Area (Figure 9). The overall evaluation of this aspect area is Moderate. The geographical and topographical character of this area is described as *'Wide plain, cut by N- & W-flowing minor rivers, in E-dipping Cambro-Ordovician (Arfon Group - Nant Ffrancon Fm) acid ash-flow tuffs, sandstones & conglomerates, and siltstones, and granite intrusion W of Port Dinorwic. Bounded to N by NE-SW faults against Carboniferous, also ENE-WSW faults. Extensive boulder clay cover.'*

### Historic Landscape Aspect Areas

- 3.19 The Application Site is entirely located within the 'Northern Arfon Plateau' (GWNDDHL024) Historic Landscape Aspect Area (Figure 10). The overall evaluation of this aspect area is High. A summary description of the aspect area is given as *'The rolling landscape of the Arfon plateau is made up largely of improved pasture, most of which was formerly Vaynol land. The pattern of substantial nineteenth century farmhouses (e.g. Carreg Goch, Tyddyn Conclog, Tyddyn Oer) and outbuildings is typical...'*

### Local Level Landscape Character

- 3.20 At a local level the Gwynedd Landscape Strategy Update (2012) divides Gwynedd into 16 separate landscape character areas (LCA), 5 of which fall within the 3 km radius study area for this LVIA (see Figure 11). Key features and characteristics of each are defined in the Landscape Strategy Update for each LCA.
- 3.21 The Application Site, containing the main built elements of the Proposed Development, falls entirely within LCA 4: Caernarfon Coast and Plateau.

### LCA 4: Caernarfon Coast and Plateau

- 3.22 The key characteristic features relevant to the Application Site and the surrounding areas are summarised as:
- A long broad fringe adjacent to the Menai Coast LCA, extending to the upland fringes of Moel Tryfan and Mynydd y Cillgwyn.
  - Character of landscape influenced by glacial actions and resultant deposits and landforms.
  - Mixture of settlement types – small villages to large towns. Caernarfon, important historic core, with modern settlement edges of varying quality.
  - Range of coastal habitats and landscapes, which contribute to character of the area.
  - Area provides an important setting to the Anglesey AONB to the north (beyond the Menai Straits) and Llŷn AONB to the south.
- 3.23 The Gwynedd Landscape Strategy Update (2012) further identifies Key Design Issues which need to be considered within LCA 4, including historic landscapes and habitat management. Key design issues / considerations of relevance to the Proposed Development can be summarised as follows:
- Be considered in terms of impacts upon the wider landscape, rather than the site alone.
  - Seek to integrate into the landscape using landform, hedges, trees, etc. to minimise impacts.
  - Respect the character and setting of the landscape's Conservation Areas (e.g. Glynllifon, Llandwrog, Bontnewydd, Caernarfon and Llanwnda).
  - Respect the nature of the pattern and the detail of the historic fabric of the landscape.
  - Develop and enhance the existing habitat and link with the local Biodiversity Action Plan.

## Application Site Description

### Topography and Hydrology

- 3.24 The Application Site sits on a generally flat landform area, in contrast to the wider landscape, particularly to the southeast. At its highest point the Application Site sits at approximately 103 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), gently falling to the south to its lowest point at approximately 100 m AOD. Watercourses have cut through the landscape in multiple places feeding larger watercourses such as Afon Cegin, a number of reservoirs and ultimately the Menai Strait (Afon Menai) to the northwest.

### Land Cover and Land Use

- 3.25 The land use throughout the 3 km Study Area is predominantly arable agricultural and grazing pastures, with a field pattern defined by hedgerows with occasional scattered trees and small woodlands. The field pattern is also influenced by the many small watercourses which cut through the landscape throughout much of the Study Area, often defined by areas of more scrubby vegetation. The OS map indicates a minor watercourse through the easternmost part of the Application Site, however, this in reality is a dry ditch with limited standing water. The rural landscape of the Study Area is interspersed with scattered farmsteads, hamlets and individual buildings, with the southernmost edge of Bangor at the very north of the Study Area.
- 3.26 Land use within the Application Site is also pastoral (grazing) and arable farmland. There is no public access to the Application Site. With no public rights of way (PRoW) within or adjacent to it.



### Settlement and Communication

- 3.27 The Application Site and majority of the 3 km study area are within a gently undulating lowland and valley landform, which rises from the Menai Strait coastline to approximately 200 m to the southeast with adjacent higher uplands. The landscape immediately surrounding the Application Site is sparsely populated with small villages and farmsteads. Larger urban centres, such as Bangor and Caermarfon, are present to the north and west by the coast.
- 3.28 The A55, North Wales Expressway, forms a major transportation corridor aligned generally east-west through the northern part of the Study Area connecting the various urban areas throughout and joining another major transport route, the A487 to the west of the study area which take a generally north to south direction to the town of Caermarfon. A series of smaller more local roads, such as the A4244, radiate from these main roads and smaller country lanes cross the wider agricultural landscape.
- 3.29 Away from the road network, public access is provided throughout the study area via numerous public rights of way (PRoW) that include promoted footpaths such as the 'Wales Coast Path' which sits in the extreme west of the Study Area on the Menai Strait coastline.
- 3.30 The Application Site are located to the northeast of the B4547, to the northwest of the existing Pentir Substation. There is no public access within proximity to it.

### Landscape Value

#### Designated Landscapes

- 3.31 The Application Site is outwith any AONB or National Parks (NP) designations of national importance (refer to Figure 1). As such, there would be no direct physical impacts upon nationally designated landscapes resulting from the Proposed Development.
- 3.32 Other landscape designations, of local / regional importance, which fall wholly or partly within the study area and Application Site, include the Dinorwig Registered Historic Landscape, as derived from the CADW register of historic landscapes, designated as Outstanding in 2001. The Application Site is entirely located within this Registered Historic Landscape (Figure 1).
- 3.33 The Dinorwig Registered Historic Landscape is summarised by the Welsh Government's historic environment service (CADW) and is located to the northwestern edge of the Eryri National Park (Snowdonia). It is a steeply sloping valley, opening out on the northwest side to the gently undulating Arfon Plateau. The description on the CADW register describes the area as containing considerable evidence for prehistoric land use and settlement, though due to agricultural improvements it is not as well-preserved as other areas.
- 3.34 The Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has completed a Historic Landscape Characterisation of the historic landscapes. This has defined 54 Historic Landscape Characterisation Areas (HLCAs). The HLCA within which the Application Site lies, within the Dinorwig Registered Historic Landscape, is HLCA23: Arfon Plateau. HLCA23 is described as a *"rolling landscape of the Arfon plateau is made up largely of improved pasture, most of which was formerly Vaynol land. The pattern of substantial nineteenth century farmhouses (e.g. Carreg Goch, Tyddyn Conclog, Tyddyn Oer) and outbuildings is typical of the estate. Relict prehistoric settlements (hut groups and small forts) are dotted across the landscape, usually in the corners of fields, and some fields display a curvilinear pattern characteristic of this period."*
- 3.35 Key historic landscape characteristics of HLCA23 are identified as:
- *Lowland plain, some relict archaeology*
  - *A wide area of disparate character, with the most prominent features being large enclosures and scattered farmsteads.*

- 3.36 There are a number of individual trees, hedgerows and blocks of woodland across the Application Site, or immediately adjacent to it. A small woodland block, to the immediate southeast of the Application Site, is designated as Ancient Woodland.

### Other Designations

- 3.37 It is acknowledged that there are numerous nationally and locally designated areas of importance to nature conservation, heritage and arboriculture throughout the Study Area. These are subject to separate studies in relation to the Application Site. A number of them have been illustrated on Figure 1 for context. These include Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 3.38 The Anglesey AONB is also illustrated on Figure 1 and lies to the northwest outwith the 3 km study area, to the northwest of the Menai Strait.

### Value of Non-designated Landscapes

- 3.39 The Application Site does not lie within a nationally or locally designated landscape. This does not mean that the Application Site has no value. The *European Landscape Convention* (Council of Europe, ratified 2006) (ELC) requires that each party (member state) “*establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning...*” through the adoption of specific measures (Article 5). Landscape Protection is defined in Article 1d as “*actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity.*” The specific measures set out at Article 6 require, amongst other matters, each party to undertake an analysis of the characteristics and the forces and pressures on its landscapes (Article 6C, 1a (ii)) and “*to assess the landscapes identified taking into account the specific values assigned to them by the interested parties and the population concerned*” (Article 6C, 1b).
- 3.40 The ELC requires that account should be taken of all landscapes, designated or not. GLVIA Box 5.1 and Landscape Institute *Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations* (26<sup>th</sup> May 2021) (TGN). Table 1 of the TGN, set out a range of factors that can help in the identification of valued landscapes. An analysis of TGN Table 1 is at Appendix B to this LVIA.
- 3.41 Fieldwork indicates that the landscape of the Application Site is typical of the local landscape. Being a series of small to medium size pastural fields bounded by largely intact field boundary hedgerows and scattered trees. There are no out-of-the-ordinary landscape attributes (e.g. designations, scenic qualities, special interests or uses) on or adjacent to the Application Site which would confer above average landscape value.
- 3.42 Overall, it is considered that the Application Site is an ordinary landscape of Medium landscape value.

## Visual Baseline

### Zone of Theoretical Visibility

- 3.43 Areas from which views of any part of the Proposed Development would theoretically be possible were determined by generating a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). The ZTV does not indicate how much of the Proposed Development would be visible. The ZTV takes account of the screening effect of major woodland blocks (at 10 m high) and buildings (at 9 m high) is illustrated at Figure 2. While Figure 2 is an accurate representation of what might be seen, OS data used does not take account of smaller blocks of woodland, hedgerows and associated / incidental tree cover or other vegetation such as private gardens, which add to the amount of screening provided by vegetation. As such, the ZTV ‘with barriers’ is therefore an overestimation of theoretical visibility.

- 3.44 Representative Viewpoints, located within the ZTV and likely to experience visual change, were identified through desk study and fieldwork. An overview of the views and the potential visibility of the Application Site is set out in this section (paragraphs 3.43 to 3.77 below).
- 3.45 The methodology for assessing the sensitivity of the visual receptors is detailed at Appendix B.

### Visual Receptor Groups

#### Public Rights of Way and Access Land

- 3.46 The sensitivity of the people using the local PRoW network for informal recreation is considered to be High because appreciation of the surrounding environment is a primary concern.
- 3.47 The ZTV (Figure 2) has indicated very limited potential intervisibility to the Proposed Development from the local PRoW network. Representative Viewpoints have, where possible, been located and taken from PRoW or near to them, which fall within the ZTV envelope. The Representative Viewpoints therefore provide a 'snapshot' of views from close to the PRoW network.
- 3.48 Of those PRoW which fall within the ZTV, or close to it, the nearest to the Application Site include Public Right Of Way Llanddeiniolen No 111, to the northwest at Garth Fawr, and Public Right Of Way Pentir No 14 to the north at Fodolydd Lane. The ZTV has indicated very limited potential intervisibility from these PRoW, nonetheless, views for walkers using it have the potential to be impacted by the Proposed Development.
- 3.49 There is a large area of registered common land (access land) to the southeasternmost edge of the 3 km study area, extending beyond it. The ZTV has indicated an area of potential intervisibility to the Application Site within part of the access land outwith the 3 km study area. The Proposed Development is therefore not considered likely to give rise to any significant visual effects. In addition to the local PRoW network, there is a promoted footpath / walks of local importance which follow / join the PRoW network. The Wales Coast Path falls within a small part of the 3 km study area at the extreme northwest along the Menai Strait coastline. The ZTV has indicated that there would be no possible intervisibility with this promoted route.

#### People involved in recreational activities

- 3.50 People involved in sports and other formal recreational activities at a rural location are considered to have a Medium sensitivity to changes in their views. This is because the focus of their attention is generally on the activity in question, appreciation of the surrounding environment is secondary.
- 3.51 Other than PRoW and areas of Access Land identified above, there are no other formal areas of recreation, that fall within the ZTV, located within the study area. Visual receptors engaged in recreational activities have therefore not been considered further in this LVIA.

#### People at work

- 3.52 Various farms / agri-businesses are located in the vicinity of the Application Site, these include the following:
- Tyddyn Forgan (approximately 137m to the south of the Application Site boundary at its nearest point); and,
  - Garth Farm (approximately <10m to the west of the Application Site boundary at its nearest point).
- 3.53 People at their places of work are considered to have a Low sensitivity to changes in their views because their focus of attention is on their work not on the surroundings.
- 3.54 People involved in agriculture working, listed above are likely to experience views of the proposed BESS to varying degrees, albeit that layered vegetation and topographical variation would likely

curtail views. However, given their Low sensitivity, they are not likely to experience a visual change which would be considered significant. This receptor group is therefore not considered further within this LVIA.

### **Dynamic receptors**

- 3.55 Dynamic receptors are people within motor vehicles, cyclists or other road users and those using the PRoW network within the local landscape. Because the attention of road users tends to be focused on the road or within the vehicle itself, people travelling in motor vehicles through the landscape are considered to have a Low sensitivity to changes in their views. In contrast, cyclists have a slightly raised sensitivity to change in their views, namely Medium.
- 3.56 The ZTV (Figure 2) indicates that there is the potential for road users to have fleeting views of the Proposed Development from a small number of local roads in the vicinity of the Application Site, including the B4547 Nant y Garth Road (Representative Viewpoint 4) to the south; Road from B4547 passing Garth Farm to Fodolydd Lane (Representative Viewpoint 2 and 3) to the west; Lôn Ty'n Llwyn (Representative Viewpoint 1) to the north; Road from B4366 passing Seion Village to Nant y Garth (Representative Viewpoint 5) to the southwest and the B4366 from Gors Bach Inn to Groeslon Ty Mawr Roundabout (Representative Viewpoint 6).
- 3.57 Within the wider study area, the ZTV (Figure 2) indicates that there would be potential intervisibility with the Proposed Development from very limited lengths of several local roads.
- 3.58 With the exception of those PRoW which are shared surfaces, there are no formal cycle routes within the study area with potential views to the Proposed Development. In addition, the local road network would likely be used by occasional cyclists. As such, there is the potential that passing cyclists would have views to it.

### **Representative Viewpoints**

- 3.59 Representative Viewpoint locations are shown on Figure 2. Panoramic baseline photographs looking towards the Application Site for each of the representative viewpoints are presented in Figures 3.1 to 3.12.

#### **Representative Viewpoint 1: Local road (Lôn Ty'n Llwyn) to the north, looking generally south.**

- 3.60 Representative Viewpoint 1, taken at a field access gate to the north of the Application Site along a local road, looking south. A mature field boundary hedgerows screens views along much of the road. More open views are available at the access gate. With views to the adjacent pastoral field, fencing and a backdrop of the existing mature woodland block to the immediate southeast of the Application Site. At the time of the field work, a temporary hay bale stack was present in the fields. This further screened potential glimpsed views to the Application Site itself.

#### **Representative Viewpoint 2: Road from the B4547 passing Garth Farm to Fodolydd Lane, looking east.**

- 3.61 Representative Viewpoint 2 has been similarly taken from a field access gate adjacent to a local road, to the west of the Application Site. Immediately adjacent to the roadside mature hedgerow planting limits potential views to the Application Site. With occasionally more open views, particularly at the field gates. A mature hedgerow within the field, to the east of the view, further restricts views to the Application Site. There is no discernible view of the Application Site. However, to the immediate foreground of the view is the main site access. Representative Viewpoint 2 is typical of views available from Garth Farm, the closest residential property to the Application Site.

**Representative Viewpoint 3: Road from the B4547 passing Garth Farm to Fodolydd Lane, looking northeast.**

- 3.62 Representative Viewpoint 3 has been taken from the local road to the west of the Application Site, near to the junction with the B4547. Along much of this road's length, in common with the majority of roads in the local area, mature tree and hedge planting largely screens / filters possible views towards the wider landscape and Application Site. Where there are gaps in the vegetation, there are glimpsed views available towards the Application Site. Although ground level views of it are further screened by intervening layered vegetation. The coniferous woodland block (Coed Tyddyn-Forgan), which lies to the immediate west of the Application Site, is visible above the intervening vegetation and serves as a good locator. As do overhead powerlines feeding into the Pentir Substation, seen above the Tyddyn-Forgan farmstead, one of the nearest residential properties to the Application Site.

**Representative Viewpoint 4: B4547, looking north.**

- 3.63 Representative Viewpoint 4 has been taken from the edge of the B4547, a local road on the south of the Application Site. A drystone wall at the edge of the road is low lying and has limited screening effect. Views to the wider landscape above the wall are available along much of the road. Scattered trees and other existing vegetation along the road partially screen views towards the Application Site. A large open pastoral field to the foreground of the view allows generally open views to field boundary hedgerow and scattered trees to the midground near to Tyddyn-Forgan. Above this hedge line, views are available to the Coed Tyddyn-Forgan woodland. Due to intervening vegetation there are no discernible views to the ground level of the Application Site. Overhead powerlines and a small part of the Pentir Substation can be seen above and through parts of the woodland.

**Representative Viewpoint 5: Road from B4366 passing Seion Village to Nant y Garth, looking northeast.**

- 3.64 Slightly elevated view from local road to the southwest of the Application Site. Layered vegetation and scattered development prevent clear views to the ground level of the Application Site. With a very small part of the southernmost corner of the Application Site visible above Tyddyn-Forgan. Across much of the view overhead powerlines and views to parts of the Pentir Substation can be seen within the view, with higher ground to the northeast visible above.

**Representative Viewpoint 6: B4366, looking north.**

- 3.65 View from the edge of the B4366, to the south of the Application Site looking north. A semi intact roadside hedgerow allows views to the wider landscape. With rising ground within the adjacent arable field. There is no discernible view of the ground level within the Application Site. Above the roadside hedgerow, post and wire fence and hedgerow, there are views to the Coed Tyddyn-Forgan woodland. Above this, similarly to many views, overhead powerlines and small parts of the highest elements within the Pentir Substation can be seen. Due to intervening vegetation and topography, there are only glimpsed views to the wider landscape to the north of the Application Site.
- 3.66 Due to the siting and design of the Proposed Development and the screening of intervening vegetation, built structures and landform, there is no potential for receptors in the vicinity to experience significant effects. Consequently, this viewpoint has not been taken forward to the impact assessment stage.

**Representative Viewpoint 7: Local road Ffordd y Fodolydd at the junction with Public Right Of Way Pentir No 14, looking southeast.**

- 3.67 Taken from the roadside of a narrow lane to the northwest of the Application Site, at the junction with a PRow. A low drystone wall offers clear views towards the Application Site over pastoral fields.

There are views to Garth Farm which is the closest residential property to the Application Site. Garth Farm, along with intervening vegetation, screens views of the ground level parts of the Application Site. Above this, there are views available to the adjacent Coed Tyddyn-Forgan woodland, along with glimpsed views to overhead powerlines feeding to the Pentir Substation. Further to the southeast, higher ground, included Moelyci at 400m AOD can be seen as a distinctive backdrop to the view, similar to other views taken from the northwest parts of the 3km study area.

### **Representative Viewpoint 8: Hafod Lane, looking south.**

- 3.68 Taken from a narrow lane to the north of the Application Site. Intervening layered vegetation and topographical variation prevents obvious views to the Application Site from this location, particularly at ground level. Garth Farm and other residential properties in the local landscape are landmarks in order to locate the Application Site. A distinctive line of overhead pylons feeding to the Pentir Substation is a distinctive built feature of this view, with glimpsed views to higher ground to the south.
- 3.69 Due to the siting and design of the Proposed Development and the screening of intervening vegetation, built structures and landform, there is no potential for receptors in the vicinity to experience significant effects. Consequently, this viewpoint has not been taken forward to the impact assessment stage.

### **Representative Viewpoint 9: At the junction of local roads Lôn Penhower and Lôn Wern, looking southwest.**

- 3.70 Similar to Representative Viewpoint 8, but at a greater distance and along a dip in the road. Layered vegetation and topographical variation similarly screens obvious views to the Application Site. There are glimpsed views to residential properties / farmsteads within the local landscape. Overhead powerlines feeding to the Pentir Substation along with other cable and pylons are a visible vertical built element within the view. Beyond the Application Site to the south, there are views to higher ground in the distance a characteristic feature of views from the north.
- 3.71 Due to the siting and design of the Proposed Development and the screening of intervening vegetation, built structures and landform, there is no potential for receptors in the vicinity to experience significant effects. Consequently, this viewpoint has not been taken forward to the impact assessment stage.

### **Representative Viewpoint 10: Road from Tan Dinas Eastwards passing Pen Dinas to Road leading to Pen y Bryn, looking north.**

- 3.72 Similar direction to views from Representative Viewpoint 6, albeit from a greater distance. The slightly elevated position of the view allows glimpsed views to much of the surrounding landscape. Views to the Application Site are limited by the intervening vegetation and landform. There are glimpsed views to the tops of coniferous trees within the Coed Tyddyn-Forgan woodland, but no discernible views to the ground level of the Application Site from this location. Further to the north, there are distant views to higher ground and development within the wider landscape.
- 3.73 Due to the siting and design of the Proposed Development and the screening of intervening vegetation, built structures and landform, there is no potential for receptors in the vicinity to experience significant effects. Consequently, this viewpoint has not been taken forward to the impact assessment stage.

### **Representative Viewpoint 11: Penrhos Road**

- 3.74 Distant view from local road to the northwest of the Application Site. Similarly to other views, intervening layered vegetation and topographical variation screen views towards the Application Site. At this distance, there are no discernible views to the Application Site available. Built form within the view includes properties local to the view and the distinctive line of overhead pylons which feed

into the Pentir Substation. In the distance further to the southeast, there are views to the characteristic higher ground across much of the view seen above intervening vegetation.

- 3.75 Due to the siting and design of the Proposed Development and the screening of intervening vegetation, built structures and landform, there is no potential for receptors in the vicinity to experience significant effects. Consequently, this viewpoint has not been taken forward to the impact assessment stage.

### **Representative Viewpoint 12: Public Right Of Way Bangor No 39, looking south.**

- 3.76 Taken though a gap in existing vegetation along the PRoW. Views from much of the PRoW's length are heavily filtered and screened by existing vegetation. Here there are gaps, views of the wider landscape are possible. Due to intervening layered vegetation and topographical variation, there are no discernible views of the Application Site from this location. Existing overhead power lines feeding to the Pentir Substation a feature which can be glimpsed within the view. These allow the Application Site to be more easily located. However, it is anticipated that the casual observer would have no view or knowledge of the Application Site with it also being oblique to the direction of travel long he PRoW.
- 3.77 Due to the siting and design of the Proposed Development and the screening of intervening vegetation, built structures and landform, there is no potential for receptors in the vicinity to experience significant effects. Consequently, this viewpoint has not been taken forward to the impact assessment stage.

### **Private Views**

- 3.78 In the planning system no individual has the right to a view. The Landscape Institute has provided guidance on residential visual amenity in *Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment* (LI TGN 2/19).
- 3.79 Views of the Proposed Development would neither overwhelm existing properties within the Study Area, nor render these properties so *"unattractive a place to live that planning permission should be refused"* (Inspector Kingaby, Burnthouse Farm Wind Farm, APP/D0515/A/10/2123739, Inspector's Report, paragraph 119) (also at paragraph A1.6 of LI TGN 2/19). Inspector Kingaby noted that *"There needs to be a degree of harm over and above identified substantial effect to take a case into the category of refusal in the public interest. Changing the outlook from a property is not sufficient"* (Inspector's Report, paragraph 120) (also at paragraph A1.7, LI TGN 2/19). The Inspector, in the Langham Wind Farm decision, noted that *"The planning system controls development in the public interest, and not in the private interest. The preservation of open views is a private interest"* (Langham Wind Farm Appeal Decision APP/D2510/A/10/2130539) (also at LI TGN 2/19, paragraph A1.11).
- 3.80 The distance to the closest residential properties within the ZTV of the Proposed Development is Garth Farm, situated approximately 6 m to the access track of the Proposed Development and approximately 197 m from the main built elements of the Proposed Development. With Ael-y-Garth and Tyddyn-Forgan also a similar distance to the west and south respectively. With substantial intervening vegetation and the low lying nature of the Proposed Development, it is considered that no residential properties have the potential to experience a degree of harm over and above substantial (as set out in paragraph 3.69, above) to make considering private views a public interest matter. Consequently, private views are not considered further in this LVIA.

## 4 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### Development Components

- 4.1 The Proposed Development (drawing reference GBR\_Pentir\_Indicative BESS Layout\_03) (Appendix C) will comprise a BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) and all ancillary infrastructure and associated works. It will also include landscaping and ecological enhancement areas. The energy storage project is anticipated to have a storage capacity of 57MWac.
- 4.2 The BESS will comprise batteries, Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) units, a combined Power Conversion System (PCS), transformer units, a BESS Intake/customer substation and associated electrical infrastructure.
- 4.3 The Proposed Development will comprise the following components:
- 96 x Battery enclosures (in 24 x Blocks of 4 units each),
  - 3 x Twin MV Skid (each comprised of 2 x Power conversion systems and 1 x MV transformer),
  - 6 x Single MV Skid (each comprised of 1 x Power conversion systems and 1 x MV transformer),
  - 1 x Monitoring House,
  - 1 x Backup Generator,
  - 1 x BESS Intake Substation,
  - 1 x GRP,
  - 3 x Spares containers (1 x 20-foot, 2 x 40-foot), and
  - 14 x CCTV cameras mounted on posts on top of the BESS security / acoustic fence,
  - BESS Security Fence,
  - 4m high Acoustic Fence in a muted green colour (subject to agreement with the LPA).
- 4.4 Access to the Proposed Development would be along a newly created access track following an existing hedge line to the northwest. Access of the local road, opposite Garth Farm, would be via an improved existing field entrance.

### Landscape Proposals

- 4.5 Additional planting would be concentrated to the westernmost and northern boundary of the Application Site. This would include gapping up and reinforcing existing hedgerows along these boundaries. Particularly at field entrances and accesses, provided these are not required as part of the Proposed Development.
- 4.6 Where space allows, additional tree planting would be included at the southwest corner of the site, along with additional hedgerow trees along the western and northern boundary.
- 4.7 Other areas should be retained as existing grassland and suitably managed to increase the overall biodiversity within the site. Grassland habitat creation / management should be carried out in accordance with any ecological recommendations with a view to increasing the biodiversity value.
- 4.8 New planting would be of native species appropriate to the location and local landscape. Long term management and establishment of existing / proposed hedgerow planting would ensure a suitable height is maintained to further screen possible views to the Proposed Development.
- 4.9 Refer to figure JSL4893\_100 Landscape Strategy (Appendix D).



## 5 POTENTIAL LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS

### General

#### Assessment Criteria and Assignment of Significance

##### Relevant Guidance

- 5.1 As a matter of best practice, this Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken based on the relevant guidance on landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) described in the following documents:
- Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland (The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002);
  - Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013);
  - An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Natural England, 2014);
  - Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Landscape Institute, 2019); and
  - Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations (Landscape Institute, May 2021).

##### Distinction Between Landscape and Visual Effects

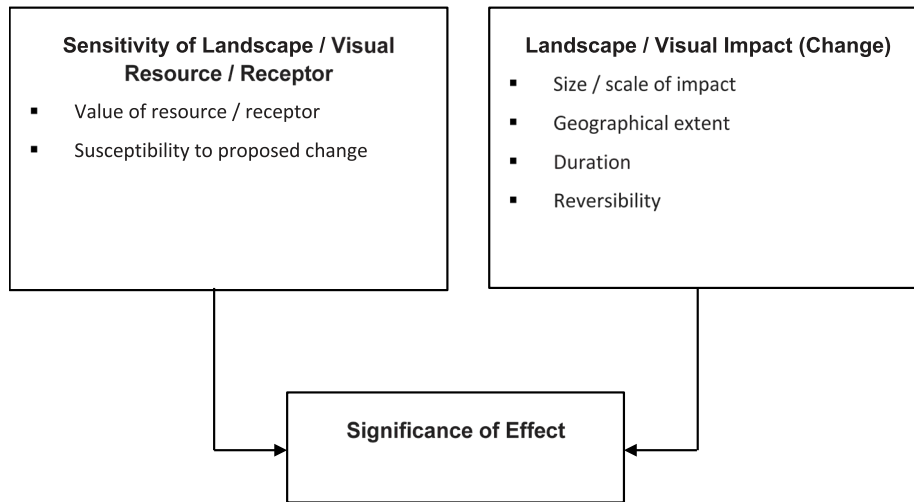
- 5.2 As set out in the GLVIA3, paragraph 2.21, landscape and visual effects are assessed separately, although the procedure for assessing each is closely linked. A clear distinction has been drawn between landscape and visual effects as described below:
- Landscape effects relate to the effects of the Proposed Development on the physical and other characteristics of the landscape and its resulting character and quality.
  - Visual effects relate to the effects on views experienced by visual receptors (e.g. footpath users, tourists etc) and on the visual amenity experienced by those people.

##### Assessment Criteria and Assignment of Significance of Effects

- 5.3 GLVIA3 sets out broad guidelines rather than detailed prescriptive methodologies. The methodologies tailored for the assessment of this development is based on GLVIA3 guidance, which recommends that an assessment “concentrates on principles and process” and “does not provide a detailed or formulaic recipe” to assess effects, it being the “responsibility of the professional to ensure that the approach and methodology are appropriate to the task in hand” (preface to GLVIA3). The effects on the landscape resources or visual receptors (people) are assessed by considering the proposed change in the baseline conditions (the impact of the proposal) against the type of landscape resource or visual receptor (including the importance and sensitivity of that resource or receptor). Unless stated otherwise, winter baseline conditions are assumed when deciduous vegetation is devoid of foliage. The methodology is set out in detail at Appendix A and summarised in Diagram 1, below. These factors are determined through a combination of quantitative (objective) and qualitative (subjective) assessment using professional judgement.
- 5.4 With regards valency and visual effects, an unfavourable position has been taken. That is, that of a person who is not in favour of the Proposed Development. Hence the significance of effect is assumed to be adverse, if you can see even a small part of the Proposed Development. However,

if the view is improved, by landscape mitigation, effects might be considered to be neutral or perhaps even beneficial.

**Diagram 1: Assessment Methodology Summary**



5.5 Using a combination of objective evidence and professional judgement, the potentially significant effects on the landscape and visual resources and receptors during the operational phase of the Proposed Development are assessed below. Only those resources and receptors that have the potential to experience significant effects are considered.

5.6 In this assessment, those effects of Moderate and below are not considered to be significant. Those effects to be Major and above are judged to be significant.

## Landscape Sensitivity to the Proposed Development

5.7 This section contains an assessment of the sensitivity of the relevant National Landscape Character Area, LANDMAP Aspect Areas and local LCA(s) to the Proposed Development. It should be read in conjunction with Figures 4 to 11.

### Note on Approach

5.8 The method used in this LVIA for assessing the sensitivity of the landscape resources and receptors is detailed at Appendix B: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology.

5.9 In line with GLVIA3 best practice, the sensitivity assessment considers both the *susceptibility* of the landscape to the Proposed Development, and the landscape’s *value*. The assessment is supported by fieldwork.

### LCA 4: Caernarfon Coast and Plateau

5.10 The Application Site and a large part of the 3 km study area are located within LCA 4: Caernarfon Coast and Plateau (Figure 11). There would therefore be a direct impact upon a very small part of it as a result of the Proposed Development. However, the key characteristics of this LCA (see paragraph 3.22 to 3.23), of relevance to the Application Site, would not be substantially affected by the Proposed Development with existing vegetation largely retained, managed and enhanced so far as possible. There would be some removal of existing vegetation, as a result of the Proposed Development. However, this would be limited to that required for site access and internal access routes.

- 5.11 That part of the LCA, within which the Application Site sits, and the immediate local landscape, are not covered by any national or local landscape designations and their landscape character is considered to be typical of its location. The Application Site is enclosed with a close association and connection with the wider landscape in the Study Area.
- 5.12 Due to its rural location, typical of the wider character area, the part of the LCA which would be directly impacted by the Proposed Development is assessed as having a Medium sensitivity to it.

### Operational Effects

- 5.13 A summary of the Proposed Development operational components is provided above at the beginning of Section 4 and shown on figure GBR\_Pentir\_Indicative BESS Layout\_02 (Lightsource bp) (Appendix C).

### Potential Landscape Effects

#### Regional / County Landscape Character (LANDMAP Aspect Areas)

- 5.14 The following paragraphs summarise the potential effects of the Proposed Development upon each of the five layers of LANDMAP Aspect Areas within which the Application Site sits.

#### LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape Aspect Area: 'Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor)' (GWNDDVS006)

- 5.15 The Application Site is located entirely within Aspect Area GWNDDVS006. The Proposed Development would therefore have a direct effect upon a very small part of this large Aspect Area. The local landscape of the Application Site and 3 km study area is typical of the transitional lowland pastural landscape lying between the coastal plains of the Menai Strait and upland landscape towards Snowdonia. The local landscape character and visual and sensory perception of it is influenced, to an extent, by existing energy infrastructure development, including overhead powerlines feeding into the Pentir Substation. Albeit that the Pentir Substation is well screened from views within the local landscape. Existing vegetation within the fields that make up the Application Site would be retained where possible and supplemented where appropriate. This would maintain the physical and to some extent visual characteristic of the local landscape. Albeit that the Proposed Development would be a noticeable change of land use to that of an energy development. This change would be particular noticeable at a site-based level, although a Proposed Development of this nature is not entirely uncharacteristic of the landscape. Being at a lower level, the Proposed Development would be no more visually intrusive than that of existing energy developments and would be well contained by existing retained woodland blocks, particularly to the south and east.
- 5.16 The Proposed Development area represents a very small part of the overall Aspect Area and on balance, when considering the Aspect Area as a whole, there would be a Low magnitude of change upon an aspect area of High value and sensitivity, as a result of the Proposed Development which would represent a **Minor adverse** effect, which is not significant.

#### LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Aspect Area: 'Arfon plain' (GWNDDCL011)

- 5.17 The Application Site is located entirely within aspect area GWNDDCL011. This aspect area is classified as rural, which is consistent with the Application Site. The overall trend for the Aspect Area is evaluated as *"Overall an outstanding landscape by virtue of its historic character, its richness as an historic landscape and its role as an area of Welsh speech."* A small part of the overall large aspect area would be directly affected by the Proposed Development with it becoming an energy development, adding to the existing development of this nature within the local area and contributing to the overall trend of changes to the agricultural sector. The Proposed Development would not be

readily noticeable in views from the surrounding landscape due to undulating topography, layered vegetation and low level nature of it, apart from slightly higher ground to the southeast, but would be an obvious change at a local level (site based). This aspect area is evaluated within LANDMAP as Outstanding and would therefore be of high sensitivity to the development proposed. Overall, it is considered that there would be a **Minor adverse** effect upon the overall aspect area with further loss within the farming sector, although there would be beneficial effects as a result of diversification securing farming livelihoods, allowing practices elsewhere to continue. This is not a significant effect.

### **LANDMAP Geological Landscape Aspect Area: 'Bangor' (GWNDGL110)**

- 5.18 The Application Site is an area of generally flat topography. With locally higher ground, ridgelines, to the southeast and north of the Application Site, transitioning into much higher ground further to the southeast / west towards Snowdonia and lower ground to the north near the Menai Strait. The Proposed Development would result in limited intrusive earthworks required to accommodate the energy storage units and other ancillary development. With assumed relatively shallow concrete foundations being required and other areas of hardstanding such as along the access tracks. The characteristic geological formations, below ground, would remain intact. All works are considered to be permanent. As a result, there would be a limited direct affect upon a small part of the geological aspect area (the Application Site itself). The overall evaluation of the aspect area is Moderate with the sensitivity considered to be high. However, any loss of geological features would be limited and isolated to the Application Site itself. As such, there would be a Negligible magnitude of change to the overall geological / topographical features of the Application Site, resulting in a **Negligible adverse** effect upon the aspect area as a whole, which is not significant.

### **LANDMAP Landscape Habitat Aspect Area: unnamed Aspect Area (GWNDLH653)**

- 5.19 The Application Site is located entirely within GWNDLH653 and would have a direct effect upon a very small part of it. The overall LANDMAP evaluation of the aspect areas is Low, with areas of *'Improved grassland is low ecological value and is common and not threatened'*. The Proposed Development would result in the loss of areas of improved grassland, not considered to be rare throughout the aspect area, with other habitats including trees and hedgerows to the boundaries and centrally largely retained with some loss to accommodate the access roads and development areas. As such, there would be a balance of adverse effects and longer-term beneficial effects with the retained and enhanced vegetation (including grassland habitat and reinforced hedgerows). At a site-based level it is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **Minor adverse** effect with some beneficial effects from the reinforcement and management of existing retained grassland habitat, hedgerows and trees. The aspect area as a whole would experience a **Negligible adverse** effect, approaching neutral, as there would be no effect on habitats in the wider area. These effects are not judged to be significant.

### **LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Area: 'Northern Arfon Plateau' (GWNDHL024)**

- 5.20 The historic rural pattern of this small part of a large aspect area, within which the Application Site is located, is consistent with much of the wider Northern Arfon Plateau landscape. With a pattern of well-defined arable / pastoral fields typically bounded by hedgerows, with characteristic drystone walls in places, interspersed with scattered farmsteads and a few large settlement areas including Bangor to the north. The Proposed Development would retain this historic field pattern and supplement it where appropriate. As such, it is considered that the Proposed Development would have a limited, adverse effect at a site-based level. The overall evaluation of the aspect area is high and considered to be of Medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed. It is anticipated that the Proposed Development would result in a **Negligible adverse** effect upon the site itself, which is not significant.

- 5.21 There would be an indirect effect on the adjacent LANDMAP Aspect Areas within the wider 3 km radius study area. Significance of effect upon Aspect Areas outwith the Application Site is judged to be no greater than **Neutral**.

### Local Landscape Character

#### LCA 4: Caernarfon Coast and Plateau

- 5.22 The Gwynedd Landscape Strategy Update (2012) defines the area in which the Application Site is located as part of the Caernarfon Coast and Plateau Landscape Character Area (LCA4). The Proposed Development of 2 small pastoral / arable fields into a BESS development within the northeast of the character area would change the character of a very small area of farmland as a proportion of the overall character area.
- 5.23 The enclosed field pattern and generally flat landform of the farmland into which the Proposed Development would be introduced would be retained. No existing hedgerow or trees would be removed to accommodate the Proposed Development, with the possible exception of small areas of hedgerows where operational access (tracks) is proposed opposite Garth Farm. Existing retained vegetation would be supplemented by planting new hedgerow and trees where appropriate. By summer Year 15, these new hedgerows and limited supplementary tree planting, adjacent to existing trees where required, would reinforce the existing field pattern and hedgerow structure. The low-level nature of the Proposed Development would enable the existing landscape structure of an established and organised field pattern to be retained.
- 5.24 The Proposed Development would change the use of the land, although energy infrastructure is already present in the local landscape, e.g. Pentir Substation and associated overhead powerlines. The Proposed Development would therefore not be entirely uncharacteristic.
- 5.25 The additional hedgerows planted to supplement existing field boundaries by gapping up where required, would be a beneficial landscape element. For the most part, the Application Site is well contained and due to the undulating nature of the topography, the Proposed Development would not be readily visible within views from publicly accessible locations within it. The Application Site is well-screened from locations to the south and southeast. The BESS would not alter the existing landscape pattern and grain. The establishment of grassland/management of existing pasture to encourage wildflowers, where space allows would add to the biodiversity value of the Application Site in comparison to its existing pastoral relatively poor ecological value. Landscape effects would be well-contained by hedgerows and the existing landform and where screening would be improved through managing existing hedgerows to a height of 3 to 4 m.
- 5.26 The magnitude of the impact due to the change in character of the Application Site from agriculture to one of an energy development would be **Medium** on a character area of **Medium** sensitivity. The direct effect on the Application Site itself would be **Moderate adverse**, which is not significant. The low-level nature of the BESS, within a landscape structure provided by hedgerows and scattered trees, supplemented by new hedgerow and tree planting, as well as a new management regime for existing hedgerows, would limit the effects to a small part of the wider Caernarfon Coast and Plateau LCA to **Minor adverse** as a result of a **Low** magnitude of impact, which is not significant.

#### Dinorwig Registered Historic Landscape (including HLCA 23: Arfon Plateau)

- 5.27 The Application Site is entirely located within the Dinorwig Registered Historic Landscape, which is further defined as Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA) 23: Arfon Plateau. There would therefore be a direct effect upon this registered landscape as a result of the Proposed Development. The historic enclosed field pattern into which the Proposed Development would be introduced would be largely retained. The removal of some areas of poorer quality scrubby vegetation to the centre of the Application Site would be needed to accommodate the Proposed Development. However, the more established boundary hedgerows and scattered trees to the Application Sites boundaries,

outwith the BESS development area, would be retained and enhanced as part of the Proposed Development.

- 5.28 The magnitude of the impact due to the change in character of the Application Site itself from agriculture to one of an energy development would be Medium on a character area of Medium sensitivity. The direct effect on the Application Site itself would be **Moderate adverse**, which is not significant. Albeit that the inherent historic enclosed field pattern would be substantially retained. The low-level nature of the BESS, within a landscape structure provided by hedgerows and scattered trees, supplemented by new hedgerow and tree planting, as well as a new management regime for existing hedgerows, would limit the effects to a small part of the wider Dinorwig Registered Historic Landscape / HLCA 23. to **Minor adverse** as a result of a Low magnitude of impact, which is not significant.

### Site Specific Landscape Characteristics

- 5.29 The landscape features, elements and physical characteristics within the Application Site are limited mainly to the hedgerows and associated trees etc. structuring the fields, scattered trees and the improved grassland within the fields themselves.
- 5.30 Where possible, the existing landscape elements of the Application Site would be retained, enhanced and / or managed during the operational lifetime of the Proposed Development. As such, the adverse impacts upon the physical characteristic of the site, i.e. loss of areas of grassland, would be partially counter balanced by the retention and management of existing vegetation at the edges of the Application Site, including enhancement where appropriate, which would represent a beneficial effect.
- 5.31 The Proposed Development, covering much of the Application Site would appear as a noticeable and obvious addition to the landscape locally to the site. Although the physical impact upon the landscape would be to an extent limited with the physical footprint of individual built elements allowing some retained grassland vegetation at the peripheries to remain. The access tracks, concrete bases used for the battery containers and other built elements would see the removal of areas of improved grassland, considered to be of low ecological value, this effect upon the character of the landscape of the Application Site would be noticeable.
- 5.32 Overall, when considering both the beneficial and adverse effects upon the Application Site there would be a Medium magnitude of impact as a result of the addition of the Proposed Development and other built elements over a much of the Application Site, resulting in a **Moderate adverse** effect at winter Year 1. With the continued management of existing retained vegetation and the additional proposed vegetation having reached maturity, at summer Year 15, including the areas set aside for biodiversity, it is judged that the overall significance of effect would be reduced to **Minor adverse**. Neither effect is judged to be significant.

### Potential Visual Effects

- 5.33 The assessment of effects has been considered in winter at Year 1 (the first year after the implementation of the landscape mitigation) and at summer Year 15.

### Visual Receptor Groups

#### Public Rights of Way

- 5.34 The ZTV (Figure 2) has indicated very limited intervisibility to the Proposed Development from the local public rights of way (PRoW) network. Notwithstanding this, visual receptors on PRoW would obtain views of the Proposed Development from locations where there is no screening vegetation such as hedgerows or trees along the route and at breaks at field gates or gaps in vegetation cover. Views of the Proposed Development may be oblique and may go unnoticed by PRoW users.

- 5.35 On completion, those parts of the PRow which fall within the ZTV (Bangor No 39 and Pentir No 14) would have limited views to the Proposed Development. Due to intervening layered vegetation, topographical variation and distance.
- 5.36 At winter Year 1, intervening vegetation, in the form of hedgerows, adjacent to the PRow and roadside near to PRow Pentir 14 (Representative Viewpoint 7), would have limited screening effect. Views to the uppermost parts of the Proposed Development, from a small section of the PRow near to local road Ffordd y Fodolydd, would be available. It is unlikely that there would be an appreciation of the completed development as a whole from any part of the PRow, as much of the Proposed Development would be screened from view due to its' low lying nature and intervening vegetation. Those small parts which are visible would be a visible built addition to the landscape though not prominent. Overall, with the majority of the Proposed Development likely to be screened from view, the change is judged to result in a Negligible magnitude of impact. Resulting in a **Minor adverse** effect for PRow users of high sensitivity. This is not judged to be a significant effect.
- 5.37 With intervening layered vegetation in the local landscape likely to be maintained at a similar height, it is anticipated that glimpsed views to a small part of the Proposed Development would remain at summer Year 15. Therefore, it is judged that the magnitude of impact and significance of effect identified at winter Year 1 would similarly remain at Year 15, i.e. **Minor adverse**.
- 5.38 Due to the distance to the Proposed Development, intervening layered vegetation and topographical variation, it is judged that there would be no discernible views of the Proposed Development from PRow Bangor No. 39 (Representative Viewpoint 12). Therefore, there would be **No Effect** upon **High sensitivity** users of a small section of the PRow at either winter Year 1 or summer Year 15.

### Dynamic receptors

- 5.39 Vehicle users and occasional cyclists using local roads such as the B4547 to the south of the Application Site and sections of limited other local roads within the wider landscape would have occasional, though predominantly screened / heavily filtered, views available of parts of the completed BESS along the short sections of these roads, particularly in close proximity to the Application Site.
- 5.40 The nearest road to the Application Site, to the northwest and passing immediately adjacent to the site access point near Garth Farm, is the narrow unnamed road which joins the B4547 to the southwest of the Application Site. Roadside vegetation along the length of much of this road would generally screen available views to the Proposed Development. As the road passes Garth Farm, the new access road and entrance would be a noticeable addition to the local landscape. Although the entrance itself would not be dissimilar to the existing field entrance, with the new access track seen along the hedge line. Due to the low lying nature of the Proposed Development, it is anticipated that views to it from this road would be of the uppermost parts of the built elements only, with the majority of the Proposed Development screened from view.
- 5.41 At winter Year 1, with the fleeting nature of views available to vehicle travellers and cyclists in combination with partial screening and Low to Medium receptor sensitivity, the visual impact on people within motor vehicles and on bicycles is judged to be Negligible to Small (at the new entrance and access track) magnitude of impact resulting in a **Negligible adverse** effects, which will be not significant.
- 5.42 Retained and supplemented hedgerow planting, particularly adjacent to the western boundary of the Application Site, would be in full leaf and have fully matured at summer Year 15. This would add to the overall screening effect of intervening vegetation within views available along this local road. Views to the new entrance and access track would remain open although fleeting for passing road users. The effects of the Proposed Development upon users of this local road passing Garth Farm at summer Year 15 would be reduced to a Negligible magnitude of impact with a **Negligible adverse** effect. This effect is not judged to be significant.

- 5.43 The ZTV (Figure 2) indicates intervisibility to the Proposed Development along a small section of the B4547, to the south of the Application Site near to Tyddyn Forgan. Intervening vegetation to the immediate south of the Application Site would largely screen possible views to the Proposed Development. There would only be glimpsed transient views to a very small part of the uppermost parts of the built elements within the Proposed Development. Seen in combination with the existing Tyddyn Forgan farmstead, which is closer to the road and a more open view to it results in it being more prominent.
- 5.44 At winter Year 1, with the fleeting nature of views available to vehicle travellers and cyclists in combination with the Proposed Development being largely screened, along with the Low to Medium receptor sensitivity, the visual impact on people within motor vehicles and on bicycles is judged to be Negligible magnitude of impact resulting in a **Negligible adverse** effects, which will be not significant. It is considered that these effects would remain at summer Year 15 along this small section of the road.
- 5.45 Of the remaining local roads within the surrounding area, very few would have any potential views to the Proposed Development. These include the B4366 to the south (Representative Viewpoint 6). Due to intervening layered vegetation and landform, it is judged that there would be a significance of effect no greater than **Negligible adverse** from the surrounding road network.

### Representative Viewpoints

#### **Representative Viewpoint 1: Local road (Lôn Ty'n Llwyn) to the north, looking generally south.**

- 5.46 The ZTV (Figure 2) indicates an area of potential intervisibility to the Proposed Development, from a small section of this local road before being screened entirely by woodland. At the time of the survey work, a temporary stack of hay bales prevented views to the Application Site. However, it is assumed that views would be available during most times of the year.
- 5.47 At Year 1, with intervening vegetation devoid of leaf, the uppermost parts of built structures on Proposed Development site would likely be visible above the intervening hedgerow planting. With any new planting to the northern boundary planted but yet to establish. Any views would be fleeting and oblique to the direction of the road, along a very small section of it. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact as a result, with a **Negligible adverse** effect, approaching no effect with the Proposed Development likely to go unnoticed by the majority of passing motorists / cyclists whose attention would be primarily on the road itself. This effect is not judged to be significant.
- 5.48 By summer Year 15, any proposed planting, supplementing the existing hedgerow along the northern boundary would have matured. In addition, management of the existing retained hedgerow to a height of up to 3 m, would further screen potential views to the Proposed Development. It is considered that there would be no impact and therefore no effect at summer Year 15 from this small section of the road.

#### **Representative Viewpoint 2: Road from the B4547 passing Garth Farm to Fodolydd Lane, looking east.**

- 5.49 Existing retained field boundary hedgerows, to the easternmost boundary and along the field boundary adjacent to the access road, would largely screen views to much of the Proposed Development, even in winter. On completion, a new access track and entrance off this local road opposite Garth Farm would be created. This would be a noticeable change to the baseline, albeit that this access to the field exists. Along this newly created access, there would short lived views to the access track itself as it traverses the field east towards the Proposed Development. Due to the direction of travel, although noticeable, this change would not substantially alter the road user's perception of this lane with the changes oblique to the lane.



- 5.50 At winter Year 1, there would be limited views to a small part of the main Proposed Development, with retained vegetation largely screening possible views. More open views to the newly created access track would be available in short lived oblique views for passing road users. Resulting in a Small magnitude of impact and **Minor adverse** effect for vehicle users and occasional cyclists of Low to Medium sensitivity. This effect is judged to be not significant. It is considered that these effects would remain at summer Year 15. With views to the access track remaining largely the same. Although the main parts of the Proposed Development would be further screened by intervening vegetation in full leaf and appropriately managed.

### **Representative Viewpoint 3: Road from the B4547 passing Garth Farm to Fodolydd Lane, looking northeast.**

- 5.51 Topographical variation and roadside vegetation would prevent views to the Proposed Development from much of this road's length. As the road rises up from the B4547 and there are gaps in the vegetation, glimpsed short lived views to a small part of the Proposed Development would be available. Intervening vegetation in adjacent fields, near to Tyddyn Forgan, would further screen views. Where views are available, it would be to a small part of the uppermost parts of the built elements of the Proposed Development within the easternmost side of it. Any views available would be oblique to the direction of travel, when going north, and so may go unnoticed by passing road users.
- 5.52 At winter Year 1, there would be limited views to a small part of the Proposed Development from this small part of the local road. Intervening vegetation devoid of leaf would have a filtering effect but not entirely screen views. Resulting in a Negligible magnitude of impact and **Negligible adverse** effect for vehicle users and occasional cyclists of Low to Medium sensitivity.
- 5.53 By summer Year 15, any proposed planting, supplementing the existing hedgerow and trees along the western and southern boundary would have matured. In addition, management of the existing retained hedgerow to a height of up to 3 m, would further screen potential views to the Proposed Development. It is considered that there would be no impact and therefore no effect at summer Year 15 from this small section of the road.

### **Representative Viewpoint 4: B4547, looking north.**

- 5.54 Generally open views from sections of the B4547 towards the Proposed Development would remain at completion, across open arable fields to the south. However, vegetation to the southernmost site boundary and neighbouring Tyddyn Forgan farmstead, would largely screen the Proposed Development from view. Small sections of the uppermost parts of built elements, to the western side of the Proposed Development, would be discernible in fleeting oblique views for passing road users. With possible views oblique to the road and with the B4547 being a relatively major road, it is anticipated that fleeting views to a small part of the Proposed Development would likely go unnoticed by many road users.
- 5.55 At winter Year 1, with the majority of intervening vegetation devoid of leaf, there would be a Small magnitude of impact upon road users of Low to Medium sensitivity. Resulting in a **Minor adverse** effect, which is not judged to be significant.
- 5.56 At summer Year 15, intervening vegetation, along with proposed planting to the southern parts of the Proposed Development, would be in full leaf and have matured enough so as to add to the overall screening effect. Glimpsed views to the uppermost parts of a very small part of the Proposed Development may remain through any gaps in the vegetation. However, this would not substantially alter views for passing road users. The overall effects of the Proposed Development would reduce as a result. With a Negligible magnitude of impact and **Negligible adverse** effect. With the Proposed Development largely going unnoticed and well screened from potential views from this well used local road. This effect is not judged to be significant.

**Representative Viewpoint 5: Road from B4366 passing Seion Village to Nant y Garth, looking northeast.**

- 5.57 Open elevated view towards the Proposed Development. Intervening vegetation, to the south of the Proposed Development around Tyddyn Forgan, would screen large parts of it. There would be channelled views to a small part of the Proposed Development's westernmost side from a short section of this local road, for users travelling in a northerly direction. A small section of the 4m high acoustic fence, along the western boundary, would be discernible within the view. See as a muted green colour it would likely blend in well with the surrounding vegetation and therefore not be a prominent feature within this elevated view. Small parts of the Proposed Development would be seen above and in the context of existing development views to it would not be immediately apparent and not substantially effect the overall composition of the view.
- 5.58 At winter Year 1, with the majority of intervening vegetation devoid of leaf, there would be a Small magnitude of impact upon road users of Low to Medium sensitivity. Resulting in a **Minor adverse** effect, which is not judged to be significant.
- 5.59 At summer Year 15, intervening vegetation, along with proposed planting to the southern and westernmost parts of the Proposed Development, would be in full leaf and have matured enough so as to add to the overall screening effect. Glimpsed views to a small part of the Proposed Developments' westernmost parts, including the acoustic fence, would likely remain due to the elevated position of the view. However, this would not substantially alter views for road users. The overall effects of the Proposed Development would reduce as a result. With a Negligible magnitude of impact and **Negligible adverse** effect. With the Proposed Development largely going unnoticed and well screened from potential views from this well used local road. This effect is not judged to be significant.

**Representative Viewpoint 7: Local road Ffordd y Fodolydd at the junction with Public Right Of Way Pentir No 14, looking southeast.**

- 5.60 Much like many of the other Representative Viewpoints, there would be very limited views of the Proposed Development from this small section of Ffordd y Fodolydd and the adjacent PRoW. Intervening layered vegetation and topographical variation would prevent views to the majority of the Proposed Development. Garth Farm, visible within the view, gives a good locator of the Proposed Development, however, it is anticipated that only a very small part of the uppermost built form would be discernible in views. With only a small section of the road and adjacent PRoW falling within the ZTV (Figure 2), it is considered that the Proposed Development would likely go unnoticed by the majority of road / PRoW users.
- 5.61 At winter Year 1, there would be limited views to a small part of the Proposed Development from this small section of the local road and PRoW network. Intervening vegetation devoid of leaf would have a filtering effect but not entirely screen views. Resulting in a Negligible magnitude of impact and **Negligible adverse** effect for vehicle users and occasional cyclists of Low to Medium sensitivity.
- 5.62 By summer Year 15, any proposed planting, supplementing the existing hedgerow and trees along the western and southern boundary would have matured. In addition, intervening vegetation in full leaf and proposed vegetation management to a height of up to 3 m, would further screen potential views to the Proposed Development. It is considered that there would be no impact and therefore no effect at summer Year 15 from this small section of the road.

## Summary of Effects

- 5.63 The Proposed Development would introduce a new energy development, within an area of the local landscape to the north of the B4547.

- 5.64 The Application Site is located within an area of gently undulating farmland, two small pastoral fields, well enclosed by vegetative cover, including hedgerows, scattered trees and woodland. Existing vegetation to the Application Site boundaries would be retained and enhanced as part of the Proposed Development.
- 5.65 Energy development of the nature of the Proposed Development are a feature within the local landscape, including the Pentir Substation, fed by large overhead pylons that cross the landscape to the north and east.

**Summary of landscape character effects**

- 5.66 The Proposed Development would introduce a new energy storage system into the local landscape. Although these are not commonplace, they are present and an existing characteristic of the local landscape.
- 5.67 Notwithstanding this being an additional built energy infrastructure development within the local landscape, there is not anticipated to be any significant effects upon the character of the local landscape as a result of the Proposed Development.

**Summary of visual effects**

- 5.68 In respect of potential visual effects, it is anticipated that a low-lying development of this scale would cause some localised change to views available from the local landscape, although it would be well screened from views along local roads and public rights of way. It is considered that the Proposed Development would give rise to no significant visual effects, being no greater than **Minor adverse**, at winter Year 1, from a short section of the local roads. A particularly noticeable addition would be at the newly created access track opposite Garth Farm (Representative Viewpoint 2). Albeit that this would make use of an existing field entrance and so no be a prominent change to short lived views for passing road users along this section of the road.
- 5.69 Beyond the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development and due to its low-lying nature, substantial layered vegetation and topographical variation would partly or entirely screen potential views to the Proposed Development from the surrounding landscape. There would be no point within the local landscape where an appreciation of the Proposed Development as a whole would be available. Small parts of the Proposed Development, primarily a small section of the acoustic fence, would be discernible from higher ground within the local landscape (Representative Viewpoints 5). At winter Year 1, it is anticipated that there would be no significant visual effects from within the 3 km study area used for this assessment. With a significance of effect no greater than **Minor adverse**.
- 5.70 Potential visual effects identified above would reduce over time, as the proposed mitigation planting matures further screening the Proposed Development and helping it to better integrate into the local landscape. At summer Year 15, potential visual effects would be no greater than **Minor adverse** (Representative Viewpoint 2), with other visual effects reducing to **Negligible adverse**.
- 5.71 Overall, the quality and character of the landscape and visual resources would be maintained, and it is considered that the local landscape would have the capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development without significant effects.

**Table 5.1: Summary of Likely Environmental Effects on Landscape and Visual Resources**

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect (winter Year 1)	Significant / Not significant	Notes
<b>Operational phase</b>							

**LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (LVIA)**

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect (winter Year 1)	Significant / Not significant	Notes
<b>Landscape resources and receptors</b>							
NLCA 3: Arfon	Medium to High	Direct	Long term permanent	Low	Minor adverse	Not Significant	
LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscape Aspect Area: 'Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor)' (GWNDDVS006)	High	Direct	Long term permanent	Low	Minor adverse	Not Significant	
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Aspect Area: 'Arfon plain' (GWNDDCL011)	High	Direct	Long term permanent	Low	Minor adverse	Not Significant	
LANDMAP Geological Landscape Aspect Area: 'Bangor' (GWNDDGL110)	High	Direct	Long term permanent	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not Significant	
LANDMAP Landscape Habitat Aspect Area: unnamed Aspect Area (GWNDDLH653)	Low	Direct	Long term permanent	Medium (site based)	Minor adverse (site based)	Not Significant	
LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Area: 'Northern Arfon Plateau' (GWNDDHL024)	Medium	Direct	Long term permanent	Low (site based)	Minor adverse (site based)	Not Significant	
Landscape Character Area (LCA) 4: Caernarfon Coast and Plateau	Medium to High	Direct	Long term permanent	Medium (site based)	Moderate adverse (site based)	Not Significant	
<b>Visual receptors</b>							
Public Rights of Way	High	Indirect	Long term permanent	Negligible	Minor adverse	Not Significant	

**LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (LVIA)**

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect (winter Year 1)	Significant / Not significant	Notes
Dynamic Receptors (road users)	Low to Medium	Indirect	Long term permanent	Negligible to Small	Negligible to Minor adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 1: Local road (Lôn Ty'n Llwyn) to the north, looking generally south.	Low to Medium	Indirect	Long term permanent	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 2: Road from the B4547 passing Garth Farm to Fodolydd Lane, looking east.	Low to Medium	Indirect	Long term permanent	Small	Minor adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 3: Road from the B4547 passing Garth Farm to Fodolydd Lane, looking northeast.	Low to Medium	Indirect	Long term permanent	Small	Minor adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 4: B4547, looking north.	Low to Medium	Indirect	Long term permanent	Small	Minor adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 5: Road from B4366 passing Seion Village to Nant y Garth, looking northeast.	Low to Medium	Indirect	Long term permanent	Small	Minor adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 7: Local road Ffordd y Fodolydd at the junction with Public Right Of Way Pentir No 14, looking southeast.	Low to Medium	Indirect	Long term permanent	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not Significant	

## 6 REFERENCES

### Publications

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Planning Policy Wales LANDMAP Guidance Note 3: (2013).

Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan 2011 to 2026.

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

### Online Resources

National Landscape Character Areas, National Character Area (NLCA) 3: Arfon.

<https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/nlca/?lang=en>

(Accessed October 2023).

Natural Resources Wales. LANDMAP the Welsh landscape baseline

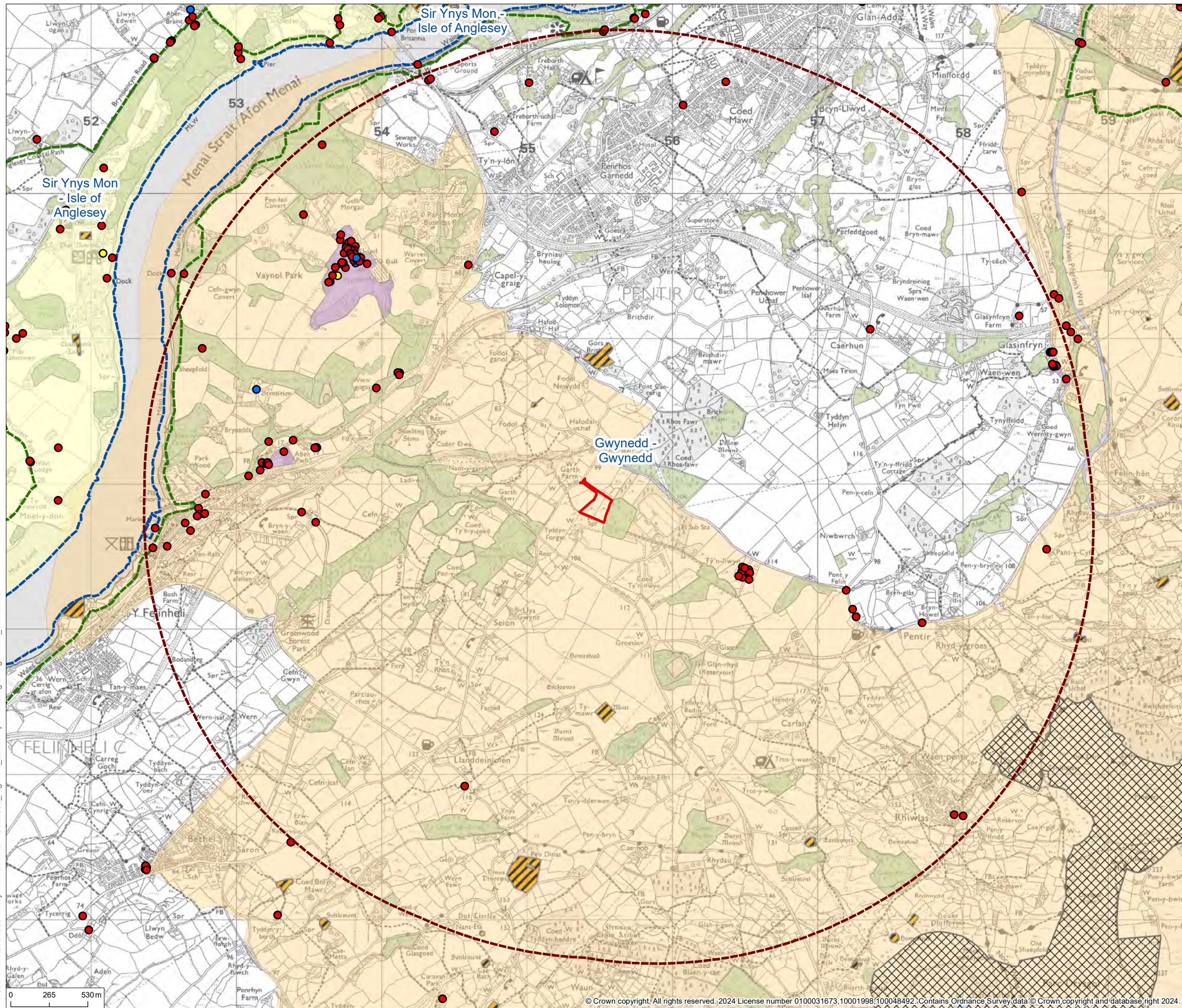
<https://smnr-nrw.hub.arcgis.com/apps/c7770d2881394c899123bae210afe370/explore>

(Accessed October 2023)



**FIGURES**

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**Legend**

- Application Site Boundary
- Study Area (3km Radius)

**Listed Buildings**

**Grade**

- I
- II
- II\*

- Wales Coastal Path
- district\_borough\_unitary\_region
- National Park
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Access Land
- Conservation Areas
- Ancient Woodland
- Candidate World Heritage Site
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Historic Landscapes



B	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	04.01.24
A	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	07.11.23
Rev	Description	By	CB	Date



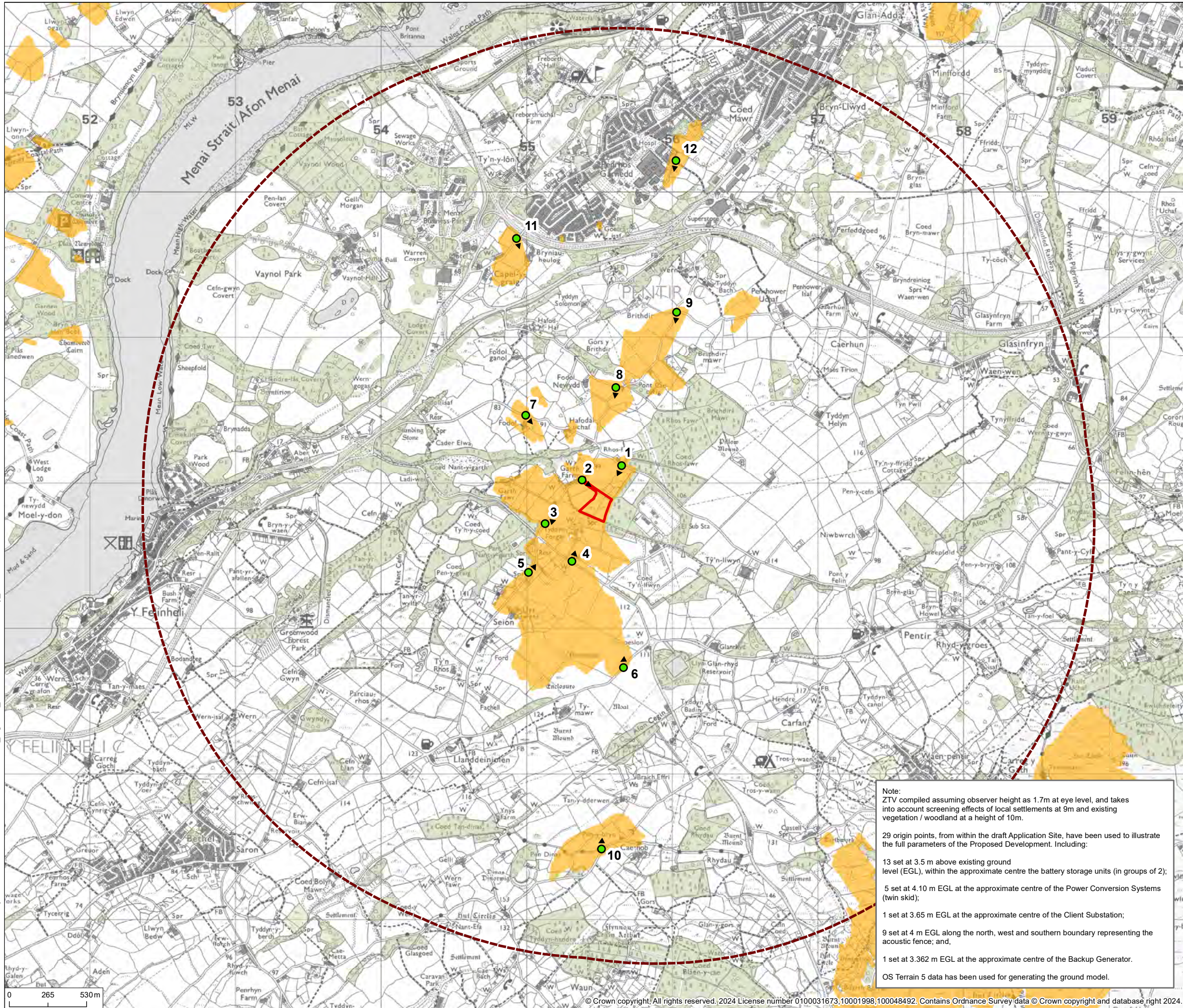
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Client **Lightsource BP**  
 Project **Pentir BESS**  
 Title **Landscape Planning Designations**

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**Legend**

- Application Site Boundary
- Study Area (3km)
- Woodland
- Settlement
- Representative Viewpoints (inc. direction of view)
- ZTV (theoretical extent of the surrounding landscape from where the Proposed Development, Pentir BESS, may be visible)



D	Height parameters for BESS enclosures	GL	PH	12.04.24
C	Acoustic fence added @ 4m EGL	GL	PH	27.03.24
B	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	04.01.24
A	Revised Application Site Boundary + ZTV	GL	PH	07.11.23
Rev	Description	By	CB	Date

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Project **Pentir BESS**

Title **Zone of Theoretical Visibility (inc. Representative Viewpoints)**

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Project Number **JSL4893** Scale @ A3 **1:25,000** Date Created **APR 2024**

Figure Number **2** Rev **D**

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Note:  
 ZTV compiled assuming observer height as 1.7m at eye level, and takes into account screening effects of local settlements at 9m and existing vegetation / woodland at a height of 10m.

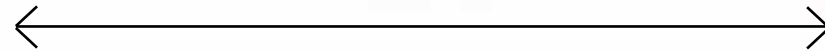
29 origin points, from within the draft Application Site, have been used to illustrate the full parameters of the Proposed Development. Including:

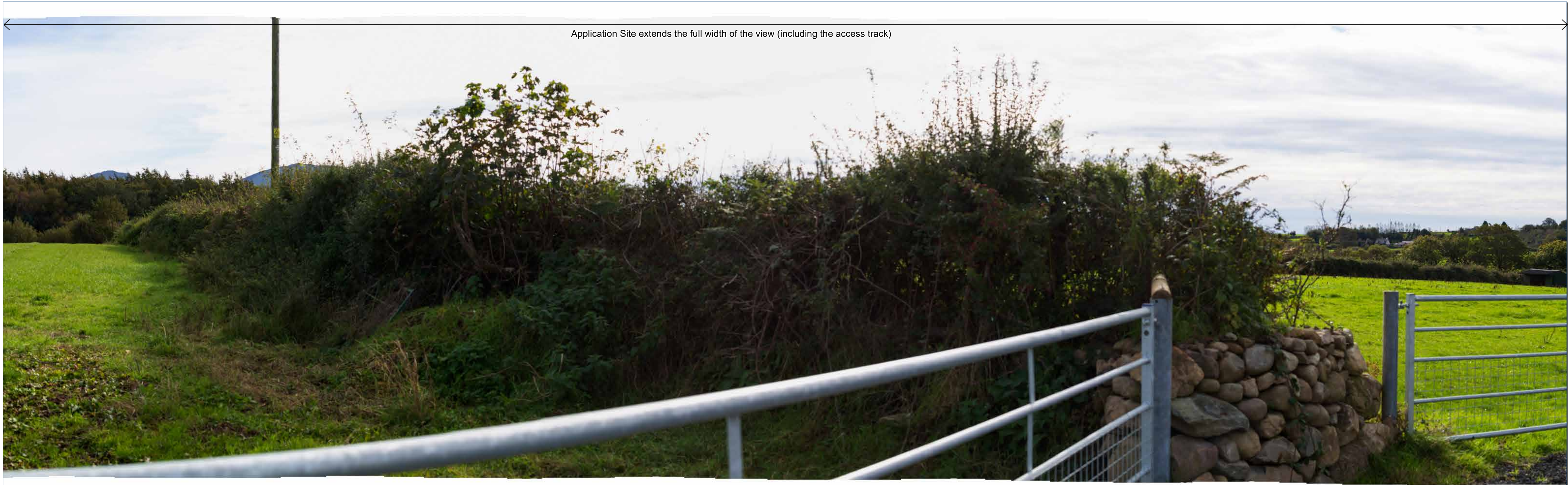
- 13 set at 3.5 m above existing ground level (EGL), within the approximate centre the battery storage units (in groups of 2);
- 5 set at 4.10 m EGL at the approximate centre of the Power Conversion Systems (twin skid);
- 1 set at 3.65 m EGL at the approximate centre of the Client Substation;
- 9 set at 4 m EGL along the north, west and southern boundary representing the acoustic fence; and,
- 1 set at 3.362 m EGL at the approximate centre of the Backup Generator.

OS Terrain 5 data has been used for generating the ground model.



Approximate extent of the Application Site within the view





Application Site extends the full width of the view (including the access track)



Approximate extent of the Application Site within the view (including access track)





Approximate extent of the Application Site within the view (including access track)



Approximate extent of the Application Site within the view (including access track)



Approximate extent of the Application Site within the view



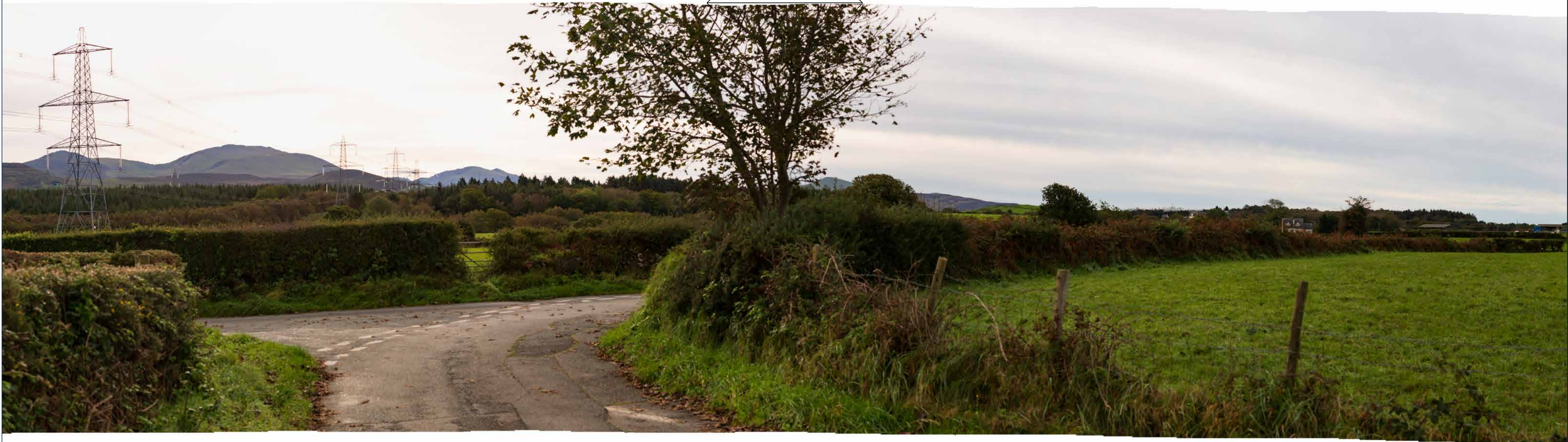


Approximate extent of the Application Site within the view

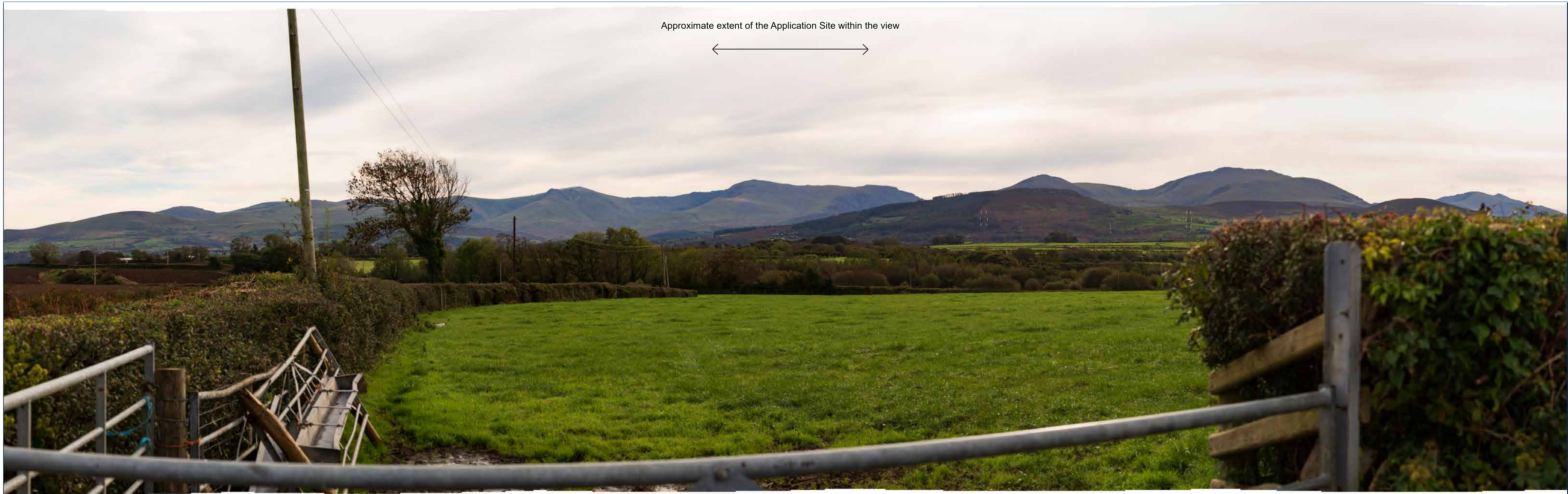




Approximate extent of the Application Site within the view



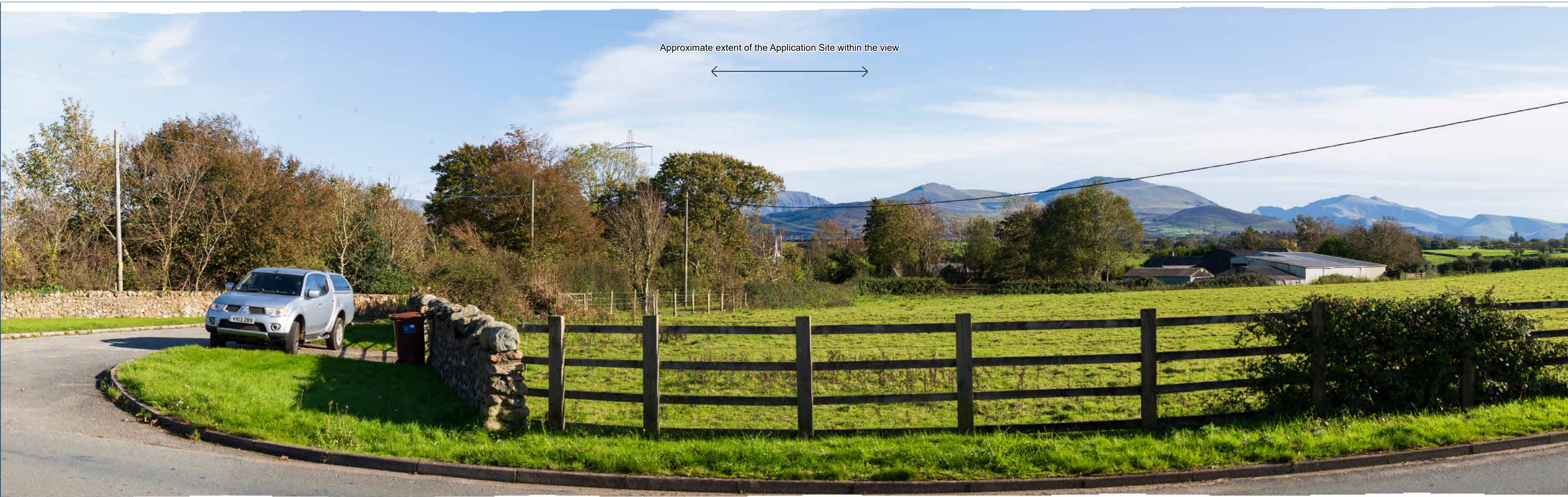
Approximate extent of the Application Site within the view



Approximate extent of the Application Site within the view

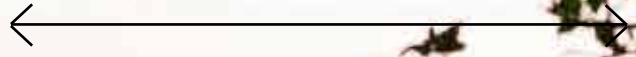


Approximate extent of the Application Site within the view

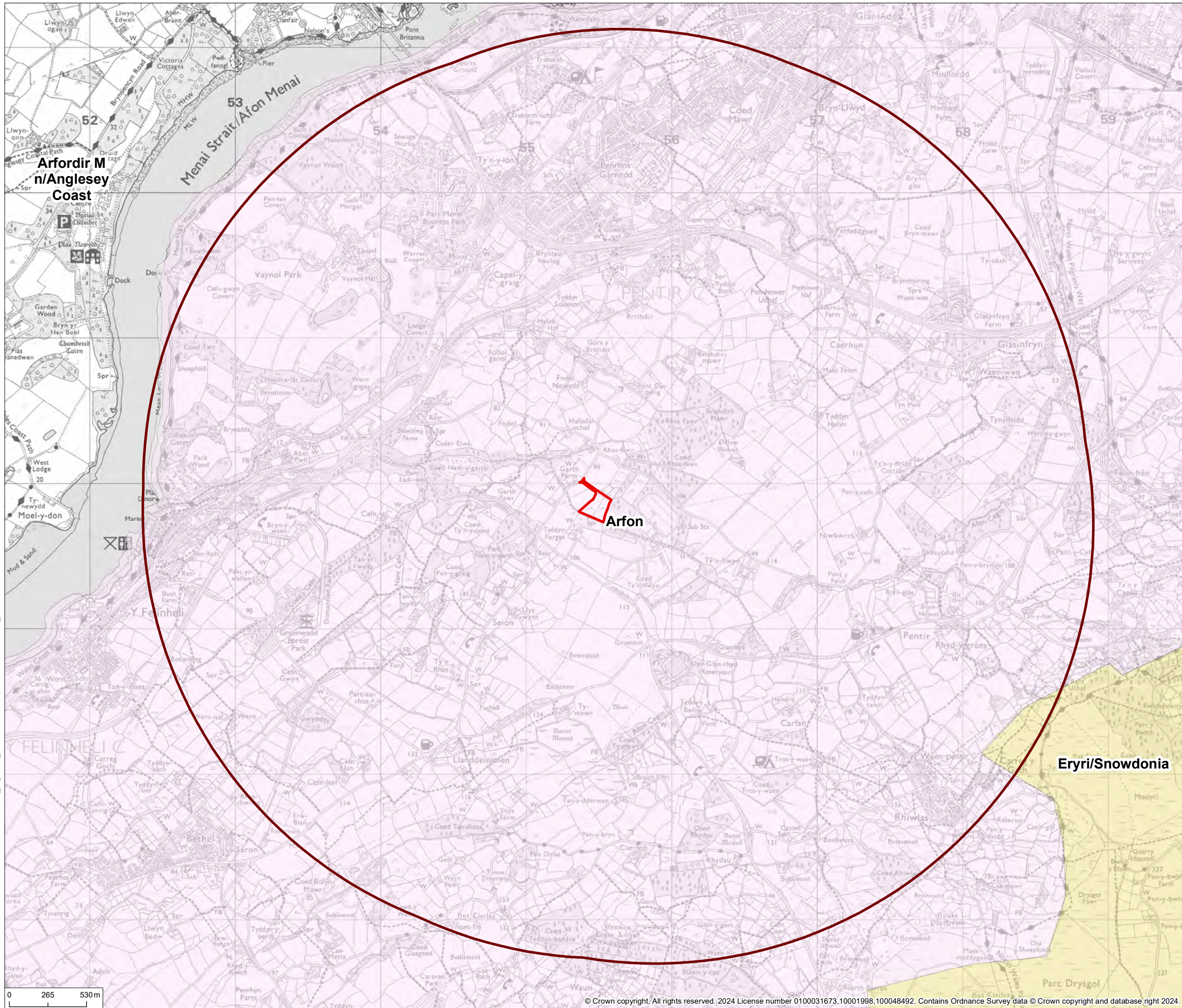




Approximate extent of the Application Site within the view



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**Legend**

- Application Site Boundary
- Study Area (3km Radius)

**National Landscape Character Areas**

- Arfon
- Eryri/Snowdonia



B	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	04.01.24
A	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	07.11.23
Rev	Description	By	CB	Date

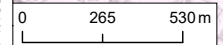


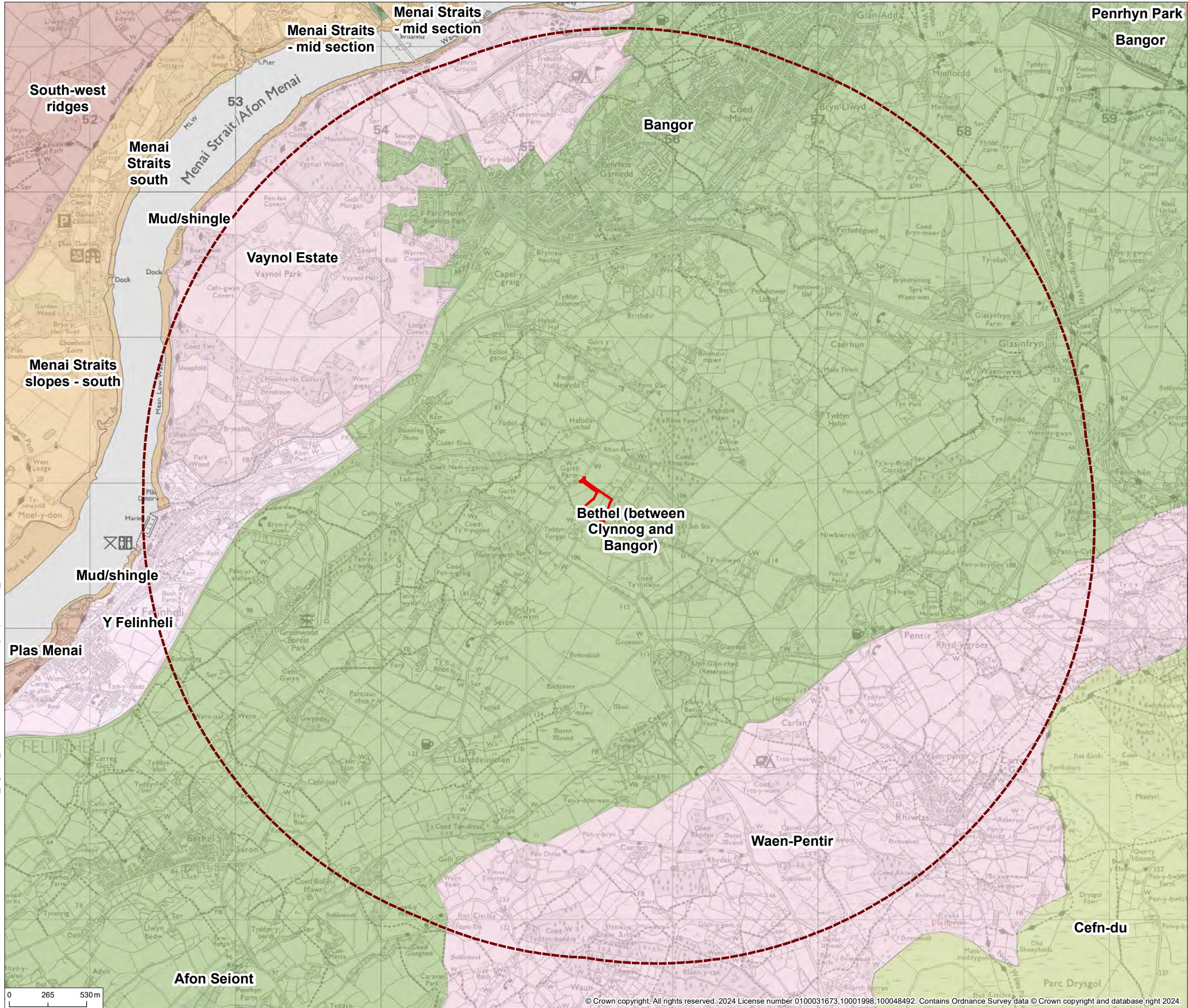
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 Project Pentir BESS  
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**Legend**

- Application Site Boundary
- Study Area (3km Radius)

**LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas**

- A55 corridor
- Afon Seiont
- Bangor
- Bethel (between Clynngog and Bangor)
- Cefn-du
- Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll
- Menai Straits - mid section
- Menai Straits slopes - south
- Menai Straits south
- Mud/shingle
- Penrhyn Park
- Plas Menai
- South-west ridges
- Vaynol Estate
- Waen-Pentir
- Y Felinheli



B	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	04.01.24
A	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	07.11.23
Rev	Description	By	CB	Date



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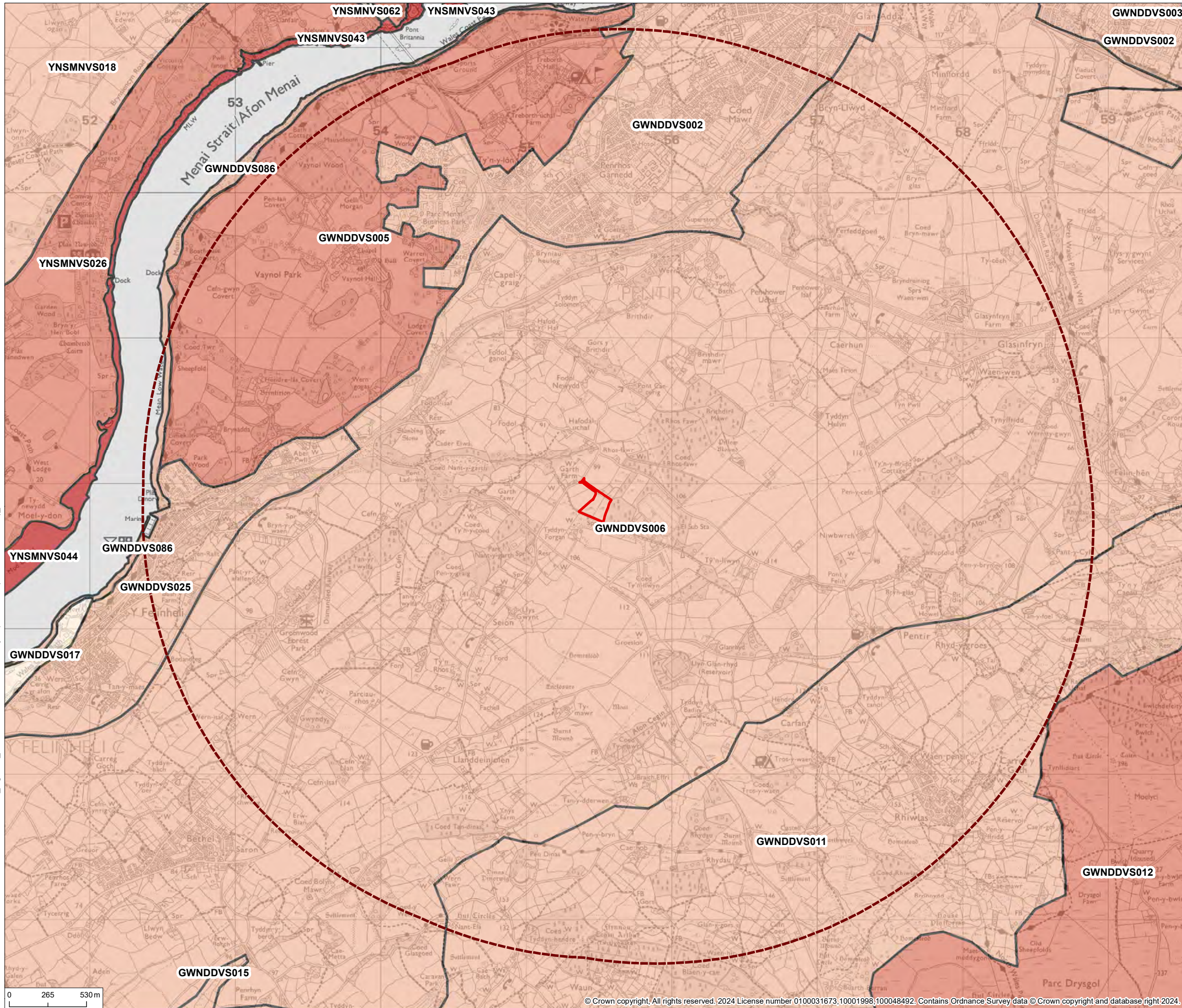
Client Lightsource BP  
 Project Pentir BESS  
 Title LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas

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P:\4800 Series\JSL4893 - Pentir BESS\Tech\GIS\JSL4893\_Figure 6\_LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (Overall Evaluation)\_Rev B.mxd



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**Legend**

- Application Site Boundary
- Study Area (3km Radius)

**LANDMAP: Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas**

**Overall Evaluation**

- Outstanding
- High
- Moderate
- Low



B	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	04.01.24
A	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	07.11.23
Rev	Description	By	CB	Date

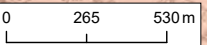


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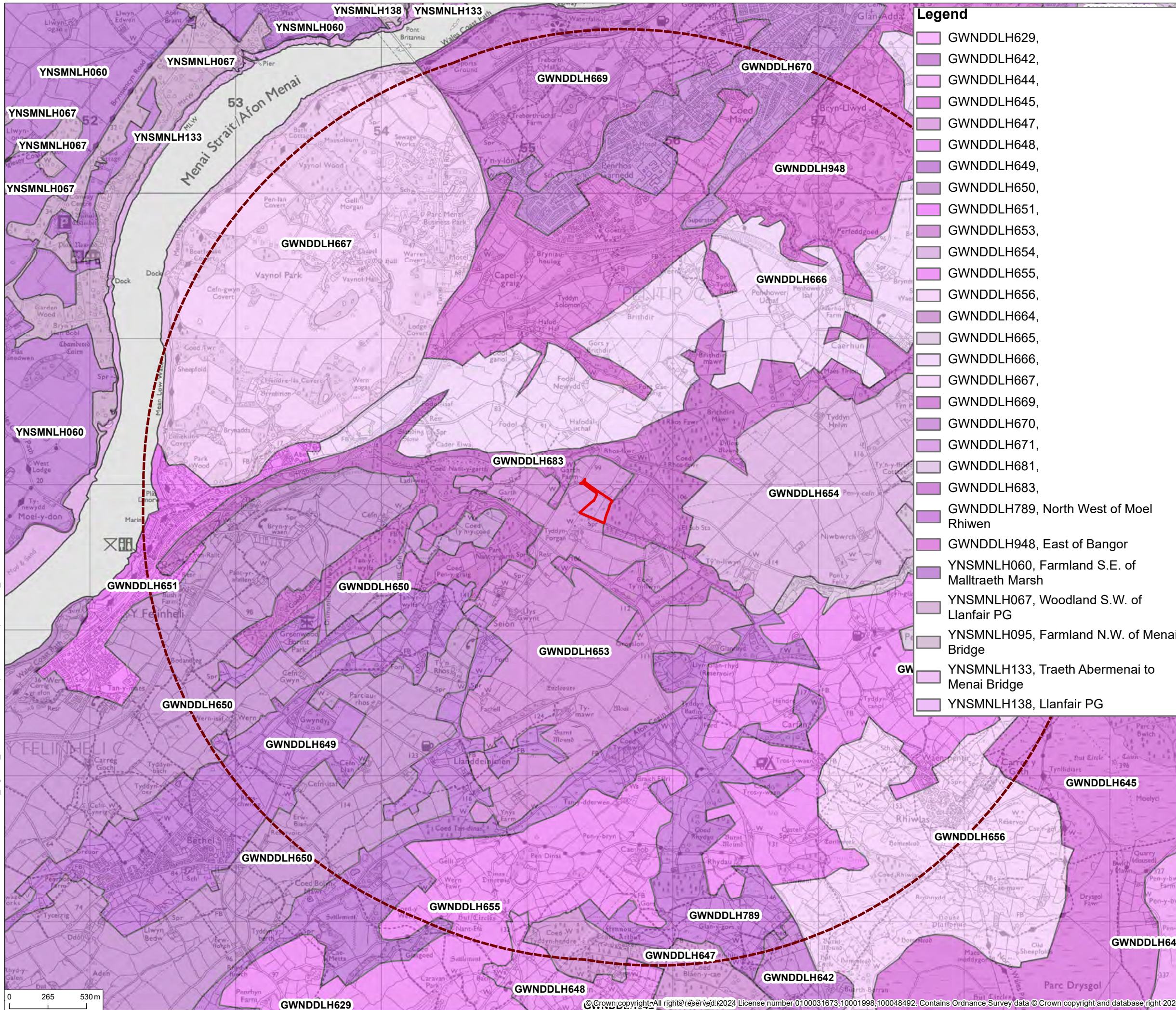
Client **Lightsource BP**  
 Project **Pentir BESS**  
 Title **LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (overall evaluation)**

Status **DRAFT**      Drawn By **GL**      PM/Checked By **PH**  
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 Figure Number **6**      Rev **B**

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- Legend**
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  - GWNDDLH642,
  - GWNDDLH644,
  - GWNDDLH645,
  - GWNDDLH647,
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  - GWNDDLH667,
  - GWNDDLH669,
  - GWNDDLH670,
  - GWNDDLH671,
  - GWNDDLH681,
  - GWNDDLH683,
  - GWNDDLH789, North West of Moel Rhiwen
  - GWNDDLH948, East of Bangor
  - YNSMNLH060, Farmland S.E. of Malltraeth Marsh
  - YNSMNLH067, Woodland S.W. of Llanfair PG
  - YNSMNLH095, Farmland N.W. of Menai Bridge
  - YNSMNLH133, Traeth Abermenai to Menai Bridge
  - YNSMNLH138, Llanfair PG

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- Legend**
- Application Site Boundary
  - Study Area (3km Radius)



B	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	04.01.24
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Rev	Description	By	CB	Date

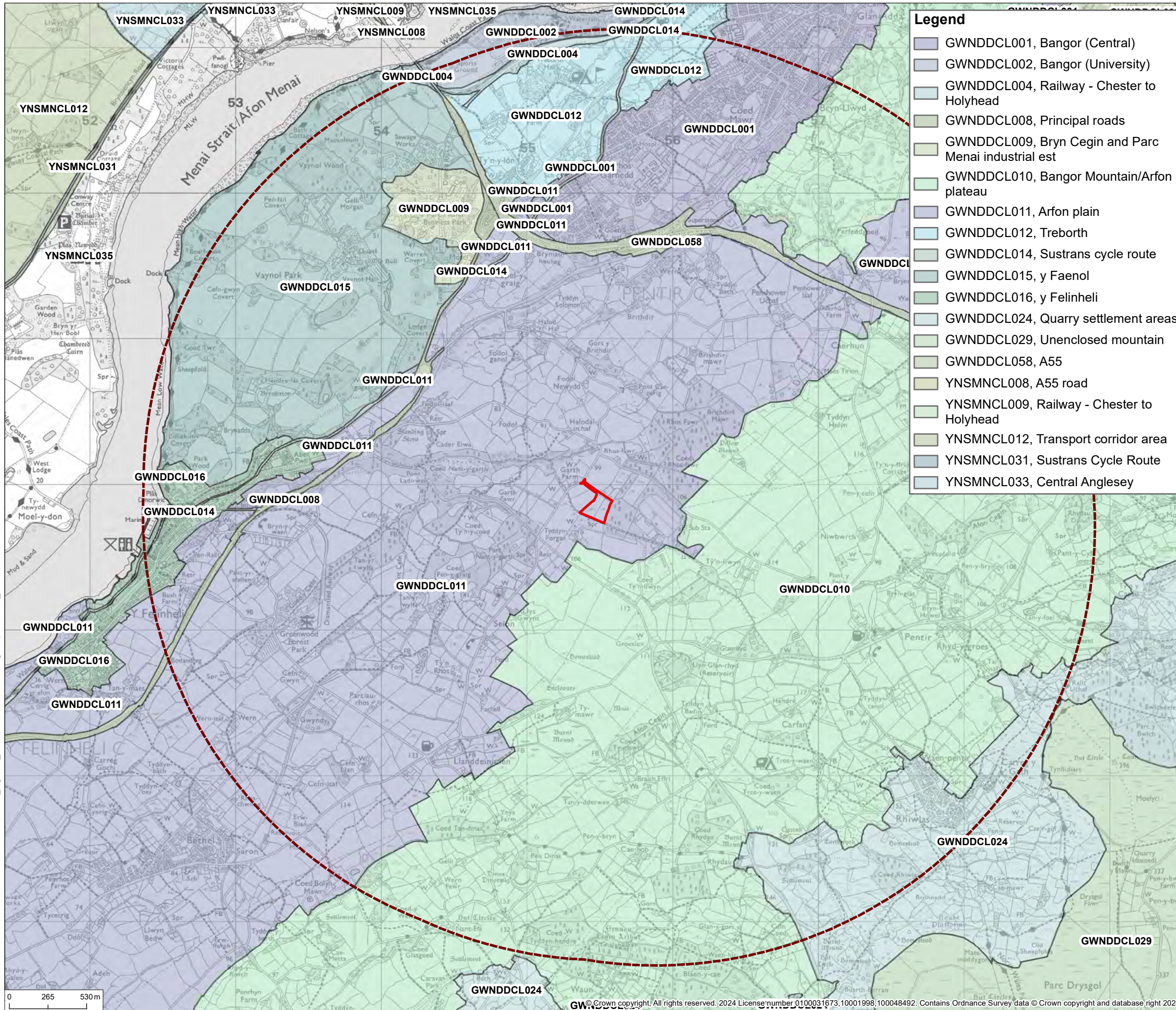


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Client	Lightsource BP		
Project	Pentir BESS		
Title	LANDMAP Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas		
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Project Number	Scale @ A3	Date Created	
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Figure Number		Rev	
7		B	

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- Legend**
- GWNDDCL001, Bangor (Central)
  - GWNDDCL002, Bangor (University)
  - GWNDDCL004, Railway - Chester to Holyhead
  - GWNDDCL008, Principal roads
  - GWNDDCL009, Bryn Cegin and Parc Menai industrial est
  - GWNDDCL010, Bangor Mountain/Arfon plateau
  - GWNDDCL011, Arfon plain
  - GWNDDCL012, Treborth
  - GWNDDCL014, Sustrans cycle route
  - GWNDDCL015, y Faenol
  - GWNDDCL016, y Felinheli
  - GWNDDCL024, Quarry settlement areas
  - GWNDDCL029, Unenclosed mountain
  - GWNDDCL058, A55
  - YNSMNCL008, A55 road
  - YNSMNCL009, Railway - Chester to Holyhead
  - YNSMNCL012, Transport corridor area
  - YNSMNCL031, Sustrans Cycle Route
  - YNSMNCL033, Central Anglesey

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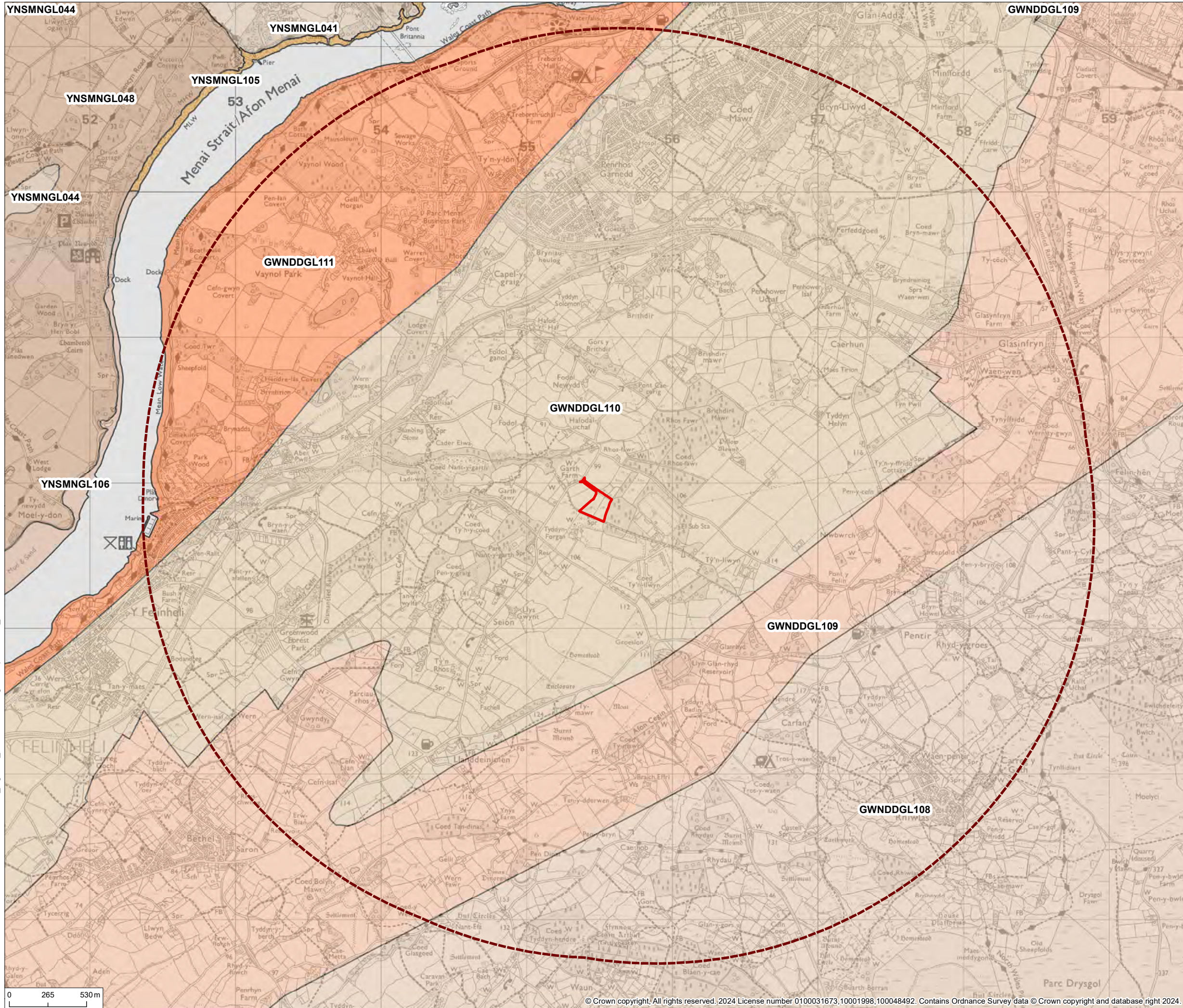
- Legend**
- Application Site Boundary
  - Study Area (3km Radius)

B	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	04.01.24
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 Title **LANDMAP Cultural Heritage Aspect Areas**  
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- Legend**
- Application Site Boundary
  - Study Area (3km Radius)
  - GWNDDGL108, Moel Rhiwen
  - GWNDDGL109, Talybont
  - GWNDDGL110, Bangor
  - GWNDDGL111, Vaynol Park
  - YNSMNGLO41, Llansadwrn
  - YNSMNGLO44, Afon Braint
  - YNSMNGLO48, Brynsiencyn
  - YNSMNGLO105, Menai Straits (NE)
  - YNSMNGLO106, Menai Straits (SW)

B	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	04.01.24
A	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	07.11.23
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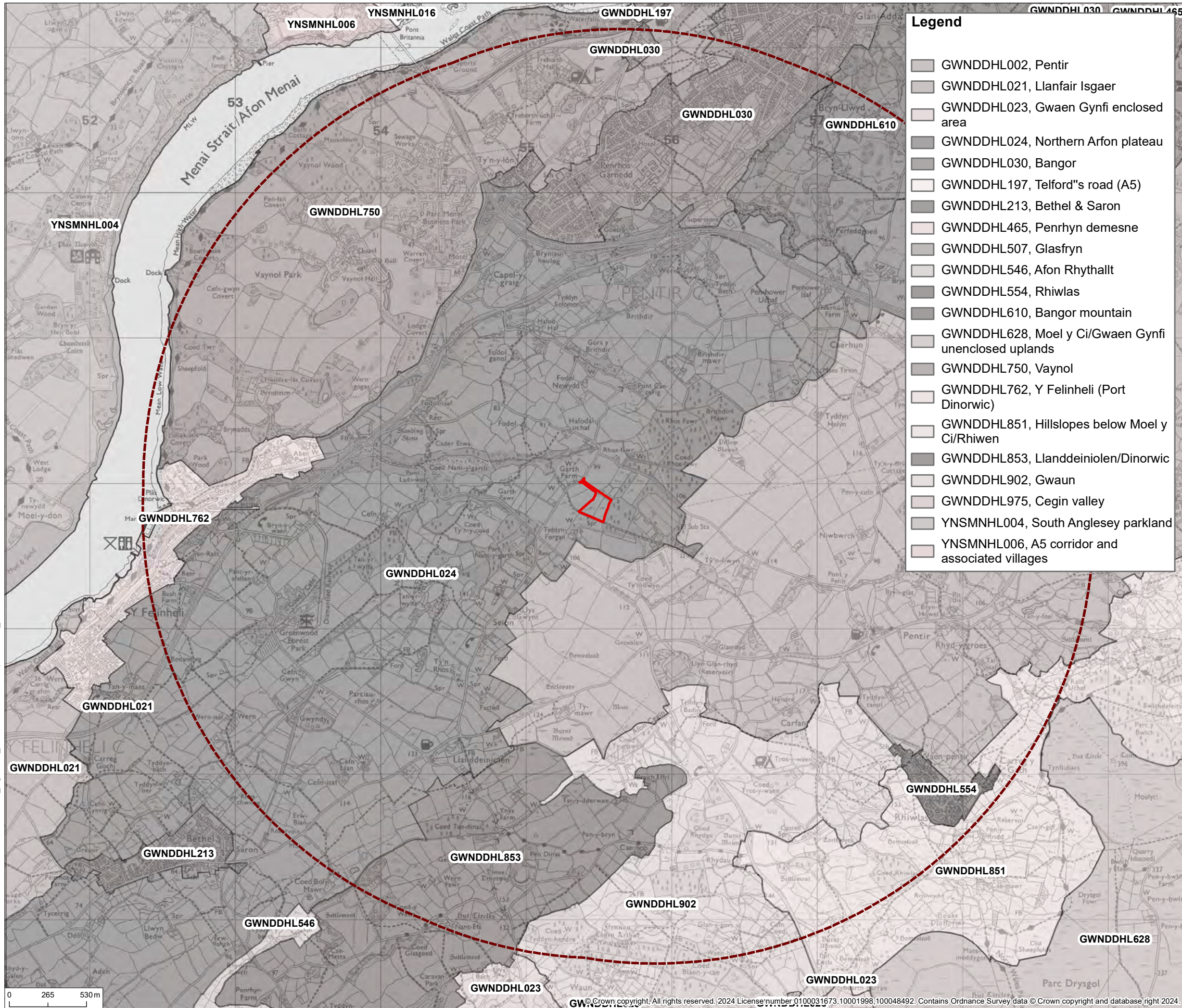
Client **Lightsource BP**  
 Project **Pentir BESS**  
 Title **LANDMAP Geological Aspect Areas**

Status **DRAFT** Drawn By **GL** PM/Checked By **PH**  
 Project Number **JSL4893** Scale @ A3 **1:25,000** Date Created **JAN 2024**  
 Figure Number **9** Rev **B**

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P:\4800 Series\JSL4893 - Pentir BESS\Tech\GIS\USL4893\_Figure 10\_LANDMAP Historic Aspect Areas\_Rev B.mxd



- Legend**
- GWNDDHL002, Pentir
  - GWNDDHL021, Llanfair Isgaer
  - GWNDDHL023, Gwaen Gynfi enclosed area
  - GWNDDHL024, Northern Arfon plateau
  - GWNDDHL030, Bangor
  - GWNDDHL197, Telford"s road (A5)
  - GWNDDHL213, Bethel & Saron
  - GWNDDHL465, Penrhyn demesne
  - GWNDDHL507, Glasfryn
  - GWNDDHL546, Afon Rhythallt
  - GWNDDHL554, Rhiwlas
  - GWNDDHL610, Bangor mountain
  - GWNDDHL628, Moel y Ci/Gwaen Gynfi unenclosed uplands
  - GWNDDHL750, Vaynol
  - GWNDDHL762, Y Felinheli (Port Dinorwic)
  - GWNDDHL851, Hillslopes below Moel y Ci/Rhiwen
  - GWNDDHL853, Llanddeiniolen/Dinorwic
  - GWNDDHL902, Gwaun
  - GWNDDHL975, Cegin valley
  - YNSMNHL004, South Anglesey parkland
  - YNSMNHL006, A5 corridor and associated villages

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- Legend**
- Application Site Boundary
  - Study Area (3km Radius)



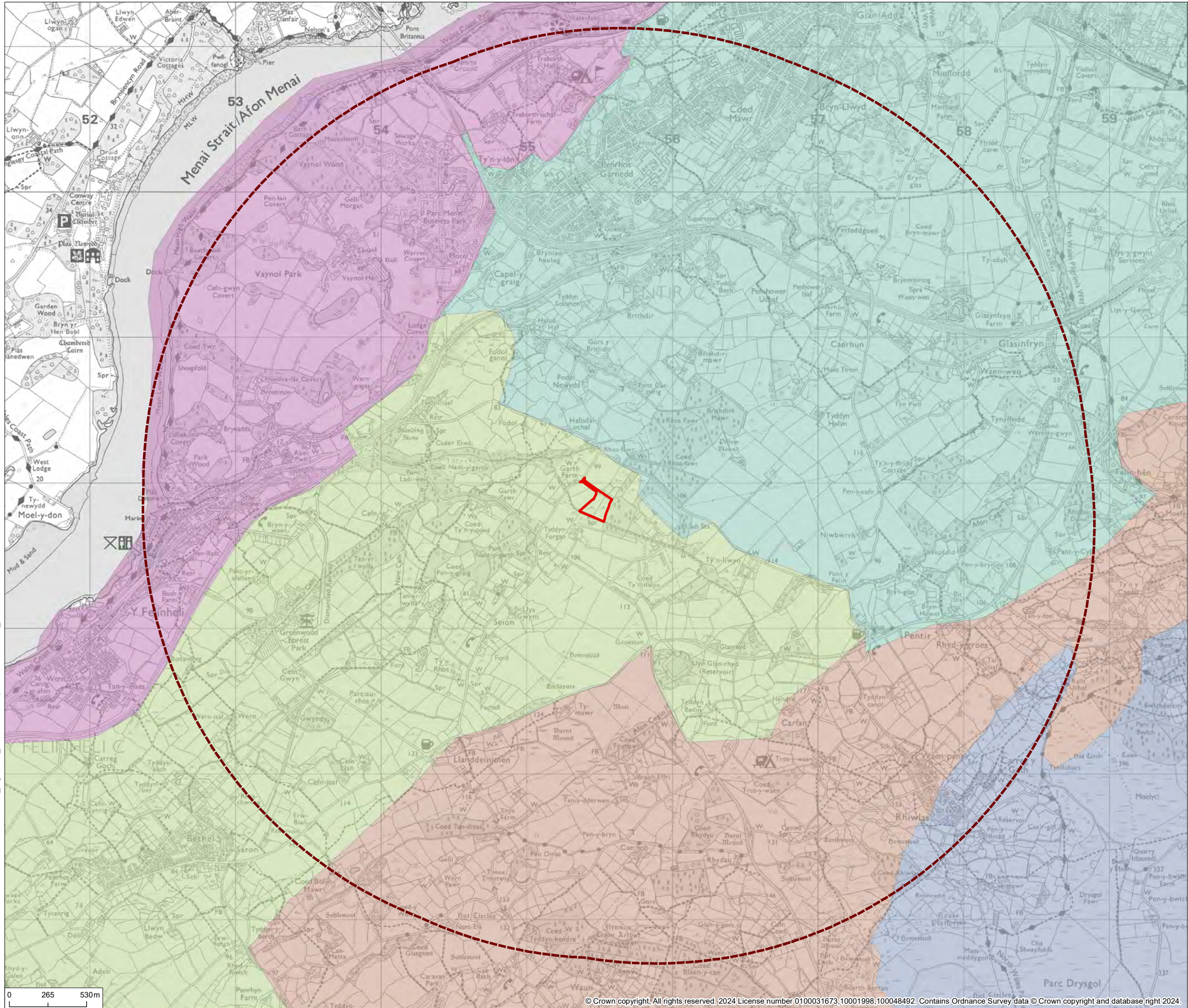
B	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	04.01.24
A	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	07.11.23
Rev	Description	By	CB	Date

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Client **Lightsource BP**  
 Project **Pentir BESS**  
 Title **LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas**

Status **DRAFT** Drawn By **GL** PM/Checked By **PH**  
 Project Number **JSL4893** Scale @ A3 **1:25,000** Date Created **JAN 2024**  
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**Legend**

- Application Site Boundary
- Study Area (3km Radius)

**Gwynedd Landscape Strategy Update (2012) Landscape Character Areas (LCA)**

- LCA 1 Bangor Coastal Plain
- LCA 2 Peniarwaun Plateau
- LCA 3 Llanberis Bethesda
- LCA 4 Caernarfon Coast and Plateau
- LCA 16 Menai Coast



B	Revised Application Site Boundary	GL	PH	04.01.24
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Client	Lightsource BP		
Project	Pentir BESS		
Title	Local Landscape Character Areas (LCA)		
Status	Drawn By	PM/Checked By	
DRAFT	GL	PH	
Project Number	Scale @ A3	Date Created	
JSL4893	1:25,000	JAN 2024	
Figure Number			Rev
<b>11</b>			<b>B</b>

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**APPENDICES**

Landscape Value

**Table 6.1: Range of factors that can be considered when identifying landscape value from *Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations* Table 1**

Range of factors that can be considered when identifying landscape value				
Factor	Definition	Examples <sup>1</sup> of Indicators of landscape value	of Example <sup>2</sup> of evidence	of Evidence present
Natural heritage	Landscape with clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contribute positively to the landscape	Presence of wildlife and habitats of ecological interest that contribute to sense of place.	Landscape character assessment	The Application Site sits entirely within Landscape Character Area 4: Caernarfon Coast and Plateau (Gwynedd Landscape Strategy Update 2012).
		Extent and survival of seminatural habitat that is characteristic of the landscape type.	LANDMAP Geological Landscape and Landscape Habitats Aspects (in Wales)	The Application Site sits within the 'Bangor' (GWNDDGL110) Geological Landscape Aspect Area; and the unnamed Landscape Habitat Aspect Area (GWNDDLH653).
		Presence of distinctive geological, geomorphological or pedological features.	Ecological and geological designations	None associated with the Application Site
		Landscape which contains valued natural capital assets that contribute to ecosystem services, for example distinctive ecological communities and habitats that form the basis of ecological networks.	SSSI citations and condition assessments	None associated with the Application Site
		Landscape which makes an identified contribution to a nature recovery/green infrastructure network	Geological Conservation Review	None associated with the Application Site
			Habitat surveys	None associated with the Application Site
			Priority habitats	None associated with the Application Site
			Nature recovery networks/ nature pathways	None associated with the Application Site
			Habitat network opportunity mapping/ green infrastructure mapping	None associated with the Application Site
			Catchment management plans	None associated with the Application Site
	Ecosystem services assessment/ schemes	None associated with the Application Site		
	Specialist ecological studies	None associated with the Application Site		

<sup>1</sup> These examples are not exhaustive.

<sup>2</sup> Evidence may be set out in development plans (or evidence that sits alongside development plans). Online mapping may also provide useful information

## LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (LVIA)

### Range of factors that can be considered when identifying landscape value

Factor	Definition	Examples <sup>1</sup> of landscape value	of Example <sup>2</sup> of evidence	of Evidence present
Cultural heritage	Landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contribute positively to the landscape	Presence of historic landmark or landscape elements (e.g. monuments, avenues, roundels) or Presence of historic parks and gardens, and designed landscapes or Landscape which contributes to the significance of heritage assets, for example forming the setting of heritage assets (especially if identified in specialist studies) or Landscape which offers a dimension of time depth. This includes natural time depth, e.g. presence of features such as glaciers and peat bogs and cultural time depth e.g. presence of relic farmsteads, ruins, historic field patterns, historic rights of way (e.g. drove roads, salt ways, tracks associated with past industrial activity)	LANDMAP Historic Landscape and Cultural Services Aspect (in Wales)	The Application Site sits within the 'Northern Arfon Plateau' Historic Landscape Aspect Area; and the 'Arfon plain' Cultural Landscape Aspect Area.
			Historic environment and archaeological designations	The Application Site is located within the Dinorwig Registered Historic Landscape (CADW 2001)
			Conservation Area appraisals, Village Design Statements	None associated with the Application Site
			Historic maps	None associated with the Application Site
			Historic landscape character assessments <sup>3</sup> Historic Land Use Assessment <sup>4</sup> and Historic Area Assessments <sup>5</sup>	The Application Site is located within the Dinorwig Registered Historic Landscape (CADW 2001)
Place names	None associated with the Application Site			
Specialist heritage studies	None associated with the Application Site			
Landscape condition	Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	Good physical intactness of individual landscape elements (e.g. walls, parkland, trees) or Good health of elements such as good water quality, good soil health	Landscape character assessment	The Application Site sits entirely within Landscape Character Area 4: Caernarfon Coast and Plateau (Gwynedd Landscape Strategy Update 2012).
			LANDMAP condition and trend questions (in Wales)	Aspect Area within which the Application Site sits is assessed (Q27) as constant. The trend is unassessed (Q28).
			Hedgerow/ tree surveys	RPS completed Tree Survey in accordance with BS 5837 in late summer / autumn 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Historic Landscape Characterisation has developed as a GIS mapping tool to capture how land use has changed and the 'time-depth' of the present-day landscape.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/methods/characterisation/historic-landscape-characterisation/>

<sup>4</sup> Mapping of Scotland's Historic Landscape: <https://hlamap.org.uk/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/understanding-place-historic-area-assessments/>



## LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (LVIA)

### Range of factors that can be considered when identifying landscape value

Factor	Definition	Examples <sup>1</sup> of landscape value	Example <sup>2</sup> of evidence	Evidence present
		Strong landscape structure (e.g. intact historic field patterns)	Observations about intactness/condition made in the field by the assessor	The landscape condition within the Application Site is considered to be typical of the local area. Largely intact hedgerows demarcate the outer edges of the site and along the southern edge of the proposed access. Within the Application Site are areas of poorer quality scrub and trees of limited value.
		Absence of detracting/incongruous features (or features are present but have little influence)	SSSI condition assessments	None associated with the Application Site
			Historic landscape character assessments/ map regression analysis	The Application Site is located within the Dinorwig Registered Historic Landscape (CADW 2001)
Associations	Landscape which is connected with notable people, events and the arts	Associations with well-known literature, poetry, art, TV/film and music that contribute to the landscape	Information about arts and science relating to a place	None associated with the Application Site
		Associations with science or other technical achievements	Historical accounts, traditions and folklore	None associated with the Application Site
		Links to a notable historical event	Guidebooks/published cultural trails	None associated with the Application Site
		Associations with a famous person or people	LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services aspect (in Wales)	The Application Site sits within the Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) (GWNDDCLS008) Cultural services Aspect Area.
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity	Landscape character that has a strong sense of place (showing strength of expression of landscape characteristics)	Landscape character assessment	The Application Site sits entirely within Landscape Character Area 4: Caernarfon Coast and Plateau (Gwynedd Landscape Strategy Update 2012).
		Presence of distinctive features which are identified as being characteristic of a particular place	LANDMAP Visual & Sensory question 3 and 25, – Historic Landscape question 4 (in Wales)	The Application Site sits within the Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) (GWNDDVVS006) Visual and Sensory Aspect Area.
		Presence of rare or unusual features, especially those that help to confer a strong sense of place or identity	Guidebooks	None associated with the Application Site
		Landscape which makes an important contribution to the character or identity of a settlement	Observations about identity/distinctiveness made in the field by the assessor	The Application Site and immediate local landscape of the study area is typical of the wider lowland plateau landscape. With largely intact hedgerows to the field
		Settlement gateways/approaches which provides a clear sense of arrival and		

## LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (LVIA)

### Range of factors that can be considered when identifying landscape value

Factor	Definition	Examples <sup>1</sup> of landscape value	Example <sup>2</sup> of evidence	Evidence present
		contribute to the character of the settlement (may be ancient/historic)		boundaries, scattered trees and woodland blocks. Roadside boundaries are predominantly hedgerows with occasional characteristic drystone walls.
Recreational	Landscape offering recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Presence of open access land, common land and public rights of way (particularly National Trails, long distance trails, Coastal Paths and Core Paths) where appreciation of landscape is a feature Areas with good accessibility that provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and spiritual experience/ inspiration Presence of town and village greens Other physical evidence of recreational use where experience of landscape is important Landscape that forms part of a view that is important to the enjoyment of a recreational activity	Definitive public rights of way mapping/ OS map data National Trails, Wales Coast Path to the long distance trails, Coastal Paths, Core Paths Open access land (including registered common land) Database of registered town or village greens Visitor surveys/ studies Observations about recreational use/ enjoyment made in the field by the assessor	None within or immediately adjacent to the Application Site. No public access to the Application Site. None in the vicinity of the Application Site. Small areas to the extreme east of the 3km study area. None associated with the Application Site None associated with the Application Site
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense	Distinctive features, or distinctive combinations of features, such as dramatic or striking landform or harmonious combinations of land cover Strong aesthetic qualities such as scale, form, colour and texture Presence of natural lines in the landscape (e.g. natural ridgelines, woodland edges, river corridors, coastal edges) Visual diversity or contrasts which contributes to the	Landscape character assessment LANDMAP Visual and Sensory scenic quality question 46 (in Wales) Protected views, views studies Areas frequently photographed or used in images used for tourism/ visitor/ promotional purposes, or views described or praised in literature Observations about scenic qualities made in	The Application Site sits entirely within Landscape Character Area 4: Caernarfon Coast and Plateau (Gwynedd Landscape Strategy Update 2012). Moderate None associated with the Application Site None associated with the Application Site Application Site is well enclosed by surrounding vegetation. Open countryside but has

## LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (LVIA)

### Range of factors that can be considered when identifying landscape value

Factor	Definition	Examples <sup>1</sup> of Indicators of landscape value	of Example <sup>2</sup> of evidence	of Evidence present
		appreciation of the landscape	the field by the assessor	limited scenic quality when compared to areas within the wider landscape.
		Memorable/distinctive views and landmarks, which contributes to distinctive views and landmarks	Conservation Area Appraisals	None associated with the Application Site
			Village Statements, similar	Design or Application Site
Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	High levels of tranquillity perceptions, including perceived links to nature, dark skies, presence of wildlife/birdsong and relative peace and quiet <sup>6</sup> Presence of wild land and perceptions of relative wildness (resulting from a high degree of perceived naturalness <sup>7</sup> , rugged or otherwise challenging terrain, remoteness from public mechanised access and lack of modern artefacts) Sense of particular remoteness, seclusion or openness Dark night skies A general absence of intrusive or inharmonious development, land uses, transport and lighting	Tranquillity or mapping of factors contribute to detract from tranquillity Dark mapping	Application Site sits within Zone B of the NRW tranquillity study 2009. It is not within a Dark Skies area. LUC / NRW have assessed the light pollution for the whole of Wales. The Application Site has 0.5 – 1 with small areas of 1 - 2 NanoWatts/cm/sr, of night light, which is at the darker end of the spectrum. However, no permanent nighttime lighting is proposed either during operation of the Proposed Development.
			Wildness mapping, and Wild Land Areas in Scotland	n/a
			Land cover mapping	n/a
			Field survey	n/a
			LANDMAP Visual Aspect	The Application Site sits within the Bethel (between Clynnog and Bangor) (GWNDDVS006) Visual and Sensory Aspect Area.
Functional	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the	Landscapes and landscape elements that contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g.	Land cover and habitat maps	None associated with the Application Site

<sup>6</sup>More about tranquillity can be found in Landscape Institute Technical Information Note 01/2017 (Revised; Landscape Institute, 2017).

<sup>7</sup> Relating to extensive semi-natural vegetation, presence of wildlife and presence of natural processes/ lack of human intervention.

**LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (LVIA)**

<b>Range of factors that can be considered when identifying landscape value</b>				
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Examples<sup>1</sup> of Indicators landscape value</b>	<b>Example<sup>2</sup> of evidence</b>	<b>Evidence present</b>
	healthy functioning of the landscape	natural hydrological systems/ floodplains, areas of undisturbed and healthy soils, areas that form carbon sinks such as peat bogs, woodlands and oceans, areas of diverse landcover (benefits pest regulation), pollinator-rich habitats such as wildflower meadows	Ecosystem services assessments and mapping (particularly supporting and regulating services)	None associated with the Application Site
		Areas that form an important part of a multifunctional Green Infrastructure network Landscapes and landscape elements that have strong physical or functional links with an adjacent national landscape designation, or are important to the appreciation of the designated landscape and its special qualities	Green infrastructure studies/strategies	None associated with the Application Site
			Development and management plans for nationally designated landscapes, Local Plans and SPDs	None associated with the Application Site
			Landscape character assessments	The Application Site sits entirely within Landscape Character Area 4: Caernarfon Coast and Plateau (Gwynedd Landscape Strategy Update 2012).

## Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

## B.1 Assessment Criteria and Assignment of Significance

### Relevant Guidance

B.1.1 As a matter of best practice, this Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken based on the relevant guidance on landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) described in the following documents:

- *Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland* (The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002);
- *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition* (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013);
- *An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment* (Natural England, 2014);
- *Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment* (Landscape Institute, 2019); and
- *Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations* (Landscape Institute, May 2021).

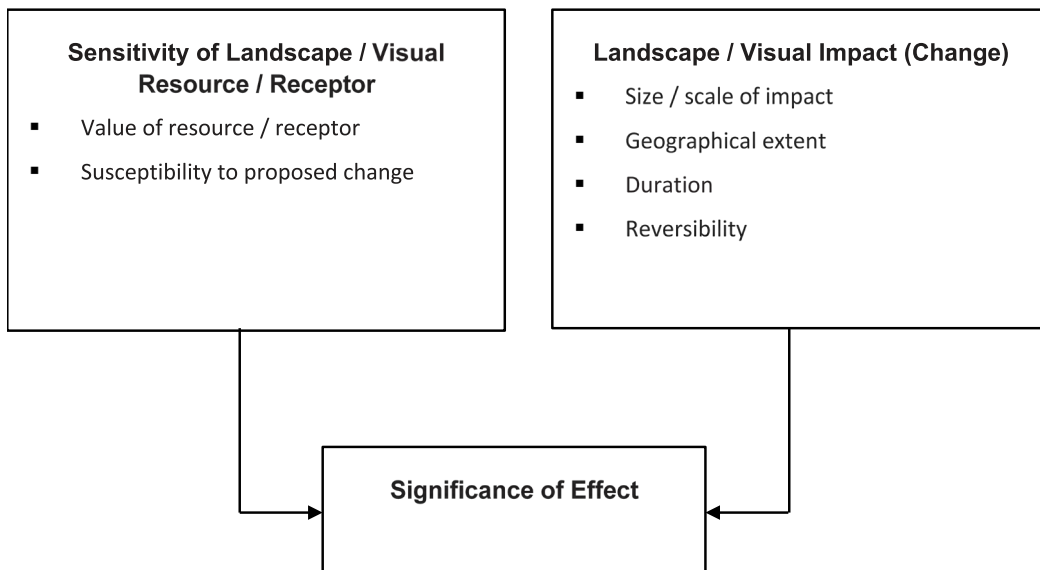
### Distinction Between Landscape and Visual Effects

B.1.2 As set out in the GLVIA3, paragraph 2.21, landscape and visual effects are assessed separately, although the procedure for assessing each is closely linked. A clear distinction has been drawn between landscape and visual effects as described below:

- Landscape effects relate to the effects of the Proposed Development on the physical and other characteristics of the landscape and its resulting character and quality.
- Visual effects relate to the effects on views experienced by visual receptors (e.g. footpath users, road users, people in their places of work etc) and on the change in views experienced by people.

### Assessment Criteria and Assignment of Significance of Effects

B.1.3 GLVIA3 sets out broad guidelines rather than detailed prescriptive methodologies. The methodologies tailored for the assessment of this development is based on GLVIA3 guidance, which recommends that an assessment “concentrates on principles and process” and “does not provide a detailed or formulaic recipe” to assess effects, it being the “responsibility of the professional to ensure that the approach and methodology are appropriate to the task in hand” (preface to GLVIA3). The effects on the landscape resources or visual receptors (people) are assessed by considering the proposed change in the baseline conditions (the impact of the proposal) against the type of landscape resource or visual receptor (including the importance and sensitivity of that resource or receptor). The methodology is set out in detail below and summarised in Diagram 1. These factors are determined through a combination of quantitative (objective) and qualitative (subjective) assessment using professional judgement.



**Diagram 2: Assessment Methodology Summary**

## Sensitivity

### Sensitivity of landscape receptors

- B.1.4 The sensitivity of a landscape receptor is a combination of “*judgements of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value attached to the landscape*” (GLVIA, para 5.39). For the purpose of this assessment, susceptibility and value of landscape receptors are defined as follows:
- Landscape susceptibility: “*the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the proposed change without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies*” (GLVIA, para 5.40).
  - Value of the landscape receptor: “*The value of the Landscape Character Types or Areas that may be affected, based on review of designations at both national and local levels, and, where there are no designations, judgements based on criteria that can be used to establish landscape value; and, the value of individual contributors to landscape character, especially the key characteristics, which may include individual elements of the landscape, particularly landscape features, notable aesthetic, perceptual or experiential qualities, and combinations of these contributors*” (GLVIA, para 5.44).
- B.1.5 Sensitivity is not readily graded into bands. However, descriptions of landscape susceptibility and value are set out in Table 1 below.

**Table 2: Definitions of Landscape Sensitivity**

Sensitivity	Typical Descriptors		
	Landscape Susceptibility	Resource/Receptor	Landscape Value
Very High	Exceptional landscape quality, no or limited potential for substitution. Key elements / features well known to the wider public.		Nationally/internationally designated/valued landscape, or key elements or features of nationally/internationally designated landscapes.
High	Strong/distinctive landscape character; absence of landscape detractors.		Regionally/nationally designated/valued countryside and landscape features.
Medium	Some distinctive landscape characteristics; few landscape detractors.		Locally/regionally designated/valued countryside and landscape features.
Low	Absence of distinctive landscape characteristics; presence of landscape detractors.		Undesignated countryside and landscape features.
Negligible	Absence of positive landscape characteristics. Significant presence of landscape detractors.		Undesignated countryside and landscape features.

## Sensitivity of visual receptors

B.1.6 Visual receptors are always people. The sensitivity of each visual receptor (the particular person or group of people likely to be affected at a specific viewpoint) *“should be assessed in terms of both their susceptibility to change and in views and visual amenity and also the value attached to particular views”* (GLVIA, para 6.31). For the purpose of this assessment, susceptibility and value of visual receptors are defined as follows:

- Visual susceptibility: *“The susceptibility of different visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is mainly a function of: The occupation or activity of people experiencing views at the particular locations; and, the extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focused on the views and the visual amenity they experience at particular locations”* (GLVIA, para 6.32).
- Value of views: Judgements made about the value of views should take account of: *“recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations; and, indicators of value attached to views by visitors, for example through appearances in guidebooks or on tourist maps, provision of facilities for their enjoyment (such as parking places, sign boards or interpretive material) and references to them in literature or art...”* (GLVIA, para 6.37).

B.1.7 Sensitivity is not readily graded in bands and GLVIA notes, with regards to visual sensitivity, that the division of who may or may not be sensitive to a particular change *“is not black and white and in reality, there will be a gradation in susceptibility to change”* (GLVIA, para 6.35). In order to provide both consistency and transparency to the assessment process, however, Table 2, below defines the criteria which have guided the judgement as to the intrinsic susceptibility and value of the resource/receptor and subsequent sensitivity to the Proposed Development.

**Table 3: Definitions of Visual Sensitivity**

Sensitivity	Typical Descriptors	
	Visual Receptor Susceptibility	Value of View
Very High	Observers, drawn to a particular view, including those who have travelled from around Britain and overseas to experience the views.	See paragraph 1.6 and 1.7, above
High	Observers on the public rights of way network in the countryside are more sensitive to visual change.	See paragraph 1.6 and 1.7, above



Sensitivity	Typical Descriptors	
	Visual Receptor Susceptibility	Value of View
Medium	Observers enjoying the countryside from vehicles on quiet/promoted routes or pedestrians on less scenic/urban rights of way are moderately sensitive to visual change.	See paragraph 1.6 and 1.7, above
Low	Observers in vehicles or people involved in outdoor activities where attention is not focused on landscape are less sensitive to visual change.	See paragraph 1.6 and 1.7, above
Negligible	Observers in vehicles or people involved in frequent or frequently repeated activities are less sensitive to visual change.	See paragraph 1.6 and 1.7, above

## Magnitude of Impact

### Magnitude of impact on landscape resources and receptors

B.1.8 The magnitude of impact or change affecting landscape receptors depends on the size or scale, geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. These factors are described below:

- Size or scale: *“The extent of the existing landscape elements that will be lost, the proportion of the total extent that this represents and the contribution of that element to the character of the landscape...; the degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered either by removal of existing components of the landscape or by addition of new ones...”* and, *“whether the effect [impact] changes the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character”* (GLVIA, para 5.49).
- Geographical extent: Distinct from scale or size, this factor considers the geographical area over which the landscape impacts will be felt, it might, for example, be a moderate loss of landscape receptors or character over a large area, or a large loss of receptors or character over a very localised area. At para 5.50 GLVIA3 notes that *“in general effects [impacts] may have an influence at the following scales, although this will vary according to the nature of the project and not all may be relevant on every occasion: at the site level within the development site itself; at the level of the immediate setting of the site; at the scale of the landscape type or character area within which the proposal lies; and, on a larger scale, influencing several landscape types or character areas.”* For the purposes of this LVIA, the assessment considers the impact of the Proposed Development on the published landscape character areas, both at local and national level, i.e. the third and fourth landscape scales.

B.1.9 Duration and reversibility: Duration is categorised as short, medium or long-term. GLVIA explains that as there are no standard lengths of time within these categories, the appraisal must state what these are and why these have been chosen (GLVIA, para 5.51). Reversibility is described as *“a judgement about the prospects and practicality of the particular effect being reversed in, for example, a generation”* (GLVIA, para 5.52). Projects can be considered to be permanent (irreversible), partly reversible or fully reversible. For the purposes of this assessment the Proposed Development is considered to be permanent and not reversible.

### Magnitude of impact on visual receptors

B.1.10 As with the magnitude of landscape impacts, the magnitude of impact or change affecting visual receptors depends on the size or scale, geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. These factors are described below:

- Size or scale: Judgements need to take account of: *“the scale of the change [impact] in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition,*

including the proportion of the view occupied by the Proposed Development; the degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape with existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture; and, the nature of the view of the Proposed Development, in terms of the relative amount of time over which it will be experienced and whether views will be full, partial or glimpses” (GLVIA, para 6.39).

- Geographical extent: This will vary from viewpoint to viewpoint and will reflect: “the angle [orientation] of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor; the distance of the viewpoint from the Proposed Development; and, the extent of the area over which the changes [impacts] would be visible” (GLVIA, para 6.40).

B.1.11 Duration and reversibility of visual effects: As with landscape impacts, duration should be categorised as short, medium or long-term and projects considered to be permanent (irreversible), partially reversible or fully reversible (GLVIA, para 6.41). For the purposes of this assessment the Proposed Development is considered to be permanent and not reversible.

B.1.12 The magnitude of the predicted impact has been described using criteria outlined above and Diagram 1 and detailed in methodology below. Magnitude of impact has been classified on a four-point scale (Large, Medium, Small and Negligible). The definitions of terms relating to the magnitude of impact are set out in Table 3, below.

**Table 4: Example Definitions of Magnitude of Impact**

Magnitude of Impact	Typical Descriptors	
	Landscape Resource	Visual Resource
Large	Total loss or addition or/very substantial loss or addition of key elements/features/patterns of the baseline i.e., pre-development landscape and/or introduction of dominant, uncharacteristic elements with the attributes of the receiving landscape.	Complete or very substantial change in view, dominant involving complete or very substantial obstruction of existing view or complete change in character and composition of baseline, e.g., through removal of key elements.
Medium	Partial loss or addition of or moderate alteration to one or more key elements/features/patterns of the baseline i.e., pre-development landscape and/or introduction of elements that may be prominent but may not necessarily be substantially uncharacteristic with the attributes of the receiving landscape.	Moderate change in view: which may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of baseline, i.e. pre-development view, through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Change may be prominent but would not substantially alter scale and character of the surroundings and the wider setting. Composition of the views would alter. View character may be partially changed through the introduction of features which, though uncharacteristic, may not necessarily be visually discordant.
Small	Minor loss or addition of or alteration to one or more key elements/features/patterns of the baseline i.e., pre-development landscape and/or introduction of elements that may not be uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape.	Minor change in baseline, i.e. pre-development view, – change would be distinguishable from the surroundings whilst composition and character would be similar to the pre-change circumstances.
Negligible	Very minor loss or addition of or alteration to one or more key elements/features/patterns of the baseline i.e., pre-development landscape and/or introduction of elements that are not uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape approximating to a ‘no-change’ situation.	Very slight change in baseline, i.e. pre-development view, – change barely distinguishable from the surroundings. Composition and character of view substantially unaltered.

## Significance of effects

## LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (LVIA)

- B.1.13 It is recognised that new development will lead to some landscape and visual effects. However, it should be stressed that not all landscape and visual effects arising will be significant.
- B.1.14 GLVIA3 explains, at paragraph 5.55, that a staged approach can be adopted when assessing landscape significance *“susceptibility to change and value can be combined into an assessment of sensitivity for each receptor, and size/scale, geographical extent and duration and reversibility can be combined into an assessment of magnitude for each effect. Magnitude and sensitivity can then be combined to assess overall significance.”*
- B.1.15 Within this assessment, the assessment of significance has taken the following into account (as appropriate):
- reference to regulations or standards;
  - reference to best practice guidance;
  - reference to policy objectives;
  - reference to criteria, for example designations or protection status;
  - outcomes of consultation to date; and
  - professional judgement based on local / regional / specialist experience.
- B.1.16 Significance varies depending on the receptor's sensitivity and the magnitude of impact of the project. The distance to the development can be a major factor in determining the magnitude of the impact. Those resources or receptors closer to the project are likely to experience a greater significance of effects than those further away.
- B.1.17 A significant effect would not necessarily mean that the effect is unacceptable in planning terms. What is important is that the likely effects of any proposal are transparently assessed and understood in order that the determining authority can bring a balanced and well-informed judgement to bear when making any decision. This judgement should be based upon weighing up the benefits of the proposal against the anticipated effects, both positive and negative.
- B.1.18 The matrix, at Table 4, has been used to guide the assessment of effects. Where the matrix provides a choice of level of effects, e.g., Minor to Moderate, the assessor has exercised professional judgement in determining which of the levels is more appropriate.

**Table 5: Assessment of Significance of Effects Matrix**

Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact			
	Negligible	Small	Medium	Large
Negligible	Negligible	Negligible to Minor	Negligible to Minor	Minor
Low	Negligible to Minor	Negligible to Minor	Minor	Minor to Moderate
Medium	Negligible to Minor	Minor	Moderate	Moderate to Major
High	Minor	Minor to Moderate	Moderate to Major	Major to Substantial
Very high	Minor	Moderate to Major	Major to Substantial	Substantial

- B.1.19 The significance of effect on landscape, views and visual amenity has been described according to the five-point scale shown in the above matrix (Substantial, Major, Medium, Minor, Negligible or Neutral). A description of these terms is provided in Table 5, below.

**Table 6: Definitions of Significance Criteria**

Magnitude	Typical Descriptors	
	Landscape Resource	Visual Resource
Substantial	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a landscape of exceptional quality (e.g., internationally designated landscapes), or key	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a view of remarkable scenic quality, within internationally designated landscapes

**LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (LVIA)**

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	elements known to the wider public of nationally designated landscapes (where there is no or limited potential for substitution nationally).	or key features or elements of nationally designated landscapes that are well known to the wider public.
<b>Major</b>	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a valued aspect of (or a high quality) landscape.	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a valued view or a view of high scenic quality.
<b>Moderate</b>	Where proposed changes would be noticeably out of scale or at odds with the character of an area.	Where proposed changes to views would be noticeably out of scale or at odds with the existing view.
<b>Minor</b>	Where proposed changes would be at slight variance with the character of an area.	Where proposed changes to views, although discernible, would only be at slight variance with the existing view.
<b>Negligible</b>	Where proposed changes would have an indiscernible effect on the character of an area.	Where proposed changes would have a barely noticeable effect on views/visual amenity.
<b>Neutral</b>	Where there is a balance of proposed changes, both negative and positive, which leave the character of an area effectively unaltered.	Where there is a balance of proposed changes, both negative and positive, which leave the visual amenity of an area effectively unaltered.

B.1.20 In this assessment, those effects of Moderate and below are not considered to be significant. Those effects to be Major and above are considered to be significant.

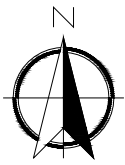
November 2023

**Appendix C**

**GBR\_Pentir\_Indicative BESS Layout\_05-PL (Lightsource bp, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024)**

GBR\_Pentir\_Indicative BESS Layout\_05

Area 25,735 m2 (6.36 acres)



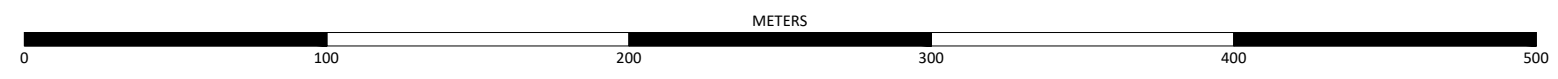
	Site Boundary
	BESS Security Fence
	Acoustic Fence
	Site Access
	BESS Enclosure x 4
	Twin MV Skid
	Single MV Skid
	Backup Generator
	BESS Monitoring House
	BESS Intake Substation
	GRP
	Storage
	Spares Container
	Spares Container
	Access Road
	Toilet
	Acoustic Access Gate
	CCTV
	BESS Lighting
	Existing Tree
	Proposed Planting
	Proposed Tree Planting
	Proposed hedge removal

Site Access

Scale 1:12500



ISO full bleed A3 (420.00 x 297.00 MM)



DA	CHECKED	APPROVED	DATE
			27.03.2024
PROJECT NAME & ADDRESS:			
Location: Pentir			
Postcode:			
NOTES:			
-			
-			
-			
Paper Size:	Scale:	Sheet:	
A3	1:2500	1	
CAPACITY:			
DRAWING TITLE:			
GBR_Pentir_Indicative BESS Layout_05			
DRAWING NUMBER:		STATUS:	
BESS_LYT			
Lightsource Renewable Development Limited, 7th Floor, 33 Holborn, London, EC1N 2HU General: +44 (0) 333 200 0755 Web: www.lightsourcebp.com info@lightsourcebp.com			

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**Appendix D**

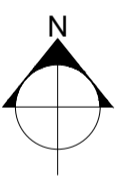
**JSL4893\_100 Landscape Strategy**



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**KEY**

- Existing elements**
- TREE (to be retained and protected)
  - HEDGEROW (to be retained and managed to a height of 3 to 4m)
  - WOODLAND/ SCRUB (to be retained and protected)
- Proposed elements (hard and soft)**
- TREE PLANTING (Individual native species trees planted in groups of up to 3 or as single species)
  - COPSE/ WOODLAND (Mixed native species tree and shrub planting, at 1 m centres)
  - NATIVE SPECIES HEDGEROW with TREES (2-4m wide, to be managed to a height of 3-4m)
  - HEDGEROW REINFORCEMENT (with trees to be parallel, hedgerow to be managed to a height of 3-4m)
  - WILD FLOWER MEADOW MIX (such as Emorsgate EM1 or similar and approved)
  - NEUTRAL GRASSLAND MIX (such as Emorsgate EG5 or similar and approved)
  - PERMEABLE GRAVEL SURFACE TO BESS COMPOUND
  - ACCESS ROAD (compacted hardcore surface)
  - BESS SECURITY FENCE



D	Revised Layout (05-PL)	GL	PH	12.04.24
C	Revised Layout (03-PL)	GL	PH	09.01.24
B	Proposed hedgerow removed	GL	PH	03.01.24
A	Client comments	GL	PH	07.12.23
Rev	Description	By	CB	Date



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Client **Lightsource bp**

Project **Pentir Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)**

Title **Landscape Strategy**

Status **DRAFT** Drawn By **GL** PM/Checked by **PH**

Job Ref **JSL4893** Scale @ A1 **1:750** Date Created **29/11/2023**

RPS Drawing / Figure Number **100** Rev **D**

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