

Appendix 6.B Landscape/ Seascape Character

Document Control			
Document Properties			
Organisation		National Grid	
Author		MM	
Approved By		RG	
Title		Appendix 6.B Landscape/ Seascape Character	
Document Reference		P10711-00-001-GIL-704	
Date	Version	Status	Description/Changes
19.11.14	00	Draft	Minor changes
19.12.02	01	Draft	Minor changes following RSK/ National Grid review

1.1 National Landscape Character Areas

Table 1.1: National Landscape Character Areas

National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA)	Key Characteristics
<p>05. Tremadoc Bay</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The lowland fringes of northern Cardigan Bay. – Hemmed in by steeply rising uplands of both Llŷn and Snowdonia. – Mainly a soft coastline – with only a few rocky headlands. Some substantial sections of sandy beach and dunes. – West of Criccieth - is a broader, pastoral, coastal landscape, backed by the Rivals. – East of Criccieth - east the mountains closely constrict estuaries, levels and the well developed dune systems. In places along estuaries the rugged and upland character runs down to sea level. – The active Dwyrdd - Glaslyn Estuary - considered as one of the most outstanding bar built estuaries in Britain. – Coastal dunes and associated habitat - such as marsh and dune grass form the backdrop to the long sandy beaches at Morfa Harlech and Morfa Dyffryn. There is significant ecological interest and diversity in the terrestrial and marine habitats associated with the Dwyrdd Estuary at Morfa Harlech. – Lowland pastoral and hill sheep grazing – more especially on Llŷn, where there is a more extensive lowland hinterland. – The castles of Harlech (World Heritage Site) and Criccieth - occupy strategically important coastal promontories and form part of a chain of castles around North Wales. – Archaeology - The area contains a rich diversity of smaller scale archaeological features dating from the prehistoric period onwards. – Porthmadog Bar - The upper Glaslyn Estuary was one of the most ambitious 19th century land reclamation schemes in Wales and included the conscious creation of new landscapes including extensive pastoral farmland.

National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA)	Key Characteristics
05. Tremadoc Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Portmerion - The architecturally eclectic 1920's Italianate 'fantasy village' is a significant site and tourist attraction within the area. – Settlement pattern – principal settlements are along the coastline at river mouths and by castles on defensive headlands. Much smaller, inland villages and hamlets are frequently associated with Early Christian churches. Porthmadog was a slate exporting port. – Tourism – a very popular but still largely rural coastal landscape, including by contrast a number of very large and conspicuous caravan and chalet parks. – Cultural identities – a wide range of influences: nearby Llŷn and Snowdonia, coast and upland, rural and resort, agricultural and industrial heritage, functional and inspired architecture, a strong Welsh speaking tradition and a popular visitor destination.
06. Snowdonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A mountainous topography - with the principal mountain range orientated broadly north east to south west. – Wales's sharpest ridges and highest peaks lie within this area – in a landscape often defined by massive, angular skylines. Most famously this includes the massif of Snowdon, with the peak of Yr Wyddfa, highest in England and Wales at 1085m AOD, and a number of radiating ridges. – U-shaped glacial valleys and corries - carved through the mountainous terrain and deepened by the ice in the last Ice Age. – An upland character to principal land cover elements - including hill sheep grazing, forestry, heather dominated moorland and upland grassland. Rock outcrops and slate/shale ridges and scree 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. – Rivers, lakes, waterfalls - principal rivers include the Dysinni, the Llugwy, the source of the Conwy, the Mawddach, Glaslyn and Dwyrdd. There are numerous small lakes and waterfalls e.g. at Betws-y-Coed, and Llyn Tegid at Bala is Wales' largest natural lake. – Estuaries and coast – although only directly fronting open sea in a few places, the tempestuous, dark, mountainous character abuts, or is seen in views close

National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA)	Key Characteristics
	<p>to. milder, sheltered, woodland-fringed estuaries and sunnier, sandy open coast. This combination provides an iconic and contrasting image of great appeal to many.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prehistoric archaeology - many ritual and funerary sites including cairns, standing stones and stone circles, many located along hill crests, mountains, ridges and passes, often forming strong visual features. – Ancient stone built remains - deserted stone-built Iron Age, Roman period, Medieval and later, settlements and field systems survive in an almost unbroken “cordon” of relict landscapes along the lower slopes between the Dyfi in the south west and the Conwy in the north east. – Slate mining heritage - abundant in many parts but notably created the extensive slate landscape of Blaenau Ffestiniog and slate is the principal building material in much of the area. Remains include quarries, waste heaps, mines, levels, workshops and cottages. – Copper, gold and other minerals heritage – copper mining was historically important, notably at Sygun, near Beddgelert and Drws-y-Coed, near Nantlle. The exploitation of other minerals, for example, gold, lead, zinc and manganese, have also left industrial archaeological remains in the landscape. Welsh gold is worn by the Royal Family. – Sparsely populated / few large settlements – confined to valleys, the few include the small towns of Dolgellau and Bala, and the slate town of Blaenau Ffestiniog, and compact valley villages in slate and stone such as Beddgelert and Betws-y-Coed. – Transport routes affected by steep topography - the majority of the area has few roads, these are routed along valleys, linked by the occasional twisting mountain pass. Railway routes do likewise and with tunnels. There are remains of numerous narrow-gauge quarry railways, some with inclines. There are several operational narrow-gauge heritage railways for tourists. – Sublime, picturesque, iconic visual and sensory landscape of great drama – the inspiration for many artists over the last 200 years, part of the great tour for Wordsworth, and others. – A stronghold of the Welsh language and culture - of small-scale rural farming, of large-scale mineral exploitation. It includes great contrast, and exhibits an intimate relationship between the natural drama and the cultural heritage of it’s people.

National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA)	Key Characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourism - today Snowdonia is recognised as a National Park and is visited by thousands of tourists who come to experience the natural and cultural heritage. The area forms a great outdoor challenge for many recreational visitors as they explore.

1.2 Gwynedd Landscape Character Areas

Table 1.2: (Gwynedd Landscape Strategy)

Gwynedd Landscape Character Areas (LCA)	Key Characteristics
09. Porthmadog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An area bounded by the Snowdonia National Park to the north, east and south - Significant cultural and historical influences are evident in the landscape, particularly related to the 19th century reclamation of Traeth Mawr - Tourism is important in the area with a variety of associated facilities - Wide range of valuable habitats; wetlands, dunes, broadleaf woodlands and rocky slopes - Quarry works, commercial concerns and the A487(T) all have an impact on the landscape

1.3 Snowdonia Landscape Character Areas

Table 1.3: Snowdonia National Park Authority Supplementary Planning Guidance: Landscapes and Seascapes of Snowdonia 2014

Snowdonia Landscape Character Areas (LCA)	Key Characteristics
<p>4. Moel Hebog Uplands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Classic Snowdonian landscape of glaciated valleys carved between craggy mountain peaks, Moel Hebog (782 metres AOD) being the highest summit. – Complex geology comprising a mixture of volcanic (igneous) and sedimentary rocks shaped by earth movements and extensively remodelled by the actions of glaciation. Craig-y-Garn SSSI includes internationally important volcanic rocks from the Ordovician Period. – Classic U-shaped valleys carving through the mountains, including the Afon Glaslyn, Afon Dwyfor and Dyffryn Nantlle. Moraine, head and boulder clay deposits feature within these valleys. – Glacial lakes found at the valley heads, such as Llyn Cwm Dulyn, Llyn Nantlle Uchaf and Llyn Cwmystradllyn. Cwm lakes also scattered throughout the mountains, with the Llyn Cwmystradllyn reservoir also within the LCA. – Beddgelert Forest comprising extensive coniferous forestry in a prominent hillside location. Small plantations and significant bands of semi-natural broadleaved woodland found on valley sides. – Unenclosed mountain summits surrounded by large-scale regular enclosures of ffridd, divided by stone walls or fences. Valleys defined by a small-scale historic field pattern, with stone walls providing unity with the rocky uplands. – Rough common land grazing by sheep on the mountains, with semi-improved pastures and rough grassland fields on lower slopes. Valleys include some fields of improved pasture. – Varied semi-natural habitats including heather moorland, acid grassland, bogs and flushes (e.g. Moel Hebog and Cors Graianog SSSIs), and species-rich grasslands interspersed with oak/birch semi-natural woodlands within valleys (e.g. the internationally important Meirionnydd Oakwoods SAC) – Rich historic landscape reflecting the dual mining and farming economy of the area. Nationally important evidence of prehistoric land use (e.g. ancient hut circles and field systems near Nantlle) as well as frequent industrial relicts (e.g. Ynys y Pandy slate slab mill and the deserted quarry settlement at Treforys).

Snowdonia Landscape Character Areas (LCA)	Key Characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Significant parts recognised as Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest – the northern part of the LCA falling within the Nantlle Valley LOHI, and Glaslyn valley within the Aberglaslyn LOHI. Parts of Beddgelert and Nantmor Conservation Areas fall within the LCA. – Unsettled mountains surrounded by an historic pattern of scattered stone/slate farmsteads and occasional clustered hamlets linked by rural lanes or tracks crossing stone hump-backed bridges. The A498 and A4085 roads border the south and eastern edges of the LCA respectively. – Majority of the mountains inaccessible to vehicles, but large parts defined as open access/common land with rights of way linking to the surrounding valleys. Visitor attractions such as the Welsh Highland Railway and the historic village of Beddgelert make this a popular tourism destination. – A landscape with strong cultural and linguistic associations, including Owain Glyndwr’s cave on the western flanks of Moel yr Ogof. – Extensive views east toward the Llyn Peninsula and north towards Caernarfon – with the mountains themselves forming a valued backdrop to the nearby seascapes.
<p>5. Y Moelwynion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscape defined by the deep Nant Gwynant valley, backed by an imposing, scenic mountain backdrop of successive peaks and ridgelines (including Ysgafell Wen). The highest summit is Carnedd Moel Siabod (872 metres AOD). – Nant Gwynant and Nanmor valleys shaped by glacial action, with extensive moraines, head deposits, scree and boulder clay. – Surrounding mountains include nationally important outcrops of volcanic rock (e.g. Yr Arddu SSSI) and geomorphological features left as a legacy of glaciation (e.g. Moelwyn Mawr SSSI). – Llyn Dinas and Llyn Gwynant forming large bodies of water on the valley floor. Cwm lakes in the mountains (e.g. Llyn Llagi, Llyn y Adar and Llynnau Diffwys), along with a number of reservoirs. – Marshy areas, bogs, waterfalls and fast-flowing streams draining from the mountains into the valleys below. – Medium-scale, geometric conifer plantations on prominent slopes, with valued bands of semi-natural broadleaved woodlands on valley sides.

Snowdonia Landscape Character Areas (LCA)	Key Characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Open mountain tops surrounded by large regular enclosures of ffridd. Valley slopes and bottoms defined by a small-scale irregular field pattern. Boundaries are stone walls, providing unity with underlying geology. – Valley floors and slopes largely defined by pastoral fields, while mountain sides and summits are characterised by rough common land grazing by sheep. – Upland areas typified by heath and montane grasslands, with Creigiau'r Garth falling within the Eryri SAC/SSSI (also valued for rare arctic-alpine plants, cliff ledges and wetlands). Nationally valued 'Atlantic' wet woodland at Coedydd Nantgwynant. – Grade II listed parklands, with ornamental woodlands and formal gardens, on the slopes of the Glaslyn Valley (Bryn Gwynant, Plas Gwynant and Craflyn). Grade II* 17th century terraced gardens overlooking the Afon Maesgwm. – Industrial relicts, including numerous disused tips, quarries, levels and mines (partially within the Blaenau Ffestiniog Landscape of Outstanding Historic Importance). Evidence for ancient settlement in the form of nationally important hut circles and settlement sites, as well as the medieval Welsh castle of Dolwyddelan. – Historic settlements of Beddgelert (a long-standing visitor resort) and Nantmor – both Conservation Areas – at the entrance of the two valleys. – Elsewhere, occasional stone-built farmsteads and hamlets dispersed along the sheltered valleys – supplemented by camping sites, car parks and other tourism related development. – Main roads snaking through the valleys, including the scenic Nant Gwynant Pass (A498). The Crimea Pass (A470) cuts through the southern part of the LCA. Much of the mountain landscape is open access/common land supplemented by occasional rights of way. Nant Gwynant is a starting point for the Watkin path to the Snowdon summit. – Panoramic and inspiring village of Beddgelert, with its strong association with the folklore of Gelert the Hound. – LCA includes the Tanygrisiau pump storage hydro-electric power station, the first in Britain (1963). The upper reservoir dam at 500 metres AOD is one of the most prominent man-made landmarks in the wider area. – A peaceful and highly scenic landscape overlooked by Mount Snowdon, with these qualities affected locally by

Snowdonia Landscape Character Areas (LCA)	Key Characteristics
	the noise/sight of traffic passing along the main A roads.
8. Dyffryn y Ddwryd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complex topography defined by the broad tidal form of the Afon Ddwryd and its tributaries, surrounded by varied, gently rolling vale landscape and immediately backed by a steep gorge. – Western tidal reaches of the river overlooked by forested hills to the north, rising to 234 metres AOD at Y Gysgfa. – Geology dominated by sedimentary Cambrian rocks, including sandstones, siltstones and mudstones. Sand, mudflats and alluvial deposits fringing Afon Ddwryd. – Streams, small lakes and waterfalls (e.g. Rhaeadr Cynfal) draining into the Ddwryd and its tributaries. – Steep valley sides cloaked in woodland, primarily coniferous with some significant areas of nationally important oak-dominated ancient woodlands. – Regular matrix of reclaimed marshes on the valley floor and parts of the surrounding vale, interspersed with smaller-scale irregular pastures. Pockets of unenclosed hill summits grazed by sheep. – Fields generally enclosed by slate walls, providing unity with the local vernacular. Some lengths of post-and-wire fencing. – Nationally important extensive tracts of oak and ash-dominated woodland on hill and gorge slopes, supporting scarce lichens, mosses, breeding birds and bats. The Grade II* gardens and ornamental woodlands of Plas Tan-y-Bwlch overlook the Ddwryd. – Southern part of the LCA within the Trawsfynydd Basin & Cwm Prysor Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, reflecting a long history of human occupation. Features include ancient hut groups on Nurse Cae Due, Sarn Helen Roman Road and a disused Ffestiniog railway line (and viaduct). – Clustered settlements of Gellilŷdan, Llan Ffestiniog and the estate village of Maentwrog (a Conservation Area). Llan Ffestiniog experienced rapid 19th century growth associated with the slate industry. – Sparsely settled elsewhere, with scattered farmsteads and hamlets linked by winding rural roads. The A470 trunk road, A487 and A496 dissect the landscape. – The Ddwryd River is a popular destination for fishing and watersports such as canoeing and kayaking.

Snowdonia Landscape Character Areas (LCA)	Key Characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A strongly rural landscape framed by scenic views of the surrounding mountains.
<p>10. Morfa Harlech</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Low-lying coastal landscape largely below 10 metres AOD, underlain by some of the youngest rocks in Snowdonia. These are juxtaposed with some of the oldest at the Egryn Fault, overlain by extensive superficial estuarine deposits. – Submerged peat and forest deposits periodically exposed by tides along the coastal foreshore. Its geomorphological interest contributes to the landscape's SSSI designation. – Small rounded hill summits near Ynys overlooking the estuary, comprised of more resistant rocks and reaching up to 69 metres AOD. – Landscape dominated by the expanse of the Dwyryd Estuary, with tidal channels branching into the surrounding flats. – Reclaimed marshes/farmland crossed by a network of drainage channels and streams draining into the estuary. – Geometric coniferous plantations in the south forming inconspicuous features in the flat landscape. Very occasional small bands of woodland elsewhere, but largely an open, exposed landscape. – Matrix of rectangular 19th century reclaimed marshes divided by ditches and post-and-wire fencing, with slate walls along roadsides. Immediate fringes of the estuary and coast are wetlands. – Rich coastal habitats including internationally important sand dunes, saltmarsh, grassland, swamp and the extensive beach at Morfa Harlech. All of the LCA is within the Morfa Harlech SSSI/NNR, and much is also SAC designated. – All of the LCA within the wider Arduwy Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, representing extensive evidence of recurrent settlement and land use since the prehistoric period. – The main arterial route of the A496, along with the Cambrian Line railway, cuts through the landscape eroding its strong sense of naturalness. – Occasional rights of way and the Wales Coastal Path crossing through the coastal landscape. Royal St David's golf course fronts Harlech, integrated into its sand dune setting.

Snowdonia Landscape Character Areas (LCA)	Key Characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Extensive views across the broad open dunes and estuary of the Afon Glaslyn, backed by the mountains of the Snowdonia core and the distinctive outline of the Llŷn Peninsula.
<p>12. Cefnwlad Arfordir Ardudwy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A rolling landscape of seaward facing hills dropping down from the adjacent Rhinog mountains, which contain the landscape to the east – Altitude ranges from up to 300 metres on the fringes of the mountains, to 20 metres along the coastal edge. – Bedrock geology of silty mudstones and thin coarse-grained sandstones of Cambrian age, frequently overlain by glacial till deposits resulting in a complex topography. – Dissected by the valleys of the Afon Artro, Cwmnantcol, YGlyn and Ysgethin along with multiple streams draining westwards towards the coast. Small lakes are dotted throughout the landscape. – Extensive broadleaved woodland cover clothing valley sides, with some mixed and coniferous plantations – including the extensive forestry at Coed Felinrhyd. – An historic irregular field pattern marked by stone walls, punctuated by pockets of open hill summits. Mature trees along field boundaries contributing to a well-wooded character on valley slopes. – Predominantly pastoral land use, with patches of rough grazing land on higher ground. – Nationally and internationally important ancient semi-natural oak sessile oak woodlands with a rich ground flora (including areas within the Meirionnydd Oakwoods and Bat Sites SAC), interspersed with areas of species-rich grassland, flushes and wet pasture. – Within the wider Ardudwy Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, representing extensive evidence of recurrent settlement and land use since the prehistoric period – e.g. the Neolithic burial chambers at Dyffryn Ardudwy, prehistoric settlement/field system remains, medieval deserted settlements and defensive sites (e.g. Clogwyn Arllef hillfort). – The 13 th century Harlech Castle, a World Heritage Site, occupying a prominent spur overlooking the sea and the flat expanse of Morfa Harlech (LCA 10). The historic Edwardian settlement of Harlech (a Conservation Area) occupies an elevated cliff-ledge previously open to the sea.

Snowdonia Landscape Character Areas (LCA)	Key Characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Estate plantings, ornamental woodland and parkland associated with the 18th century Cors-y-Gedol (Grade II) and the 17th century Grade II* listed Glyn Cywarch manor house. – Other settlement mainly concentrated along the A496 coastal road, including caravan parks and camp sites. This includes the villages of Coed Ystumgwern, Dyffryn Ardudwy, Talsarnau and Tal y Bont, with some ribbon development. – Combined views of the coast and the Rhinog mountain range
<p>13. Y Rhinogau</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Open mountainous area with the highest summit, Y Llethr, reaching a height of 756 metres AOD. Numerous cliffs and rock outcrops forming a rugged topography. Includes nationally important geomorphological features. – Underlain primarily by Cambrian grits of the Harlech Dome, with a number of intrusive dykes of volcanic deposits. Thick deposits of boulder clay, deposits of scree, head material and alluvium as a legacy of glacial action. – Valley mires and frequent glacial oligotrophic lakes feeding numerous fast-flowing streams draining from the uplands, sometimes forming waterfalls. Includes the Afon Gamlan, Cwmmynach, Cwm-Ilechen, Ysgethin and Cwm Nantcol. – Landscape dominated in the north by the Llyn Trawsfynydd reservoir and former nuclear power station. – A number of prominent conifer plantations and extensive areas of both broadleaved and coniferous woodland on valley sides. – Open mountains surrounded by large-scale regular enclosures of ffridd, with a small-scale irregular field pattern on lower valley sides. – Stone walls forming boundary features, providing unity with buildings and rock exposures. Mature trees following boundary lines at lower levels, contributing to a wooded character. – Rough grazing (predominantly by sheep) on the uplands and ffridd, with improved pasture fields found along valley sides. – Extensive heathland habitats of European importance; the largest expanse of mature heath outside Scotland. Vegetation dominated by heather and bilberry, as well

Snowdonia Landscape Character Areas (LCA)	Key Characteristics
	<p>as gorse, wetlands and large expanses of blanket bog (the Rhinog SAC, NNR, SSSI and Biogenetic Reserve).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Semi-natural oak-dominated woodlands, bogs, wet flushes, neutral and acid grasslands associated with valleys (Merionnydd Oakwoods & Bat Sites SAC and Coed Graig Uchaf SSSI). – Significant proportion within the Arduwy and Trawsfynydd Basin & Cwm Prysor Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest, with ancient settlement sites and tracks (e.g. Roman Steps) and Iron Age hillforts. Remains of mining and mineral extraction in the valleys including gold, copper, zinc and lead. – Unsettled, remote uplands, a large proportion being open access or common land. – Stone-built farmsteads and hamlets nestled in sheltered valleys connected by a sparse rural road network. A number of car parks at the heads of the valleys provide recreational access onto the mountains. – Strong feeling of wildness and remoteness associated with the mountains – less crowded than other parts of the National Park. – Mountains afford long, unspoilt views of the coast and south across the Mawddach Estuary to Cadair Idris. Views north beyond the Dwyryd Estuary towards Snowdon. The Trawsfynydd nuclear power station forms a prominent man-made landmark in the north.

1.4 National Seascape Assessment

Table 1.4: National Seascape Assessment for Wales LUC 2015

National Marine Character Areas (MCA)	Key Characteristics
14. Tremadog Bay and Dwyryd Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A sweeping, shallow bay with wide sandy beaches, and a distinctive swash-aligned coastal landform at Morfa Harlech. To the north, the rugged coastal peak of Moel-y-Gest is a prominent landmark. – Extensive intertidal area at the mouth of the Dwyryd estuary, with a meandering channel running through it, and continuing inland. Ynys Giffan is located in the estuary. – Shallow mud and sand substrate overlying Oligocene and Permo-Triassic sedimentary rock with a diverse infaunal community. Traditionally, mariners used sounding leads on to follow the ‘muddy hollow’ from off St Tudwal’s East to Porthmadog fairway buoy. – Includes part of the designated Llyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC, recognised for its reefs, shallow inlets and estuaries. – Extensive intertidal habitats and river channels designated SAC and SSSI (Morfa Harlech and Glaslyn) provide important bird feeding and overwintering sites and habitat for rare plants and insects. – Intertidal peat deposits at Criccieth, the mouth of Afon Dwyfor, at Afon Wen, and Carreg y Defaid provide evidence for inundated ancient landscapes. – Nursery grounds for commercially important demersal fish including sole and plaice. – The rocky reef of Sarn Badrig forms the southern boundary to this MCA and supports a diverse reef community. – A fairly sheltered seascape with weak to moderate tidal currents. Wave action generates little disturbance. – Glaslyn and Dwyryd estuaries flow into the sea. The marine environment is strongly influenced by the relatively high water temperatures and turbidity associated with Tremadog Bay. – Numerous wrecks are found along Sarn Badrig, including the Notre Dame de Boulogne, a schooner which was carrying 70 tons of slate from Porthmadog to Poole. – Lifeboat stations are located at Criccieth, Abersoch and Pwllheli. – Harlech Castle, a World Heritage Site, overlooks the beach and bay from the east, whilst Criccieth Castle

National Marine Character Areas (MCA)	Key Characteristics
	<p>forms a prominent historical feature overlooking the bay from the north.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Military seascape – off Pwllhelli there is former bombing range (demolished targets noted as still lying on seabed), associated with the former Penrhos Airfield. - Recreational and fishing boats seen accessing Porthmadog harbour and Pwllheli. There is limited fishing activity of light otter trawling and potting. - Tourism and recreation are important uses, with recreational boating, watersports, sea angling and popular beaches. - A relatively enclosed MCA with views of the Llŷn AONB to the north and the Gwynedd coastline (including the rising mountains of Snowdonia National Park) to the east. - Long views across the length of the sweeping bay create an open quality and large scale. Weather and season have strong influences on the perceptual qualities of the area

Table 1.5: Snowdonia National Park Authority Supplementary Planning Guidance: Landscapes and Seascapes Of Snowdonia 2014

Seascape Character Areas (SCA)	Key Characteristics
19. Criccieth to Mochras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Northern part of SCA underlain by Cambrian and Ordovician sedimentary rocks with igneous intrusions. Southern part underlain by much younger Palaeogene deposits. Surface evidence of various geological and geomorphological processes. – A sweeping, shallow bay with wide sandy beaches, and a distinctive swash-aligned coastal landform at Morfa Harlech. To the north, the rugged coastal peak of Moel-y-Gest is a prominent landmark. – Glaslyn and Dwyrdd estuaries flow into the sea in the centre of the SCA. Marine environment strongly influenced by the relatively high water temperatures and turbidity associated with Tremadog Bay. – Tourism and recreation are important land and sea uses, with recreational boating, sea angling, caravan parks, beaches and tourist infrastructure. – North of SCA extends inland to include farmland, woodland and coastal heath at Moel-y-Gest. – Unique sea conditions of Tremadog Bay support a variety of habitats and species. Onshore habitats include coastal heath, rhos pasture, woodland, wetland & dune systems. – Onshore historic and cultural features include defensive sites of Criccieth Castle and Iron-Age hillfort on summit of Moel-y-Gest. Also features related to development of tourism. – Offshore historic and cultural features include harbour at Criccieth. – Historic town of Criccieth, and 20th Century tourist development of Morfa Bychan, plus occasional farms in the north of the SCA. – Long views across the length of the sweeping bay create an open quality and large scale to the SCA. Weather and season have strong influences on the perceptual qualities of the area. – Landscape setting dominated by the hills of Snowdonia National Park. – Seascape setting includes the dunes of Mochras on the southern horizon, and the hills of the Lleyrn Peninsula to the north.

Seascape Character Areas (SCA)	Key Characteristics
20. Porthmadog and Glaslyn Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Underlain by latest Cambrian and Lower Ordovician sedimentary rocks (including those of the Tremadoc epoch) locally with dolerite intrusions. – A broad, flat valley floor landform which was formerly an estuary. Occasional small hills of more resistant rock (former islands) occur within the valley floor. – Land use almost entirely grazing marsh, with some settlement on higher ground at the periphery of the SCA. – Valuable and extensive wetland pasture and marsh habitats cover most of the SCA. Some woodland, particularly on higher land. – Numerous historic and cultural features associated with the draining of the estuary by William Madocks in the early C19, including Porthmadog Cob and Tremadog village. – Offshore historic and cultural features include canal from Tremadog to the sea at Porthmadog, and associations with shipbuilding and the sea transport of slate from the Ffestiniog quarries. – Georgian planned town of Tremadog and later coastal port of Porthmadog (both on western side of SCA) plus occasional farms around the periphery. – Iconic views from Porthmadog and the cob over this SCA to the encircling majestic mountains of Snowdonia, including Snowdon itself. The openness and flatness of the valley floor are emphasised by the surrounding hills. – Intervisibility between this SCA and the sea is very limited, as views are blocked by the Cob. However, in views from surrounding hills, the visual and physical relationship between this SCA and the sea can be appreciated.
21 Dwyryd Estuary and Morfa Harlech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Underlying geology of Cambrian sedimentary rocks, with younger Palaeogene rocks to the west of the Mochras fault. – Predominantly low-lying landform, comprising the broad estuary and its associated marshes and dunes, with the Dwyryd Valley narrowing as it flows inland. Rounded island of Ynys Giffan a prominent feature within the estuary channel. Ridge of land to the north of the channel also included in this SCA. – Close relationship with distinctive swash-aligned coastal landform at Morfa Harlech. – Extensive intertidal area at the mouth of the estuary, with a meandering channel running through it, and

Seascape Character Areas (SCA)	Key Characteristics
	<p>continuing inland. River flows through a notable rocky gorge near Penrhyn-deudraeth before the valley widens again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Land use predominantly grazing marsh, with areas of sand dunes, forest, golf course and caravan parks at Morfa Harlech. Also some farmland, heath, woodland, quarrying and settlement on higher land. – Habitats include extensive intertidal mud, sand and salt marsh. Also wet pastures, coastal heath and sand dunes. – Onshore historic and cultural features include Portmeirion, Harlech Castle, and former explosive works at Gwaith Powdwr. – Historic and cultural features associated with the estuary include former coastal warehouse with river access at Ynys, and trestle bridge and toll house near Llandecwyn Station. – Settlements include Penrhyndeudraeth on north side of estuary, and Harlech on south side. Smaller villages/hamlets on higher land. – Strong textures and patterns from river channels, dunes and intertidal habitats. A dynamic environment changing with tides, seasons and weather. – Surrounding wooded hills of Snowdonia National Park rise steeply from valley floor and are integral to views within the SCA. – Views of seascape limited by sand dunes at Morfa Harlech, although Moel-y-Gest (SCA 19) is a prominent feature in views seawards. Tremadog Bay visible from Porthmadog Cob and Portmeirion Peninsula. – Views inland are picturesque, with attractive compositions of valley floor and surrounding hills. Ynys Gifftan forms a feature in the middle estuary.

Table 1.6: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas

Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAA) ¹	Area Name	Summary Description	Overall Evaluation
GWNDDVS 062	Traeth Mawr	Traeth Mawr, drained and semi-drained marshland of lower Glaslyn valley, including smaller area in side valley west of Porthmadog/ Tremadog. Generally flat agricultural land between 2m to 20m in broad valley bottom of regular medium sized pasture fields enclosed by hedgerows and scattered woodland/conifer plantation. Strong meandering form of Afon Glaslyn distinctive feature in the central area, as are the two small outliers of higher, rugged wooded ground (up to 58mAOD) that form 'islands' and include the noisy, visually detractive quarry at Minffordd. In the southern part the mainline railway and the main road and Ffestiniog railway cross the wetter, estuary part. These routes provide distinctive, well-loved views into the mountains, often with reflections in floodwater, giving special quality of light. The roads and railways that cross the area are strong linear elements.	High
GWNDDVS 063	Penrhyndraeth environs	Steeply rising rugged hills either side of Penrhyndraeth rising to 96mAOD to west and 60m to the east between Dwryd estuary to the south and Traeth Nawr to the north. Small-scale, irregular fields and oak woodland on rolling landform allows scenic views to the north and south west although this is set against the industrial based settlement in between and the functioning and disused quarries. The busy main A497 also reduces tranquillity.	Moderate

Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAA) ¹	Area Name	Summary Description	Overall Evaluation
GWNDDVS 069	Penrhyndeudraeth	Penrhyndeudraeth and Minffordd, plus larger modern developments in between, loosely defined as linear settlement dominated by busy road A487 overlooking the Afon Dwyryd estuary in east of county. Set on small ridge and valley topography, with development following the slopes giving interest. Ffestiniog Railway adds interest. Glimpsed views of Snowdon uplands adds to sense of place, as do the national park offices on the western outskirts of the town.	Moderate
GWNDDVS 080	Marsh	Two areas of salt marsh on the Glaslyn and Dwyryd estuary of Traeth Bach. Attractive views across estuary to Tremadog Bay and Morfa Harlech, and to uplands beyond. Adjacent settlement, roads and railways slightly diminish the sense of wildness/remoteness that would otherwise be a notable quality. Important part of overall estuary landscape.	High
GWNDDVS 081	Traeth Bach	Traeth Bach estuary to east of Porthmadog forming boundary with National Park. Sand flats with marshy areas and isolated small islands. Slightly enclosed feel resulting from the rising ground to north and east, opening to west, with borrowed views of coastline to West and South and hills north and east. strong sense of place derived from coastal setting. Setting for many fine views therefore very important visually.	High
GWNDDVS 088	Portmeirion	Coastal peninsula of land rising to 81mAOD between Dwyryd estuary to the south and Traeth Nawr to the north. Small-scale, irregular fields and oak woodland on rolling landform allows scenic views to the north, south and west. The busy main A497 to the north reduces tranquillity as does the Ffestiniog	Outstanding

Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAA) ¹	Area Name	Summary Description	Overall Evaluation
		railway. The highly distinctive Portmeirion provides the jewel in the crown of this area attracting many visitors.	
SNPVS036	Coed Ystymgwern Coastal Farmland	Mixture of rough grazing/ woodland clumps/ dry stone walls. Strong coastal feel from borrowed view of coast – adds to sense of place.	High
SNPVS113	Harlech Coast Farmland	Area of coastal farmland includes conifer plantations. Attractive coastal views and borrowed view of Snowdonia mountains. Visually contained by rising land to the east.	Moderate
SNPVS115	n/a	Area of saltmarsh distinct from adjacent dune system. Attractive coastal views and borrowed view of Snowdonia mountains. Visually contained by rising land to the east. Strong sense of place derived from distinct coastal association.	High