Landscape Effects Table

Development of National Significance Pre-Application Consultation

Alaw Môn Solar Farm

Land west of the B5112, 415m south of Llyn Alaw, 500m east of Llantrisant and 1.5km west of Llannerch-y-Medd, Anglesey

October 2023

			Construction - pre-Mitigation		Construction - with Mitigation		Completion (Year 1)		Residual (accounts for growth of planting by Year 15)	
Landscape Receptors	**Sensitivity**	**Commentary on Development**	**Magnitude (1) and Type (3) of Change**	**Significance (2) and Type (3) of Effect**	**Magnitude (1) and Type (3) of Change**	**Significance (2) and Type (3) of Effect**	**Magnitude (1) and Type (3) of Change**	**Significance (2) and Type (3) of Effect**	**Magnitude (1) and Type (3) of Change**	**Significance (2) and Type (3) of Effect**
Landscape Features within the Site (Note: sensitivity ratings explained in Chapter 7)										
Fields	Medium	The Development will introduce solar panels and associated infrastructure, including a battery storage facility and substation into 55 existing open fields. The battery storage facility, substation and access tracks will require earthworks and areas of hardstanding, but the rest of the Development will be ground mounted over the existing grassland fields, retaining some of the existing character of the fields, which may continue to be used for grazing. Although long-term, the Development is temporary and reversible, and the existing field pattern is retained by the Development. Existing field boundaries are retained and reinforced through gapping up, positive management and replanting although there will be localised removal of hedgerows to allow for the creation of access routes. Over time, the proposed ecological enhancements include the creation of areas of woodland, tree belts, scrub, grassland and meadows, with habitat corridors along hedgerows and watercourses, will reinforce the historic field boundaries that enclose and define the fields. Additional mitigation measures include the continued grazing of the fields to maintain the pastoral use of the fields.	Large adverse	**Moderate adverse**	Large adverse	**Moderate adverse**	Large adverse	**Moderate adverse**	Large-medium adverse	Moderate-minor adverse
Hedgerows	Medium-low	The pattern of hedgerows are an important element of local landscape character, reinforcing the irregular field pattern and undulating landform. The condition of hedgerows across the Site varies, with areas of decline and loss. The Development will retain the existing hedgerows and gap up and reinstate hedgerows where they have been in decline. Limited hedgerow removal will be required to allow for access. Hedgerows to be retained will be protected during construction. The need to accommodate larger construction vehicles will require temporary HGV access into the Site, which will require the removal of hedgerows which will be reinstated once construction is complete. The Development will re-instate approximately 4300 linear m of mixed native hedgerows, and manage hedgerows within grassland / ruderal vegetation margins.	Small adverse	Minor-negligible adverse	Small adverse	Minor-negligible adverse	Small adverse	Minor-negligible adverse	Medium beneficial	Minor Beneficial
Cloddiau & earth banks	Medium-low	The traditional cloddiau and earth bank field boundaries are an important element of the local landscape character, although the condition of these features varies across the Site. The Development will retain and restore these existing field boundary features. There is very limited loss of cloddiau and earth banks to accommodate access within the Development.	Very Small adverse	Negligible adverse	Very Small adverse	Negligible adverse	Small beneficial	Minor - negligible beneficial	Small beneficial	Minor-negligible beneficial
Watercourses and Water Features	Medium to High	Watercourses are not prominent within the landscape but have value as habitat corridors and field boundaries (Medium sensitivity). Nantanog SSSI is important for its geological characteristics (High sensitivity). The Development maintains a set back from the existing watercourses, which will be planted and managed to promote biodiversity, and a buffer is created along Nantanog SSSI and a buffer of 50m is created around Pond 11 near to Hen Nantanog. During construction, access paths crossing watercourses will be implemented, which will be undertaken in accordance with a Construction Environmental Management Plan. Special Landscape Management Areas ensure that watercourses and ponds are managed for the benefit of flora and fauna. A series of new habitat ponds will be created across the Site.	Small adverse	Minor adverse	Small adverse	Minor adverse	Small beneficial	**Moderate to Minor beneficial**	Medium beneficial	**Major-moderate to Moderate beneficial**

1 Magnitude of Change: Large, Medium, Small, Very Small, None

2 Significance of Effect: Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible

3 Type of Change/Effect: Adverse, Neutral, Beneficial

			Construction - pre-Mitigation		Construction - with Mitigation		Completion (Year 1)		Residual (accounts for growth of planting by Year 15)	
Landscape Receptors	**Sensitivity**	**Commentary on Development**	**Magnitude (1) and Type (3) of Change**	**Significance (2) and Type (3) of Effect**	**Magnitude (1) and Type (3) of Change**	**Significance (2) and Type (3) of Effect**	**Magnitude (1) and Type (3) of Change**	**Significance (2) and Type (3) of Effect**	**Magnitude (1) and Type (3) of Change**	**Significance (2) and Type (3) of Effect**
Trees & Woodland	High	Where woodland and trees occur within the Site and its setting, they are prominent features and reinforce the landscape pattern and landform legibility. The Development establishes buffers from existing woodland and tree belts. Access through the woodland utilises an existing break in the woodland to the north-east of Nantanog and trees and woodland will be protected during construction in accordance with BS5837:2012. Proposed planting includes 6.21 ha of native woodland planting and existing and proposed woodland will be positively managed for their landscape and habitat value.	Very Small adverse	**Moderate-minor adverse**	Very Small adverse	**Moderate-minor to negligible adverse**	Small beneficial	**Moderate beneficial**	Medium beneficial	**Major-moderate beneficial**
Landscape Character (Note: sensitivity ratings explained in Chapter 7)										
National LCA 2: Central Anglesey	Medium-low	The construction phase will temporarily introduce a construction compound, plant, machinery and material stockpiles into localised parts of the landscape, directly altering the primary land use. This will directly alter a very small proportion of the National LCA as a whole and not affecting any designated landscapes. Similarly, once operational, the Development will not influence a wide area and the proposed planting will reinforce and reinstate the existing landscape patterns by maintaining and restoring boundary features. Over time, the planting proposals will contribute positively to the wider landscape by reinforcing the existing landscape structure and improving the management of features that are in decline, albeit the enhancements are very localised.	Very Small adverse	Negligible	Very Small adverse	Negligible	Very Small adverse	Negligible	Very Small beneficial	Negligible beneficial
County LCA 5: North West Anglesey	Medium	The north-western part of the Site falls within the periphery of the North West Anglesey County LCA. This part of the County LCA (CLCA) is less characteristic of the drumlin field hillocks, comprising a local ridgeline that bounds the Llyn Alaw and Cors-y-bol valley, which is influenced by the reservoir and associated water treatment works and the wind farms to the north of the reservoir. The construction phase will temporarily introduce a construction compound, plant, machinery and material stockpiles into this part of the CLCA, resulting in a change of the primary land use, albeit temporarily. This will directly alter a very small proportion of the CLCA as a whole and not affect any designated landscapes although there would be some effect on users of NCR5. Similarly, once operational, the Development will not influence a wide area and the proposed planting will reinforce and reinstate the existing landscape patterns by maintaining and restoring boundary features and increasing the woodland cover that is a feature of this part of the CLCA. Over time, the proposed planting will establish and mature and help to assimilate the Development into the wider landscape.	Small adverse	Minor adverse	Small adverse	Minor adverse	Small adverse	Minor adverse	Very Small beneficial	Minor-negligible beneficial
County LCA 17: West Central Anglesey	Medium-low	The south-eastern part of the Site falls within the periphery of the West Central Anglesey CLCA and is generally characteristic of the CLCA. The construction phase will temporarily introduce a construction compound, plant, machinery and material stockpiles into this part of the CLCA, resulting in a change of the primary land use, albeit temporarily. This will directly alter a small proportion of the CLCA as a whole and not affecting any designated landscapes, although there would be some effect on users of NCR5. Once operational, the Development will not influence a wide area and the proposed planting will reinforce and reinstate the existing landscape patterns by maintaining and restoring boundary features and increasing the woodland cover that is a feature of this part of the CLCA.	Small adverse	Minor-negligible adverse	Small adverse	Minor-negligible adverse	Small adverse	Minor-negligible adverse	Very Small beneficial	Negligible beneficial

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		As noted in the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment, the CLCA has the possibility of increasing vegetation height to provide further localised screening. Over time, the proposed planting and management regimes will establish and mature and help to assimilate the Development into the wider landscape.								
Local Geological Aspect Area Llanerchymedd (YNSMNGL020)	Medium-low	Llanerchymedd Geological Aspect Area includes Nantanog SSSI, the majority of which lies within the Site. The Development will exclude development from the SSSI, and establish a landscape buffer to the SSSI during construction and operation. The majority of the Development comprises ground mounted solar panels, and installation of post and mesh stock fencing and planting, which would have limited effect on the geology of the Aspect Area. Cut and fill will be required for the construction of the battery storage facility and substation, but this comprises a small area, and would be reinstated when the Development is decommissioned. The Nantanog SSSI will be brought into positive management, within a fenced off habitat corridor, which will protect the bedrock geology and clear gorse on a rotational basis to ensure the SSSI features can continue to be appreciated.	Medium-small adverse	Minor adverse	Medium-small adverse	Minor adverse	Medium-small adverse	Minor adverse	Medium-small adverse	Minor adverse
Local Habitat Aspect Area West Anglesey Farmland (YNSMNLH006)	Medium-low	The majority of the Site comprises improved grassland, which is of generally low ecological habitat. Features of greater habitat value within the Site include hedges and other habitats, such as marshy grassland, scrub and woodland. The Development retains the existing grassland, albeit solar panels are installed in the majority of the open fields and existing woodland and hedgerows will be retained and improved through the proposed planting and management and maintenance. 6.21ha of native woodland planting and 4303 lin m of native hedgerows will be planted to reinforce the existing field boundaries and landscape features. 14 habitat ponds and hibernacula will be created, set within wet meadow grassland. Four specific management areas are proposed in line with the Ecologist's recommendations.	Medium-small adverse	Minor adverse	Medium-small adverse	Minor adverse	Small beneficial	Negligible beneficial	Medium beneficial	Minor beneficial
Local Cultural Aspect Area North-west Drumlins (YNSMNCLS010)	Medium-low	The north-western part of the Site falls within the periphery of the North-west Drumlins Aspect Area. The construction phase will temporarily introduce a construction compound, plant, machinery and material stockpiles into a small part of the Aspect Area, resulting in a change of the primary land use, albeit temporarily. This will directly alter a very small proportion of the Aspect Area as a whole and not affecting any designated landscapes. The Development is in close proximity to the Water Treatment Works and a wind turbine which influence the sense of place of this part of the Aspect Area and are further manifestations of the interactions between landscape and people within the Aspect Area. On completion, the Development will not influence a wide area and the proposed planting will reinforce and reinstate the existing landscape patterns that contribute to the scenic quality of the Aspect Area by maintaining and restoring boundary features and increasing the woodland cover that is a feature in this part of the Aspect Area. A battery storage facility and substation will be located close to Nantanog Farm. Over time, the proposed planting will establish and mature and help to assimilate the Development into the wider landscape and will reinstate and enhance historic field boundaries, improving and actively managing this feature of the cultural landscape.	Small adverse	Minor-negligible adverse	Small adverse	Minor-negligible adverse	Small adverse	Minor-negligible adverse	Very Small beneficial	Negligible beneficial

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Local Cultural Aspect Area Central smooth belt (YNSMNCLS016)	Low	The south-eastern part of the Site falls within the periphery of the Central smooth belt Aspect Area. The construction phase will temporarily introduce a construction compound, plant, machinery and material stockpiles into a small part of the Aspect Area, resulting in a change of the primary land use, albeit temporarily. This will directly alter a small proportion of the Aspect Area as a whole and not affecting any designated landscapes or heritage features. Once operational, the Development will not influence a wide area and the proposed planting will reinforce and reinstate the existing landscape patterns by maintaining and restoring boundary features that are a feature of the local landscape. Over time, the proposed planting and management regimes will improve the condition of historic field boundaries and positively manage them.	Small adverse	Negligible adverse	Small adverse	Negligible adverse	Small adverse	Negligible adverse	Very Small beneficial	Neutral
Local Visual & Sensory Aspect Area North-west drumlins (YNSMNVS008)	Medium-low	The north-western part of the Site is located on the periphery of the North-west drumlins Aspect Area, where the "basket of eggs glacial landscape" is less pronounced. The Development will not affect any key views, but will result in a localised change to the rural qualities of the fields within the Site. The key elements that should be conserved include wetlands, hedges, hedgebanks, stone walls, small lanes and ancient monuments which will be retained and improved as a result of the Development. During construction the movement associated with equipment and stockpiles will have a greater effect on the visual and sensory experience of the Aspect Area; however, this is temporary, and once operational there would be very little movement and activity associated with the Development. Over time, the proposed planting would reinforce the key elements of the landscape pattern and help to further screen the Development and assimilate it into the landscape.	Medium adverse	Minor adverse	Medium adverse	Minor adverse	Medium adverse	Minor adverse	Small adverse	Minor-negligible adverse
Local Visual & Sensory Aspect Area Central smooth belt (YNSMNVS012)	Medium-low	The south-eastern part of the Site is located on the periphery of the Central smooth belt Aspect Area, a predominantly rural but unremarkable landscape with no distinctive landmarks. Although the Development will have a localised effect on the rural qualities of the fields within the Site, there are no key views within the Aspect Area. The key elements that should be conserved include wetlands, hedges, copses, small lanes and small villages. Landscape features are retained and enhanced, with new wetland and scrub areas and reinstated hedges to be established as part of the landscape proposals. The construction phase will have a greater effect on the visual and sensory experience of the Aspect Area due to the movement associated with equipment and stockpiles and the gradual installation of solar panels. However, this will be temporary and once operational there would be very little movement and activity associated with the Development. Over time, the proposed planting would reinforce the key elements of the landscape pattern and help to further screen the Development and assimilate it into the landscape.	Small adverse	Negligible adverse	Small adverse	Negligible adverse	Small adverse	Negligible adverse	Very Small adverse	Negligible adverse

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Local Historic Aspect Area Fieldscape, Central Eastern Môn (YNSMNHL016)	Medium	The Development will result in a change in land use within the majority of the Site, albeit the change is temporary and reversible. The Development retains, and enhances, the landscape pattern of field boundaries and will reverse the trend of decline through management and maintenance during operation. The change during construction will be greater, but temporary, due to the movement of machinery and stockpiling of equipment within the Site. A landscape buffer has been provided to the Scheduled Monument on the north-western edge of the Site to mitigate potential adverse effects on the heritage feature. No other designated, registered or listed features are present within the Site or its immediate context. On completion, the Development will not influence a wide area and will sit within the existing field and vegetation patterns of this part of the Aspect Area. The battery storage facility and substation have been located close to Nantanog Farm to cluster more prominent built form together. Over time, the proposed planting will establish and mature and help to assimilate the Development into the wider landscape and will reinstate and enhance historic field boundaries, improving and actively managing this feature of the landscape.	Small adverse	Minor adverse	Small adverse	Minor adverse	Small adverse	Minor adverse	Very Small adverse	Minor-negligible adverse
Site Character	Medium-low	The Development will introduce solar panels and associated infrastructure, including a battery storage facility and substation into existing open fields. The battery storage facility, substation and access tracks will require earthworks and areas of hardstanding, but the rest of the Development will be ground mounted over the existing grassland fields, retaining some of the existing character of the fields, and potentially continuing to be used for grazing. There will be very limited and localised removal of landscape features that define the field boundaries to accommodate access and construction, the majority of which has been located to avoid existing landscape features. Although long-term, the Development is temporary and reversible, and the existing field pattern is retained by the Development. The proposed landscape and ecology strategy will establish 6.21ha of native woodland, reinstate 4304 lin m of mixed native hedgerows and create new areas of scrub, wet meadow and habitat ponds, with changes in grassland management to improve biodiversity and habitat connectivity within the Site. This will help to reinforce the local landscape pattern and screen the Development. The construction phase will have a greater effect on the Site due to the noise and movement associated with the implementation of the Development, including a construction compound, material stockpiles, vehicle movements and the transition from open fields to solar farm. Over time, the proposed planting, management and maintenance would have a beneficial effect on landscape features within the Site. Additional mitigation measures include the continued grazing of the fields to maintain the pastoral use of the fields and the use of recessive colours for the infrastructure associated with the battery storage facility and substation.	Large adverse	**Major-Moderate adverse**	Large adverse	Moderate-minor adverse	Large adverse	Moderate-minor adverse	Medium beneficial	Minor adverse

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