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Review of Special Landscape Areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey

Prepared for the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Planning Policy Unit (JPPU)

Executive Summary

Prepared by LUC
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Review of Special Landscape Areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey: Executive Summary

In 2012 Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Planning Policy Unit (JPPU) commissioned independent consultants, LUC, to undertake a thorough review of local landscape designations (Special Landscape Areas) in the two counties.

Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are defined by the Countryside Council for Wales as '*areas of high landscape importance for their intrinsic physical, environmental, visual, cultural and historical value in the contemporary landscape*' (2008).

This review followed a four-stage approach combining both a desk study review of evidence (including LANDMAP) and field survey work. The four stages in the review were as follows:

- **Stage 1: Defining Strategic Criteria** – establishing whether there is a valid, defensible and clearly justified need for SLA designations in Gwynedd and Anglesey. The study defined a set of six criteria against which each potential SLA was judged, ensuring that in every case a consistent process was followed in considering the need for local designation.
- **Stage 2: Establishing Broad Search Areas** – including querying and combining the evaluation scores from across the five LANDMAP Evaluated Aspects. The existing location of Landscape Conservation Areas (LConAs) in Gwynedd provided a key starting point for this stage, but the current LANDMAP data (and other mapped evidence) was also used to help refine and, where necessary, propose new SLAs.
- **Stage 3: Establishing Specific Special Landscape Areas** – individual SLAs were further refined by more detailed desk-based work and field survey. For each SLA identified, a clear statement of need was drafted and any links/amendments to the current designations (Gwynedd's LConAs) documented. The JPPU consulted with council officers, the AONB teams and the Countryside Council for Wales on the proposed SLAs before proceeding to the next stage.
- **Stage 4: Preparing Statements of Value and Significance**– once the proposed SLAs were agreed, these were then mapped in GIS and accompanying Statements of Value & Significance provided for each.

The review concluded that there was robust justification for designating 16 SLAs in the Study Area (10 in Gwynedd and 6 in Anglesey). The Statements of Significance prepared for each SLA clearly set out how each area meets the criteria for designation, and include a set of 'special qualities' that underpin the designation. Any development proposals within the SLA, or that might affect its landscape setting, will need to account for its special qualities.

The SLAs identified are listed below and mapped on the following pages.

List of SLAs in Gwynedd and Anglesey

Gwynedd	Anglesey
01: Western Llŷn	11: Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds
02: Porthmadog & Tremadog Bay	13: Parys Mountain and Slopes
03: Glaslyn & Dwyryd Estuary Landscapes	14: Mynydd Mechell & Surrounds
04: Penllyn	15: Beaumaris Wooded Slopes and Llangoed Vale
05: Corris	16: Southern Anglesey Estatelands
06: Barmouth Bay	
07: North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia	
08: Foryd Bay	
09: Menai	
10: Bangor Mountain	

Gwynedd & Anglesey SLA Review

Figure 3.1

Location of Proposed SLAs in Gwynedd

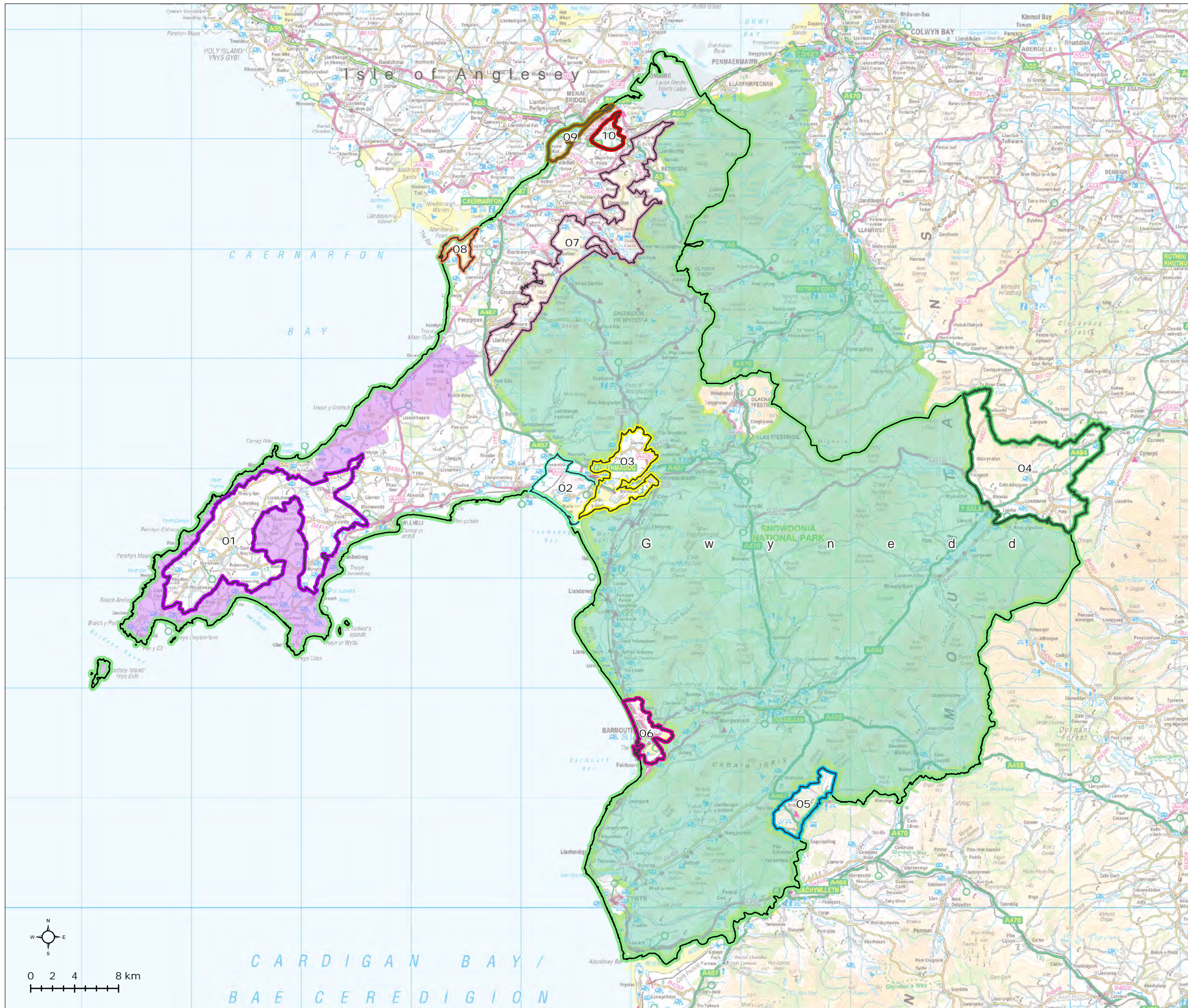
Gwynedd Special Landscape Areas

- 01 : Western Llyn
- 02 : Porthmadog and Tremadog Bay
- 03 : Glaslyn & Dwyryd Estuary Landscapes
- 04 : Penllyn
- 05 : Corris
- 06 : Barmouth Bay
- 07 : North-Western Fringes of Snowdonia
- 08 : Foryd Bay
- 09 : Menai
- 10 : Bangor Mountain

- Gwynedd - Unitary Authority Boundary
- Llyn - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Snowdonia National Park

Map Scale @ A3: 1:340,000

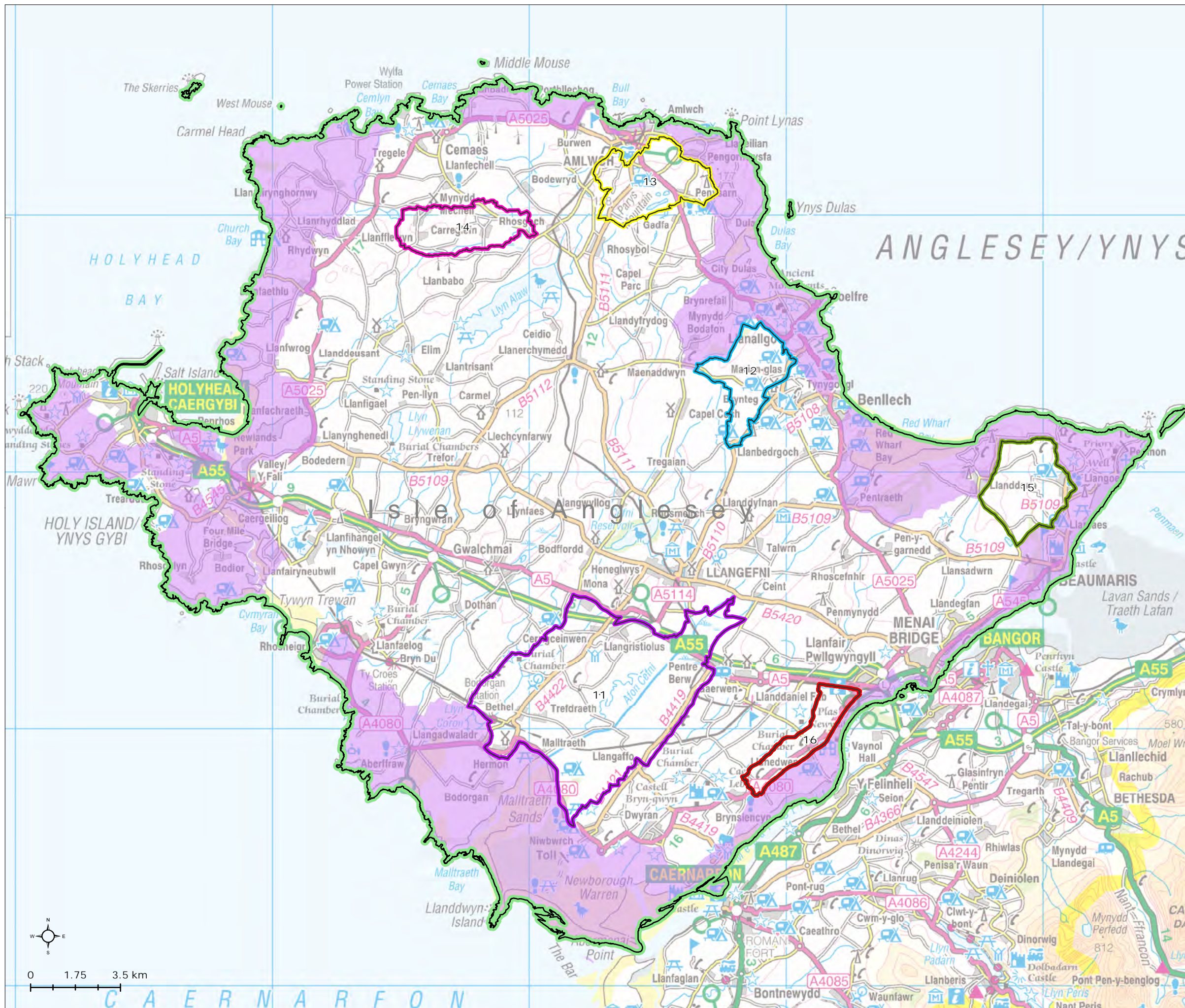
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Gwynedd & Anglesey SLA Review

Figure 3.2

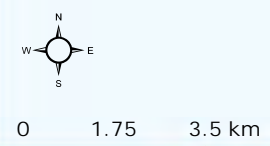
Location of Proposed SLAs in Anglesey



Anglesey Special Landscape Areas

- 11 : Malltraeth Marsh & Surrounds
- 12 : Parciau Estatelands
- 13 : Parys Mountain & Slopes
- 14 : Mynydd Mechell
- 15 : Beaumaris Wooded Slopes and Llangoed Vale
- 16 : Southern Anglesey Estatelands

- Anglesey - Unitary Authority Boundary
- Ynys Mon - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Map Scale @ A3: 1:145,000

