SECTION 3: EVALUATION OF LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND FORMULATION OF STRATEGIES

3.1 A total of 25 landscape character areas (LCAs) were identified across the Snowdonia NationalPark. These LCAs are listed below in Table 3.01 together with an overall evaluation of their landscape and visual sensitivity in relation to wind energy, field-scale solar PV energy, 400 kV overhead line, mobile masts and static caravan/chalet park developments. The overall sensitivity evaluations are illustrated in Figures 3.1 – 3.3 below

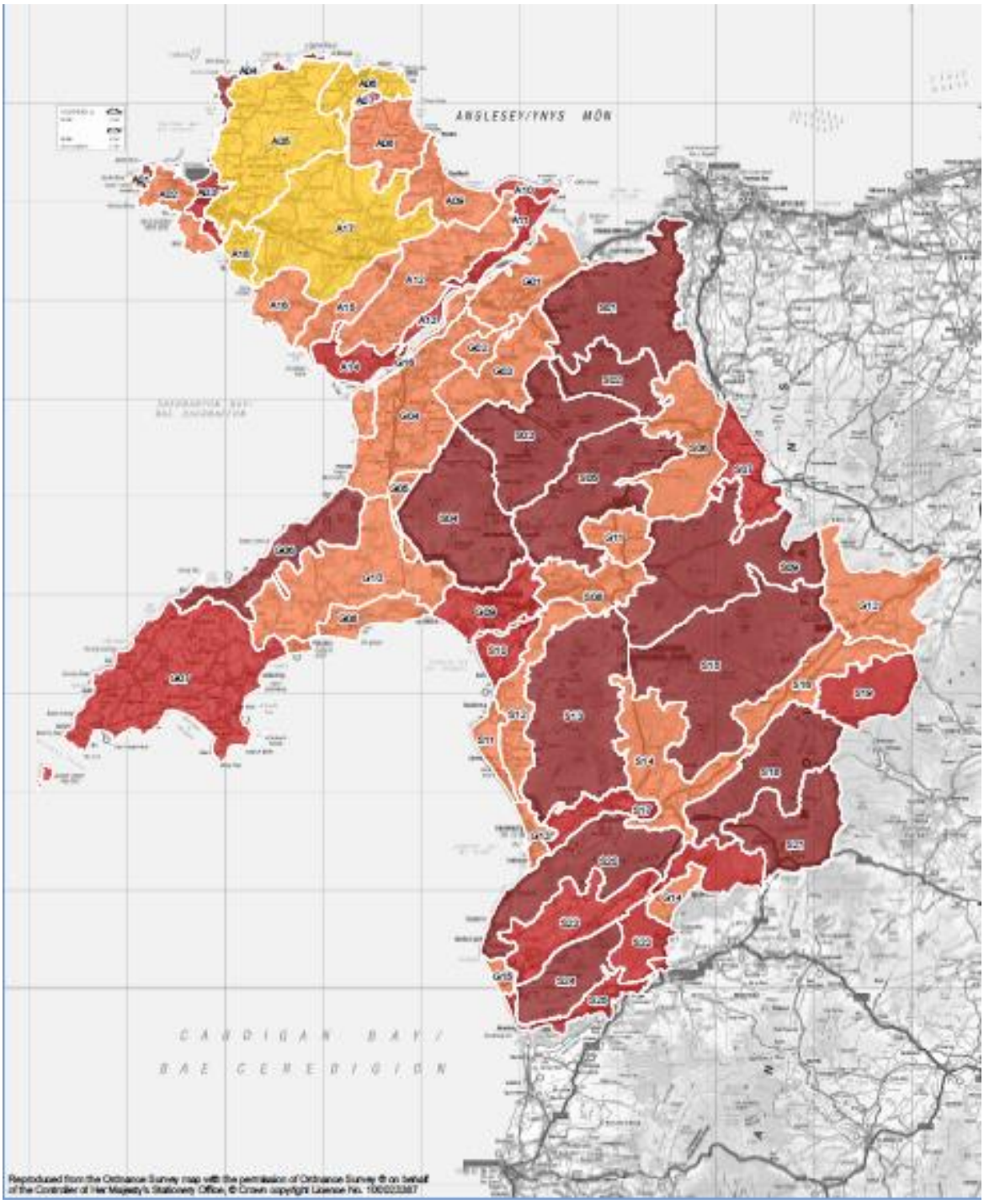

Figure 3.1 Overall Sensitivity to Wind Turbine Developments

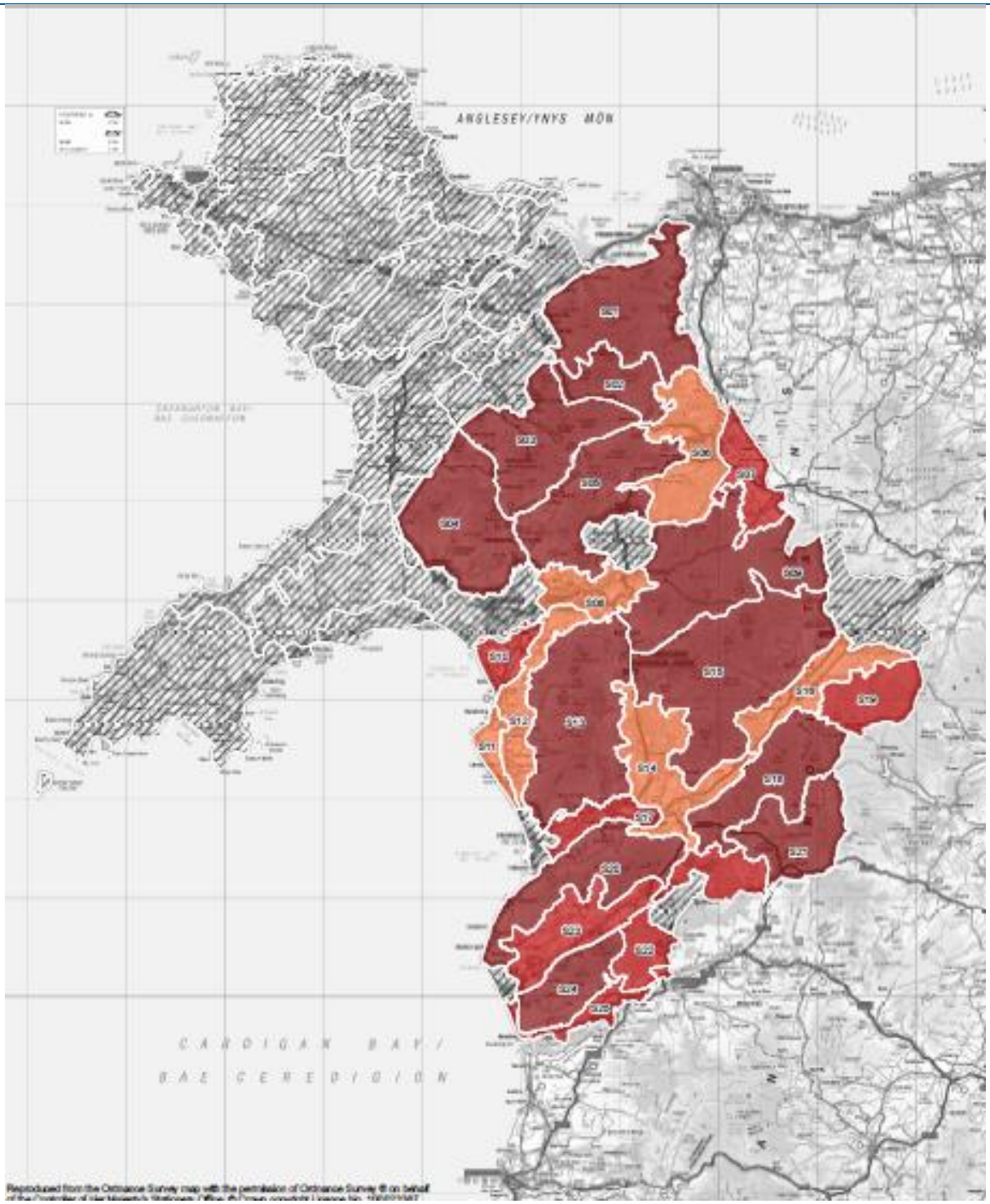

Figure 3.2 Overall Sensitivity to Mobile Phone Masts

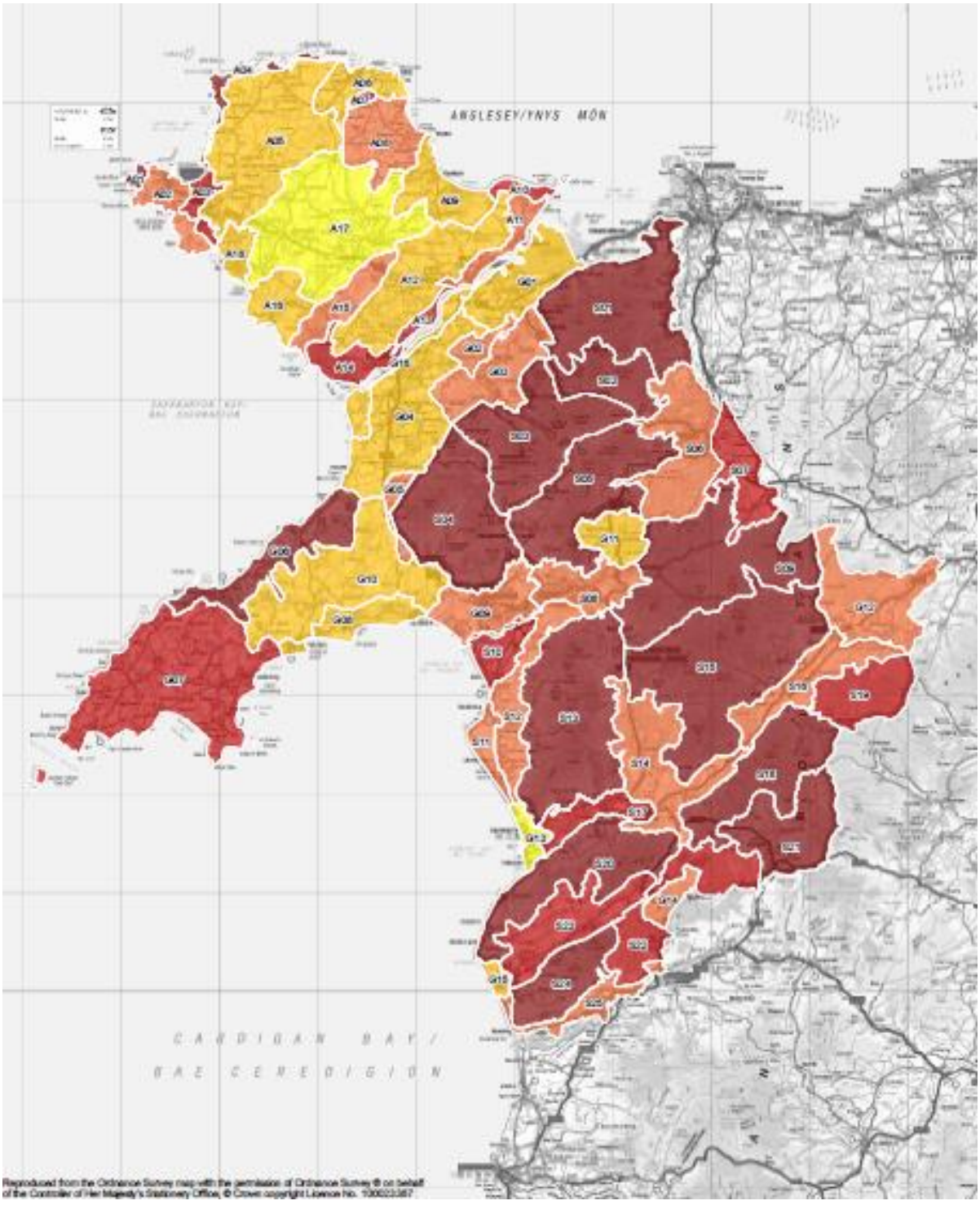

Figure 3.3 Overall Sensitivity to Static Caravan/Chalet Sites

Key to Sensitivity

Very High	High	Medium-High	Medium	Low-Medium	Low	Development Type Not Applicable
VH		M-H	M	L-M	L	

Table 3.01: Summary of Sensitivity

Landscape Character Area		Assessed Sensitivity					
Ref	**Name**	**Wind Energy**	**Field Scale Solar PV Energy**	**400 kV Overhead Line**	**Mobile Masts**	**Static Caravan/ Chalet Parks**	Page no.
S01	Ucheldir y Gogledd	VH			VH	VH	
S02	Y Carneddau	VH			VH	VH	
S03	Yr Wyddfa a'r Glyderau	VH			VH	VH	
S04	Moel Hebog	VH			VH	VH	
S05	Y Moelwynion	VH			VH	VH	
S06	Coedwig Gwydyr	M-H			M-H	M-H	
S07	Dyffryn Conwy	H			H	H	
S08	Dyffryn Y Ddwyryd	M-H			M-H	M-H	
S09	Y Mignient	VH			VH	VH	
S10	Morfa Harlech	H			H	H	
S11	Morfa Dyffryn	M-H			M-H	M-H	
S12	Cefnwlad Arfordir Ardudwy	M-H			M-H	M-H	
S13	Y Rhinogau	VH			VH	VH	
S14	Dyffrynnoedd Mawddach a'r Wnion	M-H			M-H	M-H	
S15	Yr Arenig	VH			VH	VH	
S16	Llyn Tegid A Dyffryn Dyfrdwy	M-H			M-H	M-H	
S17	Aber Y Fawddach	H			H	H	
S18	Mynyddoedd Yr Aran	VH			VH	VH	
S19	Coedwig Penllyn	H			H	H	
S20	Cadair Idris	VH			VH	VH	
S21	Pen Dyffryn Dyfi	VH			VH	VH	
S22	Coedwig Dyfi	H			H	H	
S23	Dyffryn Dysynni	H			H	H	
S24	Y Tarrenau	VH			VH	VH	
S25	Aber y Ddyfi	H			H	M-H	

Approach to Evaluating Sensitivity of Landscape Character Areas

3.2 The following text (in addition to the methodology) describes the how the sensitivity evaluations have been approached and presented for each Landscape Character Area (LCA):

- A key plan and text describing location, extent and key characteristics are provided, as a brief introduction to each LCA.
- The evaluation of the sensitivity of each LCA in relation to each of the different developments is broken down into four overarching sensitivity criteria categories within a table, as follows:
  - Landscape
  - Visual
  - Aesthetical, Perceptual and Experiential
  - Value
- Detailed criteria are included within each of these overarching categories and evaluations of sensitivity (lower, medium and higher) are made against each of these respectively.

- LANDMAP[17] has been used as a tool for assisting the evaluations of sensitivity as outlined in Tables 2.03 – 2.07 of the methodology (Section 2). The text shown in *grey italics* within the 'Characteristics of the LCA' column represents LANDMAP evaluations specific to each LCA. For example *VS4: Levels / Hills/Valleys (52%)* denotes visual and sensory LANDMAP evaluations of topographic form. The percentage number in brackets represents the approximate coverage of the LANDMAP evaluation in relation to the LCA and the underlined text signifies the evaluation(s) which geographically cover the majority of the LCA.
- In addition to the LANDMAP evaluations a wide range of data sources have been drawn upon to reinforce / bVHld upon the initial LANDMAP evaluations. These data sources are identified in the methodology Tables 2.03 – 2.07 (Section 2).
- Site visits have also been made to verify the evaluations.
- The text shown in black represents the key findings of LANDMAP backed up by additional data source research and site visits; text highlighted in bold indicates the main findings that have informed the assessed sensitivity of each criterion.
- A summary of overall sensitivity to each of the different developments is included at the end of each table.

3.3 It is important to note that the overall sensitivity evaluation of each LCA is not based on any mathematical formula (for example - adding up the individual lower, moderate and higher scores and dividing by the total) but on the professional judgements of two chartered landscape architects through a balanced assessment of all the characteristics which takes into consideration the key criteria and the weight of evidence in relation to sensitivity. As explained in the methodology the overall assessment of sensitivity has been made using a more detailed six point sensitivity scale, low, low-medium, medium, medium-high, high and very-high.

Approach to the Formulation of Strategies for Development within Each Landscape Character Area

3.4 The following text describes the how the landscape strategy and Guidance notes are presented for each LCA:

The landscape strategy and Guidance notes are presented in table format.

Only the development types relevant to the particular LCA are included in the table (refer Figures 2.1 – 2.3 for study areas).

The overall sensitivity assessment for each development considered is included at the start of the table.

This is followed by a summary of operational and consented development as at the end of March 2014 (described in accordance with the development typologies outlined in Tables 2.08 – 2.11 in Section 2).

The landscape strategy for the area is then set out and includes a description of the landscape objective(s) for the LCA in relation to each form of development, followed by an indication of the relative amounts and scales of development which might be accommodated (indicative overall capacity).

The strategy and Guidance table is then followed by a further table which sets out specific Guidance notes regarding the design and siting of the different forms of development in relation to each LCA.

3.4 It is important to note that the strategy and Guidance tables should be read together with the relevant sensitivity evaluation tables (including those for adjacent LCA's) to ensure a better understanding of the context of the landscape and identify key issues. This is particularly important when a proposed development is near to the boundary of and LCA and also for the taller vertical developments (wind turbines, 400 kV overhead lines and mobile masts) as their visual influence may extend over some distance.

[17] The LANDMAP data sources relevant to this study area are illustrated on plans of the study area which are contained on a CD within Appendix 6 for reference.