PART 1: DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY OF LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

Ucheldir y Gogledd forms the first significant upland landscape in the northern part of the National Park. It includes a series of peaks - Moel Wnion, Drosgl, Foel Ganol, Pen y Castell, Drum, Carnedd Gwenllian, Tal y Fan and Conwy Mountain rising between 600 and 940m AOD. The area extends from Bethesda (which is located outside the National Park boundary) in the west to the western flanks of the Conwy valley in the east. It also encompasses the outskirts of Conwy to the north to form an immediate backdrop to the coast.
### KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA

| Dramatic and varied topography: rising up steeply from the Conwy coast at Penmaen-bach Point to form a series of mountains, peaking at Foel Fras (942 metres). Foothills drop down from the mountains to form a more intricate landscape to the east and west. |
| Complex, internationally renowned geological and geomorphological landscape, with a mixture of igneous and sedimentary rocks shaped by ancient earth movements and exposed and re-modelled by glaciation. |
| Multiple streams draining from the mountains, in some places plunging down hanging valleys as waterfalls. U-shaped valleys carving through the mountains, often with extensive moraine and head deposits. |
| Reservoirs at Llyn Anafon, Dulyn, Melynllyn and Llyn Eigiau. |
| Small bands of woodland and spinneys associated with the lower-lying farmland and valley sides, including **nationally designated native woodlands** at Coedydd Aber, Coed Merchlyn, Coed Gorswen and Coed Dolgarrog. Prominent forestry blocks on the lower slopes of Llwytmor Bach and at Parc Mawr. |
| Large-scale, unenclosed mountains contrasting with small historic field patterns on the foothills. The intermediate area defined by large regular enclosures of **ffridd**, providing valuable cultural and natural links between the uplands and their surrounding lowlands. |
| Enclosed pasture fields divided by **stone walls or hedgerows**, often with frequent hedgerow trees. **Rough common land grazing by sheep** on the mountains. |
| **Internationally important montane habitats and species** within the Eryri SAC/SSSI, including rare arctic-alpine plants, montane heaths, cliff ledges and wetlands. Wet and sessile oak woodlands found within the Coedydd Aber SAC/SSSI/NNR, linking the mountains to the north coast. |
FORCES FOR CHANGE AFFECTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Please refer to the ‘Forces for Change’ section of the SPG document. Of particular relevance to this LCA are the following forces for change:

- Conifer plantations detracting from the overall visual quality in the Aber Valley above Abergwyngregyn.
- Offshore wind turbines visible from the LCA impacting on the tranquillity and remoteness of the landscape.
- An intensification of agriculture at lower elevations leading to a dominance of improved pasture in places. Secondary woodland encroachment on mountain fringes indicating a decline in grazing levels in these marginal areas.
- Stone walls falling into a state of disrepair in some locations, frequently gapped up by post-and-wire fencing.
- Pressures from tourism related developments related to the tourist hotspots of Aber Falls, the Synchant Pass and the nearby town of Conwy.
- Linked to the above: pressures for car parking and the conversion of properties to holiday letting purposes.
- Pressure for new infrastructure such as water pipelines and wind turbines outside the National Park boundary.
- Urban expansion in Conwy town (outside Park boundary but visible from within the LCA), and 20th century development on the fringes of historic settlement cores detracting from the traditional local vernacular (e.g. Rowen).

A LANDSCAPE STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

This LCA is considered to be one of the ‘focal’ landscapes of Snowdonia, much of which is defined as ‘natural beauty’ as shown on the Eryri Local Development Plan (ELDP) proposals map. This natural beauty, and those elements that contribute towards it – especially the qualities of tranquillity and remoteness – will be protected and enhanced.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGE

Please refer to the ‘Guidelines’ section of the main SPG document, particularly for those guidelines under the ‘Mountains’ and ‘Upland Fringe’ headings.
PART 1: DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY OF LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES
This is an upland landscape situated between the A5 road and the Northern Uplands (LCA 1). It is bounded to the west by the distinctive U-shaped valley of Nant Ffrancon, and to the south by the Afon Llugwy and A5. The landscape is dominated by the Carneddau mountain range, in particular Carnedd Llywelyn, the second highest peak in Snowdonia at 1,064 metres AOD.
KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA

- High and prominent ridgeline of the Carneddau mountain range, rising to the summit of Carnedd Llywelyn at 1,064 metres AOD.

- Complex, internationally renowned geological and geomorphological landscape, underlain by volcanic deposits with a series of fault trended valleys.

- Significant evidence of glaciation, including corries (cymoedd), hanging valleys, deposits of boulder clay within valley floors, scree and moraine. Cwm Glas Crafnant NNR and Cors Gethin SSSI are designated for their glacial features.

- U-shaped valley of Nant Ffrancon forming a prominent landform feature. Multiple streams draining from the mountains into the Afon Llugwy and Nant Ffrancon below.

- Lakes scattered throughout, including Llyn Ogwen (at the head of Nant Ffrancon), the cwm lakes of Ffynnnon Lloer, Ffynnnon Caseg and Ffynnnon Llyffant and the reservoirs of Llyn Cowlyd and Ffynnnon Llugwy.

- A largely treeless and open landscape, with woodland cover limited to scatterings of ash trees on the slopes of Craig Wen.

- Open mountain summits and upper slopes surrounded by large, regular enclosures of ffridd. Smaller scale fields define the broad valley floor of Nant Ffrancon.

- Rough common land grazing by sheep on the mountains, with semi-improved pastures and rough grassland fields on lower slopes.

- Internationally important montane habitats and species within the Eryri SAC/SSSI (covering the whole LCA), including rare arctic-alpine plants, montane heaths, cliff ledges and wetlands. These are interspersed with areas of bracken and acid/marshy grassland.

- Includes land within the Ogwen Valley Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, displaying evidence of prehistoric land use (funerary and ritual sites) and the industrial exploitation of slate in 19th and 20th century.

- Primarily unsettled landscape, with buildings limited to small clusters of slate-built cottages and hamlets along the A5.

- A5 road corridor following an historic, scenic route through this northern gateway into the wider National Park. No road access into the mountains, but much is open access land with a small number of defined footpaths.

- Remote and wild mountains. Overall strong perceptions of tranquility eroded locally by the A5, as well as tourist-related developments in the Llugwy valley and around Llyn Ogwen and Rhaeadr Ogwen waterfall.

- Panoramic views from the mountains, including north to the coast and seascapes of Conwy and Anglesey, where off-shore wind turbines are visible, and south towards the Snowdon massif.

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1 Bold indicates those key characteristics considered to be the ‘valued attributes’ of the Landscape Character Area; aspects of character that contribute greatly to local distinctiveness.
FORCES FOR CHANGE AFFECTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Please refer to the ‘Forces for Change’ section of the SPG document. Of particular relevance to this LCA are the following forces for change:

- Tourist-related developments in the Llugwy valley and around Llyn Ogwen and Rheadr Ogwen waterfall (including outdoor pursuits centre, car parks and camping sites along the Llugwy valley).
- Wind turbine proposals outside the National Park (including distant offshore schemes) impacting on open, panoramic views from this LCA.
- Pressure from tourism related proposals, particularly demand for car parking along the A5.
- Stone walls defining the fringes of mountain commons and historic areas of ffridd often replaced by fencing.
- Overhead cables / power lines linking residential properties on lower slopes.
- Geometric blocks of coniferous plantation standing out prominently in the open landscape.

A LANDSCAPE STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

This LCA is considered to be one of the ‘focal’ landscapes of Snowdonia, much of which is defined as ‘natural beauty’ as shown on the Eryri Local Development Plan (ELDP) proposals map. This natural beauty, and those elements that contribute towards it – especially the qualities of tranquillity and remoteness – will be protected and enhanced.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGE

Please refer to the ‘Guidelines’ section of the main SPG document, particularly for those guidelines under the ‘Mountains’ and ‘Upland Fringe’ headings.
PART 1: DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY OF LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

The LCA forms both the visual and historic core of the National Park. It is roughly encircled by the A4085 (west), A4086 (south and east) and A5 (north) with pass along valley floors which carve through the surrounding mountains. The main feature of the landscape is Mount Snowdon itself, which rises to 1,086 metres AOD and is flanked by a number of other iconic peaks such as Crib Goch and Y Lliwedd. The area is cut roughly in two by the Pass of Llanberis (A4086); north of which is the Glyderau mountain range (Snowdon falls to the south).
### Key Characteristics of the Landscape Character Area

1. **Rugged mountainous terrain**, with rocky ridges, summits strewn with rock and numerous corries (cymoedd) encircling mountain tops. **Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon)** rises to 1,086 metres AOD as the highest mountain in Wales.

2. **Complex geology**: a mixture of igneous and sedimentary rocks, subject to the actions of tectonic plates, volcanism and glaciation with a number of corries separated by prominent arêtes and rocky cliffs. Nationally important area for the study of glacial and post-glacial features, including at Cwm Idwal NNR\(^2\) and Cwm Dwythwch SSSI.

3. **Fast-flowing streams and waterfalls draining from the mountains** to meet the valleys below, including the steep V-shaped valley of the Afon Nant Peris, which roughly splits the LCA in half.

4. **Mountains dotted by a number of cwm lakes**, including Llyn Dwythwch and Glaslyn, as well as reservoirs at Llyn Ffynnon-y-gwas and Llyn Llydaw.

5. Tree/woodland cover limited to the lower-lying valley slopes, particularly above the Afon Glaslyn and around Betws Garmon.

6. **Open mountain summits and upper slopes** surrounded by large, regular enclosures of ffridd divided by stone walls. Lower valley slopes and floors defined by a smaller scale pattern of irregular fields.

7. **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.

8. **Internationally important montane habitats and species** within the Eryri SAC/SSSI, including rare arctic-alpine plants, montane heaths, cliff ledges and wetlands. Llyn Idwal valued internationally for rich wetland vegetation associated with the hanging valley and nutrient-poor glacial lake.

9. **Large area within the Dinorwic Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest**, including evidence for prehistoric land use and settlement (e.g. huts and enclosures overlooking Llyn Ogwen) and 19th and 20th century slate mining relics such as quarries and tips.

10. **Settlement limited to the fringes of the mountains**, including the edges of the tourist centre of Llanberis, occasional valley-side hamlets, and the historic village of Nant Peris (a Conservation Area).

11. **The majority of the mountains are open access land**, with occasional rights of way. The LCA includes the Snowdonia mountain railway (a popular tourist attraction) and is encircled by main roads (including the Llanberis Pass) serving the National Park.

12. **An inspirational and iconic landscape** popular with artists and writers, closely associated with Wales, Welsh identity and folklore.

13. **Overriding sense of remoteness, tranquillity and wildness**, heightened by the landscape’s close relationship with the mountains of the surrounding LCAs.

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\(^1\) Bold indicates those key characteristics considered to be the ‘valued attributes’ of the Landscape Character Area; aspects of character that contribute greatly to local distinctiveness.

\(^2\) Wales’s first National Nature Reserve, designated in 1954
FORCES FOR CHANGE AFFECTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Please refer to the ‘Forces for Change’ section of the SPG document. Of particular relevance to this LCA are the following forces for change:

- Secondary woodland encroachment on mountain fringes indicating a decline in grazing levels in these marginal areas.
- Stone walls falling into a state of disrepair in some locations, frequently gapped up by post-and-wire fencing.
- Additional car parking facilities for tourists at Pen y Gwryd.
- Increased tourist pressure following completion of the Welsh Highland Railway through Beddgelert.
- New building at the Snowdon summit, Hafod Eryri.
- Some consider the Snowdon Summit Building and railway to be detractors to the remote qualities of the landscape.

A LANDSCAPE STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

This LCA is considered to be one of the ‘focal’ landscapes of Snowdonia, much of which is defined as ‘natural beauty’ as shown on the Eryri Local Development Plan (ELDP) proposals map. This natural beauty, and those elements that contribute towards it – especially the qualities of tranquillity and remoteness – will be protected and enhanced.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGE

Please refer to the ‘Guidelines’ section of the main SPG document, particularly for those guidelines under the ‘Mountains’ and ‘Upland Fringe’ headings.
PART 1: DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY OF LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES
This LCA forms the western upland flank of north Snowdonia and includes the peaks of Mynydd Mawr (698m), Mynydd Graig Goch (609m), Craig Cwm Silyn (734m), Moel yr Ogof (655m) and Moel Hebog (782m). These run down to a prominent scarp above Tremadog, overlooking the lower reaches of the Afon Glaslyn. The LCA is bounded to the east by the A4085 as it passes through valleys encircling the mountains. The landscape offers spectacular views of the coast and the core of Snowdonia.
**KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA**

| 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 re-modelled 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 Cwmystadllyn. Cwm lakes also scattered throughout the mountains, with the Llyn Cwmystadllyn 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). |
| 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. |

1 Bold indicates those key characteristics considered to be the ‘valued attributes’ of the Landscape Character Area; aspects of character that contribute greatly to local distinctiveness.
FORCES FOR CHANGE AFFECTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Please refer to the ‘Forces for Change’ section of the SPG document. Of particular relevance to this LCA are the following forces for change:

- Secondary woodland encroachment on mountain fringes indicating a decline in grazing levels in these marginal areas.
- Traditional stone barns also falling into dereliction due to a lack of use / maintenance
- Stone walls falling into a state of disrepair in some locations, frequently gapped up by post-and-wire fencing.
- Pressure for tourism-related development in the area.
- Geometric blocks of coniferous plantation standing out prominently in the open landscape, including Beddgelert Forest.

A LANDSCAPE STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

This LCA is considered to be one of the ‘focal’ landscapes of Snowdonia, much of which is defined as ‘natural beauty’ as shown on the Eryri Local Development Plan (ELDP) proposals map. This natural beauty, and those elements that contribute towards it – especially the qualities of tranquillity and remoteness – will be protected and enhanced.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGE

Please refer to the ‘Guidelines’ section of the main SPG document, particularly for those guidelines under the ‘Mountains’ and ‘Upland Fringe’ headings.
PART 1: DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY OF LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES
This LCA includes the upper reaches of Afon Glaslyn from Beddgelert inland, including its associated valley sides and upland peaks (rising to 872 metres AOD at Carnedd Moel Siabod). The valley floor is relatively narrow and includes the large water bodies of Llyn Dinas and Llyn Gwynant, which dominate the valley floor. Much of the side slopes are covered with plantations, primarily coniferous, interspersed with smaller areas of broadleaved woodland. The LCA wraps around the town and industry of Blaenau Ffestiniog, which falls outside the National Park.
**KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA**

| 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. |
| 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 the noise/sight of traffic passing along the main A roads. |

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FORCES FOR CHANGE AFFECTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Please refer to the ‘Forces for Change’ section of the SPG document. Of particular relevance to this LCA are the following forces for change:

- Secondary woodland encroachment on mountain fringes indicating a decline in grazing levels in these marginal areas.
- Stone walls falling into a state of disrepair in some locations, frequently gapped up or replaced completely by post-and-wire fencing.
- Pressure for transport routes and car parking within the landscape, including on the fringes of historic villages.
- Geometric blocks of coniferous plantation standing out prominently on open mountain slopes.
- Development proposals in Blaenau Ffestiniog which may have adverse visual impacts on the surrounding landscape.

A LANDSCAPE STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

Beddgelert is a popular visitor destination and the area includes the scenic Aberglaslyn and Nant Gwynant Passes. There are strong heritage and cultural associations throughout the LCA with evidence of copper mining in Cwm Bychan and elsewhere. Sustainable tourism and recreation activities will be encouraged whilst protection will be given from inappropriate developments.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGE

Please refer to the ‘Guidelines’ section of the main SPG document, particularly for those guidelines under the ‘Mountains’ and ‘Upland Fringe’ headings.
PART 1: DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY OF LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

This LCA is dominated by the extensive conifer plantations which are found to the north, south and west of Betws-y-Coed on the eastern flank of the National Park. The Conwy Valley marks the eastern boundary of the LCA (falling within LCA 7), and it is also skirted by the Afon Lledr and Afon Machno – both tributaries of the Conwy.
### KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA

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<td>• Strongly undulating landscape of rounded hill summits dissected by a series of valleys. Higher land in the south with a series of upland peaks, the highest being Y Rô Wen (590 metres AOD).</td>
<td><strong>• Significant areas of remnant flower-rich meadows, marshy grassland and flushes</strong> along valley floors, many areas designated as SSSIs.</td>
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<td>• <strong>Classic U-shaped glacial valleys</strong> and lower hill slopes with extensive boulder clay deposits together with drumlins, peat and head deposits creating the complex topography.</td>
<td><strong>• Gwydyr Forest Mines SAC</strong> internationally valued for workings and waste heaps from the past lead, iron and zinc industry – supporting rare plant communities.</td>
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<td>• <strong>Fast-flowing streams and waterfalls</strong> draining from the hills to the main valleys below, plunging through gorges in some locations. Landscape cut by the main Afon Conwy, Machno, Lugwy and Lledr.</td>
<td><strong>• Strong cultural heritage associated with past industry</strong>, including former mines, waste heaps, shafts and levels (e.g. Hafna and Coed Mawr Lead Mines – both Scheduled Monuments). Bryn-y-Gefelliau Roman fort occupies a strategic position alongside the Afon Lugwy.</td>
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<td>• <strong>Glacial lakes</strong> and reservoirs nesting in the hillsides (e.g. Llyn Crafnant and Llyn Geirionydd).</td>
<td><strong>• Area served by Betws-y-Coed, a nucleated town with picturesque 19th century architecture.</strong> Associations with artists and the growing visitor economy during that period (reflected in Conservation Area status).</td>
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<td>• Extensive conifer plantations on hill slopes and summits; strongly influencing landscape character. <strong>Valued semi-natural broadleaved woodlands found along valley/gorge slopes.</strong></td>
<td><strong>• Other settlement focused along valley floors linked by main roads (e.g. A470 and A5 trunk roads), with scattered stone/slate-built farmsteads and hamlets</strong> along their length.</td>
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<td>• Open hill summits and plantations contrasting with <strong>lower-lying pockets of historic irregular small-scale fields.</strong> The valley floor of the Conwy includes a matrix of regular fields.</td>
<td><strong>• Tourist-related developments such as car parks, camping sites and The Towers outdoor pursuits centre – particularly concentrated around Betws-y-Coed.</strong> Much of the forested area and surrounding uplands is open access land, supplemented by rights of way and mountain biking tracks.</td>
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<td>• <strong>Rough grazing on hill summits, with pastoral-dominated farming on lower slopes, and wet pasture/meadows within valleys.</strong></td>
<td><strong>• Noise and movements from the main roads, along with tourism related development, disrupting the otherwise peaceful, rural and scenic qualities of the landscape (an important gateway into the mountains of the National Park).</strong></td>
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<td><strong>• Panoramic views and valued view points</strong> from the higher ground allowing scenic views of the nearby mountains.</td>
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FORCES FOR CHANGE AFFECTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Please refer to the ‘Forces for Change’ section of the SPG document. Of particular relevance to this LCA are the following forces for change:

- Secondary woodland encroachment due to a decline in grazing levels, reducing areas of open landscape and vistas to the surrounding mountains.
- Increasing popularity of the area for recreation, particularly mountain biking on tracks through Gwydyr Forest Park.
- Stone walls falling into a state of disrepair in some locations, frequently gapped up or replaced by post-and-wire fencing.
- Geometric blocks of coniferous plantation introduced since the 20th century.
- Roadside tourism-related development between Betws-y-Coed and Capel Curig, including prominent signage.
- Increasing levels of flood risk in Betws-y-Coed.

A LANDSCAPE STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

Recreation is an important feature of this area and much of the LCA is covered by the Gwydyr Forest Park. Sustainable tourism and recreation activities will be encouraged. The area is rich in industrial archaeological remains associated with lead and zinc mining and many sites have been preserved and interpreted. Biodiversity enhancement will be sought through improved forestry and woodland management.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGE

Please refer to the ‘Guidelines’ section of the main SPG document, particularly for those guidelines under the ‘Mountains’ and ‘Upland Fringe’ headings.