THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP



ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

RSPB CONWY

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report provides a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) to accompany a full planning application for access improvements at and to the west of RSPB Conwy (the 'Proposed Development'). The proposal includes the installation of two footbridges, a new shared use Active Travel path with associated fencing and lighting, and a re-surfaced RSPB access track. The Site boundary and location are shown on **Figure 1**.

1.2 This report includes a review of published landscape documentation relevant to the Site; a description of the baseline conditions on the Site and the surrounding area; a description of existing visual amenity and views towards the Site and a description of the Proposed Development including embedded mitigation measures. The LVA assesses the potential effects of the Proposed Development on landscape character and landscape features, and effects on visual amenity.

1.3 The assessment is based on the route through the RSPB Reserve (Drawing Ref: ERNS2301N-045), the continuation of the route from RSPB Reserve to Conwy (Drawing Ref: ERNS2301N-029), Eastern Corridor Option 6 which details proposed footbridges (Drawing Refs: ERNS2301N-026 to ERNS2301N-028) and the General Arrangement Plans for the Active Travel path (Drawing Refs: ERNS2301N-A111 to ERNS2301N-A113) prepared by Conwy County Borough Council Environment, Roads and Facilities.

1.4 This report includes the following sections:

- Section 2.0 - Method, Scope, and Context;
- Section 3.0 - Legislation and Policy Context;
- Section 4.0 - Landscape Baseline;
- Section 5.0 - Visual Baseline;
- Section 6.0 - The Proposed Development;
- Section 7.0 - Assessment of Landscape Effects;
- Section 8.0 - Assessment of Visual Effects; and
- Section 9.0 - Conclusions.

1.5 This LVA is supported by a series of Figures (**Figures 1 to 6**) provided in Appendix A to this report. Figures show relevant landscape and environmental designations, topography, published landscape character assessment data; and show photographic viewpoint locations. Photographs from selected viewpoints are presented at **Figures 6.1 to 6.12**.

1.6 **Appendix B** provides the LVA method, discussed in **Section 2.0** below.

2.0 Method, Scope, and Context

Method

2.1 This LVA has assessed the potential effects on landscape and on views of the Proposed Development as shown on the drawings prepared by Conwy County Borough Council Environment, Roads and Facilities.

2.2 The method for this LVA (**Appendix B**), is based on guidance contained in the ó G u i d e f o r L a n d s c a p e a n d V i s u a l I m p a c t A s s e s s m e n t, T h i r d E d i t i o n (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013) (GLVIA3).

2.3 Duration and reversibility of landscape effects has been assessed with the following considerations:

- Short term: 0-5 years during the construction period and completion;
- Medium term: 5-15 years, which represents the establishment phase of planting proposed; and
- Long term: 15 years onwards for the life of the Proposed Development.

2.4 The LVA involved the following key stages:

- Desk-based assessment involving a review of relevant information, guidance and planning policy relating to the type of development proposed and to landscape and visual amenity;
- Site survey and assessment to augment the baseline assessment, assess the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development and undertake photography at selected viewpoint locations; and
- Assessment and reporting of effects using criteria for sensitivity of receptor, magnitude of effect and overall effect.

Scope and Context

2.5 The scope of this LVA has been informed by desk study and field assessment. Landform and screening by vegetation and built form at the Site and in the surrounding landscape has been considered.

2.6 T h e i n i t i a l p h a s e i n t h e a s s e s s m e n t i n v o l v e
Proposed Development or the study area boundaries. The study area for this LVA includes the Site and the surrounding landscape likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. It includes the area from where the Site is potentially visible and is also defined by characteristics of the development type and landscape type in which the development is located.

2.7 A study area of up to a maximum of 3km from the Site has been defined for this LVA which reflects the landscape setting of the Site, and the type and scale of development proposed. This study area provides sufficient context within which an assessment of the landscape and visual effects can be framed.

2.8 The aims and objectives of this appraisal are:

- To identify, describe and evaluate the current landscape character of the Site and its surroundings, along with any notable individual landscape elements, to determine the sensitivity of the landscape to the type of development proposed;
- To identify potential visual receptors (i.e. people who would be able to see the development) and evaluate their sensitivity to the type of changes proposed; and
- To identify and describe any impacts of the development in so far as they affect the existing landscape and/or views and to evaluate the magnitude of effect and the overall effect.

2.9 The assessment of landscape assists in understanding what key elements define landscape character and contribute to visual amenity so that:

- Elements which make an essential contribution to landscape character are maintained, enhanced, and managed;
- Changes can be accommodated within the existing landscape and visual context; and
- Improvements and enhancements can be made where uncharacteristic features detract from the character and visual amenity of the area.

Assumptions and Limitations

2.10 Viewpoint photography was undertaken in January and March 2024, this represents a 'worst case' scenario in terms of the extent of screening provided by existing vegetation. Seasonal differences have been taken into consideration in the description and assessment of visual effects.

2.11 In assessing both landscape and visual effects the influence of time, particularly the growth of new vegetation can be substantial. The post-completion effects have therefore been assessed at two stages (Year 1 and Year 15) where the effects of mitigation planting and be taken into account.

2.12 The time that new planting takes to establish is dependent on species, stock size, the nature of the growing conditions and other factors such as maintenance and vandalism. It is assumed that planting will be implemented in Year 1 with an average growth rate of 300-400mm/year.

3.0 Planning Policy Context

3.1 This section provides a summary of relevant national and local planning policy including Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and evidence base documents relevant to the Site.

National Planning Policy

Planning Policy Wales

3.2 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the Government's planning policies for Wales and how these are expected to be applied at a local level in development plans and how developers should adhere to them. PPW places great emphasis on plans and developments contributing to sustainable development. The following chapters of PPW are applicable to the LVIA.

Chapter 3: Strategic and Spatial Choices

3.3 PPW emphasises the importance of good design in creating sustainable places. Design is taken to mean *'the relationship between all elements of the natural and the built environment and between people and places. To achieve sustainable development, design must go beyond aesthetics and include the social, economic, environmental, and cultural aspects of the development*'.

Chapter 6: Distinctive and Natural Places

3.4 PPW identifies the importance of valuing the quality of Welsh landscapes and historic environment. PPW states that *'the characteristics and environmental qualities of places varies across Wales, creating distinctive or unique features associated with their particular natural or cultural heritage and these should be recognised and valued, in and of, themselves and should be protected and enhanced.'*

3.5 PPW recognises the value of green infrastructure, stating that *'distinctive and natural places must maintain or incorporate green infrastructure, recognising the wide ranging role it can play, as key components of their natural and built fabric.'*

3.6 Section 6.3 Landscape recognises the value that trees, woodlands and hedgerows make to landscape character and sense of place. Paragraph 6.4.39 states that *'planning authorities should protect trees, hedgerows, groups of trees and areas of woodland where they have ecological value, contribute to the character or amenity of a particular locality, or perform a beneficial and identified green infrastructure function'*. Updates to PPW in October 2023 expressed the importance of the countryside beyond the green belt and their recognition in urban areas.

Technical Advice Notes (TANs) (to be read in conjunction with PPW)

3.7 TAN 16 (Sport, Recreation and Open Space) outlines different open space typologies and provides benchmark standards for POS provision within new developments which has been considered in the development of the site masterplan.

Local Planning Policy and Guidance

Conwy Local Development Plan 2007 – 2022

3.8 The Conwy Local Development Plan (LDP) covers the part of the Conwy County Borough outside of Snowdonia National Park and sets out the vision, objectives, and spatial strategy for development through to 2022.

Strategic Policy DP/1 – Sustainable Development Principles

3.9 Strategic Policy DP/1 outlines the fundamental principles of sustainable development. Development principles of relevance to landscape and visual matters include the conservation or enhancement of the character and quality of local landscapes, the promotion of attractive and high-quality design, and the conversation or enhancement of the natural environment. Development will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that the proposal is consistent with these principles.

Policy DP/3 – Promoting Design Quality and Reducing Crime

3.10 Policy DP/3 states that all new developments should be of high quality, sustainable design, protect and enhance local distinctiveness and character, and be of an appropriate scale, design and materials which are appropriate to their location.

Strategic Policy NTE/1 – The Natural Environment

3.11 Strategic Policy NTE/1 aims to safeguard and where possible enhance the natural environment, countryside, and coastline.

Policy NTE/4 – The Landscape and Protecting Special Landscape Areas

3.12 The Site is in the Conwy Valley Special Landscape Area (SLA). SLA are areas of particularly high landscape value and can include open areas within or adjacent to built up areas. Policy NTE/4 states that development should respect, retain, or enhance the local character and distinctiveness of the individual Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). Land falling outside of the SLAs will not instantly be rendered suitable for development.

3.13 Policy NTE/4 also states *that ódevelopment will only be pe capable of being satisfactori*The integration of development with the landscape should have regard to *ólandscape elements as walls, trees or hedgerows which are important to landscape character and should be ret*. Development should also be *ówell designed and help sustain and/or create landscapes and townscapes with a strong s*

3.14 Conwy Valley SLA was designated as a *ólocally important landscape* and has *ólimited* capacity for further cumulative change degradation without significantly deteriorating *in character, quality and local views theref*

3.15 BP27 reiterates the purpose of Policy NTE/5 of the Conwy LDP and states that *ódevelopment which is incapable of being sensitively and unobtrusively integrated into the landscape, and which would be detrimental to the specific landscape character zone will not be permitted.ô*

Policy NTE/5 - The Coastal Zone

3.16 Policy NTE/5 highlights that development in the Coastal Zone will only be permitted where it does not adversely affect its open character and/or nature conservation value, with any identified effects mitigated.

Emerging Local Plan

Conwy County Council Replacement Local Development Plan

3.17 The Conwy County Council Replacement Local Development Plan are preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) to cover the period 2018 - 2033. The Plan will set out the development framework to determine planning applications, manage the use and development of land and create sustainable places.

3.18 Work on the Plan is ongoing and is currently at Stage 6 - Deposit Plan. The Plan will be adopted once Stage 8 has been completed.

Evidence base

BP27: Green Wedge Assessment

3.19 This Green Wedge Assessment was published in 2019 and reviews Green Wedges in the County Borough to support the Replacement Local Development Plan. The Green Wedge between Llandudno Junction, Mochdre and Glan Conwy, to the east of the Site, will be retained and recommendations include extending the Green Wedge to the south and reducing it to the south-east.

BP47: Green Infrastructure Assessment

3.20 This Green Infrastructure Assessment will *'guide the delivery of a greener, healthier, more biodiverse and prosperous Conwy for the period to 2033'*. To deliver the vision of a resilient GI network across Conwy, five aims have been identified and include:

- *'Protect, enhance, create and restore habitats to create a resilient wildlife and biodiversity network;*
- *Enable a thriving blue environment;*
- *Promote sustainable growth and economic development through GI;*
- *Encourage, enable and promote healthy lifestyles and enhance wellbeing; and*
- *Improve Connectivity.'*

Supplementary Planning Guidance

LPD09: Design

3.21 The Design SPG aims to raise standards of building and landscape design throughout all development in Conwy by providing a practical design tool to be used by all involved in the design and development process.

3.22 LDP09 defines good design according to paragraph 4.10.1 of PPW as *ó t h e r e l a t i o n s h i p b e t w e e n a l l e l e m e n t s* Material *t h e n a* considerations in planning are important for good design and should include the visual appearance of proposed development, its scale, and its relationship to its surroundings.

LDP11: Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment for Onshore Wind Turbine Development

3.23 The 2014 Conwy Landscape Sensitivity and Character Assessment for Onshore Wind Turbine Development provides a comprehensive assessment of the landscape character and overall landscape sensitivity of the borough, with a view of minimising the effect of landscape and visual effects of onshore wind energy development on the landscape in line with policy NTE/4 of the LDP. Whilst not wind related development, this character assessment provides useful context and is considered further in Section 4.

LDP40: Trees and Development

3.24 The Trees and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance sets out design and protection principles regarding development in close proximity to existing trees, woodlands, or hedgerows.

4.0 Landscape Baseline

4.1 This chapter considers the relevant designations present in the study area, summarises characteristics of the landscape described in published landscape character assessments and provides a description of the Site within this context. The relevant information is presented on **Figure 2** - Landscape and Environmental Designations, **Figure 3.1** shows published Landscape Character Types and Areas with **Figures 3.2-3.6** showing relevant LANDMAP data and **Figure 4** shows topography.

4.2 A 3km study area has been used to set the Site in a context where a range of designations relating to environmental quality can be identified. The nature of the Proposed Development and the Site means that effects on landscape and views are likely to be contained within a slightly smaller area as shown at **Figure 5** which identifies the representative viewpoint locations.

Landscape and Environmental Designations

4.3 In accordance with GLVIA3, relevant designations are considered as part of determining the value of the landscape potentially affected by the Proposed Development. The LVA does not consider effects on each asset's conservation interest or its appreciation and understanding.

Special Landscape Area (SLA)

4.4 The Site is within SLA6 Conwy Valley in BP27: Special Landscape Areas (August 2012). This SLA includes large tracts of land to the south of Conwy and is described as '*a key point of access to Snowdonia National Park and approach along the Conwy Valley. Views need to be preserved and the landscape treated respectfully so as not to degrade existing qualities and views*.' Justification for the designation of this area as an SLA is attributed to the *'zone of Visual Influence for the World Heritage site around Conwy Castle, Coastal Zone policy NTE/6, SSSI designation to the Conwy estuary and tidal river system, and green wedges'*. The landscape is described as *'both locally and regionally unique. There is therefore a requirement to safeguard the conservation of a landscape of notable rarity that adds to local or regional distinctiveness and diversity*.' The SLA is described as being of local landscape value.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

4.5 There are two SACs within the study area. The Menai Strait and Conwy Bay contains parts of the coastal headland and seascape to the north of the Site and includes subtidal sandbanks along open coast, intertidal mudflats and sandflats and limestone reefs. The Creuddyn Peninsula Woods is designated as an SAC and SSSI and is approximately 2km to the north of the Site. It comprises nine separate blocks of woodland and is a large example of Tilio-Acerion forest near its western extents.

4.6 These SAC designations contribute to the landscape setting of the Site and there is intervisibility with the Site and parts of Creuddyn Peninsula Woods. The ecological aspects are considered further in the Ecological Assessment.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

4.7 Aber Afon Conwy SSSI is of special interest due to its marine and terrestrial invertebrate biology. This SSSI covers circa. 1300ha of Conwy estuary. The proposed development runs to the north of this designation. The estuarine landscape will be considered in this LVA with the ecological aspects considered further in the Ecological Assessment.

Listed Buildings

4.8 There are several listed buildings in the vicinity of the Site. Intervisibility is limited to the east of the Site due to intervening vegetation. Across the estuary to the west, there is intervisibility between Conwy Castle (Grade I Listed) and the Site.

Registered Park and Gardens

4.9 There are several Registered Parks and Gardens in the study area. Bryn Eisteddfod occupies elevated land approximately 200m east of the Site and provides outstanding views over the Conwy estuary. Benarth Hall lies west of the Conwy estuary along the coast and has some intervisibility with the Site from its more open areas of woodland and parkland to the south. This will be considered in the assessment.

Conservation Area and World Heritage Site

4.10 The south-eastern part of Conwy town is located within Conwy Conservation Area, approximately 1.9km to the north-west of the Site. This area includes Conwy Castle, the town walls and historic built form dating from circa 13th C. Parts of the town within the Conservation Area are also designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This includes the fortified complexes of Conwy and nearby Caernarfon, Beaumaris and Harlech which are within the *'Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd'* inscripted in 1986.

4.11 Pwllycrochan Conservation Area is located on the periphery of the study area to the north-east however there is no intervisibility with the Site.

Green Wedges

4.12 There are several Green Wedge areas to the north and east of the study area. The closest Green Wedge is to the east and is circa. 50m away. These Green Wedges help prevent coalescence between Conwyôs undeveloped countryside in Conwyôs coastal b

Review of Published Landscape Character Assessments

4.13 This section summarises key characteristics of the landscape described in published landscape character assessments followed by an analysis of the local landscape based on fieldwork undertaken in January and March 2024 by a Chartered Landscape Architect. The location of the Site in relation to published landscape character areas is shown on **Figure 3.1**.

National Landscape Character

4.14 National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs), identified by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), form the broadest scale of landscape character assessment in Wales. The Site is in NLCA7 Conwy Valley on the periphery of NLCA 08 North Wales Coast which are described below.

4.15 NLCA 7: Conwy Valley is described as the valley of Wa l e s ' longest tidal river and the valley effectively forms the border between north-east and north-west of Wales. It follows a deep, fault-guided, glacial valley and contains significant flood plain and estuary areas. It has a very rural character, although contains the towns of Conwy and Llanrwst, and a number of large and small villages. The character of the area is greatly influenced by the Snowdonia uplands to the west which provides a dramatic mountain backdrop.

4.16 Key characteristics of NLCA 7 include:

- ó *Deep, major fault-guided glaciated valley - between the adjacent rugged and shapely uplands of Snowdonia to the west and gentler rolling Rhos Hills to the east.*
- *Southern flood plain section - deep river alluvium with silty and clayey soils and seasonal flooding, whose flatness contrasts with the adjacent spectacular wooded hillside to the west. Development and road links generally keep off the flood plain.*
- *A very abrupt, steep, wooded edge to the adjacent Snowdonia uplands, with cliffs - marking the terminal point of a bedrock geology of Silurian argillaceous rock. Dramatic, boulder-strewn, tumbling small rivers cascade down.*
- *Hanging woodland - including beech and oak, and areas of planted conifers, to slopes.*
- *Hilly farmed middle section with a meandering, serpentine estuary ï fringed with marsh, reed beds and tidal flats, backed by pastures, hedges and deciduous woodland blocks. Strong tidal movement along estuary. Hamlets, villages, scattered farms.*
- *Lowland pasture and hay meadow - with hill sheep grazing to the valley sides.*
- *Busier northern section around Conwy - with strategic transport crossing points over the wide estuary and shelter for boats. Historic road and railway bridges and a modern road tunnel.*
- *Field patterns - geometric on the flood plain, with areas of dry stone walls or reens (ditches) as boundaries. Mixed hedgerows generally, with small*

irregular fields on rising slopes to the west side. More improved fields and hedges to the east side slopes.

- *Conwy Castle with its associated walled town - a World Heritage Site, dramatically located on a promontory overlooking the estuary, and forming a landmark feature.*
- *Settlement to lower valley sides – keeping off the flood plain, notably the linear Dolgarrog, Trefriw and Glan Conwy. Principle settlements are Conwy town and Llanrwst.*
- *A strong sense of containment to the valley – creating a natural route for north-south road and rail links.ô*

4.17 The Site and its surroundings exhibit characteristics of the NLCA as it occupies land along the glaciated valley floor and on the edge of the inter-tidal estuary with the wider landscape exhibiting other key characteristics including hilly farmland, woodland blocks, hedgerows and Conwy Castle.

4.18 NCLA 8: North Wales Coast covers the northern part of the study area. Key characteristics of NLCA 8 include:

- *ó Carboniferous limestone – resulting in and coa distinctive light coloured rocky escarpments with cliffs and scree, including most prominently Great Ormeôs Head, wit stepped crags and scree slopes.*
- *The mouth of the Vale of Clwyd – a broad flat coastal plain centred on Rhyl, including the small estuary of the River Clwyd, including a network of medium scale pastoral fields of regular pattern, with ditches and, to a lesser extent mixed, managed hedgerows, and occasionally interspersed with small stands of mixed farm woodland.*
- *Seaside resort towns - urban development and arterial road and railway routes along coast, constricted in places by topography and rising hills. Much 19th century development with more recent suburbia. Some caravan parks and holiday camps between Llanddulas to Prestatyn coalesce settlements.*
- *Steep sided hill back drop to coastal towns - wooded, or exposed limestone and sheep pasture.*
- *A generally man-made coastal edge – promenades, sea walls, groynes, rock armour and other forms of protecting the coastal edge run for most of the length of the coastline*
- *Limestone quarrying – a number of old and active limestone quarries have left holes and scars, coastal quarries having used sea ships for transportation.*
- *Hinterland away from the coast – with intervening hills makes for a quiet, sheltered, inland, rural feel, with some classic limestone outcrops, notably south of Llanddualas.*
- *Ecological importance - Great Orme is ecologically important for its concentration of calcareous grassland, while elsewhere, there is a diversity of habitat types, including the coastal dunes at Gronant and remaining areas of coastal habitat such as sandbanks, marshland and tidal river flats*

- *Archaeology - Great Orme has a range of archaeological features illustrating a variety of historic land uses, including prehistoric caves, extensive evidence of underground, Bronze Age copper mining, ritual and funerary monuments, and hillforts.*
- *Rhuddlan Castle is strategically sited at a crossing point over the Clwyd, at what was once the eastern boundary of the Medieval kingdom of Gwynedd.*
- *A number of historic parklands - lie within the area, while the estate architecture of Gwrych Castle and wooded parkland is a locally prominent feature.*
- *Iconic image of historic Llandudno and i t fâ m s ed natural setting ï between two rocky headlands, with its pier, grand sweeping promenade and Victorian building façades, arguably the finest of their type in Wales, the town is known as the ó Q u e o f e r n e s o a n d i s k n o w n nationally for seaside holidays'.*

4.19 The Site and its immediate surroundings exhibit some key characteristics including the hinterland away from the coast including ecologically important habitats of marshland and tidal river flats and historic parklands.

4.20 NRW's NLCA descriptions provide a very broad assessment, covering a large area. which establish the underlying characteristics of the wider landscape.

LANDMAP

4.21 LANDMAP (Landscape Assessment and Decision Making Process) is landscape guidance for Wales developed by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and the Wales Landscape Partnership Group. Landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data and retained as a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) based landscape resource. The information is recorded in five layers comprising:

- Geological Landscape;
- Landscape Habitats;
- Visual and Sensory;
- Historic Landscape; and
- Cultural Landscape.

4.22 NRW guidance on the application of LANDMAP explains that the use of all five layers of information promotes sustainable landscape decision-making as what may be of low importance in one particular layer may be of high importance in another.

4.23 Wi t h i n e a c h o f t h e f i v e l a y e r s , t h e r e a r e evaluated and given a score. The evaluation categories are as follows:

- Outstanding - sites or areas of international or national importance;
- High - sites or areas of regional or county importance;
- Moderate - sites or areas of local importance;
- Low - sites or areas of low value;
- Unknown - insufficient information exists to allow the element to be evaluated.

4.24 A summary of the ó a s p e o f t h e S i t e across LANDMAP are referred to below.

Geological Landscapes

4.25 The Site is within Geological Landscape Area CNWGL041 ï Lower Afon Conwy Valley (**Figure 3.2**). This area is reported to be of high value with recent tidal flat deposits, alluvium floor, flanked by river terrace and glacial sand and gravel deposits.

Landscape Habitats

4.26 The Site is in Landscape Habitat Area CNWLH027 ï Conwy Wetlands and CNWLH019 - Afon Conwy (**Figure 3.3**). The Conwy wetlands is an artificially created wetland nature reserve and has become a nationally important site for breeding and wintering birds, especially waders, wildfowl, and aquatic birds. The Afon Conwy supports many intertidal communities. Both areas are reported to be of high value.

Visual and Sensory

4.27 The Site is within Visual and Sensory Area CNWVS064 - Glan Conwy Nature Reserve (**Figure 3.4**). The area contributes to the landscape of the estuary which *'is aesthetically pleasing allowing superb views of Conwy Castle and Benarth Hall although the character of the reserve is clearly man made, associated with the construction of the A55 tunnel'*. The reserve comprises a series of lagoons surrounded by semi natural wetland habitat with an open character despite willows to the north. The overall value of the area is considered to be high.

Historic landscapes

4.28 The Site is within Historic Landscape Area CNWHL067 ï Conwy Estuary (**Figure 3.5**). The aspect area is defined by its topography and land use and primarily includes the lower reaches of the River Conwy along with some farmland along its banks. The area is reported to be of moderate value.

Cultural landscapes

4.29 The Site is in Cultural Landscape Area CNWCLS093 - Glan Conwy Nature Reserve (**Figure 3.6**). The value of this area is recorded as unknown.

Conwy and Denbighshire Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment for Onshore Wind Turbine Development

4.30 The Conwy and Denbighshire Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment divides the landscape into units based on the geographical areas of the landscape types identified in the Clwyd Landscape Assessment (1995). Whilst this development does not comprise onshore wind it provides useful landscape information.

4.31 A total of 42 landscape units were identified, broadly representative of different character areas, but are not formally recognised as LCAs. The Site is in B7: Conwy Valley and C10: Great Orme and Creuddyn.

4.32 Unit B7 is characterised by:

- *'Scale: typically small to medium scale*
- *Landform: Distinctive broad and deep valley with a flat river floodplain and strongly undulating valley sides with gentle coastal slopes to the north.*

- *Landcover Pattern: Land cover within the valley comprises a mosaic of woodland and pasture with a high prevalence of field and hedgerow trees. Modern development is concentrated in the far north of this landscape unit.*
- *Built Environment: Man-made influences are most evident to the north where the developed coastline includes the town of Conwy, the A55 tourist route and the North Wales Coast Railway. Other man-made influences include the A470 which runs down the valley, and several pylon lines that cross the valley east-west. Elsewhere, settlement is sparser and modern development much more limited.*
- *Skylines and Setting: The valley sides and bottom of the valley do not form skyline features; however the surrounding valleys sides rise to prominent undulating skylines.*
- *Movement: Road traffic brings movement into this landscape. This is more frequent along the coast where most of the settlement and transport infrastructure is located. Traffic along the A470 brings movement along the valley. Other, more remote parts of the valley are more still in character.*
- *Visibility, Key Views and Vistas: There are some long views along the valley floor and from coastal areas. The higher valley sides afford open views to Snowdonia National Park and the Rhos Hills.*
- *Intervisibility/Associations with Adjacent Landscapes: The Rhos Hills appear as a large scale backdrop in views from the valley to the east. There are some views to and from Snowdonia National Park which lies immediately to the west. Views are afforded to and from adjacent landscape units to the north along the coast including the Creudyyn Peninsular.*
- *Views to and from Important Landscapes and Cultural heritage Features: These include:*
  - *Snowdonia National Park*
  - *Great Orme Heritage Coast*
  - *Conwy Castle, Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site*
  - *Conwy Valley SLA*
  - *Great Orme and Creuddyn Peninsular SLA*
  - *Pen Isaf Dyffryn Conwy (Lower Conwy Valley) and Creuddyn a Chonwy (Creuddyn and Conwy) Registered Historic Landscape*
  - *Registered Parks and Gardens*
  - *Open Access Areas within Snowdonia National Park*
  - *Gwydir Castle and Gwydir Uchaf Chapel*
  - *Hillforts*
- *Scenic Quality and Character: Typical High LANDMAP evaluation with some Outstanding.*
- *Remoteness and Tranquillity: A sense of tranquillity and remoteness develops away from the developed and busy coastline.*
- *Landscape Value: Most of this landscape unit is regionally designated as the Conwy Valley SLA. Nationally designated features also include Sustrans - North Wales Coast cycle route (NCN Route 5). Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation with some Outstanding.*

- *Cultural Heritage Value: Large areas of this landscape unit lie within Pen Isaf Dyffryn Conwy (Lower Conwy Valley) and Creuddyn a Chonwy (Creuddyn and Conwy) Registered Historic Landscapes. The area also includes Registered Parks and Gardens and parts of the essential setting of Conwy Castle, Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site. Typical Moderate-High LANDMAP evaluation, with some Outstanding.'*

4.33 Unit C10 is characterised by:

- *'Scale: small-medium scale.*
- *Landform: The landform of the peninsula is varied and comprises dramatic limestone headlands and cliffs with areas of gently rolling land and flatter lowland.*
- *Landcover pattern: Mosaic of pastures, woodland open land, hillsides, scarp slopes, and cliffs and urban settlements.*
- *Built Environment: Man-made influences are evident across the landscape and include the A55 tourist route and North Wales Coast Railway in the south and pylon lines that are visib landscape unit.*
- *Skylines and Settings: The Great Orme and Little Orme form a prominent skyline feature. Esgryn Obelisk is a distinctive monument visible from the south.*
- *Movement: Much of this landscape unit is very busy, particularly around the coastal settlements; however there are number of areas where movement is much less frequent.*
- *Visibility, Key Views, Vistas: Expansive views out across the sea, coastline and inland hills from the Great orme and other high points within this landscape unit.*
- *Intervisibility/Associations with Adjacent Landscapes: This landscape has strong association and intervisibility with both adjacent and more distant landscapes, including Snowdonia National Park.*
- *Views to and from Important Landscapes and Cultural Heritage Features: These include:*
  - *Snowdonia National Park*
  - *Anglesey Coast AONB*
  - *Conwy Castle, Castles and Town Walls of*
  - *King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site*
  - *Great Orme Heritage Coast*
  - *Great Orme and Creuddyn Peninsular SLA*
  - *Conwy Valley SLA*
  - *Open Access Areas*
  - *Great Orme Country Park*
  - *Creuddyn a Chonwy (Creuddyn and Conwy) Registered Historic Landscape.*
  - *Registered Parks and Gardens*
  - *Hillforts*
- *Scenic Quality and Character: Typical high LANDMAP evaluation with some areas outstanding.*

- *Remoteness/Tranquility: There is a strong and locally important contrast between the busy developed areas and coastline and the tranquil and remote undeveloped perts of the headland.*
- *Landscape Value: Much of this landscaoe unit lies within the regionally designated Great Orme and Creuddyn Peninsular SLA and also contains the nationally identified Great Orme Heritage Coast.*
- *Cultural Heritage Value: Conwy Castle, Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site is wholly contained within this landscape unit. Much of this landscape unit lies within Creuddyn a Chonwy (Creuddyn and Conwy) Registered Historic Landscape'.*

4.34 The Site and surrounding landscape within the study area exhibits a number of the characteristics of units B7 and C10 identified above including the river valley floodplain; a mosaic of woodland and pasture land cover; modern development and man-made influences including the A55, A470 and railway lines; intervisibility with Conwy Castle; the presence of registered parks and gardens; and Conwy Valley SLA designation.

Site and Environs Landscape Character

4.35 A site survey was undertaken to assess the landscape character of the Site and its immediate surroundings and to consider the extent to which this is consistent with the findings of the desktop assessment. The site survey was undertaken on 19th January 2024 and 7th March 2024 on a day with good visibility.

Context

4.36 The Site is adjacent to the River Conwy and includes land within and to the west of the RSPB Conwy Wetland Nature Reserve, which comprises marginal land at the northern, eastern and western outskirts of the reserve. Within the reserve, the Site contains a narrow strip of land that extends from the RSPB car park close to Junction 18 of the A55 North Wales Expressway and tracks along the northern edge of the reserve in close proximity to the A55 before tracking southwards along the eastern edge of the reserve and terminating at the lay-by car parking along the A470 Conway Road. West of the reserve, the Site follows the existing Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail along the River Conwy, which connects to a footbridge at A547 Conway Road. This path is hard-surfaced and features dense vegetation to the north and coastal shingle and mudflats to the south.

4.37 The northern and western part of the Site occupies relatively level ground to the south of the A55, whereas the eastern section includes the Afon Ganal, which is located within a shallow river corridor and the Conwy Valley Railway which includes steeply rising landform to adjoin the elevated level of the A470. Both the Afon Ganal and Conwy Valley Railway are aligned north-south.



Insert 1: View looking towards the southern part of the site

Topography and Landform

4.38 The Site is generally level at approximately 10m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) due to its location on the floor of Conwy Valley, however the eastern part of the Site contains the Afon Ganal within a shallow river corridor and includes the steeply rising landform to the east of the reserve which adjoins higher ground along the A470.

4.39 The wider landscape comprises gently undulating land in the immediate vicinity of the Site to the east, and the slopes of Conwy Valley beyond this, which rise to 134m AOD to the east at the summit of Coed Dolwyd and 130m to the west along hilltops west of Baclaw Lane.

Rivers and Drainage

4.40 The Afon Ganol crosses the Site in the east, running from north to south into the River Conwy. There are also several large artificial lagoons as the Site is within the RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve.

4.41 The River Conwy is to the south-west of the proposed Site. The river estuary and its associated tidal marshes and mud flats are designated as a SSSI.



Insert 2: The Afon Ganol crossing the site in the east

Land Use, Land Cover and Vegetation

4.42 The Site includes marginal land and an access track at the edge of the RSPB reserve and a hard-surfaced path west of the reserve. The landscape within the reserve contains a mixture of scrubland and wetland that contribute to the bird habitats of the reserve. The landscape to the west comprises coastal shingle and mudflats at the edge of the River Conwy, with grassland and tree belts to its north. A single track path loops through the reserve and tracks in close proximity to the Site and forms part of a walking route through the reserve. West of the reserve, the Site follows the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail along the River Conwy which connects to the RSPB car park entrance. There is no built form within the Site, with the exception of containers along the existing RSPB access track and the road and lay-by parking within the southern extents of the Site. A residential property named Ynys-fawr is located in close proximity to the east.

4.43 Vegetation comprises of scrub surrounding the existing reserve pathways, tree belts to the north adjacent the A55 and a small area of deciduous woodland on the rising ground to the east between the Conwy Valley Railway and Conway Road.

4.44 The wider landscape contains a mixture of urban areas and built form and undulating arable and pastoral fields on the rising valley sides that flank the River Conwy. The landscape contains belts of blocks of woodland, field boundary hedgerows and scattered trees, with clusters of residential and agricultural properties scattered beyond the urban areas.



Insert 3: View along the Ganol Trail (single track loop) inside the RSPB Nature Reserve

4.45 There are larger areas of urban built form in the area including Llansanffraid Glan Conwy to the south comprising mostly residential properties to the east and west of the A470 Conway Road and a cluster of commercial properties located at the northern edge of the urban area including Snowdonia Nurseries; and Llandudno Junction to the north, which includes areas of commercial and industrial to the north of the A55 with residential areas beyond. Conwy is located to the west of the Site and comprises the historic core including Conwy Castle and Conwy Quay along with residential and commercial areas. Conwy Suspension Bridge and Conwy Cob promenade provide access to Conwy over the River Conwy from Llandudno Junction.

4.46 There are a number of Historic Parks and Gardens in the study area, including the landscape and grounds associated with Bryn Eisteddfed which is located 200m to the east of the Site and the landscape and grounds within the estate of Benarth Hall located 1.25km to the west. Other Historic Parks and Gardens within the study area include Bodysgallen Hall located 2.3km to the north which is also designated as 'Historic Landscape' and includes Bryn Pydew obelisk and nearby SSSI's located across the undulating landscape in this area.

Landscape Value

4.47 The method of assessment described in **Appendix B** explains the factors used to inform judgements about landscape value which are derived from GLVIA3 and the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 02/21 (LI-TGN 02/21). The assessment below considers the value of the Site and the role of the Site within the wider landscape. Assessments of value in relation to other identified landscape receptors are described in **Section 7.0**.

Natural Heritage

4.48 The Site comprises the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail and marginal land in RSPB Conwy with areas of scrub, a small area of woodland and a short section of the Afon Ganol on the edge of the River Conwy.

4.49 The landscape within the study area beyond the Site boundaries contains a number of SSSI's, Historic Parks and Gardens, Historic Landscape within the northern extents and blocks of Ancient Woodland scattered throughout, all of which elevate the natural heritage value of the wider landscape.

4.50 Whilst there are ecological designations in the study area, these designations do not relate to landscape and do not look different to areas of the same character that do not have the designation. Their value is because of nature conservation interests that do not manifest particularly in the landscape.

Cultural Heritage

4.51 The Site itself does not have historic landmark features, designed elements, is not part of a historic park or garden and does not demonstrate a particular example of time depth. In the wider landscape the registered park and gardens of Benarth Hall is on the western slope of Conwy Valley and has attracted well-known visitors to the 18C estate including William Wordsworth and the artist John Cotman. The hall is set within a small area of parkland and contributes to the landscape setting of the Site due to the distant views of the wooded landform within the estate grounds that are experienced from within the Site.

4.52 There is some intervisibility with Conwy Castle to the north-west of the Site which is within a UNESCO World Heritage Site and within Conwy Conservation Area.

Landscape Condition

4.53 The Site is locally designated as the Conwy Valley Special Landscape Area, which includes large tracts of land, however the landscape within the Site is considered to be somewhat degraded on the fringe of the RSPB Reserve and influenced by the road and rail infrastructure when compared to the surrounding landscape.

Associations

4.54 The landscape of the Site has no known associations with renowned artists or writers.

Distinctiveness

4.55 The Site does not contain unique features that differentiate it from other areas of scrubland in the wider landscape. The context of the Site demonstrates characteristics described in the published landscape assessments at the National and County level, including valley floor, estuary, River Conwy and some intervisibility with Conwy Castle, however there is no indication from published information that the Site and its environs contain features or elements which are considered particularly important examples.

Recreational Value

4.56 The section of the Site which follows the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail is free and open to the public, offering a walking path along the River Conwy. The RSPB Reserve is partially accessible to the public, subject to paid access, and provides the opportunity for bird watching and walking.

Perceptual (Scenic) Quality

4.57 The Site exhibits a scenic quality due to its location on the Conwy Estuary with open views looking across Conwy Valley. Tree belts to the north and woodland to the east enclose the Site and reduce intervisibility with surrounding built form. The park and gardens of Benarth Hall are visible in the distance to the west and enhance scenic quality. Views from the Site and immediate environs also contain built form and the road network to the south-east along Conway Road (A470) and Conwy Castle to the north-west, along with the bridge infrastructure crossing the River Conwy.

Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity) Value

4.58 The Site is located close to wetland and along the coastal edge of the River Conwy, providing a level of wildness and sense of tranquillity when walking through and alongside high reedbeds in the reserve and mudflats along the river, however, the perception of wildness and tranquillity is significantly diminished by the close proximity of the surrounding road network and built form, which maintains a continuous visible and audible presence throughout the landscape within the site and surrounding area.

Function

4.59 The section of the Site that is within the RSPB Reserve comprises marginal land that currently provides limited functionality, with the exception of the Afon Ganol. The existing access track in the reserve is also restricted and not part of the wider walking loop that encircles it. The section of Site that follows the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail functions as a walking route and connects Conwy with the RSPB Reserve.

Conclusions

4.60 With consideration of the factors described above, the Site is of local value.

5.0 Visual Baseline

5.1 The visual influence of the Site has been determined through a combination of topographic analysis and field evaluation of features affecting visibility, such as built form and trees, hedgerows and woodland that filter and screen views of the development. This analysis work determined the potential visibility of the Site and identified visual receptors.

5.2 The study area for views is shown on **Figure 5** and extends approximately 3km in each direction. In the far extents of the study area, the Site is discernible from areas of elevated land, but for the most part, the Site is barely perceptible from a distance and comprises a very small proportion of the view.

5.3 The field survey considered receptors from where views of the Site are considered likely and what the existing views comprise. The selection of viewpoints is not intended to cover every possible view of the Site, but rather they are representative of a range of receptor types at varying distances and orientations. No access has been sought to private properties or land and where assessments are reported they have been made from the nearest publicly accessible viewpoint.

5.4 Viewpoint photographs were taken across January and March 2024 when deciduous vegetation was not in leaf. This represents a worst-case scenario in terms of the extent of screening provided by existing vegetation.

Visual Receptors

5.5 Visual receptors i.e. those individuals who would see the Site and may experience a change in their view as a result of the Proposed Development have been identified as follows:

5.6 Users of Public Rights of Way:

- PRoW Footpath 25/07
- PRoW Footpath 14/72
- PRoW Footpath 25/32
- Users of the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail
- Cambrian Way Long Distance Footpath

5.7 Motorists, walkers, and cyclists along the following roads:

- Conway Road (A470)
- Unnamed Road east of Conway Road (A470) (close to Treehouse at St Francis Grange and Historic Park and Garden of Bryn Eisteddfod)
- Conway Road (A547)
- Garth Road
- Roads to the west of the River Conwy (including Benarth Road, Baclaw Lane, Cymryd and Bryn-Seiri Road).
- North Wales Expressway (A55)

5.8 Residents living in properties along the following roads:

- Conway Road (A470)

- ¶ Unnamed Road immediately east of the Site between Conwy Valley Railway and Conwy Road (A470)
- ¶ Unnamed Road east of Conway Road (A470) (close to Treehouse at St Francis Grange and Historic Park and Garden of Bryn Eisteddfod)
- ¶ Garth Road
- ¶ Roads to the west of the River Conwy (including Benarth Hall and properties along Benarth Road, Baclaw Lane, Cymryd and Bryn-Seiri Road).

5.9 Other receptors:

- ¶ Visitors to RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve
- ¶ Visitors to Conwy Castle and Conwy Suspension Bridge
- ¶ Visitors and workers at Snowdonia Nurseries and Garden Centre
- ¶ Visitors to Bryn Pydew Obelisk
- ¶ Users of the Conwy Valley Railway
- ¶ Users of North Wales Coast Railway including the Conwy Tubular Railway Bridge

LVA Viewpoints

5.10 Viewpoint photography assists understanding of the baseline landscape and visual environment at the Site and in its context and is used to inform the assessment of effects on the visual receptors listed above.

5.11 LVA viewpoints are listed in **Table 1** below, and viewpoint locations are shown on **Figure 5**. **Figures 6.1 to 6.12** provide viewpoint photography showing the existing views in the direction of the Site from Viewpoints 1 to 11 below.

Table 1: LVA Viewpoints

Viewpoint Reference and Location		Approximate Latitude/Longitude	Direction of View and Approximate Distance to Site
1	South-eastern point of RSPB Nature Reserve	53.275671°, -3.796890°	Looking north-east, 20m
2	North-eastern point of RSPB Nature Reserve	53.273255°, -3.798212°	Looking south, 40m
3	Unnamed Road East of Conway Road	53.272952°, -3.795666°	Looking west, 110m
4a	Lay-by along Conway Road (A470)	53.273203°, -3.796910°	Looking north, 30m
4b	Conway Road (A470) opposite Trem Afon junction	53.264962°, -3.798014°	Looking north, 940m

Viewpoint Reference and Location		Approximate Latitude/Longitude	Direction of View and Approximate Distance to Site
5	PRoW Footpath 25/07	53.271783°, -3.788534°	Looking north-west, 500m
6	Conwy Castle along Conway Road (A547)	53.280990°, -3.820342°	Looking south-west, 1.8m
7	PRoW Footpath 14/72	53.269931°, -3.820667°	Looking east, 1.7km
8	Bryn Pydew Obelisk	53.293422°, -3.792990°	Looking south, 2km
9	Garth Road (close to Carreg y Groes)	53.260205°, -3.804509°	Looking north, 1.5km
10	PRoW Footpath 25/32	53.260205, -3.804509	Looking north, 1.4km
11	Garth Road (close to Bryn Garth)	53.259077, -3.801002	Looking north, 1.5km

Baseline Views

5.12 The following paragraphs describe existing views towards the Site, experienced by the visual receptors listed above, and with reference to relevant viewpoint photography shown at Figures 6.1 to 6.12.

Views from PRoW Footpath 25/07 (Viewpoint 5)

5.13 PRoW Footpath 25/07 is on high ground to the east of the Site between Ffordd Groesffordd Road and the B5381. Views along the footpath overlook Conwy Estuary over agricultural land in the foreground. From the southern section of the footpath, views are obscured by landform and from the north of the footpath views are well screened by intervening woodland at Bryn Eisteddfod. There are no views of the Site, however this viewpoint has been presented to illustrate this.

Views from PRoW Footpath 14/72 (Viewpoint 7)

5.14 PRoW Footpath 25/07 runs between Bryn-Seiri Road and Conwy and is one of several footpaths along the western slopes of Conwy Valley. Views towards the Site are mostly restricted by intervening woodland surrounding Benarth Hall. Glimpsed and partial views towards the Site are experienced from limited locations beyond built form and vegetation at the southern section of the footpath. Towards the northern section of the path, views are well screened by woodland at Benarth Hall.

Views from PRoW Footpath 25/32 (Viewpoint 10)

5.15 PRoW Footpath 25/32 runs between Garth Road and Aberconwy Nursery, south of the Site. Views along the footpath vary depending upon the location of PRoW users, the level of intervening vegetation and topography. From Viewpoint 10 there are direct and open views of the Site's south-eastern extent with minimal filtering however these views are at long range. Views towards the northern extent of the Site are screened by reeds within the RSPB Nature Reserve, while views towards the western extent are partially screened by field boundary vegetation. From other sections of the footpath, there are glimpsed views towards the Site, filtered by tree cover.

Views from Conway Road (A470) (Viewpoint 4a and 4b)

5.16 Conway Road (A470) runs alongside the eastern boundary of the Site. Views towards the Site are dependent upon the road users location and orientation along the road as the level of screening by vegetation and built development varies. For the most part, there are oblique and restricted views towards the Site due to screening from dense tree cover and built form along the roadside. Visibility of the eastern boundary of the Site is further limited due to the elevation of the road above the Site boundary and the proximity of the Site boundary to the roads edge. The Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail is not visible.

5.17 From the lay-by along Conway Road (Viewpoint 4a), there are close and direct views of the eastern Site extent, but these will be fleeting when passing. North of the lay-by, views towards the northern Site extent are well screened by vegetation alongside the Conwy Valley railway.

5.18 From the section of the road opposite Trem Afon junction (Viewpoint 4b), views towards the Site are possible through gaps in the roadside vegetation. Views are generally limited to the ground plane of the Site in the south-east, which extends onto the elevated lay-by along Conwy Road (A470). There are long distance views towards the western Site extent, although the existing footpath is indiscernible and lies flat along the coastline. Bryn Pydew Obelisk is a distinct feature of the skyline in these views.

Views from the unnamed Road east of Conway Road (A470) (close to Treehouse at St Francis Grange and Historic Park and Garden of Bryn Eisteddfod) (Viewpoint 3)

5.19 The unnamed road east of Conway Road (A470) is elevated above the Site and lies on the eastern bank of the Conwy estuary. Views from the road are generally well screened by intervening layers of vegetation along the roadside and Conway Road (A470). However, at certain locations along the road (Viewpoint 3), there are partial views towards the south-eastern extent of the Site through gaps in the roadside vegetation. The north and north-eastern Site boundaries are not visible due to screening by vegetation along Conway Road (A470).

Views from Conway Road (A547) (Viewpoint 6)

5.20 Conway Road (A547) crosses the Conwy Estuary and connects Llandudno Junction with Conwy to the north-west of the Site. Users of the road experience limited views towards the Site due to a high stone wall that runs along the east of the road, between Conway Road and the North Wales Coast Railway line. From the section of the road opposite the eastern entrance to Conwy Suspension Bridge, there are views over the stone wall towards the Site (Viewpoint 6). From here, views of the Site are open with partial visibility of the existing footpath in the west. These views are oblique and fleeting when passing.

Views from Roads to the west of the River Conwy (including Benarth Road, Baclaw Lane, Cymryd and Bryn-Seiri Road).

5.21 Views towards the Site from roads to the west of the River Conwy differ depending on the level of intervening vegetation and the elevation of the road along the western bank of Conwy Valley. For the most part, views towards the Site are glimpsed and distant due to intervening trees and woodland at Benarth Hall park and garden which restrict a large proportion of the view. Views are most open from the northern section of Baclaw Lane and the southern section of Bryn-Seiri Road due to the elevation of the road above the tree line. From here, the eastern boundary of the Site is visible in panoramic views overlooking the River Conwy. From Benarth Road, views towards the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail in the west are open, although visibility of the footpath surface is limited.

Views from Garth Road (Viewpoints 9 and 11)

5.22 Garth Road is located west of Conway Road (A470) and south-west of Glan Conwy. Views towards the Site from the road is dependent upon the location and orientation of the road user and the level of screening provided by vegetation and built form.

5.23 View towards the Site from the western section of the road, close to Carreg y Groes (Viewpoint 9), are partially screened by trees and field boundary vegetation. The Site is visible through gaps in the vegetation at a distance. From the eastern sections of the road, close to Bryn Garth, views towards the Site become increasingly restricted by vegetation and built form along the road, but there are some glimpsed views towards the Site (Viewpoint 11).

Views from residential properties along Conway Road (A470)

5.24 Views from residential properties along Conway Road (A470) towards the Site are limited and oblique as their direct view is towards the western bank of the Conwy estuary. Other views from residential properties along the road are screened by layers of intervening vegetation and built form either side of Conway Road (A470).

Views from the Ynys-fawr along the unnamed Road immediately east of the Site between Conwy Valley Railway and Conway Road (A470)

5.25 From Ynys-fawr immediately east of the Site between Conwy Valley Railway and Conway Road (A470), there close, direct, and mostly unfiltered views of the Site. The Site is visible from upper and lower storey windows, as well as from the curtilage of the property. The existing view comprises the RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve and the Conwy Estuary, with minimal visual intrusion from the Conwy Valley Railway line.

Views from residential properties along the unnamed Road east of Conway Road (A470) (close to Treehouse at St Francis Grange and Historic Park and Garden of Bryn Eisteddfod)

5.26 Views towards the Site from residential properties along the unnamed Road east of Conway Road (A470) (close to Treehouse at St Francis Grange and Historic Park and Gardens of Bryn) are likely to be glimpsed from upper storey windows and generally screened by intervening layers of garden and roadside vegetation.

Views from residential properties along Garth Road

5.27 From Garth Road, views towards the Site from residential properties vary depending on the receptors location along the road. To the west, views towards the Site from the residential property at Carreg y Groes (Viewpoint 9) are heavily filtered by dense woodland surrounding the property. The Site is glimpsed at most and only discernible through gaps in the vegetation. To the east, views towards the Site from properties including Timber Top and Bryn Garth (Viewpoint 11) are more open as they are on elevated land south of the River Conwy at approximately 40m to 50m AOD. From here, the site is visible from second story windows which are orientated towards the Site with direct but distant views.

Views from residential properties to the west of the River Conwy (including Benarth Hall and properties along Benarth Road, Baclaw Lane, Cymryd and Bryn-Seiri Road)

5.28 Views towards the Site from residential properties to the west of the River Conwy are long range and likely to be limited by intervening trees and vegetation, although more clear views may be experienced from the north-east facing upper storey windows of some properties. Benarth Road runs south from Conwy castle along the west coast of Conwy Estuary. Views of the Site from residential properties, including the Grade II Listed Benarth Hall, are limited by intervening vegetation, although there is likely to be glimpsed and partial views towards the Site from limited areas within the gardens and grounds of the estate.

Views from visitors to RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve and users of the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail (Viewpoint 1 and 2)

5.29 Visitors to RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve will experience different views depending on their location within the reserve. Views into and across the Site will be most immediate for users of the Ganol trail, as it runs along the western boundary of the Site. Views are similar for users of the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail which is to the west of the reserve. From the south-eastern part of the trail (Viewpoint 1) views are open with clear and direct visibility of the Site. At the north-eastern part of the trail (Viewpoint 2), visitors experience clear and direct views of the north-eastern parts of the Site at close proximity. To the west of the reserve, visitors experience glimpsed views of the Site from increasing distance, with the intervening reed beds and vegetation limiting visibility of the Site.

Views from visitors to Conwy Castle and Conwy Suspension Bridge (Viewpoint 6)

5.30 Conwy Castle and Conwy Suspension Bridge are (A547) to the north-west of the Site. Views of the Site can be experienced from limited locations around the castle and bridge, particularly from the entrance to the Suspension Bridge from Conway Road (Viewpoint 6). From this location, visitors experience open views towards the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail in the west, although much of the Site to the north and east is set behind vegetation associated with RSPB Conwy. Views comprise the River Conwy and estuary in the foreground, with the Site visible in the distance. Views are also likely to be experienced from elevated vantage points along the east facing castle walls and turrets, however visibility of the Site becomes restricted from other areas within the castle grounds and across the suspension bridge.

Views from visitors and workers at Snowdonia Nurseries and Garden Centre

5.31 Views towards the Site from Snowdonia Nurseries and Garden Centre are oblique and limited by intervening layers of vegetation west of Conway Road (A470). The view of visitors is directed towards Conwy estuary.

Views from visitors to Bryn Pydew Obelisk (Viewpoint 8)

5.32 Bryn Pydew Obelisk is located on elevated land to the north of the Site and there are clear and open panoramic views towards the Site. Views comprise undulating agricultural and pastoral fields in the foreground, with the built form of Llandudno Junction and Conwy in the distance and the Conwy Estuary beyond. The Site is partially visible due to distance and screening by vegetation along the North Wales Expressway (A55). The Site is viewed in the context of the lagoons at RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve.

<u>Other Views Considered</u>

Views from Cambrian Way Long Distance Footpath

5.33 The Cambrian Way is a 298 mile long distance footpath that begins in Conwy, north-west of the Site. There are no views towards the Site due to the intervening Conwy Castle and built development in Conwy town.

Views from North Wales Expressway (A55)

5.34 The North Wales Expressway marks the northern extent of the RSPB Nature Reserve and is in close proximity to the Site. Views towards the Site from the A55 are well screened due to a combination of intervening vegetation and elevated land along the southern edge of the road and along the north-eastern corner of the reserve.

Views from users of the Conwy Valley Railway

5.35 The Conwy Valley Railway line runs from Llandudno to Blaenau Ffestiniog and passes through Site. Rail users are likely to experience clear and direct views of the Site at close proximity, however views will be glimpsed and only experienced along a short section of the railway when passing the eastern Site boundary.

Views from users of the North Coast Wales Railway including the Conwy Tubular Railway Bridge

5.36 The North Wales Coast Railway runs from Crewe to Holyhead and travels through the centre of Conwy. Views towards the Site are open and oblique, with visibility of the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail. Vegetation within the RSPB Nature Reserve conceals the ground plane of this Site section, but the lay-by along Conwy Road (A470) is visible, which defines the south-eastern extent. When passing through the Conwy Tubular Bridge, there are no views of the Site due to its enclosed design.

6.0 The Proposed Development and Embedded Mitigation

6.1 A new shared use Active Travel path is proposed between the A547 Conway Road to the west and the existing lay-by on Conway Road (A470) in Glan Conwy to the east, with connections to the Llandudno Junction Interchange (Junction 18, A55). The path will comprise a new minimum 3m wide surfaced path with grass verges and will include the construction of two new footbridges over the Afon Ganol and Conwy Valley Railway line. As part of these access improvements, a 2.5m wide track in the RSPB Nature Reserve, running alongside the Active Travel Path, will be resurfaced with asphalt. The proposals are presented on the General Arrangement Plans (Drawing Refs: ERNS2301N-026 to ERNS2301N-028 and ERNS2301N-A111 to ERNS2301N-A113).

6.2 The proposals include a pedestrian bridge over the Afon Ganol and a pedestrian bridge with an associated ramp to cross the railway line. The bridges are each 34.2m long comprising a Pratt Truss design with solid infill parapets of laminated glass. The railway bridge has an 8.6m high pier on one side due to changes in ground level and a ramp of approximately 100m in length it proposed to enable access. The piers and the ramp will be masonry clad on the RSPB Reserve side and will be exposed concrete to the railway line.

6.3 The path through the RSPB Reserve will be enclosed by green coloured metal wire mesh fencing approximately 2m high which will prevent direct access into the RSPB Reserve. Along the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail, west of the reserve, metal wire fencing will run along the northern edge of the path, while to the south, post and rail fencing will separate the southern edge from the River Conwy. The fencing will be set back by 1m from the path along this trail. Proposed lighting along the entire route will be low level bollard lighting.

6.4 There is currently no simple, safe walking or cycling route between Glan Conwy, Llandudno Junction and Conwy. The proposed improvements would improve the active travel connectivity of these places reducing the reliance on car travel for accessing local amenities and promote a modal shift towards active travel.

6.5 The railway bridge will be accessed from Glan Conwy off Conwy Road (A470) at an existing lay-by, situated opposite the Old Rectory Bus Stop (Stop ID: cnwagaj). Existing trees and part of a stone wall will need to be removed to accommodate the Active Travel path connection between the bridge and the Conway Road. Additional trees will be removed along the edges of the Active Travel path and RSPB access track, which will equate to approximately 1ha of total tree loss. 4no. containers along the RSPB access track will be replaced/relocated.

6.6 Mitigation for the Proposed Development will include replacement tree planting within the Site to accommodate for the trees removed along the path, and anywhere else within the Site. A total of 69 trees will be planted, providing approximately 1.50ha of broadleaf tree cover.

7.0 Assessment of Landscape Effects

7.1 The assessment of landscape effects considers the sensitivity of the landscape and the magnitude of the potential effect to come to an overall judgement as set out below.

7.2 The assessment of landscape effects during construction and after implementation (Year 1 and Year 15) for each of the identified landscape receptors is summarised below.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3 Landscape sensitivity combines judgements o change of the type of development proposed and the value attached to the landscape as defined in the landscape baseline.

Landscape Value

7.4 The landscape character areas and types identified through reviewing the national, county and district level assessment along with a site visit. As reported in Paragraphs 4.44 to 4.71 the Site and its immediate surroundings is of local value.

Landscape Susceptibility to Change

7.5 The susceptibility of a landscape to change is dependent on the characteristics of the receiving landscape and the nature of the proposed development.

7.6 Overall, the Site and surrounding landscape is considered to have low susceptibility to change as a result of the Proposed Development because:

- The nature of the type of development proposed;
- There is some built development present in the landscape;
- Some screening is provided by existing vegetation; and
- There are some opportunities for mitigation.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.7 Landscape sensitivity sequentially combines judgements of the landscape's susceptibility to change to the type of development proposed, and the value attached to the landscape.

7.8 The Site and surrounding landscape are of local value with low susceptibility to change and the overall sensitivity of the Site and its immediate surroundings to the proposed development is low.

Assessment of Landscape Effects during Construction

7.9 During construction direct adverse effects to landscape components will result from changes in land cover, vegetation, and alterations to the existing topography, during the construction works alongside the provision of temporary site compounds and parking; the storage of materials; erection of temporary fencing; the use of operational plant; and general construction works. All are uncharacteristic features of the landscape, but generally will be temporary and short-term. All construction works will be carried out in accordance with best practice to avoid, reduce or limit the extent of effects as far as possible.

7.10 During construction, there would be an increased level of activity within the Site which would have a short-term effect on landscape character at the Site and within its immediate surroundings.

7.11 During construction direct adverse effects to landscape components will result from the removal of existing trees and vegetation within the south-eastern part of the Site along the A470 and elsewhere along the route. Any vegetation to be removed will be mitigated with new compensatory planting elsewhere within the Site. The magnitude of effect and overall effect during construction on the Site and its immediate surroundings will be low negative with an overall minor adverse effect.

7.12 The Proposed Development will result in a temporary change in land use, as the existing landscape within the Site will be replaced with a temporary construction Site. There will be a localised extent of change to land use within the Site boundaries but will have little influence over the wider landscape.

7.13 Construction activity would introduce some localised disturbance to NLCA 07: Conwy Valley. This will result in a localised low negative magnitude of effect with a localised minor adverse effect. Construction activity would not result in the loss of any key landscape characteristics. The construction works will be visible from NLCA 08 North Wales Coast, however views of the Site will be experienced from long distance and due to the scale of the Proposed Development, this will result in a negligible magnitude of effect and overall negligible level of effect.

7.14 In the Conwy CBC Supplementary Planning Guidance LDP11: Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment for Onshore Wind Turbine Development (November 2014), the Site is located in landscape unit B7: Conwy Valley and unit C10: Great Orme and Creuddyn Peninsular. Characteristics of these landscape units include river valley floodplain, mosaic of woodland and pasture land cover and modern development, man made influences including the A55, A470 and railway lines, undulating skylines, road traffic, intervisibility with Conwy Castle, the presence of registered parks and gardens and Conwy Valley SLA designation. Construction activity will introduce some disturbance to a very small part of landscape unit B7 and unit C10. The Proposed Development would result in the loss of some marginal land and areas of scrub, along with the removal of approximately 1ha of trees to facilitate the construction of the Proposed Development. The loss of these features will have a very localised low negative magnitude of effect on the landscape character of landscape units B7 and C10. Overall there will be a minor adverse effect upon landscape units B7 and C10 during construction.

Assessment of Landscape Effects during Operation

7.15 The operational effects of the development occur when all construction activities have ceased, and the development is in use. The assessment takes account of embedded mitigation designed into the Proposed Development.

7.16 The Proposed Development would result in the loss of some areas of marginal land, scrub and approximately 1ha of trees in the local landscape and introduce features that did not previously exist on the Site including the new bridges, Active Travel path, fencing and lighting, however similar features commonly occur throughout the study area in other locations. The proposals will also widen and re-surface the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail, which is already approximately 3m wide, and re-surface the existing access track in the north of the RSPB Reserve. The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise its effects upon the wider landscape and to integrate the Site within the existing character and context.

7.17 The design ensures the trees and hedgerows and trees to the periphery of the Site are retained wherever possible although tree removal along parts of the route will be required to accommodate the development. New trees will be planted to compensate for those lost along the path and within the south-eastern part of the Site where the footbridges will be introduced. However, the effect of new planting will initially be limited.

7.18 Overall, the magnitude of effect will be low negative, and the overall effect would be minor adverse on the landscape of the Site and its immediate surroundings (including Visual and Sensory Area CNWVS064 - Glan Conwy Nature Reserve) at Year 1 and will remain minor adverse at Year 15. The proposed development is consistent with features already present in the landscape and will improve access through the area.

7.19 The Proposed Development is within NLCA 07 Conwy Valley. The Proposed Development would result in the loss of the marginal scrubland and approximately 1ha of trees, however this would be a very small scale of change in the context of NLCA 07 as a whole. Given these factors the magnitude of effect on NLCA 07 would be negligible with an overall negligible effect at both Year 1 and Year 15. The Proposed Development will have some intervisibility with higher ground within NLCA 08 North Wales Coast, however views will be long distance from limited locations and therefore the magnitude of effect will be negligible within and overall negligible level of effect at Year 1 and Year 15.

7.20 The Site is within landscape unit B7: Conwy Valley and unit C10: Great Orme and Creuddyn Peninsular. The Site and area exhibits some of the characteristics of these landscape units, notably the river valley floodplain, mosaic of woodland and pasture land cover and modern development, manmade influences including the A55, A470 and railway lines, undulating skylines, road traffic, intervisibility with Conwy Castle, the presence of registered parks and gardens and Conwy Valley SLA designation. The proposed development is consistent with the features identified in the character assessments and the magnitude of effect will be low to negligible giving rise to a negligible effect over time.

Table 2: Landscape Receptor Overall Effect

Receptor	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Effect	Overall Effect
The Site and its immediate surroundings including Visual and Sensory Area CNWVS064 - Glan Conwy Nature Reserve	Low	Construction	Moderate Negative	Moderate Adverse
		Year 1	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
NLCA 07 Conwy Valley	Low	Construction	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
NLCA 08 North Wales Coast	Low	Construction	Negligible	Negligible
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
Landscape Unit B7 Conwy Valley	Low	Construction	Low Negative	Low Adverse
		Year 1	Low Negative	Low Adverse
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
Landscape Unit C10 Great Orme and Creuddyn Peninsular	Low	Construction	Low Negative	Low Negative
		Year 1	Low Negative	Low Negative
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible

8.0 Assessment of Visual Effects

8.1 The following paragraphs assess the sensitivity of the views potentially affected, the magnitude of the predicted effect, and the overall effect on each view assessed, which would result from the construction and operation of the Proposed Development.

8.2 The assessment of visual effects during construction and after implementation for each of the identified visual receptors is summarised in **Table 3.**

Sensitivity of Visual receptors

8.3 The sensitivity of visual receptors depends on the susceptibility of the visual receptor to changes in views as a result of the development and the value of the view (as set out in the method in **Appendix B**).

Susceptibility to Change

8.4 Walkers and cyclists using the local PRoWs and other recreational routes are judged to be of high susceptibility to change as their attention is likely to be focussed on views of the landscape. Residents also have a high susceptibility to change as they are static receptors.

8.5 Road users within the study area have limited views over wider landscape and the routes are not promoted in any way for their scenic value. Road users are considered to have a low susceptibility to change.

8.6 Rail passengers have mostly clear views over the wider landscape and they have a medium susceptibility to change as the landscape forms part of their focus.

8.7 Visitors to tourist attractions including the RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve and Conwy Castle have a high susceptibility to change as the surroundings are an important part of the experience. Visitors to Bryn Pydew Obelisk also have a high susceptibility as their attention is likely to be focussed on views of the wider landscape.

8.8 Visitors to community facilities, including Snowdonia Nurseries and Garden Centre are likely to be focused on the activity at hand, rather than the winder landscape and their susceptibility to change is low.

Value of View

8.9 Conwy Castle is a World Heritage property and the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site Management and Action Plan outlines that the wider landscape is an *'essential setting'* for Conwy Castle and notes several key views including *'360 degree vistas'* from the westernmost tower. Views will therefore be of national level due the importance of views to the enjoyment and appreciation of this heritage asset.

8.10 Views from RSPB Nature Reserve will be valued at a local level, as the RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve is publicised as a tourist attraction in the Destination Conwy Management Plan 2023 - 2029 for its wildlife features, rather than views.

8.11 Views from local PRoWs and recreational routes including the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail are valued at a local level, whereas roads, residential properties, monuments, and facilities will be valued by residents and workers at a community level. These receptors have differing levels of susceptibility to change as outlined in **Table 3** below.

Receptor Sensitivity

8.12 In accordance with Method **Table 8 at Appendix B**, the sensitivity of each identified visual receptor is set out in **Table 3** below.

Table 3: Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Receptor	Viewpoint(s)	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Users of PRoW Footpath 25/07	5	Local	High	Medium
Users of PRoW Footpath 14/72	7	Local	High	Medium
Users of PRoW Footpath 25/32	10	Local	High	Medium
Users of the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail	-	Local	High	Medium
Users of Conway Road (A470)	4a and 4b	Community	Low	Low
Users of the unnamed road east of Conway Road (A470) (close to Treehouse at St Francis Grange and Historic Park and Garden of Bryn Eisteddfod)	3	Community	Low	Low
Users of Conway Road (A547)	6	Community	Low	Low
Users of Garth Road	9 and 11	Community	Low	Low
Users of Roads to the west of the River Conwy (including Benarth Hall and properties along Benarth Road, Baclaw Lane, Cymryd and Bryn-Seiri Road)	-	Community	Low	Low

Receptor	Viewpoint(s)	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Residents of properties along Conwy Road (A470)	4a and 4b	Community	High	Medium
Residents of Ynys-fawr along the unnamed road immediately east of the site between Conwy Valley Railway and Conwy Road (A470)	-	Community	High	Medium
Residents of properties along the unnamed road east of Conway Road (A470) (close to Treehouse at St Francis Grange and Historic Park and Garden of Bryn Eisteddfod)	3	Community	High	Medium
Residents of properties along Garth Road	9 and 11	Community	High	Medium
Residents of properties to the west of the River Conwy (including Benarth Hall and properties along Benarth Road, Baclaw Lane, Cymryd and Bryn-Seiri Road)	-	Community	High	Medium
Visitors to RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve	1 and 2	Local	High	Medium
Visitors to Conwy Castle and Conwy Suspension Bridge	6	National	High	High

Receptor	Viewpoint(s)	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Visitors and workers at Snowdonia Nurseries and Garden Centre	-	Community	Low	Low
Visitors to Bryn Pydew Obelisk	8	Community	High	Medium
Users of the Conwy Valley Railway	-	Community	Medium	Low
Users of the North Wales Coast Railway including the Conwy Tubular Railway bridge	6	Community	Medium	Low

Visual Effects during Construction

8.13 During construction visual impacts will arise from activities including; the storage of materials; operational plant; and the construction of the footbridges, structures, and landscape. The effects of construction works generally will be short term and temporary. All construction works will be carried out in accordance with good practice to avoid, reduce or limit the extent of negative visual effects as far as possible.

8.14 The greatest levels of change during construction will be experienced by users of the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail, as sections of this recreational route are expected to be closed off during construction works. Additionally, construction will impact those receptors immediately adjoining the Proposed Development including users of RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve, residents of the property Ynys-fawr immediately east of the site between Conwy Valley Railway and Conwy Road (A470) and Conwy Valley Railway. This is due to the proximity to the Site and the extent of construction works that will be visible to receptors.

8.15 Where the activities are visible, they would be temporary and of short duration and would be seen in the context of existing development including railway infrastructure and built forms west of Conway Road (A470). The temporary construction effects will give rise to the enduring development which is reported below. The construction effects are summarised in **Table 4**.

8.16 Users of PRoWs will have mostly glimpsed views in the direction of the construction activities due to screening from intervening vegetation and landform. At particular points along particular PRoWs, users will experience open but distant views and the construction activities would be barely perceptible. The magnitude and overall effect would be negligible.

8.17 Users of local roads, including Conway Road (A547), Garth Road and Roads to the west of the River Conwy would have mostly well screened views of the construction activities due to either distance from the Site, or intervening vegetation and stone walls along the roadside. The overall effect of these road users would be negligible.

8.18 Users of Conway Road (A470) where the road passes the eastern edge of the Site (Viewpoint 4a) and the unnamed road east of Conway Road (A470) (Viewpoint 3) will be closer to the construction activities and their overall effect will be minor adverse. However, views from further south along Conway Road (A470) (Viewpoint 4b) will be glimpsed and intermittent and the overall effect will be negligible.

8.19 Residents of Ynys-fawr immediately east of the Site between Conwy Valley Railway and Conway Road (A470) would have direct and open views of the construction activities within the Site and the overall effect would be moderate adverse. Residents of properties along the unnamed road east of Conway Road (A470) (close to Treehouse at St Francis Grange and Historic Park and Gardens of Bryn) will experience partially screened views of the construction activities due to intervening vegetation and their overall effect would be minor adverse.

8.20 Views of the construction activities from residents of properties further afield including properties to the south of Conway Road (A470), Garth Road and Roads to the west of the River Conwy will vary depending on distance, the orientation of properties, and screening by vegetation. The overall effect would be up to minor adverse.

8.21 Visitors to tourist attractions and local facilities would experience varying views of the construction activities based on the receptor's distance to the Site and the openness of the view. The greatest scale of change would be experienced by receptors at the RSPB Nature Reserve and the overall effect would be up to moderate adverse from the closest parts. This overall effect would be the same for users of the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail which is within the Site and extends west from the reserve.

8.22 The temporary construction effects will give rise to the enduring development which is reported below. The construction effects are summarised in **Table 4**.

Visual Effects during Operation

8.23 The operational effects of the development occur when all construction activities have ceased, and the development is in use. The assessment takes account of embedded mitigation i.e. mitigation designed into the Proposed Development.

8.24 Following the completion of the Proposed Development the greatest levels of effects would be experienced by those receptors closest to the Site including users of the he Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail, users of RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve, residents of the property Ynys-fawr immediately east of the Site between Conwy Valley Railway and Conwy Road (A470) and Conwy Valley Railway. The proposed views are described below with the magnitude and overall effects reported in **Table 4**.

Users of Public Rights of Way

8.25 Users of PRoW Footpath 25/07 (Viewpoint 5), which runs along the eastern bank of Conwy Valley, would have completely obscured views of the Proposed Development along the entire length of the path due to a combination of landform and intervening woodland at Bryn Eisteddfod. At Year 1 and 15, the overall effect would be negligible at most.

8.26 Users of PRoW Footpath 14/72 (Viewpoint 7), which runs along the western bank of Conwy Valley, would have distant and glimpsed views of the Proposed Development despite the footpath's higher terrain. This is because the treeline of older woodland and parkland trees surrounding Benarth Hall to the east of the footpath limits views towards the Active Travel path, railway footbridge and the 8.6m high access ramp. In the both the short and long-term, the Proposed Development would be barely perceptible in this longer distance view and affect only a very small proportion of the existing view. The overall effect would be negligible.

8.27 From PRoW Footpath 25/32 (Viewpoint 10), the Proposed Development would form only a very small part of the wider panoramic view of Conwy valley. These views will be distant and open, but partially screened by layers of vegetation to the immediate north of the footpath. The railway footbridge towards the southern extent of the Site will be visible, yet the Active Travel path and Afon Ganol footbridge towards the north-east of the Site will be mostly screened by vegetation within the RSPB Reserve and trees either side of the Conwy Valley railway. A very small proportion of this long-distance view would be affected for the medium and long-term, resulting in a negligible overall effect.

Road Users

8.28 Users of Conway Road (A470) will have varying views of the Proposed Development dependent upon their location along the road. Users will typically have oblique and fleeting views of the Proposed Development, which would be partially to fully filtered by existing roadside vegetation. From the section of the road which adjoins the lay-by, opposite the Old Rectory bus stop (Viewpoint 4a), there would be close and direct views of the Proposed Development contained to the eastern access point of the railway footbridge. The western point of the footbridge and its associated access ramp would not be visible, as the height of the concrete ramp would be below the level of the road. North of the lay-by, there will be glimpsed views towards the Active Travel path and 2m high mesh wire fencing through dense roadside vegetation.

8.29 Towards the south of Conway Road (A470), views of the Proposed Development will be more limited, with little to no views due to intervening vegetation and built form along the road. Views will be most open from the junction with Trem Afon (Viewpoint 4b) and from here, there would be oblique and partially screened views of the railway footbridge between extensive gaps in the roadside vegetation. The western end of the footbridge will be particularly visible at this middle distance due to the elevation of the footbridge above the railway and its protrusion from the lay-by. However, the re-surfaced Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail between the A547 Conway Road and Llandudno Junction would be barely perceptible. The Proposed Development will be seen in the context of existing railway infrastructure and street lighting along Conway Road (A470).

8.30 A small proportion of this view would be affected at Year 1, resulting in a low magnitude of effect with a minor adverse overall effect. By Year 15, proposed planting within the Site which will accommodate for the trees removed along the path and would help to soften views of the Proposed Development from across the estuary, yet views of the railway footbridge from the lay-by will mostly stay the same. The overall effect would be minor adverse.

8.31 From the unnamed road east of Conway Road (A470) (close to The Treehouse at St Francis Grange and Historic Park and Garden of Bryn Eisteddfod), receptors would experience mostly screened views of the proposed Development due to intervening vegetation. At certain locations along the road (Viewpoint 3), there will be direct views of the railway footbridge where it joins the lay-by along Conway Road (A470) through extensive gaps in the roadside vegetation. The 8.6m high access ramp at the western end of the footbridge will be visible but would become increasingly screened by trees along Conway Road (A470) as it slopes north towards the ground plane of the Site. The Active Travel path adjoining the access ramp would be screened by landform. A small proportion of the existing view will be affected and at Year 1, the overall effect would be minor adverse. By Year 15, proposed planting within the Site will help to embed the development within the landscape, but the scale of change would remain minor adverse.

8.32 From Conway Road (A547) north-west of the Site, there would be limited views of the Proposed Development due screening by a high stone wall which runs alongside the road when crossing the River Conwy and provides separation between the road and the North Wales Coast Railway. To the west of Conway Road (A547), upon entering or leaving Conwy (Viewpoint 6), there are open but brief views towards the railway footbridge, the railway bridge access ramp and the Active Travel path in the east. These views will be heavily filtered by vegetation in the RSPB Nature Reserve, which completely screens the canal footbridge. The green 2m high metal wire fencing which encloses the Active Travel path will be indiscernible against vegetation within and beyond the RSPB Nature Reserve. However, fencing and lighting along the Active Travel path in the west will be visible due to its close proximity and open coastline. The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing residential development on the eastern bank of Conwy estuary and would be barely perceptible in panoramic views across the estuary. The scale of change would be negligible at Year 1 and Year 15.

8.33 From Roads to the west of the River Conwy (including Benarth Road, Baclaw Lane, Cymryd and Bryn-Seiri Road), views towards the Proposed Development would vary between being screened and unfiltered. The clearest views of the development would be from the northern section of Baclaw Lane and the southern section of Bryn-Seiri Road as there is little to no screening of the railway footbridge and access ramp due to the elevation of these road above the tree line. From other roads west of the River Conwy, views of the Proposed Development will generally be partially screened by a combination of roadside vegetation and parkland trees surrounding Benarth Hall. There will be limited views of the Active Travel path and canal footbridge since they lay flat within the landscape and will be screened by vegetation within and next to the RSPB Reserve. Infrastructure associated with the Active Travel path such as fencing and lighting will be visible along the route in the west, although this will be viewed in conjunction with existing pylons and transmission lines in the landscape. The overall effect at Year 1 and Year 15 of operation would be negligible, despite some wide and open views, as the development would be barely perceptible in these long distance panoramic views.

8.34 Users of Garth Road (Viewpoint 9 and 11) will experience partial to fully screened views of the Proposed Development depending on their location along the road. At most sections along the road, views of the railway footbridge and 8.6m high access ramp will be screened by intervening roadside hedgerows, trees and built form. To the west of the road, however, close to Carreg y Groes, there will be glimpsed views of the development through gaps in the vegetation. This would be seen in the context of the existing roofscape at Llandudno Junction. The development would affect only a very small proportion of the existing view in the short and long-term. The overall effect would be negligible.

Residential Properties

8.35 Residents of properties along Conway Road (A470) would experience glimpsed and oblique views of the Proposed Development, particularly for those properties west of Conway Road (A470) which overlook the Conwy estuary including The Reserve and Bernath Court. There would be limited visibility of the railway footbridge from these properties due to the orientation of upper story windows and partial screening by vegetation surrounding the lay-by along Conway Road (A470). Views from properties east of Conway Road (A470) would be mostly screened by built form. There would be a very small alteration to the existing view at Year 1 and 15, and the overall effect would be negligible.

8.36 Residents of the Ynys-fawr along the unnamed road immediately east of the Site between Conwy Valley Railway and Conwy Road (A470) would have open and unfiltered views of the Active travel path and canal footbridge from lower and upper story windows, as well as from the curtilage of the property. There would be a partial alteration to the existing view with the introduction of new elements including the 2m high metal wire fencing which encloses the Active Travel path. The introduction of this element, however, would not be totally uncharacteristic of the existing view, as there is existing visual and auditory intrusion from railway and road infrastructure located on either side of the property. Proposed planting will help integrate the Proposed Development within the landscape, but the development would still be visible in the long-term with an overall minor adverse effect.

8.37 Residents of properties along the unnamed road east of Conway Road (A470) (close to Treehouse at St Francis Grange and Historic Park and Garden of Bryn Eisteddfod) (Viewpoint 3) would have glimpsed views of the Proposed Development through gaps in garden and roadside vegetation, despite the elevation of properties above the Site. At Year 1 and Year 15, the magnitude of effect and overall effect would be negligible as the development will be barely perceptible and there will be a very low alteration to the existing view.

8.38 Residents of properties along Garth Road would experience partial to fully screened views of the Proposed Development depending on the level of screening by garden and roadside vegetation. Residents of properties to the west and south-east of Garth Road (Viewpoint 9) would have mostly glimpsed views of the railway footbridge and access ramp through gaps in the vegetation. Views from properties north of Garth road and close to its intersection with PRoW Footpath 25/32 (Viewpoint 11) will be more open and partially screened, with views of the Active travel path at its western extent, close to Llandudno Junction roundabout. The development will only result in a very low alteration to the existing view and the scale of effect at both Year 1 and Year 15 would be negligible.

8.39 Residents of properties to the west of the River Conwy (including Benarth Hall and properties along Benarth Road, Baclaw Lane, Cymryd and Bryn-Seiri Road) would have a mixture of views towards the Proposed Development, depending on their elevation along the western bank of Conwy Valley and the level of screening provided by garden and parkland trees.

8.40 Residents of properties within the grounds of Benarth Hall would have differing views towards the Proposed Development. From the lower storey windows of Benarth Hall, views towards the elevated railway footbridge and access ramp will be well screened by woodland east of the house, and from upper storey windows, views will be distant and glimpsed. From Benarth Bach, which lies within Benarth Hall estate along the western edge of the Conwy estuary, views will be more open, but oblique due to the orientation of lower and upper storey windows. From the curtilage of the estate, views of the Site are the most direct and open to the west of the gardens since this part of the gardens is elevated above the tree line at approximately 60m to 80m AOD.

8.41 Residents of properties along Benarth Road and Baclaw Lane will experience mostly glimpsed and oblique views towards the Proposed Development due to screening by intervening layers of vegetation and the orientation of the properties along the road. However, towards the northern end of Baclaw Lane, residential properties including Bryn Gwylan and Pine Lodge are more elevated on the western bank of Conwy Valley and as such these residents will experience a more open view towards the Proposed Development from second story windows which overlook the tree line.

8.42 Although views from the eastern section of Bryn-Seiri Road would be wide and open, residents of properties along this road will have mostly screeded views towards the development due to intervening landform and the location of the properties below the ridgeline of Conwy Valley. Views from second story windows will be glimpsed at most.

8.43 Residents of properties along Cymryd Road including the cottages at Cymryd Uchaf and Tyddyn Gynal, which are located on lower-lying land closer to the Conwy estuary, will have glimpsed and heavily filtered views towards the railway footbridge through gaps between parkland trees. In summer, these views would be well screened when deciduous vegetation is in full leaf.

8.44 Views towards the Proposed Development from residential properties to the west of the River Conwy will vary between being unfiltered and screened. Where open views exist, the magnitude of effect at Year 1 and 15 will be low adverse as the development will affect a small proportion of the view. There would be some filtering by vegetation east of the RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve besides the railway footbridge, and the scale of change in existing views towards the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail would be minimal. The overall effect would be minor adverse.

Other Receptors

8.45 Visitors to RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve (Viewpoint 1 and 2) will experience direct and close views of the canal and railway footbridge, the Active Travel path enclosed within 2m high metal fencing, as well as the elevated access ramp leading up to the railway footbridge. Views will be lightly filtered by vegetation along the eastern and northern edge of the RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve and riparian vegetation along the Afon Ganol. The resurfaced RSPB access track to the north of the reserve, south of the Active Travel path, would be screened by vegetation and there would be a very low scale of change in existing views towards this track. Users of the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail, which is within the Site and extends west from the reserve, will have similar close-up views comprising infrastructure along the path and the railway footbridge in the distance. Proposed planting within the Site will help soften views towards the development over time.

8.46 In the short and long-term, the Proposed Development would affect a small proportion of the existing view for visitors to the RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve and users of the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail. Improvements to the RSPB access track and the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail would not necessarily be adverse, and the route of the Active Travel path along the outskirts of the reserve would result in a low scale of change, with an overall minor adverse effect to users of the RSPB reserve and minor neutral effect to users of the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail.

8.47 Visitors to Conwy Castle and Suspension Bridge will experience varying views of the Proposed Development. The greatest change in views following the completion of the development will be experienced at the top of the Castle turrets and elevated parts of the Castle to the east, as visitors in these locations will have wide and open views towards the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail, railway footbridge and access ramp. However, the footbridge and access ramp will be barely perceptible within this long distance panoramic view and viewed in the context of existing built form along the eastern bank of Conwy Valley. The re-surfaced Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail will be visible, yet improvements to this path will result in a very low scale of change from the existing view. The magnitude of effect and overall effect will be negligible at Year 1 and Year 15 and planting within the Site will help to soften these views.

8.48 Visitors and workers at Snowdonia Nurseries and Garden Centre would have limited views of the Proposed Development due to screening by vegetation south-west of the lay-by along Conway Road (A470). The development will be barely discernible and would result in very limited change of views resulting in a negligible effect.

8.49 Visitors to Bryn Pydew Obelisk (Viewpoint 8) will experience open and elevated views towards the Proposed Development. The canal and railway footbridge will be barely perceptible in this long-distance view and the Active travel path is screened by trees along the North Wales Expressway (A55). The Proposed Development will be seen in the context of existing built form at Llandudno Junction. As there would be a very low alteration to the existing view, the scale of effect would be negligible.

8.50 Users of the Conwy Valley Railway will experience similar views to those described above for residents of properties along the unnamed road immediately east of the Site between Conwy Valley Railway and Conway Road (A470). Views of the Active Travel path will be close but transient and the attention of the receptors will not solely be focused on the surrounding landscape. For this reason, the overall magnitude of effect experienced by these receptors at Year 1 and 15 will be low negative with a minor adverse overall effect.

8.51 Users of the North Wales Coast Railway including the Conwy Tubular Railway bridge will have similar views to those described above for visitors to Conwy Castle, as there will be clear and open views towards the Proposed Development from the section of railway that crosses the Conwy estuary in parallel with Conway Road (A547). The Active travel path, railway footbridge and access ramp will be barely perceptible when moving at speed in this long-distance panoramic view. In the long term, the overall effect would be negligible.

Table 4: Visual Receptor Overall Effect

Receptor	Viewpoint	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Effect	Overall Effect
Users of PRoW Footpath 25/07	5	Medium	Construction	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
Users of PRoW Footpath 14/72	7	Medium	Construction	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
Users of PRoW Footpath 25/32	10	Medium	Construction	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
Users of the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail	-	Medium	Construction	Moderate Negative	Moderate Adverse
			Year 1	Low Neutral	Minor Neutral
			Year 15	Low Neutral	Minor Neutral
Users of Conway Road (A470)	4a and b	Low	Construction	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
			Year 1	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
			Year 15	Low Negative	Minor Adverse

Receptor	Viewpoint	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Effect	Overall Effect
Users of the unnamed road east of Conway Road (A470) (close to Treehouse at St Francis Grange and Historic Park and Garden of Bryn Eisteddfod)	3	Low	Construction	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
			Year 1	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
			Year 15	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
Users of Conway Road (A547)	6	Low	Construction	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
Users of roads to the west of the River Conwy (including Benarth Road, Baclaw Lane, Cymryd and Bryn-Seiri Road)	-	Low	Construction	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
Users of Garth Road	9 and 11	Low	Construction	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
Residents of properties along Conway Road (A470)	4b	Medium	Construction	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
			Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
	4a	Medium	Construction	Moderate Negative	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Viewpoint	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Effect	Overall Effect
Residents of Ynys-fawr along the unnamed road immediately east of the site between Conwy Valley Railway and Conwy Road (A470)			Year 1	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
			Year 15	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
Residents of properties along the unnamed road east of Conway Road (A470) (close to Treehouse at St Francis Grange and Historic Park and Garden of Bryn Eisteddfod)	3	Medium	Construction	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
			Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
Residents of properties along Garth Road	9 and 11	Medium	Construction	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
Residents of properties to the west of the River Conwy (including Benarth Hall and properties along Benarth Road, Baclaw Lane, Cymryd and Bryn-Seiri Road)	-	Medium	Construction	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
			Year 1	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
			Year 15	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
Visitors to RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve	1 and 2	Medium	Construction	Moderate Negative	Moderate Adverse
			Year 1	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
			Year 15	Low Negative	Minor Adverse

Receptor	Viewpoint	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Effect	Overall Effect
Visitors to Conwy Castle and Suspension Bridge	-	High	Construction	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
			Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
Visitors and workers at Snowdonia Nurseries and Garden Centre	-	Low	Construction	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
Visitors to Bryn Pydew Obelisk	8	Medium	Construction	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 15	Negligible	Negligible
Users of the Conwy Valley Railway	-	Low	Construction	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
			Year 1	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
			Year 15	Low Negative	Minor Adverse
Users of the North Wales Coast Railway including the Conwy Tubular Railway Bridge	-	Low	Construction	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 1	Negligible	Negligible
			Year 15	Negligible	Negligible

9.0 Conclusions

General

9.1 This report presents the assessment of the anticipated effects on landscape character and views of the Proposed Development of the marginal land at RSPB Conwy.

9.2 The assessment considers the effects of the completed scheme on landscape character and visual amenity from the surrounding properties, roads, and the Public Rights of Way network; from construction to completion. The effects of the Proposed Development on the landscape and visual amenity have been assessed in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual and Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA3).

9.3 The nature and magnitude of landscape and visual effects will change during the various stages of the Proposed Development and have been assessed during the construction and operational phase. To take into account the establishment of the Proposed Development (in particular proposed vegetation), the operational phase has been assessed in the short to medium term (from Year 1 to Year 15) and long-term (Year 15 and beyond). The assessment of effects is based on the submitted planning application drawings.

Landscape Baseline and Landscape Effects

9.4 The assessment of landscape effects has been carried out using the established hierarchy of published Landscape Character Assessments from national to district level. In conjunction with field work sensitive landscape receptors within the study area have been identified.

9.5 At the district level the Site lies within landscape unit B7 Conwy Valley and C10 Great Orme and Creuddyn Peninsular. The study has assessed the potential effects on landscape character in relation to landscape units B7 and C10 and concluded that these would be up to moderate adverse in the short-term, which would be reduced to minor adverse in the medium and long-term. This is primarily as a result of the small area of landscape affected by the Proposed Development, with construction activities generating higher levels of adverse effect, whereas the completed development will incur less effect upon the landscape.

Visual Baseline and Visual Effects

9.6 A series of representative views surrounding the Site have been identified through desktop and field studies. 11 representative viewpoints have been assessed from publicly accessible locations including roads, in the proximity of houses, and from PRoW.

9.7 Visibility of the site is generally limited by intervening landform, woodland and built form within the wider landscape, although some receptors experience clear and direct views of the Site, particularly from along the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail, within the RSPB Conwy Reserve and from elevated vantage points within the wider landscape, namely around Conwy Castle and Bryn Pydew obelisk.

9.8 The greatest level of visual effects will be experienced by the closest receptors: primarily users of the Llwybr Moryd Conwy Estuary Trail, visitors to RSPB Conwy, residents of the property Ynys-fawr immediately east of the site between Conwy Valley Railway and Conwy Road (A470) and users of the Conwy Valley Railway. During construction and completion of the Proposed Development, the overall effect on these receptors will be up to moderate adverse. Such effects will be partially mitigated by replacement tree planting within the Site to accommodate for the trees removed along the A470.

Conclusion

9.9 This LVA has found that the effects of the Proposed Development will be restricted to a localised geographical area and would not result in substantial harm to landscape character beyond the Site boundary, nor would there be substantial detrimental effects to visual amenity across a wide area.

References

There are no sources in the current document.

Data Sources

- Ordnance Survey maps (1:25,000 Explorer Series);
- Historic Ordnance Survey maps;
- Aerial images;
- Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC Map) (https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx);
- LANDMAP (https://naturalresources.wales); and
- Cadw (https://cadw.gov.wales/).

Legislation and Policy

- Planning Policy Wales Edition 12, February 2024;
- Technical Advice Notes;
- Conwy Local Development Plan 2007 - 2022, October 2013;
- Destination Conwy Management Plan 2023 - 2029 (Conwy Council Borough Council); and
- World Heritage Site Management Plan 2018 - 2028 (Cadw), January 2018.

Landscape Character Documents

- National Landscape Character Area 07 (Natural Resources Wales);
- National Landscape Character Area 08 (Natural Resources Wales); and
- Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment for Onshore Wind Turbine Development (Conwy Council Borough Council), November 2014.

Best Practice and Guidance

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, Third Edition 2013);
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England 2014;
- Visual Representation of Development Proposals. Technical Guidance Note 06/19. Landscape Institute, September 2019;
- Assessing landscape value outside national designations. Technical Guidance Note 02/21. Landscape Institute, May 2021; and
- BS5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction ï Recommendations (BSi, April 2012).

APPENDIX A: LVA Figures

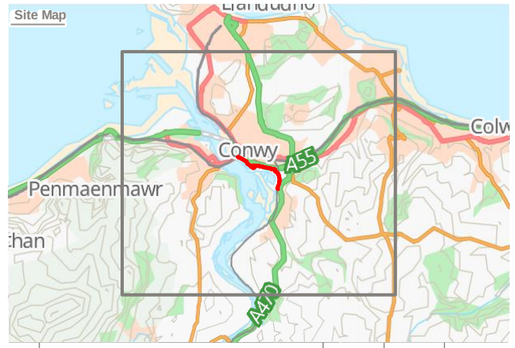


KEY

- Site boundary
- Site boundary - 3km buffer

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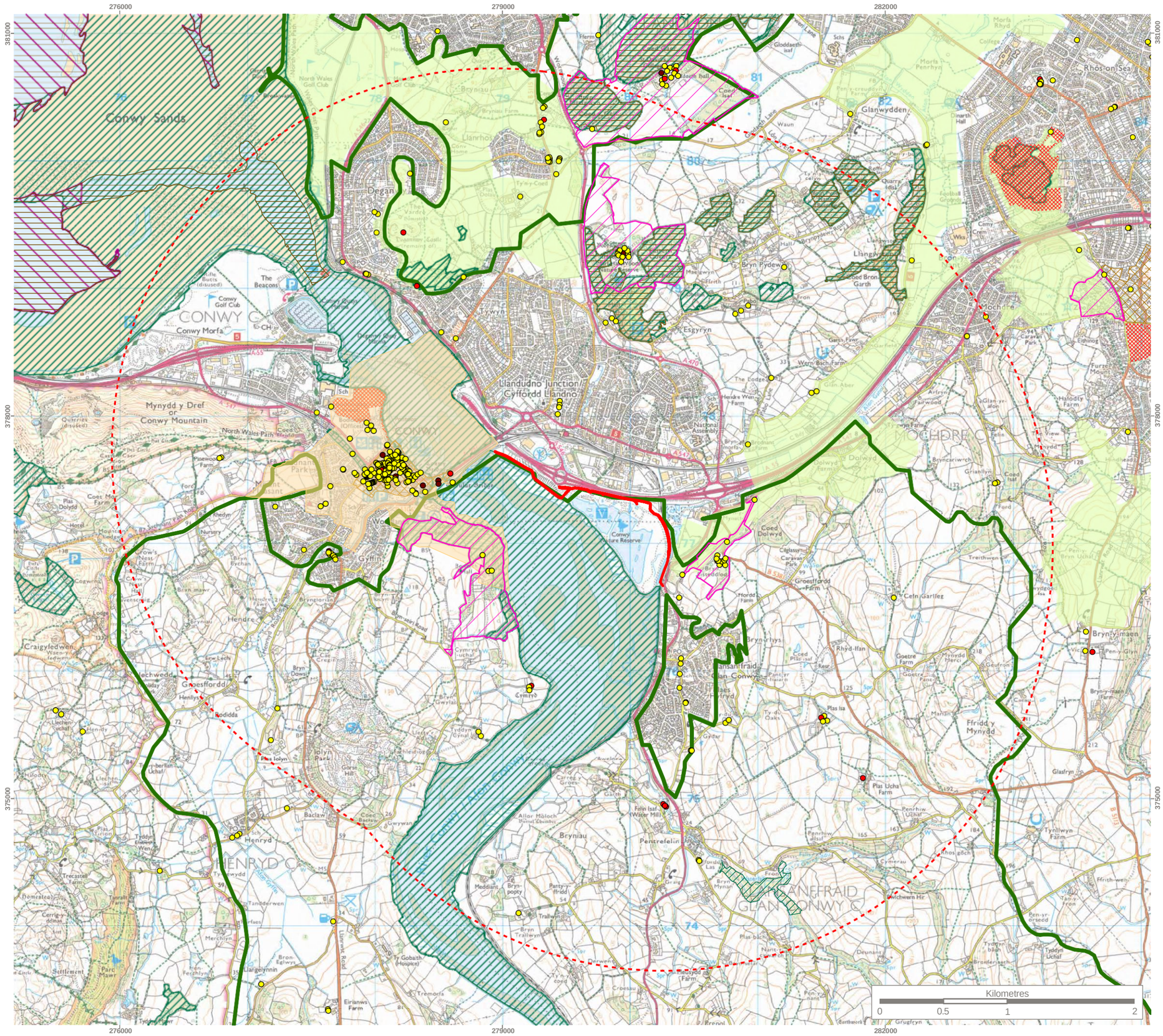
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Title
Figure 1 - Site Location Plan

Drawing Number
G10313.003

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Heritage Designations

- Grade I Listed Building
- Grade II* Listed Building
- Grade II Listed Building
- Conservation Area
- Registered Park and Garden
- World Heritage Site

Landscape Designations

- Special Landscape Area

Environmental Designations

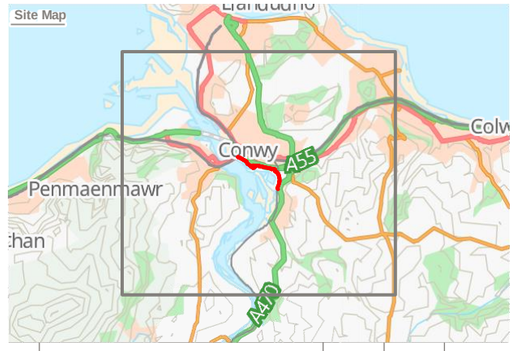
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Protection Areas
- Special Areas of Conservation
- Local Nature Reserve
- Green Wedge

Note

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- Historic Wales © Historic Wales Copyright [2024]
- Replacement Local Development Plan 2018 - 2033 © Conwy County Borough Council [2019]

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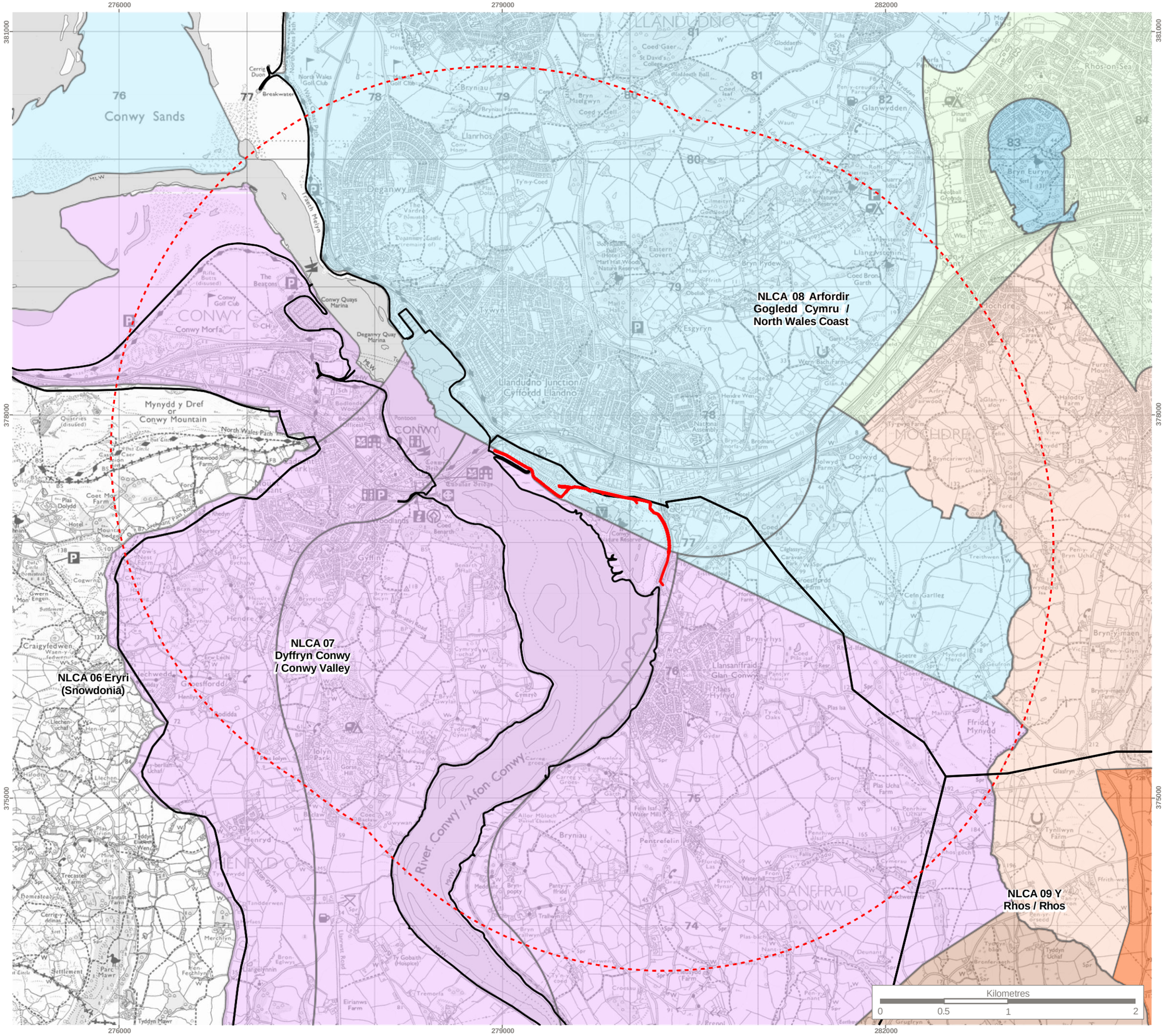
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Figure 2 - Landscape and Environmental Designations

Drawing Number
G10313.004

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KEY

- Site boundary
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- National Landscape Character Area

Broad Landscape Character Types and Units

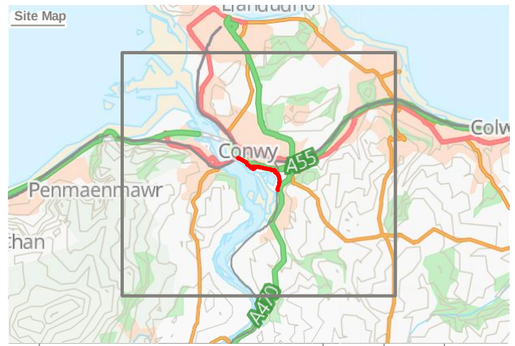
Conwy and Denbighshire Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study

- A5: Coastal and Estuarine Flats (Colwyn Bay)
- B7: Conwy Valley
- C9: Limestone Escarpment and Hills
- C10: Great Orme and Creuddyn Peninsular
- D1: Aled Hiraethog Hills (West)
- D8: Upland Plateau
- D16: Marginal Upland (East Conwy Valley)

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- Conwy County Council Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment of Eryri © Snowdonia National Park [2016]

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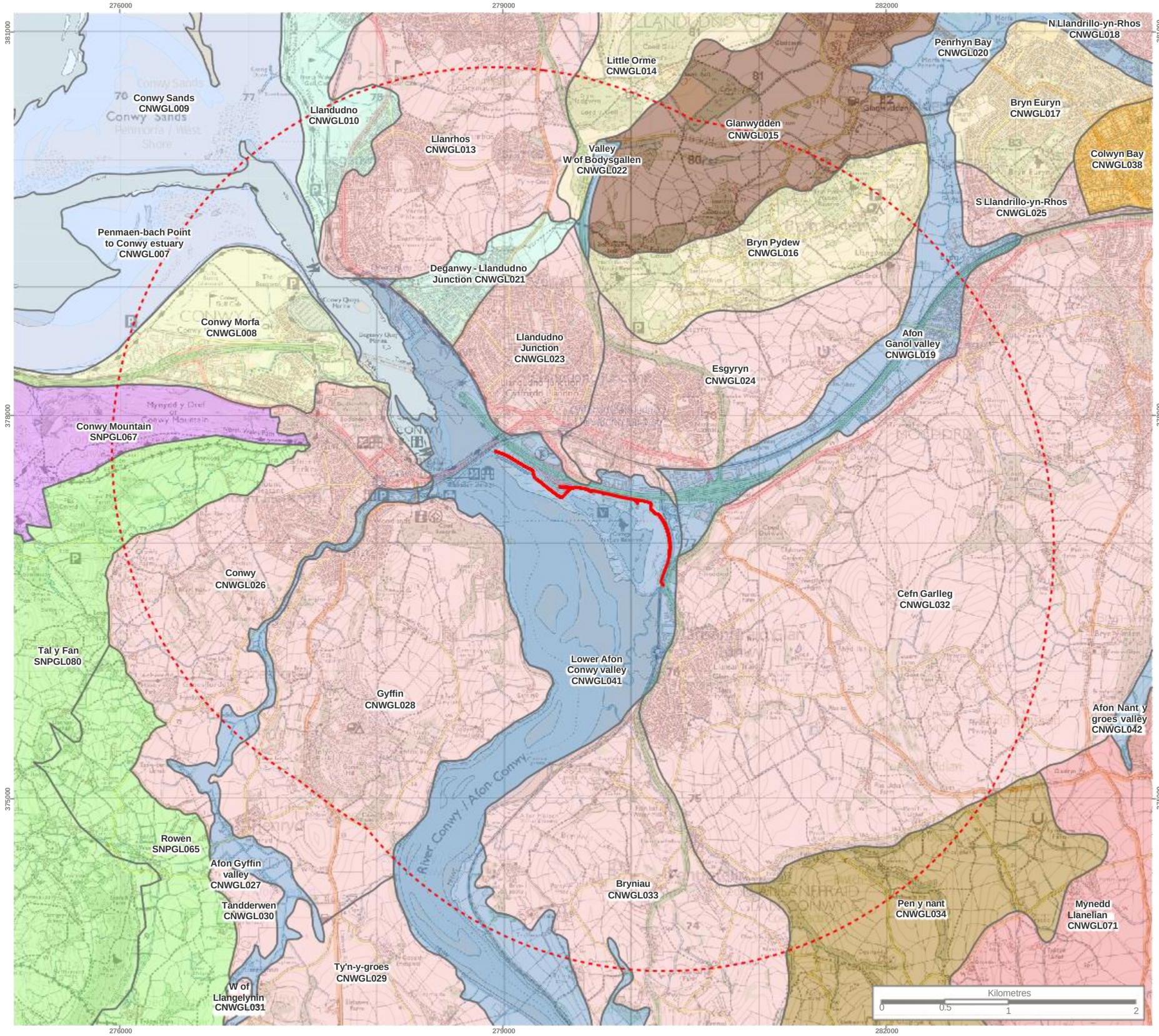
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Figure 3.1 - Broad Landscape Character Types and Units

Drawing Number
G10313.005

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KEY

- Site boundary
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LandMap Geological Landscape - Level 3 Classification

- Active lowland river-flood plain system
- Coastal flat
- Estuary
- Glacial mountain valley
- Lowland escarpment
- Lowland glacial outwash plain / field
- Lowland till plain / field
- Lowland valley slope / escarpment
- Sand dune
- Undulating lowland hill terrain
- Undulating upland terrain
- Upland plateau

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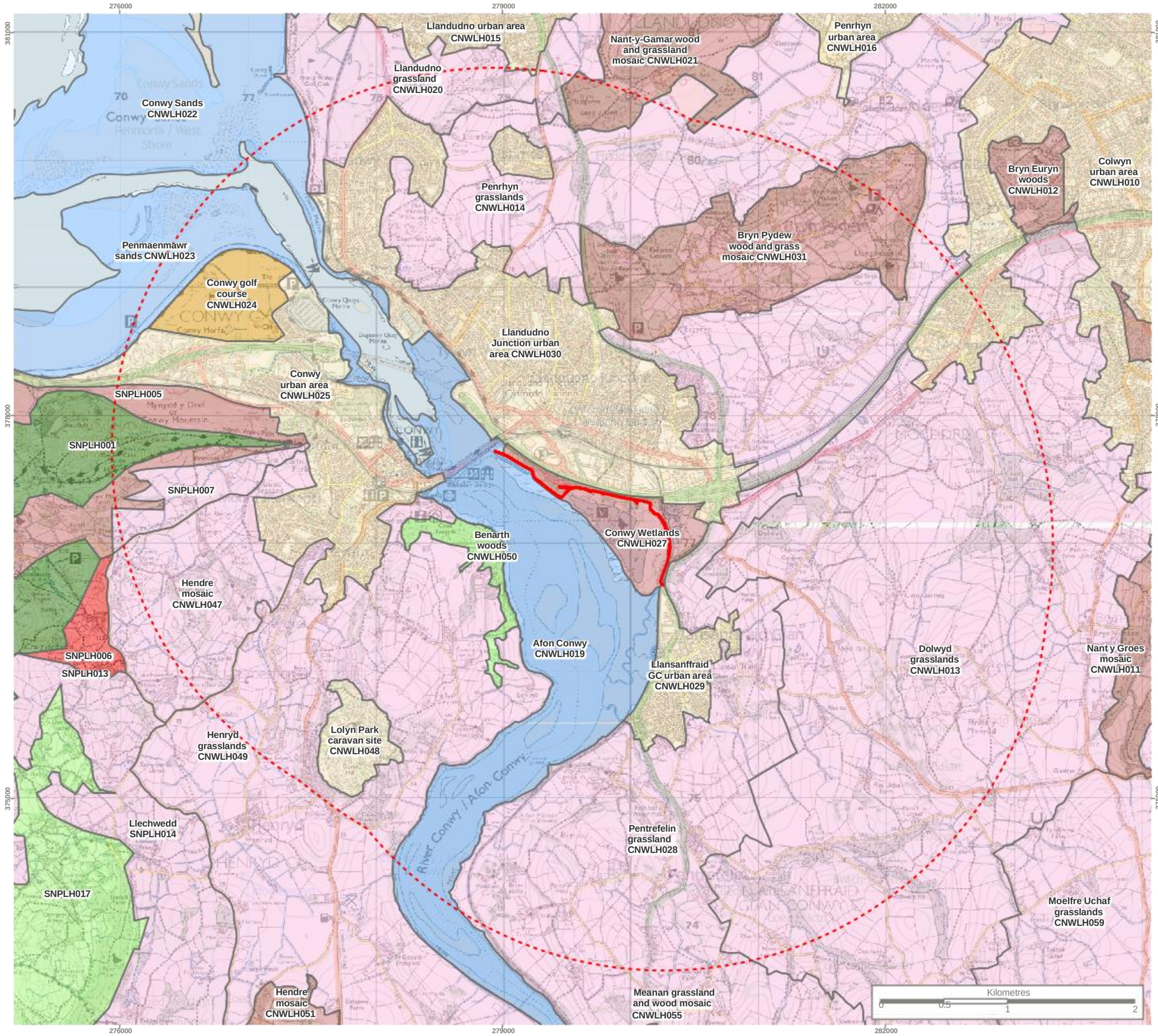
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Title
Figure 3.2 - LandMap - Geological Landscape

Drawing Number
G10313.006

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OH	SP	MS	1:30,000 @ A3	08/08/2024



KEY

- Site boundary
- Site boundary - 3km buffer

LandMap Landscape Habitats - Level 3 Classification

- Acid Grassland
- Amenity Grassland
- Bracken
- Broadleaved Woodland
- Improved Grassland
- Intertidal, Including Muds/Sands, Saltmarsh, Shingle/ Gravel and Boulders/Rocks
- Mixed Woodland
- Mosaic
- Residential/Green Space

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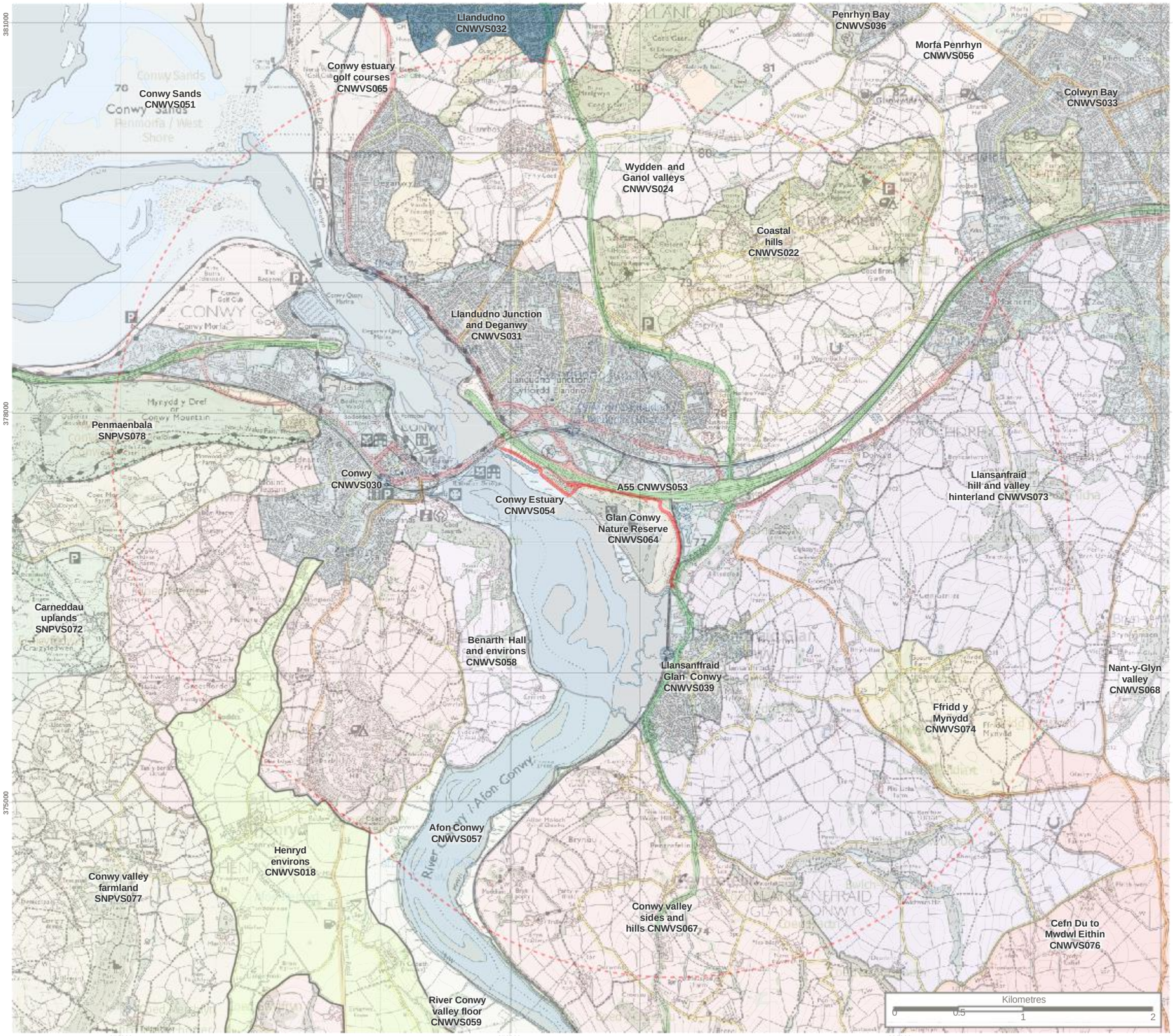
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Title
Figure 3.3 - LandMap - Landscape Habitats

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G10313.007

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KEY

- Site boundary
- Site boundary - 3km buffer

LandMap Visual and Sensory - Level 3 Classification

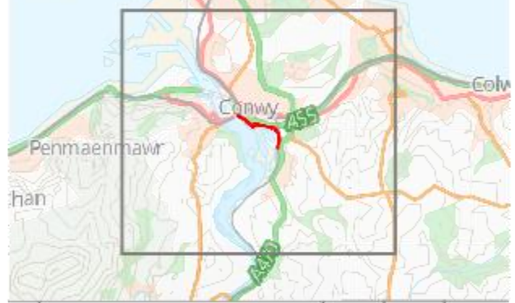
- Estuary
- Flat Open Lowland Farmland
- Hill & Lower Plateau Grazing
- Hill & Lower Plateau Mosaic
- Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing
- Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic
- Mosaic Lowland Valleys
- Mosaic Rolling Lowland
- Open Lowland Valleys
- Other Costal Wild Land
- River
- Road Corridor
- Upland Grazing
- Upland Moorland
- Urban

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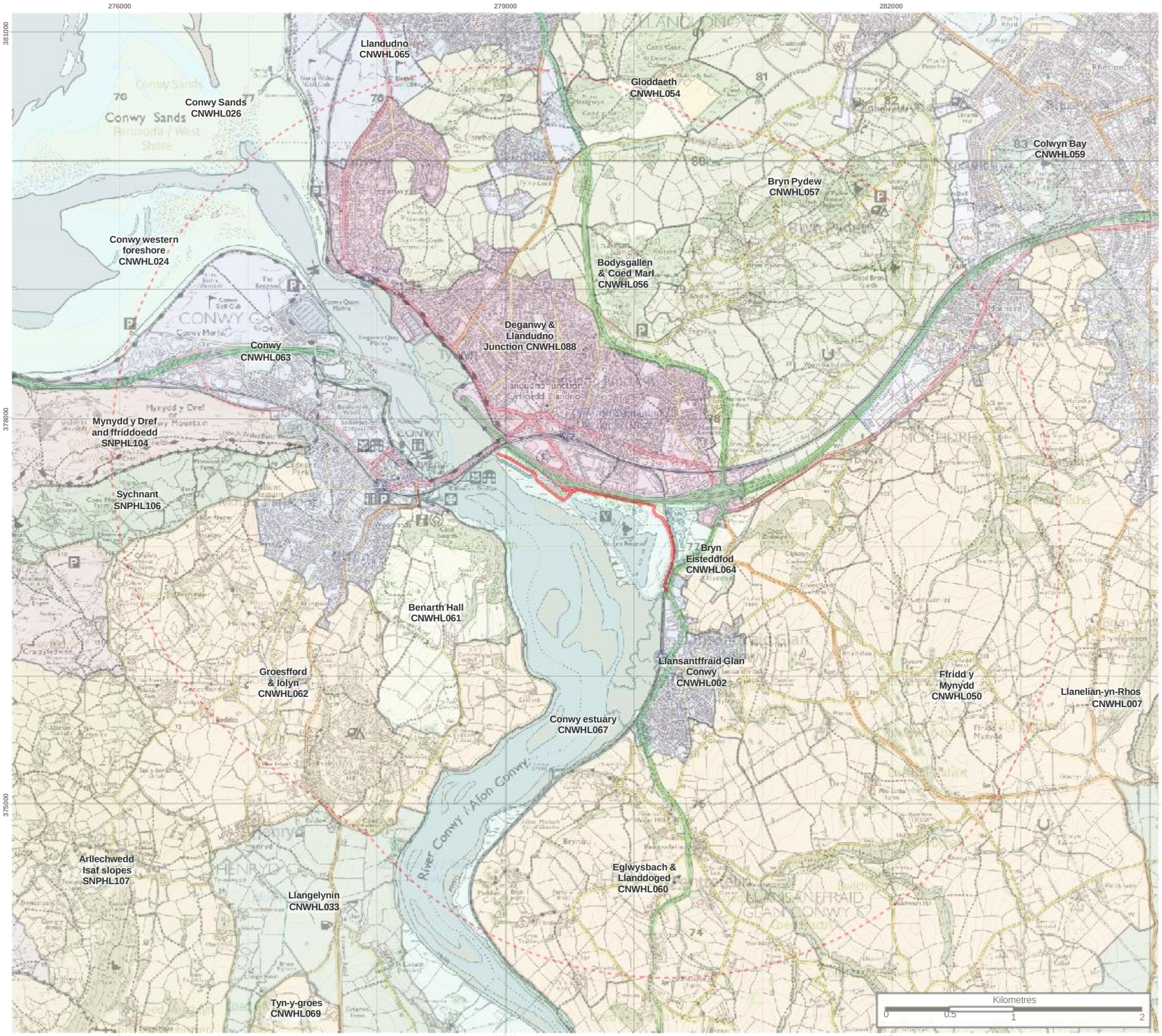
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Figure 3.4 - LandMap - Visual and Sensory

Drawing Number
G10313.008

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KEY

- Site boundary
- Site boundary - 3km buffer

LandMap Historic Landscape - Level 3 Classification

- Designed
- Irregular Fieldscapes
- Marginal Land
- Non-nucleated Settlement
- Nucleated Settlement
- Other Settlement
- Other fieldscapes
- Regular Fieldscapes
- Water & Wetland

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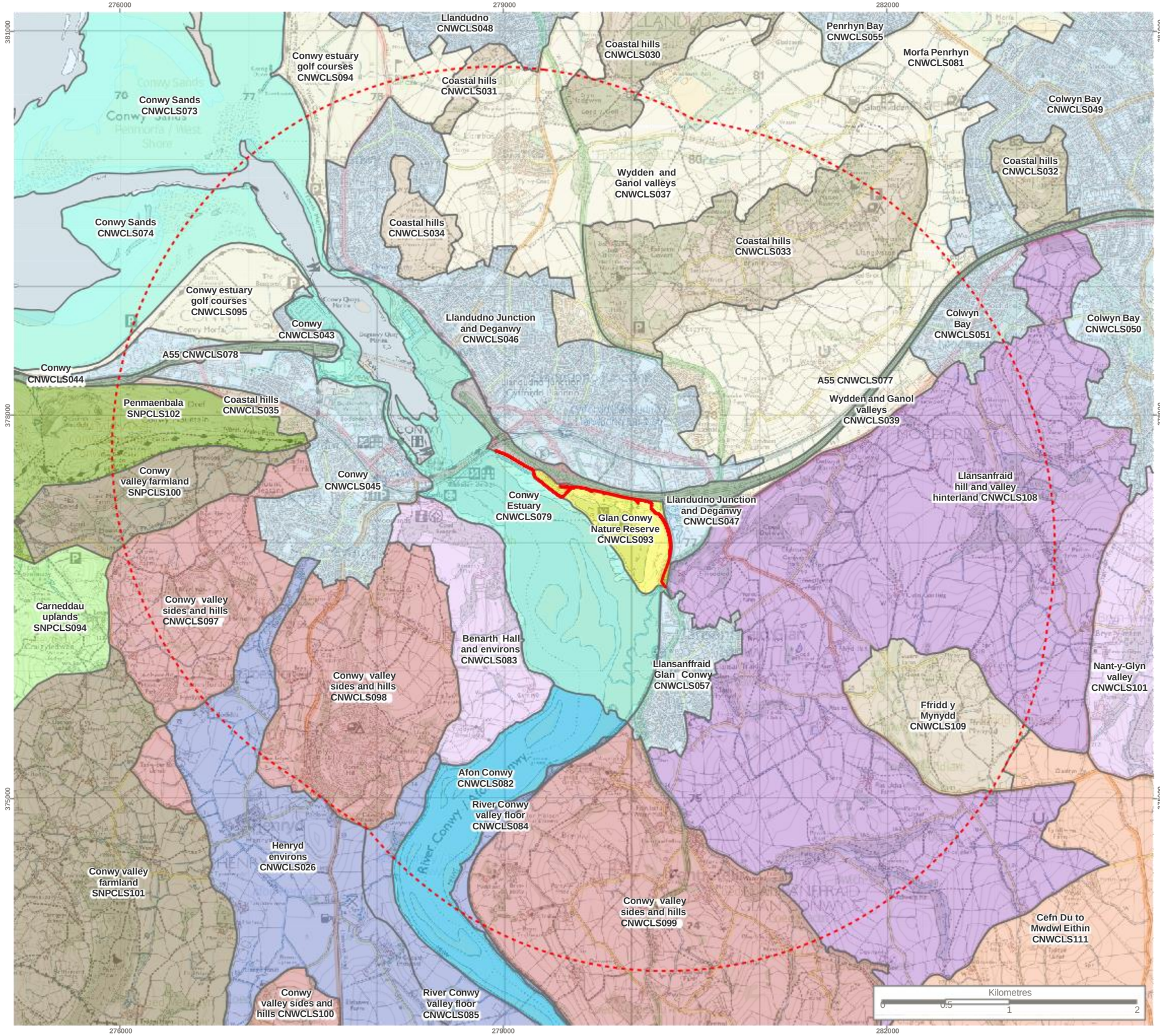
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Title
Figure 3.5 - LandMap - Historic Landscape

Drawing Number
G10313.009

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KEY

- Site boundary
- Site boundary - 3km buffer

LandMap Cultural Landscape - Level 3 Classification

- Estuary
- Flat Open Lowland Farmland
- Hill & Lower Plateau Grazing
- Hill & Lower Plateau Mosaic
- Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing
- Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic
- Mosaic Lowland Valleys
- Mosaic Rolling Lowland
- Open Lowland Valleys
- Other Coastal Wild Land
- River
- Road Corridor
- Upland Grazing
- Upland Moorland
- Urban

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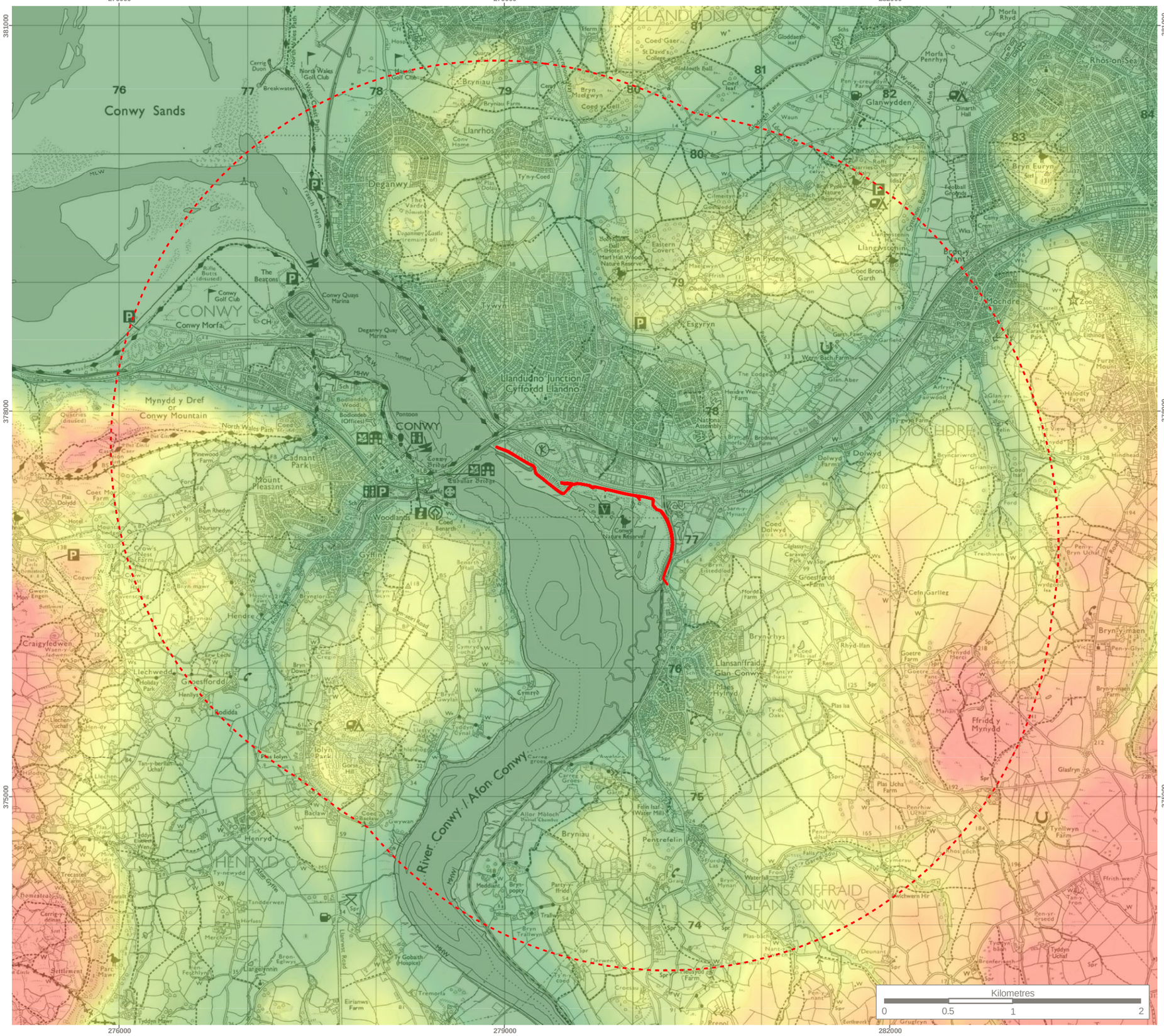
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Title
Figure 3.6 - LandMap - Cultural Landscape

Drawing Number
G10313.010

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KEY

Site boundary

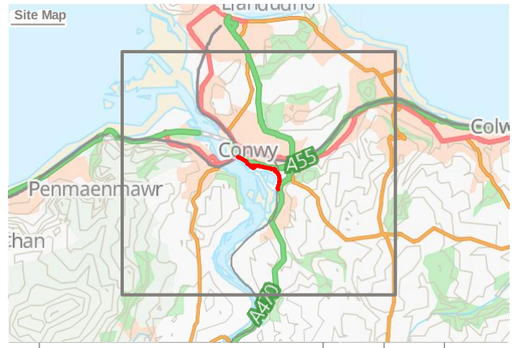
Site boundary - 3km buffer

Elevation (in metres above OS Datum)

258.2

-2.8

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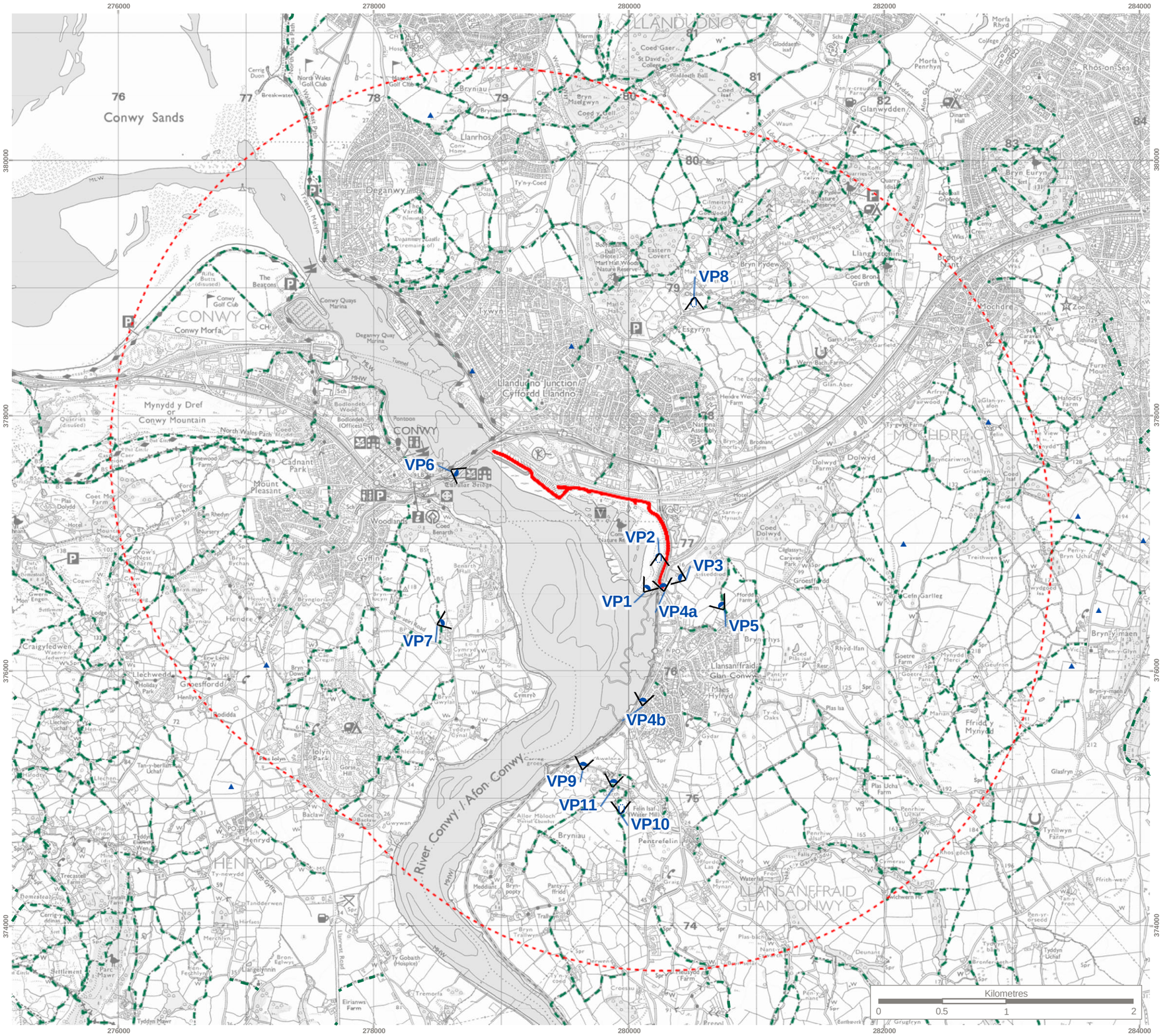
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Project
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Title
Figure 4 - Topography

Drawing Number
G10313.011

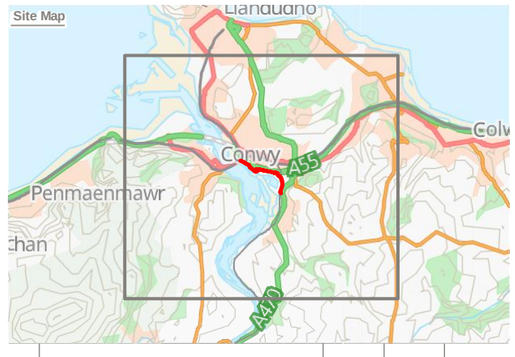
Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
OH	SP	MS	1:30,000 @ A3	08/08/2024



KEY

- Site boundary
- Site boundary - 3km buffer
- Viewpoint location
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP
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Project
RSPB Conwy

Title
Figure 5 - Viewpoint Location Plan

Drawing Number
G10313.012

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
OH	SP	MS	1:30,000 @ A3	08/08/2024



Project : Access Improvements, RSPB Conwy
Title: Type 1 Photosheets
Figure Number: 6.1 - Viewpoint 1
Drawing Number: IN10313.01.001 - Sheet 1 of 12

Visualisation Type : Type 1
Time and Date: 19/01/2024 Time: 16:04
Camera and Lens Type: Nikon D750 24-120mm Zoom lens

FoV and Display Size: FoV: 90° x 27° (Baseline) 96%
Viewing Distance and Projection: Comfortable arms length. Cylindrical

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Project : Access Improvements, RSPB Conwy
Title: Type 1 Photosheets
Figure Number: 6.2 - Viewpoint 2
Drawing Number: IN10313.01.001 - Sheet 2 of 12

Visualisation Type : Type 1
Time and Date: 19/01/2024 Time: 16:03
Camera and Lens Type: Nikon D750 24-120mm Zoom lens

FoV and Display Size: FoV: 90° x 27° (Baseline) 96%
Viewing Distance and Projection: Comfortable arms length. Cylindrical

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Project : Access Improvements, RSPB Conwy
Title: Type 1 Photosheets
Figure Number: 6.3 - Viewpoint 3
Drawing Number: IN10313.01.001 - Sheet 3 of 12

Visualisation Type : Type 1
Time and Date: 07/03/2024 Time: 14:21
Camera and Lens Type: Nikon D750 24-120mm Zoom lens

FoV and Display Size: FoV: 90° x 27° (Baseline) 96%
Viewing Distance and Projection: Comfortable arms length. Cylindrical

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Project : Access Improvements, RSPB Conwy
Title: Type 1 Photosheets
Figure Number: 6.4 - Viewpoint 4a
Drawing Number: IN10313.01.001 - Sheet 4 of 12

Visualisation Type : Type 1
Time and Date: 07/03/2024 Time: 14:02
Camera and Lens Type: Nikon D750 24-120mm Zoom lens

FoV and Display Size: FoV: 90° x 27° (Baseline) 96%
Viewing Distance and Projection: Comfortable arms length. Cylindrical

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Project : Access Improvements, RSPB Conwy
Title: Type 1 Photosheets
Figure Number: 6.5 - Viewpoint 4b
Drawing Number: IN10313.01.001 - Sheet 5 of 12

Visualisation Type : Type 1
Time and Date: 07/03/2024 Time: 12:11
Camera and Lens Type: Nikon D750 24-120mm Zoom lens

FoV and Display Size: FoV: 90° x 27° (Baseline) 96%
Viewing Distance and Projection: Comfortable arms length. Cylindrical

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Project : Access Improvements, RSPB Conwy
Title: Type 1 Photosheets
Figure Number: 6.6 - Viewpoint 5
Drawing Number: IN10313.01.001 - Sheet 6 of 12

Visualisation Type : Type 1
Time and Date: 07/03/2024 Time: 13:40
Camera and Lens Type: Nikon D750 24-120mm Zoom lens

FoV and Display Size: FoV: 90° x 27° (Baseline) 96%
Viewing Distance and Projection: Comfortable arms length. Cylindrical

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Project : Access Improvements, RSPB Conwy
Title: Type 1 Photosheets
Figure Number: 6.7 - Viewpoint 6
Drawing Number: IN10313.01.001 - Sheet 7 of 12

Visualisation Type : Type 1
Time and Date: 07/03/2024 Time: 15:35
Camera and Lens Type: Nikon D750 24-120mm Zoom lens

FoV and Display Size: FoV: 90° x 27° (Baseline) 96%
Viewing Distance and Projection: Comfortable arms length. Cylindrical

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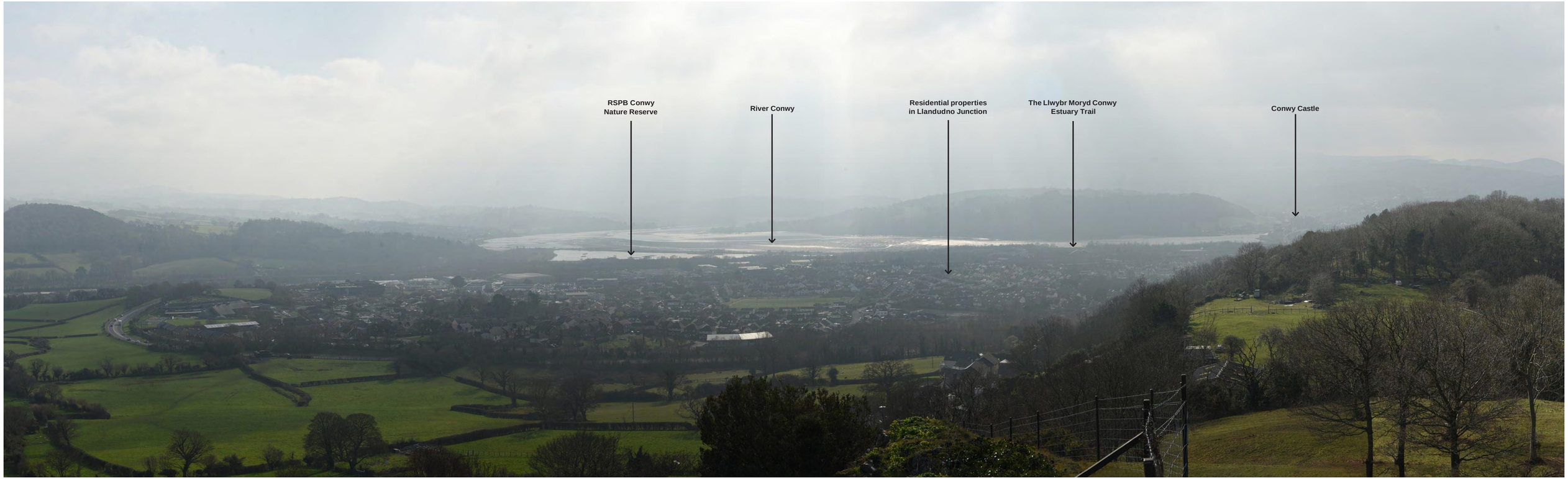


Project : Access Improvements, RSPB Conwy
Title: Type 1 Photosheets
Figure Number: 6.8 - Viewpoint 7
Drawing Number: IN10313.01.001 - Sheet 8 of 12

Visualisation Type : Type 1
Time and Date: 07/03/2024 Time: 16:19
Camera and Lens Type: Nikon D750 24-120mm Zoom lens

FoV and Display Size: FoV: 90° x 27° (Baseline) 96%
Viewing Distance and Projection: Comfortable arms length. Cylindrical

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Project : Access Improvements, RSPB Conwy
Title: Type 1 Photosheets
Figure Number: 6.9 - Viewpoint 8
Drawing Number: IN10313.01.001 - Sheet 9 of 12

Visualisation Type : Type 1
Time and Date: 07/03/2024 Time: 14:47
Camera and Lens Type: Nikon D750 24-120mm Zoom lens

FoV and Display Size: FoV: 90° x 27° (Baseline) 96%
Viewing Distance and Projection: Comfortable arms length. Cylindrical

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Project : Access Improvements, RSPB Conwy
Title: Type 1 Photosheets
Figure Number: 6.10 - Viewpoint 9
Drawing Number: IN10313.01.001 - Sheet 10 of 12

Visualisation Type : Type 1
Time and Date: 07/03/2024 Time: 12:13
Camera and Lens Type: Nikon D750 24-120mm Zoom lens

FoV and Display Size: FoV: 90° x 27° (Baseline) 96%
Viewing Distance and Projection: Comfortable arms length. Cylindrical

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Project : Access Improvements, RSPB Conwy
Title: Type 1 Photosheets
Figure Number: 6.11 - Viewpoint 10
Drawing Number: IN10313.01.001 - Sheet 11 of 12

Visualisation Type : Type 1
Time and Date: 07/03/2024 Time: 12:35
Camera and Lens Type: Nikon D750 24-120mm Zoom lens

FoV and Display Size: FoV: 90° x 27° (Baseline) 96%
Viewing Distance and Projection: Comfortable arms length. Cylindrical

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Project : Access Improvements, RSPB Conwy
Title: Type 1 Photosheets
Figure Number: 6.12 - Viewpoint 11
Drawing Number: IN10313.01.001 - Sheet 12 of 12

Visualisation Type : Type 1
Time and Date: 07/03/2024 Time: 12:45
Camera and Lens Type: Nikon D750 24-120mm Zoom lens

FoV and Display Size: FoV: 90° x 27° (Baseline) 96%
Viewing Distance and Projection: Comfortable arms length. Cylindrical

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