



Complete Agenda

Democratic Service
Council Offices
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

LLŶN A.O.N.B JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

4.30 pm, TUESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 2016

Location

Meeting Room, Frondeg, Pwllheli, LL53 5RE.

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 14/11/16)

LLŶN A.O.N.B JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Gwynedd Councillors

Angela Ann Russell
W. Gareth Roberts
Gruffydd Williams
Owain Williams
R.H. Wyn Williams

Others

Aberdaron, Buan, Botwnnog, Clynnog, Llanbedrog, Llanaelhaearn, Llanengan, Nefyn, Pistyll and Tudweiliog Community Council nominees.

Nominees of the following agencies/institutions:

National Trust,
Natural Resources Wales,
Arfon and Dwyfor Access Forum,
Cyfeillion Llŷn,
National Farmers Union,
Farmers Union of Wales,
Abersoch and Llŷn Tourism Partnership,
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales,
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

4. MINUTES

4 - 7

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of this joint committee, held on 13 July 2016, be signed as a true record.

5. VISITORS CONTRIBUTING

To receive a presentation from Rhian Hughes, Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig.

6. LLŶN COASTAL FESTIVAL

8 - 9

To consider the report of the Llŷn AONB Projects Officer.

7. ANGLESEY AND GWYNEDD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-26

10 - 11

To consider the report of the Llŷn AONB Service Manager.

8. FUTURE LANDSCAPES WALES

12 - 13

To consider the report of the Llŷn AONB Service Manager.

9. THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

14 - 15

To consider the report of the Llŷn AONB Projects Officer.

10. AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

16 - 39

To consider the report of the Llŷn AONB Service Manager.

LLŶN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 13/07/16

Present:

T. Victor Jones (Llanbedrog Community Council) (Chairman)
Councillor Angela Russell (Vice-chair)

Members: Councillors Gruffydd Williams and R.H. Wyn Williams (Gwynedd Council) , Noel Davey (Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales), John Gosling, (Abersoch and Llŷn Tourism Partnership), Arfon Hughes (Nefyn Town Council), William I Hughes (Farmers' Union of Wales), Siân Parri (Tudweiliog Community Council, Sianelen Fleming (Pistyll Community Council), Alun Price (Natural Resources Wales) and John Eric Williams (Cyfeillion Llŷn).

Officers: Bleddyn P. Jones (Llŷn AONB Service Manager), Elin Wyn Hughes (AONB Project Officer), Wyn Williams (Countryside and Access Manager) and Bethan Adams (Member Support Officer).

Apologies: Councillor Gareth Roberts, Hedd Rhys (NFU Wales), Laura Hughes (National Trust) and Gwynedd Archaeology Trust.

1. CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED to elect Councillor T. Victor Jones as Chairman for the year 2016/17.

2. VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Angela Russell as Vice-chair for the year 2016/17.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

4. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee, that took place on 18 November 2015 as a true record.

5. LANDSCAPES OF THE FUTURE WALES

The report of the Llŷn AONB Service Manager was submitted providing an update on the Review of Designated Landscapes commissioned by the Welsh Government. It was reported that the next step would be for the Chairman of the Wales Designated Landscapes development programme to summarise all the conclusions and recommendations and submit these to Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment and Rural Affairs, for further consideration.

Members were given an opportunity to give their observations and the Llŷn AONB Service Manager responded as follows:

- That it was likely that there would be a further consultation once the Cabinet Secretary had considered the information;
- That it was adaptations rather than major changes that would stem from the work and a priority system for action would be given - short, medium and long-term;

- That a message had been conveyed during the discussions in terms of the need for higher financial resources than currently received and future financial assurance;
- That a message would be sent to Lord Dafydd Ellis-Thomas, Chair of the development programme regarding the need to consider Crown Land;
- That it was unlikely that the management of the National Parks and the AONBs would join, however consideration would be given to have one overall brand across both designations;
- That no change was anticipated in legislation in the short/medium term;
- The conclusions of the development programme were similar to that noted in the report on the Review of Designated Landscapes.

RESOLVED:

- (i) to accept the report;**
- (ii) that the Llŷn AONB Service Manager sends a message to Lord Dafydd Ellis-Thomas, Chair of the development programme regarding the need to consider Crown Land.**

6. GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY JOINT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-26

Submitted – the report of the Llŷn AONB Service Manager providing an update on the process to adopt the Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Development Plan 2011-26. He noted that policies relevant to the Area of Beauty in the Draft Deposit Plan were discussed in the Joint Committee on 25 March 2015, and the response of the Joint Committee to the consultation was sent to the Joint Planning Policy Unit.

It was reported that the next step would be to conduct an Independent Inspection with two independent Inspectors to consider all the objections that had not been resolved. It was noted that the observations would be dealt with in writing or in a hearing, dependent on the wish of those who had submitted observations.

A member noted that the observations of the Joint Committee should be presented to the hearing as the case could be made stronger.

The Llŷn AONB Service Manager guided members through the appendix which comprised details of the observations made by the Joint Committee and the response of officers from the Joint Planning Policy Unit to those, together with an additional document shared during the meeting noting the changes made to relevant sections of the Plan following the consultation.

There followed a discussion on the comments and if they should be taken further to a hearing.

A member noted his disappointment that so many of the observations had not been received by officers in the Joint Planning Policy Unit.

A member referred to information submitted by Hanfod in the context of the impact on the Welsh Language. He noted that the Joint-Committee's support should be given to the information submitted by Hanfod to the inspection.

In response to a question by a member, the Llŷn AONB Service Manager noted that the hearings would be public and he would send the details and arrangements of the hearings to members.

A member noted that consideration should be given to sharing the load in terms of presenting the observations, rather than all the responsibility falling on the Chair. In

response, the Llŷn AONB Service Manager noted that he would discuss the matter with the Chair when the information for submission was considered.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Chair presents the case in a hearing in the context of the following matters:
- Policy ADN1 - 'On-shore Wind Energy';
 - Policy ADN2 - 'Other Renewable Energy Technologies' - expanding further on the Joint Committee's views;
 - Policy TWR 5 'Touring Caravan, Camping and Temporary Alternative Camping Accommodation';
 - Strategic Policy PS16 - 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment';
 - Policy AMG3 - 'Coastal Protection'.
- (ii) that the Llŷn AONB Service Manager sends the details and arrangements of the hearings to members.

7. SOLAR DEVELOPMENTS

The AONB Project Officer submitted a report that included general information regarding solar developments, information regarding planning applications in the Llŷn area and the latest regarding payments for generating electricity via a solar renewable method following a request by the Joint Committee at its previous committee on 18 November 2015.

In response to the comments by members that some small solar developments had not been included, it was noted that the Unit had sought to draft a list of comprehensive solar development applications for the period 2000-16, however all the applications had not been listed.

Attention was drawn to the fact that only one solar panels farm was located within the Area of Beauty namely at Dwyryd, Penisarwaun. It was noted that it was situated on land that sloped and was not visible from high ground as it was screened.

A member noted that it was unlikely that there would be many new applications for this type of development as the feed-in tariff was ending. He added the need to draft a Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Joint Local Development Plan to control solar developments in Gwynedd and Anglesey.

In response to an observation by a member regarding solar developments of a specific size, the Llŷn AONB Service Manager noted that planning applications for this type of development was discussed with the Chair, and in accordance with the decision of the Joint Committee in its previous meeting, the Chair may convene a special meeting of the Joint Committee to give specific attention to individual planning applications that would harm the AONB.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

8. AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

Submitted – the report of the Llŷn AONB Service Manager providing an update on the work of updating and reviewing the AONB Management Plan. Members were guided through two draft chapters of Section 2 of the management plan namely 'Landscape and Coast' and 'Access, Enjoyment and Contribution' that were an appendix to the report. It was noted that the aim was to bring the remainder of the chapters in Section 2 of the revised plan before the next meeting of the Joint Committee in the Autumn.

Members were given an opportunity to give their observations and the Llŷn AONB Service Manager responded as follows:

- That the reference to lead and manganese works had been included in another section of the plan however a reference to the works would be added under the heading 'Special Features' in the chapter 'Landscape and Coast';
- Under highway matters the need to undertake minor improvements to the A4417 between Nefyn and Llanaelhaearn that would be sympathetic to the landscape under the heading 'Contentious Issues' was further expanded upon in the chapter 'Landscape and Coast';
- That Tre'r Ceiri would be added under the list of hill forts under the heading 'Character of the Landscape' in the chapter 'Landscape and Coast';
- That there was a link between the Joint Local Development Plan and that the Joint Planning Policy Unit now accepted the need for a reference to the AONB Management Plan in the joint plan. References would be added in the Joint Local Development Plan to the management plan in order to make it stronger;
- That the information included regarding wind turbines under policy TP8 was intentionally open-ended in order to be able to deal with planning applications individually. It was noted that it would be Gwynedd Council that would adopt the Management Plan and it would have to comply with the Joint Local Development Plan, however, the contents would be adapted to reflect the comments made in the context of the joint plan referring to the statement of the Joint Committee in the context of planning applications for wind turbines;
- That the option of revising the format of the plan would be looked at in terms of placing the background information together to be more low-key under the policies.
- The Welsh and English versions would be harmonised in terms of language use and to use the word 'oppose' in English when 'gwrthsefyll' is used in Welsh;
- Regarding policy TP3, the wording would be revised to note that new significant developments that have a detrimental impact on the AONB will be opposed;
- Reference was made to the need for the Welsh Government to act on the automatic rights to roam included in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 or to create a new act in terms of access rights under the heading 'Contentious Issues' in the chapter 'Access, Enjoyment and Contribution' where the impact of coastal erosion on the Coastal Path is expanded upon;
- A reference will be added on the potential of having volunteers to undertake work on paths under the heading 'Contentious Issues' in the chapter 'Access, Enjoyment and Contribution';
- A specific reference is noted regarding the need to have a cycle path between Pwllheli-Llanbedrog-Abersoch in the chapter 'Access, Enjoyment and Contribution';
- That confirmation was expected regarding the number of users of the Coastal Path from the Coastal Path Project Officer in order to note these in the plan.

Members referred to the financial cuts approved by the Council. It was noted that it was necessary to draw attention to financial cuts in the Maritime Service and the impact on the AONB. Attention was drawn to the fact that financial cuts meant that there would be no care and management of Nefyn beach following the current year and this caused concern. In addition it was noted that the closure of public toilets would have a negative impact on tourism in the area.

RESOLVED:

- (i) to accept the report;**
- (ii) that the Llŷn AONB Service Manager amends the draft chapters in accordance with the comments of the Joint Committee.**

The meeting commenced at 4.35pm and concluded at 6.40pm.

CHAIRMAN

Agenda Item 6

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| COMMITTEE | Llŷn AONB Joint-Advisory Committee |
| DATE | 22 November 2016 |
| TITLE | Llŷn Coastal Festival |
| PURPOSE | Update on the 2016 Festival |
| AUTHOR | Llŷn AONB Projects Officer |
| RECOMMENDATION | Accept the Information |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report is presented to the Joint-Advisory Committee members for information purposes, regarding the 2016 Llŷn Coastal Festival.

1.2 The groups collaborating this year were the Llŷn AONB Service, the National Trust, the Llŷn Maritime Museum and Plas Heli.

2.0 PARTNERS' ACTIVITIES

2.1 The National Trust held Blas y Môr events at Aberdaron and Porthdinllaen as well as Fun Days at Porthor, Llanbedrog and Porthdinllaen, with activities ranging from cooking demonstrations with local produce, kayaking and games for children. Again this year, feedback was good amongst visitors and residents.

2.2 The Llŷn Maritime Museum held their usual talks with many attending to taste local history in talks such as "Corn Rioters and Ship Raiders" with Glyn Parry and "The Shipwrecks of Llŷn" with Mr Chris Holden.

2.3 The Llŷn Coastal Sportive was a large scale event held as part of the Festival by Plas Heli who co-ordinated a challenging bike ride around the Peninsula's coast. Hwyl yr Heli was also held as a community event which included stalls and an opportunity to participate in various open air activities.

3.0 LLŷN AONB SERVICE EVENTS

3.1 The AONB Service held three guided walks in the areas of Rhiw, Llanbedrog and Nant Gwrtheyrn. These walks were based on circular routes that have been developed by Gwynedd Council and funded by the Coastal Communities Fund. With this funding, the Authority have established 18 circular routes in Gwynedd off the Coastal Path, with the hope of creating economic investment in the nearby communities.

3.2 The walks were a success and posed an opportunity for the Service's staff to raise awareness of the Llŷn AONB and promote its special characteristics and qualities.

4.0 FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 A meeting has been arranged for the Festival's partners in the coming weeks and it is intended to continue with the same arrangements of joint-working wherever possible and publishing information leaflets. Co-ordinators of the Llŷn Produce Market have also requested to be part of any future discussions in order to recognise opportunities to work together to further develop the Market.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Accept the above information.

Agenda Item 7

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| MEETING | Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee |
| DATE | 22 nd November 2016 |
| TITLE | Anglesey and Gwynedd Local Development Plan 2011-26 |
| PURPOSE | Update for Members |
| AUTHOR | Llŷn AONB Service manager |
| RECOMMENDATION | Accept the information |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Gwynedd and Anglesey County Councils have produced a Development Plan - Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan. This Plan will eventually replace all existing Development Plans and will be operative until 2026.
- 1.2 The Plan has been prepared over a number of years in accordance with guidelines and advice issued by Welsh Government contained in various documents. The AONB Unit has contributed to the development of the Plan's strategy and has made comments on various draft sections of the Plan.

2.0 THE COMMENTS MADE BY THE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 2.1 The draft Plan was considered by the Joint Advisory Committee during the public consultation period and it was decided to make a series of comments relating to various matters relating to the AONB. These were submitted to the Joint Policy Unit.
- 2.2 The Policy Unit considered all the comments that were made on the draft Plan and decided to make some changes which were again subject to consultation. Some of these changes addressed the objections that had been made to the Plan but a large number were still outstanding and needed to be considered by the Independent Examination method.

3.0 INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

- 3.1 With the Independent Examination, 2 Inspectors consider all the remaining objections to the Plan (i.e that had not been resolved by the Focussed Changes). These remaining objections were to be considered by the written method or by hearing – dependent on what the objector desired.
- 3.2 In the case of the AONB Joint Advisory Committee it was decided for the Inspectors to deal with some of the objections by the written method and to attend the Inquiry to make the case at a hearing with other matters.

- 3.3 The hearings were held in September this year at various locations. The AONB Service had prepared Written Statements relating to the relevant matters and they were submitted to the Programme Officer beforehand.
- 3.4 Then the JAC Chair attended hearings to represent the JAC on matters regarding the Natural Environment and the Economy while the Vice-chair attended the hearing on Renewable Energy issues.
- 3.5 Next, the Joint Policy Unit will publish a series of further proposed changes – this is expected to happen before Christmas. Then the Inspectors' Report on the outstanding objections to the LDP will be published in early 2017.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Accept the information.

Agenda Item 8

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| MEETING | Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee |
| DATE | 22 nd of November 2016 |
| TITLE | Future Landscapes Wales |
| PURPOSE | Inform members |
| AUTHOR | Llŷn AONB Service manager |
| RECOMMENDATION | Accept the information. |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides information on the situation regarding the Review of Designated Landscapes commissioned by the Welsh Government.

2.0 REVIEW OF DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES

- 2.1 In 2014 a Panel was appointed by Welsh Government to conduct the Review of Designated Landscapes. Part 1 of the Review looked at the purpose of the designating landscapes and the pros and cons of categorising these landscapes under one designation. Part 2 of the Review considered how National Parks and AONB's are managed and governed.
- 2.2 Representations were made on the Review by the Welsh AONB's, National Parks and a variety of other public and private bodies, trusts and charities (including this JAC). In addition the Panel conducted a series of meetings with individuals and organisations.

3.0 THE REVIEW REPORT

- 3.1 The Final Report of the Review was handed over to Welsh Government in October 2015. It was a substantial document with a significant number of detailed recommendations. Some of these were principles and procedural matters which could have been included in an Appendix.
- 3.2 After receiving the Final Report Welsh Government decided to develop a programme called **Future Landscapes Wales**. The purpose of this programme was to consider the report findings and other relevant matters, such as the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

4.0 FUTURE LANDSCAPES WALES

- 4.1 The Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas was appointed as Chair of this process and an initial meeting with stakeholders was held in Cardiff on November 2015. Following on from this a Development Group (mostly officers and members) and a Working Group (mostly academics and interest groups) was established to look at 4 specific issues related to Welsh Designated Landscapes:

- **Vision**
- **Governance/ Management**
- **Resources**
- **Economy**

- 4.2 Following on from this a fairly detailed programme of training, developing ideas, discussing options and deciding on recommendations has entailed (December 2015 – June 2016). The climax of the Future Landscapes Wales was a Challenge Chamber meeting at Cardiff on June 20th. At this meeting all the members of the Programme agreed on a Vision for the Future Landscapes and a series of measures relating to the above topics.
- 4.3 Following on from this a small group of people have worked on pulling all the work of the Future Landscapes group together in a document which would provide a direction for future development and specific actions. Also, these actions were set out in priority order – Short term, Mid term and Long term.
- 4.4 A copy of this Final draft Report was sent out at the end of October and later an Appendix was sent which contained more details for action (copies available from the AONB Service if desired).
- 4.5 A meeting of the Working Group, chaired by Lord Elis-Thomas was meeting to discuss these documents on November the 10th. Also, there is an opportunity to make “substantive” comments on the draft report by December the 1st.
- 4.6 An update on the matter will be provided at the meeting.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Accept the information.

Agenda Item 9

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|-----------------------|--|
| MEETING | Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee |
| DATE | 22 November 2016 |
| TITLE | The Sustainable Development Fund |
| PURPOSE | Update on the Sustainable Development Fund |
| AUTHOR | Llŷn AONB Projects Officer |
| RECOMMENDATION | Accept the information. |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents information to the Joint Advisory Committee members about the current situation of the Sustainable Development Fund and other issues regarding it.

2.0 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- 2.1 Of the **£55,000** in the Fund at the beginning of 2016/17, **£173.67** remains.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 provides a summary.

3.0 THE AONB SERVICE'S WORK

- 3.1 Staff of the AONB Service provide constant support, guidance and advice about the Fund to applicants and also promote through the following methods:-
- Llanw Llŷn
 - Llygad Llŷn
 - AONB Website
 - Sarn and District Ploughing Match (Information Stall)
 - Nefyn Show (Information Stall)
 - Tudweiliog Show (Information Stall)
- 3.2 We are also working with Pwllheli and Llŷn Regeneration Officer (Gwynedd Council's Economy and Community Department) who assists us in promoting the Fund and recognises projects within the community that might gain from it.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To accept the above information about the Sustainable Development Fund.

APPENDIX 1 - THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

| Ref. | Project Name | Sum Offered | Sum Claimed | Remaining | Claimed |
|-------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|
| | | | | £55,000.00 | |
| | AONB Service Claim - Admin Cost | | £5,500.00 | £49,500.00 | |
| 16.10 | Booklet on the History of Agricultural Education | £1,125.00 | £1,125.00 | £48,375.00 | Q3 |
| 16.20 | Castell Odo | £237.50 | £195.50 | £48,179.50 | Q2 |
| 16.30 | Meillionnydd | £3,500.00 | | £44,679.50 | |
| 16.40 | Aberdaron Play Area | £16,255.84 | | £28,423.66 | |
| 16.50 | Blas y Môr Aberdaron and Porthdinllaen | £2,165.00 | £1,415.00 | £27,008.66 | Q2 |
| 16.60 | Blodau Nefyn (Flowers) | £1,500.00 | £1,500.00 | £25,508.66 | Q2 |
| 16.70 | Plas Carmel | £15,000.00 | | £10,508.66 | |
| 16.80 | Exhibition- Neuadd Goffa Sarn Mellteyrn | £360.00 | £360.00 | £10,148.66 | Q2 |
| 16.90 | Capel Salem, Sarn Mellteyrn - Roof Improvements | £1,678.52 | | £8,470.14 | |
| 16.10 | Aberdaron / Nant Gwrtheyrn Language Tasting | £2,500.00 | | £5,970.14 | |
| 16.11 | Trol Sets, Nefyn | £900.00 | | £5,070.14 | |
| 16.12 | Traditional Gate - Porth Neigwl | £716.47 | | £4,353.67 | |
| 16.13 | Llanbedrog Milestones | £615.00 | | £3,738.67 | |
| 16.14 | Bryncroes - Talks on Local History | £566.00 | | £3,172.67 | |
| 16.15 | Well Being Project - Keep Wales Tidy | £2,999.00 | | £173.67 | |

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Agenda Item 10

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| MEETING | Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee |
| DATE | 22 nd November 2016 |
| TITLE | AONB Management Plan |
| PURPOSE | Consider the draft Chapters |
| AUTHOR | Llŷn AONB Service manager |
| RECOMMENDATION | Accept the information |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report is presented to members of the Joint Advisory Committee to provide an update on the work of revising and updating the AONB Management Plan.
- 1.2 Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 there is a statutory obligation on Gwynedd Council, as a relevant Authority, to prepare a Management Plan for the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and to review the Plan every 5 years.
- 1.3 The AONB Joint Advisory Committee also has an important role in assisting in the preparation of the Management Plan by providing comments and suggestions.

2.0 PART 1 OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 2.1 Part 1 of the revised Plan has previously been presented to the Joint Advisory Committee for comments.

3.0 PART 2

- 3.1 Recently the AONB Service has been working on Part 2 of the Plan. As mentioned previously, the intention is to change the make-up of Part 2 for the revised Plan and have sections relating to specific features (rather than include them all together as in the existing Plan). Also, much of the background information is to be placed in a supplementary document so as to make the Plan easier to follow and understand.
- 3.2 All sections or chapters will include an introduction, identify special features, key issues and policies. Images will also be used to illustrate relevant matters.
- 3.3 Part 2 will also include the Action Plan which will identify specific actions that are to be implemented during the Plan period.
- 3.4 Sections on the Landscape and Coast and Access and Enjoyment were considered at the meeting held in July 2016. As a result of the discussion at the meeting some changes will be made to these sections of the draft Plan.

3.5 For this meeting sections relating to the matters noted below are presented. Please see the Appendix.

- **Language and Culture**
- **Historic Environment**

3.6 The chapters on the remaining sections of the Plan will be presented to the next meeting of the JAC.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 To consider the draft chapters attached to this report.

4.2 To suggest changes or improvements.

Language and Culture

Introduction

The Welsh language is an integral part of Llŷn. It is the area's spoken language over the centuries, the language of education and religion. The 2011 Census reveals that 71.8% of the population of the AONB's communities are able to speak it, remaining among the highest throughout Wales. There are many policies, strategies and plans in place to support the Welsh language and strengthen it for the future – nationally by the Welsh Government (such as through the strategy named 'A living language: a language for living 2012-17) and also on a county level.

Here in Gwynedd, Hunaniaith is a body that continues to work as a Menter Iaith in the county, and works with Gwynedd Council, and in partnership with many other groups with the aim of strengthening the Welsh language as the language at home, in school, in the community and the workplace. The Gwynedd Language Strategy (2014-17) was launched in November 2014 with the target of

"Ensuring a 5% increase in the percentage of the population that can speak Welsh in Gwynedd by 2021".

Gwynedd Council as a Local Authority is very active in the sustaining the Welsh language. Welsh is the Council's administrative language and the organisation has committed to the Welsh Language Standards set out by the Welsh Government under Section 4A, The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. The 2016 Gwynedd Welsh Language Policy states how the Council and its workers will plan and provide in order to ensure that each service meets the needs of the local population from a language perspective. It will also ensure the Council's compliance with the Standards stated above.

Gwynedd Council's Education Department also has an innovative language policy which is a great help to ensure that non-Welsh speaking children assimilate into the local community. Innovative projects were developed over the last few years, such as the Gwynedd Primary Schools' Welsh Language Charter, that promotes and encourages the children's use of the Welsh language in their everyday lives.

Coupled with the language, the culture is an integral part of life here - a rich combination of stories, legends, superstitions, sayings and characters. It also includes the names of houses, farms, fields and all the historic features and industrial remains etc. that can be found throughout the Peninsula. In addition,

historical influences, values, attitudes, beliefs and superstitions are also part of this culture.

Detailed information about different aspects of the culture can be found in books about local history, literature and poetry and also from the memory of local people.

Main Aim

| |
|---|
| MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND PROMOTE LLŶN'S UNIQUE CULTURE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE |
|---|

Special Characteristics

The Welsh Language

Up to the middle of the last century, nearly all of the population spoke Welsh as a first language and many were unable to speak any English at all. This is Llŷn's main language and it is used daily at home, at school, in the shops, workplaces and on the street. Also, the language is visible everywhere, on signs and posters. The local paper "Llanw Llŷn" continues to be published every month in Welsh.

Locations in Llŷn have Welsh names, but there are some examples of English names being created and used on some locations that are popular amongst visitors such as Porthor (Whistling Sands) and Porth Neigwl (Hell's Mouth).

Welsh names on historic sites and features hold their ground, as well as agricultural fields and a range of interesting names were highlighted in recent projects such as Prosiect Cynefin and researched work undertaken on behalf of the Llŷn AONB Service. These names mirror the past and reveal a lot about people and society.

Welsh is the language of local literature and most societies. One indication of the state of the Welsh language, which is not revealed by bold figures, are the numerous events and activities held solely in Welsh in Llŷn. This shows the language's strength in the area. There is no detailed information about events held in Welsh locally, but here are the main ones:

Local Authority meetings (with simultaneous translation is needed)

Community Council meetings

Meetings of school governors and parents

Welsh entertainment evenings
Cylch Llenyddol Llŷn
Merched y Wawr
Yr Urdd
Young Farmers' Clubs
Local history, literature and social clubs
Local eisteddfodau
Services and Sunday Schools in the Chapels and some Churches.

A decrease in Welsh speakers in the AONB's communities was seen in the 2011 census (71.8% compared to 72.3% in 2001). In the future, support must be provided to protect and strengthen it so that the language and culture will continue to be an integral part of our communities.

Culture**Religion** played an important part in Llŷn's culture over the centuries. From early Christianity, the age of the saints, the pilgrim's journeys to Enlli and the churches, to the later age of Protestantism, Puritanism, and Methodism and so on.

There was a strong religious upheaval in the nineteenth century, and there was a large increase in the congregation and chapels were built on a large scale. The Calvinistic Methodists or the "Hen Gorff" (the Old Body) developed the quickest and by mid-century they had as many chapels as the other nonconforming bodies, namely the Anglican Church, the Congregationalists, the Wesleyans and the Baptists combined. Very soon, there were chapels in every village, some in very rural areas and others in the main villages such as Nefyn, Aberdaron and Trefor; there were several chapels of numerous different denominations.

Religion has remained important in the area's cultural life to date, although there has been a significant decline in meeting and congregation numbers since the mid twentieth century.

A vast number of churches and chapels have closed down in Llŷn by now, and some have been converted into houses, flats, workshops or other uses. Nevertheless, they echo and record interesting and important periods in our culture and are also important features of our historic environment.

Art and Literature Llŷn has inspired many poets and notable artists over the centuries. Amongst obvious names are Cynan and J. Glyn Davies, T.Rowland Hughes and Meirion MacIntyre Huws.

In terms of prose, there are examples of many local authors with much of their work celebrating the history, culture and beauty of the area. There are also historic novels that mirror our society during specific periods over the centuries.

There are also many artists who continue to be inspired by the area's beauty and special qualities. Works are showcased at Oriel Plas Glyn y Weddw and Oriel Tonnau, Pwllheli. There is also an annual exhibition by a local group, Arlunwyr Sarn Artists. Their 2016 exhibition was based on Meirion MacIntyre Huws's famous poem, "Penrhyn Llŷn".

Eisteddfodau – Eisteddfodau are an important part of the culture throughout Wales and are a special and unique characteristic to the nation. In Llŷn, many chapels, churches and schools as well as Young Farmers' Clubs and Urdd hold an Eisteddfod.

There are many Eisteddfodau held in the AONB itself such as Eisteddfod Gadeiriol Aelhaearn held every November, and Eisteddfod Flynyddol Uwchmynydd MC held every Easter Monday.

Folklore – The area's folklore is full of superstition regarding fairies, ghosts, wizards and witches. Some features are named after these beliefs, such as Cae'r Bwgan (in Pwlldefaid, Aberdaron) and Y Goeden Bechod (near Ty'n y Coed, Nefyn). Also, several famous fables in Welsh culture derive from the Llŷn area; the most notable are the fables of Castellmarch, the story of Rhys and Meinir, based at Nant Gwrtheyrn. There is a connection also between this area and the tales of the Mabinogi such as Maen Dylan, Dinas Dinlle and Caer Arianrhod.

Llŷn also has characters like every other area and people are still aware of the most notable ones today. Dic Aberdaron is a historical character who apparently spoke up to fifteen languages. There are references to him in literature and poetry. Thomas Love Duncome Jones Parry, Madryn was a colourful character who has left his mark on Llŷn.

As is the case with many other areas, a connection is mentioned between King Arthur and Ynys Enlli and Llŷn. Chris Barber (1993) makes a strong claim in his book 'Journey to Avalon' that the Battle of Camlann was located in Porth Cadlan near Aberdaron, and that Enlli was Ynys Afallon.

Enlli itself has a very strong sacred tradition and background, and it is likely that the first monastery was established on the island between 516 and 542 AD. Cadfan was the first Abbot and his successor was Lleuddad, who had a great

influence on Enlli and parts of Llŷn. The Saints apparently buried there include Dyfrig, Deiniol, Trillo, Padarn, Mael and Maugant, and according to tradition, 20,000 saints have been buried there. Due to the special religious status of the island, it has developed into a famous pilgrimage centre.

Way of Life -Farming has been an industry and a way of life in Llŷn for centuries, providing sustenance for individuals, families, farm hands and noblemen. There are numerous practices, stories, sayings and characters associated with farming in the area. Also, farming has played an important part in terms of sustaining the people, communities and culture of Llŷn, including the Welsh language. Despite the major changes that have taken place during the past few years there are still many mixed family farms in the area and continuation from father to son is common. Recently, honour has been brought once more to the old traditions and events such as the Sarn and District Ploughing Match and Y Rhiw Sheepdog Trials.

The residents of Llŷn have been fishing and collecting crabs and lobsters for many years. Nefyn and Porthdinllaen developed into important herring ports in the eighteenth century and the herring can be seen on Nefyn's coat of arms today. There are some full time fishermen in Llŷn today – mainly fishing from Porth Meudwy, Porthdinllaen and Nefyn, and herring and crabs continue to be important local produce.

By today, most of Llŷn's ports are for pleasure activities and the bright and colourful history of the past is a distant memory. Many stories and poems are heard that shows the strong influence the sea has had on the area. Also, a lot of information and interesting exhibitions can be found at the Llŷn Maritime Museum in Nefyn.

Quarrying and mineral extraction – The various granite quarries and mines in Llŷn have also largely contributed to our culture and their remains are an obvious and integral part of the area's identity.

Following the demand for granite stones in the nineteenth century many quarries were developed on the igneous hills in Llŷn. There was work for the local people in the quarries, but quarrymen from other areas came here as well and some of these people set up homes in Llŷn and they became part of this society.

The manganese works commenced in Rhiw in 1827 and by 1840, 50 people worked there. A lot of work was carried out in Rhiw during the two world wars, and it is estimated that 196,770 tonnes had been produced between 1894 and

1945. Lead was mined in the Llanengan and Bwlchtocyn area, and the tall chimney which can be seen in the centre of the village is testament to the work in the past. Miners from other areas came to work in these works as well and they set up homes in Llŷn, and this explains some of the different surnames that can be seen on the census lists during the nineteenth century in this area.

Piers were developed in order to serve the stone and mineral industries, such as for exporting granite in Trefor, Porth y Nant and Carreg y Llam and in Porth Neigwl and Porth Ysgo for vessels which carried manganese from the Rhiw area. The remains of some of these structures can still be seen today.

Over the centuries, therefore, our language and interesting and rich culture have thrived hand in hand and largely contribute to the AONB's character and way of life in the communities today.

Key Issues

Young People Leaving the Area

One of the main key issues in terms of the effect on the language and culture in Llŷn is the tendency of young people to move away. This can be for various reasons such as the lack of work opportunities, studying and also it may also appeal to taste life in towns and cities. If young people wish to live and work in the area, it is vital that there are work opportunities and courses available. It is also important to raise awareness amongst young people about the advantages of living locally.

Migration into the Area

Many families from other areas decide to move to Llŷn. People retire here also – studies show these people have often holidayed here or own a summer residence. This not only has an effect on the language but also on the local culture and history. It should be ensured that initiatives are available to incomers to play a part in the community, be aware of the history and culture and their importance, as well as to learn Welsh.

Tourism

Although tourism is to be welcomed, past research has shown a link between migration into the area and the decline in Welsh speakers. Initiatives to limit the adverse effect of tourism on the language and culture would be beneficial

as well as raising awareness.

Modern Attractions

There are now much leisure and sport opportunities available meaning that not as many people attend chapel and church and that some of the old traditions become forgotten. More ventures are needed to strengthen the appeal of the area's indigenous history and culture, to residents and visitors. It would be beneficial to give more support to traditional events such as the Sheepdog Trials and the annual Ploughing Match.

Media

Films, various television programmes and the internet have a big influence on the interests of children, young people and adults. There is an opportunity here to develop initiatives to convey local history and culture in an appealing way and offer support to Welsh language events. There is also an opportunity to raise awareness by social media.

Total of Welsh Speakers, AONB Communities

| Community | 1981 | 1991 | 2001 | 2011 |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Aberdaron | 89.5 | 77.1 | 76.6 | 74.2 |
| Botwnnog | 85.5 | 81.5 | 78.3 | 75.9 |
| Buan | 82.1 | 75.1 | 74.1 | 74.3 |
| Clynnog | 80.3 | 72.6 | 69.3 | 73.2 |
| Llanaelhaearn | 90.9 | 83.4 | 81.1 | 73.8 |
| Llanbedrog | 73.2 | 53.5 | 55.6 | 54 |
| Llanengan | 71.5 | 63.0 | 59.8 | 63.4 |
| Nefyn | 84.5 | 77.8 | 78.6 | 76.1 |
| Pistyll | 85.7 | 78.0 | 74.9 | - |
| Tudweiliog | 86.4 | 84.9 | 75.0 | 73.9 |
| Morfa Nefyn | | | | 72 |

Policies

IP 1 SUPPORT RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE WELSH LANGUAGE

Many activities are held in the area ranging from Eisteddfodau, talks and lectures to sheepdog trails and so forth. They are all important events to maintain and promote the culture and language and are valuable in terms of the social wellbeing of local residents. Recently, examples of good practices were seen from communities with traditional events that had dwindled once again resuming, such as Gŵyl Ifan. Due to their importance in terms of maintaining the culture and history, the AONB Service and its partners will support such activities by various means and raise awareness.

IP 2 PROMOTE THE USE OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE WITHIN BUSINESSES AND ESTABLISHMENTS IN LLŶN.

Even though many businesses and local companies use the Welsh language, there is an opportunity to encourage others to give further attention and prioritise the language on signs, advertisements, and websites and among staff. Promoting and encouraging businesses and establishments in the area to use the language is crucial to its continuation as the area's main language and to maintain the area's character. Also, promoting the language amongst visitors will highlight our special culture and heritage.

IP 3 SUPPORT INITIATIVES THAT RECORD IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE LOCAL CULTURE AND RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE AREA'S SPECIAL CULTURE.

Our culture is not only recorded in books – artworks, photographs, films and memories are also important. The Llŷn AONB Service and other partners such as the Llŷn Maritime Museum, the National Trust and Oriol Plas Glyn y Weddw will support initiatives to record and share our unique culture with present and future generations.

IP 4 EMPHASISE ON CELEBRATING THE AREA'S CULTURE AND TRADITIONS THROUGH ART, LITERATURE AND POETRY.

As well as recording aspects of our history, culture and traditions it is also important to celebrate through art, literature and poetry. There is much currently in place – ranging from local Eisteddfodau to arts festivals,

exhibitions and competitions. The Llŷn AONB Service, Gwynedd Council and other partners are eager to see the prosperity of such activities and support them through various means including financial support if available.

IP 5. RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE WELSH LANGUAGE AND THE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AMONGST VISITORS AND INCOMERS.

Llŷn is one of the areas with the most Welsh speakers in Wales and the language is an integral part of the area's character. Therefore, as well as supporting activities amongst current speakers it is important to ensure opportunities to learn Welsh and learn about our culture to people who either visit or move here.

There are many opportunities through further education courses, course at Canolfan Iaith a Threftadaeth Nant Gwrtheyrn and local initiatives. It is aimed to raise awareness about those opportunities through means such as adverts, taster sessions, and articles in magazines, open days and so on.

The Historic Environment

Key facts

| |
|---|
| 55 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the AONB and numerous others in the vicinity |
| 249 Listed buildings, with many others nearby. |
| 7 Grade I buildings – the most important category |
| 11 Conservation Areas in or near the AONB |
| 1 Listed garden – Plas Glyn y Weddw |
| Part of the AONB is within the area included on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales. |

Introduction

The concept of the Historic Environment is wide ranging and includes all aspects of human influence from pre-historic times up to the present time. It therefore includes archaeological relics, remains of ancient settlements, historic buildings and structures, farms and field patterns, old quarries and works and also parks and gardens.

The effect of human habitation has made a significant impact upon the landscape of Llŷn and how the area looks today. Over the centuries various generations and groups of people have influenced the landscape to create a complex, but interesting historic environment which has a special character and sense of place.

In Llŷn there are significant numbers of Iron Age hillforts, Meini Hirion (“standing stones”), Cromlechs, Historic field boundaries, wells and ancient churches. Also the remains of granite quarries and ore mines are evident on the landscape while small villages, rural cottages and historic farm houses are features of the area. Together, all these elements create a .. which gives Penrhyn Llŷn an unique character.

Because there hasn't been much development in the area a large many historic remains have survived. Many cromlechs and standing stones can still be seen today in their original locations and features such as milestone are also common along the rural lanes. Although most of the land has been improved and farmed there are large areas of common land which consists of rare heathland and historic field patterns can still be seen today in some areas such as Rhiw and Uwchmynydd.

Historic buildings are an important and interesting part of the historic environment and they display the area's building traditions and the architectural style over periods of time. For example it is believed that some of the small cottages that are part of Llŷn's landscape were originally built at “tai unnos”. These were small simple dwellings built overnight on common land with materials that were close at hand – stones, soil, and clods. On the other hand the gentry's homes were built with dressed stone and slate – these were notable farms and small manor houses. Historic gardens are associated with some of these homes – such as Plas yn Rhiw and Cefnamwlch.

The most important historical buildings are listed by Cadw and classified as Grade I, II* or III. Grade I buildings are the most special and valuable, Grade II* are special whilst Grade II are also valuable but more common. In 2003, Gwynedd Council, in partnership with Cadw, decided to commission a detailed review of all the listed buildings in the county (with the exception of the National Park area). As part of the study every listed building in the Gwynedd Council area was

visited. Photographs were taken, the condition of the buildings assessed and their current use recorded. Buildings were scored according to their condition, and assessed with regard to matters such as the condition of their walls, roofs, doors, water carrying apparatus etc.

A Survey by the Handley Company in 2007 provided detailed, thorough and recent information regarding listed buildings and structures, namely the most important historical buildings in the area. The information is summarised in the form of a table (See Appendix) which shows the number, grade and condition according to the results of a Review undertaken on behalf of Gwynedd Council.

Many historic buildings are still in use today – such as farmhouses, farm buildings, churches and chapels but some are not used and are deteriorating. It is important to retain and sustain historic buildings – including their individual character and also the character of groups of buildings such as village centres.

Archaeological and historical remains are important because they are evidence and a record of the way that past generations lived and worked. The remains are a means of linking the past with the present and of showing how our forebears lived. Historic remains can be a strong and living resource for children, local residents and visitors to the area. Presented in an effective manner, these resources and information about them can create and kindle interest.

Historic remains are an important resource and a feature which offers an opportunity to raise awareness and attract more people to the district to view and enjoy them. Also by becoming aware of the substantial historical features in the area visitors will gain an opportunity to appreciate more fully the background and the history of the area and its population. In turn, this will ensure appreciation and respect for the area, its resources and the local community.

The Llŷn and Bardsey Island area is one of 36 Landscapes of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales according to the Register prepared by Cadw, CCW and ICAMOS (International Council on Ancient Monuments and Sites). The Llŷn area was included on this list because the area contains a large number of smaller remains over long periods of time which show continuity and development over the ages. The whole of the Llŷn area (to the west of the A499 road from Pwllheli to Trefor) has been included on the Register, an area of around 28,000 hectares. With reference to the Llŷn area the register states “here is great and unparalleled wealth and variety, mostly archaeological and historical features on a smaller scale, which together form a co-coordinated and integrated whole, showing the territorial continuity and unity of the Llŷn area from maybe the pre-historical period.”

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has undertaken work involving an assessment of the historical character of different areas within Gwynedd (areas included on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historical Interest). The purpose of the work was to identify the most important features and the specific historical character of the different areas and to utilise the information in the management of future work. The study analyses and summarises the historic character of Llŷn effectively under various themes and a total of 22 sub-areas of different character have been defined on the basis of history, landscape features and key processes. Detailed information is available on the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust website (www.heneb.co.uk).

Cadw is responsible for safeguarding the most important historic resources in Wales. The most important archaeological remains have been designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's) and thus receive special protection from any harm. Cadw is also responsible for recording the information and for assessing the condition of the SAM's. Also Cadw is responsible for listing the

most important buildings and structures on the basis of their special historical or architectural character (Grade I II* or II). The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) is responsible for researching and record archaeology, buildings, landscapes and maritime remains from prehistory to the present.

Policy guidance on the historic environment in Wales is provided by the Welsh Government in Planning Policy Wales (Chapter 6) and in the Technical Advice Notes which is being prepared during 2016. Gwynedd Council is also responsible for preparing a Development Plan which includes planning policies relating to safeguarding and sustaining different aspect of the historic environment.

Gwynedd Council does not have an archaeological service by now but an important service is provided by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. The Trust is responsible for the Historic Environment Register and for information and guidance on planning and conservation issues.

As regards buildings and structures Gwynedd Council employs a Building Conservation Officer and specialised information is available by establishments such as Cadw and the Georgian Society. Gwynedd Council can also protect individual buildings and structures through the planning system and enforcement and also can designate important built areas as Conservation Areas.

As well as protecting individual buildings, local councils can designate important historical areas as Conservation Areas. According to the Town and Country Act (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) 1990, if an area is “of special architectural or historical value” then it is desirable to “maintain or improve its character and appearance”. The special quality of the area can derive from a combination of a number of factors such as buildings grouped together, different patterns of streets, open spaces, building features and landscape features.

The National Trust is an important landowner in the area (including some important historic sites and buildings such as Plas yn Rhiw and Phorthdinllaen). The National Trust has a good record of caring for it’s property and employs conservation officers and architects.

Cymdeithas Hanes ac Archaeoleg Llŷn (Llŷn Archaeology and History Society) was designated some years back but unfortunately the Society has not been operative recently and there is no other local historical environment conservation society. However, Cyfeillion Llŷn, was established to sustain the area’s language and culture and there may be an opportunity to extend to the field of conserving the historical environment.

The Main Aim of the Management Plan as regards the historic environment can be seen below:

Main Aim

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|--|
| <p>SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF THE RANGE OF DIFFERENT FEATURES WHICH FORM PART OF LLŷN’S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE NEED TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF HABITATS AND SPECIES ON INTERNATIONALLY DESIGNATED SITES.</p> |
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Special Features

Early historic remains

Considering the length of time that has passed it is surprising that any evidence of the existence of the early generations in our area has survived. In the Llŷn area, however, several archaeological remains have survived and a number of antiquities have also been found and preserved – a number of Llŷn antiquities are being kept in the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff. Here is some information regarding the early periods and the remains found in the Llŷn area:

The Mesolithic Age (c.10,000 – 4,500 B.C) – this is the earliest historical period represented by human remains in this area. Chiselled stone and flint remains have been found in the area, and also tools such as knives and scrapers.

The Neolithic Age (c. 4,500 – 2,500 B.C) – The earliest remains on the Llŷn landscape include burial chambers (such as Tan y Muriau in Rhiw and Bachwen near Clynnog) and monoliths. Also of considerable importance are the remains of an axe factory dating from this era, on Rhiw mountain.

Bronze Age (c. 1800 – 600 CC) – The cairns on the summits of Carnguwch, Yr Eifl and Rhiw mountains and within the fort at Tre'r Ceiri are the most obvious remains from this period.

Iron Age – there is strong evidence from this period to be seen throughout the area, especially obvious in the magnificent hill-forts at Tre'r Ceiri, on Garn Boduan, Garn Fadrun and Castell Odo on Mynydd yr Ystum. There are also smaller hill-forts such as Pen y Gaer, Llanaelhaearn. These were defensive sites and included round huts ('cytiau Gwyddelod') located within them. There are other sites, which include evidence of a more recent pattern of fields. These sites include Mynydd Anelog, Carnguwch and a site above Clynnog. Detailed information regarding the remains and the discoveries from this era can be found in the Caernarvonshire Atlas by Gwynedd Rural Council, 1977.

There are no remains from the **Roman** period in Llŷn which suggested they did not reach the area but there are relics from the early **Christian** period. Christianity spread through the Llŷn area from the fifth century onwards, and there is evidence of Irish and Cornish influence. A number of stones containing Latin inscriptions from the Early Christian period have been discovered, but some also contain inscriptions which are similar to early Welsh. Most likely, these were stones to commemorate heroes. The most significant examples in the Llŷn are those bearing the names of priests (most likely) namely VERACIVS and SENACVS, discovered near Anelog Chapel in Uwchmynydd (now the St. Hywyn Church in Aberdaron) and the stone discovered in – "MELI MEDICI" – referring to Melus the Physician.

Following the spread of Christianity a number of schools were established for monks, small churches (llan) and hermit cells – some of these developed to become well-known church sites such as Clynnog Fawr and Aberdaron. A number of these early sites were named after Celtic Saints such as Beuno (Clynnog, Pistyll and Carnguwch), Hywyn (Aberdaron), Aelhaearn (Llanaelhaearn) and Cwyfan (Edern and Tudweiliog). A number of churches were founded along the coast in places such as Pistyll and Llanengan, as resting places for the pilgrims who started making pilgrimages to Bardsey Island from the sixth century onwards. The fifteenth century saw a period of improvements to churches and new churches being established and this was repeated again in the nineteenth century.

There are a number of ancient wells around the Llŷn Peninsula, some dating back to the pre-Christian period and proof of the location of sites sacred to our pagan forefathers. Later a number of these wells became important Christian destinations, and the belief was that some of them possessed special healing powers, among them Ffynnon Aelrhiw, Ffynnon Aelhaearn and Ffynnon Fyw. Many of these wells have sacred connections e.g. Ffynnon Saint in Aberdaron and most importantly Ffynnon Fair in Uwchmynydd where the pilgrims used to drink before embarking on the crossing to Bardsey Island.

The Medieval Period (5th – 15th Century)

Traditional field boundaries are all important historic features showing the farming pattern in the past and many date back to this period. They are part of the historic environment which contributes so much to the appearance of the landscape and they are also part of the heritage and culture of the area. Although some of the boundaries have – over a period of time – disappeared as a result of fields being joined and improvements introduced, on the whole the historical field patterns in Llŷn have survived remarkably well. This is especially true of the western part of the Peninsula and from the top of Uwchmynydd the boundaries and the pattern formed is clearly visible.

The traditional method of erecting boundaries in the Llŷn area is dry stone walling, soil and stone banks (cloddiau) and hedges. The most common of these on the is the cloddiau stone and soil banks and these have a special character as the stones as a rule pointed upwards. Some have been planted with hedges whilst others remain bare. They are a very effective method of forming a boundary and of offering shelter for stock, but they are also important from an ecological aspect because they form habitats for a variety of animals, plants, insects and birds.

The dry stone walls are very common in the parts of the AONB where stones were plentiful, namely on the slopes of the igneous projections commonly encountered within the area: Bwlch Mawr, Gyrn Ddu, Yr Eifl, Mynydd Carnguwch, Mynydd Nefyn, Garn Fadrun and Mynydd Rhiw. These are strong walls, up to 5 – 6 feet in height and up to 3-4 feet in width in places (in the Rhiw area, there are some exceptionally wide walls). Some of the stone walls were demolished over a period of time, mostly on the lower slopes of the hills where attempts had been made to improve the land and extend the size of the fields.

Another method of land enclosure is hedging but this is not very common in Llŷn. Hedges are important for visual and historical reasons and also as habitats.

From looking at historical maps it becomes obvious that many of the field boundaries were demolished to form larger fields during the latter half of the last century. There was no information available regarding the number of stone walls, soil banks or hedges in the Llŷn AONB when reviewing the Management Plan but in general there has been a deterioration in the condition of stone walls and soil banks and some stretches have been completely lost. On the other hand, improvements are being carried out in some places, thanks to agri-environmental schemes which offer grants for the restoration of walls, banks and hedges e.g. Special Environment Area, Tir Cynnal, Tir Gofal and the Gwynedd Nature Action Project.

Some useful information regarding these features was received from the Llŷn Peninsula Review of Soil Banks by Gwynedd Council in 2007. The review concentrated on the western end of the Llŷn Peninsula (roughly from Cwmistir headland down to the western corner of Porth Neigwl). The study used a combination of different techniques for assessing the condition of boundaries,

including a review of maps, aerial photographs and field visits. Because the task was mainly based on desk work the study points out that there was an element of uncertainty because of the difficulty of distinguishing between boundaries etc. The Review shows a high density of banks within the area in question - approximately 60% of the boundaries were soil banks, 29% were hedges and 6% dry stone walls and it seems that one or two boundaries had become completely dilapidated. It was impossible to define around 4% of the boundaries.

The Review also looked briefly at the number of fields in the area and compared the situation in some places with things as they were back in 1953. The work showed that the number of fields in some areas had been reduced substantially in fifty years – which also shows that many boundaries have been lost. See the Study for more detailed information.

The Post-Medieval Period (1500-1800)

Churches and chaples - following the development of nonconformity in Llŷn from the middle of the seventeenth century onwards, chapels were built for the various denominations. The first Congregational chapel namely Capel Newydd in Nanhoron was built in 1769. This remarkable chapel is still standing today and listed as a Grade 1 building as probably the first Congregational chapel in north Wales. The first Methodist chapels in the area were built in Bryncroes (1752) and in Uwchmynydd (1774). Various other denominations, such as the Baptists, also built chapels in the area towards the end of this period, some of these are still standing to this day.

Homes of the Gentry - The "Uchelwyr" (gentry) were an important element of Welsh society between 1300 and 1700. These were from old families with a long lineage and links to the "tywysogion" (princes). They were wealthy individuals who owned land and property and employed servants and sponsored poets. Many were given roles as JPs or Sheriffs while others became deacons or archdeacons.

Many of the gentry built substantial houses or small mansion houses and many are still standing today - places such as Castellmach, Bodfel, Bodwrdda, Rhydolion, Carreg an Trygan. On the other hand many have also been lost - for example Madryn, Penrhos and Saethon

Cottages and houses – many basic cottages were built during this period - the main building materials would be stone and soil. They were simple houses of one room, a crogluft and a straw roof. They were the homes of the ordinary people – the cottagers and were built very simply and swiftly. Many cottages from this period have been demolished or altered substantially but there are some well kept examples and some have been listed by Cadw. Some larger, two story houses from this period can also still be seen - they were small farmhouses or homes of the more wealthy individuals.

Small harbours - many small harbours were developed along the Llŷn coast during the seventeenth and eighteenth century. Agricultural produce was exported and many items such as foods and materials were imported. Some remains of this early trading heritage still remains.

The Industrial/ Modern era (1800-)

Quarrying - Many granite quarries were developed in the area during the nineteenth century. The main ones were Gyrn Ddu, Yr Eifl (Trefor), Porth y Nant, Cae'r Nant, Carreg y Llam, Gwylwyr (Nefyn) and Tir y Cwmwd (Llanbedrog). These quarries have made a substantial contribution to the unique character of northern Llŷn. Even today, we have not only the remains of the quarries

themselves and the accompanying buildings and equipment but also remains of the inclines, stages and docks for exporting the produce. Villages were developed close to some of the quarries – villages such as Trefor, Llithfaen and Nant Gwrtheyrn.

The granite quarries provided stones for constructing of many buildings in Llŷn during this period and most of the traditional and listed buildings in the area were built of local granite stone. Much of the granite was also chiselled into sets and exported to the industrial cities of north west England, mostly to Liverpool and Manchester. Although a number of books refer to the granite quarries and the websites Penllyn.com and Rhiw.com contain some information, no interpretation work has been completed and no exhibition held to display the history of the industry.

Mining – There is evidence of some mining on certain sites on the Llŷn Peninsula from the end of the Tudor period, with increasing activity from around 1760. When the mining industry was at its peak, lead, copper and zinc were mined in the area, giving employment to around 200 workers. Up to the end of the nineteenth century there was substantial lead mining in the Bwlchtocyn area and there are still many remains to be seen there today – for example, the old mine funnel and the underground tunnels.

Manganese mining started in Rhiw in 1827 and by 1840 it employed 50 workers. The mine at Rhiw was busy during the two world wars and it is estimated that 196,770 tons were produced there between 1894 and 1945. There was also a Manganese (Mango) mine in Porth Ysgo, and remains of the equipment for transporting the material to the sea shore can still be seen today. There is no longer any mining carried out in the Llŷn.

Agriculture - because Llŷn has a strong agricultural tradition it is only natural that there are a large number of farmhouses, as well as agricultural buildings, which are of historical importance. Some of the farmhouses are small whilst others are substantial, boasting connections with eminent Llŷn gentry such as the masters of Bodwrdda, Carreg, Meillionnydd, Castellmarch, Bodnithoedd and Elernion. Many farmhouses and farm buildings were developed by the Estates of Glynllifon, Nanhoron and the Faenol and they were designed to a specific pattern, for example with outbuildings surrounding the farmyard. Also the remains of two windmills are still standing today near Bryn Felin, Llanengan and on Foel Fawr, Mynytho – these have been listed by Cadw (Grade II).

Common land enclosure - Early in this period (1800 – 1850) significant parts of common land were enclosed in various parishes – such as Rhoshirwaun, Aberdaron, Llanbedrog, Llaniestyn and Pistyll. The new lands, which were claimed by landlords such as Ashheton-Smith and Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, resulted in the building of substantial stone walls in straight lines some of which can still be seen on the landscape today. There was significant opposition to these enclosures in some areas.

Harbours and shipbuilding - Coal was also imported through various small ports along the Llŷn coast and coal yards, or what remains of them, can still be seen in a number of places such as Porth Ysgaden, Porthor and Aberdaron. Lime kilns were developed close to some of these ports and the remains are still to be seen in a number of places such as Abersoch and Porth Ysgaden.

In order to service the maritime industry, landing stages were developed thus enabling the export of granite stone from Trefor, Porth y Nant and Carreg y Llam and in Porth Neigwl and Porth Ysgo for ships carrying manganese from the Rhiw area. The remains of some of these wooden structures can still be seen on the beaches.

Religious buildings - Some nonconformist chapel had been built in the Eighteenth Century as noted but the rate of building and re-building/ extending increased rapidly from 1800 onwards and many of these buildings can still be seen today. However by the mid twentieth century changes began to take place and congregations dwindled and from the 1980s onwards chapels and churches were seen to close and this tendency has continued. By now, many of the churches and chapels are closed, a number have been demolished and an increasing number adapted for other uses.

Transport structures – there was more journeys along the area’s roads from the nineteenth century onwards and road building and improvement took place which included erecting bridges (e.g. Aberdaron bridge, Edern bridge) and putting in milestones seen across the Llŷn area. These structures make a significant contribution to local distinctiveness of the area’s rural and historical environment. Unfortunately some of these structures can be damaged eg by wide loads and mechanical hedge-cutting machinery.

Villages, Estates and homes - Historical and traditional villages formed by a group of historical buildings are also an important part of the built inheritance of the Llŷn area. It can be said that villages and towns within the AONB fall into three categories: coastal villages, rural villages and quarrying villages – such as Trefor, Nant Gwrtheyrn and Pistyll.

Because of the outlying location of the Llŷn area, change and development have been slow and this has been helpful in maintaining the character of the traditional villages. Some changes have taken place in every village but it is the popular coastal villages such as Abersoch and Morfa Nefyn which have seen substantial change at the expense of the inherent character.

The “Conservation Area” designation has been established under the planning system to protect parts of the built heritage. Under the relevant act (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Planning Act 1990) Local Authorities are responsible for considering whether parts of a village or a group of buildings within their area merit designation as a Conservation Area. A conservation area is defined as : “*an area of special architectural or historical value whose character and appearance it would be desirable to preserve*”. The area in question has to be of special quality to qualify and a number of issues such as buildings, street pattern, green spaces and trees can contribute to this.

The Local Authority has designated a total of 11 Conservation Areas within, or near to the AONB at Aberdaron, Clynnog, Llanaelhaearn, Llanbedrog, Llanengan, Llangian, Llaniestyn, Nefyn, Porthdinllaen, Trefor, ac Ynys Enlli. The “Building Design Partnership” Company (BDP) made a series of recommendations as regards Conservation Areas in a report published in 2003 and the AONB Service commissioned further work on assessing Conservation Area in 2015.

Many homes were built during this period and many of them are typical of the nineteenth and early twentieth century – two storey, double fronted and slate roof. Later on in the twentieth century more varied design came through and bungalows became popular towards the end of the century.

Numerous large manor houses were also built for the Gentry or for farmers during this period – the most notable within or close to the AONB boundary are Plas yn Rhiw, Plas Glyn y Weddw, Plas

Nanhoron, Plas Cefnamwlch, Plas Boduan and Plas yr Eifl.

Key Issues

There are numerous key issues as regards the Historic Environment here in Llŷn as there are opportunities for the Management Plan to raise awareness and identify some actions to address these issues – if practical to do so. Identifying these key issues was done by assessment of what is happening out in the environment and consulting with individuals and various bodies and societies as part of the Plan preparation and review process.

Erosion by human actions

The cairns and round houses on the top of many of Llŷn's hills and mountains, such as Y Eifl, Garn Fadrun, Garn Boduan a Garn Fawr have survived in surprisingly original condition considering they are centuries old. However there is a slow deterioration over time by natural processes and also by people surveying or visiting the sites and sometimes disturbing stonework or not following the proper paths. Care needs to be taken when raising awareness of historic sites and encouraging people to visit in case of increasing this sort of pressure.

Accidental damage

Sometimes archaeological or historical remains can be damaged accidentally due to lack of knowledge regarding their presence. This can happen during building, digging or maintenance work – e.g milestones being damaged by hedge trimming machinery.

Things have improved of late in this respect as people become more aware of historic remains and monuments – for example farmers get information through agri-environment schemes. There is a place to continue with awareness raising such as talks, information leaflets (as produced by GAT) and discussing with landowners and land managers.

Relics removed from the area

In the past some important artefacts found in the area have been removed to be stored and displayed in museums. While understanding that important relics need to be safeguarded and be available to be seen nationally there is a case for displaying some of these relics locally because they are part of the area's heritage. Some of these could be displayed in the Maritime Museum, however there is no other museum in the Llŷn area.

Examples of such relics that have been taken from the area would include a Bronze Age brooch, Bronze Age and Iron age pottery and tools (National Museum Wales) and a crown belonging to the king of Bardsey Island (Liverpool Maritime Museum).

Coastal Erosion

Significant erosion is taking place on some sections of the AONB and this is a big threat to some sites which form a part of the historic environment. It is the soft sedimentary cliffs which erode badly and agricultural land and field boundaries have been lost in areas along the north and south coast such as the Porth Neigwl area.

Two important historic sites which have been affected by coastal erosion are the remains of an Iron Age fort on Porthdinllaen headland and parts of a Second World War training base at Porth Neigwl. A recent project by Gwynedd Archaeology Trust (Saving Archaeology) has identified sites under threat and has carried out survey and research work before more remains are lost e.g. at Porthdinllaen. It is important to continue with this type of work before elements of the historic environments are lost forever.

Climate change

It has been shown that there is gradual change in world climate and some tendencies have been identified locally which affect the historic environment, these include: warmer winters with long spells of rain, periods of heavy rain, more unsettled summer weather. These trends can be harmful by creating flooding which can affect historic sites and buildings and dampness which is also bad for older buildings and structures.

Agricultural developments

In the past developments associated with agriculture have had a significant impact upon the historic environment. During the push for increased productivity in the 1960s – 80s a lot of drainage work, land improvement and removal of field boundaries was carried out. By today however there is more emphasis on retaining and re-introducing historic features through ag-environment schemes.

New buildings and structures

New buildings and structures, including road improvement schemes, can affect archaeological and historic remains and the character of the historic landscape generally. It is therefore important to avoid development where important historic remains are present and to undertake survey work if insufficient information is available. GAT can provide guidance on this matter through the planning process.

Also new development near Listed Buildings or within Conservation Areas can be an issue. Not all new development blends in and are in-keeping with the site and surroundings. Design guides can be effective in this respect.

Adaptation of historic and traditional buildings

It is important that historic buildings are being used and not lie vacant - this will ensure that they're retained and maintained for the future. However it must be conceded that some changes will need to be made for their new use and to make them more suitable for modern use.

During recent years many planning applications have been received for converting historic buildings into homes - buildings such as chapels, churches, former schools and old farm buildings. Some conversions manage to retain the original character well while some are not as successful. The main problems with such schemes are unsuitable extensions and inappropriate materials.

To ensure that historic buildings are re-used successfully planning policies need to be effectively applied and good practice on materials and design adopted.

Care and repair

There has been a deterioration in the condition of some historical features within the area due to not being properly looked after and maintained. This can be because of financial constraints or due to the buildings or structures not being used e.g chapels, churches, old wells and traditional farm buildings.

Also at times sub-standard work or inappropriate work is carried out on old buildings and structures such as cement instead of lime mortar and fitting unsuitable doors and windows. There are opportunities in this respect to raise awareness, improve skills and encouraging owners to maintain the character of historic buildings and structures. In this respect grants are available from some sources e.g Glastir and Cadw but there is some work involved and conditions may be attached.

Lack of maintenance can also be an issue on publicly owned land such as road verges, parks, and other open space. Also publicly owned streets and pavements can be degraded by poor surfaces, road sign clutter and untidy bus shelters. The report commissioned by the AONB Service on the Evaluation and Improvement of Conservation Areas highlighted many such examples in the area's villages.

Minor alterations degrading Conservation Areas

The above mentioned Report also hi-lighted a range of minor development which have slowly degraded the character and appearance of the area's Conservation Areas. The type of matters which are referred to in the report include incorrect rendering, doors and windows of unsuitable design or material, satellite dishes on facades, solar panels and unsuitable boundary walls.

The Report recommends a series of actions to remedy the situation including specific works on some buildings and sites and preparing a Good Practice Guide book - with the help and co-operation of owners and tenants.

Grants and projects

On a positive note there have been numerous conservation projects in recent years by local bodies which have had a positive effect on the AONB's historical environment. Below is a list of some examples:

Holy wells - research and conservation work - AONB Service

Village signs and fingerposts - AONB Service

Meillionnydd Iron age fort surveying and research- Bangor University

Iron age hillfort interpretation panels - Llyn Landscape Partnership

Porthdinllaen iron age fort - surveying and interpretation - Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Llyn Maritime Museum - restoration and refurbishment work

Religious buildings - a number have received grants from the Llŷn Sustainable Development Fund – Llandegwning Church, Salem Chapel, Sarn, Tŷ Mawr Chapel, Bryncroes, Llanaelhaearn Church

Grant are available through Cadw, The Heritage Lottery, The Sustainable Development Fund and farm stewardships schemes such as Glastir towards work o repair, restore and maintain elements of the historic environment.

Policies

- HP 1.** PRIORITISE IDENTIFICATION, RECORDING AND MONITORING THE CONDITION OF THE AREA'S WEALTH OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES.

It is important to be aware of the wide range of historic resources that are in Llŷn and to undertake research to underpin our knowledge of the past. There will therefore be an emphasis on defining elements of the and recording the information through research and projects such as photographic records, databases and record keeping. This is especially true as regards any resources that are under threat from degradation or erosion. It is also important to survey the condition of archaeological remains, landscape features and structures. This will safeguard information for the future and identify features which are deteriorating or under pressure.

- HP 2.** PLACE EMPHASIS ON MAINTAINING AND RESTORING KEY HISTORICAL FEATURES INCLUDING ARCHEOLOGICAL REMAINS, HISTORICAL REMAINS AND HISTORICAL STRUCTURES AND BUILDINGS.

As well as recording condition emphasis will be placed on maintaining and restoring elements of the historic environment. Databases, research and assessments will provide details of opportunities and resources available. The aim is to work in partnership on projects and support other projects that help realise this policy. Owners will need to be made aware of the support available in the form of advice and grants.

- HP 3.** AIM TO ENSURE THAT NEW DEVELOPMENTS OR ALTERATIONS RESPECT AND REINFORCE THE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND PROMOTE GOOD PRACTICE IN TERMS OF MAINTENANCE, THE USE OF SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN.

This policy is related to historic buildings and structures in the area. The aim in this respect is to ensure that new development and alterations maintain and respect the historical character of these buildings. National and local planning policies will be of key importance in this respect. Also, there will be an emphasis on ensuring that historic buildings and structures are properly maintained by using the correct procedures and techniques. To realise this there is a need to work with others to raise awareness and promote good practice.

- HP 4.** RESIST DEVELOPMENTS THAT WOULD DEGRADE THE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE OF CONSERVATION AREAS AND SUPPORT INITIATIVES TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS.

As noted earlier a host of small developments have had an impact on the character of the area's Conservation Areas. The purpose of this policy is to resist these types of developments and promote actions and projects which will help in restoring and maintaining these areas. A report commissioned by the AONB Service in 2015 has provided information on positive actions that are needed and has recommended working with others to prepare good practice guidelines among other things.

- HP 5.** RAISE AWARENESS AND PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF THE AREA'S HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT AMONG FARMERS, PROPERTY OWNERS, LOCAL PEOPLE AND TOURISTS.

Raising awareness will increase interest and create a better understanding of different

elements of the historic environment. This is important for local communities and the tourist industry, but care must be taken to avoid too much pressure on resources.

Efforts to raise awareness generally will be supported but there will also need to be an emphasis on connecting more with people which can have a direct effect on resources – such as farmers, land and property owners and tenants.

HP 6. PROMOTE BETTER ACCESS, AND THE ENJOYMENT OF KEY LOCAL HISTORICAL RESOURCES.

Policy HP5 aims to raise awareness of the historical environment and associated features. This policy goes hand in hand with that in promoting better access to actual sites and buildings on the ground for local people and visitors to the area. Some projects to date by the AONB Service and other partners such as the Llŷn Landscape Partnership have been successful in this respect. There might also be an opportunity in this respect to explore the possibility of returning some historical relics to the area and putting them on display locally.