



# Complete Agenda

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LL55 1SH

Meeting

**LLŶN A.O.N.B JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Date and Time

**4.30 pm, WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2017**

Location

**Plas Heli, Pwllheli, LL53 5YQ**

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED: 29/08/17)

# LLŶN A.O.N.B JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MEMBERSHIP

### Gwynedd Councillors

Anwen Davies  
Simon Glyn  
John Brynmor Hughes  
Aled Wyn Jones  
Gareth 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,  
Llŷn Fishermen's Association.

# **A G E N D A**

**1. CHAIR**

To elect a chair for 2017/18.

**2. VICE-CHAIR**

To elect a vice-chair for 2017/18.

**3. APOLOGIES**

To receive apologies for absence.

**4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

**5. URGENT ITEMS**

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

**6. MINUTES**

4 - 9

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of this committee, held on 5 April 2017, be signed as a true record.

**7. AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN**

10 - 170

To consider the report of the Llyn AONB Service Manager.

**8. PLANNING APPLICATION - THE SHANTY, ABERSOCH**

171 - 172

To consider the report of the Llyn AONB Service Manager.

**9. ELECT NEW MEMBERS TO THE GRANTS PANEL**

173

To consider the report of the Llyn AONB Projects Officer.

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## LLŶN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 5/4/17

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**Present:**

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

**Members:** Councillors Gareth Roberts, Gruffydd Williams and R. H. Wyn Williams (Gwynedd Council), Ashley Batten (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust), John Gosling (Abersoch and Llŷn Tourism Partneriaeth), William I. Hughes (Farmers Union of Wales), Morgan Jones-Parry (Arfon and Dwyfor Access Forum), Sian Parri (Tudweiliog Community Council) and John Eric Williams (Cyfeillion Llŷn).

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

**Apologies:** Noel Davey (Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales), Arfon Hughes (Nefyn Town Council), Laura Hughes (National Trust) and Alun Price (Natural Resources Wales).

### 1. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Councillor R. H. Wyn Williams, who was attending his last meeting on behalf of Gwynedd Council, for his valuable contribution to the Joint Committee and the area of Llŷn.

### 2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

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

### 3. URGENT ITEMS

The Llŷn AONB Service Manager referred to the matters below:

#### Landscapes of the Future of Wales

It was noted that conservation bodies had recently expressed concerns in the press as to the content of the draft report of the review. It was emphasised that there was general consensus among the partners involved in the review regarding the content of the draft. In terms of the timetable, it was reported that an amended report would be circulated among partners before an event is held to present the final report of the review during the Summer. It was explained that the report noted proposals to encourage collaboration, financial savings, attracting funding (but did not note that more funds would be available from Welsh Government) and supported the continuation of the Sustainable Development Fund.

A member noted that early discussions about the review had referred to the Welsh Government contributing financially toward the AONB and that officers would elevate the protection element of the designation.

A member noted that the Council had received a higher than average grant increase by Welsh Government for 2017-18 and that officers from Gwynedd had been at the forefront of providing the evidence to justify changing the distribution formula to reflect the true cost of care in the countryside. The member added that consideration should be given to

replicating this work in relation to the AONB. The Llŷn AONB Service Manager asked the member to confirm the name of the officer with whom he could contact in relation to this.

#### Nova Innovation Application

Reference was made to an application by Nova Innovation on behalf of Ynni Llŷn to the Crown Estate for the right to develop a possible tidal energy plan near Bardsey Island. It was noted that the Tudweiliog Community Council Representative had come across a consultation leaflet that did not refer to the Joint Committee. The representative further mentioned that the form referred to the AONB but that there was no reference to consultation with the Joint Committee. She suggested that Ynni Llŷn should be contacted and a request be made for more information about the project and to inform the Crown Estates that the Joint Committee should be consulted with regarding the plan.

A member noted that he had been given to understand that this was only an initial consultation involving the possibility of setting up such a scheme.

The Tudweiliog Community Council Representative noted that the document stated that the next step would be to apply to the Crown Estates for a licence. This would, therefore, be the time to submit the Joint Committee's input to the consultation.

**RESOLVED to contact Ynni Llŷn to request more information about the project and to inform the Crown Estates that the Joint Committee should be consulted regarding the plan.**

#### Llanaelhaearn Community Council Letter

It was reported that the Chairman was in receipt of a letter by Llanaelhaearn Community Council requesting the support of the Joint Committee in their request to Gwynedd Council for street lighting at the Trefor junction on the grounds of road safety. It was noted that the AONB Management Plan stated that an attempt should be made to restrict the number of road signs and street lights to maintain tranquillity and was, thus, a difficult situation. It was noted that discussions had been held between the Head of the Regulatory Department, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulation, Local Members and Gwynedd Council. It was reported that the Head of the Regulatory Department was of the opinion that the junction was safe and that Gwynedd Council would not make any changes.

During the ensuing discussion, the following main points were noted:

- That there were a number of similar junctions within the AONB, it would not be possible to support every application.
- Concern about light pollution at night and the impact on biodiversity.
- In this case, a compromise should be reached with regard to darkness to satisfy people's needs because of the safety concerns.
- There had not been any fatal accidents since the new road.
- Local people should be supported.
- Not comfortable lobbying on the matter but support could be noted.
- A response to the letter should be drawn up noting that the Joint Committee accepted local concern, asking that the Council review the situation and if the Council were to decide that street lighting was required for safety reasons, the Joint Committee would not object.

**RESOLVED that the Llŷn AONB Service Manager respond to the letter on behalf of the Joint Committee based on the above observations.**

#### 4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 22 November, 2016, as a true record, subject to the following corrections:

- Change the sentence 'It was noted that the Joint Committee meetings would most likely be held in Pwllheli after the closure of the building.' in the second paragraph on page five to read 'It was noted that when the building closes, it is most likely that meetings of the Joint Committee will be held in Pwllheli.'
- Change part of the second paragraph on page seven to read '...He drew attention to the fact that there were more current studies in relation to wind turbines and solar farms, noting that the sites for wind turbine clusters which had been proposed on technical grounds by ARUP Associates in 2012 had been ruled out by later studies which considered landscape sensitivity. The draft JLDP also designates the area around Rhoslan as the only priority search area in Dwyfor for large solar farms due to landscape issues as well as the capacity of the national grid.'

#### 5. LATEST PROJECTS BY THE LLŶN AONB UNIT

The Llŷn AONB Projects Officer submitted her report on the work of the AONB Service. The following projects were expanded upon:

- Getting rid of Untidy Road Signs;
- Llŷn Circular Cycle Routes;
- Interpreting Tre'r Ceiri;
- Ffynnon Aelrhiw Project.

A member noted that he was aware that the poet Joseph Sherman had composed poetry associated with Tre'r Ceiri and that he would send them on to the AONB Service.

The Llŷn AONB Service Manager referred to the presentation received at the previous meeting in relation to the Rhodd Eryri plan, which is a pilot scheme in which visitors contributed to local conservation work. He noted that he had attended an event held in Llanberis to celebrate the success of the first year of the plan. He noted that 45 businesses were now members of the plan and that a collection of £3,500 had been made with the aim of collecting £10,000 by September.

In response to members' observation in relation to a similar project in the AONB, the Llŷn Service Manager noted that more information would be presented in terms of setting up such a project for the AONB at upcoming meetings.

**RESOLVED to accept the information.**

#### 6. THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Submitted - the report of the Llŷn AONB Projects Officer detailing the position of the Sustainable Development Fund. It was noted that £55,000 was in the Fund at the beginning of the 2016/17 financial year and that all funds had been distributed. Attention was drawn to the appendix that provided a summary of the projects that had received a contribution from the Fund.

It was reported that £55,000 was in the Fund for 2017-18 and members were encouraged to promote the Fund.

The Officer responded to questions/observations by members in relation to specific projects.

The Chairman expressed his gratitude for the work.

**RESOLVED to accept the information.**

## **7. LOCAL MEMBERS AND THE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Submitted – the report of the Llŷn AONB Service Manager, explaining the implications and the process of changing the constitution of the Consultative Joint Committee in terms of the numbers of Local Members who could be members of the Joint Committee at any given time in accordance with the decision of the Joint Committee in its meeting on 24 June 2015.

It was explained that the existing constitution stated that the number of members on the Joint Committee at any one time was five with members changing places following local elections. Attention was drawn to the fact that, at the time the decision was made, the boundaries of wards within the area would be changed and that fewer Local Members would represent the wards within the AONB (in part or fully). However, no changes were made to the wards and so the number of members representing wards within the AONB (partly or fully) was 11.

An observation was made that, if all Local Members were on the Joint Committee the membership of the Joint Committee would increase from 27 to 33 with a substantial majority being members of Gwynedd Council. It was highlighted that there was already a seat for representatives from every Community Council within the AONB.

During the ensuing discussion, the following main points were noted:

- As the electoral boundaries would not change that it should be up to Local Members to decide amongst themselves who should be members of the Joint Committee.
- That a representative from the Campaign to Protect Rural Wales had sent observations noting that he was of the opinion that the number of Local Members on the Joint Committee should remain at five, as 11 Members would change the balance too much in terms of representation from the Council. He also suggested that members could be changed once a year in order to achieve a gradual change.
- One option would be to hold a presentation form Local Members about the AONB before they fill in a form stating their reasons for wanting to be members of the Joint Committee and leave the decision to the Joint Committee as to which members should serve on the Joint Committee.
- Disagree with having 11 Local Members on the Joint Committee as there needed to be a cross-section/balance of membership and the decision should not be left to local members as opinions could differ.
- Consideration should be given to distributing the seats of local members in accordance with the political balance of the Council.
- Community Councils needed to be pressured into sending representatives to meetings of the Joint Committee.

It was proposed and seconded that the number of Local Members should remain at five and that a recommendation be made to the Cabinet / Cabinet Member - Planning and Regulatory that the constitution of the Joint Committee should be amended to note that seats are distributed among Local Members in accordance with the Council's political balance arrangements and to remove the phrase "Gwynedd Council Members to be rotated following local elections". A vote was taken on the proposal and it carried.

**RESOLVED that the number of Local Members remain at five and to recommend to the Cabinet / Cabinet Member - Planning and Regulatory that the constitution of the Joint Committee should be amended to note that seats are distributed among Local**

**Members in accordance with the Council's political balance arrangements and to remove the phrase "Gwynedd Council Members to be rotated following local elections".**

## **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 four draft chapters of Part 2 of the management plan, 'Clean Environment and Tranquility', 'Habitats and Wildlife', 'Work, Produce and Skills' and 'People and Communities' which was appended to the report.

Attention was drawn to the fact that these were the final chapters of the draft Plan to be considered. It was reported that the next step would be to create an action plan to coincide with the policies and bring all materials together to create a complete revised Management Plan in draft form. Subsequently, a public enquiry would be held for at least six weeks before the Joint Committee reconvenes with details of the responses and recommendations received.

Members were given the opportunity to make observations. The following main points were noted:-

### Habitats and Wildlife

- Page 31 - Neptune Campaign should be referred to under the heading 'Marine species'.
- Page 32 - not happy that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are referred to under the heading 'Climate Change', climate change can be noted but responsibility should not be placed on human activity. Of the opinion that the sun was a big factor in climate change.
- That the wording of policy BP5 was weaker than that noted on page 32. Also, it was noted in the final paragraph on page 32 '...creating renewable energy on a suitable scale...'; what is meant by suitable scale should be clearly stated in the policies.

### Work, Produce and skills

- That some of the figures included in the chapter were misleading as it would not be possible to obtain such detailed analysis from STEAM figures. The Abersoch and Llŷn Tourism Partnerships Representative stated that the figures should be discussed with Steven Jones (Senior Tourism Services Officer) and that he would also be willing to assist. He added that it was difficult to obtain concrete figures for the AONB.

### People and Communities

- Page 55 - consideration should be given to noting, under the chapter of 'Holiday Homes and House Prices', the need to look at the reasons why so many houses are for sale in some specific areas of the AONB.
- Page 56 - Fuel Poverty - direct link between the tax on carbon and the fact that the United Kingdom had to import fuel as new coal fired power stations were no longer allowed, policy had led to fuel poverty among many people.
- With regard to the order of chapters, consideration should be given to putting this chapter at the beginning of the plan, in order to give the chapter greater emphasis.
- That communities were ageing and the need to look at the way in which individuals could be supported to stay in their communities. Even though this was not unique to the AONB, consideration should be given to making reference to the matter.

The Llŷn AONB Service Manger stated that observations had been received by the representative of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales on the draft chapters and

that they would be considered and incorporated into the chapters. He added that any member was welcome to send him observations on the chapters.

It was noted that the representative had expressed his opinion that the full plan should be submitted to the Joint Committee before going out to consultation. A discussion took place on the matter. In response to a question about the timetable, the Llŷn AONB Service Manger noted that the intention was to consult on the plan during July and to bring it to the Joint Committee in September/October with comments made during the consultation period, and for the plan to be adopted before the end of the year. A consensus was reached that the draft plan should come before the Joint Committee before a public consultation.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) to accept the report;**
- (ii) that the Llŷn AONB Service Manager amend the draft chapters in accordance with the comments of the Joint Committee.**
- (iii) hold a meeting of the Joint Committee to discuss the draft Management Plan before the public consultation is held.**

The meeting commenced at 4.30pm and concluded at 6.20pm.

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**CHAIR**

# Agenda Item 7

<b>MEETING</b>	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)
<b>DATE</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> of September 2017
<b>TITLE</b>	AONB Management Plan
<b>PURPOSE</b>	Present the draft revised Management Plan
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Llŷn AONB Service Manager
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Approve the draft revised Management Plan

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 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 AONB and to review the Plan every 5 years.
- 1.2 The AONB Joint Advisory Committee has an important role in assisting in the preparation and revision of the Management Plan by providing comments and suggestions.
- 1.3 This report is presented to the JAC as a result of the decision to view a full version of the draft revised Plan prior to going out to public consultation.

## **2.0 THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- 2.1 Part 1 and Part 2 of the draft revised Management Plan has been presented to the Joint Advisory Committee for comments over the course of several meetings. During these meetings comments were made on various sections of the Plan and changes were made as a result. Also some changes have been made to ensure accuracy and to reflect more recent information.
- 2.2 A full version of the draft revised Plan is now presented for the JAC (Appendix 1). The full Plan includes the Action Plan which are the actions and projects that will be implemented in the years to come.

## **3.0 THE NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1 After the revised Plan is accepted as a draft a public consultation will be undertaken for a minimum period of 6 weeks. We will then return to the JAC with details of all the comments received and recommendations regarding changes.

## **4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 To consider the draft Plan and suggest changes or improvements where there is a sound case for doing so.
- 4.2 Accept the draft revised Plan as a basis for public consultation.

# LLŶN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

## MANAGEMENT PLAN (REVISED DRAFT)

2015-2020



[www.ahne-llyn-aonb.org](http://www.ahne-llyn-aonb.org)

[www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru](http://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru)



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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Management Plan**

1.1.1 This is the Management Plan for the Llŷn Peninsula Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Plan has been drawn up by Gwynedd Council and associated partners and is relevant to the section of the Llŷn Peninsula designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1957.

1.1.2 It is a statutory requirement of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act that a Management Plan must be prepared and revised for every Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The first Llŷn AONB Management Plan was published in 2005 was revised in 2009/10. This is a further revision of the original Plan and will be operational from 2014 to 2019.

### **1.2 What is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)?**

1.2.1 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty have been designated due to the exceptional quality of the landscape and views. From this perspective, AONBs are as important as National Parks in terms of conservation – and they have been designated under the same act – namely the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Together AONB's and National Parks are nationally classified as protected landscapes.

1.2.2 The main reason for designating an area as an AONB is to protect and enhance the natural beauty, which includes protecting plants, wildlife and geographical features as well as the features that relate to the landscape. Also the influence of people on the landscape is important and therefore there is a need to protect archaeological historical and architectural remains. People and society is a key part of the character of the area, therefore it is required to care for the social and economic welfare of AONB's, addressing agriculture, forestry and other rural industries as well as the social needs of local communities.

1.2.3 Because they are attractive areas, AONB's are popular with tourists. The local economy gains from the tourism industry but there are also some negative effects such as litter on popular sites, traffic and pressure on local services. A balance must be sought in order manage impacts and protect the natural beauty which makes the area so attractive in the first place.

1.2.4 The Assembly Government's principal planning policy document - Planning Policy Wales (Edition 7) 2014 confirms that AONBs and National Parks are equal in status and must be safeguarded:

*"The primary objective for designating AONBs is the conservation and enhancement of their natural beauty. [Planning] policies and development control decisions affecting AONBs should favour conservation of natural beauty, although it will also be appropriate to have regard to the economic and social well-being of the areas. Local authorities, other public bodies and*

*other relevant authorities have a statutory duty to have regard to AONB purposes” Para 5.3.5.*

*“National Parks and AONBs are of equal status in terms of landscape and scenic beauty and both must be afforded the highest status of protection from inappropriate developments. In development plan policies and development management decisions National Parks and AONBs must be treated as of equivalent status. In National Parks and AONBs, development plan policies and development management decisions should give great weight to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of these areas.” Para 5.3.6.*

1.2.5 The Gower Peninsula was the first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to be designated in Britain in 1956. Then in 1957, a section of the Llŷn Peninsula was designated an AONB (the third area in Britain). There are now 46 AONBs in the United Kingdom, with a total of 33 in England, 4 in Wales, one on the border between Wales and England and 8 in Northern Ireland.

1.2.6 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are landscapes rich in history, culture and heritage that have developed over thousands of years. This is why AONBs were classified as Category V landscapes by the World Conservation Union (IUCN). Landscapes in this Category were defined in 1994 as an:

*“Area of land, with coast and sea as appropriate, where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant aesthetic, ecological and/or cultural value, and often with high biological diversity. Safeguarding the integrity of this traditional interaction is vital to the protection, maintenance and evolution of such areas.”*

1.2.7 The AONB Management Plan has a key role to play in terms of the relationship between the standard of the landscape, the economy and local people and seeks development which sustains and respects all these aspects. This encapsulates sustainable development which is at the heart of the Management Plan.

### **1.3 The Llŷn Peninsula**

1.3.1 The Llŷn Peninsula, or Penrhyn Llŷn in Welsh, is renowned for its diverse and interesting coastline. The beautiful landscape was the basis for its designation. The AONB encompasses around one quarter of the peninsula a total of 15,500 hectares, mostly along the coast, but it also extends inland and includes prominent igneous protrusions.

1.3.2 Llŷn, whose complex geology includes ancient pre-Cambrian rock formations, is a natural extension of the Snowdonia massif. The geology is typified by the wide variation of coastal landscapes, ranging from the steep cliffs of Aberdaron Bay and promontories to the sand dune systems in the Abersoch area. The highest point in Llŷn is the Eifl (564m) mountain range which levels out to a plateau that extends towards the sea and the black

rocks of Mynydd Mawr at the tip of the Peninsula. The area is typified by narrow and winding roads, farms and whitewashed cottages and also includes open areas of ancient common land.

- 1.3.3 Ynys Enlli, which is within the AONB, is a very special island. Its links with Christianity date back to a very early period and pilgrims from near and far have flocked there over the ages. It occupies a prominent place in Welsh folklore and, according to legend, 20,000 saints are said to be buried here. The island has an abundance of historic remains and buildings and is home to a rich variety of wildlife.
- 1.3.4 The peninsula itself also boasts a rich heritage, with important archaeological sites of all periods. These include flint scatters discarded by our earliest prehistoric ancestors about 10,000 years ago to twentieth century military remains. Most of the peninsula and Ynys Enlli are included on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Cadw 1998).
- 1.3.5 In general, agriculture in Llŷn comprises small traditional units and this has helped to protect the landscape and the environment. However, in common with other places, the agriculture industry has witnessed many changes over the years which have resulted in a sharp fall in the number of people who make a living out of farming. There has also been a decline in the fishing industry. Full-time fishermen are few and far between, although there are a number of part-time fishermen. Mineral extraction workings and quarrying industries were extremely important in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- 1.3.6 Due to the lack of job opportunities many local young people and people of working age have moved away and have been replaced by people who have moved in from other parts of Wales and the UK. Many incomers are retired which has increased the percentage of older, non-economically active people, but of late there has been more families moving in. Most incomers have no knowledge of the language or culture and this has had an impact on the cultural character of the area and the use of the Welsh language - however the percentage of Welsh speakers is still among the highest in Wales.
- 1.3.7 Tourism is vital to the local economy, but puts seasonal pressure on local services, infrastructure and the environment. Many of the coastal villages such as Abersoch and Nefyn are now popular tourist destinations. These popular tourist resorts see an increase in population, travel and activities during the holiday season, as well as during other times of the year, although to a lesser degree. This means that the area as a whole is under pressure, but more so along the southern coastline due to the level of activity on the beaches, roads, car parks, boat launching areas and on the sea itself.

## **1.4 Why is it necessary to prepare an AONB Management Plan?**

1.4.1 Section 89 (2) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a responsibility on relevant local authorities, such as Gwynedd Council, to: *“prepare and publish a plan which formulates their policy for the management of the area of outstanding natural beauty and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it”*. It also states subsequently in the Act (**Section 84**) that local authorities should:

*“take all such action as appears to them expedient for the accomplishment of the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty or so much of it as is included in their area.”*

1.4.2 The AONB Unit, Gwynedd Council and the AONB Joint Committee lead on the work of preparing and co-ordinating the Plan. Representatives of numerous organisations and bodies on the JAC include Gwynedd Council, Community Councils, Agricultural Unions, The National Trust and Cyfeillion Llŷn.

1.4.3 It is important to note that even though it is Gwynedd Council and the JAC who are responsible for preparing the Plan, the Plan is relevant to all individuals living and working in the area, all types of visitors and the various organisations and bodies that are active locally.

1.4.4 The Management Plan is one of the most important documents as regards the future of the AONB. Other key documents include Gwynedd key Strategies, the Local Development Plan (which deals with the planning system) as well as other Strategies and Plans by other active organisations in the area.

1.4.5 The Management Plan is a document which provides an overview of all other relevant plans and acts as a means of interlinking them, as well as co-ordinating other strategies and actions. The Management Plan has a vital role therefore in terms of ensuring that the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 are met, including the responsibilities placed upon every public body *“to have regard for the purpose of the AONB”* in their actions (**Section 85**).

## **1.5 What is the purpose of the Management Plan?**

1.5.1 The purpose of the Management Plan is to manage change in a positive way and influence developments within the area. The Management Plan also supports improvements in the local economy and social welfare in a way beneficial to the natural beauty and other special features.

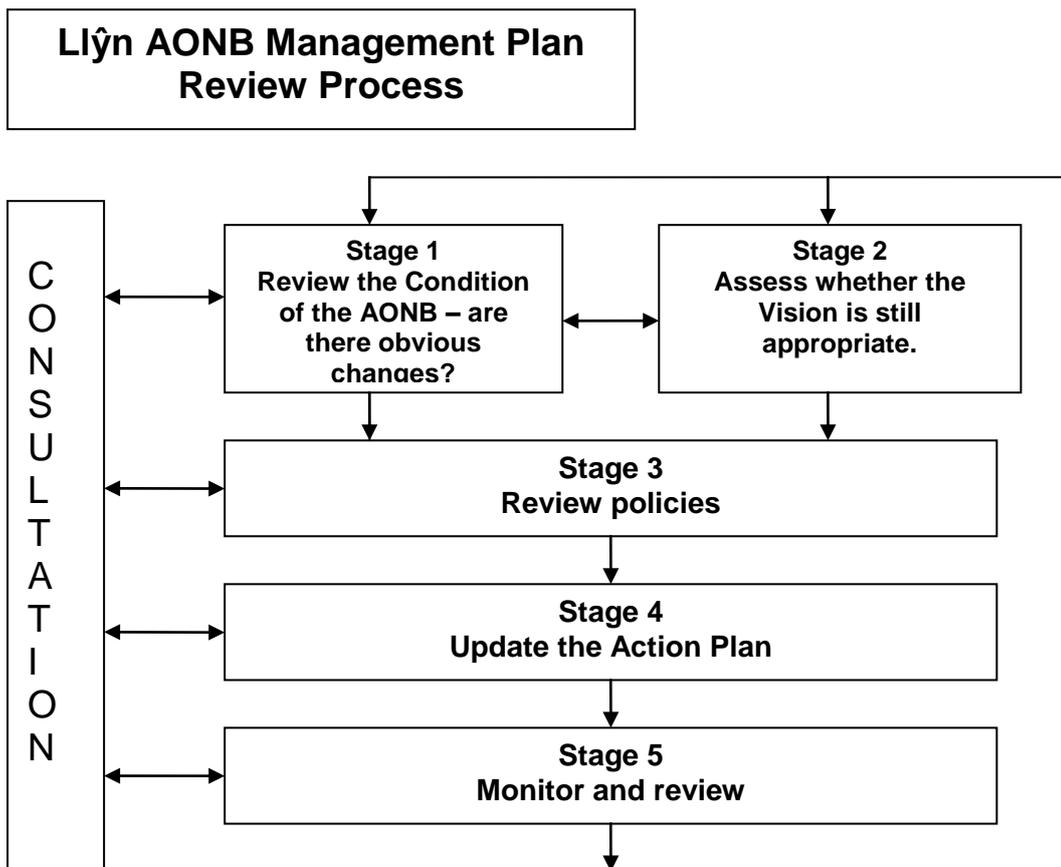
1.5.2 The Review of the Condition of the AONB forms a core part of the Plan and is crucial in order to oversee the condition of various resources in the area. This information will need to be monitored and updated and will indicate trends and changes over time. Actions beneficial to the AONB can be

promoted based on the information gathered and detrimental developments controlled or limited.

- 1.5.3 Preparing a Management Plan using this balanced and logical approach will provide a comprehensive and clear picture of the area's condition, agreement on how the area should be managed and the inclusion of suitable measures for achieving this. Consultation is clearly a crucial element of preparing and reviewing the Management Plan in order to secure the agreement and co-operation of various bodies and individuals.
- 1.5.4 Another of the Plan's key functions is to promote and raise awareness of the AONB. This will include demonstrations to show what these areas have to offer in terms of enjoyment, leisure opportunities, health benefits, local produce and so forth. The Plan will also indicate what developments exert pressure on the area and identify its proposals which should hopefully, in turn, generate backing to support the area. In addition, the Management Plan also:
- Determines where activities and resources should be directed;
  - Helps support grant applications.

## **1.6 How was the Plan reviewed?**

- 1.6.1 The Countryside Council for Wales provided detailed guidance on how to review AONB Management Plans in a document published in 2009 namely "Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Guidance on Reviewing management plans". The Guidance states the need to address many key issues in order to effectively revise the Management Plan.
- 1.6.2 Also, in order to revise the Plan in this instance, Natural Resources Wales commissioned Craggatak to prepare guidelines on how to incorporate the Ecosystem Approach into the Management Plans.
- 1.6.3 The following diagram broadly shows the various stages of reviewing the Plan:



1.6.4 As is evident from the diagram, consultation is vital when reviewing the Management Plan. Whilst reviewing the Plan, the AONB Unit had regular consultation with co-workers, partners and the public:

- Gwynedd Council key staff;
- Organizations stated in Section 85 of the Countryside Act as 'relevant organizations' such as Community Councils, Statutory Contractors, etc.
- Local Members;
- Local relevant bodies and organizations such as the Farming Unions, Cyfeillion Llŷn and the National Trust (mainly through the Joint Committee)
- Local individuals - through events, questionnaires and website.

## 1.7 How will the Plan be implemented?

1.7.1 This Plan will be implemented by the AONB Unit, various Departments within Gwynedd Council and through the work of the partners such as Natural Resources Wales, Keep Wales Tidy and the National Trust. It will be the AONB Unit co-ordinating the work of implementing the Plan in co-operation with the Joint Advisory Committee.

1.7.2 The AONB Unit is located at the Gwynedd Council Offices, Ffordd y Cob, Pwllheli. The other main responsibilities of the Unit are:

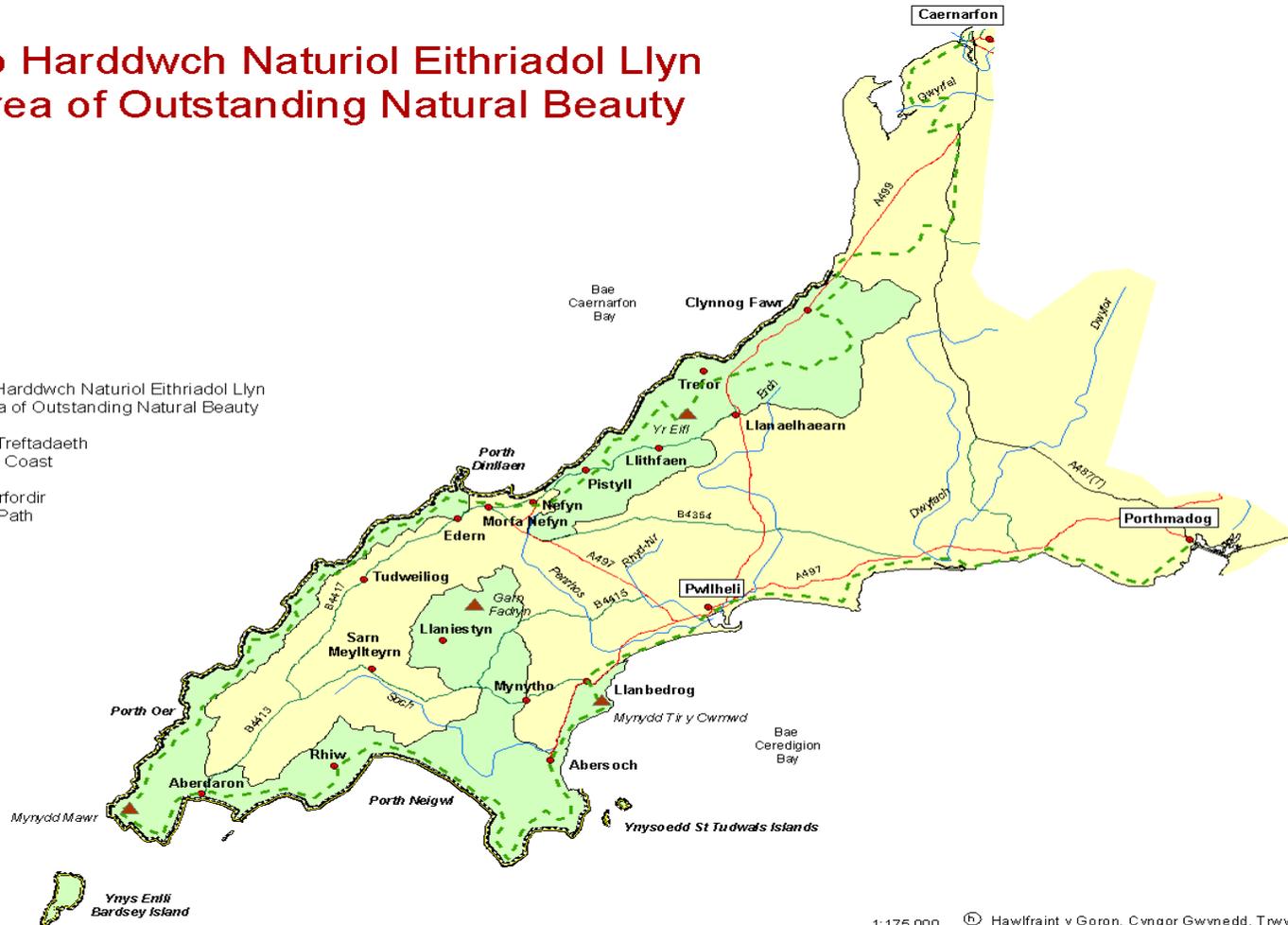
- Co-ordinating the work of the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC);
- Promote policies and actions to safeguard, improve and manage the AONB;
- Lead the Council's work on AONB's nationally;
- Raise awareness and increase the understanding of the area;
- Make representations on development applications;
- Search for funding opportunities and prepare grant applications;
- Develop and lead projects which benefit the AONB;
- Provide the Council and its partners with professional advice on duties and responsibilities;
- Manage and deliver the Sustainable Development Fund.

1.7.3 The Llŷn Joint Advisory Committee was established in 1997. Its members include Gwynedd Council, Community Councils, Farming Unions Representatives, the National Trust and other public and voluntary bodies. Its role is to advise local authorities and other bodies on general countryside and environmental management issues and act as a forum for discussion. The Joint Committee has been responsible for co-ordinating the work of reviewing this Management Plan through a series of meetings.

# Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol Llyn Llyn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

### Nodiant Notation

-  Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol Llyn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Arfordir Treftadaeth Heritage Coast
-  Llwybr Arfordir Coastal Path



1:175,000  Hawlfraint y Goron, Cyngor Gwynedd, Trwydded Rhif 100023387 - 2007  
 Crown Copyright, Gwynedd Council, Licence Number 100023387 - 2007

## 2.0 CONTEXT

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This Management Plan for the designated Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is relevant to all individuals, organisations, businesses and establishments who operate in the area. Even though the Plan relates to a fairly small part of Wales, what happens in this area has the potential to influence other areas and the wider environment.

2.1.2 Recently (2014) the Welsh Government, in the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales has set a great challenge to the designated landscapes:

*“I want to see our designated landscapes become international exemplars of sustainability. They should be living landscapes with vibrant, resilient communities, with extensive outdoor recreation opportunities, thriving ecosystems and rich biodiversity. With the right leadership they have the potential to be areas where new innovative solutions to the challenges of sustainability in fragile rural areas are tried and tested, understood and publicised”.*<sup>1</sup>

2.1.3 The Management Plan has been prepared within a complex framework of global, international, national and local issues. The Plan has to tie in to a wide range of plans, strategies, policies and initiatives from other bodies and associations

2.1.4 It is not possible to go into great detail and quote vast sections of documents. Instead a summary is given of the issues in question with reference made to sources and further information – often on websites. Some of the most relevant information is also included in the Appendix to the Plan. In order to try and provide a fairly clear picture of the situation, the relevant context was divided into the following categories: **Global, European, National and Local.**

## GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

### 2.2 Climate Change

2.2.1 Facts and other information show that climate change is actually happening. This is a very serious issue that could potentially have a significant influence on the world in which we live.

2.2.2 Evidence of this change is clear and obvious and a picture of the world-wide situation in 2014 is available from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Minister for Natural Resources, Welsh Government (March 2015) A letter to designated landscapes governing bodies.

<sup>2</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)

- 2.2.3 There are two ways of responding positively to climate change. **Mitigation** involves addressing the causes of climate change (e.g. reducing greenhouse gas emissions, maintain levels of stored organic carbon in soil or increasing levels of CO<sub>2</sub> that is taken from the atmosphere). **Adaptation** involves adjusting to the likely effects of climate change on the environment, communities and economy (e.g. reduce sensitivity to adverse effects of climate change, to respond to potential opportunities, and develop a better understanding of the likely effects of any changes).
- 2.2.4 Responding to climate change requires an integrated approach and an understanding of the interactions between the environment, the economy and the local community. The AONB Management Plan needs to address its response to mitigation and adaptation in relation to climate change by identifying impacts and include appropriate actions.

## 2.3 Ecosystems and Connectivity Services

- 2.3.1 In 1992 under the leadership of the United Nations in Rio de Janeiro, most countries of the world signed the Treaty of Biological Diversity.<sup>3</sup> This is when the term ecosystem as follows:

*"Ecosystem" means a dynamic complex of plants, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit"*

- 2.3.2 Ecosystems provide a wide variety of services relating to the environment, produce and public welfare. Usually, ecosystem services are classed in four categories, namely:

- **Supporting services:** such as nutrient cycling, oxygen production and soil formation.
- **Provision services:** such as food, fuel and water.
- **Regulating services:** such as climate regulation / taking carbon from the atmosphere, air quality management, regulation of erosion, water purification, pollination and regulation of natural hazards.
- **Cultural services:** health benefits, spiritual experience, recreational activities and enjoyment.

- 2.3.3 The **ecosystem approach** describes a strategy for integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and fair sustainable use of these resources. It is based on 12 principles (see Section 3 for more information on this).

- 2.3.4 The Welsh Government has committed the country to adopt an ecosystems approach to maintaining and enhancing its natural resources (see below).

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<sup>3</sup> Treaty of Biological Diversity (1992) [www.cbd.int/ecosystem](http://www.cbd.int/ecosystem)

## 2.4 Protecting Nature and Natural Resources

2.4.1 AONB's, along with National Parks, belongs to a network of so-called protected landscapes. An AONB is part of Category V landscapes defined as:

*“A protected area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.”<sup>4</sup>*

2.4.2 It is **essential** that Category V landscapes have the following characteristics:

- Landscape and / or coastal and island seascape of high scenic quality and / with habitat, flora and fauna and cultural characteristics;
- A balancing interaction between people and nature continued over time that has credibility or a reasonable desire to restore that credibility.
- Unique or traditional land use patterns.

2.4.3 It is also **desirable** to have the following characteristics:

- Opportunities for recreation and tourism that matches the lifestyle and economic activities
- A socially unique or traditional organisation as seen in practice, local approach or beliefs;
- Recognition by artists of all kinds and cultural traditions (now and in the past);
- Potential for ecological restoration and / or landscape.

## EUROPEAN MATTERS

### 2.5 The European Landscape Convention

2.5.1 Although not directly part of the legal framework of the European Union, the individual states have supported the European Landscape Convention (Treaty). This contains important implications in terms of areas of outstanding natural beauty:

- Article 1 contains definitions of what is meant by "landscape", "landscape policy" and "landscape policy objective". It also defines "protected landscape" "landscape management" and "landscape design";
- Article 2 contains the definition of the scope of the term landscape that includes urban areas as well as rural and natural landscapes throughout Europe;
- Article 5 requires all stakeholders to recognize in their legislations that landscape is an essential component of people's habitat, is an expression of their heritage and the foundation of their identity. It requires them to ensure that the public is involved in developing and implementing policies to protect and enhance the landscape. Policies are also required to complement the landscape with other policy areas including urban and regional planning.

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<sup>4</sup> www.iucn.org

- 2.5.2 As defined in the Treaty, landscape means: "area, as it is perceived by people, whose character derives from the action and interaction of natural factors and / or factors relating to people." The ' The Landscape Convention therefore aims to promote the protection and management of all types of landscapes including natural, rural, urban as well as on land, on water and on the sea.
- 2.5.3 The United Kingdom confirmed adherence to this Agreement in November 2006.

## **2.6 The Gothenburg Declaration (Protocol) 2001<sup>5</sup>**

- 2.6.1 The European Union defined a clear target in the 2001 Gothenburg Summit, which was "*that biodiversity decline should be halted by 2010*". This was put into action through a document entitled *Communication on Halting Biodiversity by 2010 and Beyond* (Brussels, May 2006). The document outlined the scale of the problem and took a general overview of the adequacy of the EU's response.
- 2.6.2 The document noted four policy areas for action together with ten key aims in order to achieve the target by 2010. A number of these are relevant to Welsh AONBs (See CCW's Guidelines for more details). Therefore AONB management plans have an important role with regard to contributing towards realising the objectives of halting the decline of biodiversity, promoting conservation work and helping biodiversity to adapt to the effects of climate change.
- 2.6.3 In May 2012, the cohorts who supported the statement agreed to make a number of reforms, including a commitment to further reduce emissions until 2020.

## **2.7 The Water Framework Directive<sup>6</sup>**

- 2.7.1 The Water Framework Directive is the most important piece of legislation from the European Commission in relation to water, and its intention is to improve and integrate the way water companies are regulated across Europe. In Wales, much of the implementation work will be done by the Environment Agency, through River Basin Management Plans and Catchments Flood Management Plans.
- 2.7.2 The Framework came into force in December 2000 and the aim is for member states to try and "*achieve good chemical and ecological status in inshore and coastal waters by 2015*". A second management circle is to be achieved by 2012 and the third by 2027.
- 2.7.3 The specific aim of the Framework is to:

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<sup>5</sup> [www.unece.org/env/lrtap/multi\\_h1.html](http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/multi_h1.html)

<sup>6</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html)

- improve the status of water ecosystems and the status of associated wetlands that are dependent on water ecosystems, and prevent their decline;
- promote the sustainable use of water;
- reduce water pollution;
- ensure that groundwater pollution is gradually reduced.

2.7.4 The consultation on the second River Basin Management Plan in Wales ended in April 2015 and it is expected that new requirements will be in place by October.

## **2.8 The Common Agricultural Policy<sup>7</sup>**

2.8.1 Following changes to the Common Agriculture Policy introduced in 2005, farm payments were separated from agricultural production levels – through the Single Payment system. The Glastir system was established by the Assembly in 2012, with the intention of putting more emphasis on tackling climate change and helping to provide services and environmental produce.

2.8.2 The 2014 – 2020 period will see far-reaching changes to the CAP once again there is no doubt that this will lead to a reduction of support that Europe gives to agriculture. A transition period of five years began in early 2015 to introduce a system of Direct Payments Basic (BPS). The new procedure is based on the amount of land that a farmer is farming with 30% of the payment will depend on green measures to protect the natural resources that make it possible for food production.

2.8.3 The changes made to the Common Agricultural Policy aim to create an agricultural industry that corresponds better to the market. However, subsidy is still necessary to keep the industry going as most businesses would not be viable on the basis of the income generated from farming only. In relation to agriculture, the issues that need to be monitored are:

- production levels – in order to prevent agricultural production levels from falling lower than the level necessary to maintain the supply chain and the processing industries;
- undertaking agricultural activity that is consistent with the need to meet wider objectives in relation to landscape and biodiversity.

2.8.4 Welsh farmland is divided into one of three regions - Heathland, Greatly Disadvantaged areas and areas of Disadvantage and grassroots areas together. Heathland payments are limited to land higher than 400meters rather than the land shown on the 1992 map. This has limited the proportion of the AONB will be regarded heathland – parts of the Eifl, Gyrn Goch and Gyrn Ddu.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/>

2.8.5 The Wales Rural Development Plan (2014– 2020)<sup>8</sup> includes measures that support agriculture and rural areas, namely Axis 1 – Improving the Competitiveness of the Agricultural and the Forestry Sector; Axis 2 – Improving the Environment and the Countryside; Axis 3 – The Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of the Rural Economy; and Axis 4 – LEADER.

2.8.6 The next Rural Development Plan for Wales will concentrate on the following:

- competitiveness (on the farm and in the supply chain)
- the environment (agri-environment work, woodlands, renewable energy)
- the community (access to services and LEADER ways of working).
- 

2.8.7 It is expected that the Plan, which is relevant to the AONB, will be approved by 2015.

## **2.9 Strategic Environmental Assessment**

2.9.1 In 2001, an EU Directive was introduced which means that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) must be undertaken for relevant plans and programmes. The Directive was made law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations.

2.9.2 The requirement to complete a Habitat Management Assessment was also introduced under European legislation. This became mandatory under the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 2007.

2.9.3 The details of the SEA and HMA requirements are in appendix ().

2.9.4 Although these Assessments have complicated and slowed down the process of reviewing Management Plans, there are a number of advantages to the processes, as they ensure :

- that the plans do not include anything that could damage the special features of the AONB;
- that issues pertaining to sustainability are given adequate attention;
- that management plans are integrated with other relevant plans and strategies;
- that there is a means of ensuring that there is no clash between policies;
- that the interests of internationally important sites for biodiversity are not damaged;
- that policies for protecting and enhancing protected landscapes are improved
- results are integrated in to the Management Plan review process.

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[http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/?s\\_kip=1&lang=cy](http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/?s_kip=1&lang=cy)

## THE UK CONTEXT

### 2.10 Sustainable Development Strategy

2.10.1 The UK's position on sustainable development is set out in the document *Securing the Future: Delivering the UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy* (2005). The document notes that there are two basic principles for achieving sustainable development in the UK, namely:

- ***Living within environmental limits.*** *Respecting the earth's limited environment, resources and biodiversity – in order to improve our environment, ensure that nothing impedes the natural resources necessary for life, and ensuring that they stay the same for generations;*
- ***Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society.*** *Satisfying the diverse needs of every individual in communities already in existence and those of the future; promoting personal well-being; promoting social cohesion and inclusion; and creating equality of opportunity for all.*

2.10.2 The UK Commission for Sustainable Development ended in 2011. Even though each Government department is responsible for ensuring that policies and activities contribute to sustainable development the responsibility for leading on developing and implementing the policy on an UK level is now within the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

### 2.11 Major Infrastructure Developments

2.11.1 The 2008 Planning Act introduced a new regime in England and Wales for processing and deciding on major national infrastructure projects. These cover the areas of energy, transport, water, waste water and waste. Since 2011 the responsibility for processing these lies with the Planning Inspectorate.

2.11.2 A relatively few number of projects have been processed so far; eight have been registered and processed in Wales but none in the Gwynedd area. The nature of the projects in question makes it unlikely that similar applications are received within the AONB but applications for such developments occur in some areas (e.g. Wylfa).

## **THE WELSH CONTEXT**

### **2.12 Sustainable Development**

2.12.1 The Welsh Government is committed to sustainable development through Section 121 of the Welsh Government Act 1998. Sustainable Development is defined by the Welsh Government in the document One Wales: One Planet (2009) as development that enhances the economy, the social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities, and achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations:

- In ways which promote social justice and equality of opportunity; and
- In ways which enhance the natural and cultural environment and respect it's limits - using only our fair share of the earth's resources and sustaining our cultural legacy.

2.12.2 Because of this emphasis on sustainable development the Welsh Government will:

- insist that the national bodies it sponsors (such as Natural Resources Wales) show how sustainable development is integrated in their work
- aim towards sustainable development work in its own policies, many of which will affect the AONB (e.g. in agriculture, forestry and planning).

### **2.13 Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales**

2.13.1 25% of the area of Wales is designated landscapes. They include three National Parks and five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

2.13.2 As part of the review of designated landscapes, the Welsh Government commissioned a panel chaired by Professor Terry Marsden to advise on two issues:

- The purposes of the landscapes and the benefits of having a single designation
- The governance and managing arrangements of the two designations

2.13.3 A report on Phase One - and the Government's response to it – was published in March 2015. The report makes six recommendations which include expanding the AONB purposes and statutory duties and changing the name to "National Landscapes of Wales".

2.13.4 The Panel's Final Report was published in autumn 2015. The report includes the findings of Phase 1, and also Phase 2 which considers the management and governance of the designated areas. A total of 69 recommendations have been made in the Final Report.

2.13.5 There are significant and far-reaching implications to the recommendations of the Review Panel and the Minister Carl Sargeant established a Working Group to consider how to implement them.

## **2.14 Well-being of Future Generations Act**

2.14.1 This Bill became law in April 2015. Its purpose is to:

*strengthen existing governance arrangements for improving the well-being of Wales to ensure that current needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

2.14.2 The act:

- identifies objectives to improve the wellbeing of Wales;
- introduces national indicators that will measure the difference that is made to the well-being of Wales;
- appointed a Commissioner of Future Generations for Wales to be an advocate for future generations;
- make Local Services Boards and well-being plans statutory requirements for integrated community planning.

2.14.3 AONBs and National Parks are considered good places to test practical new approaches to sustainable development. In the future, it is expected that designated landscapes will manage natural resources and try to reach the six goals of well-being set out the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) as indicated in the table below:-

Aim	Description
Prosperous Wales	An innovative and productive economy, with low carbon emissions, using resources more efficiently and proportionate; which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities for a skilled and educated population.
Resilient Wales	A natural bio diverse environment with healthy and operational ecosystems that helps social and ecological resilience and can adapt to change.
Healthier Wales	A society where people's physical and mental well-being is as well as possible and where the best choices and behaviors are understood for future health benefits.
A more equal Wales	A society which enables people to fulfill their potential regardless of their background or circumstances.
Cohesive communities.	Attractive communities that are viable, safe with good connections.
Vibrant culture where the Welsh language flourishes	A society that promotes and protects the culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and leisure activities.

2.14.4 The designated landscapes, including Llŷn AONB are expected to play their part, and contributed to a range of other policy areas - including the economy, health and welfare and tackling poverty - as well as environmental issues.

2.14.5 The Assembly is also committed to the Green Dragon Standard - an environmental management system based on sustainability. An International and European Environmental Management recognition (ISO 14001 and EMAS) can be achieved if the requirements are met. Since sustainable development is core to the Management Plan the Plan also contributes to Gwynedd Council's aim of achieving the Green Dragon Environmental Management Standard.

## **2.15 Regulation at Sea**

2.15.1 The purpose of the 2009 Marine Act was to streamline marine regulations and legislation and improve procedures in order to have more collaboration and understanding. The Act includes sections on creating a Marine Management Organisation; planning; licensing activities; protecting nature; controlling fisheries; modernising and simplifying enforcement powers and access to coastal land. It is hoped that the Act will ensure that the marine and coastal environment are managed more effectively and in a more sustainable manner.

2.15.2 It is the UK Government's responsibility to achieve some duties in relation to the sea, whilst other duties are devolved to the Welsh Government.

2.15.3 In coastal areas such as the Llŷn peninsula, it is imperative that we consider the relationship between the land and the sea. Indeed, the close relationship with the marine environment was a reason for the area's designation and is one of the area's special qualities. The links between land and sea are numerous and varied, with social and economic dimensions as well as environmental ones. A number of documents are available that provide further guidance on the consideration that needs to be given to the features and the relationship between the land and the sea.

## **2.16 Planning in Wales**

2.16.1 The Planning Act (Wales) received Royal assent on 6th July 2015.

2.16.2 There are five main aims to the Act:

- a more modern framework for providing a planning service - under the new Act, it will be possible to make planning applications directly to Welsh Ministers under certain circumstances
- reinforcing the plan based approach - the Act introduces a legal basis for the preparation of the National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plans
- improve resilience - the Act allows Ministers to order for local planning authorities to work together and that local planning authorities are merged
- placing greater emphasis on the initial process of development management system and improve it - the Act introduces a statutory pre-application procedure for certain categories of planning applications
- enable effective enforcement procedures and appeals - the Act makes changes to enforcement procedures to ensure direct and meaningful steps are taken when planning regulations are broken and to make the appeal system more transparent and efficient.

2.16.3 Along with proposed changes to secondary legislation, policies and guidelines, the Act will:

- help to provide homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by Wales
- offer opportunities to protect and enhance our most important built

- and natural environments
- supporting the use of the Welsh language.

2.16.4 The strategic framework for guiding development in Wales has been set at this stage in the Wales Spatial Plan – People, Places, Futures 2008 Wales and the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan. However, the above Act introduces a provision to create a National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plans.

2.16.5 Planning policy guidance is given by the Welsh Assembly Government in the Planning Policy Wales document which was revised in 2015. The document provides guidance for a national policy regarding planning matters including Sustainability, Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Heritage and Coastline, Conserving the Historical Environment, Supporting the Economy, Transport, Housing, Tourism and Pollution. With regard to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it notes:

*“AONBs have equal status with National Parks in terms of beauty, their landscape and scenery and the highest status of protection must be given to both against inappropriate development. This equal status means that National Parks and AONBs must be treated in the same way in development planning policies and development control decisions. In National Parks and AONBs, development planning policies and development control decisions must place great importance on protecting and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of these areas.”*

2.16.6 In addition to the main policy document is a series of documents providing guidance on planning issues relating to specific developments – which is the Technical Advice Note (Wales).

## **2.17 Natural Resource Management Programme**

2.17.1 The Natural Environment Framework (Living Wales) led to the creation of the Natural Resources Management Programme in 2014. The programme includes:

- policy on managing natural resources, including setting national priorities;
- Environment Bill
- making 'ecosystem based management' an integral part of our work. This will include demonstration projects to show the advantages respectively; we can learn through them how and when to implement
- work with Natural Resources Wales and coordinate the performance management arrangements;
- communicate, engage and share information.

## **2.18 The Environment Bill**

2.18.1 The Bill was introduced on 11 May 2015. Its purpose is to create legislation that is necessary to plan and manage natural resources in Wales in a more sustainable and coordinated manner.

2.18.2 According to the Welsh Government, the advantages are:

- assisting the work of addressing environmental challenges that we face and to focus on the opportunities that our resources offer
- establish statutory targets to reduce carbon emissions and budgets to support their delivery
- addressing issues relating to the operation the charge on carrier bags
- improve the processes for waste management
- simplify the law on environmental regulatory systems including shellfish
- fisheries management, marine licenses, flood risk management and land
- drainage

2.18.3 The AONB Management Plan will address many issues that are central to the new Framework such as sustainable development, ecosystem services, limits to growth and climate change.

## **2.19 Heritage Bill**

2.19.1 The Heritage Bill was introduced during May 2015. The Welsh Government has stated that the Bill is intended to:

- protect listed buildings and scheduled monuments more effectively;
- manage the historic environment in a more sustainable way;
- ensure greater transparency and accountability in terms of opinions and decisions made about the historic environment.

## **2.20 Shoreline Management Plans**

2.20.1 The Welsh Government is to require local authorities, Environment Agency Wales and other bodies involved in coastal management work to produce together Shoreline Management Plans for the entire Welsh coast.

2.20.2 SMPs are un-statutory high level policy documents, for planning for flood risk management and coastal erosion. SMPs provide large-scale assessment of the risks of coastal erosion and coastal flooding and offer policies to help manage these risks.

2.20.3 SMP management policies are designed in order to create long- term sustainability (for the next 100 years). Management policies for all parts of the coast are suggested and consider various factors such as the location of coastal communities, present defences, tourism areas

and amenities, conservation and heritage sites and the wider natural environment.

2.20.4 The various policies suggested in the Shoreline Management Plans are:

1. Keep the line: meaning that defences are maintained, repaired or upgraded in line with their current alignment.
2. Move the line forward: meaning that new defences are built on the sea side of the original defences.
3. Managed alignment: allow the shoreline to move back in a controlled manner.
4. No active intervention: meaning that the alignment continues to evolve naturally if the defences (if there are any) fail.

2.20.5 The first generation of SMP's were completed in the early 2000's and the next generation in 2011/12. It's likely that another review of SMP's will be held fairly soon, within the next 5 to 10 years.

## **2.21 Other National Strategies and Plans**

2.21.1 The Assembly Government publishes a number of national strategies and plans, on various subjects that are relevant to Llŷn and the AONB. The need to support and protect the environment and sustainable development will be considered in these documents because of the Assembly's commitment to sustainable development on a national level. All these documents are relevant considerations for local plans and strategies produced by authorities such as Gwynedd Council.

### **GWYNEDD**

## **2.22 Corporate Strategies**

2.22.1 The *Singled Integrated Plan for Gwynedd and Anglesey* incorporates a vision and an operation plan for the Local Services Board for the 2013-17 period.

2.22.2 The purpose of the Plan is "to work together to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area by 2025." "Promoting and sustaining our environment" is one of eight key issues that has been identified as the "complex and long" issues that will need to be addressed

2.22.3 In May 2013, Gwynedd Council adopted its *Strategic Plan* for 2013-2017. The main aim of the Plan is to set the Council's vision for 2013-2017. It is annually revised and the 2015-17 Strategic Plan was approved by the Council's Cabinet following a public consultation in June 2015.

2.22.4 The Council's vision during this period is to "continue to meet the needs of Gwynedd's residents regardless of the Council's dwindling resources..... by transforming services to be services that we are able to maintain the future."

## **2.23 Natur Gwynedd**

2.23.1 Natur Gwynedd is the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for areas in Gwynedd situated outside the Snowdonia National Park.

2.23.2 It was developed by a wide partnership of establishments and individuals. The Natur Gwynedd Plan states what needs to be done to protect our wildlife and highly important natural habitats.

2.23.3 Natur Gwynedd objectives are:

- helping to conserve biodiversity of Gwynedd and, therefore, to contribute to biodiversity conservation in Wales, the UK and the world.
- developing effective local partnerships to make sure that what we do will be maintained in the long term.
- increase knowledge of the biodiversity of Gwynedd.
- raising public awareness of biodiversity in Gwynedd.

2.23.4 The *Gwynedd Council Environmental Strategy – Protecting the Environment for Today and Tomorrow* was adopted in 2002 and revised in 2005. The Strategy has been prepared in order to give direction to the Council's work of improving and protecting the local and world-wide environment.

2.23.5 It states in the introduction to the Environmental Strategy that high priority will be given to:

- Reducing private and industrial waste, encourage recycling and reusing and promote ways of saving energy;
- Protecting and enhancing the area's natural environment and wildlife
- Encouraging people to enjoy, respect and become more aware of the richness and contribution of the local environment
- Maintaining and enhancing the quality of the built area in a way that respects and enhances the culture, environment and local character;
- Promoting effective and sustainable transport that will provide more choice for consumers.

## **2.24 The Development Plan**

2.24.1 The Gwynedd Unitary Development Plan (UDP) was adopted in 2009. The UDP is currently in the process of being replaced by the Joint Local Development Plan Gwynedd and Anglesey. The Plan's Deposit Draft has been subject to a formal consultation period up to the end of March 2015. The UDP is expected to be adopted in late 2016 / early 2017 having received and considered the Inspector's Report on the comments / objections received.

2.24.2 The UDP contains specific policies about the AONB and other statutory and un-statutory designations as well as specific planning issues such as new housing, traffic, economic developments and tourism. In addition, the Gwynedd Landscape Design Guidance and the Gwynedd Design Guidance are important related documents.

2.24.3 These planning tools play a key part in the protection and development of the AONB. Appropriately implementing the policies of the Planning Designs and Guidance is also highly important. This will form part of the Process made by planning officers and relevant Committees of the Council. The AONB Unit will have the opportunity to comment on planning applications that could affect the designated area.

## **2.25 Other Plans and Strategies**

2.25.1 In addition to the above a number of other plans and strategies influence the AONB and are relevant for consideration in the context of the Management Plan. These can be divided into two types, namely, single purpose plans i.e. dealing with forestry or the economy, tourism etc., or Funding Schemes that would include agri-environment schemes, forestry grants etc.

2.25.2 Many of the plans and strategies prepared by Gwynedd Council, on a large number of issues, are single-purpose plans that must comply with the Community Strategy and Environmental Strategy. The most apparent of these with respect to relationship and impact on the AONB are the Gwynedd Economic Development Strategy, Gwynedd Tourism Strategy, Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Gwynedd Local Transport Plan, Gwynedd Cycling Strategy, Waste Disposal and Recycling Plan and the Floods and Coastal Erosion Policy.

2.25.3 A number of plans and strategies prepared by partners are also relevant. The most prominent of these are the Pen Llŷn and Sarnau Special Area of Conservation Action Plan (a partnership with various organisations including Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Water) and Natur Gwynedd Biodiversity Action Plan. The Natur Gwynedd Plan is the one which operates locally to comply with the Assembly's responsibility in terms of protecting biodiversity on a national level.

2.25.4 There is also a variety of public and private organisations operating within the AONB and these produce a number of plans, strategies and policy statements or other documents that could be relevant to the area's future. Below is a list of the main organisations which are relevant to the AONB:

Natural Resources Wales	Welsh Water/Dŵr Cymru (Glas Cymru)
SP/ MANWEB	National Grid
Cadw	National Trust
British Telecom	Telecommunication Operators/ providers
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	

2.25.5 Some of these organisations and agencies are under a specific obligation to consider the well-being of the AONB under the Access and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Section 85). Under the requirements of the Act these organisations and agencies must have "regard for the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty when exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in the area of

outstanding natural beauty”. It is the responsibility of Gwynedd Council to raise awareness of this obligation, engage in a positive dialogue and assess how the various organisations and agencies conform to this responsibility.

### **3. The Ecosystem Approach**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

3.1.1 This review of the Llŷn AONB Management Plan is based on the ecosystem approach of managing the natural environment. This has been undertaken by following the guidance prepared on behalf of Natural Resources Wales by Craggtak, as well as a number of other relevant background documents.

3.1.2 In essence, the Ecosystem approach is a method of considering nature and the natural environment before anything else. Although the landscape and coastline of Llŷn is very beautiful with a wealth of wildlife, more than this is provided by nature and the natural environment. In reality there is a great value to the services the natural environment and ecosystems provide, and it is important to recognise them, to appreciate them and aim to sustain them.

#### **3.2 Ecosystems**

3.2.1 Defining an ecosystem is an important starting point. The Convention on Biological Diversity – CBD) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) defines an ecosystem as:

“A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit”.

3.2.2 Biodiversity is the foundation of the ecosystem. Nature has an inherent value and contributes a great deal to the continuous well-being of people and society. It is not only beauty and views that are provided but food, jobs, building materials, and a basis for farming, forestry and quarrying.

3.2.3 The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) was established in 2001 by the United Nations. The purpose of the Assessment is to try and anticipate what the impact of change will be on ecosystems, on the wellbeing of people and communities in the future and to suggest measures to care for and enhance the condition of ecosystems globally. Over 1,300 experts contributed to the work that assessed the condition of the world's ecosystems and the services they contribute, and measures were suggested in order to maintain, restore and promote making sustainable use of ecosystems.

3.2.4 The findings of the MA were that human actions had depleted a great deal of the earth's natural resources placing a strain on the environment and making it difficult for the world's ecosystems to sustain future populations. It was concluded that it would be possible to undo a great deal of the

damage by changing policies and practices – but the essential changes have not thus far been adopted.

### **3.3 Ecosystem Services**

3.3.1 As we have explained the natural environment provides ‘services’ for us to live. These provisioning services include food, work opportunities, trees, building materials and a wide range of other products. In addition, the environment is responsible for matters such as water purification, nutrient cycling, provision of fresh air etc. By now there is an agreement that it is possible to place these Ecosystem Services in four categories as follows:

- **Provisioning Services** – products such as food, fibre and medicine.
- **Regulating Services** – water purification, maintaining air standards and climate regulation.
- **Cultural Services** – well-being by contact with nature and education.
- **Supporting Services** - processes required for other services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling.

3.3.3 The following is a more detailed analysis of the Ecosystem Services in the above four categories:

#### **Provisioning Services**

- Food – ecosystems provide the circumstances for food to grow. The majority of food comes from farming systems but there are also natural sources such as fish, trees and food from natural sources e.g. blackberries, mushrooms.
- Raw materials: Ecosystems provide a variety of materials for building and fuel - including trees, fuel and oil.
- Fresh water: Ecosystems play an essential part in the water cycle, by regulating the flow of water and water purification. Forests and vegetation regulate how much water is available locally.
- Medical Resources: A variety of plants that are used as natural medicines are provided by wildlife and ecosystems and providing raw materials to the pharmaceutical industry.

#### **Regulating Services**

- Local climate and air quality standards. Trees provide shelter whilst forests regulate rainfall and water provision. Trees are also important to dispose of air pollution.
- Carbon storage – ecosystems regulate global climate through carbon dioxide storage and treatment – greenhouse gases.

- Limiting extreme climate events – ecosystems form a buffer in the case of some extreme circumstances e.g. trees stabilise steep hills and wetland areas absorb water.
- Treating waste water – wetlands and peat lands filter and purify water.
- Preventing erosion and maintaining soil fertility - vegetation protects land from erosion and healthy ecosystems maintain land fertility.
- Pollination – insects and wind pollinate trees and other plants, and so do some birds.
- Biological Regulation – ecosystems control pests and diseases via the natural order of predators and parasites e.g. birds, bats and insects.

### **Habitat or Supportive Services**

- Habitat for species – everything is provided for species – food, water, shelter. Some species will be dependent on different ecosystems at different times e.g. birds, fish, mammals.
- Sustain genetic diversity – namely the difference between different populations and species.

### **Cultural Services**

- Recreation and physical and mental health e.g. walking or outdoor sports affording an opportunity to keep healthy and to relax.
- Tourism – Ecosystems and biodiversity are the basis for special types of tourism that contribute to the economy of areas/countries and benefit communities.
- An aesthetic appreciation and inspiration for the culture of art and design. There is a close connection between language, knowledge and the natural environment and wildlife and the natural environment have inspired art, culture and science.
- Spiritual experience and sense of place – there is a spiritual link with special locations e.g. Bardsey and wildlife and the natural environment is linked to religion and customs.

## **3.4 What is the Ecosystem Approach Management Method?**

### **3.4.1 Management based on the ecosystem is defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity as follows:**

“A strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way”.

### **3.4.2 In addition, the Convention has defined 12 principles to implement EA – however they may be adapted for a purpose. The Welsh Government has**

accepted the 12 principles for implementation according to the ecosystem approach in this country. A summary of the principles are noted below:

**Principle 1:** The objectives of management of land, water and living resources are a matter of societal choice.

**Principle 2:** Management should be decentralised to the lowest appropriate level.

**Principle 3:** Ecosystem manager should consider the effects (actual or potential) of their activities on adjacent and other ecosystems.

**Principle 4:** Recognising potential gains from management, there is usually a need to understand and manage the ecosystem in an economic context.

**Principle 5:** Conservation of ecosystem structure and functioning, in order to maintain ecosystem services, should be a priority target of the ecosystem approach.

**Principle 6:** Ecosystems must be managed within the limits of their functioning.

**Principle 7:** The ecosystem approach should be undertaken at the appropriate spatial and temporal scales.

**Principle 8:** Recognising the varying temporal scales and lag-effects that characterise ecosystem processes, objectives for ecosystem management should be set for the long term.

**Principle 9:** Management must recognise that change is inevitable.

**Principle 10:** The ecosystem approach should seek the appropriate balance between, and integration of, conservation and use of biological diversity.

**Principle 11:** The ecosystem approach should consider all forms of relevant information, including scientific and indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices.

**Principle 12:** The ecosystem approach should involve all relevant sectors of society and scientific disciplines.

### **3.5 How can the Ecosystem Approach entail making better policies?**

3.5.1 There are a number of benefits from using the ecosystem approach to making effective policies:

- Gives a better analysis of the matters in question.
- A means of defining options and discussing with others.
- A way of assessing costs / benefits of options
- Taking decisions with the minimum cost and the maximum benefits
- Working with partners to realise the policy
- Evaluating and adapting the policy bearing in mind the benefits provided by the Natural Environment

### **3.6 Incorporating the Ecosystem Approach in the Management Plan**

3.6.1 The Ecosystem approach seeks opportunities to work with natural systems to realise the objectives and policies. It will measure the negative and beneficial impact of policies on the services provided by nature/the natural environment. Undertaking this effectively will in the long term, on a wide scale, entail looking beyond the usual policy boundaries, undertaking an evaluation of the services in question and include those that benefit from the Services and those who provide.

3.6.2 As part of the review of this Management Plan, we have sought to give attention to all the relevant issues in terms of incorporating the Ecosystem Approach. The relevant matters are listed below, but it has to be noted that resources did not permit us to give detailed attention to all the matters noted.

- Confirm what are the area's Special Qualities
- Consider all the designated area in terms of the ecosystem and services as well as the adjacent area if required.
- Identify services/benefits of the area's ecosystem and consider how policies would change /influence them.
- Give value to the changes in eco services, in order to consider them as part of the cost/benefit.
- Seek opportunities to use ecosystem services to realise policies.
- Identify legal and biophysical limitations in terms of the policy options and see how these will change over time.
- Identify the risks to the natural environment from the policies and how these could change over time.
- Consider all who may be affected by the changes to ecosystem services as a result of the policies contained in the Plan.

## **4.0 THE LLŶN PENINSULA – A SPECIAL PLACE!**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 The Llŷn Peninsula was one of the first areas in Britain to be designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty back in 1956. To the present day, there are only five AONBs in Wales - the others are Anglesey, Clwydian Range, Gower Peninsula and Wye Valley.
- 4.1.2 The main basis for designating part of the area as an AONB in 1956 was the natural beauty of the landscape and coast, wide-ranging views and the undeveloped nature of the area. These features continue to make the area special, but for the purposes of the Management Plan, it is important to attempt to make a more detailed analysis of the area's special features and define all of its qualities.
- 4.1.3 When we refer to "qualities", this is a reference to the feature or element of the area's character that is special, unique or "valued". After identifying and defining the special qualities, we can proceed to measure the size and condition of these features (and the resources that are part of them), including measuring what changes have occurred over time and continue to happen.
- 4.1.4 Some of the area's qualities will continue to be relatively unchanged, such as the beautiful landscape and varying coastline as they are based on the area's geology and vegetation. However, in the case of some qualities there has been some deterioration over time, such as a reduction in the size and quality of habitats, wildlife and historical buildings.
- 4.1.5 A number of conservation designations have been made in different parts of Llŷn. These acknowledge the high value of the landscape, coast, geology, wildlife and habitats, remains and historical buildings. Additional information regarding these designations has been included in the assessment of the area's condition. The most important tier of designations is the European designations such the Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar sites. Following this, we have the National designations, then regional designations and then local designations. The key designations are ones that are based on legislation (statutory), whilst more local or regional designations are usually non-statutory.

### **4.2 The Special Qualities**

- 4.2.1 Considerable attention was given to identifying and defining the special qualities of the area in the original Management Plan and that work remains relevant. The work included considering various sources of information and evidence base including the views of local people and visitors. In brief, these were the main sources considered:

- Conservation designations;
- LANDMAP Landscape Assessment;

- Professional views of different officers and experts;
- Public opinion of both locals and tourists;
- Sources of inspiration for literature and poetry.

4.2.2 Based on this work, it was concluded that a number of qualities were relevant to Llŷn with a series of features contributing towards each specific quality. For example, if the beauty of the landscape is the quality, the features that contribute to that include geology, vegetation, field boundaries etc.

4.2.3 When reaching conclusions regarding the qualities for the purpose of the Plan, an attempt was made to be specific and clear in terms of the Llŷn AONB rather than including broad headings that could be relevant to any area. Therefore, for the purpose of this Management Plan, the following were defined as the special qualities of the Llŷn AONB:

- Landscape and coast
- Tranquillity and a clean environment
- A wealth of wildlife
- The Historic environment
- The Welsh Language and Culture
- People and close-knit communities
- Local produce and rural businesses
- Rhights of way and access

4.2.4 To follow, there is an outline of the area's qualities according to the above-mentioned categories illustrated by examples to demonstrate why these features are special. More facts and information about the AONB's resources is available in the Review of the Condition of the AONB.

### **4.3 Beautiful Landscape and Coast**

4.3.1 Llŷn is an area of beautiful coastal and rural landscape that offers striking views. The landscape varies from fertile lowlands to igneous hills that are dotted around the area such as Garn Fadrun, Garn Boduan and Foel Gron. The vegetation creates a strong visual impact by creating a colourful picture that changes from season to season.

4.3.2 From the hilltops, excellent views are to be had to every direction and the coastal nature of the area is obvious. The Llŷn landscape is divided into a patchwork of roads, streams and rivers such as afon Desach, afon Geirch, afon Daron and afon Soch. Traditional field boundaries, mainly cloddiau and stone walls are also a prominent feature in the landscape and a very important historical resource.

4.3.3 The coast forms an important part of the appearance and character of Pen Llŷn. It varies greatly – parts of the northern coastline are rocky but sandy beaches are to be found here and there such as Nefyn, Towyn and Whistling Sands. Larger beaches are to be found on the southern

coastline and sand dunes are to be found in the Abersoch area. The features include high cliffs, caves, stacks and islands, promontories and stone and sandy beaches with interesting local names.

- 4.3.4 Traces of people's habitation on the landscape contribute to the visual character of the landscape. The most rural parts are characterised by small houses and cottages and individual farms – similar to parts of south-west Ireland. Because of the lack of other developments, there is a strong feeling of an unspoilt, natural landscape to Llŷn. Small, dispersed villages are also characteristic of the area. Because of their compact nature and the traditional building materials, they usually blend naturally into the landscape.
- 4.3.5 As a result of its striking natural beauty, Llŷn has made an impression on artists, including local artists such as Elis Gwyn Jones, Emrys Parry and Rob Piercy, along with some who came to the area for a period of time to practice their craft. Pictures of the striking views of Llŷn are very prominent in the work of artists, with views of the sea, sunset, various landscapes, the coastline, cottages and local characters frequent themes.

#### **4.4 The Changing Sea**

- 4.4.1 The sea is never far away on the Llŷn Peninsula and has greatly influenced the area's character. The Sound (*Swnt*) that lies between Bardsey Island and the mainland demands respect – it can be raging and dangerous as many currents meet here.
- 4.4.2 The sea gave subsistence to generations of Llŷn people and a number of coastal villages grew in the area as a result of the fishing industry. Small ports were developed in a number of areas along the Llŷn coast in the seventeenth century and Nefyn was one of the busiest. Agricultural produce would be exported through the ports and goods such as pepper, cloth, crockery, vinegar etc. were imported. Coal was also imported to many small ports in Llŷn and coal yards or the remains of coal yards can be seen in many places today, such as Porth Ysgaden, Whistling Sands and Aberdaron. Lime kilns were developed near some of these ports, and their remains can be seen in several places such as Abersoch and Porth Ysgaden.
- 4.4.3 The construction of sailing ships developed to be an important industry in Pwllheli, Nefyn and Porthdinllaen throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth century. As a result of this industry, a tradition of seafarers developed in the area and a number of men from the area, in particular from Nefyn, succeeded to become captains. A Maritime Museum has been established in Nefyn to keep the relics of the period and to record the history.
- 4.4.4 Piers were developed in order to serve the quarrying and mineral industries, such as for exporting granite in Trefor, Porth y Nant and Carreg y Llam and in Hell's Mouth and Porth Ysgo for vessels which carried

manganese from the Rhiw area. The remains of some of these structures can still be seen on the beaches today.

- 4.4.5 Naturally, the sea has played a prominent part in the area's culture. A number of shipwrecks have occurred along the shores and there are many stories collecting bounty off the beaches and even about attracting ships to difficulties. There are also tales of smuggling and pirates associated with Llŷn. Descriptions of the sea are obvious in the work of poets also and tales of seamen, ships and shipwrecks are common.
- 4.4.6 In the present day, the sea is a valuable economic resource in terms of pleasure boats, jet-skis, fishing etc., and the beaches attract thousands of locals and tourists in the summer.

#### **4.5 A Clean Environment and Tranquillity**

- 4.5.1 The Llŷn Peninsula, in particular at its western point, is one of the few areas where peace and tranquillity can be found. Something like this is a "feeling" or impression of a place and it is difficult to identify and measure it clearly. Despite the changes that have occurred over time and the fact that places are busier, parts of Llŷn continue to be very rural and peaceful in their nature. The poet, J. Glyn Davies has given a very vivid description of Llŷn that refers to this feeling of tranquillity:

*Heulwen ar hyd y glennydd a haul hwyr, a'i liw  
Ar y mynydd,  
Felly Llŷn ar derfyn dydd,  
Lle i enaid gael llonydd" - J.Glyn Davies*

- 4.5.2 A number of different elements, not just a single thing, contribute to creating this tranquillity. The types of things that contribute are the absences of large scale developments (houses or industry), few motorists and traffic, very little traffic to disturb the peace, very few things moving and little light to disturb the darkness of night. The distant and peripheral nature of the area has again been a key factor in terms of creating and maintaining this quality.
- 4.5.3 In addition to being peaceful, levels of pollution are low here in Llŷn. Again, due to the remote nature of the area, there haven't been many significant developments and industries here, traffic levels are low apart from during the main holiday periods. The quality of the soil, air, water and seawater continues to be very high here.

#### **4.6 Wildlife and Habitats**

- 4.6.1 A wealth of wildlife lives in various habitats in the Llŷn Peninsula. Over time, the rural and agricultural character of the area, as well as the calm and non-polluted nature of the area, has contributed to the continuation of a number of species that are now considered rare in the British Isles.

- 4.6.2 Nowadays, natural or semi-natural vegetation, namely unimproved and uncultivated land such as heaths, wetlands and woodlands are rare in the United Kingdom. Despite the fact that they are in decline, heaths are a prominent and important feature in Llŷn and wet, dry, low and coastal heaths are to be found here. They contribute not only as a habitat and a landscape feature, but also on a historical and cultural level and as a leisure resource (many of the heaths in the area are common lands). The heaths sustain a wide variety of interesting pastures and plants in addition to the heather and gorse that are so colourful during August and September.
- 4.6.3 Another important feature in Llŷn is the coastal habitat including cliffs, slopes, coastal land, beaches and sand dunes. The cliffs and slopes maintain a variety of vegetation that is slowly developing into coastal pastures and heaths and they are also home to a variety of sea birds as well as a habitat for hornets and some rare invertebrate creatures.
- 4.6.4 Due to the importance of a number of marine habitats and species seen in the Llŷn a'r Sarnau area, for example the reefs and the estuaries, the area has been designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats and Species Directive. The reefs support a wide variety of flora and fauna communities including a variety of seaweed forests, sponges and sea squirts.
- 4.6.5 The grey seal is common to the area, along with otters, harbour porpoises and bottlenose dolphins that can be seen in the seas on the southern coast. Also, the location and special features of the bay is a suitable habitat for the Risso's dolphin.
- 4.6.6 Due to its rural landscape a varying coastline Llŷn is a habitat for a large variety of land birds and sea birds, some of them being rare species. Among the rare birds is the chough that is used as the AONB's logo. In 2002, there were 67 sites and pairs in Gwynedd with a vast number of these in Llŷn. Other bird species of European importance are to be found here also, including: the Puffin, the Guillemot and the Manx Shearwater.

## **4.7 Historic Landscape**

- 4.7.1 People have lived in Llŷn for thousands of years. Archaeological remains, from individual sites and monuments, to the broader landscape with its distinctive field and settlement pattern, link today with the distant past. They remind us that Llŷn is an ancient place where generations of people have lived.
- 4.7.2 The earliest evidence for human occupation dates from around 10,000 years ago, a period known as the Mesolithic. Chipped stone and flint have been discovered and tools such as knives and scrapers. From the Neolithic period (4,500-2,500 BC) there are burial chambers and standing stones and also of significant importance from this period, there is an ax factory on Mynydd Rhiw.

- 4.7.3 The most striking remains from early civilisation in the area are the Iron Age hill forts located on many hills in the area such as Garn Boduan, Garn Fadrun, and Penarfynydd in Rhiw. The largest fort is Tre'r Ceiri, 460m above sea level. This was an important defence fort and any oncoming threats could be seen from afar. It's fascinating that much of the fort is still standing – the main defence wall is clearly seen as well as the remains of about 150 circle huts.
- 4.7.4 Religion along the ages has left its mark on Llŷn – in terms of the landscape, its history, the society and the culture. In terms of historical remains, a number of stones with inscriptions on them dating back to the Early Christian era (5<sup>th</sup> Century) have been discovered in Llŷn, for example, with the names of the priests VERACIVS and SENACVS that were discovered near Capel Anelog, Uwchmynydd. Also, from the same era, monk training schools, small churches (*llan*) that developed into prominent church sites were established, such as in Clynnog Fawr, Llanaelhaearn and Aberdaron. A number of these early sites were named after the Celtic Saints such as Beuno (Clynnog, Pistyll and Carnguwch), Hywyn (Aberdaron) and Cwyfan (Edern and Tudweiliog).
- 4.7.5 From a more recent era, remains of former industries of Llŷn such as the granite quarries and mineral mining, survive. Associated with them are the inclines, stages and docks used to export these raw materials, many of which can be seen clearly to the present day. In this period, before mass transport, communities grew up around industries forming settlements and villages in places such as Trefor, Llithfaen and Nant Gwrtheyrn. The granite quarries provided the stones for building many of the buildings in Llŷn in this period and the majority of the traditional and listed buildings of the area have been built from local granite.
- 4.7.6 Some other historical structures of interest are to be seen in Llŷn such as the remains of two old windmills and transport related structures – such as bridges, stone stiles and milestones.
- 4.7.7 Even though there are no Roman remains in Llŷn (as far as we know) there are many other archaeological remains over a long period of time found here. Llŷn is unique in that sense and this is reflected in the fact that the area is included on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales prepared by Cadw, the Countryside Council for Wales and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) 1998. The register notes that Llŷn possesses: *“a great and unparalleled wealth and diversity of, most often, smaller scale archaeological and historic features, which together form a cohesive and integrated whole, demonstrating both the continuity and territorial unity of Lleyrn from possibly prehistoric times onwards.”*

## **4.8 Historic Buildings**

- 4.8.1 The ordinary people of Llŷn lived in cottages – and usually, these were built in a simple way and in very little time. Those that have survived have been

re-roofed with slate and the best examples have been listed by Cadw. Traditionally, many of the small cottages that are part of the Llŷn landscape have been based on “*tai unnos*” (one night houses). These cottages were built with the materials that were closest to hand, namely soil, stones and mud.

- 4.8.2 A significant number of interesting farmhouses and agricultural buildings are to be found in Llŷn, as a thriving agricultural area. There are some small farmhouses, whilst others are substantial and are connected to prominent families of noblemen such as Bodwrdda, Meillionydd and Castellmarch. Many farmhouses and buildings were developed by the Estates, such as Glynllifon, Nanhoron and the Faenol.
- 4.8.3 Many historical religious buildings are to be seen in Llŷn as religion has played an important part in the development and culture of the area from the Christian period onwards. Remains of a Monastery from the 6<sup>th</sup> Century are to be seen on Bardsey Island, whilst ancient churches on the pilgrims’ path are to be seen in places such as Clynnog Fawr, Llanaelhaearn, Llangwnnadr and Aberdaron.
- 4.8.4 Chapels were built on a wide scale in Llŷn as a result of the development of Nonconformity from the mid seventeenth century onwards. The first Congregational chapel, namely Capel Newydd Nanhoron, was built in 1769 and following this, a significant number of chapels were built by various other denominations across the area.

#### **4.9 The Welsh Language and Culture**

- 4.9.1 Llŷn is one of the heartlands of the Welsh language which is one of the oldest languages in Europe. Here, the Welsh language is a live language and is used daily in the home, chapels and churches, in school, shops, the workplace and on the street. Also, the language is visible everywhere on signs, posters and in the local paper: “Llanw Llŷn”. Agricultural fields and places in Llŷn have Welsh names, as well as most of the farms and houses.
- 4.9.2 Not only is the Welsh language a communication language for life and business on a day to day basis, but it is also the language of literature and poetry and is part of the special culture of the area. Other important elements of the local culture are the anecdotes, legends, superstitions, sayings, characters and place names.
- 4.9.3 Religion continues to play an important part in the culture of the people of Llŷn. In times gone by, the saints were very prominent and regular pilgrimages were made to Bardsey Island. A vast number of local churches were dedicated to the early saints. Later on, chapels were established by different denominations across Llŷn, however, audiences have decreased greatly. Linked to the chapels came the *Eisteddfod* tradition that still continues to this day.

4.9.4 Local characters also contribute to the culture of Llŷn. Amongst the famous historical characters were Dic Aberdaron – who could, apparently, speak 15 languages, and the old medicine woman of Bryn Caniad, Uwchmynydd who cured every type of condition with home-made medicine and ointment.

#### **4.10 People and Communities**

4.10.1 In Llŷn there are close-knit communities that have been developed over a long period of time. As with all areas there have been changes within the communities over the years – people from outside the area moved in for work purposes, to retire or in order to change their lifestyle.

4.10.2 People have also moved out of the area – mainly in order to obtain education or to find work. To date, the local communities have been able to absorb these developments without a major change in its character and structure and no excessive impact on local culture and use of the language. Measures such as the Council's Welsh language education policy have also been important in this respect.

4.10.3 The local people and the communities they form have maintained the Welsh language and the special Welsh culture. Customs, anecdotes and information have been passed down from one generation to the next.

4.10.4 Because the community contributes to the area's character, it is important to try and ensure that the well-being of these communities. Therefore, there is a need to address people's needs in terms of housing, services and facilities, leisure, employment and jobs.

#### **4.11 Economy and Skills**

4.11.1 Traditionally in Llŷn, emphasis has been placed on work that is linked directly to the environment – namely the primary industries. Farming and fishing have developed since very early times and they continue to be important to this day as they maintain families, provide local produce and maintain other industries. In addition, a special culture is linked to these activities – full of customs, anecdotes and colourful characters.

4.11.2 In the eighteenth and nineteenth century, the quarries and mineral mining industries became important industries. These works provided work for a vast number of people and a number of quarrying villages grew, such as Trefor, Pistyll and Llithfaen. The remains of the industries are to be seen on the landscape of the area today – mining remains, old buildings and equipment and waste heaps. Two stone quarries continue to be active in Llŷn, namely Nanhoron and Trefor, and they provide stones for local industries.

4.11.3 Many other local businesses are important to Llŷn's economy. There is a tradition of being self-employed in Llŷn and in the olden days there was a high proportion of joiners, blacksmiths and farm workers here but today, many builders, electricians, carpenters etc. are to be found. In addition to

providing work, a number of small rural businesses also maintain skills that are ways of maintaining historical features in the area, such as *cloddiau*, stone walls, historical buildings, etc.

4.11.4 In the absence of any major built attraction the tourism industry in Llŷn is mainly based on the special qualities of the area – the beauty, the beaches, the clean environment and the peace. The industry provides jobs and helps maintain local businesses and contributes substantially to the economy, but there are some negative impact on some of the special qualities as well. The aim must be to manage the industry in order to benefit the area; however, it must be ensured that this is not done to the detriment of the features that create the special character and charm of the area.

#### **4.12 A Place to Roam**

4.12.1 There are many opportunities to roam and enjoy the natural beauty and historical features of Llŷn. Public footpaths were an important way of getting about in the past and they were frequently used in rural areas like Llŷn. The County Council and Community Councils maintain and protect the network of paths because of their importance in terms of walking and enjoyment.

4.12.2 As well as the network of public footpaths, there are a myriad of small rural lanes that weave their way along the peninsula and connect areas together. On the whole, the roads are relatively quiet and there are opportunities to walk, cycle and ride horses along them also.

4.12.3 The paths along parts of the coast, are the old paths by Pilgrims who walked along the shore towards Bardsey, stopping at churches such as Clynog and Llangwennadl. Developing a National Coastal Path has been a great benefit. With money and resources, parts of the original route have been improved and new sections that run near the coast have been added.

4.12.4 There are substantial areas of common land in Llŷn, such as Mynydd Tir y Cwmwd, Foel Gron and Mynydd Rhiw – these lands provide an excellent opportunity to roam more informally and view and enjoy wildlife, different plants and striking views. The common lands have not been improved agriculturally and many of them are unimproved heaths – a habitat that is now scarce on a national level.

4.12.5 One of the main attractions of Llŷn are the wonderful beaches along the north and south coast. There are gravel and pebble beaches but also beaches of fine sand in areas such as Nefyn, Porthdinllaen and Whistling Sands. Some beaches are well-known and therefore busy in the summer, but there are more secluded and tranquil beaches also – ideal locations for some peace and quiet.

## 5.0 A VISION FOR THE LLŶN AONB

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section of the Plan moves on to consider the area's future and how the Plan can be of benefit to the AONB. The basic aim of the Management Plan is to deliver the core purpose of the AONB – which is to conserve, maintain and enhance the area's natural beauty and special qualities. To realise this it will be necessary to influence activities that are detrimental or beneficial to those qualities.

5.1.2 The Vision is the long term aim for the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is a specific statement and therefore it is necessary to look further into the future beyond 2019, when the Management Plan is to be reviewed again. The initial Vision referred to 2020 but during the review it was decided that 2040 was a suitable milestone for the revised Plan.

5.1.3 Of course the Vision needs to give attention to the special qualities of the AONB but it will also refer to likely future developments and local and global trends. In addition, when reviewing the Vision reference was made to:

- Future developments and local and global trends
- the interaction between environmental quality and supporting economies and local communities – which are at the root of sustainable development
- climate change and the responses to it
- the wide range of natural services and benefits the special environment of the AONB offers and provides

### 5.2 Basic Principles

5.2.1 Prior to setting a Vision for the area it was decided to establish a set of principles which will form the basis for the Management Plan itself. These principles were defined following the consideration of the fundamental reasons for the AONB designation, the long-term well-being of the area, sustainability and relevant local and global issues.

5.2.2 During the Management Plan review process the principles were re-assessed and four new principles were drawn up for 2010-15. The revised principles can be seen below:

<b>PRINCIPLE 1</b>
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<b>Preserve, maintain and where appropriate restore features which make Penrhyn Llŷn special and unique.</b>
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5.2.3 It is a combination of qualities and assets that make Llŷn a unique area and these form an important part of the area's character. These characteristics or qualities were defined in previous sections of the Plan and they include the landscape, wildlife, historic environment, communities and language. The main focus of the Management Plan will aim to conserve, maintain and where possible enhance these qualities.

- 5.2.4 It is also important to ensure that any new developments permitted are in keeping with the area and therefore issues such as size, scale, design and materials will be important. Often, the impact of new developments in the landscape and environment can be lessened through measures such as location, suitable design and landscaping
- 5.2.5 The planning system will play an important part in this by assessing development applications and not permitting developments which would have an unacceptable impact on the AONB or attaching conditions to make developments more acceptable.

<b>PRINCIPLE 2</b>
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<b>Take steps to promote sustainable development and prepare for future climate change.</b>
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- 5.2.6 The Management Plan and the activities of the AONB Service have an important role to play in raising awareness regarding local and global environmental issues, sustainable development and the implications of climate change.
- 5.2.7 Raising awareness and local implementation can contribute to national action to reduce pollution, save energy, minimise travelling and try to ensure that development is sustainable in the long-term. Also, attention has to be given to the possible impact of climate change and rising sea levels, especially in coastal areas such as Penrhyn Llŷn.

<b>PRINCIPLE 3</b>
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<b>Identify, promote and develop an appreciation of the environmental services and benefits provided by AONB.</b>
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- 5.2.8 National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty were designated for their Natural beauty and they are special areas of the countryside and the coast. In addition, these areas have an important role to play in providing opportunities for all types of activities for relaxation and leisure for local people and visitors. Presently there is more and more awareness of the importance of such opportunities and the benefit these areas can offer in terms of the health and general welfare of the population.
- 5.2.9 This Management Plan and the actions that emanate from it will contribute a great deal to raising the awareness of local people of the opportunities on their own doorstep. Also, there are opportunities to convey similar messages to all types of visitors who come to Llŷn. The Plan also raises the awareness of leaders in the fields of health and welfare as well as politicians regarding what protected landscapes can offer.

<b>PRINCIPLE 4</b>
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<b>Support the people and communities who work and live in Llŷn and encourage involvement in AONB activities and the area's future.</b>
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5.2.10 It's important to realise that the Llŷn AONB is a living landscape. The local people and the communities they form bring life, variety and colour to the area as well as being instrumental in safeguarding many of the qualities which make the area special and unique. These people need to be supported and also encouraged to take a more proactive role in the AONB's management and the area's future.

### **5.3 The Future of Llŷn**

5.3.1 The Vision was formulated on the basis of the information gathered and presented in the previous sections of the Plan. These sections define what is special about Llŷn, assess the condition of these qualities and what activities place pressure on them or are of benefit to them. In addition, the Vision has regard to the founding principles referred to at the beginning of this section.

5.3.2 **Therefore, this is the Vision for Llŷn in the year 2040:**

**AN AREA OF BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE AND COAST WITH A WEALTH OF WILDLIFE WHICH PROVIDES A RANGE OF NATURAL SERVICES. HISTORIC FEATURES BEING RECORDED AND VALUED AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES SUPPORTING THE WELSH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.**

5.3.3 In order to be more specific regarding specific qualities in the area, individual visions were formulated that are more detailed. These visions set out a scenario as regards the condition of each of the qualities in the future.

### **5.4 The Landscape, Coast and Seascape**

5.4.1 The natural beauty of the landscape, the coast and the associated views were the reasons for the AONB designation in 1957 and the Heritage Coast in 1974. The above Vision aims to maintain these special natural qualities and an important part of this is that any future new developments are of a good standard and in keeping with the area's environment.

5.4.2 The vision adopted for the future is as follows:

**A Peninsula of plateau land and prominent hills with a beautiful coastline. Stunning natural views and a close relationship with the sea. New housing, roads and other developments blending in well with the AONB environment.**

## **5.5 Tranquillity and Low Pollution**

5.5.1 Presently Llŷn is an area with low environmental pollution and the Vision anticipates that this will continue with perhaps some improvements in the future. It is also hoped that the low levels of activities, noise and sky glow in Llŷn will be maintained and therefore the tranquil and peaceful character of the area will continue.

5.5.2 The vision can be seen below:

**Low levels of pollution, noise and sky glow and a tranquil, isolated and peaceful atmosphere.**

## **5.6 Habitats and Wildlife**

5.6.1 Unfortunately, many natural habitats in Llŷn have deteriorated significantly during the second half of the last century due to agricultural mechanisation and some are now a rare resource. Heathland and some other important habitats need to be safeguarded and restored and their management improved in order to realise the vision.

5.6.2 The rural and coastal character of the area and also its unpolluted nature means that it is a haven for a wealth of wildlife. It is hoped that Llŷn will continue to be a habitat for a great variety of animals, reptiles, insects, birds and marine creatures including some that are now rare in European countries.

5.6.3 The vision is:

**Heathland and other key habitats of Llŷn being safeguarded and managed effectively and the abundance of wildlife being maintained and safeguarded.**

## **5.7 The Historic Environment**

5.7.1 The Llŷn and Bardsey Island area is included on the Register of Landscapes of Exceptional Historical Interest in Wales as a recognition of the area's historic environment wealth.

5.7.2 As was seen in the previous section of the Plan, the area's historic environment includes a vast variety of resources. These resources include early archaeological and historical remains such as standing stones and forts, remains of industrial activities such as old quarries, mining works, coal yards and lime kilns. In addition, there are historical buildings and traditional parts of villages which are an important element of the built heritage. Studies indicate that some historical buildings are in danger due to lack of care and maintenance and unsuitable developments which impair their character and appearance. However, on the whole, traditional parts of villages have maintained their original character well.

5.7.3 It is also hoped that there will be more information available on the historical environment and more opportunities to visit sites and buildings.

5.7.4 See the vision adopted for the future is:

**Historic characteristics such as standing stones, hedges, wells, churches and cottages being protected and properly maintained. Good opportunities for visiting and learning about remains, historical sites and important buildings in Llŷn.**

## **5.8 People and Communities**

5.8.1 The people who live and work in the area contribute to its character and identity and maintain traditions, the language and culture. By having fair living conditions and opportunities for enjoyment and to make a living in the area the Vision envisages that communities will be stable and will flourish. The local residents and the communities will in turn be a means to sustain another special characteristic of Llŷn, namely the Welsh Language and culture.

5.8.2 The vision can be seen below:

**Stable communities enjoying a good quality of life with people and children being aware of the area's history and traditions and sustaining the Welsh Language and culture.**

## **5.9 The Welsh Language and Culture**

5.9.1 Llŷn has a unique local culture with a special Welsh dimension and the Welsh language is an integral part of this. The Welsh language and culture is under considerable threat due to outward migration from the indigenous community and immigration of people who are often unaware of the area's history and culture. Through activities, projects and campaigns in the years to come the hope is that the Welsh Language will continue to be the main language in the area in 2030.

5.9.2 The other aspiration is that local linguistic and cultural elements will be recorded and promoted during the period in question, via various projects by communities, public authorities and other enterprises.

5.9.3 See the vision below:

**Welsh being the main language of Llŷn, Welsh names being used and the Welsh culture flourishing and well documented.**

## **5.10 Work, Produce and Skills**

5.10.1 Over the centuries primary traditional industries such as agriculture, mining and fishing have had a strong influence on the area's character and have

been the foundation of the local economy. It is believed that they will still contribute to the Llŷn economy, however, the adoption of more sustainable methods of operating would be of great benefit to the area's special qualities. In addition, small self-employed businesses in Llŷn are important for the rural economy and contribute to the economy and character of the area.

5.10.2 The tourism and leisure industry make a significant contribution and helps maintain local services. However, it is also obvious that there are some detrimental side effects linked to certain qualities related to the industry. In future, it is hoped that a balance can be struck between profiting from the industry, reducing its impact and sustaining the quality of the environment. Developing the industry on the basis of sustainability offers significant benefits to the local economy and in terms of the effect on the special qualities.

5.10.3 The vision is as follows:

**That agriculture, fishing and quarrying continuing to provide employment and quality local produce. Tourism and other small rural industries to contribute to the local economy without impairing the area's special environment.**

## **5.11 Paths and Access**

5.11.1 Rights of way and rights of access are important as a resource to an area such as Llŷn. Without these rights it would not be possible to gain access to extensive parts of the area and coastline. In future, it is hoped that these rights will be safeguarded and that the paths are maintained, although we realise that priorities will have to be based on resources. Research work has indicated that there are opportunities to improve the provision for the disabled in Llŷn and by 2040 it is hoped that improvements will have been introduced in certain places where that is practicably possible.

5.11.2 Another aim will be to ensure that the increase in the use of rights of way, cycling and use of public transport in the future – on the basis of well-being and public health, increase the appreciation and enjoyment of the AONB and for the benefit of the environment. Therefore, raising awareness is important as well as management to reduce conflicts and develop better relations between owners, managers and various user groups.

5.11.3 The vision adopted for the future is:

**Rights of way and land with access rights being enjoyed without obstacles and improved access opportunities for the disabled. Walking, cycling, horse riding and non-motorised leisure water activities are popular activities.**

## 6.0 LANDSCAPE AND COAST

### Key Facts

Llŷn AONB was designated in 1956, an area of 15,500 hectares
The Llŷn Heritage Coast extends 55 miles around the Peninsula
Landmap – Parts of Llŷn’s landscape and coast have been designated “outstanding” and “high” quality landscape.

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 It was judged that Llŷn deserved recognition and special protection as an AONB on the basis of the beautiful landscape of special character. The unique landscape has been created by a combination of geology, vegetation and human influence over centuries. It is often difficult to assess and measure the landscape and scenery because it is a visual picture of features, structures and colours in combination.
- 6.1.2 The geological and geomorphologic features of the Llŷn Peninsula are complex and diverse. There are exceptionally old rocks from the Pre-Cambrian period, protruding volcanic rocks and a vast area of Ordovician rocks. Glacial activity had a noticeable impact on the area’s landscape, creating boulder clay deposits, lakes, river terraces and water channels. The glaciation carried rocks from the Clyde (Alisa Craig) and the Lake District areas to Llŷn, which can be seen in the glacial drifts throughout the area.
- 6.1.3 The coast contributes greatly to the natural beauty and character of Llŷn and the AONB. There are diverse and interesting natural features including sheer cliffs, caves, stacks, headlands and sandy beaches. There are diverse and interesting Welsh names on these features. The islands and Ynys Enlli especially, are also an inherent part of Llŷn’s coast. The sea is also an important component of the area and expressions such as “the sea’s influence” and “nowhere far from the sea” are commonly used about the area.
- 6.1.4 Due to the natural beauty and other special features, Llŷn has developed into a popular tourist destination. This began in the nineteenth century when trains arrived at Pwllheli. Tourism developed and changed during the twentieth century and more come to the area by car, staying at homes let as holiday accommodation and bed and breakfast establishments. Later, in the 1960s the trend towards touring caravan and tents began in earnest. By today tourism is an important industry which provides employment and income for many. However, some tourist related developments do have a significant effect on the area’s natural beauty and other qualities.
- 6.1.5 The most important geological/geomorphologic sites have been designated as either Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) – which are sites of national importance, or Regional Important Geological Sites (“RIGS”). Designated sites include caves, quarries and landscape forms.
- 6.1.6 There are **12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest** based on geology or a

combination of geology and other features, totalling a surface area of **1588.12 ha**. The condition of these sites is being assessed by Natural Resources Wales (details available on the NRW website).

6.1.7 There are **3 Regionally Important Geological Sites** within the AONB, namely Trwyn y Tal (11.00ha), Mynydd Carreg (5.29ha) and Porthdinllaen (5.67ha). The condition of these sites were denoted as “Excellent” by the Gwynedd and Anglesey RIGS Group in 2004

6.1.8 There is **1 Special Area of Conservation** based on rocks and cliffs – Clogwyni Pen Llŷn which is 887.48 ha in area.

6.1.9 In **LANDMAP**, 14 sites within the AONB have been identified as being “outstanding” (of international or national importance) and 4 sites as being “high” (regional/ county importance) in terms of Geology and Geomorphology. More information can be gained from the NRW website.

6.1.10 Parts of the coast have suffered natural erosion and coastal land has constantly been lost in the passing of time. Significant coastal conservation plans have been developed in Nefyn, Morfa Nefyn and Aberdaron. Shoreline Management Plans (Cardigan Bay and the Northern Coast) have been prepared in order to programme future erosion management work.

6.1.11 For the purpose of the Plan, a review and assessment of the AONB’s geological features was undertaken by Land Use Consultants. This work concluded that all sites were in a favourable condition. However, as far as future management was concerned there were some threats identified:

- New developments
- Dumping/ spreading of materials
- Removal/obscuring rock faces

## **6.2 Landscape Character**

6.2.1 A professional landscape assessment is useful to assess and value natural beauty and detailed descriptive terms can be used to map the landscape in sensory terms. LANDMAP was established as a landscape assessment method in 1999. It is a process of assessing the landscape which attempts to take into consideration all the relevant factors which contribute to the character of the landscape as well as assessing the impact of decisions. Also, information on land use, relevant strategies and public perceptions were assessed. The system was developed by the Welsh Landscape Partnership Group and the system are coordinated by the CCW/ NRW.

6.2.2 The LANDMAP visual assessment took the following physical factors into consideration: landscape, seascape, ground cover, land use pattern and settlement pattern. In terms of perception, consideration was given to scale, boundaries, material, colour, diversity, tranquillity, movement, safety, points of observation, untidiness and areas of visual influence. Following all this work, Gwynedd was separated into 10 Combined Aspect Areas. The AONB forms a

part of two of these areas, namely the Northern Llŷn Coast and Western Llŷn.

6.2.3 The Northern Coast area is a narrow strip stretching from Aberdesach to Nefyn and including the igneous intrusions of Bwlch Mawr, Gyrn Ddu, Gyrn Goch, Yr Eifl, Moel Tŷ Gwyn, Mynydd y Gwylwyr and Garn Boduan. The villages of Trefor, Llithfaen, Pistyll and the town of Nefyn are within this area. The area contains a range of vegetation including grassland, coppices and acidic heathland.

6.2.4 The Western Llŷn area includes the part of the peninsula to the west of the A497. Naturally, the sea strongly influences the character of the area as well as traditional field patterns. The geology of the area has created a low plateau with igneous intrusions here and there, such as Garn Fadrun and Mynydd Rhiw. The remains of glaciations are also evident throughout the area. The diverse vegetation and geology have created important habitats such as heathland and wetland. Traces of human habitations are prominent on the landscape of Western Llŷn. Most prominent are the hill-forts on Garn Fadryn and Castell Odo and the prehistoric field patterns.

6.2.5 The LANDMAP analysis of the visual and the sensory identifies seven key features or qualities found on the Llŷn Peninsula, namely:

- The peninsula's form – shaped like an elephant's trunk with a coastline made up of a combination of sandy bays and beaches interspersed with rocky headlands;
- Small mountains – either rounded, rocky hills or insular steep slopes;
- The strong contrast between the various types of vegetation – rich pastures, heath and bracken, rough pastures, coniferous forests and marshy land;
- Patterns of small fields – surrounded by stone walls and /or soil banks;
- Scattered farmhouses and quarrying villages;
- Tranquillity – no noise or light pollution;
- Remains of quarries and mineral mines – waste tips and old structures from quarries and workings such as those found on Gyrn Ddu, Yr Eifl, Trwyn Llanbedrog and Mynydd Rhiw.

6.2.6 The coast creates a strong impact, and the scattered settlements of Western Llŷn are important - the patterns created by traditional boundaries also remain. Many sites have been noted as being of “outstanding” importance (International and National importance) or “high” (Regional or Local importance) in terms of the Visual and Sensory aspect. Also a report based on LANDMAP, recommended extending the Llŷn AONB boundary to include the whole area to the west of the A497. More information regarding LANDMAP can be seen on the Natural Resources Wales website.

### **6.3 The Relationship Between the Land and the Sea**

6.3.1 The need to study the relationship between the land and the sea has become more evident lately in the wake of the concern over climate change and the likely increased storminess of the sea. It is foreseen that climate change will lead to the ice in the Arctic regions melting and a rise in sea level, leading to stormy weather and subsequent erosion in certain locations. This has

contributed towards building a case for new legislation, including the Marine and Coastal Access Act which came into force in 2009. The Act provides a new framework for planning and managing the marine and coastal environment which aims to create clean, safe, healthy, productive seas and oceans which sustain a wide variety of biodiversity.

- 6.3.2 In essence, Inter Coastal Management Zoning is a process of setting sustainability in action in coastal areas. It brings together everyone involved in planning, managing and using the coast in order to ensure that coastal management is carried out in an integrated fashion based on the information available. Since 2007 the Welsh Government and other key stakeholders which belong to the Wales Coastal and Marine Partnership have resolved to adopt an integrated management approach towards Wales' coast (Inter Coastal Management Zone - ICZM). On this basis, a coastal strategy (ICZM) for Wales has been adopted: Making the most of Wales' Coast.
- 6.3.3 The vision for the Welsh coast, contained in the strategy is that the economic, cultural and environmental assets of the Welsh coast, and the services they provide, are maintained and improved for the benefit of people today and for future generations. Among the current priorities are ensuring that the principles established by ICMZ are accepted and recognised in policy making and in practice, that a better decision making system is established on matters appertaining to the land and the sea on both sides of the coastal boundary, that people are more conscious of the importance of the coastal assets and that a better system of gathering evidence is established for making decisions and monitoring progress.
- 6.3.4 As regards the management of the shoreline, the Welsh coast has been divided into four "cells" or areas. The north coast of Llŷn, from Bardsey upwards is included within the Llandudno to Bardsey cell while the south-western coast is within the Cardigan bay coastal cell. Management plans have been prepared for these areas which concentrate on coastal defences, flood defence and coastal erosion.
- 6.3.5 For the purpose of the Management Plan of the AONB, the following was set as a Strategic Aim:

#### **Main Aim**

**SAFEGUARD AND SUSTAIN THE BEAUTY AND CHARACTER OF LLŷN'S LANDSCAPE AND COAST BY MAINTAINING AND RESTORING THE FEATURES WHICH MAKE THE AREA SPECIAL AND UNIQUE.**

#### **Special Qualities**

### **6.4 A Rolling Peninsula**

- 6.4.1 Llŷn is a peninsula extending out to sea and nowhere is far from the sea. The geology is varied and complicated and includes Pre-Cambrian rocks which are millions of years old which have formed mountains, hills, valleys and an

unique coast.

- 6.4.2 It is the varied geology which provides the basis for the landscape's unique visual character. The peninsula is a broad plateau with a number of igneous mountains and hill breaking the surface - and these are a notable element in the landscape of Llŷn and the AONB. The main ones along the north are Gyrn Goch, Gyrn Ddu and Moel Penllechog, Yr Eifl, Mynydd y Gwylwyr, Mynydd Nefyn and Garn Boduan and then Anelog ac Uwchmynydd on the tip of the peninsula. Along the southern coast there is Mynydd Rhiw, Mynydd y Graig, Tir y Cwmwd and Foel Gron, with Garn Fadryn being more inland. There are numerous other small hills such as Garn Saethon and Foel Gwynus.
- 6.4.3 Due to its island-like character and distance from major urban areas there has been relatively little development in Llŷn - and as a consequence it is often referred to as an unspoilt area.

## **6.5 A Stunning Coastline**

- 6.5.1 The coastline of Llŷn is special and is one of the area's main qualities. A large section of the north coast is characterized by sheer cliffs and rocky shores with sedimentary infills. These sedimentary areas have been eroded over time creating a variety of bays and inlets - all of which have historic Welsh names such as Porth Ysgaden, Porth Meudwy, Porth Gwylan and Porth Colmon. There are a variety of other coastal features also - such as caves, stacks, small islets - again all with Welsh names.
- 6.5.2 Although there are cliffs and rocks along the southern coast there are also wide sandy beaches which are popular with locals and tourists. Places such as Porth Neigwl, Porth Ceiriad and Abersoch beach. Due to the more sandy character of this coast a series of sand dunes have developed in the Abersoch area.
- 6.5.3 Due to the special character of the coast and because there has been very little development a large section of the Llŷn coast (55 miles / 88.3 km) was designated as a Heritage Coast in 1974. The Heritage Coast follows the AONB boundary from Aberdesach to Penrhyn Du on the southern coast however it does not include the section between Penrhyn Du and Carreg y Defaid (which is within the AONB). On the other hand it does include the coastline between Nefyn and Morfa Nefyn which is omitted from the AONB. Ynys Enlli and the Sant Tudwal islands are also included. Although the Heritage Coast is a local, rather than a statutory designation, it does place a responsibility on the Local Authority to limit coastal development.
- 6.5.4 Large sections of the coast have also been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Areas of Conservation.

## **6.6 Vegetation**

- 6.6.1 Vegetation provides colour to the landscape and creates a strong visual impact which changes from season to season. Large parts of the area are

improved agricultural land, given to pasture. This provides a landscape of variable sized field including in some areas a historic field pattern. There are some areas of rough grazing - mainly on higher land, in wet low lying valleys and on coastal slopes. Some crops are grown, cereals mostly but there has been a significant decrease in the area over recent years to the detriment of visual variation and wildlife.

6.6.2 Heathlands are an important element of Llŷn's vegetation and there are areas of coastal, lowland and upland. Upland heath is especially colourful at the end of summer when the heather and gorse are in flower.

## **6.7 Boundaries and Fields**

6.7.1 Natural boundaries are evident on the landscape of Llŷn - (rivers, woodland, hills and small mountains) and also man-made boundaries. These consist of cloddiau and stone walls, some of which have been built centuries ago to separate the fields and roads; there are also some hedgerow boundaries. All these boundaries, as well as being notable landscape features, are important wildlife habitats. Traditional field boundaries dates back to the Stone Age in some parts of the area and are a combination of natural and man-made feature which contribute greatly to the beautiful landscape we see today.

## **6.8 The Granite Quarries**

6.8.1 In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, quarried stone was a very important building material and was also used for road making. The igneous intrusions in Llŷn provided good quality granite and quarries were developed on many hills and mountains of the area - and the remains of these works can still be seen clearly today. The main quarries were Trefor, Nant Gwrtheyrn / Carreg y Llam and Gwylwyr in Nefyn but there were a range of other smaller quarries as well in places such as Tir y Cwmwd, Gyrn Ddu and Trwyn Dwmi. The quarries themselves have left physical marks on the landscape but there were other legacies as well - homes were built and even whole villages such as Trefor, Pistyll and Nant Gwrtheyrn.

## **6.9 Small Villages and dispersed buildings**

6.9.1 Small rural villages, well assimilated into the landscape, are also a feature of the area. Due to being of concise form and most buildings built in traditional materials they blend well into the landscape and many small villages have retained their historical character well - such as Llanengan, Llangian, Y Rhiw, Clynnog and Aberdaron adding to the area's appeal.

6.9.2 The most rural parts of Llŷn are characterised by small cottages, farms and the odd chapel or church - and it can be said there is a resemblance to parts of south-west Ireland in that respect. This again gives the impression of an area not much changed over time and unspoilt character which are descriptions commonly made regarding Llŷn.

## **Key Issues**

### **6.10 Climate change**

6.10.1 It is expected that climate change will place significant pressure on the Welsh landscape and coast in the future. Evidence of the effects of climate change suggest that the changes that can be expected as far as Wales is concerned will be an increase in temperature, more hot and dry summers and warmer winters with more rain which will be heavy at times<sup>1</sup>.

6.10.2 These trends may lead to two main changes over time:

- An increase in sea level with more storms leading to increased pressure from coastal erosion and flooding in low level areas;
- An extension in the growing season leading to a change in the use of agricultural land and pressure to make use of marginal agricultural land.

### **6.11 Coastal Erosion**

6.11.1 Some sections of the coast is liable to natural erosion and coastal land has been lost steadily over time – in areas such as Porth Neigwl, Nefyn – Pistyll and Trefor for example. Coastal protection schemes have been developed at Nefyn, Morfa Nefyn and Aberdaron which have had an impact on the natural character of the coastline but were seen to be needed to protect property and people. Shoreline Management Plans (Cardigan Bay and the North Coast) have been prepared so as to programme works in response to erosion in the future.

6.11.2 Erosion affects beaches and coastal slopes and can be extremely dangerous to property and people. Also, sections of paths, and the Coastal Path especially, can be lost leading to the need for re-establishment. It's important to monitor paths and property, raise awareness and take steps to prepare for coastal erosion.

### **6.12 Changes in Agriculture**

6.12.1 Farming methods have changed significantly over the years and by today there are much less mixed farms in the area. Some of the changes in the farming industry which have had an effect on the landscape recently are:

- Erecting sheds, some large, to keep animals indoors over winter
- Specialising in one type of agriculture – sheep, beef or dairy
- Large modern machinery – which needs wide gateways and large field
- Diversification to create additional income e.g. touring caravans, tents, renewable energy.

6.12.2 It must also be acknowledged also that valuable environmental work has been carried on many farms through agri-environment schemes such as re-

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<sup>1</sup> Wales Environment Strategy (2008) op cit.

establishment of cloddiau, repair and erection of stone walls, refurbishment of traditional outbuildings and planting hedgerows. Such schemes have clearly benefited the local environment and landscape.

### **6.13 Caravans and Chalets**

6.13.1 Although caravan developments have brought people and money into the area they have also, unfortunately, had an impact on the landscape and coast. Static caravans and chalets have had a negative effect especially in the Abersoch and Sarn Bach areas. Many of these sites date back to the 1960s and 70s although there have been some extensions later. Recent national and local planning policies have been more restrictive towards caravans, especially static caravans. New sites are not permitted and only small extensions are allowed as part of schemes to upgrade sites. There are opportunities to lessen the impact of some existing static sites on the AONB through landscaping schemes.

6.13.2 Recently there has also been an increase in the number of touring caravans – especially in the the Aberdaron area and along the north coast. Information from the Public Protection Unit, Gwynedd Council (2015) confirms a small increase in touring caravans and tents in the AONB but, ideally, a thorough and detailed assessment is needed on caravans and tents in the area. Within the AONB small sites, in hidden locations can be acceptable but it is important to apply and enforce suitable landscaping conditions.

6.13.3 Another factor to consider is that some owners and site operators exceed the number of units they have permission for. It's believed that supervision (to include surveys and site visits) and effective management is crucial, as well as considering opportunities to reduce the impact of existing sites by landscaping and that there is a need to consider additional protection to some sensitive parts of the area.

### **6.14 Wind Turbines**

6.14.1 Wind turbines require open and windy locations in order to function effectively, because of this they are visible on the landscape and affect natural character and views. Also, there is very little opportunity to mitigate the effect by landscaping.

6.14.2 From 2010 onwards grants were offered by the Government for the supply of energy produced by renewable sources, including wind energy in the form of the "Feed-In Tariff". As a result there was a lot of interest in such schemes because they brought economic gain and lessen the use of conventional electricity. However, the scales of payment for renewable electricity, through the Feed-in Tariff, has decreased significantly over the years and by 2016 was at a very low level.

6.14.3 When reviewing the Plan, very few wind turbines had been permitted on the Llŷn Peninsula and within the AONB specifically. The policies contained in the Unitary Development Plan and the Management Plan have been important in

controlling developments in the area as has the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment by Gillespies. It is expected that the reduced payments via the Tariff will result in fewer applications for wind turbines in future.

## **6.14 Solar Farms**

6.14.1 Due to the Feed in Tariff introduced by the Government, there has also been an increase in applications for solar panels and solar farms. Panels have mostly been fitted on the roofs of homes, outbuildings and agricultural sheds fairly successfully although there has been some impact on historic buildings in some instances.

6.14.2 Solar farms on the other hand are a different proposition as they are on a much larger scale and cover an area of some hectares. The panels are fairly low-lying in the landscape and there maybe locations where they can be sited without have much of an effect on the area's landscape. When reviewing the Plan there was 1 solar farm within the AONB itself (near Aberdaron) and 5 other solar farms of fairly significant size fairly near the boundary (at Boduan, Llangybi, Chwilog, Nanhoron and Llwyndyrys). Following the reduction in tariffs to be paid form 2016 onwards it is expected that applications will decrease significantly.

## **6.15 New Housing**

6.15.1 It's expected that some new homes will be built in the villages and countryside of Llŷn during the Plan period. Individual houses are built mostly but there have been examples of small estates being built recently – in villages such as Abersoch, Llanbedrog and Trefor.

6.15.2 New buildings can impact upon the area's landscape and character if they are built in inappropriate locations and/or are of a size and design which is unsuitable. Therefore, new buildings need to be carefully located and blend into their surroundings – be it town, village or rural village.

6.15.3 In addition to location and design the correct choice of materials is also important. Stone, pebbledash and different forms of render are the most common finishes in Llŷn and slate roofs almost universally. Traditionally doors and windows were timber but UPVC is widespread by today. Generally, traditional design and materials are more suitable within the AONB than modern ones.

## **6.16 Alterations to Buildings**

6.16.1 Unsuitable extensions and adaptations can have an impact upon the character of existing buildings and the general beauty of the area. It is the traditional buildings – cottages, farmhouses, agricultural buildings, churches, chapels etc. which are most sensitive to changes and extensions and the aim should be to preserve and maintain their character. More attention is given to this matter in the section dealing with the Historic Environment.

## **6.17 Untidy Sites and Buildings**

6.17.1 Land and buildings in an untidy condition have a negative effect on the landscape and the character of the area generally. Fortunately, in Llŷn there aren't that many instances at present and indeed there have been quite a few improvements recently such as the demolition of the derelict former Plas Pistyll Hotel. It is possible that other buildings or sites will deteriorate during the Plan period and if that happens, the aim will be to improve or rectify the situation by contacting owner, informing relevant sections of the Council or other relevant bodies such as Natural Resources Wales.

## **6.18 Highway Related Matters**

6.18.1 The historic lanes of the AONB are entwined into the landscape and naturally follow valleys, dips and turns. They are generally quite narrow and flanked by cloddiau, stone walls or hedgerows and some interesting features can be seen such as stone gateways, traditional iron gates and old milk stages. The rural lanes contribute to the area's sense of place.

6.18.2 Improvements to the A499 have had a significant effect on the AONB's landscape between Llanealghearn and Aberdesach. Although improvements were clearly needed to this road, a wide carriageway with long, straight sections and wide verges has changed the character of the road completely. Also, many historic features were lost such as narrow gateways, stone gate posts, steel gates and milk stages.

6.18.3 There is a case for improving some other roads within the AONB – most notable the A4417 between Nefyn and Llanaelghearn. If finance can be secured to carry out these improvements it is important to give proper consideration to the AONB and develop a scheme that retains the roads' character and safeguards historic features.

6.18.4 There is also concern regarding the proliferation of road signs which detract from the rural character of the area. A Study commissioned by the AONB Service in 2008 showed the effect of minor works and the gradual increase in road signs. The study also had recommendations on good practice.

## **6.19 Infrastructure and Telecommunications**

6.19.1 All in all, a number of mobile phone masts have been erected in Llŷn and the service provided is important for local people, visitors and businesses. On the whole these have been fairly well assimilated into the landscape and have not had a significant effect on the landscape and coast. However it is possible that lack of signal and 4G technology might require additional masts in future.

6.19.2 There is a complex system of poles and cables associated with the telephone and electricity system in the area, however there are no 132KV high voltage within the designated area. There are opportunities for improvements as regards these systems and apparatus by sharing resources and undergrounding. The aim is to work with BT and SP Manweb to realise such

schemes for the benefit of the AONB's landscape.

## **6.20 Conifer Woodlands**

6.20.1 Recently (2015/6) some areas of conifer trees within the AONB have been felled – notable examples are Garn Boduan and near Nant Gwrtheyrn. Although these trees are not native to the area they have become an established aspect of the landscape and there is significant change when they are felled. Some of these woodlands are being re-planted, usually with some element of native trees.

## **6.21 Developments near the AONB boundary**

6.21.1 The boundary for the AONB was established in the mid-1950s following a period of undertaking surveys, expert opinion and consultation. The boundary follows natural features in some places and aimed to include the coast and the igneous intrusions, however a significant part of the peninsula was not included even though it was of high landscape value. There is a strong case for reviewing the AONB's boundary– on the basis of natural beauty, wildlife, historic environment and culture. It is also important to safeguard the area just beyond the boundary because developments here could have a negative effect on the area's setting and view into and out of the area.

## **6.22 Heathland Fires**

6.22.1 Burning heather and gorse on heathlands is a traditional management practice to control overgrowth and promote new growth. However, burning must be done carefully, under control and at the correct times of the year to avoid unacceptable harm to wildlife and danger of the fire getting out of control. Efforts have been made to raise awareness of the correct time and methods of burning through projects such as Cadw'r Lliw yn Llŷn and by Natural Resources Wales.

6.22.2 On occasions there are unplanned fires on the heathlands – which have been started deliberately or by accident. These types of fires can have a marked effect on the landscape and wildlife for years to come.

## **Policies**

### **TP 1 SUSTAIN AND SAFEGUARD KEY GEOLOGICAL AND GEOMORPHOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN THE AONB AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THEIR IMPORTANCE.**

There is a great variety of different geological and geomorphological features on the Llŷn Peninsula. Many of these features can be seen in coastal locations or where rocks breach the surface on higher ground. The most important sites have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) or Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS).

In the past some developments have had a negative effect on some sites and features – most notably the granite quarries and mineral mines, however

threats are limited by now. Efforts will be made to safeguard these sites and raise awareness.

**TP 2 RESIST DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD BE PROMINENT ON THE LANDSCAPE AND WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON VIEWS, INCLUDING VIEWS INTO AND OUT OF THE AONB.**

The beauty of the landscape and coast and the associated views were the main reason for designating the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1957. It is therefore essential to protect the designated area from any development which would be prominent in the landscape and have a negative impact on views in and out of the area.

**TP 3 PROTECT THE SPECIAL COASTLINE OF LLŷN AND THE AREA'S ISLANDS BY RESISTING ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS.**

Being a peninsula the influence of the sea is felt strongly in Llŷn. The coastline is mainly in its natural state with very little human intervention to be seen – only a few quarries, harbours and buildings. Again the coast was instrumental in the AONB designation, as well as the later Heritage Coast.

**TP 4 PROTECT AND RE-ENSTATE TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER AND IDENTITY OF LLŷN - CLODDIAU, STONE WALLS AND HEDGEROWS.**

Landscape character assessments including LANDMAP have confirmed that traditional boundaries contribute to the character and appearance of the Llŷn landscape. The AONB Service and partners will therefore aim to protect and sustain these cloddiau, stone walls and hedgerows and re-reinstate boundaries which have deteriorated. This will be achieved by objecting to proposals to demolish boundaries, direct payments to support projects e.g. through Glastir and training on how to maintain features.

**TP 5 PROMOTE IMPROVEMENTS AS REGARDS UNTIDY AND INTRUSIVE SITES AND BUILDINGS WITHIN AND NEAR TO THE AONB.**

At present, there are only a few untidy sites and buildings but these do have a negative effect on the landscape and all the better if they can be improved. When sites or buildings are identified Gwynedd Council and partners can act by approaching owners, grants or enforcement action to try and remedy the problem. There are also opportunities to introduce landscaping to existing prominent developments e.g. caravan sites or electricity sub-stations.

**TP 6 ENSURE THAT NEW BUILDINGS ARE WELL SUITED TO THE AREA AS REGARDS DESIGN AND MATERIALS AND THAT ADAPTATIONS TO EXISTING BUILDINGS ARE IN-KEEPING WITH THE ORIGINAL.**

New buildings of all types have an effect on the townscape or countryside dependent on their location and this is an especially important consideration in designated areas such as AONBs and National Parks. All applications for new buildings must go through the planning process and conform to national and local policies and the policies contained in this Management Plan will also be

a consideration. This policy aims to ensure that new buildings are in-keeping with the area and blend in to the area in terms of location, size, type and design.

**TP 7 ENCOURAGE ELECTRICITY AND TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES TO SHARE FACILITIES AND UNDERGROUND CABLES IN PROMINENT LOCATIONS WITHIN AND NEAR TO THE AONB.**

Although the existing apparatus of electricity and telecommunication companies are largely an accepted presence there are locations where poles, cables and phone masts do have a negative effect on the landscape. There are some examples of where cables have been placed underground (Porthdinllaen and near Nant Gwrtheyrn) which have proven successful and the AONB Service and partners will work with relevant companies to try and get other undergrounding schemes and mast sharing projects underway.

**TP 8 RESIST WIND TURBINE AND SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE OF THE LANDSCAPE OR COAST OF THE AONB AND ITS SETTING.**

In 2010 the Government introduced the Feed-in Tariff to encourage companies, establishments and the general public to supply renewable energy through various means including hydro, solar, wind and biomass. Solar and wind offered the best opportunities in this area and there has been an increasing interest in these technologies. However there has been a constant reduction in the grants available through the Tariff scheme with a significant reduction in early 2016.

At the beginning there were numerous applications for solar panels to be attached to buildings but more recently – from 2013 onwards there has been more interest in solar farm developments although only 1 scheme has been permitted within the AONB). Solar farms cover a fairly large area of land and therefore care must be taken to limit sites to well screened sites where they will not impact upon the beauty of the landscape.

Numerous applications for wind turbines have been submitted due to the Feed-in Tariff. Due to a robust policy in the Unitary Development Plan no applications have been permitted within the AONB itself, however some applications near the boundary have been permitted while others have been refused (some at appeal). It must be accepted that some of these developments are intrusive on the landscape and great care is needed with this type of renewable energy.

**TP 9 RESIST NEW CARAVAN DEVELOPMENTS AND EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING SITES ON SITES WHICH ARE PROMINENT ON THE LANDSCAPE OR COAST AND PROMOTE THE LANDSCAPING OF EXISTING SITES.**

Caravan developments have indeed had an impact upon the landscape and coast of some areas within the AONB. Many of these sites are well-established and date back to the 1960s such as The Warren and Penrhos.

During the last twenty years there has been a constant increase in the number of new sites for touring caravans and there is also a tendency to leave the units on the site for the whole season, thereby increasing the impact. Of late there has been an increase in applications in the Aberdaron area and along the northern coast. New sites need to be constrained to well-hidden sites and if possible introduce landscaping to shelter existing sites which are prominent.

**TP 10 SUSTAIN THE CHARACTER OF LLŶN'S RURAL LANES BY RESISTING NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS AND SUSTAINING AND RE-REINSTATEING HISTORIC FEATURES.**

Historical routes follow the lie of the land - there is character to the journey and interesting features to see along the way. There is a case for improvement in some locations, where roads are narrow or there are sharp bends, however improvements schemes within designated areas need to be sensitive. Road improvements can lead to negative impact on the character of historic routes by introducing modern elements such as wide carriageways, broad verges, roundabouts, lighting and new signage.

Rural lanes are also important. A study of Rural Lanes in Llŷn which was commissioned by the AONB Service in showed that rural lanes make an important contribution to the character of Llŷn and the AONB. They are narrow and twisty lanes set between often substantial cloddiau, stone walls or hedgerows and signs, concrete kerbs and coloured road markings are intrusive elements.

**TP 11 RAISE AWARENESS OF THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF LLŶN AND PROMOTE A FEELING OF PROUDNESS IN THE AREA AND SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION.**

All the available support is needed towards the care of the area and the AONB and local people and tourists can help in this respect. Awareness needs to be raised regarding the area's special qualities, being proud of the area and support for conservation work needs to be nurtured. The AONB Service and partners aim to provide opportunities to learn and understand the area better including opportunities to take part in training and voluntary work.

**TP 12 SUPPORT AND PROMOTE MEASURES TO MANAGE THE LANDSCAPE AND THE COAST IN WAYS WHICH MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND HELP DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**

Scientists are now fairly certain that climate change is occurring as a consequence to increased CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere and damage to the ozone layer. The effects of climate change will be dramatic in some locations but even in Llŷn there will be side effects and climate change needs to be addressed. Therefore being aware of the likely effects of climate change and the challenges ahead is important in addition to what measures can be taken to limit the effects. This will involve research, raising awareness and the sharing of good practice.

## 7.0 TRANQUILITY AND LOW POLLUTION

The overall area of “undisturbed”* land in the AONB has decreased since 1997, from 85% to 71%.
Traffic has increased on the A499 since 1997 with related Environmental side-effects.
Many structures (masts and wind turbines) have recently been erected.
Many street lights have been replaced with LED in 2016/17

\* Countryside usually free of any substantial disturbance in daytime

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Tranquillity is a characteristic which is recognised and appreciated more and more in these busy and often hectic times. It is a phenomenon not easily measured but can be said to be a combination of factors including low levels of noise from industry and vehicles, limited traffic movement and other intrusions and low levels of lighting to disturb the night's dark skies. It is therefore a combination of many factors which creates an atmosphere of tranquillity and areas with high levels of tranquillity are relatively rare throughout the UK although there are significant areas in Scotland.

7.1.2 Tranquillity and a peaceful atmosphere were recognised as one of Llŷn AONB's special qualities during the preparation of the original Management Plan in 2004/5. The area's rurality and remote nature is partly responsible for this and has meant that there are no significant industrial or infrastructural developments and only low levels of intrusion by traffic and machinery. Also, the area's population is relatively low – around 6,000 – considering the surface area.

7.1.3 As well as being an area with high levels of tranquillity, the environmental quality of the soil, air, water and sea water in Llŷn is generally high, with low levels of pollution. The area has a reputation as one with a clean environment which is an advantage for local people and attracts visitors. However, it's important to maintain, and if possible, improve the local environment's condition by limiting activities that creates pollution and encourage activities that are pollution free – such as alternative methods of travelling.

7.1.4 For the purpose of the Management Plan of the AONB, the following has been set as a Main Aim regarding tranquillity and low pollution:

#### **Main Aim**

<b>TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE PRESENT LEVEL OF CLEANLINESS, PEACE AND SECURITY SO THAT RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ENJOY IMPROVED WELLBEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE</b>
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#### **Special Qualities**

### 7.2 Air Quality

7.2.1 The air in Llŷn is clean and pollution-free. It is an area in which people can enjoy

being out and about and enjoy the fresh air of the countryside and coast. There are no large industries, works or power stations in the area. Although there is no specific information available for the area, the Gwynedd State of the Environment Report (2004) contained information for the County and confirmed that levels of air pollution was low or very low (the four main type of air pollution are Sulphur Dioxide, Particulates, Nitrogen Oxides and Carbon Monoxides). There have been no major developments since 2004 therefore it is summarised that air quality remains the same or could have improved slightly due to tightened emission controls.

7.2.2 It appears that pollution levels generally continue to decrease on a national level. However, pollution is still emitted by many sources and affects the land, air and water thus affecting people, habitats and species. Local measures and projects on a small scale can help to reduce emissions and air pollution.

### 7.3 Clean Water

7.3.1 In general the water quality is good in the area. The main issues affecting water quality in rural areas such as Llŷn are pollutants such as acid rain, artificial fertilizer and slurry outflow. Natural Resources Wales are responsible for maintaining the quality of freshwater and coastal water in Wales.

7.3.2 **Freshwater** – The quality of rivers and streams in the area are good but a Natural Resources Wales recording system sometimes shows problems with river waters in Llŷn, mainly by pollution flowing into rivers. The main problems are:

- Pollution flowing from the land (mainly agricultural land);
- An overflow of agricultural fertilizer and pesticides, sewage and industrial water;
- Acid rain.

7.3.3 Information on the quality of river water in Gwynedd is included in the Gwynedd Information Pack, The Environment Agency (2008). However, only one river within the AONB was large enough to monitor – Afon Soch. This river scores very highly in terms of biology and chemistry whilst pollutant and phosphate levels are quite low/moderate. There are no major failings in terms of river water quality stated in the General River Quality Assessment (Environment Agency). To date, there are no Nitrate Vulnerable Zones in Llŷn.

7.3.4 **Drinking Water** – Welsh Water are responsible for ensuring a clean and reliable provision of drinking water. In terms of a local supply, Llŷn lies within the Llŷn-Harlech district by Welsh Water. The water treatment system for this area was upgraded recently by Welsh Water (the new treatment works was opened in 2017).

7.3.5 **Bathing Water** – The quality of Llŷn's beaches is reflected by the number of beaches awarded with national and European beach awards. They are amongst the cleanest throughout the UK with high water quality and facilities nearby in many instances.

- 7.3.6 The European Coast Awards include Blue Flags, Seaside Awards and Green Coast Awards based on water quality, facilities and management. In 2017 Aberdaron, Abersoch and Pwllheli were awarded Blue Flag status, as well as Seaside Awards while Porth Neigwl was given the Green Coast Award.
- 7.3.7 On a national level, reports confirm that the quality of bathing waters in Wales is very good as a result of improvements in sewage disposal and treatment. At times, rainfall does create an overflow from agricultural and some of that is polluted water. The Marine Conservation Society predicts that these problems will continue due to climate change and are hopeful that Welsh Water, Welsh Government and Green Seas will aid the improvement of the situation. The Marine Conservation Society recommends changes in farming, improving sewerage systems and constant monitoring.

## **7.4 Soil Quality**

- 7.4.1 Llŷn is an agricultural area and the land has been farmed for generations. There is good quality soil on lower lands (2, 3a 3b) which is a valuable national asset for stock and crop production as well as maintaining wildlife. Also, due to that absence of industries and plants, the level of pollution in soil is low even though there are some individual sites where pollution is present following mining operations. Even though there have been numerous landfill sites in the area, by 2009 there were no such sites within the AONB.
- 7.4.2 By now there is better understanding of the need to protect the land and soil quality. Legislation and systems have been adopted to assess soil quality, reclaim polluted land and prevent further pollution. The aim in Llŷn is to maintain the soil's high quality, rationalise the use of fertilizer and chemicals has a part to play in this.

## **7.5 Tranquillity**

- 7.5.1 Llŷn is a place of peace and tranquillity due to its coastal location, rural nature and the absence of large industries and works. This has been confirmed in a report commissioned by Countryside Council for Wales in 1997 to assess the tranquil areas of Wales. The study considered the main categories of development that creates disturbance such as traffic, towns and villages, electrical structures, railways and airports. Also, locations of some specific developments were recorded that affect the tranquillity such as quarries, masts, wind farms, clay pigeon shoots, personal water crafts and racing boats.
- 7.5.2 In this Report much of Llŷn was defined as a Quiet Area or tier C (low levels of disturbance). The Study showed that some noisy activities (mainly marine activities) were apparent on the south coast around Abersoch and Llanbedrog.

7.5.3 In 2009, CCW commissioned Land Use Consultants to assess from new the whole of Wales. For this work, the aim was to follow the methodology used previously to compare. The Study found that there is around 11,600km square of Quiet Area in Wales (around 55% of the country's land area) but that there was a reduction of 1,500km square (around 6% of Wales' land area). See [www.stats.wales.gov.uk](http://www.stats.wales.gov.uk) for more information. Natural Resources Wales intend to update the study in 2018/9.

## **7.6 Dark Skies**

7.6.1 By now, substantial night light is recognised as pollution. Not only does the direct light affect the natural dark sky but also, artificial lights affect the ecosystems that influence the health of people and wildlife. There is a high volume of light in urban areas compared to a low volume in rural areas such as Llŷn. Areas with low volumes of light are getting scarcer in the UK.

7.6.2 Also, there are opportunities to make financial and environmental savings by reducing the use of lights and also changing to LED lamps and lights. Some Local Authorities even switch off some street lights during the night in order to make financial savings, thus making environmental gains also.

7.6.3 As was indicated in the initial AONB Management Plan substantial parts of the AONB remain unpolluted by lights. There are of course street lights in towns and villages and along some roads but there are also significant areas where there are no lights at all. Flood lights have a significant effect on dark skies and are present at Clwb Chwaraeon Bodegroes and Ysgol Botwnnog – both of which are outside the AONB but which can be seen from afar when in use.

7.6.4 The Wales Tranquil Areas Map 2009 compares the situation in 1997 and 2009. In general, there is a reduction of 6% or 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> of tranquil areas in Wales. In terms of the Llŷn AONB, by 2009 the general tranquillity of the area shows pockets of disturbance in and around Llithfaen, Tudweiliog, Rhiw, Llanengan, and the slopes of Garn Fadryn. It is unclear if these pockets are a result of individual developments or if they are part of a longer term pattern of decline. No further work has been undertaken on tranquillity to see if there are any changes in the situation since 2009 but further work is scheduled by NRW in 2018/9.

### **Key Issues**

## **7.7 Transport and Motoring**

7.7.1 Due to Llŷn's rural nature, most residents depend on cars for everyday use. Tourism adds significantly to traffic levels during the holiday seasons, and this results in traffic congestion in some areas most evidently at Pwllheli and Abersoch. Increased traffic and congestion also increases emissions and air pollution.

- 7.7.2 A reduction in car usage and an increase in travelling by more sustainable means would be beneficial in terms of decreasing pollution and possibly create benefits in terms of health. It is therefore believed there are opportunities to promote sustainable means of travelling by methods such as displaying timetables and other relevant information. The Cambrian Line service and Llŷn Coastal Bus are convenient means of transport and it is vital to work together to promote and market such services.
- 7.7.3 Cycling also can offer opportunities to reduce travelling in cars and be beneficial in terms of health. As part of the general drive to promote cycling in the area the AONB Service has recently launched a new leaflet regarding Cycle Routes in Llŷn. It's important to develop further opportunities to cycle in the area by providing suitable paths and promotion.
- 7.7.4 There are also opportunities to promote the use of local paths to reduce car journeys, especially for short distance journeys in and around holiday hotspots.

## **7.8 Litter**

- 7.8.1 Litter on footpaths and around picnic areas and parking areas are harmful to the area's image. To date, this has not been a significant problem but there is a slight increase in cases and cuts in funding could mean less bins and wardens to monitor and manage.
- 7.8.2 Dog fouling is also an issue and this seems to be increasing as more people own pets. Unfortunately, of late there also seems to be a tendency for some people to discard plastic waste bags rather than placing them in the purposeful bins. Placing more bins in prominent places could help, as well as raising awareness of the AONB and its special qualities and how harmful it is to rid waste irresponsibly. Previous projects such as Tidy Towns have worked well with schools to create signs to try and tackle dog fouling problems.
- 7.8.3 Litter can also be a problem on some beaches, with some left by beach users and some brought in by the sea. There is an opportunity to raise awareness among boat users on how to rid waste responsibly. Also Keep Wales Tidy holds cleaning events from time to time on beaches with volunteers such as in Porth Neigwl and any such project is to be encouraged and supported.
- 7.8.4 Even though there is no factual evidence to confirm, there seems to be more fly tipping on roadsides recently. Again, there are opportunities to raise awareness and educate. Plastic farm waste can also be unsightly and there is a scope to raise awareness about disposing of farm waste carefully.

## **7.9 Water Pollution**

- 7.9.1 In general cases of water pollution in the area are rare and there have been improvements in the quality of freshwater, drinking water and bathing water

following new legislation, regulations and new treatment works. There is uncertainty about the exact situation in terms of sewage discharge into the sea and perhaps there is a case for reviewing the issue. Lower quality bathing water could mean problems if applying for beach awards such as Blue Flag and Green Coast Award. A lack of funding also could prevent applying for such awards in future.

7.9.2 Water quality needs to be measured and maintained and Welsh Water needs to continue to work effectively within the AONB.

## **7.10 Tourism Activities on Beaches**

7.10.1 There have been numerous issues in recent years regarding power boats and personal water crafts affecting others and the environment. They are noisy activities and can affect wildlife and other boat users. Some years ago Gwynedd Council established a system to register personal water crafts and this has improved the situation. Also, the Gwynedd Marine Code was recently published (2016) and is aimed at users of the sea and encourages them to be vigilant in terms of marine wildlife and not to disturb animals, fish and water.

## **7.11 Lighting Associated with New Developments**

7.11.1 With some new developments, additional lights will be installed to service the building. In terms of individual houses, this is not a big problem but is more significant with larger developments. Also, lights can be installed on new commercial buildings and there are some examples of significant lights e.g. the new Fire Station at Nefyn. Planning conditions offer the opportunity to control and limit lighting associated with new developments.

## **Policies**

### **PP 1. PROMOTE PUBLIC TRANSPORT VENTURES AND THEIR USE AND OTHER MEANS OF SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL.**

Most vehicles create emissions and air pollution and traffic increases during the busy holiday periods. The AONB Service, in cooperation with other organisations, will promote public transport as a way of travelling around the area (local buses and the Cambrian Railway). Also, there are opportunities to increase other means of sustainable travel – cycling in particular - and the AONB Service therefore will promote cycling locally.

### **PP 2. MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SOIL AND WATER IN THE AREA.**

Although the quality of water and soil in the area is high, it is important to maintain the situation and make some improvements wherever possible. The aim is to work with other departments in Gwynedd Council and with agencies such as Welsh Water, Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government as well as site owners to achieve this. Also, it is believed that applications should be made for awards such as Blue Flag and Green Coast – to reflect

the high quality of the water and facilities at some locations.

**PP 3. LIMIT NOISE LEVELS AND LIGHTING WITHIN THE AONB AND NEARBY AND PROMOTE THE USE OF ENERGY EFFICIENT AND LOW IMPACT STREET/ EXTERNAL LIGHTS.**

Tranquillity and dark skies are features associated with the Llŷn AONB and the policy aims to limit developments that would have an impact on them. On the whole, noise is not a problem but existing and newly installed lighting can affect the dark night sky. Conditions will be recommended therefore to control lighting in regard of new developments and others will be encouraged to assess current lighting and possibly reduce lighting levels or install lower impact lighting.

**PP 4. PROMOTE LOCAL CLEANLINESS BY ENCOURAGING RE-USING, RECYCLING AND DISPOSING RUBBISH RESPONSIBLY.**

Even though there are some small areas of rubbish from time to time, fly tipping is not a major problem. The AONB Service will cooperate with other departments in the Council and others such as Keep Wales Tidy to clear sites, educate landowners about reducing waste and recycling and take enforcement steps when necessary.

**PP 5 . RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS AND HEALTH DANGERS OF DOG FOULING AND ENCOURAGE OWNERS TO BE MORE RESPONSIBLE.**

As well as being dangerous to health, dog fouling is a nuisance and creates a negative impression of a particular location or a path. The aim is to cooperate with the Environmental Health department and other organisations to recognise places with problems and to implement campaigns to raise awareness and undertake enforcement action.

## 8.0 HABITATS AND WILDLIFE

### Key Facts

There are three Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) in the AONB, 6.6% of the land area.
There are two Special Protection Areas (SPA) in the AONB, 4.4% of the land area.
There are 22 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), over 2000 hectares (11% of land area) in the AONB.
There is one National Nature Reserve in the AONB, on Bardsey Island and one nearby namely Cors Geirch (also a RAMSAR site).

### 8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 Llŷn, including the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty sustains a wide variety of different species and habitats; some are rare at both a national and European level. Although the wealth of wildlife continues, research has shown that there has been a major decline in natural and semi-natural habitats in Llŷn between the beginning and the end of the last century. See 'Vegetation change in Llŷn between 1920/2 and 1987/8' – J. P Stevens (1992) for full details.
- 8.1.2 There are many opportunities to see and study wildlife in the area including animals, land birds, sea birds and marine life. The wealth of wildlife on our door step is also an effective educational resource that primary and secondary schools can take advantage of. Some visitors come to Llŷn especially to see and enjoy wildlife whilst many other visitors also enjoy some element of the area's wildlife when they stay here. Therefore, wildlife is a resource which contributes to the area's appeal to visitors and in turn to the area's economy.
- 8.1.3 A great deal of information was collected on local species when preparing Natur Gwynedd in 2003, and this information has been updated periodically. Information has also been available on the status number of species on a Wales level and a Gwynedd level, however, recently (September 2016) the State of Natural Resources Report - SoNaRR was published by Natural Resources Wales. For more information see : [www.naturalresources.wales/sonarr?lang=cy](http://www.naturalresources.wales/sonarr?lang=cy) .
- 8.1.4 The Report assesses the condition of natural resources in Wales and how sustainably they are managed, as well as recommending ways of creating future improvements. In addition, the Report creates a link between the condition of natural resources in Wales and the population's well-being - it looks specifically at how natural resources support the seven well-being aims in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015. Based on the information in the State of Natural Resources Report, the Welsh Government will set priorities and policies to manage natural resources in the future. Natural Resources Wales, by working with partners, will then prepare Area Statements in order to implement the policies at a local level.

- 8.1.5 The Report generally indicates that the resilience of ecosystems in Wales is declining - there is less variety of habitats and species, habitats' size have been reduced, their condition varies and connectivity has significantly been reduced. This has an impact on the services that these ecosystems can provide.
- 8.1.6 Specific responsibility to protect Biodiversity was given to Local Authorities as a result of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006. As a follow-on to this, the Environment Act 2016 gave every Public Authority a new duty to try and protect and improve biodiversity. Under the requirements of the Act, Gwynedd Council is required to prepare a Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan by May 2017 and this will be reviewed every following two years.
- 8.1.7 As there are a number of rare habitats and species in the area, a series of European, National and local designations are in force. The main European designations in terms of sustaining and protecting habitats and species are the Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA).
- 8.1.8 **Special Areas of Conservation** - This is a designation under the 1992 Habitats Directive to safeguard habitats, plants and animals that are under threat. These are the best examples of habitats and species. These sites have also been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or Special Protection Areas. There are three Special Areas of Conservation in Llŷn, namely Pen Llŷn Sea cliffs, Llŷn Marshes and Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau.
- 8.1.9 The Sea Cliffs of Llŷn SAC: This designation is fairly extensive (877 ha) and has the Irish sea as its boundary. It's open to winds and weather from the west and the area represents the best examples of coastal and marine heathland and heath grasslands on the Peninsula. The area has been designated as it is of international importance for its sea cliffs and associated habitats. The area comprises sections of several Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Heathland in the SAC is in a satisfactory condition, however, the condition of the sea cliffs is unsatisfactory but is improving. Under-grazing and over-grazing were the main factors affecting the condition of these habitats and therefore, for the future, correct/suitable grazing is essential in order to maintain and improve the condition. The condition in terms of the Choughs and the Manx Shearwater is satisfactory.
- 8.1.10 Llŷn Marshes SAC: There are four specific sites in the centre of Penrhyn Llŷn that are partly located within the AONB, these are Cors Hirdre, Cors Geirch, Rhyllech Uchaf and Abergeirch. The total surface area of the designated site is 282.28 ha. This SAC also includes the Cors Geirch Ramsar Site, however, this site is outside the Llŷn AONB area. Their condition in terms of the marsh habitat and snails is unsatisfactory - due to under-grazing, the spread of trees and scrub, and water management issues. However, recently there has been an improvement as a result of the Llŷn and Môn Marshes LIFE + project.
- 8.1.11 Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau marine SAC: A vast marine area (14,604 ha) which extends from Penrhyn Nefyn to the River Clarach to the north of Aberystwyth and therefore only a part of this area links with the AONB. Further information

regarding the designation, management etc. can be seen at:  
[www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk](http://www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk)

- 8.1.12 **Special Protection Areas (SPA)**- These areas are designated under the European Commission Directive on protecting wildlife (The Birds Directive) in order to sustain the habitats of two particular categories namely rare species or those under threat and migratory birds that travel thousands of miles to reach various locations – and need safe locations for rest. There are two Special Protection Areas in the AONB, namely The Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island SPA and the Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn yr Wylfa and St.Tudwal's Islands SPA.
- 8.1.13 Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island SPA - This area comprises a vast area of the coast from Porthor to Aberdaron and includes the Bardsey and Gwylanod islands. This varied coast comprises of heathland and grassland which is habitat to a variety of plants and a Chough population. Bardsey is home to the largest population of Manx Shearwater in the UK, which is the reason for the island's international importance.
- 8.1.14 Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn yr Wylfa and St.Tudwal's Islands / Mynydd Cilan SPA. This coastline is open to south-westerly winds and the sea-cliffs that shelter the beaches are continuously being eroded and offer a patchwork of bare sediment and maritime habitats and sand-dunes that are rich in flowers. There are also substantial areas of dry and wet heathland and rocky inter-tidal habitats of maritime interest, because of the network of rare species. These include one of only two populations of the Mason Bee (*OSMIA XANTHOMELENA*) which is under threat. This area is also very important specifically because of the Chough population. This site is used by 3% of the British population of this bird during breeding and non-breeding periods. The sea-cliffs and caves offer breeding and nesting sites, whilst the cliffs, heathland, sea-grass and pasture on the nearby fields offer feeding sites throughout the year. See the State of the AONB Report 2014 for further information about these sites.
- 8.1.15 **Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR)**- These are wetland habitats that sustain various species of international importance. Four of the Llŷn marshes have been designated as a RAMSAR site (Llŷn Marshes).
- 8.1.16 **National Nature Reserves (NNR)** - These reserves include important habitats and geological features, each one is special in its own way. Every reserve is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest. There is one National Nature Reserve in the AONB, on Bardsey Island and its surface area is 180 ha. The National Nature Reserve was designated because of the marine and inter-tidal habitats, the Choughs and the Manx Shearwater.
- 8.1.17 **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** - These are designated on the grounds of special habitat, species or geology. The sites in Llŷn vary from marshes and meadows to sand dunes and forests. There are a total of 22 Sites of Special Scientific Interest that are partly, or totally, within the AONB and these include 2,188 ha (11%) of the protected landscape. No new SSSI

has been designated since 2008. An assessment of all SSSIs can be seen in the Appendix which includes the sites' features, condition, their trends and management factors. See the Report on the Condition of the AONB 2014 for further information about these sites.

8.1.18 Where information was available from Natural Resources Wales about SSSI the grassland, heathland, surface water, semi-natural broadleaved woodlands and dunes were in an unsatisfactory condition and were declining. There was no information regarding the fens and marshes. The wet grassland features were satisfactory as well as the rocky, marine and inter-tidal areas. The main issues that affected these habitats were:-

- Grassland and heathland:- under-grazing, invasive species and fires (dry heathland)
- Fen, marsh and surface water:- Grazing and invasive species, pollution, water quality, water management
- Broadleaved woodlands:- grazing and invasive species
- Coastline (including rocky sea-cliffs, gravel, and boulders, inter-tidal areas, sand dunes and rock pools):- pressure from leisure and pollution.

8.1.19 **Potential Wildlife Sites** -These sites are of significant local conservation importance, however, they currently have no statutory status. There is a reference to them in the Unitary Development Plan and they have been noted on the Gwynedd Council Geographic Information system.

8.1.20 The Main Aim of the Management Plan in terms of Habitats and Wildlife is as follows:

#### **Main Aim**

**MAINTAIN, ENHANCE AND ENCOURAGE HABITATS AND ENCOURAGE KEY SPECIES AND DESIGNATED NATURE SITES WITHIN THE LLŶN AONB TO ENSURE THE CONTINUATION OF THE RICH VARIETY OF ANIMALS, BIRDS, INSECTS AND PLANTS.**

#### **Special Features**

### **8.2 Diverse Habitats**

8.2.1 By today natural or semi-natural vegetation, namely unimproved and uncultivated land is rare in England and Wales. The most prominent examples of such lands are heath lands, wetlands and woodlands and they are all present in Llŷn.

8.2.2 Natural broadleaved woodlands are not a prominent feature within the Llŷn AONB, however, they contribute towards the appearance of the landscape and biodiversity and are a scarce resource. Evergreen conifer forests have been planted on many hills and hillsides in the area. They are not a natural feature, but to an extensive degree, they have won their place now and the impact on the landscape is evident when they are felled and cleared.

8.2.3 A detailed analysis of all the relevant habitats in Llŷn can be seen in Natur Gwynedd. Further details are given by noting the surface area of the most important habitats (the priority for Wales / the UK). The table in the Appendix contains information regarding the important habitats that exist in the Llŷn AONB, including their surface area.

8.2.4 The majority of the habitats in Llŷn have been included as habitats that are a priority in terms of protecting a biological variety in Wales in Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). Details of the area's most important habitats are noted below:

### **8.3 Coastal Habitats**

8.3.1 There are many types of coastal habitats in Llŷn including sea-cliffs, slopes, coastal land, beaches and sand dunes. The sea-cliffs and slopes sustain a variety of vegetation and are important habitats for sea birds such as the Guillemot, Razorbill, Cormorant and the Shag. Carreg y Llam near Llithfaen and Trwyn Cilan are notable areas to view some of these birds whilst the Puffin is very prominent on the Gwylan islands and the Manx Shearwater which resides on Bardsey.

8.3.2 More inland, the vegetation slowly turns into coastal pastures and heathland and they are again home to a variety of birds including the Sand Martin and the Chough. These lands are also habitats for wasps and some rare invertebrate creatures.

8.3.3 Beaches and sand dunes are prominent habitats in Llŷn and there are many sand dune systems across the southern coast of the peninsula. Sand dunes are one of the most natural habitats to be seen in Britain and are home to a wealth of rare species. Sand dune systems are acknowledged to be of international importance to wildlife; they include plants such as sea-grass, a variety of fungi, lizards such as the sand lizard and a large number of invertebrate animals such as the carder bee.

8.3.4 Today, sand dunes are under threat and the numbers of species are declining as the scrub wood spreads and also due to sand dune over-stabilisation. One reason for this is the lack of grazing. The dunes system near Abersoch is the most prominent in the AONB ("The Warren"). This system is suffering substantially due to pressure from tourists during the summer months and a variety of developments such as caravan parks, parking facilities and improved or semi-improved grassland in order to create pastures or golf links.

### **8.4 Heathland**

8.4.1 Heathlands are a prominent and important feature in Llŷn and wet, dry, low and coastal heaths are found here. They contribute not only as a habitat and a landscape feature, but also on a historical and cultural level and as a leisure resource (many of the heaths in the area are common land which explains why they have not been improved for cultivation). The heaths sustain a wide variety of interesting pastures and plants such as the common rock-rose in

addition to native heather and gorse that are so colourful during August and September.

- 8.4.2 The coastal heaths are important in the European context as they are typical of western heaths that have become drastically scarcer since the Second World War. By now, only 0.3% of the UK's surface area is made up of low heaths. A great deal of work to maintain, manage, restore and improve access to local heaths has been undertaken under the "Cadw'r Lliw yn Llŷn" project. The project was developed by partners including CYMAD, the Countryside Council for Wales, the RSPB and Gwynedd Council.

## **8.5 Grasslands and Meadows**

- 8.5.1 The main land use in this area is agricultural pasture. Many of the natural grasslands have been lost following the agricultural revolution which was responsible for clearing, draining and improving land. Recently, there has been a new threat to natural grassland with the spread of scrub, bracken and coarse grasses as a result of a lack of grazing. Nowadays, there are only a few small areas of grassland left, namely, land that is difficult to cultivate such as wet land or steep land and road verges. These natural lands are home to a wealth of wildlife; plants such as knapweed, ox-eye daisy, cowslip and sweet vernal grass, birds such as the skylark and the curlew, butterflies and many reptiles and insects.

- 8.5.2 The most important grasslands have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and there are management agreements in place for some of them. Also, due to their scarcity, untreated grassland and grass meadows are subject to substantial payments under agri-environmental schemes such as Glastir.

## **8.6 Woodland and Trees**

- 8.6.1 Broad-leaved forests are very rare in the AONB and the most important ones, and those under threat, are protected by Tree Preservation Orders. The main threat to these trees are new developments that would require the felling of trees, lack of correct management leading to a decline and diseases such as sudden oak death and Dutch elm disease.
- 8.6.2 Indigenous deciduous woodlands are rare. These include trees such as oak, ash, hazel, birch and mountain ash in the AONB. By now, there are only small, much dispersed places of semi-natural deciduous woodlands with many on steep slopes, valley sides, river corridors and on estate lands. These woodlands contribute to the landscape and are habitats which sustain a wealth of species including rare mosses and lichen. One of the most important natural woodlands is the ancient forest near Plas yn Rhiw. Mixed woodlands – of broadleaved and conifer trees are also rare, however there is an increase as efforts are made to control and reduce the number of conifer trees.
- 8.6.3 Areas of conifer trees are very prominent on some hillsides in the area, such as Garn Fadryn, Garn Boduan, Mynydd Rhiw, Nant Gwrtheyrn and Moel

Penllechog. These make little contribution as a habitat and the landscape will be left bare when they are felled. There are opportunities for re-planting these areas with native trees.

8.6.4 The correct protection and management of trees is essential for their long term welfare. One threat to some woodland is the rhododendron ponticum that can spread quickly and prevent natural growth in the forest. Another threat is intense grazing which deteriorates the woodland into poor grass as the trees die of old age and there are no young trees to replace them.

8.6.5 There are several bodies who work to protect, support, manage and promote trees and woodland in Wales, including Pen Llŷn namely:

- **Coed Cadw** (Woodland Trust) - A charity that aims to protect and promote native trees and inspire all to appreciate and enjoy trees and woodlands. Their aim is to protect ancient trees, restore woodland and create new woodlands.
- **Coed Cymru** This is an enterprise for the whole of Wales to promote broadleaved woodland and the use of hardwood. Free, unbiased advice is given to farmers, woodland owners and managers, community groups and wood businesses.

## 8.7 Peat and Fenland

8.7.1 There are few peat lands and marshes in the AONB itself. They are important habitats to a wide variety of plants and animals, and also an important environmental resource by aspirating greenhouse gasses and purifying water by extracting excess amounts of nutrients and sediment. Many wetlands have been lost through intensive agriculture and activities such as drying land and water pollution from fertilisers.

8.7.2 Cors Geirch, which extends from Rhydyclafdy down towards the direction of Ederon on the northern coast, is a peat land of international importance and this peat land has been designated a National Nature Reserve. The sedge, moss and tall flowers such as the greater spearwort grow on the site, and it is a rare habitat for invertebrate animals including whorl snails, dragonflies, snakes and amphibians such as frogs. Cors Geirch and other Llŷn marshes (Cors Hirdre, Rhyllech Uchaf and Aber Geirch) were designated as a RAMSAR site and a Special Area of Conservation and by now an ambitious project sponsored by LIFE+ is being undertaken to restore and maintain these marshes.

## 8.8 Wetlands

8.8.1 According to the Habitats Survey 1990 (Countryside Council for Wales) Llŷn is of special interest due to a series of rich muddy land in the central areas of Llŷn, including the River Geirch and also around the River Penrhos. The 1995 survey of the proposed Local Nature Reserve (GNR) at Lôn Cob Bach, Pwllheli declares a "high interest" in extending the GNR to include the area which surrounds the River Penrhos as the area appears to contain a wealth of wildlife.

## **8.9 Field Boundaries**

8.9.1 Stone walls, hedges and especially 'cloddiau' are prominent features of the Llŷn landscape and they are also important habitats as well. A wide variety of wildlife is dependent upon these boundaries, and the older the boundary, the richer the wildlife. Regulations exist to protect hedgerows (Hedgerows Regulations) whilst agri-environmental schemes assist to maintain and restore other traditional boundaries. However, some sections of cloddiau, walls and hedgerows are still lost annually and proper maintenance is a problem due to costs and skills shortage.

## **8.10 Road Verges**

8.10.1 This is a semi-natural habitat which is important in terms of nature conservation for many reasons. They are a food source and a shelter which sustain wildlife corridors without much intervention. However, there is a problem regarding invasive foreign plants such as the Japanese Knotweed in some areas. Gwynedd Council keeps a register of road verges and nature conservation interests, including a number in the Llŷn AONB area. This habitat is also included in the Natur Gwynedd Action Plan.

## **8.11 Marine Habitats**

8.11.1 Due to the importance of a number of marine habitats and species seen in the Llŷn a'r Sarnau area, for example the reefs and the estuaries, the area has been designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the European Habitats and Species Directive. The reefs support a wide variety of flora and fauna communities including a variety of seaweed forests, sponges and styela clava. Further information is available in the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC Plan and on the website: [www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk](http://www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk).

8.11.2 The Neptune Campaign by the National Trust has been important in safeguarding and maintaining coastal habitats throughout Wales including parts of Llŷn's coast.

## **8.12 Key Species**

8.12.1 The still and unpolluted nature of Llŷn has certainly contributed to the continuation of many species which are now considered rare species in the British Isles. Natur Gwynedd (2004) defines the species that are important in Gwynedd and those that are specifically important to the AONB were identified in each category mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, invertebrate animals and plants - see the Appendix for the full table.

8.12.2 There was no information regarding the numbers of the abovementioned species for the Llŷn AONB when reviewing the Management Plan.

### **8.13 Mammals**

8.13.1 There is a variety of rare mammals here in Llŷn and in the AONB and these have been identified as priority -

- The Otter – there has been an increase in numbers in the area, has been spotted in the River Soch and recent surveys showed that it uses coastal habitats in Llŷn.
- The polecat – is present but there is a lack of information regarding location and numbers.
- Hare – present but there is a lack of information regarding location and numbers.
- Water Vole – recent surveys suggest that Llŷn is a stronghold but there is a lack of sufficient information.
- Lesser horseshoe bat – there are roosts in Llŷn but no definite information.

### **8.14 Marine Species**

8.14.1 The coastal waters of Llŷn are rich in marine life. The grey seal is common to the area (on the shores of Bardsey in particular) along with otters, harbour porpoises and bottlenose dolphins. The location and special feature of the bay, such as good access to deep feeding waters off Bardsey, is a suitable habitat for the Risso dolphin.

8.14.2 The grey seal and the bottlenose dolphin are species that are acknowledged in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and are also protected under the European Union Habitats and Species Directive. The Ceredigion Bay SAC Group has also prepared a Management Plan for these species in particular and they work closely with the groups and organisations through forums such as the Welsh Cetacean Group to share information. The Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC Management Plan has concentrated on the SAC habitats as well as species.

### **8.15 Birds**

8.15.1 Due to its rural landscape and varying coastline Llŷn is a habitat for a vast variety of land birds and sea birds, some of them are rare species. Some of these have been mentioned already, but amongst the most important is the Chough, used as the AONB logo. In 2002, there were 67 sites and pairs in Gwynedd, but there is no information regarding exactly how many there are in the AONB. There are other species of birds of European importance also, including the Puffin, Guillemot, Cormorant and the Manx Shearwater.

8.15.2 The Barn Owl is amongst the important land birds of the area – it is estimated that there are on average, 20 pairs nesting in Gwynedd and Pen Llŷn is one of the strongholds. Also, although they have significantly become scarcer, the lapwing is present here - however, there is a lack of information regarding location and numbers.

## **8.16 Invertebrates**

8.16.1 Again notable invertebrates live in the Llŷn area, although there is no certainty that there are some within the AONB boundary itself. There is detailed information in the appendix, but amongst the rare species are:

- Marsh Fritillary, an orange, gold and black butterfly which is under threat and is becoming more scarce – present in Cors y Wlad and Cors Gyfelog near the AONB boundary.
- Hornett Rubber Fly – present in Cors Geirch near the AONB boundary and according to reports, in Cilan and Nefyn at one time. Its natural habitat of untreated land and heathland has diminished.

## **8.17 Plants**

8.17.1 There is a great variety of wild flowers and plants in Llŷn. In spring the verges of the area's rural roads are full of colourful wild-flowers such as foxgloves, red campion, wild carrots and primroses. Along the 'cloddiau', gorse is very prominent and also hawthorn and blackthorn. Along the sea cliffs, spring squill and sea thrift can be seen early in the summer months.

8.17.2 On heathland such as Mynydd Tir y Cwmwd and the Eifl, native gorse and heather are colourful and very striking at the end of the summer months. Amongst the other important plants in the area are bluebells which are present on some of the slopes such as in the Llanaelhaearn area and some types of orchids can be seen on the area's marshes.

### **Key Issues**

## **8.18 Climate Change**

8.18.1 By now, there is fairly strong evidence that there is a gradual change in the world's climate as a result of an increase in temperature. According to scientists, emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> contribute to this but solar energy also plays a part. CO<sub>2</sub> is discharged into the air through burning fossil fuels, factories and industries and pollution from cars, lorries, ships and aeroplanes etc. Although there is no local evidence regarding climate change, it is true to say that minor changes can be seen in the seasons that appear to confirm the impact of climate change.

8.18.2 Scientific evidence predicts that the impact of global warming will mean a gradual increase in air temperature and sea levels. This in turn will lead to changes in seasons - and the view in Britain is that summers will be warmer but wetter, winters will be less cold but again wetter with more frequent periods of unusual weather - more heavy rain, winds and warm days.

8.18.3 Certainly climate change will influence biodiversity by impairing some species and habitats. These changes will entail that some native species will be under threat while others will thrive and some new species will appear. Thus far, there is not much information or evidence of what changes are likely in terms

of biodiversity in this area.

8.18.4 There is a role for the AONB to play in terms of climate change by encouraging and promoting measures to reduce CO2 emissions by saving energy, generating domestic renewable energy, sustainable travel etc. In addition, there is a need to raise awareness about climate change and the likely impact on the area.

## **8.19 Agriculture**

8.19.1 In the past, agriculture has had a fairly significant impact on wildlife throughout Britain. The industry was driven by pressure to produce more for a fair price and grants were available to drain wetlands, plough and cultivate the land, remove hedgerows etc. Also, there was extensive use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers in the second half of the last century. Studies have shown that this has had a significant impact on wildlife including birds.

8.19.2 Things started to change around the end of the last century. With research, factual information and expertise, it was realised that there was over-production and over-dependency on chemicals and the impact of this. Since then, various agri-environmental schemes have been introduced which gave grants towards environmental work such as creating and cleaning lakes, erecting 'cloddiau', restoring walls and planting hedgerows. These schemes and the current Glastir scheme (and the Single Payment that sets the conditions for cross-compliance) certainly benefit habitats and wildlife throughout Wales.

8.19.3 However, there are some agricultural activities that continue to have an impact on habitats and species. The main agricultural activities that may have an impact on habitats, water and wildlife during the Management Plan period are:

- Grazing and stocking levels (under-grazing and/or over-grazing can be harmful)
- Slurry entering water courses, streams and rivers
- Artificial fertilizers out-flowing into streams and rivers (nitrogen)
- Pesticides and herbicides
- More specialising in one type of farming in a more intensive way.

## **8.20 Grants and Environmental Projects**

8.20.1 Projects can assist to maintain, restore and improve the management of habitats and by so doing provide for specific species.

8.20.2 In the past, projects such as Natur Gwynedd, Llŷn Landscape and the Nature Fund project in Llŷn did a great deal to improve some habitats in Llŷn, particularly the traditional boundaries, pools and lakes and heathland. Also, the Sustainable Development Fund that is associated to the AONB designation has supported projects that are beneficial to wildlife at a smaller scale such as Tan y Bwlch fields and Porthdinllaen Sea-grass. It is hoped that

other similar projects can be developed in the future for the benefit of local biodiversity.

8.20.3 In addition to the Glastir agricultural grants, grants have been provided by Coed Cadw and Coed Cymru to improve existing woodlands by introducing more native trees and better management.

## **8.21 Invasive Plants**

8.21. Recently, invasive plants and alien invasive plants have become more of a problem in the area. Although there is no specific information to confirm it seems that bracken has spread as a result of lower stocking levels on certain lands - e.g. hillsides and also small areas of land that are not farmed now. Also, the use of the herbicide Asulam is restricted and there is a threat that it will be banned completely. Therefore it seems that bracken will spread further and will impair on habitat such as heathland and rough grazing and the species that live there.

8.21.2 Examples of sites with Japanese Knotweed are fairly rare at the moment, however, there has been an increase in the last decade. Because of the resilience of this invasive plant, its ability to spread and the fact that there is no specific scheme or project to destroy it, it is likely that it will increase and will impair native plants.

8.21.3 Himalayan Balsam is increasing at a rapid scale. The plant spreads by throwing its seed far and wide and it thrives in wet areas such as river banks - therefore its seeds can travel in the water. By now Himalayan Balsam has spread significantly in some valleys and wet areas of Llŷn and has the potential to spread much further.

8.21.4 Landowners and land managers, Gwynedd Council, Natural Resources Wales and the AONB Service have a role to play in monitoring and controlling invasive species in the area.

## **8.22 Environmental Regulations**

8.22.1 There are a number of European statutory designations that are relevant to several sites in Llŷn and these include Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites. Brexit is causing great uncertainty regarding the future of these designations that offer support and protection to the sites in question.

8.22.2 In addition, European regulations regarding pesticides and herbicides are relevant to Britain and have been formulated to protect species and habitats.

8.22.3 Therefore, there is great uncertainty about the future and it will be important to review the situation and get the latest information. Perhaps national or local conservation designations may be considered instead of European ones if these are not relevant to Britain in the future.

## **8.23 Financial Squeeze**

- 8.23.1 There have been cuts in public expenditure since 2008/9 following the banking crisis. This has had a significant impact on different public bodies and departments including Local Authorities and conservation bodies such as Natural Resources Wales (and its predecessors the Countryside Council for Wales, the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency).
- 8.23.2 There have been substantial financial cuts in Gwynedd Council over the years and the largest was following the Gwynedd Challenge exercise in 2015. These cuts have affected many services including the Countryside and Access Unit and the Biodiversity Unit and this has meant a reduction in staff and budgets. This means that staff numbers have been reduced, work has had to be prioritised and it is necessary to focus on statutory work only at the expense of implementing projects, promotion etc.

## **8.24 New Developments**

- 8.24.1 New developments can impair habitats and species and these developments include housing, sheds, agricultural developments, road improvements etc. Of course all these developments need planning permission via a formal process and are therefore assessed by different Council departments (including the Biodiversity Unit and the AONB Service where relevant) and Natural Resources Wales. Therefore developments that may be harmful to wildlife can be opposed or conditions may be recommended to be imposed on the planning consent.
- 8.24.2 No substantial sites have been allocated for development in the Llŷn area in the Gwynedd Development Plan. Therefore, on the whole, there are no major concerns regarding the impact of new developments on the area's wildlife.

## **Policies**

### **BP 1. PROMOTE THE PROTECTION AND APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT OF LLŷN'S KEY HABITATS.**

A wide variety of habitats exist within the Llŷn AONB which is a reflection of the area's varied landscape and coast. Nowadays, natural or semi-natural vegetation, namely unimproved and uncultivated land is rare in England and Wales. The most prominent examples of lands such as these are heathlands, wetlands and woodlands and they are all present, to some degree, in Llŷn. There is a detailed breakdown of all the relevant habitats in Natur Gwynedd but generally these include various coastal habitats (beaches, cliffs, sand dunes etc., heathlands, grasslands and hay meadows, trees and woodlands, marsh and fenland, field boundaries and road verges and marine habitats.

### **BP 2. PROTECT, MANAGE AND PROMOTE APPROPRIATE USES OF LLŷN'S COMMON LANDS.**

Common lands are an important feature of Llŷn and they form an important habitat since they are mainly uncultivated land, they also provide public access opportunities (but they are not publicly owned). There are a total of 30 over a

considerable area of land and there are different rights associated with individual sites (e.g. grazing, collecting firewood). Most of the land is heathland or rough grazing and due to lack of management some sites have become overgrown and bracken infested. Some of the common lands are in the ownership of the National Trust – and have benefited as such by being included in various management schemes to clear scrub and re-introduce grazing – e.g. through the Llŷn Landscape Partnership.

**BP 3. PROTECT, SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE LLŷN’S WILDLIFE SPECIES ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED UNDER EUROPEAN LAW AND THOSE WHICH ARE CLASSIFIED AS PRIORITY IN THE 2006 NERC ACT, AND RESIST ANY HARMFUL DEVELOPMENTS.**

The Llŷn AONB boasts an abundance of wildlife species. The tranquillity and the unpolluted nature of the area have certainly contributed to the continuation of many species which are now considered rare in the British Isles. Some species have been designated for protection under European law and other denoted as priority species in the 2006 NERC Act. These have been classified as mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians, invertebrates, vascular plants, lichen, mosses and liverworts, fungi, stonewort and marine species.

**BP 4. CREATE AND IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN IMPORTANT HABITAT AND WILDLIFE SITES.**

Ecological connectivity between habitats and the movement of species through the landscape is all important for the long term state of biodiversity. The AONB Service, Gwynedd Council and other bodies will give priority to support and develop plans and projects to improve connectivity and create new connections. This will follow on various projects that have been implemented recently by the Llŷn Landscape Partnership. Guidance on local priorities is provided in documents such as Natur Gwynedd, Llŷn Coastal Connectivity Strategy (2013) and Llŷn Wildlife Audit (2013).

**BP 5. ASSESS THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON INDIGENOUS HABITATS AND WILDLIFE SPECIES AND POSSIBLE MEASURES TO MANAGE THE SITUATION.**

Climate change has been proven to take place and will have an effect on habitat and species. It's believed important to take steps to try and predict what effect climate change will have on the Llŷn AONB so that steps can be taken to address the issue. Details specialised information will be needed from bodies such as NRW (The State of Natural Resources Report – SoNNaRR), Wales Biodiversity Partnership, RSPB etc.

**BP 6. TARGET INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS INVASIVE SPECIES AND RAISE AWARENESS AND METHODS OF TREATMENT AND ERADICATION.**

Historically, bracken was a problem in this area – it grows strongly on hillsides and dominates other plants. From the 1960s onwards a combination of chemical spray and dense stocking rates meant it was curtailed. Recently however there has been resurgence due to lower stocking and constraints on spraying (there may be a total ban on the most effective chemical spray soon). The aim is to support schemes to raise awareness and trial new methods to control bracken.

Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam are the most common non-native invasive in the area with some small areas of rhododendron. To date these species have not spread widely although there has been an increase in sites and area especially of balsam. The aim is to work in partnership to target known sites, raise awareness among landowners and arrange training.

**BP 7. RAISE AWARENESS AND IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF LLŶN'S IMPORTANT HABITATS AND WILDLIFE SPECIES AND PROMOTE VOLUNTEERS TO TAKE PART IN RECORDING AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS.**

Most local people and tourists have only a basic knowledge of Llŷn's important habitats and the wealth of wildlife here. Without knowledge and understanding it is difficult to appreciate the resource and take beneficial action. There is a need to work with conservation bodies such as NRW, National trust and the RSPB, Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC etc to raise awareness and improve people's understanding, including schoolchildren.

**BP 8. IMPROVE AWARENESS OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY HABITATS AND WILDLIFE SPECIES IN PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND THE BENEFITS CONFERRED IN REGARD TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING.**

The natural environment, including habitats and wildlife provide a range of ecosystem services for the benefit of people and communities. Biodiversity contributes to these services by processes such as water purification, CO2 uptake, soil quality and pollination etc. Although there have been improvements of late there is still a lot to do as regards to raising awareness among the general public and those working in social and healthcare services. The AONB Service and other partners can play a role in this and possibly develop and work together on projects.

## 9.0 THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

### Key facts

55 Scheduled 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 Registered Historic Park & Garden – Plas yn Rhiw
Most of the AONB is within the area included on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales.

### 9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 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 monuments, remains of ancient settlements, historic buildings and structures, farms and field patterns, old quarries and works and also parks and gardens.

9.1.2 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, and interesting historic environment which has a special character and sense of place.

9.1.3 In Llŷn there are significant numbers of later prehistoric 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 contribute towards the unique character of Penrhyn Llŷn.

9.1.4 Because there hasn’t been much development in the area a large number of relics from historic sites have survived. Many cromlechs and standing stones can still be seen today in their original locations and features such as milestones 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 in some areas such as Rhiw and Uwchmynydd.

9.1.5 Historic buildings are an important and interesting part of the historic environment and they display the area’s building traditions and 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.

- 9.1.6 The most important historical buildings are listed by Cadw and classified as Grade I, II\* or II. Grade I and II\* buildings are considered nationally important, whilst Grade II are considered special for their regional importance. 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.
- 9.1.7 A Survey by the Handley Company in 2007 provided detailed, thorough and more recent Information regarding listed buildings and structures, namely the most important historical buildings in the area. The information is summarized in the form of a table which shows the number, grade and condition according to the results of a Review undertaken on behalf of Gwynedd Council.
- 9.1.8 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 centers.
- 9.1.9 Archaeological and historical remains are important because they are evidence and a record of the way that past generation 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.
- 9.1.10 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 ICOMOS (International Council on 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.”
- 9.1.11 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](http://www.heneb.co.uk)).

9.1.12 Cadw is responsible for safeguarding the most important historic resources in Wales. The most important archaeological remains have been designated as Scheduled Monuments (SM's) and thus receive special protection from any harm. These monuments are legally protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and it is a criminal offence to remove or disturb these sites or remove any material from them. 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 recording archaeology, buildings, landscapes and maritime remains from prehistory to the present.

9.1.13 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets out the framework for the positive management of change in the historic environment. Policy guidance on the historic environment in Wales is also provided by the Welsh Government in Planning Policy Wales (Chapter 6) and in the Technical Advice Note 24 along with its associated guidance. 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.

9.1.14 Gwynedd Council does not have an in-house archaeological service but instead archaeological advice across the region is provided by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (through the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service). The Trust is responsible for maintaining the regional Historic Environment Record (the HER is the statutory record of all known archaeological / historical sites in the area) and for providing historic environment advice to the local authorities, national and local bodies, statutory undertakers, developers and the general public specifically in relation to planning and conservation issues. Public Access to the HER is available through <http://www.cofiadurcahcymru.org.uk/arch/> whilst information, advice and queries should be directed to Gwynedd Archaeological Trust and the HER directly.

9.1.15 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.

9.1.16 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 its properties and employs conservation officers and architects.

9.1.17 Cymdeithas Hanes ac Archaeoleg Llŷn (Llŷn Archaeology and History Society) was established 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 its remit to include conservation of the historical environment.

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

### **Main Aim**

**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.**

### **Special Features**

## **9.2 The Prehistoric Periods**

9.2.1 The level of preservation of monuments on Llŷn is surprising. Numerous field monuments survive 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 archaeological background and the remains found in the Llŷn area:

9.2.2 **The Mesolithic Age** (c.10,000 – 4,500 B.C) – The warming climate which brought about the end of the last Ice Age c.12,000 years ago caused ice sheets to melt and sea levels to rise. Britain became isolated from mainland Europe and Mesolithic populations exploited the coastal environment and left behind evidence of their communities. The itinerant, nomadic nature of these hunter – gatherers during this period means that they left behind few structures and no substantial monuments. Flint, chert and other stone tools were manufactured in large numbers during this period by groups and individuals and evidence of tool working sites is often discovered (discarded flints and *debitage* or waste flakes of stone) as well as *middens*, or rubbish heaps, often comprising large numbers of shells. These sites are often discovered through coastal erosion since the main concentrations of settlement activity during the Mesolithic is thought to have been around the coast or within river valleys where maritime resources such as shellfish could be exploited and where the maritime environment facilitated communication and transport.

- 9.2.3 **The Neolithic Age** (c. 4,500 – 2,500 B.C) – The earliest monuments on the Llŷn landscape include burial chambers (such as Tan y Muriau in Rhiw and Bachwen near Clynnog) and standing stones which are evidence of the ritual and funerary traditions of the cultures of this period. Many of these monuments continued to have significance in later periods and became foci of activity during the Bronze and Iron Ages. Also of considerable importance are the remains of an axe factory dating from this era, on Rhiw mountain. The axe factory illustrates how settled peoples during the Neolithic exploited the land and had complex societies where specialized tools were manufactured, traded and exchanged across a wide region.
- 9.2.4 **Bronze Age** (c. 2500 – 600 BC) – 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. Stone built cairns from this period tend to survive whilst earthen barrows with central burials often only survive as ring ditches, visible from the air as parch marks. Urn burials have been discovered from this period at Foel Meyllteyrn, Morfa Nefyn and near Bodfel.
- 9.2.5 Many of the upland settlements and defended enclosures which date to the Iron Age are also thought to have their origins in the Bronze Age. Lowland settlement in this period is poorly understood but the recent discovery of numerous 'burnt mounds' in the area which tend to date to this period, is thought to be evidence of domestic activity. Burnt mounds are evidence of people heating troughs of water using hot rocks. This enigmatic technology could have been a cooking technique but other explanations include brewing as well as sweat lodges or saunas.
- 9.2.6 **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 but also high status administrative centers where people lived in round huts ('cytiau Gwyddelod'). 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.
- 9.2.7 There are no known remains from the **Roman** period in Llŷn which suggested they did not maintain a strong influence over 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. Many of these were grave stones or grave markers and some include the inscription HIC IACIT or 'here lies' but most are not in their original position, having been incorporated into later structures such as church yard walls or having been stood on end in the standing stone tradition but most are not in their original position, having been incorporated into later structures such as church yard walls or having been stood on end in the standing stone

tradition. 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.

9.2.8 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.

9.2.9 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.

### **9.3 The Medieval Period (5<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Century)**

9.3.1 The early churches of Llŷn were almost certainly of wooden construction. The earliest surviving structural evidence of the use of stone is of the twelfth century. Aberdaron, with its twelfth-century Romanesque arched door, in three orders, is the best example, albeit much added-to and altered over the centuries and also Pistyll church. Many of the other most significant church sites on Llŷn were also founded during this period though little evidence survives of these early church sites. However, between the twelfth and early sixteenth centuries stone-built churches became a very significant and visual component of the medieval landscape with a distinct period of expansion noted at many churches around the year 1500. Many previously single celled or simple early churches extended such as at Llaniestyn, Llanengan, Abererch and Aberdaron churches where new aisles were built and arcades introduced.

9.3.2 Traditional field boundaries are 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 enlarging fields and land improvements, 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.

- 9.3.3 The traditional forms of boundary in the Llŷn area is dry stone walling, soil and stone banks and hedges. The most common of these on the is the “clawdd” stone and soil banks and these have a special character, with stones set upright in a tight fashion. 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.
- 9.3.4 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 solid 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.
- 9.3.5 It can clearly be seen from historical maps that many traditional field boundaries have been demolished to form larger fields. 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 have been 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 Project.
- 9.3.6 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 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.
- 9.3.7 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.

## 9.4 The Post-Medieval Period (1500-1800)

- 9.4.1 **Churches and chapels** - 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 I 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.
- 9.4.2 **Gentry houses-** 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 individual who owned land and property and employed servant and sponsored poets. Many were given roles as JPs or Sheriffs while others became deacons or archdeacons.
- 9.4.3 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.
- 9.4.4 **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.
- 9.4.5 **Small Harbours** - many small harbours were developed along the Llŷn coast during the seventeen 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.

## 9.5 The Industrial/ Modern era (1800-)

- 9.5.1 **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 significant contribution to the unique character of Llŷn. Not only are the remains of the quarries themselves and the accompanying buildings and equipment can still be seen but also remains of the inclines, stages and docks for exporting the stone still remain. In some instances villages were developed close to some of the quarries – villages such as Trefor, Llithfaen and Nant Gwrtheyrn.

- 9.5.2 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. A number of books refer to the granite quarries and the websites Penllyn.com and Rhiw.com contain some information about the industry.
- 9.5.3 **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, employing up to around 200 workers. Up to the end of the nineteenth century there was lead mining in the Bwlchtocyn area and there are still many remains to be seen there today – for example, the old mine funnel and old buildings.
- 9.5.4 People came aware that manganese existed in Rhiw in about 1840 and mining work began, on a small scale in 1858. There were two specific sites – at Benallt and Nant y Gadwen and the mines had busy periods and also quieter times as regards production and employment. It was particularly busy during the two World Wars due to manganese being used to harden steel. The remains of equipment used for transporting the mined material to the sea shore can still be seen at Ysgo to this day. The work ended in the 1940s and there is no longer any mining carried out in Llŷn.
- 9.5.5 **Agricultural Buildings** - 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 Eiernion. 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).
- 9.5.6 **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 Assheton-Smith and Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, resulted in the building of stone wall enclosures in straight lines - some of which can still be seen on the landscape today. There was significant opposition to these enclosures in some areas.
- 9.5.7 **Harbours and Shipbuilding** – Coal, materials and foods was imported through various small ports along the Llŷn coast during this period. 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.

9.5.8 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.

9.5.9 **Religious Buildings** - Some non-conformist chapels 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.

9.5.10 **Transport Structures** – there were 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 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 e.g. by wide loads and mechanical hedge-cutting machinery.

9.5.11 **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.

9.5.12 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.

9.5.13 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 Cefnamwlich, Plas Boduan and Plas yr Eifl.

9.5.14 Many other houses 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.

9.5.16 **Military History** - Construction of Hell's Mouth airfield began in 1936 after the compulsory purchase of seven farms, the bay and seven miles of beach. Targets consisted of canvas sheets with rings for gunnery training and offshore rafts for bombing practice. By the early 1940s the grass landing strip was extended and Bellman hangers with adjoining concrete aprons were built. A moving target railway was also laid at this time. The airfield was closed in 1945 and its structures demolished by 1947, though some evidence such as pillboxes and gun emplacements survive.

9.5.17 Several World War II military aircraft crash sites are also known within the AONB, mostly associated with military training exercises along the coast. One famous site is that of a Halifax bomber which crashed on the slopes of Tre'r Ceiri.

9.5.17 There are other sites associated with the military near the AONB border, namely the former RAF pilot training centre at Penrhos and Glanrhyd Radar camp near Edern.

### **Key Issues**

#### **9.6 Erosion**

9.6.1 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.

#### **9.7 Accidental damage**

9.7.1 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.

9.7.2 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 and discussing with landowners and land managers.

## **9.8 Local relics stored or displayed elsewhere**

- 9.8.1 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.
- 9.8.2 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).

## **9.9 Coastal Erosion**

- 9.9.1 Significant erosion is taking place on some sections of the AONB and this is a significant 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.
- 9.9.2 Two specific 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 Archaeological 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 environment are lost forever.

## **9.10 Climate Change**

- 9.10.1 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 are also bad for older buildings and structures. This, in conjunction with coastal erosion, is foreseen as being a future problem for coastal properties such as Porthdinllaen.

## **9.11 Agricultural Developments**

- 9.11.1 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 work such as enlarging field and widening historic gateways. This meant that historic features such as field boundaries were lost. However since the late 1980s there is more emphasis on retaining and re-introducing historic features through agri-environment schemes.

## **9.12 New Buildings and Structures**

9.12.1 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 on land where important historic remains are present and to undertake survey work if insufficient information is available. In some instances it will be necessary to undertake archaeological mitigation or enhancement works where there are archaeological implications. The Gwynedd Archaeological Trust can provide guidance on this matter through the planning process.

## **9.13 Adaptation of Historic and Traditional Buildings**

9.13.1 It is important that historic buildings are being used and not lie empty - this will ensure that they're retained and maintained for the future. However it must be accepted that changes will sometimes be needed to make them more suitable for modern use.

9.13.2 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 have managed to retain the original character well while others have not been as successful. The main problems associated with unsympathetic schemes are unsuitable extensions which detract from the original and inappropriate materials. To ensure that historic buildings are re-used and adapted successfully planning policies need to be effectively applied and good practice on materials and design followed (e.g. ones published by Cadw). It might also be useful to publish design guidance specifically for Llŷn.

## **9.14 Care and Maintenance**

9.14.1 There has been 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.

9.14.2 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 properly 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.

9.14.3 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 in 2015 on Conservation Areas highlighted many such examples in the area's villages.

## **9.15 Minor alterations degrading Conservation Areas**

9.15.1 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 - with the help and co-operation of owners and tenants.

## **9.16 Grants and Projects**

9.16.1 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 and Keep Wales Tidy
- Village signs and fingerposts - AONB Service
- Meillionnydd Iron age fort surveying and research- Bangor University
- Iron age hillfort interpretation panels - Llŷn Landscape Partnership
- Porthdinllaen iron age fort - surveying and interpretation - Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
- Llŷn Maritime Museum - restoration and refurbishment work
- Religious buildings - a number have received grants from the Llŷn Sustainable Development Fund – Salem Chapel, Sarn, Tŷ Mawr Chapel, Bryncroes.

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

### **Policies**

#### **HP 1. IDENTIFY, RECORD AND MONITORING THE CONDITION OF THE AREA'S HISTORICAL RESOURCES.**

It's 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 historic environment and recording information through research and methods 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 as this will form a database of information identify features which are deteriorating or under pressure.

**HP 2. PROTECT AND MAINTAIN HISTORICAL FEATURES INCLUDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS AND HISTORICAL STRUCTURES AND BUILDINGS AND THEIR SETTINGS.**

In addition to record keeping, emphasis will be placed on maintaining and conserving elements of the historic environment and the settings of important monuments. 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. ENSURE THAT NEW DEVELOPMENTS OR ALTERATIONS RESPECT AND REINFORCE THE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES AND PROMOTE GOOD PRACTICE IN CARE AND REPAIR.**

The aim of this policy is to ensure that new development and alterations maintain and respect the historical character of historic buildings and structures. 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.**

A host of small developments have had an impact on the character of the area's Conservation Areas. This policy aims to resist these types of developments and promote actions and projects which will help in restoring and maintaining the character of 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 and other measures.

**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 improve understanding of different elements of the historic environment. This is important for local communities and can add value to the tourist industry. However care is needed to avoid too much pressure on some resources. Efforts to raise awareness generally will be supported but there is also a need to link more closely with people who can have a direct effect on historic resources – such as farmers, land and property owners and tenants.

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

This policy aims to promote better access to actual sites and buildings on the ground for local people and visitors to the area. There have been various such projects to date by the AONB Service and bodies such as the Llŷn Landscape Partnership and the Ecoamgueddfa partners. 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.

## 10. THE WELSH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

### Key facts

71.8% of the AONB's population can speak Welsh. This is significantly higher than the levels across Wales .
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The number of Welsh speakers in the AONB declined from the 2011 census (down from 72.3% in 2001)
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### 10.1 Introduction

- 10.1.1 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.
- 10.1.2 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"*.
- 10.1.3 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.
- 10.1.4 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.
- 10.1.5 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 and beliefs are also part of

this culture.

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

10.1.7 The Main Aim of the Management Plan in terms of Language and Culture is as follows:

### **Main Aim**

<b>MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND PROMOTE LLŶN'S UNIQUE CULTURE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE</b>
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### **Special Features**

## **10.2 The Welsh Language**

10.2.1 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.

10.2.2 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).

10.2.3 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.

10.2.4 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.

10.2.5 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.

**10.3 Culture**  
**10.3.1 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.

10.3.2 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 towns and villages such as Nefyn, Aberdaron and Trefor where there were several chapels of numerous different denominations.

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

10.3.4 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.

10.3.5 **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.

10.3.6 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.

10.3.7 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".

10.3.8 **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.

- 10.3.9 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.
- 10.3.10 **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 Llŷn; the most notable are the fables of Castellmarch and the story of Rhys and Meinir, based at Nant Gwrtheyrn. There is a connection also between this area and the tales of the Mabinogi.
- 10.3.11 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.
- 10.3.12 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.
- 10.3.13 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.
- 10.3.14 **A 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. Farming has also 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 sheepdog trials.
- 10.3.15 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.

10.3.16 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.

10.3.17 **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 of 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 the society.

10.3.18 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 list during the nineteenth century in this area.

10.3.19 Piers were developed in order to serve the stone and mineral industries, such as for exporting granite from 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.

10.3.20 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**

#### **10.4 Young People Leaving the Area**

10.4.1 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.

#### **10.5 Migration into the Area**

10.5.1 Many families from other areas decide to move to Llŷn. People retire here also – with studies showing that 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.

## 10.6 Tourism

10.6.1 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.

## 10.7 Modern Attractions

10.7.1 There are now many 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.

## 10.8 Media

10.8.1 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 THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF 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 AMONG 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 RAISE AWARENESS OF 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 Oriel Plas Glyn y Weddw will support initiatives to record and share our unique culture with present and future generations.

### **IP 4 CELEBRATE 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 OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE AND THE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN THE LANGUAGE.**

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.

## 11.0 PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

- The AONB's population has increased by 4% since 2001 and by 2011 stood at 6,108.
- The AONB's population reflects an ageing population, with the largest proportion of people being 60-74 years of age.
- There was a 12.6% reduction in the number of those born in the AONB between 1981 and 2011.
- House prices reduced in the AONB, except in the Morfa Nefyn and Tudweiliog areas.
- The number of families with dependent children in the AONB has remained stable since 2001.
- The level of people with a limiting long-term illness has reduced in the AONB since 2001, in line with the national trend.
- The AONB has seen a small reduction in the levels of deprivation since 2005.

### 11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 What is an area without its people? Local Llŷn people and the society that they form are a core part of the area's character. As with the naturally beautiful landscape and the wealth of wildlife, the society and its people are a unique feature of the Peninsula and the Management Plan recognises this. The aim is for the Plan to play a part in protecting and maintaining the native Llŷn communities as well as aiding incomers to learn about the history, culture and language and to become part of the community.

11.1.2 As well as maintaining the area's unique language and culture, the society has also added to the area's natural environment such as cultivating the land, maintaining trees and building stone walls and "cloddiau". Also, local building craftsmen such as carpenters and stone masons are important, being the people who have built and maintained the area's traditional buildings.

11.1.3 Of course the wellbeing and living conditions of local people are important as well as the community. Therefore this part of the Management Plan also pays attention to basic needs in terms of homes, services and facilities – matters that affect the wellbeing and quality of life of Llŷn's residents.

11.1.4 The Main Aim of the Management Plan in terms of People and Communities is:

#### **Main Aim**

**PROMOTING MORE VIABLE COMMUNITIES WITH THE PROVISION OF HOMES, FACILITIES AND SERVICES AVAILABLE LOCALLY.**

## **Special Qualities**

### **11.2 The General Population**

- 11.2.1 As stated, Llŷn's people and the society that they form are an integral part of the AONB's character. It's important therefore that this Plan pays due attention to people's circumstances and the key issues that affect them.
- 11.2.2 With 71.8% of the population in the AONB's communities being Welsh speakers, they maintain the language and the area's unique culture. The society also maintains and adds to the area's natural environment with many craftsmen and workers with specialist skills.
- 11.2.3 A recent report to the State of the AONB (2014), found that the population had increased by 4% since 2001 and now stands at 6,108. The population is characterized by an ageing population, with the most aged between 60 and 74 years old. The fact that many people live for longer is partly responsible for this but also the nature of the area is changed due to migration. There is a constant migration from the area within young people born and bred in the area. The main reasons for this were highlighted in the previous Plan, in a study by Bangor University to migration in Gwynedd and Môn. No changes are foreseen in the following reasons:
- a reduction in jobs in traditional industries
  - lack of new work opportunities
  - lack of education opportunities
  - a wish to live a different way of life (e.g. in a town)
  - a wish to live in a specific place.
- 11.2.4 Many factors attract people who are born and bred here to leave – such as education, jobs, city life and family/friends connections.
- 11.2.5 On the other hand, people and families move into the area. Figures show that a high proportion of people who move into the area are people who have retired but recently and increase was seen in the number of families or middle-aged. In 2011, it was stated that 65.9% of the AONB population were born in Wales – this has reduced over the past three censuses, thus showing an increase in migration into the area.
- 11.2.6 People from other parts of Wales or Britain are those who mainly move to Llŷn but there are some ethnic minorities also. In general there are two categories of people who tend to move into the area – older people who have retired and families who chose to change their way of life and leave urban areas to live in the countryside.

### **11.3 Social Capital in Llŷn**

11.3.1 The term used to summarize the patterns and connections that exist in societies and the various values that unite people are “social capital”. The stronger the interrelation between people, then the stronger the feelings are of community spirit.

11.3.2 These community connections include a feeling of relation and neighbourhood, social patterns and participation in events. Studies have shown that social capital is very important and that there is connection between this and people’s health, educational achievements, success in employment and crime levels. Measuring social capital can be complicated and usually this is done by opinion polls that ask questions such as:

- levels of trust, is the neighbourhood safe?
- levels of membership in groups, societies or clubs;
- connection with friends and families

11.3.3 Whilst reviewing this Plan, it was not possible to hold specific surveys to research the strength of social capital in Llŷn but general information suggests that it is very strong. The main factors to suggest this are:

- On the whole, the neighbourhood works well together and there is a high level of trust between residents. Crime levels are low in the area.
- There are a high level of membership in groups, societies and clubs – such as Merched y Wawr, Chapel/Churches, Young Farmers Clubs, Sports Clubs, Literature and Social Clubs etc.
- There is a strong connection between people, friends and families and many people know each other and are aware of family connections;
- There are strong connections between people in Llŷn. This is especially true in smaller villages where everyone knows each other and there is a strong feeling of belonging. Also, there is a strong relationship between people in the same line of work – such as farmers, builders, teachers etc.

### **11.4 Maintaining language and culture**

11.4.1 It is the Llŷn residents who have been responsible for maintaining the area’s special culture over the centuries and maintained the Welsh language – which are in themselves important characteristics and matters that have been recognised as some of Llŷn’s special qualities in this Plan. Culture is a very varied of course, and includes traditions, stories, tales and superstitions. Detailed attention was given in the last Plan to language and culture as part of Llŷn’s prominent qualities.

### **11.5 Practicing and maintaining skills**

11.5.1 As well as this, Llŷn’s people have key environmental and rural skills that are transferred from generation to generation and also nurtured

from new. These skills have been vital in creating and supporting the features that are appreciated today – such as the “cloddiau”, stone walls, buildings and traditional structures.

11.5.2 The main rural skills are:

- Building and maintaining “cloddiau” and dry stone walling
- Building and adapting historical buildings – carpentry, lime mortar, re-roofing with slates etc.
- Traditional farming methods e.g. maintaining hay fields, wetlands, hedges and woodlands.
- Generally maintaining fields and managing invasive species.

## **11.6 Community Facilities**

11.6.1 Sufficient facilities and services are important to nurture a society and to maintain social capital. At the moment, there is a good provision of traditional community facilities such as village halls and buildings for public use (e.g. religious buildings) in the area. These are important for holding activities such as meetings, training courses, entertainment, fundraising events etc.

11.6.2 Recently much of these buildings have been improved and made more energy efficient. It should be aimed to preserve these buildings for the future due to their importance to the area’s community life. Also, it needs to be ensured that that buildings and facilities are suitable for disabled use and that there are efficient facilities for certain modern activities such as computers and the internet.

11.6.3 There are many leisure facilities in the area – for the local populations and visitors. They include the all-weather fields at Ysgol Botwnnog, Clwb Chwaraeon Bodegroes and Canolfan Hamdden Dwyfor. They offer various leisure activities including a swimming pool, fitness room, badminton, tennis and squash courts, football pitch and training field.

11.6.4 There are examples also of successful cooperative ventures in the area that provide service for the community such as Tafarn y Fic and Siop Pen y Groes in Llithfaen. Greater details regarding this issue can be found in the chapter on Work, Produce and Skills.

### **Key Issues**

## **11.7 Young People Moving Away**

11.7.1 This is an issue that greatly affects the area. Young people are drawn away from the area for many reasons. Amongst the most obvious are lack of jobs, lack of suitable jobs, studying and also the appeal of living in a town or city. Due to the lack of any further education establishment in the area and the increasing emphasis on qualifications, it is foreseen that young people will

continue to leave the area for education reasons – with quite a high percentage not returning to the area.

11.7.2 Also it is foreseen that the tendency to leave the area to search for work will continue as opportunities decline further in the traditional industries and with it being unlikely that any production industry will establish in the area.

11.7.3 If young people wish to live and work in the area, it is important to try and ensure that opportunities are available to them and a variety of suitable jobs and courses. More attention is given to this in the chapter in Work, Produce and Skills. It is believed also that there is an opportunity to raise awareness amongst young people about the advantages of living locally, or returning to the area after a period living away.

## **11.8 People moving into the Area**

11.8.1 People have moved into this area at certain times for years and that has created diversity in the community. Historically, people moved here to work in mining or quarrying and some came during the war but recently people have been moving here as they have chosen a new way of life. Moving to the area is something that can influence a community and influence the use of the language and the culture which is part of the area's unique character.

11.8.2 Measures need to be taken to raise awareness of the area's history and culture amongst people who move into the area and try to assimilate them into the community.

## **11.9 Holiday Homes and House Prices**

11.9.1 Ensuring suitable homes for residents is important. Difficulties in finding a home or suitable accommodation can be part of the reason why people move from the area.

11.9.2 Second/holiday homes form a significant part of the area's housing stock. Naturally, the numbers vary between different areas with the numbers in the popular holiday areas such as Llanengan and Llanbedrog being very high. Also, holiday homes create additional competition for homes in the area and influences house prices. Certainly, the fact that Llŷn is such a beautiful area appeals to have a second home here.

11.9.3 Although figures show reduction in house prices in all areas in Llŷn between 2008 and 2013, apart from the parishes of Aberdaron, Morfa Nefyn and Tudweiliog, house prices continue to be high – especially considering local wages. Some plans have been put in place however to help local people by agencies such as Gwynedd Council and private developers to provide affordable housing. Helping local people to gain local homes is important and promoting plans to assist to purchase or rent for reasonable prices is part of this.

11.9.4 Between 1997 and 2003, there was a 96.9% increase in house prices in Gwynedd, compared to 84.8% for the whole of Wales. More recent information shows that house prices in Llŷn has reduced in some areas – in line with national trend. More recent information was not received for local house prices but the impression is given that prices have increased gradually in most parts and increased significantly in popular coastal areas.

## **11.10 Empty Homes**

11.10.1 Information in the State of the AONB Report (2014) shows that two areas in the AONB (west and east) have on average more empty homes than Gwynedd and Wales. Also there is a great difference between empty homes in the east (19.7% without regular occupants) and West (36.7% without regular occupants). Gwynedd Council have implemented an Empty Homes scheme and perhaps there is an opportunity to promote such scheme specifically in Llŷn due to the high percentage of empty homes and the potential to provide homes for local people.

## **11.11 Rural Deprivation**

11.11.1 A reduction was seen over recent decades in service and facilities in the area – such as shops, post offices, pubs, garages etc. especially in villages and in the most western areas. Also, there were financial cuts in the public sector to provide service and facilities, in an attempt to achieve savings.

11.11.2 Nefyn, Abersoch and Pwllheli are the main centres that offer opportunity for AONB residents. Places such as Botwnnog, Morfa Nefyn and Llanbedrog offer a moderate level of service, whilst services are very scarce in very rural areas such as Ceidio, Dinas and Llangwennadl. Detailed information about specific service in each area can be found in the Joint Local Development Plan (2015).

11.11.3 In terms of the services available, they are undoubtedly affected by the area's rural nature. Statistics in the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (2014) shows this. With a scattered and ageing population, access to important services can be difficult and there are schemes in the area such as the O Ddrws i Ddrws which is an important resource to meet

the demand.

## **11.12 Fuel Poverty**

- 11.12.1 According to recent estimates, around 23% of all households in Wales suffer from fuel poverty and it's important that the area's residents receive every support to use energy more efficiently in their homes and help to deal more effectively with any increase in energy prices in the future. Relevant schemes such as the Warm Homes Nest Scheme by Welsh Government are important in this context and again there needs to be enough information and support available locally. This is especially true following the end of the Communities First projects in the area.

## **Policies**

### **CP 1. MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE LOCAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND MAKE THEM MORE SUITABLE FOR DISABLED USE AND MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT.**

It's important that local communities have convenient places to meet and hold social events. Through hard work, many improvements have been undertaken over the last few years but there is room for improvement yet again and the AONB Service and other partners will support plans to improve the condition of buildings and make them more energy efficient as well as improving access/facilities for those with disabilities.

### **CP 2. ENCOURAGE LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS CARING FOR THE LOCAL HERITAGE INCLUDING UNDERTAKING VOLUNTARY WORK.**

Communities certainly have an interest in history and local heritage considering the amount of talks, exhibitions etc. are held and how many participate. However, not much practical or voluntary work is currently undertaken even though some features such as holy wells genuinely need constant maintenance. The AONB Service will work with others to encourage interest in this area with the hope of establishing a Society or similar organisation to lead on practical conservation work here in Llŷn.

### **CP 3. RAISE AWARENESS AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER ADVANTAGES OF LIVING LOCALLY.**

Figures show that many young people leave the area for reasons such as education, work, new experiences etc. It is of course important for young people to gain education and new experiences but it is believed that there is a need to raise awareness of living locally and returning here in the future.

### **CP 4. REFURBISH AND RE-USE EMPTY HOMES IN THE AREA.**

It's certain that young people find it difficult to compete on the housing market due to high prices and limited stock. Research has shown that there is higher percentage than average of empty homes in Llŷn and these houses could

contribute to meet the local need for homes. Gwynedd Council have had an Empty Homes scheme for years by now, and provides advice, grants, loans and VAT reductions. Also, Welsh Government has a Houses into Homes scheme that provide interest-free loans to restore and re-use empty homes and Home Improvements Loans. There is scope to raise awareness and promote the scheme in the area.

**CP 5. MAKE HOMES MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT, ENERGY SAVING AND CREATE DOMESTIC RENEWABLE ENERGY.**

Many home in the area are historic and not very efficient in terms of energy use. As a result, they are more costly to heat and many rely on oil, coal or fire wood to heat them, thus contributing to CO2 emission. High costs of energy contribute to rural deprivation. The AONB Service and other partners support plans to save energy and create domestic renewable energy as long as they would not impair the character of historic houses or the landscape.

**CP 6. PROMOTE NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES TO MEET PROVEN LOCAL NEED, AS LONG AS SCHEMES, DESIGNS AND MATERIALS ARE IN-KEEPING WITH THE AONB'S ENVIRONMENT.**

Preferably, local people could buy or rent houses from the current stock and the hope is that empty homes can contribute to this. In some cases however, especially in communities where houses for sale are scarce, new affordable homes can be justified. The AONB Service support initiatives to build new affordable homes when there is genuine need and when the plan suits the AONB's special landscape in terms of location and design.

**CP 7. HELP PEOPLE WHO MOVE INTO THE AREA TO LEARN ABOUT THE AREA'S HISTORY AND CULTURE AND LEARN THE WELSH LANGUAGE.**

People have moved to Llŷn at certain periods and this has contributed to the creation of the community today. It is important to raise awareness amongst people who move to the area about the area's history, culture and traditional by various means. Also, emphasis should be put on learning the Welsh language which is an important part of the area's character. Already, there are many good plans and ventures in this area including Gwynedd Council, which put emphasis on educating through the medium of Welsh.

## 12. LOCAL PRODUCE AND RURAL BUSINESSES

### Key information (based on 2011 figures that have been amended for the AONB area)

- \* Unemployment was lower in the AONB than in Gwynedd and Wales.
- \* Self-employment was significantly higher than in Gwynedd and Wales.
- \* Jobs in agriculture and forestry counted for over 8% of the employment total, whilst the tourism sector counted for a little over 17%.
- \* Tourist expenditure in the AONB had increased by 5% since 2006
- \* There had been a decrease of 17% in the number of tourists to the AONB.
- \* There had been a reduction in the number of day tourists.
- \* There had been a reduction in visitors staying in serviced accommodation.
- \* There had been a 12% reduction in the number of people employed in the tourism sector since 2006.

### 12.1 Introduction

- 12.1.1 Economic activities within the AONB and the surrounding area are important due to their direct influence on the area's special qualities - for better and for worse. In addition, economic activities create produce, support skills and create jobs and, therefore, support the local community. When there's insufficient employment opportunities, or low salaries, people leave areas to search for work. As is common in other rural areas of Wales many young people leave the area. Losing members of the community, including well-educated members, has a negative effect.
- 12.1.2 The economy in Llŷn is relatively weak with levels of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per head and the economic activity much lower than the British and European average. There are limited work opportunities in the area and, in general, the salary levels are low. This is reflected in a poorer community in terms of earnings and higher levels of deprivation. The fact that people have to travel to get to many services and facilities also contributes towards poverty and deprivation.
- 12.1.3 There is a high dependency on traditional industries, service industries and administration and there are no big companies or factories in Llŷn. The work opportunities in the rural areas are very limited and many travel to centres such as Pwllheli, Caernarfon and Bangor for work, services and goods.
- 12.1.4 For the Management Plan review information economic and social matters was obtained through research carried out by Land Use Consultants. The information was gathered from the 2011 Census and the STEAM tourism information. Wherever possible, information was included on the level of Gwynedd and the whole of Wales in order to compare.
- 12.1.5 The 2011 Census shows an increase in the proportion of the population that are of working age that are economically active across the Llŷn AONB. In the 2001 Census, the number of economically active people was lower than in Gwynedd and Wales, but this has now changed. The eastern area of the

AONB has seen the biggest increase, with an increase of 11.9% in the number of people who are economically active. See Figure 5.6 in the State of the AONB (2014) Report.

- 12.1.6 There has also been some change in the make-up of those unemployed since 2001. A reduction was seen in those who were ill/disabled in the long-term while there was a small increase in those that cared for the home or a member of the family. The majority of the population who are of working age but that are economically inactive are retired people, an increase was seen in this sector. See Figure 5.7 in the State of the AONB (2014) report.
- 12.1.7 The State of the AONB Report also shows lower levels of long-term and short-term unemployment compared to the level of Wales and the levels of self-employment in the AONB is higher than Gwynedd and Wales.
- 12.1.8 Having an economy (and, more specifically, economic activity) that is locally embedded is an important contributor to the vitality of an area (they need to be sustainable, living landscapes). It's possible to measure to what degree the economy is locally embedded by considering factors such as:
- The expenditure proportion of the residents that buy goods and services locally (interpreted usually in terms of economic multipliers)
  - The number of local workers (see the travelling to work pattern)
  - The number of owners that live locally
- 12.1.9 In addition, where the environment is of high quality, an area has the capacity to attract tourists and their expenditure on local goods and services is also important.
- 12.1.10 For the purpose of the Management Plan of the AONB, the following was set as a Main Aim as regards Produce and Skills:

### **Main Aim**

<p><b>TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT SUITABLE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES THAT WILL BRING BENEFIT TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY WILL NOT HARM THE AREA'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.</b></p>
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### **Special Qualities**

## **12.2 Agriculture**

- 12.2.1 Agriculture has been practiced on the Llŷn Peninsula for many centuries. Most likely the peninsula was originally woodland, with the exception of the higher peaks. However, as agriculture developed, many of the trees were felled and boundaries were created to manage land and livestock. Over the centuries, more robust boundaries were constructed - they were dry stone walls or *cloddiau*. In some places, whitethorn and blackthorn were used to create hedges. These early fields were quite small, and a number were

connected to cottages or farms. The historic field pattern can still be seen clearly in some areas such as Rhiw and Uwchmynydd, and these traditional boundaries are important in terms of the landscape's appearance, history, culture and wildlife.

- 12.2.2 Traditionally, the farms in Llŷn were mixed, keeping various animals, growing crops and usually some poultry such as hens or geese. Many farms in the area were also producing milk and, consequently, South Caernarfon Creameries was established in 1938 to process the milk, and continues to be an important employer in the area. As a result of joining the Common Market in 1973, there was more of a tendency to concentrate on one type of farming – beef, milk or sheep and this trend has continued to the present day.
- 12.2.3 More emphasis was placed on environmental considerations from the late 1980s onwards and agri-environment grant schemes were established such as the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA), Tir Gofal and Tir Cymen. By now we have the all Wales Glastir scheme which is based on safeguarding and maintaining habitats, biodiversity and historical features.
- 12.2.4 A good proportion of Llŷn is good agricultural land and the standard of the stock is generally high. The area produces high quality agricultural produce including lamb, beef, milk and bacon. A proportion of this produce is sold locally through direct sales or supplying small stores, but a large amount also leaves the area. There's only limited production of vegetables, fruits and rarer meats e.g. venison, and it appears that there's an opportunity to produce more varied agricultural produce in the area as well as using more local produce. This could offer local economic and environmental benefits.
- 12.2.5 To be economically viable and keep up with developments farms will need to adapt – this will include new infrastructure to improve efficiency and being able to facilitate modern machinery etc. In some cases new buildings and structures will be needed and within the AONB emphasis needs to be placed on ensuring that these blend into the landscape by measures such as suitable location, size, materials, colouring and landscaping.
- 12.2.6 Agriculture continues to be an important employer in the area although the Report on the State of the AONB (2014) showed that employment in agriculture and forestry had decreased. The employment comparison in every sector shows that agriculture and forestry provides 8.5% of employment (from the 2011 Census) whilst jobs relating to tourism provides 17.5% of employment (from the 2012 STEAM).
- 12.2.7 In addition to creating work for farmers and supporting rural families, the agricultural industry creates employment directly for others – farm hands and contractors. Also, the industry supports many other businesses and jobs such as those that supply the industry with animal feed, fencing equipment, gates, machinery, etc. In addition, existing buildings need to be maintained and new buildings need to be erected regularly therefore work is provided for builders and craftsmen.

12.2.8 Farmers and their families also make invaluable contributions to maintaining history, culture and countryside practices. It's a Welsh community that maintains countryside practices, local history, and the names of fields and places, farm houses, and historic buildings and wells. Agricultural skills, such as constructing and maintaining stone walls, *cloddiau* and land management is very important in terms of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty's environment.

12.2.9 Another area in which Agriculture makes a contribution to the AONB is the diversification initiatives – creating income, salary and adding value and a resource for tourists. Due to the financial squeeze and the government's support, a number of farmers in Llŷn have diversified to bring additional income to their businesses. The most common enterprises are caravans, adapting outbuildings into holiday accommodation and outdoor activities. Agricultural diversification schemes are of assistance to support farm units and local communities, and support the local economy. However, care needs to be taken to manage schemes which could have an impact on the special qualities of the AONB e.g. caravans in prominent places, noisy activities or adaptations to traditional agricultural buildings.

### **12.3 Forestry**

12.3.1 During the 1950s and 1960s, the government wanted to see more trees grown in Britain in order to be more self-sufficient in wood. Conifer woodlands were planted on high lands and other lands of low quality in Wales, England and Scotland. There are some conifer plantations within the Llŷn AONB, on Garn Fawr, Moel Penllechog, Nant Gwrtheyrn, Garn Boduan, Garn Fadrun, the Rhiw area and Glasfryn. Although these trees aren't indigenous to the area, they have become part of the landscape's appearance and there's a significant visual change when the trees are cut and the process of replanting starts because this leaves the landscape bare and open.

12.3.2 There are few indigenous types of woodland within the AONB but they form an important element of the landscape and the natural environment. Of special interest are the ancient woodland in Rhiw and woodlands in Cwmgwared and Coed Eiernion. These are protected with Tree Preservation Orders in addition to being Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

12.3.3 Conifer plantations only offer limited work opportunities with the exception of Glasfryn which is a little beyond the boundary near Llanaelhaearn. Glasfryn Fencing and Sawmill was established in the mid-1990s and produces fencing stakes, gates, benches, tables, fences, firewood etc. A number of local people are employed at the centre.

### **12.4 Fishing**

12.4.1 Fishing has been an important activity in Llŷn across the centuries. There was dependency on the marine produce as a food source as

well as something to trade. According to history, there were large catches of fish in the past, especially herring, in the Nefyn area. Frequently, the fish were cured in order to transport them to market. Lots of tales and folklores are associated with the fishing industry and those fishermen, like the farmers, played a part in maintaining local history and industry.

12.4.2 Today, the main marine produce is bass, mackerels, crabs, lobsters, prawns and whelks. No recent figures have been published on the fishing in this area but catching fish, crabs and lobsters continue to be a popular activity, mostly as a secondary source of income, although some full-time fishermen remain. Although some fish and shellfish are sold locally, to individuals and restaurants, the tendency is to sell the produce to companies that transport them elsewhere for selling on. Therefore, much of the quality local marine produce leaves the area, and is sold frequently for relatively low prices.

12.4.3 It seems there is potential to process and use more marine produce in Llŷn with subsequent economic and environmental opportunities tied to this. In one initiative the National Trust has worked with local lobster and crab fishermen to adapt cowsheds in Cwrt near Aberdaron to develop storage, chilling, processing and packaging facilities, so as to add value to marine produce.

## **12.5 Quarrying and mineral working**

12.5.1 Quarrying and mineral working were very important industries in Llŷn during the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. During that time, there were a number of granite quarries on igneous hills that are scattered around the area – areas such as Trefor, Nant Gwrtheyrn, Mynydd Nefyn and Tir y Cwmwd, Llanbedrog. Also, mineral ore was mined in the Llanengan and Bwlchtocyn areas (mainly lead) and manganese in Rhiw. More information is available regarding these industries in local history books.

12.5.2 The quarries have had a striking impact on the peninsula's landscape and geology and have also provided materials for a large number of the area's historical buildings. It could be argued that there's justification to continue producing some local stone to be used in maintaining buildings and to ensure that new buildings, in sensitive locations, comply with traditional buildings. By now, only two granite quarries remain active in the AONB, namely the Trefor and Nanhoron quarries. The two quarries produce stone on a small scale for the local market; therefore they provide for the local need and support some jobs. Also, the tradition of quarrying is maintained, and some of the old skills and tradition continue.

12.5.3 Due to the sensitivity of the AONB, the Heritage Coast, biodiversity, archaeological remains and the possible impact if the old quarries were re-opened, Gwynedd Council took out Prohibition Orders on number of former quarrying sites in 2003.

## **12.6 Small companies and self-employment**

12.6.1 Due to the rural nature of the area, there is a tradition of small businesses in Llŷn. Many of them supply the needs of homes or other businesses, especially agriculture. These businesses are crucial as they support individuals and families and provide for the needs of the population and other businesses.

12.6.2 Self-employment is high in the area as the State of the AONB Report (2014) confirms. This sector includes farmers, individual contractors, builders and plumbers, electricians, joiners etc. Again, these people provide a service for the local community and for those who own property in the area as well as maintaining property and lands, including some historical buildings and structures, *cloddiau*, walls, rural paths, etc.

## **12.7 Co-operative initiatives**

12.7.1 Over the years, Llŷn and Eifionydd has been an area where a number of co-operative initiatives have been established. This is an example of a community taking steps to support itself and provide work and services within the community because companies or individuals did not see sufficient profit in doing so. The most obvious examples within the AONB itself are Tafarn y Fic and Siop y Groes in Llithfaen, whilst South Caernarfon Creameries in near Y Ffôr is an important example and provides work for many from Llŷn area.

## **12.8 Public services**

12.8.1 A large number of the area's population is employed in public service (local authority, health service, fire service etc.). Over recent years, substantial cuts were seen in the budgets of some of these services, which have led to far fewer job opportunities locally. However, the public sector remains an important employer locally, and the services that are provided are important.

## **12.9 Tourism**

12.9.1 The tourism industry is an important part of the local economy in Llŷn, creating and sustaining jobs and contributing towards supporting the communities. Also, the expenditure from tourists is a great boost to maintaining services and local facilities such as pubs, restaurants, cafés, hotels, shops and garages. Studies have shown that the area's natural environment; the beaches, hills, paths and wildlife, form an important part of the area's attraction. There is a challenge to get the right balance between making the most out of tourism and over-development which would harm the area's special qualities.

12.9.2 Recently, an increasing shift has been seen from the traditional British holiday of a week or fortnight to shorter breaks – information shows that this is also true for Llŷn. Overall, this tendency is of economic benefit to the area, increasing the demand for making use of the area's natural leisure resources

(the sea, public paths, the Coastal Path etc.) for longer periods of the year.

- 12.9.3 Recent information shows that majority of visitors now stay in self-catering accommodation - accommodation, holiday homes, and caravans or camping. There is good provision of self-catering accommodation in Llŷn now - mainly as a result of buildings being amended into holiday accommodation and an increase in the number of caravans. On the other hand there has been a substantial reduction in those who stay in hotels, bed and breakfasts and other serviced accommodation and, as a result, there is a reduction in this type of establishment (a number of hotels have been demolished, and guest houses have been converted into private homes).
- 12.9.4 In recent years, Visit Wales has promoted outdoor activities, culture and history with the aim of attracting different types of people and extending the holiday season. Llŷn has much to offer in terms of this type of tourism, which is more sustainable in nature and more compatible with the area's qualities. There are a variety of activities that can be undertaken in the area there are also a number of historical / cultural centres. In 2014 an Ecomuseum was established which was the first of its type throughout the whole of Wales. It operates in partnership with seven heritage establishments: Nant Gwrtheyrn, Llŷn Maritime Museum, Felin Uchaf, Porth y Swnt, Plas yn Rhiw, Plas Glyn y Weddw, and Plas Heli. It uses new digital technology and social media in an innovative and positive way. The Ecomuseum's aim is to increase cultural tourism and create a longer, and more sustainable, holiday season that will bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the area.
- 12.9.5 But there are also side effects associated with the tourism industry. For example overuse of paths creates erosion and some activities are noisy or create conflict between users. During the busy holiday periods there is significant pressure on public and social services, and there are traffic jams in Abersoch and Pwllheli. Also, in some areas, caravans disrupt the landscape and high levels of second homes could impact on the language and the culture (these issues are explored in other sections of the Plan).
- 12.9.6 The State of the AONB Report (2014) analyses the tourism industry within the Llŷn AONB, and the sector's economic contribution to the local economy, through income and employment. It must be stressed that the estimates contained in the Report are based on STEAM data for Gwynedd which have been adapted for the AONB.
- 12.9.7 Figures indicate there had been a reduction in the number of tourists to the AONB, the numbers having reduced by 17% between 2006 and 2011 to around 320,000. The number of day visitors have seen the biggest reduction in numbers, although they still account for over half (52.7%) of all tourists to the AONB. Between 2006 and 2011, it is estimated that there was an increase of £1.7 million (5%) in tourism expenditure within the AONB - to a total of £35.8m. Looking at the information for each sector a reduction in accommodation expenditure can be seen. There was an increase in every other sector, and the biggest increase was in the leisure sector, where there was an

estimated increase of 23% in income, which means that 7.4% of tourist expenditure in the AONB is spent on leisure.

12.9.8 The Report also estimates employment levels in the tourism sector within the AONB. It shows that the number of people employed by the sector has fallen by 12% between 2006 and 2011. This reduction has not been consistent across all sectors, as some sectors such as accommodation, shops, and food and drink have seen a greater reduction than leisure and transport.

## **12.10 Leisure**

12.10.1 There is an opportunity to take part in a variety of outdoor leisure activities in Llŷn, and this is certainly part of the area's appeal to tourists. In addition to dense network of public rights of way and the Coastal Path, there are a number of open access areas and opportunities to partake in a variety of other outdoor activities including cycling, horse riding and visit beaches.

12.10.2 Due to the area's geographical nature, many leisure opportunities are connected to the sea and the coast. In addition to activities on the beach such as sports, sunbathing and fishing, it's possible to go rowing, sailing, canoeing, surfing and windsurfing. In 2015, Plas Heli's new National Sailing Academy at Pwllheli was opened and a variety of activities are available here. Outdoor activities in the sea and on land are generally low impact it's seems there's potential to develop some further activities of these types in Llŷn.

12.10.3 Indoor leisure resources also exist in the area. There are some long established centres such as the small stately home of Plas yn Rhiw, the Language and Heritage Centre - Nant Gwrtheyrn, Canolfan Hanes Uwchgwyrfai in Clynnog, and Oriel Plas Glyn y Weddw. Recently, new indoor attractions have opened in the area including the Maritime Museum and the Cwrw Llŷn Brewery in Nefyn, Porth y Swnt (National Trust) in Aberdaron, Menter y Felin Uchaf in Rhoshirwaun and Plas Heli in Pwllheli.

## **Key Issues**

### **12.11 Limited employment opportunities**

12.11.1 The economy here in Llŷn is relatively limited with a dependency on the traditional industries especially agriculture. It's believed that there are opportunities to establish new businesses to produce process and sell local produce - a number of examples were seen of this recently.

12.11.2 There's also a dependency on jobs in the public sector - teaching, local government, professional services and the hospitality industry (including shops, restaurants, pubs, etc.). There have been significant cutbacks in some of these services recently and there are fewer new opportunities.

12.11.3 Although there are more job opportunities in Caernarfon, Porthmadog and Bangor this will entail a fairly long journey to work with associated costs. Travelling to work is not an option for some people due to not having access to a car or public transport not being suitable.

12.11.4 The worldwide web has created opportunities for existing businesses to expand and for new businesses to set up. It has opened out a world market and businesses do not have to be strategically located any more. Because of this there are further opportunities to expand existing businesses and establish new businesses in the area thereby creating income and employment.

## **12.12 Trends in farming**

12.12.1 The tendency for some farm businesses to expand at the expense of others seems to continue with smaller units being broken up. Also, there continues to be a concentration on one type of farming - be it beef, sheep or dairy. Farmers are still investing in their businesses and new sheds, milking parlours and infrastructure are being built. Machinery has developed significantly and large tractors and implements are common in the area.

12.12.2 Agri-environment plans that began on Llŷn with the Environmentally Sensitive Area scheme in the 1980s have been beneficial to the agricultural industry as well as safeguarding, and improving natural and historical features. This has continued with the most recent scheme, Glastir, and the continuation of this scheme would be beneficial to the AONB's natural environment, and beyond.

12.12.3 There are opportunities to further promote local produce – to process and sell more locally so as to add value and create work. Local companies need to be supported with marketing their produce and emphasis needs to be placed on buying local produce. Possibly using the AONB itself as part of the produce branding could be beneficial. It's also believed that diversification and entrepreneurship needs to be promoted and encouraged in terms of existing and new businesses.

## **12.13 Broadband and Mobile Phone Service**

12.13.1 By now good and reliable broadband is very important to most businesses, as well as mobile phone service. As expected in such a rural location, the broadband service is rather lacking in some areas. Likewise, due to the coastal and hilly nature of the area, the mobile phone service is poor in some places.

12.13.2 The Welsh Government is committed to ensure that everyone has access to Superfast Broadband. The Superfast Cymru project will bring this service to the majority of homes and businesses in Wales that will not be receiving it through the service by the private sector. The money comes from the Welsh Government and the UK, the EU and BT. Also, the Welsh Government is working with Airband to bring high speed wireless broadband to other places

that will not be part of the commercial provision or Superfast Cymru. Also, the Welsh Government is looking at other technologies at some other places without service.

## **12.14 Cuts in public spending**

12.14.1 Substantial cuts have been made in public services in recent years. This has had a significant impact on Gwynedd Council, National Resources Wales etc, meaning less money for capital work and jobs relating to countryside and wildlife conservation. Here are some examples which will have a direct effect on the tourism industry:

- closing tourism centres, including the one in Pwllheli
- less expenditure on tourism marketing material e.g. leaflets, etc.
- closing public toilets

12.14.2 It has also meant less work opportunities locally and less work for contractors. There might be an opportunity for co-operative enterprises to provide some of the services and facilities that have been lost and to create jobs.

## **12.15 Brexit and the European Union**

12.15.1 Britain has been a member of the European Community since 1973. The result of the referendum to leave the European Union in June 2016 has created great uncertainty in terms of the economy, environment and the movement of people throughout the Europe. When reviewing the Management Plan, it was not possible to anticipate what the impact of Brexit would be on this area, but concerns exist on the economic impact as a result of:

- Reduction in the value of the £ against the euro
- Grants to agriculture and other businesses through the Rural Development Plan
- Losing access to other European grant funds eg Interreg
- The future of European Conservation Designations and Regulations.

## **12.16 Tourism**

12.16.1 The tourism industry brings in a significant amount of income to the area and benefits many business and attractions. Food and drink establishments do well during the holiday periods as do local shops and the food stores at Pwllheli. Local attractions also benefit, including National Trust properties, The Maritime Museum, Oriel Plas Glyn y Weddw and various others.

12.16.2 As far as accommodation is concerned there has been a move away from serviced accommodation such as hotels, guest houses and B & B to self-serviced accommodation and caravans. Although this type of accommodation creates work in the maintenance and gardening sectors

there are fewer opportunities generally. In fact the number of jobs associated with the tourism industry in the area is relatively low, many are of a seasonal nature and pay is modest. Many jobs are taken up by schoolchildren and students.

- 12.16.3 There are also some other negative effects associated with the tourism industry. Other sections of the Plan have deal with matters such as erosion, littering, traffic, holiday homes and caravans.

### **Policies**

#### **GP 1. PROMOTE THE FARMING INDUSTRY THROUGH MARKETING INITIATIVES, NURTURING TRADITIONAL COUNTRYSIDE SKILLS AND AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES.**

Agriculture is an integral part of the Llŷn Peninsula and the AONB environment and economy. Farming has left its mark on the landscape from early days and developments and practices over time have contributed to how the landscape looks today. The agricultural community – the farmers, their families and farm workers form an important element of the area’s communities and enable the continuation of tradition, skills, practices, culture and language.

There have been many changes in farming in recent times – changes in policies, machinery markets and environmental regulations. More changes are on the horizon as a result of the decision to leave the European Union – which is one of the biggest markets for the industry at present.

This Plan aims to support the farming industry through helping to market agricultural produce in various ways and also by promoting and developing traditional countryside skills such as stone walling.

#### **GP 2. ENSURE THAT DEVELOPMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH AGRICULTURE HAVE THE LEAST POSSIBLE EFFECT ON THE AONB’S LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT.**

Agriculture has to change and adapt as any other industry and that this will mean the need for new buildings, slurry stores, silage pits etc. It is important to ensure that these developments are not made at the expense of the area’s landscape and environment. Careful positioning (near other buildings if possible), design, colouring and landscaping can help to lessen the impact of new developments. The aim therefore is to manage developments in order to limit the effect environmental effect through the planning process by preparing a specific Design Guide.

#### **GP 3. SUPPORT THE LLŷN FISHING INDUSTRY BY PROMOTING LOCAL PROCESSING INITIATIVES AND MARKETING.**

By now, only a few individuals make a full time living from fishing but the industry continues to be important locally and maintains a tradition that reaches back over hundreds of years. It is apparent that not much of the produce is sold and used locally. It seems there are opportunities for more marketing and processing of local marine produce and to target sales at more local businesses such as hotels

and restaurants and also to sell directly in other local markets.

**GP 4. PROMOTE OTHER LOCAL PRIMARY PRODUCTS.**

Various other products are made or sold in the area and contribute to the rural economy. For example there are two granite quarries are still open and the stone they produce is useful for building and road works etc. There is a forestry initiative at Glasfryn and other smaller ones in other locations.

**GP 5. PROMOTE IMPROVEMENT IN THE AREA'S BROADBAND AND MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE UNLESS THEY WOULD HAVE AN UNACCEPTABLE EFFECT ON THE AONB'S LANDSCAPE.**

In this day and age, keeping in touch and marketing is all important to businesses of all types. Due to the area's rural and coastal nature, broadband and mobile phone coverage is poor in some areas, and this poses a disadvantage. The aim therefore is to support improvements as far as there are no unacceptable effects the AONB's landscape and promoting mast sharing.

**GP 6. PROMOTE AND ASSIST COOPERATIVE INITIATIVES AS A METHOD OF RUNNING BUSINESSES AND SUPPORTING JOBS.**

Some cooperative initiatives already exist in the area such as Tafarn y Fic, Siop y Groes and South Caernarfon Creameries. In a rural area such as Llŷn, it is believed that there is potential to establish new ventures in order to maintain businesses and services and support jobs.

**GP 7. SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW RURAL ECONOMIC INITIATIVES AND DIVERSIFICATION VENTURES UNLESS THEY WOULD HAVE AN UNACCEPTABLE EFFECT ON THE AONB'S ENVIRONMENT.**

Recently, many new businesses were established such as Cwrw Llŷn, Glasu and Llaethdy Llŷn. New indigenous businesses such as these are extremely important due to the income they create and the job opportunities they provide. Working with other partners the aim is to assist existing businesses and promote the establishment of similar new ones.

**GP 8. ENCOURAGE BUSINESSES, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE TOURISM SECTOR, TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE IN TERMS OF ENERGY USE AND RECYCLING.**

Maintaining and protecting the natural environment is one of the Management Plan's main aims therefore there is emphasis on reducing the effects that businesses have on the environment. The AONB Service and other organisations will co-operate to raise awareness on ways to save energy and renewable energy that are compatible with the AONB.

**GP 9. SUPPORT NEW OUTDOOR LEISURE ACTIVITIES UNLESS THEY WOULD PLACE UNACCEPTABLE PRESSURE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.**

Outdoor activities have achieved popularity and there are many natural resources for this type of leisure in Llŷn. It seems that there are opportunities to further

develop these types of activities, thus benefiting from the industry and creating job opportunities locally. It is important to ensure that only initiatives that are suitable and would not harm the area's special qualities.

**GP 10. PROMOTE EXISTING, AND NEW TOURISM INITIATIVES, ESPECIALLY THOSE BASED ON LOCAL HISTORY AND CULTURE, UNLESS THEY WOULD HAVE AN UNACCEPTABLE EFFECT ON THE AONB'S ENVIRONMENT.**

The tourism industry brings a substantial economic gain to the area and provides jobs and creates income that maintains local services and businesses. Some new suitable initiatives can add to the range of activities for visitors as well as local people. Therefore, support will be given to current and new activities, which are compatible to the area's special qualities, especially ventures relating to local history and culture.

## 13. RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS

### Key Facts

Gwynedd Council continues to be responsible for public rights of way in the County as well as leading the work on the Coastal Path in Llŷn.
There is a large network of paths in Llŷn, but parts of them are not in constant use.
Official Eco Counter data is a new baseline to assess the popularity of parts of the Coastal Path.
The latest figure for common land in the AONB is 834.5 hectares

### 13.1 Introduction

- 13.1.1 The Llŷn Peninsula is an ideal place to roam in the countryside and along the coast whilst enjoying spectacular views. It's also a place to relax, keep fit and see wildlife, historical remains and buildings and various other interesting features. However, whatever the area has to offer cannot be enjoyed unless you can access them - therefore, rights of way and lands that are open to the public are important.
- 13.1.2 Public rights of way (PROW) include public footpaths, bridleways and roads and byways. Public footpaths are by far the most, and many are open and in a good condition - but some problems exist and ensuring sufficient resources for maintenance is challenging. Also, there are many rural roads in the area - small country lanes - and these are also useful for travelling by car, bus, bicycle or on foot.
- 13.1.3 Common lands are another valuable resource in terms of access in Llŷn. Although these lands are in private ownership, access can be gained to substantial parts of them as Access Land. Many of these sites are uncultivated and unimproved lands and many are natural heathland which are a valuable habitat to a variety of wildlife.
- 13.1.4 In addition to common land, restricted public access is available on other land, namely Access Land, which has come into existence as a result of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The former Countryside Council for Wales led on this process and exercises were undertaken to raise awareness and consult as part of the registration. Information about Access Lands in the Llŷn AONB area can be seen on OS maps with a Scale of 1:25,000. Further information about Access Lands can be seen on Natural Resources Wales website.
- 13.1.5 Opportunities for public access are also available on land in the ownership of conservation organisations (access to some lands by prior arrangement). The two obvious ones in Llŷn are the National Trust which owns a number of sites, coastal lands and farms, including Llanbedrog and Porthdinllaen beaches and

also the Bardsey Island Trust.

- 13.1.6 Gwynedd Council is responsible for rights of way as well as for leading the work on the Coastal Path. Since 2005, many resources have been allocated to the development of the Coastal Path, which form a section of the Wales Coastal Path, with support from Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government. Community Councils also have an important role to play in terms of path maintenance in their areas whilst landowners also have a responsibility to keep statutory paths open.
- 13.1.7 The Arfon and Dwyfor Access Forum have a role to play in terms of advising the Council on rights of way issues. Regular meetings of the Forum are held to discuss various access issues and the Forum can contribute to the implementation of some of the Management Plan's policies regarding access issues.
- 13.1.8 Opportunities to roam are important in order to enjoy the area, visit historical remains and habitats, see a variety of wildlife and birds and for health benefits and keeping fit. Also, it is a part of the tourism resource that brings work and substantial income into Llŷn.
- 13.1.9 The Main Aim of the Management Plan in terms of Access and Enjoyment is:

#### **Main Aim**

<p><b>IMPROVE AND PROMOTE THE PROVISION OF RIGHTS OF WAY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCESS IN THE AREA TO ALL USERS AND RAISE AWARENESS AND IMPROVE APPRECIATION OF THE AREA'S SPECIAL FEATURES AND THE PUBLIC BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THE ENVIRONMENT.</b></p>
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#### **Special Qualities**

### **13.2 Paths and Rights of Way**

- 13.2.1 The paths and rights of way include footpaths, bridleways and byways. There is an extensive network of public footpaths in Llŷn although significant sections are not in regular use by now. Gwynedd Council retains the information about the route of paths which is shown on a series of maps and computer system.
- 13.2.2 Access to many historical sites and archaeological remains is obtained via rights of way. One can walk to the summit of many of the area's hills and see remains of the ancient forts such as Tre'r Ceiri or see standing stones and burial chambers as well as the more recent artefacts of the minerals industry and granite quarries.
- 13.2.3 One can roam and see a variety of Llŷn's special wildlife by using rights of way

and access rights. Walking along the coastal paths provides an excellent opportunity to see and study the marine birds and grey seals whilst hares, farm birds and smaller creatures are to be found more inland. Also one can visit various habitats including marshes, coastal grazing lands and various heathlands.

- 13.2.4 A detailed assessment of the public footpaths was undertaken as part of the preparation work for the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan in 2005. This work included surveying paths to see whether or not they were open, the condition of the furniture, signage and level of use. Based on the survey, the paths were placed in categories in order of priority in order to programme future maintenance work.
- 13.2.5 Some paths and roads are suitable for people with mobility problems or wheelchair users. Due to the lack of information about suitable areas and improvements that could be made, a survey was commissioned by the AONB Service to assess Access Opportunities in 2008. The Report concluded that facilities and access could be improved on a number of sites - including facilities for the disabled.
- 13.2.6 Few bridleways are to be found in the AONB and possibly the reason for this is that historically boats or small ships were used to move from place to place, rather than horses. The bridleways are an important resource and according to legislation, bridleways are also open to cyclists.
- 13.2.7 Permissible paths - used by the public but they are not public footpaths, e.g. leading to wells or beaches. Many of these are on land owned by the National Trust.
- 13.2.8 Unclassified roads - have developed over time and they were originally based on footpaths and cart paths and they developed into important access roads to the villages and areas of Llŷn. Byroads and other small lanes have rights of way and they also contribute to the access opportunities that exist - a total of 43 of them extending for just over 18 kilometres long.

### **13.3 Wales Coast Path**

- 13.3.1 Public footpaths are important in each area but here in Llŷn the Coastal Path offers spectacular views. Over recent years, Gwynedd Council and Natural Resources Wales have been working on developing a path all along the Peninsula's coast. The path uses public footpaths, small lanes, permissive paths, beaches and open land. By now, the Coastal Path runs almost entirely along the coast following the establishment of new coastal links. Also, work is ongoing, as part of the Coastal Access programme, to obtain additional sections along the coast.

13.3.2 A substantial number of people walk along the Coast Path in Llŷn and the area's businesses have benefited from this development. Until recently, estimates were being made regarding the number of ramblers, but nowadays digital devices count the exact number of ramblers. Unfortunately it is not possible to compare with the data in the previous plan. However, there is a baseline for future reviews.

13.3.3 In 2014, Nefyn Town Council received funding from the Coastal Communities Fund to improve sections of the Coast Path between Nefyn and Morfa Nefyn so that it was made suitable for people with disabilities and young families. Also, the project will re-establish a historical 10 mile path between Nefyn and Llanbedrog.

#### **13.4 Circular Routes**

13.4.1 Circular routes are popular because there is a variety of things to see along the way and there is no need to have a vehicle so that you can return to your starting point. Of course, it is possible to draw up circular routes by following maps but there is an element of risk that a path or road will be closed thus forcing the walker to turn back.

13.4.2 In 2015, Gwynedd Council and a number of partners managed to obtain a grant from the Coastal Communities Fund to develop new and convenient circular routes, with links to the Coast Path. A number of these paths are to be found in the AONB and they are an opportunity to visit a number of interesting historical and nature sites. The paths which form part of the new circular routes have been upgraded as a result of the project and they are way-marked. More information can be seen at [www.visitsnowdonia.info](http://www.visitsnowdonia.info).

#### **13.5 Access Lands**

13.5.1 As noted, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provided new access rights to the public (with restrictions) on:

- open land, namely land including heathland, moorlands or dunes;
- common land (registered under the Common Land Registration Act 1965);
- any other type of land designated as 'access land' by the owner.

13.5.2 In terms of Rights of Way, the Act will improve current legislation by promoting opening new accesses and removing uncertainties regarding existing rights. The Arfon and Dwyfor Local Access Forum contributed to the process of defining land with public access.

#### **13.6 Common Land**

13.6.1 Between 2004 and the present day, the changes in terms of the area of common land within the AONB was very minimal. The latest figure is 824.5 hectares. There are 30 common land sites in Llŷn and these are important in terms of public access and as a resource for informal recreation. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 gave access rights to registered common lands as well as to other open land. Common lands are also very important as a natural and semi-natural habitat and because of their nature value, many of the lands have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. A number of Llŷn's common lands are in the ownership of the National Trust. They vary in size and some units link together to create a substantial area, such as Yr Eifl. The other main common lands in Llŷn are Mynydd Tir y Cwmwd, Mynydd Rhiw, Foel Gron, Bardsey Island, Mynydd Cilan and Penarfynydd. Full details regarding ownership, size and grazing rights etc. can be found in the Common Land Register retained by Gwynedd Council.

13.6.2 Common lands are a very important access resource in the AONB and consequently, some of them are under considerable pressure from recreational activities. In the past, some common lands e.g. Rhiw and Mynytho have gone on fire during dry summers.

## **13.7 Trust Lands**

13.7.1 The National Trust owns many sites and lands in the Llŷn Peninsula. The main public areas are:

- Porthdinllaen village and beach, Morfa Nefyn
- Traeth Porthor, Aberdaron
- Porth Meudwy, Aberdaron
- Porth y Swnt, Aberdaron
- Traeth Llanbedrog

13.7.2 Also, the Trust owns coastal land and farms in Llŷn, including Porth Gwylan, Mynydd y Graig and Penarfynydd. Public access can be gained to some of these lands by prior agreement.

13.7.3 Since 1979, Bardsey Island has been in the ownership of the Bardsey Island Trust. It's possible to cross the sea to the Island by arrangement with the crossing service that runs from Porth Meudwy. Bardsey Island is a very special place due to its historical links, religious background, wildlife and marine birds and its tranquil and remote nature. It is a place that offers a unique experience and an increasing number of people visit the island and stay for periods of time to escape from modern life.

13.7.4 Oriol Glyn y Weddw - The Oriol purchased the Allt Goch woodland near the Plas a few years ago and has worked to clear and manage trees and re-open former paths that are now open and link up with the Coast Path.

## **13.8 Beaches**

- 13.8.1 Beaches where access can be gained to them are an important access and recreational resource for Llŷn. They contribute to the visual beauty of the area and provide an opportunity to enjoy and relax. There is a broad range of beaches to be found, some rocky and others with fine golden sand and dune systems can be found in some places. Sandy beaches such as Llanbedrog, Abersoch, Porth Ceiriad and Porthdinllaen are popular for sunbathing, relaxing, bathing and sports. On the other hand, some beaches are more rocky and wild and attract walkers, naturalists and fishermen.
- 13.8.2 The beaches or shores provide access to the sea. Local fishermen and residents keep boats on some beaches such as Trefor, Nefyn, Porth Ysgaden, Porth Meudwy and Abersoch. Many launch pleasure boats and personal water crafts from these beaches also and at times it can be very busy with a risk of accidents. Some beaches are popular for special types of recreation - for example, surfing is very popular at Porth Neigwl whilst diving is popular in Porth Ysgaden.

## **13.9 A Place to Cycle**

- 13.9.1 There are many rural lanes in Llŷn that are suitable for cyclists as there is not much traffic travelling along them. These lanes can be clearly followed with an OS Map to the Scale of 50,000 or 25,000. The Access Opportunities Study (AONB, 2008) has shown that facilities to park and lock bicycles are to be found near many of the area's beaches and that there are opportunities to improve the provision in some areas.
- 13.9.2 Until 2009, there was no specific cycle path in the AONB. As a result of the work of improving the A499 from Aberdesach to Llanaelhaearn, a dedicated cycle path has been provided by using sections of the former road and the verge of the new road. Bridleways can be used by cyclists, however, these are few and far between in Llŷn. There may be an opportunity here to raise awareness and show that these facilities exist.
- 13.9.3 A network of cycle routes using local roads has been developed by Gwynedd Council, the Wales Tourist Board and the Welsh Development Agency. An information pack was published and signage was installed in 2004. Two of these routes travel through extensive sections of the AONB (Route 1 - Mynydd yr Ystum, Route B - Garn Fadrun), and another route travels through a section of the AONB (Route C - Garn Boduan). At the time of reviewing the Plan, not much promotional work was being undertaken on these routes and some signage was missing.

13.9.4 The National Trust promotes routes from Aberdaron to three nearby locations (Porthor, Mynydd Mawr and Plas yn Rhiw). These routes are marketed on-line and in a leaflet.

### **13.10 Travelling To, and Within, the Area**

13.10.1 The main roads leading to Llŷn are the A499 from the direction of Caernarfon and the A497 through Porthmadog. Many use cars to travel around the area and visit various destinations, however, there are traffic problems in Pwllheli and in some of the villages during the busy holiday periods.

13.10.2 The Cambrian Coast Railway offers an opportunity to travel to and from the area by rail. The service follows the coastline to Dyfi Junction or Machynlleth and then connects to Aberystwyth or Shrewsbury and Birmingham. Rail is a more sustainable mode of travel that can assist in reducing vehicular traffic in the area. Full details regarding the service managed by ARRIVA can be found on the following website: [www.cambrianline.co.uk](http://www.cambrianline.co.uk).

13.10.3 The main Llŷn bus station is located at Pwllheli and buses travel to various different areas. A regular service runs between the main centres such as Porthmadog, Caernarfon, Nefyn and Abersoch and a semi-regular service between the villages along the main roads. Full details regarding the bus service can be found on Gwynedd Council's website or on: [www.cymraeg.traveline-cymru.info](http://www.cymraeg.traveline-cymru.info).

13.10.3 Coastal Bus - The Coastal Bus is a new service in Llŷn that runs a regular service between Nefyn, Aberdaron and Abersoch on specific days. It offers a good opportunity to walk along sections of the Coast Path and then catch the bus back or forward to the next centre. More details can be found on the following website - [www.bwsarfordirLlŷn.co.uk](http://www.bwsarfordirLlŷn.co.uk)

### **Key Issues**

### **13.11 Footpath and Rights of Way maintenance in light of financial cuts**

13.11.1 One of the main issues in terms of access is how to maintain public footpaths and other rights of way in light of substantial cuts in public spending. The Rights of Way Improvement Plan includes information about all rights of way in the area and places footpaths in different categories according to priority. Subsequently, emphasis was placed on maintaining the paths in categories 1, 2 and 3 in order to make the best of the restricted resources available. However, over the years, the budget has been reduced and further substantial cuts will be made in 2016-18. A review and update of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan will be carried out between 2016 and 2019 which will address the reduction in budget

since the original Plan was adopted in 2007.

### **13.12 Obstructions on paths and stock in fields where there are rights of way.**

13.12.1 Unfortunately, obstructions on public footpaths in the AONB are quite common and disrupt people's ability to walk and enjoy. Such matters can be difficult to resolve. Wires or gates placed across paths are most commonplace but it was recently seen in some areas that increased use is being made of electric wires to control grazing and that they are located near or across public footpaths. In such cases, awareness needs to be raised and landowners need to be informed of their responsibilities in terms of paths.

13.12.2 In some cases problems arise where cattle are found on lands where paths are located. There is a need to raise walkers' awareness of the dangers and to work with farmers to encourage them to avoid placing cattle, calves and bulls in fields where public footpaths are located.

### **13.13 Erosion and Weather**

13.13.1 Coastal erosion has a substantial impact on the Coast Path in some places in Llŷn. A combination of wet winters and storms cause erosion and instability in a number of places along the coast. The sedimentary parts of the land suffers most and during 2015 and 2016, substantial erosion has taken place near Llanbedrog, Porth Neigwl, Nefyn and Morfa Nefyn and in the Trefor area.

13.13.2 In some places, the Coast Path has collapsed into the sea or has been undermined to such a degree that it has had to be moved more inland. In order to do this, cooperation will be needed from landowners and resources will be required to pay for work and equipment such as gates, wires and signage as well as compensation to the landowner.

### **13.14 Visitor Pressure**

13.14.1 Excessive use of sites or paths can be harmful as it leads to erosion and wear and tear. This is not currently a major problem in the AONB but it could develop as a result of increased use. In some areas in the AONB, there are pressures however as a result of parking on road verges due to the volume of tourists visiting popular destinations. The most obvious examples of this can be found near the public car park for Porth Neigwl, Porth Ysgaden and on the roadside of the B4417 at the foot of Tre'r Ceiri.

### **13.15 Dogs not kept under control**

13.15.1 There is a responsibility on owners to keep their dogs under control when following rights of way. However, regular complaints are received by the Council regarding dogs running free and disrupting stock and gates being left

open. This creates animosity and losses in some cases and it must be borne in mind that farmers are entitled to destroy any dogs that attack their stock.

### **13.16 Conflict between users on beaches and on the sea**

13.16.1 The area's beaches are one of its main attractions and some of the beaches can be very busy during the summer. Various activities take place on beaches - sunbathing, playing games, fishing, boat launching etc. At busy times, conflict between users is a problem, in particular between those who wish to launch boats - with vehicles or tractors - and other beach users.

13.16.2 Conflict can also develop between those who bathe and enjoy the beaches and those who Use personal watercraft and speedboats. Gwynedd Council's Maritime Service is acting to control this by licensing and setting limits and monitoring the beaches, however, the noise of these watercrafts can disturb others. Recently, the Marine Ecosystems project, which has evolved from the work of Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC has launched a new Marine Code to provide guidance on how to respect marine environment and wildlife and other users.

### **13.17 Lack of opportunities for some groups**

13.17.1 Although there is a good provision of facilities to roam and enjoy the area, there is a lack of resources for some groups specifically:

- Horse riders
- Cyclists
- People with mobility disabilities

13.17.2 The Access Opportunities Study (2008) looked at issues such as how convenient the access was and whether or not disabled people could reach the beach. Also, attention was given to the provision for bicycles, car parks and the bus service. The report also suggests improvements to facilities in specific areas.

### **13.18 Traffic**

13.18.1 During busy holiday periods, the traffic flow is heavy through the town of Pwllheli and the villages of Abersoch, Llanbedrog, Nefyn, Morfa Nefyn and Aberdaron. This disrupts the life and work of local people and the enjoyment of visitors and increases air pollution levels. It is believed that consideration needs to be given to measures to mitigate the situation – measures such as promoting alternative modes of travel, creating new cycle paths, looking to improve traffic flow through Pwllheli and parking management.

### **13.19 Lack of information regarding the designation and environmental benefits**

- 13.19.1 Over the years a lot has been done in an attempt to raise awareness regarding the AONB's designation in general, the Llŷn AONB and the various characteristics of the area. The AONB Service has contributed articles to the local press, given talks and attended events, created a website and published an annual magazine.
- 13.19.2 Nevertheless, the impression one gets is that the levels of information amongst local people and visitors are relatively low - regarding the designation itself and also regarding the environmental benefits (ecosystem services) being provided. Certainly, there is room to improve this and attempt to get people to see the benefits of the designation and what is being provided by the natural environment. In addition, it is believed that there is an opportunity here for people to support and contribute more directly by means of practical work on projects from the AONB service.

## **Policies**

### **MP 1. MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND PROMOTE KEY PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IN THE AREA AND ENSURE THAT THEY ARE AVAILABLE FOR USE WITHOUT OBSTRUCTION.**

Rights of way are an important resource for local people and visitors to the Llŷn area to roam, enjoy and keep healthy. The AONB Service will encourage and assist Gwynedd's Rights of Way Team, Community Councils, landowners and organisations such as the National Trust to maintain and retain key rights of way (category 1 and 2) in the area. It is realised that this will pose a greater challenge in the future as a result of the financial squeeze on Local Authorities.

Also, the AONB Service and partners will object to any proposal to close, or place obstructions, on any right of way. Cattle on lands with rights of way can cause concern to the public and there is room to work with farmers and the agricultural Unions in an attempt to raise awareness about this as well as educate people about closing gates and controlling their dogs.

### **MP 2. MAINTAIN THE NATIONAL COAST PATH AND CREATE NEW LINKS IN ACCORD WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.**

The Wales Coast Path was launched in 2012 and since then a number of new coastal sections have been added in Llŷn such as near Cim, Abersoch and Methlem, Llangwnnadr. Some sections are yet to be completed and the AONB Service will support efforts made to include these additional sections. Also, support is offered towards the maintenance of the entire path and its promotion amongst local people and visitors.

As noted when discussing the hot topics, erosion along the sea-cliffs has disrupted the Coast Path in some areas. It must be accepted that this is inevitable as a result of the

nature of the land, wet winters and storms. The necessary steps will be to monitor the Path closely, identify problems early and be prepared to alter the path / create new sections, if required.

**MP 3. PROMOTE THE USE OF LOCAL CIRCULAR ROUTES THAT ARE LINKED TO THE COASTAL PATH IN LLŶN.**

In 2015/16, a number of local routes were developed as part of a Gwynedd Council project that received funding from the Coastal Communities Fund to create 18 routes that linked with the Wales Coast Path. A number of these routes are in Llŷn, and provide an opportunity to see interesting sites close to the coast such as Tre'r Ceiri and Mynydd Tir y Cwmwd. The aim is to promote these routes as they provide an opportunity for local people and visitors to exercise and visit interesting natural and man-made features at the same time ([www.visitsnowdonia.info](http://www.visitsnowdonia.info))

**MP 4. IMPROVE THE PROVISION FOR PROW USERS, INCLUDING HORSE RIDERS, CYCLISTS AND THE DISABLED.**

There is a good provision of rights of way and open access land in Llŷn, however there is a lack of access opportunities for horse riders, cyclists (specific cycle paths) and the disabled. Recently, a Nefyn Town Council project has improved facilities for the disabled by placing a hard surface on a path at the top of the hill between Nefyn and Morfa Nefyn. It is aimed to make other similar improvements, as well as improve opportunities for horse riders and cyclists.

**MP 5. MONITOR VISITOR PRESSURE IN SOME SPECIFIC AREAS IN THE AONB AND TAKE ACTION TO MANAGE THE SITUATION IF NEEDED.**

Excessive pressure from users and visitors can have a negative impact on sites and locations in the AONB. Currently, this is not a major problem in the AONB, but it does exist in some areas as noted earlier. By means of various measures, it is aimed to control and reduce the problem, or ensure that it does not develop into a problem.

**MP 6. SUPPORT EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF BEACHES AND LAUNCHING AREAS IN THE AREA AND MAINTAIN THEM TO A HIGH STANDARD.**

Some of the area's beaches are very popular during the school holidays and a large number of people use them for different activities such as fishing, sunbathing, water sports etc. It is aimed to promote reasonable use of the beaches and avoid conflict between the various users. It is also important that the beaches are well maintained by preventing littering, dog control and preventing people from driving vehicles onto the beaches, apart from when they are launching boats under supervision.

**MP 7 PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE MODES OF TRAVELLING TO THE AREA AND WITHIN THE AREA.**

Promoting sustainable modes of travelling to the area and around the vicinity can be

beneficial in many ways. It can assist to reduce traffic congestion in Pwllheli and in some of the area's villages, a way for people to keep fit by walking or cycling and also a way of reducing air pollution. Therefore, the AONB Service will promote cycling, walking and using buses and the Cambrian Railway.

**MP 8. RAISE AWARENESS AND INCREASE APPRECIATION OF THE AONB DESIGNATION.**

Although a lot has been done to raise awareness of the designation since establishing the AONB service in Gwynedd Council in 2003, it is believed that there is more to be done. Often, local people and visitors do not know that Llŷn is one of only five AONBs throughout Wales and that this gives the area a special status that we need to be proud of. The designation can be a good opportunity for businesses to market their products or service. Also, in an attempt to nurture interest and ownership, it is aimed to provide more opportunities for people and children to contribute to the work of the AONB, including volunteer work such as working on environmental projects.

**MP 9 RAISE AWARENESS OF THE BROAD RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE AONB.**

Increasing emphasis is being placed on the benefits that the natural environment is providing for society - another term for this is ecosystem services. These benefits are divided into four categories:

- Provisioning Services – products such as food, fibre and medicine
- Regulating Services – water purification, maintaining air standards and climate regulation
- Cultural Services – well-being by contact with nature and education
- Maintenance Services - processes that are required for other services such as soil formation and nutrient rotation.

In collaboration with others, the AONB Service will raise awareness of these benefits and their importance to society, the opportunities that exist and the need to maintain and protect them for the future.

## **14.0 IMPLEMENTATION**

### **14.1 Introduction**

14.1.1 This section of the Management Plan includes an Action Programme which is a programme of work which has evolved from the previous sections of the Plan. The Programme notes what needs to be done and what methods will be used; for instance through preparing or implementing a plan or strategy.

14.1.2 The Programme also notes what organisation or partnership will be responsible for the preparation or implementation, including a time scale for the completion of each action. Through including a time scale the success of the programme can be measured through completion of work and realisation of aims and objectives.

14.1.3 Most of the actions included in the previous Plan's Implementation Section have been realised. However, not all projects have gone ahead for various reasons including lack of resources, unfavourable conditions or technical difficulties (e.g. obtaining owners' consents). Some actions from the previous Plan have therefore been included in this revised Plan but most are new initiatives.

### **14.2 Implementing the Action Plan**

14.2.1 Implementing the Action Programme depends on the co-operation and commitment of various agencies and organisations to the Llŷn AONB. It is possible that unexpected circumstances will mean that some aspects of the Programme may not be realised. Likewise perhaps there will be delays in completing some activities for a variety of reasons.

14.2.2 Adequate resources and funding are one of the main requirements to implementing the Plan. Gwynedd Council and Natural Resources Wales are committed to a core service for the AONB due to responsibilities under the Countryside and Right of Way Act, however financial contributions may change. The Council's Environment Department has a central role in implementing and coordinating the Action Programme. It is therefore important to secure a Service that has adequate resources in terms of staff and finances. The AONB Service will seek and secure additional funding to help implement parts of the Action Programme.

- 14.2.3 A number of financial support schemes that operate in Llŷn could be suitable to support environmental, economic and social activities in the area. It is important to be aware of the opportunities created by these grants –they can provide the opportunity to improve and maintain the environment, the economy and facilities within the community.
- 14.2.4 The most obvious fund available for environmental, economic and social improvements within the AONB is the Sustainable Development Fund. This Fund was established by the Assembly specifically to support projects within the AONB and National Parks. Since its inception in 2001 the Fund has supported hundreds of projects within Wales’ protected landscapes and it’s vitally important that it continues.
- 14.2.5 There are a variety of other funding sources that can contribute towards realising parts of the Management Plan including the Heritage Lottery, Cadw, European Union schemes, Coastal Communities Fund etc.

**14.3 Action Plan**

- 14.3.1 The complete Action Plan for the AONB Management Plan 2015-20 can be seen on the following pages:

## LANDSCAPE AND COAST

POLICY	ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
<b>TP 1. SUSTAIN AND SAFEGUARD KEY GEOLOGICAL AND GEOMORPHOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN THE AONB AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THEIR IMPORTANCE.</b>	Implement and monitor the Management Plans of geological SSSI's in the AONB and nearby.	Natural Resources Wales	Ongoing
	Discuss the possibility of preparing and implementing a Local Geodiversity Action Plan for the Llŷn Area.	Gwynedd RIGS Group Llŷn AONB Service	2018
<b>TP 2. RESIST DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD BE PROMINENT ON THE LANDSCAPE AND WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON VIEWS, INCLUDING VIEWS INTO AND OUT OF THE AONB.</b>	Adopt suitable planning policies to protect the AONB in the Joint Local Development Plan.	Gwynedd and Môn Local Authorities	2017
	Carefully assess development applications in line with Planning Policy Wales, the Local Development Plan and this Management Plan, and refuse applications that would impair the AONB.	Gwynedd Planning Service and Gwynedd Planning Committee	Ongoing
<b>TP 3. PROTECT THE SPECIAL COASTLINE OF LLŷN AND THE AREA'S ISLANDS BY RESISTING ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS.</b>	Adopt suitable planning policies to protect the AONB in the Joint Local Development Plan.	Gwynedd and Môn Local Authorities	2017
	Carefully assess development applications in line with Planning Policy Wales, the Local Development Plan and this Management Plan and refuse applications that would impair the AONB.	Gwynedd Planning Service and Gwynedd Planning Committee	Ongoing
<b>TP 4. PROTECT AND REINSTATE TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER AND IDENTITY OF LLŷN - CLODDIAU, STONE WALLS AND HEDGEROWS.</b>	Apply to the Welsh Government to establish an arrangement to provide protection to "cloddiau" and stone walls within Designated Landscapes.	Welsh Protected Landscapes	2018
	Provide training on maintaining hedges, "cloddiau" and stone walls.	Menter y Felin Uchaf Coleg Glynllifon Llŷn AONB Service	2017-20

<b>TP 5. PROMOTE IMPROVEMENTS AS REGARDS UNTIDY AND INTRUSIVE SITES AND BUILDINGS WITHIN AND NEAR TO THE AONB.</b>	Undertake research and collect information about untidy sites and buildings in the AONB.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018
	Implement enforcement steps under Section 215 of the Planning Act upon owners of untidy sites and buildings in specific cases.	Gwynedd Planning Enforcement Unit	2017-20
<b>TP 6. ENSURE THAT NEW BUILDINGS ARE WELL SUITED TO THE AREA AS REGARDS DESIGN AND MATERIALS AND THAT ADAPTATIONS TO EXISTING BUILDINGS ARE IN-KEEPING WITH THE ORIGINAL.</b>	Submit comments on planning applications for new buildings and alterations to existing buildings in the AONB.	Llŷn AONB Service	Ongoing
	Prepare and publish planning guidelines for the Llŷn AONB.	Llŷn AONB Service	2019-20
<b>TP 7. ENCOURAGE ELECTRICITY AND TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES TO SHARE FACILITIES AND UNDERGROUND CABLES IN PROMINENT LOCATIONS WITHIN AND NEAR TO THE AONB.</b>	Assess intrusive electricity and telephone cables in the AONB and discuss the possibilities of undergrounding with relevant companies.	Llŷn AONB Service	2017-20
	Undertake undergrounding work of electricity and telephone cables in the AONB.	SP Manweb BT	2017-20
<b>TP 8. RESIST WIND TURBINE AND SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE OF THE LANDSCAPE OR COAST OF THE AONB AND ITS SETTING.</b>	Carefully assess development applications in line with Planning Policy Wales, the Local Development Plan and this Management Plan and refuse applications that would impair the AONB.	Gwynedd Planning Service Llŷn AONB Service	Ongoing
<b>TP 9. RESIST NEW CARAVAN DEVELOPMENTS AND EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING SITES ON SITES WHICH ARE PROMINENT ON THE LANDSCAPE OR COAST AND PROMOTE THE LANDSCAPING OF EXISTING SITES.</b>	Carefully assess development applications in line with Planning Policy Wales, the Local Development Plan and this Management Plan and refuse applications that would impair the AONB.	Gwynedd Planning Service Llŷn AONB Service	Ongoing
	Prepare and distribute a good practice guide for owners and operators of caravan sites and include information about complying with planning conditions and opportunities to improve sites and landscaping.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018
<b>TP 10. SUSTAIN THE CHARACTER OF LLŷN'S RURAL LANES BY RESISTING NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS AND SUSTAINING AND RE-REINSTATING HISTORIC FEATURES.</b>	Implement guidelines of good practice in terms of maintaining the character of Llŷn's rural roads.	Llŷn AONB Service	Ongoing

	Adopt and implement a protocol on road signs in the AONB.	Gwynedd Environment Department.	2018
<b>TP 11. RAISE AWARENESS OF THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF LLŶN AND PROMOTE A FEELING OF PROUDNESS IN THE AREA AND SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION.</b>	Include articles in the local press, Llygad Llŷn and social media.	Llŷn AONB Service	2017-20
<b>TP 12. SUPPORT AND PROMOTE MEASURES TO MANAGE THE LANDSCAPE AND THE COAST IN WAYS WHICH MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND HELP DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE.</b>	Undertake research into ways of managing the landscape and coast that responds to climate change and measures to cope with climate change.	Llŷn AONB Service	2019
	Raise awareness about climate change and the possible effects on the landscape, the coast and sea, and means of responding - through Llygad Llŷn and other publications and websites.	Llŷn AONB Service Natural Resources Wales	2018

## TRANQUILLITY AND LOW POLLUTION

POLICY	ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
<b>PP 1. PROMOTE PUBLIC TRANSPORT VENTURES AND THEIR USE AND OTHER MEANS OF SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL.</b>	Raise awareness of public transport opportunities and other means of sustainable travel, including the Cambrian Railway, the Llŷn Coastal Bus, the AONB's website and social media.	Llŷn AONB Service The Cambrian Railway Service	Ongoing
<b>PP 2. MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SOIL AND WATER IN THE AREA.</b>	Work in partnership to implement relevant parts of the West Wales River Basin Management Plan to sustain and improve the water environment in the AONB and feeding into the area	Gwynedd Maritime Unit Welsh Water	2017- 20
	Collaborate to ensure Blue Flag and Green Flag awards for the area's beaches.	Gwynedd	Annually
	Implement a project to reduce pollution in the river Daron.	Maritime Unit Welsh Water Gwynedd Council	2018-20
<b>PP 3. LIMIT NOISE LEVELS AND LIGHTING WITHIN THE AONB AND NEARBY AND PROMOTE THE USE OF ENERGY EFFICIENT AND LOW IMPACT STREET/ EXTERNAL LIGHTS.</b>	Use suitable planning conditions to manage noise and light levels.	Gwynedd Planning Service	Ongoing
	Research to the possibility of gaining a "Dark Skies" status to Llŷn and the AONB.	Llŷn AONB Service	2017/18
	Prepare, publish and distribute guidance on energy-effective and low-impact lights and reduce lighting.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018
<b>PP 4. PROMOTE LOCAL CLEANLINESS BY ENCOURAGING RE-USING, RECYCLING</b>	Ensure effective refuse and recycling arrangements.	Gwynedd Council	Ongoing

<b>AND DISPOSING RUBBISH RESPONSIBLY.</b>	Raise awareness about the Local Authority's refuse and recycling arrangements and provide contact details to discuss any problems relating to refuse disposal.	Gwynedd Council Llŷn AONB Service	Ongoing
	Carry out a campaign to educate about re-using and re-cycling.	Llŷn AONB Service Keep Wales Tidy	2018
	Raise awareness in the local press about codes and prosecutions in cases of fly-tipping.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018
<b>PP 5 . RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS AND HEALTH DANGERS OF DOG FOULING AND ENCOURAGE OWNERS TO BE MORE RESPONSIBLE.</b>	Carry out a campaign to educate about the negative effects of dog fouling and possible fines.	Llŷn AONB Service Tidy Towns Keep Wales Tidy	2018

## WILDLIFE AND HABITATS

POLICY	ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
<b>BP 1. PROMOTE THE PROTECTION AND APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT OF LLŶN’S KEY HABITATS.</b>	Collaborate with landowners to ensure that European Sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest based on habitat are in a satisfactory condition.	Landowners Tenants Natural Resources Wales Agricultural Unions	Ongoing
	Porthdinllaen Seagrass Project – trial practical means of protecting and preserving the seagrass.	Pen Llŷn a’r Sarnau SAC National Trust Boat Owners	2017-18
<b>BP 2. PROTECT, MANAGE AND PROMOTE APPROPRIATE USES OF LLŶN’S COMMON LANDS.</b>	Undertake and assessment of all common land in the AONB and prepare management plans in consultation with owners and entitlement owners.	AONB Service Landowners Entitlement Owners	2018-19
<b>BP 3. PROTECT, SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE LLŶN’S WILDLIFE SPECIES ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED UNDER EUROPEAN LAW AND THOSE WHICH ARE CLASSIFIED AS PRIORITY IN THE 2006 NERC ACT, AND RESIST ANY HARMFUL DEVELOPMENTS.</b>	Collaborate with landowners to ensure that European Sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest based on species are in a satisfactory condition.	Landowners Tenants Agricultural Unions	Ongoing
	Develop a project to re-introduce Crayfish to the sea in the Aberdaron area.	Pen Llŷn a’r Sarnau SAC National Trust	2018-19
	Develop a project to re-introduce otters into the area.	Pen Llŷn a’r Sarnau SAC	2018-19
	Distribute and promote the adopted Gwynedd Marine Code.	Pen Llŷn a’r Sarnau SAC	Ongoing

<b>BP 4. CREATE AND IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN IMPORTANT HABITAT AND WILDLIFE SITES.</b>	Implement projects to improve the Connectivity between specific nature sites.	Gwynedd Biodiversity Unit Natural Resources Wales	2018-19
<b>BP 5. ASSESS THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON INDIGENOUS HABITATS AND WILDLIFE SPECIES AND POSSIBLE MEASURES TO MANAGE THE SITUATION.</b>	Assess the State of Natural Resources Report and local circumstances and create a programme of measures to respond to climate change.	Natural Resources Wales AONB Service	2017-20
Page 158	<b>BP 6. TARGET INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS INVASIVE SPECIES AND RAISE AWARENESS AND METHODS OF TREATMENT AND ERADICATION.</b>	Research and record cases of invasive species in the AONB.	Gwynedd Environment Department 2017-18
	Inform landowners of their responsibilities in terms of managing invasive species and provide training on ways to treat various species	Gwynedd Countryside Unit AONB Service Agricultural Unions	2017-18
	Implement a project to dispose on 3 specific sites within the AONB during this plan.	AONB Service	2017-20
	Implement a project to eradicate Giant Hogweed from parts of Afon Soch (2.4 kilometres).	Natural Resources Wales Landowners	2017-20
<b>BP 7. RAISE AWARENESS AND IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF LLŶN'S IMPORTANT HABITATS AND WILDLIFE SPECIES AND PROMOTE VOLUNTEERS TO TAKE PART IN RECORDING AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS.</b>	Raise awareness about local wildlife through websites and newsletters by the AONB, Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC and Gwynedd Council.	Llŷn AONB Service Gwynedd Biodiversity Unit	Ongoing
	Prepare, publish and distribute guidelines to farmers about the management of agricultural habitats such as hedges, ponds and field edges.	Llŷn AONB Service Gwynedd Biodiversity Unit	2018
	Llŷn Marine Ecosystems Project – continue the work of discussing and working with fishermen.	Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC	Ongoing
	Develop and implement a dolphin watch project.	Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC Gwynedd Biodiversity Unit	2017

<b>BP 8. IMPROVE AWARENESS OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY HABITATS AND WILDLIFE SPECIES IN PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND THE BENEFITS CONFERRED IN REGARD TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING.</b>	Raise awareness via the AONB website, Gwynedd Council, Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC, Llygad Llŷn and other publications.	Natural Resources Wales	Ongoing
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## THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

POLICY	ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
<b>HP 1. IDENTIFY, RECORD AND MONITORING THE CONDITION OF THE AREA'S HISTORICAL RESOURCES.</b>	Keep a record of all monuments and archaeological traces in the AONB and update the information as necessary.	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	Ongoing
	Keep a record of all Listed Buildings and Structures in the AONB and update the information as necessary.	Cadw	Ongoing
	Undertake research on historic industrial buildings including windmills, water mills, woollen mills and buildings relating to the mining and quarrying industry.	AONB Service	2018
<b>HP 2. PROTECT AND MAINTAIN HISTORICAL FEATURES INCLUDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS AND HISTORICAL STRUCTURES AND BUILDINGS AND THEIR SETTINGS.</b>	Protect archaeological remains, buildings and historic structures from harmful developments.	Gwynedd Planning Service	Ongoing
	Conduct a training programme on how to maintain and restore historic buildings and structures, cloddiau and stone walls.	Menter y Felin Uchaf Glynllifon College AONB Service	2018-20
	Take further action to maintain and improve historic wells in the AONB.	AONB Service Keep Wales Tidy	2017-20
<b>HP 3. ENSURE THAT NEW DEVELOPMENTS OR ALTERATIONS RESPECT AND REINFORCE THE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES AND PROMOTE GOOD PRACTICE IN CARE AND REPAIR.</b>	Refuse to grant planning permission for developments that would impair the character and appearance of buildings and historic structures in the AONB.	Gwynedd Planning Service	Ongoing
	Distribute Cadw's guidelines on the maintenance, restoration and use of historic and traditional buildings to local architects and builders.	AONB Service	2017

<b>HP 4. RESIST DEVELOPMENTS THAT WOULD DEGRADE THE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE OF CONSERVATION AREAS AND SUPPORT INITIATIVES TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS.</b>	Refuse to grant planning permission for developments that would not maintain and improve the character of Conservation Areas in the AONB.	Gwynedd Planning Service	Ongoing
	Implement the Conservation Areas Improvement Plans that were prepared by Burum on behalf of the AONB Service.	AONB Service Town/Community Councils	2017-20
<b>HP 5. RAISE AWARENESS AND PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF THE AREA'S HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT AMONG FARMERS, PROPERTY OWNERS, LOCAL PEOPLE AND TOURISTS.</b>	Include information about Llŷn's historic environment in Llygad Llŷn and on the AONB's website.	AONB Service	2018
	Interpret Llŷn's history and display various relics in local centres.	Partners of Llŷn's Ecoamgueddfa	Ongoing
	Undertake an assessment of the possibility to bring some local relics from museums back to display in the Llŷn area.	AONB Service	2018
<b>HP 6. PROMOTE BETTER ACCESS, AND THE ENJOYMENT OF KEY LOCAL HISTORICAL RESOURCES.</b>	Improve access to many historic features in the AONB during the period of the Plan.	AONB Service Gwynedd Countryside Unit	2017-20

## THE WELSH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

POLICY	ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
<b>IP 1. SUPPORT RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE.</b>	Promote local events through Llygad Llŷn, the AONB website and social media.	Llanw Llŷn Ecoamgueddfa Llŷn	Ongoing
	Hold a series of lessons on the “cynganedd” for residents in various local locations.	Llŷn AONB Service	2017-18
	Administer and promote grants funding for relevant projects such as Cronfa'r Degwm and the Sustainable Development Fund.	Llŷn AONB Service Gwynedd Council Other Funders	Ongoing
<b>IP 2. PROMOTE THE USE OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE AMONG BUSINESSES AND ESTABLISHMENTS IN LLŷN.</b>	Identify the use of Welsh on produce, services and facilities. Contact individuals and companies to encourage Welsh or bi-lingual labelling and signage.	Llŷn AONB Service Cyfeillion Llŷn	Ongoing
<b>IP 3. RAISE AWARENESS OF THE AREA'S SPECIAL CULTURE</b>	Promote aspects of the local culture through Llygad Llŷn, the AONB website and social media.	Llŷn AONB Service Llanw Llŷn Ecoamgueddfa Llŷn	Ongoing
<b>IP 4. CELEBRATE THE AREA'S CULTURE AND TRADITIONS THROUGH ART, LITERATURE AND POETRY.</b>	Hold an art/photography competition every 2 years based on the special characteristics of Llŷn.	Llŷn AONB Service	Ongoing
	Hold an exhibition of artists' work based on the landscape and other local characteristics.	Oriel Plas Glyn y Weddw	Ongoing
	Hold Eisteddfodau with competition such as singing, reciting and literature, through the medium of Welsh.	Local Committees Various religious denominations	Ongoing

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<b>IP 5. RAISE AWARENESS OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE AND THE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN THE LANGUAGE.</b>	Provide Welsh lessons locally and provide opportunities for learners to practice in informal settings.	Nant Gwrtheyrn Grŵp Llandrillo Menai Bangor University	Ongoing
	Implement a project to produce an information pack for estate agents to present to their customers relating to the AONB designation and its special qualities – referring to the importance of keeping Welsh names on houses.	Llŷn AONB Service	Ongoing
	Raise awareness and promote the opportunities to learn and practice Welsh locally, through the AONB website and Llygad Llŷn.	Llŷn AONB Service	Ongoing
	Compile, adopt and implement the Gwynedd Language Strategy.	Hunaniaith	2017
	Contact publishers of local magazines to encourage more use of the Welsh language.	Llŷn AONB Service	2017-18

## PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

POLICY	ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
<b>CP 1. MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE LOCAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND MAKE THEM MORE SUITABLE FOR DISABLED USE AND MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT.</b>	Oppose any proposal to close village halls and centres and support applications to make suitable improvements to relevant buildings.	Llŷn AONB Service	Ongoing
	Research to possible grants for maintaining centres and village halls and distribute them to relevant groups and individuals.	Gwynedd Community Regenerations Service Llŷn AONB Service	2017-20
<b>CP 2. ENCOURAGE LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS CARING FOR THE LOCAL HERITAGE INCLUDING UNDERTAKING VOLUNTARY WORK.</b>	Assess the possibility of establishing a group of volunteers to undertake a wider role in terms of caring for the area and local heritage.	Llŷn AONB Service	2017-18
<b>CP 3. RAISE AWARENESS AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER ADVANTAGES OF LIVING LOCALLY.</b>	Hold information sessions to young people in educational settings, youth clubs and young farmers' clubs.	Gwynedd Youth Service Grŵp Llandrillo Menai Llŷn AONB Service Young Farmers' Clubs	2018-20
<b>CP 4. REFURBISH AND RE-USE EMPTY HOMES IN THE AREA.</b>	Promote and administer grant funding or loans to restore empty houses.	Gwynedd Housing Department Welsh Government	Ongoing

	Use enforcement powers to restore empty homes.	Gwynedd Housing Department Welsh Government	Ongoing
<b>CP 5. MAKE HOMES MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT, ENERGY SAVING AND CREATE DOMESTIC RENEWABLE ENERGY.</b>	Collaborate to distribute information about relevant subsidies.	Gwynedd Council Welsh Government Ynni Llŷn	Ongoing
<b>CP 6. PROMOTE NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES TO MEET PROVEN LOCAL NEED, AS LONG AS SCHEMES, DESIGNS AND MATERIALS ARE IN-KEEPING WITH THE AONB'S ENVIRONMENT.</b>	Conduct surveys to assess if there is a genuine need for affordable homes.	Gwynedd Planning Service	Ongoing
	Conduct an annual review of homes for sale in the AONB and local house prices and forward the information to the Planning Service.	Llŷn AONB Service	2017-2020
	Ensure that only suitable affordable homes are allowed in the AONB.	Gwynedd Planning Service	Ongoing
	Prepare and publish design guidelines for affordable homes in the AONB.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018-19
<b>CP 7. HELP PEOPLE WHO MOVE INTO THE AREA TO LEARN ABOUT THE AREA'S HISTORY AND CULTURE AND LEARN THE WELSH LANGUAGE.</b>	Provide Information sessions and Welsh lessons locally and provide opportunities for learners to practice Welsh in an informal setting.	Nant Gwrtheyrn Bangor University Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Ongoing

## LOCAL PRODUCE AND RURAL BUSINESSES

POLICY	ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
<b>GP 1. PROMOTE THE FARMING INDUSTRY THROUGH MARKETING INITIATIVES, NURTURING TRADITIONAL COUNTRYSIDE SKILLS AND AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES.</b>	Arrange meetings with Agricultural Unions to discuss opportunities to create a wider variety of agricultural produce and opportunities to sell locally.	Llŷn AONB Service Agricultural Unions	2018
	Provide training in traditional skills e.g. building “cloddiau” and hedge laying.	Llŷn AONB Service Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	2018-20
	Promote the development, and membership, of agri environment schemes within and near the AONB.	Llŷn AONB Service	2017-20
<b>GP 2. ENSURE THAT DEVELOPMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH AGRICULTURE HAVE THE LEAST POSSIBLE EFFECT ON THE AONB’S LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT.</b>	Ensure that planning applications for agricultural developments are considered carefully in terms of the effect on the landscape and the environment in line with relevant policies. Include conditions to manage issues such as colour and landscaping etc. when necessary.	Gwynedd Planning Service	Ongoing
	Prepare and publish a good practice guidebook on developments relating to the agricultural industry.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018-19
<b>GP 3. SUPPORT THE LLŷN FISHING INDUSTRY BY PROMOTING LOCAL PROCESSING INITIATIVES AND MARKETING.</b>	Commission a report about the opportunities to process and promote local seafood.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018-19
	Stage events to promote local seafood such as Blas y Môr.	National Trust	Annually
<b>GP 4. PROMOTE OTHER LOCAL PRIMARY PRODUCTS.</b>	Continue to promote the Local Produce Market established at Sarn Mellteyrn.	Cymydmaen Cyf Llŷn AONB Service	Ongoing

	Research into the use of the “Llŷn AONB” brand on local produce.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018
<b>GP 5. PROMOTE IMPROVEMENT IN THE AREA’S BROADBAND AND MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE UNLESS THEY WOULD HAVE AN UNACCEPTABLE EFFECT ON THE AONB’S LANDSCAPE.</b>	Identify shortcomings and press for improvements that take into account the special landscape of the AONB.	Gwynedd Business Unit Llŷn AONB Service	2017-18
<b>GP 6. PROMOTE AND ASSIST COOPERATIVE INITIATIVES AS A METHOD OF RUNNING BUSINESSES AND SUPPORTING JOBS.</b>	Hold a workshop in Llŷn to raise awareness about joint initiatives as a mean of running a business and what support is available to establish such ventures.	Llŷn AONB Service Wales Co-operative Centre	2018
<b>GP 7. SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW RURAL ECONOMIC INITIATIVES AND DIVERSIFICATION VENTURES UNLESS THEY WOULD HAVE AN UNACCEPTABLE EFFECT ON THE AONB’S ENVIRONMENT.</b>	Prepare and publish general guidelines about new ventures and diversification whilst putting emphasis on the need to maintain and protect the AONB’s special characteristics.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018-19
<b>GP 8. ENCOURAGE BUSINESSES, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE TOURISM SECTOR, TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE IN TERMS OF ENERGY USE AND RECYCLING.</b>	Prepare, publish and distribute guidelines to local business owners to draw attention to the opportunities and advantages of saving energy, using local produce and recycling as well as encourage means of sustainable travel.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018
	Research into the implications of adopting an Integrated Standards Management for the tourism industry in order to improve resources and create environmental, economic and community benefits.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018
<b>GP 9. SUPPORT NEW OUTDOOR LEISURE ACTIVITIES UNLESS THEY WOULD PLACE UNACCEPTABLE PRESSURE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.</b>	Prepare and publish general guidelines about open air leisure initiatives whilst putting emphasis on the need to maintain and protect the AONB’s special characteristics.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018

<b>GP 10. PROMOTE EXISTING, AND NEW TOURISM INITIATIVES, ESPECIALLY THOSE BASED ON LOCAL HISTORY AND CULTURE, UNLESS THEY WOULD HAVE AN UNACCEPTABLE EFFECT ON THE AONB'S ENVIRONMENT.</b>	Prepare and publish general guidelines about new tourism ventures whilst putting emphasis on the need to maintain and protect the AONB's special characteristics.	Llŷn AONB Service	2019
	Commission and publish a Sustainable Tourism Strategy for Llŷn and the AONB.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018-20

## RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS

POLICY	ACTIONS	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
<b>MP 1. MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND PROMOTE KEY PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IN THE AREA AND ENSURE THAT THEY ARE AVAILABLE FOR USE WITHOUT OBSTRUCTION.</b>	Implement a programme of maintaining, improving the condition and signage on key public rights of way in the area.	Gwynedd Countryside Unit Community Councils Local Access Forum	Ongoing
	Review the Right of Way Improvement Plan	Gwynedd Countryside Unit	2018
<b>MP 2. MAINTAIN THE NATIONAL COAST PATH AND CREATE NEW LINKS IN ACCORD WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.</b>	Implement a programme of maintaining the path, furniture and signage and create new coastal connections if possible.	Coastal Path Project Welsh Government Natural Resources Wales	Ongoing
<b>MP 3. PROMOTE THE USE OF LOCAL CIRCULAR ROUTES THAT ARE LINKED TO THE COASTAL PATH IN LLŶN.</b>	Include information about the provisions for walking, cycling, horse riding and leisure in Llygad Llŷn, on the AONB's website, the Eryri Mynyddoedd a Môr website and social media. Distribute also the "Enjoy Llŷn" leaflet.	Llŷn AONB Service Gwynedd Marketing and Customer Care Service	Ongoing
	Provide information about circular walks in Llŷn on the AONB website.	Llŷn AONB Service	2017
	Hold annual events such as guided walks, open air activities and taster sessions.	Llŷn AONB Service National Trust Rhodwyr Llŷn	Ongoing
<b>MP 4. IMPROVE THE PROVISION FOR PROW USERS, INCLUDING HORSE RIDERS, CYCLISTS AND THE DISABLED.</b>	Undertake a study into the resources for horse-riding in the area and ways of improving that provision.	The British Horse Society Llŷn AONB Service	2018
	Collaborate on a project to try and establish a multi-purpose path between Pwllheli and Llanbedrog.	Gwynedd Environment Department	2017-19
	Collect Information about parts of public footpaths and the Coastal Path that are suitable for wheelchairs, prams etc. Promote the information in Llygad Llŷn, on the AONB's website and social media.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018

	Establish and sustain routes across the Peninsula.	Gwynedd Environment Department	2017-20
	Re-establish the Ffynnon Saint circular route at Rhiw.	Llŷn AONB Service National Trust	2018
	Re-establish a path to Castell Odo, Aberdaron.	Llŷn AONB Service	2018
<b>MP 5. MONITOR VISITOR PRESSURE IN SOME SPECIFIC AREAS IN THE AONB AND TAKE ACTION TO MANAGE THE SITUATION IF NEEDED.</b>	Record the levels of use at popular sites and take steps to Control use if significant problems arise.	Coastal Path Project Gwynedd Leisure Service Gwynedd Maritime Service National Trust	Ongoing
<b>MP 6. SUPPORT EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF BEACHES AND LAUNCHING AREAS IN THE AREA AND MAINTAIN THEM TO A HIGH STANDARD.</b>	Sustain an effective Maritime Service	Gwynedd Maritime Service	Ongoing
	Promote responsible behaviour amongst users and raise awareness of contact details to present complains.	Gwynedd Maritime Service Llŷn AONB Service	Ongoing
<b>MP 7. PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE MODES OF TRAVELLING TO THE AREA AND WITHIN THE AREA.</b>	Contain articles in AONB Publications and the local press about the local bus service and the Cambrian Railway.	Llŷn AONB Service The Cambrian Railway Partnership	2018-20
	Run and promote the Llŷn Coastal Bus service.	O Ddrws i Ddrws	2017-20
<b>MP 8. RAISE AWARENESS AND INCREASE APPRECIATION OF THE AONB DESIGNATION.</b>	Publish articles in local publications, the AONB website and social media.	Llŷn AONB Service	Ongoing
<b>MP 9. RAISE AWARENESS OF THE BROAD RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE AONB.</b>	Publish articles in local publications, the AONB website and social media about the benefits that the AONB's Services offer in terms of the environment, health and wellbeing.	Llŷn AONB Service Natural Resources Wales	2018
	Hold information sessions with local groups e.g. schools.	Llŷn AONB Service	2017-20

<b>MEETING</b>	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
<b>DATE</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
<b>TITLE</b>	Planning application – The Shanty, Abersoch
<b>PURPOSE</b>	Inform members
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Llŷn AONB Service manager
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Accept the information.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report has been included on the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) agenda on the request of the Chairperson. The matter is regarding a planning application to demolish an existing house and build a new dwelling within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

## **2.0 THE SHANTY, ABERSOCH**

- 2.1 The application relates to a house called The Shanty which is located on Penbenar point, Abersoch. At present there is a single story house and some other buildings on the site.
- 2.2 The proposal is to demolish the existing house and all other buildings on the site and build a new, larger house on 3 levels. The plans for the new building have been prepared by a company of chartered architects and aims to be suitable to this unique coastal location.
- 3.3 Details of the application can be seen on Gwynedd Council's website (Planning and Building Control). The application number is **C17/0159/39/LL**.

## **3.0 IMPACT ON THE AONB**

- 3.1 As regards considering the the probable effect on the AONB the following matters are relevant:
- The site's location on the coast within the AONB
  - How visible the site is from public places nearby
  - The presence of existing buildings on the site (not listed)
  - The other buildings in the vicinity (size, design, materials)
  - Size and design of the proposed new building
  - Materials proposed
  - The effect on views from the National Coast Path above the site

- 3.2 In accord with the service agreement that exists the AONB Service has made comments on the application. These comments can also be seen on the Council's website as well as other representation that have been made.

#### **4.0 THE LATEST SITUATION**

- 4.1 The application has been discussed at the Planning Committee meeting held on July the 3rd 2017. At the time it was decided to defer making a decision and arrange a Sub-committee site visit. (The Planning Report and committee minutes can also be seen online).

- 4.2 The application will be considered again, following a site visit, at the Planning Committee meeting to be held on September **25th** (at Pwllheli).

#### **5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 To consider application and the probable effects on the AONB.**

- 5.2 To present comments on the proposed development to the Planning Section if there is concern regarding the probable effect on the AONB.**

<b>MEETING</b>	Llŷn AONB Joint-Advisory Committee
<b>DATE</b>	6 September 2017
<b>TITLE</b>	Elect New Members to the Grants Panel
<b>PURPOSE</b>	Present Background and Elect New Members
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Llŷn AONB Projects Officer
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Accept the information and elect new members

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Sustainable Development Fund continues into this financial year– the grant source that comes from the Welsh Government to the five Welsh AONBs to fund sustainable projects in their communities.

## **2.0 THE FUND’S SITUATION UP TO DATE**

- 2.1 For your information, the total in the Fund for this year was £55,000 for each area, and in terms of the Llŷn AONB, £32,806 remains.

## **3.0 GRANTS PANEL MEMBERS**

- 3.1 The time has come to elect new members to the Grants Panel – which is the Panel that meets to deal with and decide upon grant applications over £3,000.
- 3.2 In the past, the Grants Panel members consisted of 8 members of the Joint-Advisory Committee.

## **4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 The members are asked to accept the above information and elect new members to the Grants Panel.