

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).

- 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 (5th – 15th 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
- Meillionydd 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.