

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

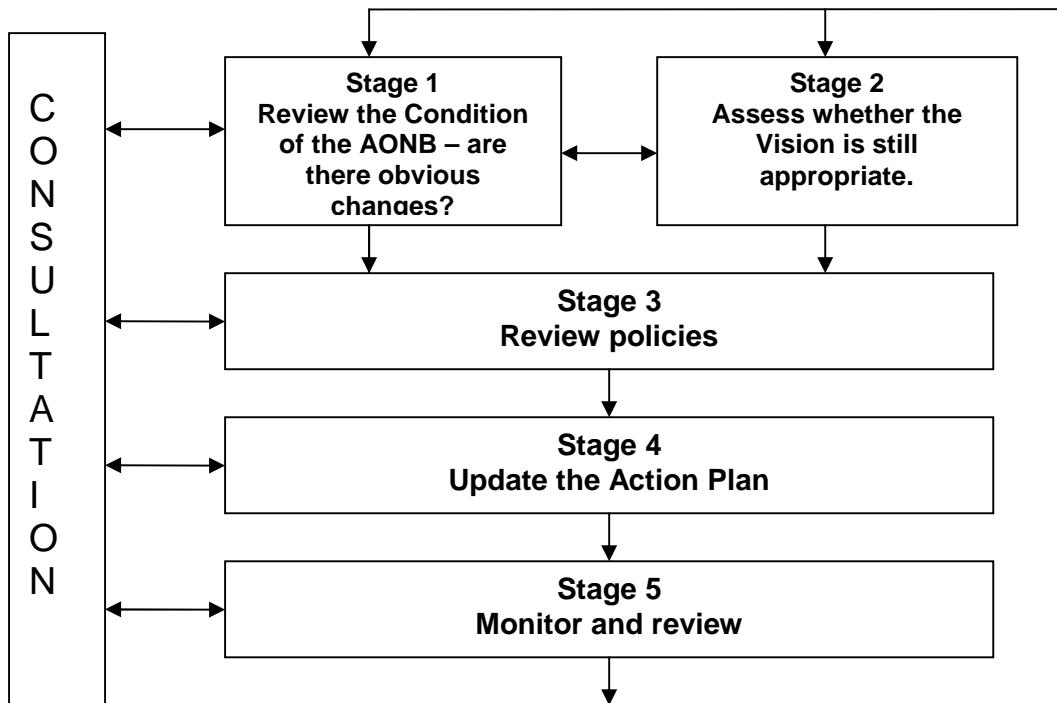
promoted based on the information gathered and detrimental developments controlled or limited.

- 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:

Llŷn AONB Management Plan Review Process



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.

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".¹

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 Global warming and climate change

2.2.1 Facts and other information show that global warming is actually happening and that it is having an effect on the climate. 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).²

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

² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 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 CO₂ 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.³ 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).

³ Treaty of Biological Diversity (1992) www.cbd.int/ecosystem

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

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."⁴

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

⁴ www.iucn.org

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.

- 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) 2001⁵

- 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 Directive⁶

- 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*

⁵ www.unece.org/env/lrtap/multi_hl.html

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html

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:

- 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 Policy⁷

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

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

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, Glyn Goch and Glyn Ddu.

- 2.8.5 The Wales Rural Development Plan (2014– 2020)⁸ 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).
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- 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;

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<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/?skip=1&lang=cy>

- that policies for protecting and enhancing protected landscapes are improved
- results are integrated in to the Management Plan review process.

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 its 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.

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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-affects 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 as 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, Coast and Sea
 - A clean environment and tranquillity
 - A wealth of wildlife
 - Historic environment
 - The Welsh Language and Culture
 - Close-knit communities
 - Skills and economy with its roots in the local area
 - An opportunity to roam and enjoy
- 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 southwest 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 (5th 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 Lleyn 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 Bodwrdd, Meillionnydd 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 6th 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, Llangwnnadl 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 Clynnog and Llangwnnadl. 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 reassessed and four new principles were drawn up for 2010-15. The revised principles can be seen below:

PRINCIPLE 1
Preserve, maintain and where appropriate restore features which make Penrhyn Llŷn special and unique.

- 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.

PRINCIPLE 2

Take steps to promote sustainable development and prepare for future climate change.

- 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.

PRINCIPLE 3

Identify, promote and develop an appreciation of the environmental services and benefits provided by AONB.

- 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.

PRINCIPLE 4

Support the people and communities who work and live in Llŷn and encourage involvement in AONB activities and the area's future.

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 A clean environment and tranquillity

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.