

## **APPENDIX 1 – STATE OF THE AONB REPORT**

### **Key findings**

#### **Biodiversity**

- One new marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) has been formally designated since the 2014 report (which includes parts of the AONB shoreline) resulting in a total of four SACs covering 8.3% of the AONB's total land area.
- The number and area coverage of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) has not changed since 2014, with two SPAs and 22 SSSIs that cover 5.5% and 13.7% of the AONB respectively.
- Both the Ynys Enlli and Yr Eifl National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are contained entirely within the AONB boundary, covering 0.7% of the AONB.
- There are three Important Bird Areas (IBAs) covering 34.1% of the AONB.
- Broadleaved woodland continues to be the most common woodland type in the AONB (47.7%).
- Coniferous forestry has significantly decreased by 31.6% since 2014, resulting in a large increase (by 270.3%) in areas categorised as 'felled'.

#### **Land Use, Air and Water Quality**

- Land in the AONB under agricultural production increased in 2012 by 19% since 2008.
- Grassland coverage had increased in 2012 by 21% since 2008, whilst the area under arable cropping had reduced by 17%.
- Poultry (154%) and pig farms (162%) witnessed a significant increase in livestock numbers between 2008 and 2012.
- There was also a 10% increase in sheep numbers and 5% decrease in cattle numbers between 2008 and 2012. Sheep remained the main livestock type in the AONB.
- Glastir agreements covered around 6,450 ha of land in the AONB in 2021 with 40% of these being Entry level and 60% being Advanced level.
- Common land covers over 800 ha and has not seen a significant change since 2012.
- In 2016 the Llŷn Peninsula had the lowest levels of fine particulate matter concentration across Wales.
- Every water site across the AONB received the excellent classification for its water quality

#### **Historic Environment**

- There are 252 Listed Buildings in the AONB (following a net gain of three since 2014); the majority being Grade II.
- The number of Scheduled Monuments has not changed remaining at 55, with 67.3% from the prehistoric period.
- The Grade II listed Plas-yn-Rhiw continues to be the only Registered Park and Garden in the AONB.
- There are nine Conservation Areas in the AONB covering an area of 245 ha.

## **People and Communities**

- The total population of the AONB is 9,872 (according to the ONS 2019 mid-year estimates).
- The AONB is characterised by an ageing population, with the largest proportion of people being aged 65 and over in the western part of the AONB and 45-64 in the eastern part (according to the ONS 2019 mid-year estimates).
- The AONB has seen a slight decrease in levels of deprivation since 2011.

## **Tourism and the Visitor Economy**

- Visitor spending in the AONB has increased by 48% since 2011, to £53 million in 2019.
- The number of visitors has increased by 8.5% (to around just under 350,000) .
- Visitors staying in non-serviced accommodation has seen the biggest increase in numbers, and account for 41% of all visitors to the AONB.
- The number of tourist days spent in the AONB has increased by 8.9%.
- The overall number of people employed in the tourism sector has increased by 14.7% since 2011 (to a total of approximately 816 people).
- There was an increase in the numbers employed in all sectors (the largest increase being in the accommodation sector), apart from recreation and transport which saw a decrease.

## **Development, Tranquillity and the Dark Sky**

- There are 34 sites within the AONB that have a license for 'touring' caravans, with only four obtaining a license within the last five years.
- There are 51 sites within the AONB that have a license for 'static' caravans, with only one obtaining a license within the last five years.
- The Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales project from 2021 indicates that over 90% of the AONB experiences the darkest skies nationally, with almost 99% falling within the two darkest categories.
- The Llŷn has the darkest night skies of any AONB in Wales and the only AONB to have a larger percentage of its area within the darkest category compared to the Wales average.