

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	June 27 th 2024
TITLE	Update on Llŷn AONB capital projects
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	AONB Projects Officer
RECOMMENDATION	To accept the information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report contains an update on the Llŷn AONB capital projects. These projects are part of the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places (SLSP) programme by Welsh Government which is available to support capital projects within AONBs and National Parks.
- 1.2 The SLSP projects cover a 3 year period (2022-25) and we are now therefore in the last year. The last update regarding the SLSP projects was made to the JAC at the meeting that was held in November 2023.

2.0 CAPITAL PROJECT THEMES

- 2.1 Themes were set by Welsh Government for projects which form part of the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places scheme as follows:
- Biodiversity and nature recovery
 - Decarbonisation
 - Resilient and green communities
 - Sustainable Tourism

3.0 UPDATE ON PROJECTS

- 3.1 **Porth Ysgo stairway** – this stairway is on a public right of way leading down to the beach at Porth Ysgo on the southern coast of Llŷn. It was installed around 30 years ago, but had seriously deteriorated in recent years. The project involved the removal of the original wooden stairs and the installation of new steps using local treated timber. Renewing the steps was a challenge due to the nature of the area, steep cliffs and poor access to the site. Local contractors were appointed to carry out the work, which was completed over the Winter to a high standard and there is easy access to Porth Ysgo once again.

- 3.2 **Common land** - This project has extended over a period of three years. The commons in question are Mynytho, Horeb, and Rhos Botwnnog. The improvements have included cutting overgrowth and clearing, improving access, treating invasive species and installing information boards and also reintroduction of grazing.
- 3.3 **Indigenous trees** – this is a two year project. In 2023-24 the main aim was to identify suitable sites to plant indigenous trees within the AONB by carrying out research and consultations. This year trees will be planted during the winter at various locations within the AONB.
- 3.4 **Invasive non-native species (INNS)** - species such as the himalayan balsam and japanese knotweed and rhododendron are a problem across Llŷn with their adverse effect on biodiversity. In 2023-24 the objective was to identify areas where different invasive species were located in Llŷn and pilot different treatment methods. This financial year there will be more direct action to eradicate the species, this work has already started.
- 3.5 **Y Ganolfan, Llithfaen** – The Ganolfan project has spanned three years with initial work done in 2022-23. It soon became clear that the Ganolfan needed more substantial work and that the internal facilities also needed to be upgraded. The AONB Unit was successful in attracting a significant financial contribution to the project from the UK Government's Prosperity fund. Following a process of competitive tendering, D. G. Jones and Son Ltd. was appointed to undertake the refurbishment of the Ganolfan and work began in January 2024. Work has progressed well on the Ganolfan during the past months, the external work is nearly completed and much of the internal work has now been done.
- 3.6 **Llanbedrog quarry car park** – this is a project for 2024-25 under the theme Sustainable Tourism. It is a popular parking space used by tourists and locals visiting the beach, however parts of the site are untidy and overgrown. The aim is to make environmental improvements and improve access.

3.7 **Collaborative projects.** In addition to the specific project for the Llŷn AONB the area has benefitted from collaborative projects with other Designated Areas. An update on the following projects will be provided at the meeting:

- Traditional boundaries
- The Dark Sky
- Education pack

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Accept the information.