

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	March 18 th 2026
TITLE	Update on Llŷn AONB capital projects
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	AONB 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 financed through the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places (SLSP) programme by Welsh Government. It is only the Designated Landscapes, i.e National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty that are able to apply for this funding.

2.0 CAPITAL PROJECT THEMES

2.1 Themes for the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places scheme (2025-27) were set by Welsh Government and were as follows:

- Promoting biodiversity and nature recovery
- Accelerating decarbonisation
- General improvements relating to access, infrastructure and visitor pressures

2.2 The Llŷn AONB Unit had submitted an application which included a number of projects for each theme. A brief summary of each project is now provided. Information on the projects will also be included in the Llygad Llŷn newsletter which will be published soon.

3.0 PLANTING NATIVE TREES

3.1 Following on previous work by the AONB Unit one project over the past year has been the planting of native trees. Planting trees of this type offers significant environmental benefits including:

- Creating habitats for wildlife
- Carbon sequestration
- Water purification and management
- Providing a sustainable resource for the future

3.2 A number of sites were considered for planting but in the end the focus was on the following sites:

- Tŷ'n Parc, Y Rhiw
- Plas yn Rhiw, Y Rhiw,
- Land near the Cemetery, Nefyn

3.3 Native trees from local suppliers were used for planting, including oak, birch, holly, rowan, hazel and blackthorn/ hawthorn trees. Our partners on this project were the National Trust and Nefyn Town Council.

4.0 NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES

4.1 This project is again a follow-up to previous work with non-native species in and around the AONB. Non-native species are harmful to the area's native wildlife and are identified as a threat. We were therefore keen to try to get rid of these species in certain locations.

4.2 During 2025 work to dispose of the himalayam balsam was carried out on two sites – at Pistyll and Penllech. Although other sites had been identified, the plant seemed to be so strongly established in some of those area that it would not be possible to get the non-native species under control.

4.3 Japanese knotweed is generally easier to handle than balsam because it does not spread as quickly. Therefore, during 2025, a lot of effort was put into spraying the knotweed at various public sites, and in particular in the village of Trefor. We will revisit these sites in 2026 and re-treat if necessary.

4.4 Also as part of the work on invasive non-natives rhododendron trees were cut down at the lower levels of Garn Boduan and near the beach at Llanbedrog.

5.0 DECARBONISATION OF VILLAGE HALLS/ CENTRES

5.1 The aim of this project is to assist village halls/community centres to decarbonise through measures such as insulation, switching to low energy LED lighting, zero carbon heating systems and the creation and/or storage of renewable energy. The measures will also contribute towards financial sustainability as they save costs.

5.2 During 2025-26 the AONB Unit worked with three village halls/ community centres to create the following improvements:

- Edern Community Hall - a simple project to upgrade all the lights to LED ones
- Sarn Memorial Hall – a battery system to store renewable energy (solar panels already in place) and reduce reliance on the electricity grid.
- Y Ganolfan Centre, Trefor – lighting upgrades to LED, installation of roof mounted solar panels, battery storage system, insulation.

6. ABERGEIRCH

- 6.1 An area of land, approximately 18 hectares, between the village of Edern and the coast has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The river Geirch runs through the site and comes into the sea at Abergeirch. The site has been designated as one of special scientific interest due to its special marshy wetland vegetation.
- 6.2 As part of this project Ecoscope was commissioned to carry out an ecological assessment of the site and the features that make it unique. The report also includes recommendations on how parts of the site can be sustained and restored. During 2026-7 it is hoped that work can be done to realise some of these actions as well as improving on-site access and signage.

7.0 GENERAL PROJECTS - ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- 7.1 In addition to the nature and decarbonisation projects, the AONB Unit put forward a number of infrastructure/access improvement projects as part of TCLC in 2025-26. Very briefly these projects were:
- Porthor – restoration of multi-use path along the coast and installation of picnic benches
 - Aberdaron - Bodwrdda – reopening and improving an important local route
 - Clynnog – improving two key routes in the area
 - Trefor Quay – renewing rusty railings on the quay and installation of new benches

8.0 JOINT PROJECTS

- 8.1 In addition to specific projects to the Llŷn AONB the area has benefited from joint projects with other Designated Landscapes. There will be an update on these projects at the meeting, they are :
- Dark Skies
 - Tirlun 2 - Landscape Education Pack

9.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 Accept the information.