

Landscape and Coast

Introduction

Llŷn was judged as meriting recognition and special conservation as an AONB on the basis of the beautiful landscape formed by a wide variety of features combined to create its special character. The appearance of Llŷn's unique landscape has been created by a combination of geology, vegetation and human influence over centuries. It is often difficult to assess and measure the landscape and scenery because scenery is a visual picture of features and buildings in combination, which is why we use the Special Qualities as an indicator of the "health" of the landscape.

Geological and geomorphologic foundations of the Llŷn Peninsula are complex and diverse. There are exceptionally old rocks from the pre-Cambrian period, protruding volcanic rocks and a vast area of Ordovician rocks. Glacial activity had a noticeable impact on the area's landscape, creating boulder clay deposits, lakes, river terraces and water channels. The glaciation carried rocks from the Clyde (Alisa Craig) and the Lake District areas to Llŷn, which can be seen in the glacial drifts throughout the area.

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The coast contributes greatly to the natural beauty and character of the Llŷn area. It displays diverse and interesting natural features including high cliffs, caves, stacks and islands, points and sandy beaches with diverse and interesting names. Due to the island like character of the Llŷn Peninsula, the coast is an integral part of the landscape. The coast and the sea can be seen from almost every location and expressions such as "the sea's influence" and "nowhere far from the sea" are commonly used about the area. Ynys Enlli is also an essential part of the character and appearance of Llŷn.

Due to the area's beauty, and other special features Llŷn has developed into a popular tourist destination. This began in the nineteenth century when the train arrived at Pwllheli. Tourism developed and changed during the twentieth century and more come to the area by car, staying at homes let as holiday accomodation and bed and breakfast establisements. Also in the 1960s the trend towards touring caravan and tents began in earnest. By today tourism is an important industry which provides employment and income for the local economy. However there are side effects in the form of static and touring caravans, people pressure at some locations and heavy traffic.

The most important geological/geomorphologic sites have been designated as either Sites of Special Scientific Interest – which are sites of national importance, or *Regional Important Geological Sites* ("RIGS"). Designated sites include caves, quarries and landscape forms.

There are **12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest** based on geology or a combination of geology and other features, totaling a surface area of **1588.12 ha**. The condition of these sites were being assessed by CCW at the time of preparing this Plan (details available on the CCW website).

There are **3 Regionally Important Geological Sites** within the AONB, namely Trwyn y Tal (11.00ha), Mynydd Carreg (5.29ha) and Porthdinllaen (5.67ha). The state of these sites have been assessed; their condition is specified as "Excellent" by the Gwynedd and Anglesey RIGS Group.

In **LANDMAP** 14 sites within the AONB have been identified as being "outstanding" (of international or national importance) and 4 sites as being "high" (regional/ county importance) in terms of Geology and Geomorphology. More information can be gained from the CCW website.

The LANDMAP assessment was used as a basis to create the Llŷn Landscape Partnership area which contains the whole AONB area to the west of the Eifl range. The remainder of the Gogledd Llŷn area can be clustered to form the Eifl Range – Bwlch Mawr or the Trefor-Aberdesach coastal plateau.

Parts of the coast have suffered natural erosion and coastal land has constantly been lost in the passing of time. Significant coastal conservation plans have been developed in Nefyn, Morfa Nefyn and Aberdaron. Shoreline Management Plans (Cardigan Bay and the Northern Coast) have been prepared in order to programme future erosion management work.

For the purpose of the plan review an assessment of the AONB's geological features was undertaken by Land Use Consultants. This work concluded that all sites were in a favourable condition. However, as far as future management was concerned there were some threats identified:

- New developments
- Dumping/ spreading of materials
- Removal/obscuring rock faces

Landscape character

Using a professional landscape assessment is important to assess and value natural beauty and detailed descriptive terms can be used to map the landscape in sensory terms. LANDMAP was established as a landscape assessment method in 1999. It is a process of assessing landscape which attempts to take into consideration all the relevant factors which contribute to the character of the landscape as well as assessing the impact of decisions. Also, information on land use, relevant strategies and public perceptions were assessed. The system was developed by the Welsh Landscape Partnership Group and the system is coordinated by the CCW.

The visual assessment took the following physical factors into consideration: Landscape, seascape, ground cover, land use pattern and settlement pattern. In terms of perception, consideration was given to scale, boundaries, material, colour, diversity, tranquillity, movement, safety, points of observation, untidiness, areas of visual influence. Following all the work, 10 Combined Aspect Areas were established in Gwynedd. The AONB is part of two of these areas, namely the Northern Llŷn Coast and Western Llŷn.

The Northern Coast area is a narrow strip stretching from Aberdesach to Nefyn and including the igneous intrusions of Bwlch Mawr, Gyrn Ddu, Gyrn Goch, Yr Eifl, Moel Tŷ Gwyn and Garn Boduan. Within the area are the town of Nefyn and the village of Trefor - two locations with quite different characters. The area contains a range of vegetation including grassland, coppices and acidic heathland.

The Western Llŷn area includes the part of the peninsula to the west of the A497. Naturally, the sea strongly influences the character of the area as well as traditional field patterns. The geology of the area has created a low plateau with igneous intrusions here and there, such as Garn Fadrun and Mynydd Rhiw. The remains of glaciations are also evident throughout the area. The diverse vegetation and geology have created important habitats such as heathland and wetland. Traces of human habitation are prominent on the landscape of Western Llŷn. Most prominent are the hill-forts on Garn Fadrun and Castell Odo and the prehistoric field patterns.

The LANDMAP analysis of the visual and the sensory identifies seven key features or qualities

found on the Llŷn Peninsula, namely:

- The shape of the peninsula – shaped like an elephant’s trunk with a coastline made up of a combination of sandy bays and beaches interspersed with rocky headlands;
- Small mountains – either rounded, rocky hills or insular steep slopes;
- The strong contrast between the various types of vegetation – rich pastures, heath and bracken, rough pastures, coniferous forests and marshy land;
- Patterns of small fields – surrounded by stone walls and /or soil banks;
- Scattered farmhouses and quarrying villages;
- Tranquillity – no noise or light pollution;
- Remains of quarries and mineral mines – waste tips and old structures from quarries and workings such as those found on Gyrn Ddu, Yr Eifl, Llanbedrog Point and Mynydd Rhiw.

The LANDMAP analysis of the Llŷn Peninsula confirms the area’s natural beauty and high quality landscape, especially the western part of the peninsula.

The coast creates a strong impact, the scattered settlements of Western Llŷn are important, that patterns created by traditional boundaries remain. Many sites have been noted as being of “outstanding” importance (International and national importance) or “high” (Regional or locally importance) in terms of the Visual and Sensory aspect. Also a report based on LANDMAP recommended extending the Llŷn AONB boundary to include the whole area to the west of the A497. More information regarding LANDMAP can be seen on the Natural Environment Wales website.

The relationship between the land and the sea

The need to review this relationship between the land and the sea has become more evident lately in the wake of the concern over climate change and the likely increased storminess of the sea. It is foreseen that climate change will lead to the ice in the Arctic regions thawing and a rise in sea level, leading to stormy weather and subsequent erosion in certain locations. This has contributed towards building a case for new legislation, namely the Marine and Coastal Access Act which came into force in 2009. The Act provides a new framework for planning and managing the marine and coastal environment which aims to create clean, safe, healthy, productive seas and oceans which sustain a wide variety of biodiversity.

In essence, Inter Coastal Management Zoning is a process of setting sustainability in action in coastal areas. It brings together everyone involved in planning, managing and using the coast in order to ensure that management of that coast is carried out in an integrated fashion based on information. The coast to the north of Bardsey Island is one section of the coastline which comes under the Llandudno Coastal Group area whilst the coastline to the south east forms part of the Cardigan Bay Coastal Group area. The clear advantages are listed below:

- a more integrated method of coastal management;
- a greater understanding of the coastline’s importance;
- a more effective contribution from various stakeholders to the decision making process;
- establishing more sustainable methods of economic and social development whilst protecting the environment.

Since 2007 the Welsh Assembly Government and other key stakeholders which belong to the

Wales Coastal and Marine Partnership have resolved to adopt an integrated management approach towards Wales' coast (Inter Coastal Management Zone - ICZM). On this basis a coastal strategy (ICZM) for Wales has been adopted: Making the most of Wales' Coast.

The vision for the Welsh coast, contained in the strategy is that the economic, cultural and environmental assets of the Welsh coast, and the services they provide, are maintained and improved for the benefit of people today and for future generations. Among the current priorities are ensuring that the principles established by ICMZ are accepted and recognised in policy making and in practice, that a better decision making system is established on matters appertaining to the land and the sea on both sides of the coastal boundary, that people are more conscious of the importance of the coastal assets and that a better system of gathering evidence is established for making decisions and monitoring progress.

As regards the management of the shoreline the Welsh coast has been divided into four "cells" or areas. The north coast of Llŷn, from Bardsey upwards is included within the Llandudno to Bardsey cell while the south-western coast is within the Cardigan bay coastal cell. Management plans have been prepared for these areas which concentrate on coastal defences, flood defence and coastal erosion. The process of reviewing these plans began in 2009.

Main Aim

SAFEGUARD AND SUSTAIN THE BEAUTY AND CHARACTER OF LLŶN'S LANDSCAPE AND COAST BY MAINTAINING AND RESTORING THE FEATURES WHICH MAKE THE AREA SPECIAL AND UNIQUE.

Special Qualities

A Peninsula of igneous intrusions

Llŷn is a peninsula extending out to sea and nowhere is far from the sea and coast here. The geology is complicated and included pre-cambrian rocks which are millions of years old which have formed mountains, hills, valleys and an unique coast.

It is the varied geoology which provides the basis for the landscape's unique visual character. The peninsula is a broad plateau with a number of igneous mountains and hill breaking the surface - and these are a notable element in the landscape of Llŷn and the AONB. The main one along the north are Gyrn Goch, Gryn Ddu and Moel Penllechog, Yr Eifl, Gwylwyr, Mynydd Nefyn and Garn Boduan and then Anelog ac Uwchmynydd on the tip of the peninsula. Along the southern coast there is Mynydd Rhiw, Mynydd y Graig, Tir y Cwmwd, and Foel Gron with Garn Fadrun being more inland. There are numerous other small hillocks such as Garn Saethon and Foel Gwynus.

Due to its island like character and distance from major urban areas there has been relatively little development here in Llŷn - and as a consequence it is often referred to as an unspoilt area.

A stunning coastline

The coastline of Llŷn is rather special and is one of the area's main features. Large sections of the north coast is characterized by sheer cliffs and rocky shores with sedimentary infills. These sedimentary areas have been eroded over time creating a variety of bays and inlets - all

of which have historic Welsh names such as Porth Ysgaden, Porth Meudwy, Porth Gwylan and Porth Colmon. There are a variety of other coastal features as well - such as caves, stacks, small islets - again all with local Welsh names.

Although there are cliffs and rocks along the southern coast there are also wide sandy beaches which are popular with locals and tourists. Places such as Porth Neigwl, Porth Ceiriad and Abersoch beach. Due to the more sandy character of this coast a series of sand dunes can be found in the Abersoch area.

Due to the special character of the coast and because there has been very little development a large section of the Llŷn coast (55 miles / 88.3 km) was designated as a Heritage Coast in 1974. The Heritage Coast follows the AONB boundary from Aberdesach to Penrhyn Du on the southern coast however it does not include the section between Penrhyn Du and Carreg y Defaid (which is within the AONB) but it does include the coastline between Nefyn and Morfa Nefyn. Additionally Ynys Enlli and the Sant Tudwal islands are also. Although the HT is a local rather than a statutory designation it does place a responsibility on the Local Authority to limit coastal development.

Large sections of the coast have also been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and Special Areas of Conservation.

Vegetation

Vegetation provides colour to the landscape and creates a strong visual impact which varies from season to season.

Large parts of the areas is improved agricultural land, given to pasture. This provides a landscape of variable sized field including in some areas a historic field pattern. There are some areas of rough grazing - mainly on higher land, in wet low lying valleys and on coastal slopes. Some crops are grown, cereals mostly but there has been a significant decrease in the area over recent years to the detriment of visual variation and wildlife.

Heathlands are an important element of Llŷn's vegetation and there are areas of coastal, lowland and upland. Upland heath is especially colourful at the end of summer when the heather and gorse are in flower.

Fields and boundaries

Traditional field boundaries date back to the Stone Age in some parts of the area and are a combination of natural and man-made feature which contribute greatly to the beautiful landscape we see today.

Natural boundaries are evident on the landscape of Llŷn - (rivers, woodland, hills and small mountains) and also man-made boundaries. These consist of cloddiau and stone walls, some of which have been built centuries ago to separate the fields and roads; there are also some hedgerow boundaries. All these boundaries, as well as being notable landscape features, are important wildlife habitats.

The Granite Quarries

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries stone was a very important building material and was also used for road making. The igneous intrusions here in Llyn provided good quality granite and stone quarries were developed on many hills and mountains of the area - and the remains of these works can still be seen clearly today. The main quarries were Trefor, Nant Gwrtheyrn/ Carreg y Llam and Gwylwyr in Nefyn but there were a range of other smaller quarries as well in places such as Tir y Cwmwd, Gyrn Ddu and Trwyn Dwmi. The quarries themselves have left their mark on the area but there were other legacies as well - homes were developed and whole villages in Trefor, Pistyll and Nant Gwrtheyrn.

Small villages and scattered buildings

The most rural parts of Llyn is characterised by small cottages, farms and the odd chapel or church - and it can be said there is a resemblance to parts of south-west Ireland in that respect. This again gives the impression of an area not much changed over time and an unspoilt character which are descriptions commonly made regarding Llŷn.

Small rural villages, well assimilated into the landscape, are also a feature of the area. Due to being of concise form and most buildings built in traditional materials they blend well into the landscape and many small villages have retained their historical character well - such as Llanengan, Llangian, Y Rhiw, Clynnog and Aberdaron and add to the area's appeal..

Key Issues

Climate change

It is expected that climate change will place significant pressure on the Welsh coast in the future. Evidence of the effects of climate change suggest that the changes that can be expected as far as Wales is concerned will be an increase in temperature, more hot and dry summers and warmer winters with more rain which will be heavy at times¹.

These effects may lead to two main changes over time:

- An increase in sea level with more storms leading to increased pressure from coastal erosion and flooding in low level areas;
- Extending the growing season leading to a change in the use of agricultural land and pressure to make use of marginal agricultural land.

Coastal Erosion

Some sections of the coast is liable to natural erosion and coastal land has been lost steadily over time – places such as Porth Neigwl, Nefyn – Pistyll and the Trefor area for example. Coastal protection schemes have been developed at Nefyn, Morfa Nefyn and Aberdaron which have impacted on the natural character of the coastline but were needed to protect property and people. Shoreline Management Plans (Cardigan Bay and the North Coast) have been prepared so as to programme works in response to erosion in the future.

Erosion affects beaches and coastal slopes and can be extremely dangerous to property and

¹ Wales Environment Strategy (2008) op cit.

people. Also, sections of paths can be lost leading to the need for re-establishment. It's important to monitor paths and property, raise awareness and take steps to prepare for erosion.

Changes in agriculture

Farming methods have changed significantly over the years and by today there are much less mixed farms in the area. Some of the associated changes in the farming industry which have had an effect on the landscape recently are:

- Erecting sheds, some large, to keep animals indoors over winter
- Specialising in one type of agriculture – sheep, beef or dairy
- Modern large machinery – which needs wide gateways and large field
- Diversification to create additional income e.g touring caravans, tents, renewable energy

It must also be acknowledged that valuable environmental work has been carried on on many farms through agri-environment schemes such as re-establishment of cloddiau, repair and erection of stone walls, refurbishment of traditional outbuildings and planting hedgerows. Such schemes have benefited the local environment and landscape.

Static and touring caravans

There are a significant number of caravans on some areas along the southern coast in the Llŷn Peninsula, including the Sarn Bach and Bwlchtocyn areas and The Warren. Although these developments have brought income into the area they have also had an detrimental effect on the natural beauty of the landscape and coast in this part of Llŷn.

Recent National and local planning policies have been more restrictive towards caravans, especially static caravans. No new sites are permitted and only small extensions are permitted as part of schemes to upgrade sites. There are also opportunities to lessen the impact of some existing static sites on the AONB through landscaping schemes.

Recently there has been an increase in applications for new sites touring caravans, and extensions to existing sites in the northern part of Llŷn. By now there is a considerable density of units in some areas e.g Aberdaron and Thudweiliog. Within the AONB small sites, in hidden locations can be acceptable but it is important to apply and enforce suitable landscaping conditions.

Wind Turbines

In essence wind turbines require open and windy locations in order to function effectively. Also, larger turbines are more efficient at creating electricity than smaller units. Because of this they are visible on the landscape and affect natural character and views. Also, there is very little opportunity to mitigate the effect by landscaping.

From 2010 grants were being offered by the Government for the supply of energy produced by renewable sources, including wind energy in the form of the "Feed-In Tariff". As a result there was a lot of interest in such schemes because they brought economic gain and lessen the use of conventional electricity. However, the scales of payment for renewable electricity,

through the Feed-in Tariff, has decreased significantly over the years and by 2016 is at a very low level.

When reviewing this Plan in 2015/6 very few wind turbines had been permitted on the Llŷn peninsula. The policies contained in the Unitary Development Plan and the Management Plan have been important in controlling developments in the area as has the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment by Gillespies. It is expected that the reduced payments via the Tariff will result in fewer applications for wind turbines in future.

Solar farms

Due to the Feed in Tariff introduced by the Government in 2010, there has also been an increase in applications for solar panels and solar farms. Panels have mostly been fitted on the roofs of homes, outbuildings and agricultural sheds fairly successfully although there has been some impact on historic buildings in some instances.

Solar farms on the other hand are a different proposition as they are on a much larger scale and cover an area of some hectares. The panels are fairly low-lying in the landscape and there maybe locations where they can be sited without have much of an effect on the area's landscape. When reviewing the Plan there was 1 solar farm within the AONB itself (near Aberdaron) and 5 other solar farms of fairly significant size fairly near the boundary (at Boduan, Llangybi, Chwilog, Nanhoron and Llwyndyrus). Following the reduction in tariffs to be paid from 2016 onwards it is expected that applications will decrease significantly.

New housing

It's natural that some new homes will be built in the villages and countryside of Llŷn during the Plan period. Individual houses are built mostly but there have been examples of small estates being built recently – in villages such as Abersoch, Llanbedrog and Trefor.

New building though can impact upon the area's landscape and character if they are built in inappropriate locations an/or are of a size and design which is unsuitable. New buildings therefore need to be carefully located and blend into their surroundings – be it town, village or rural village.

In addition to location and design the correct choice of materials is also important. Stone, pebbledash and different forms of render are the most common finishes in Llŷn and slate roofs is a must. Traditionally doors and windows were timber but UPVC is widespread by today. Generally, traditional design and materials are more suitable within the AONB than modern ones.

Alterations to buildings

Unsuitable extensions and adaptations can have an impact upon the character of existing buildings and the general beauty of the area. It is the traditional buildings – cottages, farmhouses, agricultural buildings, churches, chapels etc which are most sensitive to changes and extensions and the aim should be to preserve and maintain their character. More attention is given to this matter in the section dealing with the Historic Environment.

Untidy sites and buildings

Untidy land and buildings have a negative effect on the landscape and the character of the area generally. Fortunately, here in Llŷn there aren't that many instances at present and indeed there have been quite a few improvements recently such as the demolition of the derelict former Plas Pistyll Hotel.

It is possible that other buildings or sites will deteriorate during the Plan period and if that happens the aim will be to improve or rectify the situation by contacting owner, informing relevant sections of the Council or other relevant bodies such as Natural Environment Wales.

Highway related matters

Historic roads are entwined into the landscape and naturally follow valleys, dips and turns while on the other hand newly developed roads are more direct, in accord with engineering principles, and tend to be wide and have large verges for good visibility. However because of this newer roads tend not to blend in well into the landscape.

Improvements to the A499 have had a significant effect on the AONB's landscape between Llanealhaearn ag Aberdesach. Although improvements were clearly needed to this road unfortunately wide carriageway, with long straight sections and wide verges was developed. Also, many historic features were lost such as narrow gateways, stone gate posts, steel gates and milk stands.

There is a case for improving some other roads within the AONB – most notable the A4417 between Nefyn and Llanaelhaearn. If finance can be secured to carry out these improvements it is important to give proper consideration to the AONB and develop a scheme that safeguards and restores historic features.

There is also concern regarding the proliferation of road signs which detract from the rural character of the area. A Study commissioned by the AONB Service in 2008 showed the effect of minor works and the gradual increase in road signs and recommendations on good practice were suggested.

Infrastructure and telecommunications

As in all areas a number of mobile phone masts have been erected in Llŷn and the service provided is important for local people, visitors and businesses. On the whole these have been fairly well assimilated into the landscape and have not had a significant effect on the landscape and coast. However it is possible that lack of signal and 4G technology might necessitate additional masts but no significant pressure is expected from this type of development.

There is a complex system of poles and cables associated with the telephone and electricity system in the area, however there are no 132KV high voltage within the designated area. There are opportunities for improvements as regards these systems and apparatus by sharing resources and undergrounding. The aim is to work with BT and SP Manweb to realise such schemes for the benefit of the AONB's landscape.

Felling conifer woodlands

Recently (2015/6) some areas of conifer trees within the AONB have been felled – notable examples are Garn Boduan and near Nant Gwrtheyrn. Although these trees are not native to the area they have become an established aspect of the landscape and there is significant change when they are felled. Some of these woodlands are being re-planted and it would be best if these could be indigenous trees.

Developments near the AONB boundary

The boundary for the AONB was established in the mid 1950s and followed a period of undertaking survey, expert opinion and consultation. The boundary follows natural features in some places and aimed to include the coast and the igneous intrusions, however a significant part of the peninsula was not included even though it was of high landscape value. There is a strong case for reviewing the AONB's boundary – on the basis of natural beauty, wildlife, historic environment and culture. It is also important to safeguard the area just beyond the boundary because developments here could have a negative effect on the area's setting and view into and out of the area.

Fires on Heathlands

Burning heather and gorse on heathlands is a traditional management practice to control overgrowth and promote new growth. However, burning must be done carefully, under control and at the correct times of the year to avoid unacceptable harm to wildlife and danger of the fire getting out of control. Efforts have been made to raise awareness of the correct time/ methods of burning through projects such as Cadw'r Lliw yn Llŷn and by Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru/ Natural Resources Wales.

On occasions there are unplanned fires on the heathlands – which have been started deliberately or by accident. These types of fires can have a marked effect because they are uncontrolled and can have a significant effect on the heathland and its wildlife.

Polcies

TP 1 SUSTAIN AND SAFEGUARD KEY GEOLOGICAL AND GEOMORPHOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN THE AONB AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THEIR IMPORTANCE.

There are a variety of different geological and geomorphological features on the Llŷn Peninsula. Many of these features can be seen in coastal locations or where rocks breach the surface on higher ground. The most important sites have been designated as SSSIs or Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS).

In the past some developments have had a negative effect on some sites and features – most notably the granite quarries and mineral mines however there is not much threats to these sites now. However efforts will be made to safeguard the sites and raise awareness.

TP 2 SUSTAIN THE SPECIAL CHARACTER OF LLŶN'S LANDSCAPE BY WITHSTANDING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD BE PROMINENT ON THE LANDSCAPE AND WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON VIEWS INCLUDING THOSE THAT WOULD IMPACT ON VIEWS INTO AND OUT OF THE AREA.

The beauty on the landscape and coast and the associated views were the main reason for designating part of Llŷn as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1957. It was only the 3rd such designation through the whole of the UK. It is therefore essential to protect the natural beauty which is the basis for the designation from any development which would be prominent of the landscape and have a negative impact on views.

TP 3 PROTECT THE SPECIAL COASTLINE OF LLŶN AND THE ASSOCIATED ISLANDS BY WITHSTANDING ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

Being a peninsula the influence of the sea is felt strongly in Llŷn. The coastline is mostly in its natural state with very little human intervention to be seen – only a few quarries, harbours and buildings. Again the coast was instrumental in the AONB designation, as well as the later Heritage Coast.

TP 4 SAFEGUARD AND RE-ESTATE TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER AND IDENTITY OF LLŶN - CLODDIAU, STONE WALLS AND HEDGEROWS.

Landscape character assessments including LANDMAP have confirmed that traditional boundaries contribute to the character and appearance of the Llŷn landscape. The AONB service and partners will therefore aim to protect and sustain these cloddiau, stone walls and hedgerows and re-instate boundaries which have deteriorated. This might be done by objecting to proposals to demolish boundaries, direct payments eg through Glastir and training on how to maintain features.

TP 5 PROMOTE IMPROVEMENTS AS REGARDS UNTIDY AND INTRUSIVE SITES AND BUILDINGS WITHIN AND ADJACENT TO THE AONB.

The present there are only few untidy sites and buildings but these do have a negative effect on the landscape and all the better if they can be improved. When sites or buildings are identified Gwynedd Council and partners can act by discussing with owners, grants or enforcements to try and deal with the problem. There are also opportunities to landscape existing developments which are prominent on the landscape e.g caravan sites or electricity sub-stations.

TP 6 AIM TO ENSURE THAT NEW BUILDINGS ARE CAREFULLY LOCATED SO AS TO BLEND INTO THE AREA AND THAT ADAPTATIONS TO EXISTING BUILDINGS ARE IN-KEEPING WITH THE ORIGINAL.

New buildings of all types have an effect on the townscape or countryside dependent on their location and this is an especially important consideration in designated areas such as AONBs and National Parks. All applications for new buildings must go through the planning process and conform with national and local policies and the policies contained in this Plan will be a consideration. This policy does not aim to resist new buildings within the AONB, rather it aims to ensure they are in-keeping with the area and blend in through location, size, type and design.

TP 7 ENCOURAGE ELECTRICITY AND TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES TO SHARE FACILITIES AND UNDERGROUND CABLES WITHIN AND NEAR TO THE AONB.

Although the existing apparatus of electricity and telecommunication companies have been accepted to a large extent there are locations where poles, cables and phone masts do have a negative effect on the landscape. There are some examples of where cables have been placed underground (Porthdinllaen and near Nant Gwrtheyrn) which have proven successful and the AONB service and partners will work with relevant companies to try and get other undergrounding schemes and mast sharing projects underway.

TP 8 WITHSTAND WIND TURBINE AND SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE CHACARTER AND APPEARANCE OF THE LANDSCAPE OR COAST OF THE AONB AND IT'S SETTING.

In 2010 the Government introduced the Feed-in Tariff to encourage companies, establishments and the general public to supply renewable energy through various means including hydro, solar, wind and biomass. Solar and wind offered the best opportunities in this area and there has been an increasing interest in these technologies. However there has been a constant reduction in the grants available through the Tariff scheme with a significant reduction in early 2016.

At the beginning there were numerous applications for solar panels to be attached to buildings but more recently – from 2013 onwards there has been more interest in solar farm developments although only 1 scheme has been permitted within the AONB (nr Aberdaron). Solar farms cover a fairly large area of land and therefore care must be taken to limit sites to well screened sites where they will not impact upon the beauty of the landscape.

Numerous applications for wind turbines have been submitted due to the Feed-in Tariff. Due to a robust policy in the Unitary Development Plan no applications have been permitted within the AONB itself, however some applications near the boundary have been permitted while others have been refused (some at appeal). It must be accepted that some of these developments are intrusive on the landscape and great care is needed with this type of renewable energy.

TP 9 RESIST NEW CARAVAN DEVELOPMENTS AND EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING SITES ON SITES WHICH ARE PROMINENT ON THE LANDSCAPE OR COAST AND PROMOTE THE LANDSCAPING OF EXISTING SITES.

Caravan developments have indeed had an impact upon the landscape and coast of some areas within the AONB. Many of these sites are well-established and date back to the 1960s such as The Warren.

During the last twenty years there has been a constant increase in the number of new sites for touring caravans and there is also a tendency to leave the units on the site for the whole season, thereby increasing the visible impact. Of late there has been an increase in applications in the Aberdaron area and along the northern coast. New sites need to be constrained to well-hidden sites and if possible introduce landscaping to shelter existing sites which are prominent.

TP 10 RESIST HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS AND SIGNS WHICH WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE CHARACTER OF LLŶN'S RURAL ROADS AND SUPPORT THE RE-EINSTATEMENT OF HISTORIC FEATURES AND REMOVE SIGNS WHICH ARE NOT NEEDED.

Unimproved highways are historical routes which follow the lie of the land - there is character to the journey and interesting features to see along the way. There is a case for improvement in some locations, where the road is narrow or there are sharp bends, however improvement schemes within designated areas need to be sensitive. Road improvements can lead to negative impact on the character of historic routes by introducing modern elements such as wide carriageways, broad verges, roundabouts, lighting and new signage.

Rural lanes are also important. A study of Rural Lanes in Llŷn which was commissioned by the AONB Service showed that rural lanes make an important contribution to the character of Llŷn and the AONB. They are narrow and twisty lanes set between often substantial coddiau, stone walls or hedgerows and signs, concrete kerbs and coloured road markings are intrusive

elements.

TP 11 RAISE AWARENESS OF THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF LLÝN'S LANDSCAPE AND COAST, PROMOTE A FEELING OF PROUDNESS IN THE AREA AND SUPPORT FOR IT'S CONSERVATION.

All the available support is needed towards the care of the area and the AONB and local people and tourists to the area can help. Therefore awareness needs to be raised regarding the area's special qualities and a feelings of being proud and support for conservation work need to be nurtured. The AONB Service and partners aim to provide opportunities to learn and understand the area better including opportunities to take part in training and voluntary work.

TP 12 SUPPORT AND PROMOTE MEASURES TO MANAGE THE LANDSCAPE AND THE COAST IN WAYS WHICH MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND HELP DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

Scientists are now fairly certain that climate change is happening as a result of an increase in CO₂ levels and ozone layer damage. The effects of climate change will be dramatic in some locations but even here in Llyn there will be side effects and climate change needs to be addressed. Therefore we need to be aware of the likely effects of climate change, the challenges facing us and what measures can be taken to limit the effect. This will involve research, raising awareness and sharing of good practice.