



Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm

The Anglesey AONB Management Plan

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The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)



Management Plan Review 2015 - 2020



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The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2015 - 2020

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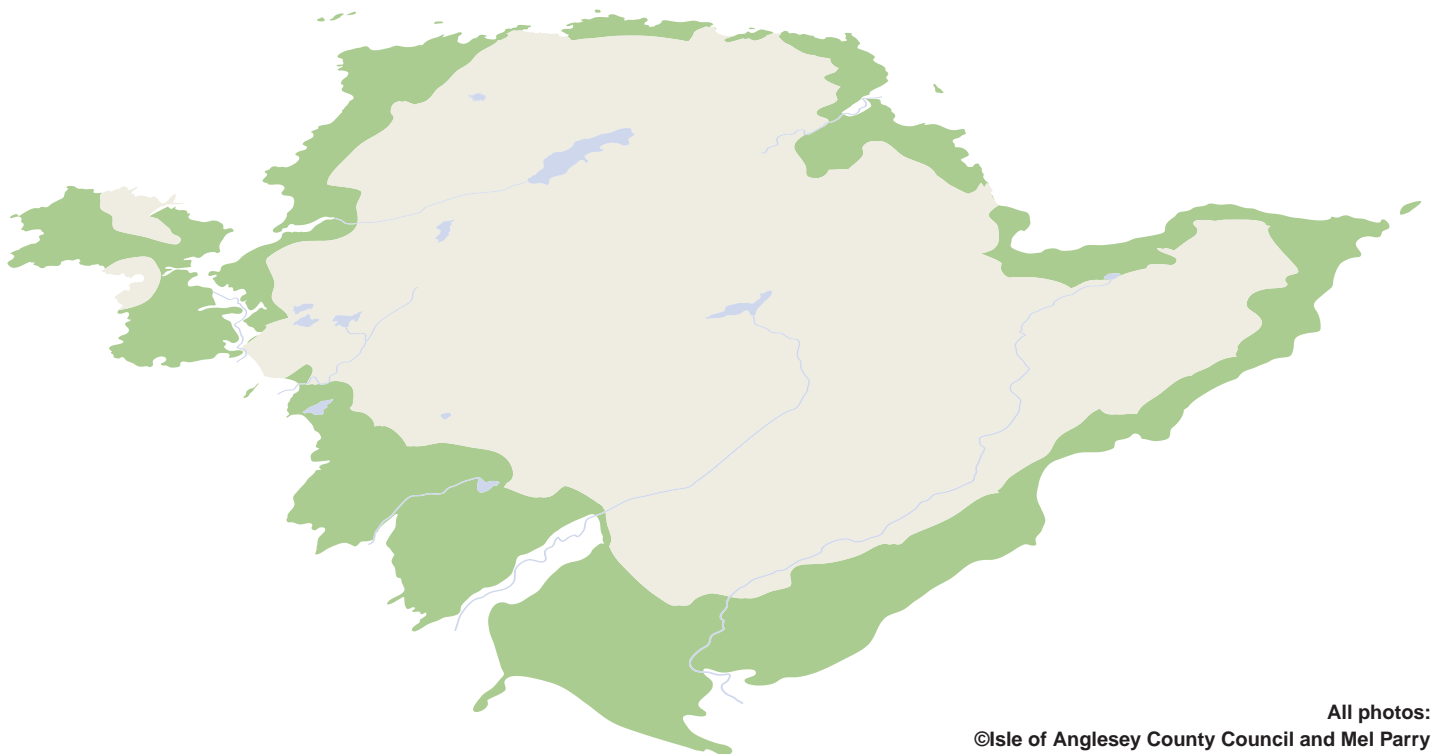
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1 Executive Summary

- 1.0 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty were established as a result of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949).
- 1.1 The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 was an important development for all those concerned with the management of AONB's. As a result of the Act, all Local Authorities which administer AONB's now have a statutory responsibility to prepare, publish and review a management plan for their area every 5 years.

In September 2014 the Minister for Natural Resources announced a review into the purposes and governance of the Designated Landscapes in Wales. This two stage review would firstly examine the designations themselves looking at their purposes and the merits of classifying Wales' designated landscapes under one type of designation, before then considering the associated governance arrangements. Further details of the review can be found at:

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/review-designated-landscapes-wales/?lang=en>

The Isle of Anglesey AONB Management Plan evaluates and determines what the special qualities of the AONB are, then determines what actions are required to ensure that these qualities are conserved and enhanced for future generations.

The administration of the AONB is overseen by a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). This committee consists of elected members and co-opted representatives of organisations who wish to participate in the work of promoting and protecting the AONB

Previous plans have identified the 4 stages of the plan development with the key stage being the last which requires the monitoring and review of the management plan process over 5 year periods. It is with this in mind that the current 2009/14 management plan is being reviewed and the action plan evaluated. This will allow us to identify and measure the changes that have occurred during the plan period.

- 1.2 Guidance on the review of AONB management plans was produced in 2009 by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW). This guidance took account of a range of issues which are or could impact on the AONB such as Climate Change. Since then the three environmental public bodies in Wales, CCW, Forestry Commission Wales and Environment Agency Wales, have been amalgamated into Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

The main purpose of NRW **is to ensure that the natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, enhanced and used, now and in the future**¹. As such the Management Plan will need to take account of the natural resources within and outside its boundaries and understand how using an ecosystem approach can better manage the natural resources of the AONB.

In order to assist the AONBs with this process NRW commissioned Craggatak Consulting to produce specific guidance on the Ecosystem Approach for Protected Landscapes Management Plan Reviews². The review process has been slightly amended to take account of this and is shown in the following table.

¹ NRW Business Plan 2013/14

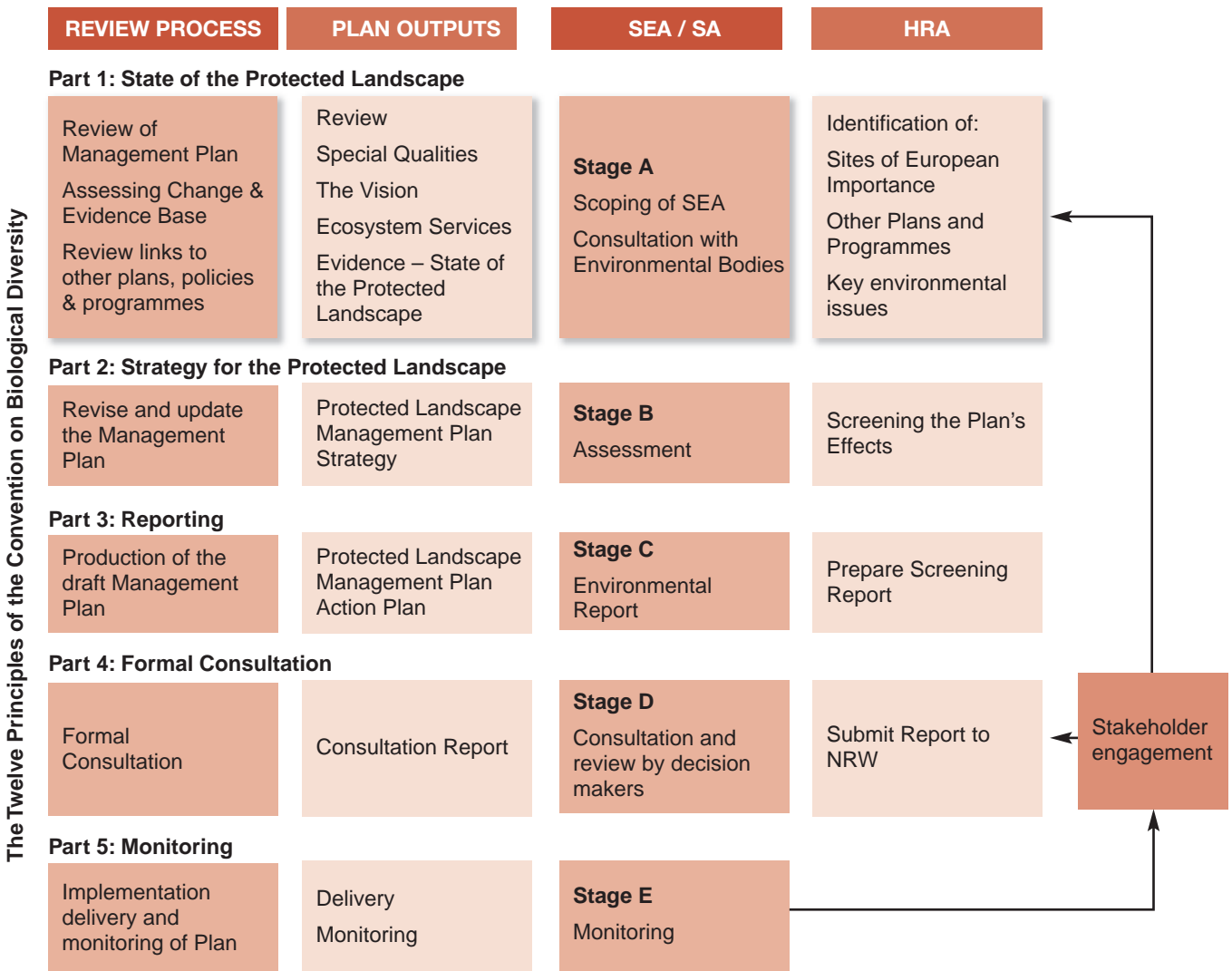
² Craggatak Consulting 2014





Table 1 – Management plan review process

The five parts of a Management Plan review



1.3 As can be seen from the table the Management Plan will still need to be assessed against a Strategic Environmental Assessment due to its likely or probable environmental effects. Similarly a Habitat Regulations Assessment will still be required to ensure that the plan does not have an adverse effect on any of the European designated sites within or adjoining the AONB.

1.4 As previously mentioned Natural Resource Management is now a major consideration during the development of the Management Plan and is touched upon throughout the plan.

Natural resource management is about managing our natural environment in a joined up way that delivers real outcomes for the environment, people, the economy and our communities both in the AONB and adjacent to it. It seeks to establish a common approach to decision making about our natural resources and how they are managed and should work at all levels from central Government through to landowners.

The natural resource management process will provide a framework for decision making that identifies opportunities to better achieve long term outcomes by taking account of environmental limits and environmental opportunities. Evidence, carrying capacity and a better understanding of the long term impacts will also help the decision making process as will input from communities and young people.

As part of this process the AONB is committed to working with the JAC and other stakeholders to identify the key resources within and adjacent to the AONB and thus improve our understanding of the Special Qualities and Features of the AONB.

1.5 Final public consultation regarding the AONB Management Plan took place between April and June 2015. A number of points were raised during this time which helped inform the process and where relevant were incorporated into the revised Management Plan.





2 The Management Structure of the Isle of Anglesey AONB

2.0 The Management Structure of the Anglesey AONB

2.1 The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is administered by the County Council's Countryside and AONB Service. The Service consists of a Countryside and AONB Officer, an AONB Project Officer and two full time temporary AONB Community Wardens along with other wardening staff.

The Countryside and AONB Service's core activities include:

- Supporting the preparation and delivery of the AONB Management Plan and Statutory AONB purpose ;
- Delivering the Local Authorities Statutory Requirement
- The administration and promotion of the Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Fund grant;
- Interpreting and promoting the AONB;
- Engagement with Communities and Schools (Primary and Secondary)
- Administrating the Joint Advisory Committee.
- Co-ordinating the AONB Volunteers.

The costs of managing the AONB are partially funded by the Isle of Anglesey County Council and currently grant aid from Natural Resources Wales.

2.2 The administration of the AONB is overseen by the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). This committee consists of organisations who wish to participate in the work of promoting and protecting the AONB.

Many organisations are represented on the JAC and include:

- Isle of Anglesey County Council**
- GeoMôn**
- The National Trust**
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**
- Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales**
- North Wales Wildlife Trust**
- Gwynedd Archaeological Trust**
- Friends of the Anglesey Coastal Path**
- Coed Cymru**
- Unllais Cymru**
- Bangor University**
- Natural Resources Wales**
- Federation of Small Businesses**
- Menter Môn**
- North Wales Environmental Outdoor Charter Group**
- National Farmers Union**
- Farmers Union of Wales**

Welsh Government Country Land and Business Association Anglesey Antiquarians Medrwn Môn

The JAC supports and oversees the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act's statutory requirement on the Isle of Anglesey County Council to prepare and publish the AONB Management Plan.

The main duties of the JAC are:

- To co-ordinate the preparation and review of the AONB management plan every 5 years;
- To monitor progress and achievement in the implementation of the management plan;
- To advise the local authority, and other bodies, on appropriate action to support the management of the AONB;
- Co-ordinate actions and guide the decision making process;
- To provide a forum for discussion amongst partner organisations;
- To promote co-operation in those actions which can help meet the social, economic and environmental needs of the communities within the AONB;
- To develop and maintain links with protected areas elsewhere in the world, to exchange experience and good practice;
- To help develop and maintain an image for the designated area;
- To co-ordinate the management of Anglesey's Heritage Coast.

The JAC meets formally twice a year, with the County Council providing administrative support.







3 The Isle of Anglesey AONB – A brief introduction

3.0 The Isle of Anglesey AONB – A brief introduction

3.1 The Isle of Anglesey AONB has one of the most distinctive, attractive and varied landscapes in the British Isles. Anglesey was designated as an AONB in 1966 in order to protect the aesthetic appeal and variety of the island's coastal landscape and habitats from inappropriate development. In the nineteenth report of the National Parks Commission and the first report of the Countryside Commission published in 1968 the Anglesey AONB is described as follows;

The areas designated in Anglesey are approximately 83 square miles in extent and lie along the coast of the island with breaks around the urban areas and in the vicinity of Wylfa. The coastline of Anglesey, many stretches of which are isolated, contributes much to the island's appeal. Rugged cliffs, sandy bays, marshes, dunes, the sheltered shores of Menai Strait and the windswept slopes of Holyhead and Bodafon mountains give great variety of scene.

3.2 The AONB is predominantly a coastal designation, covering most of Anglesey's 201 kilometre coastline but also encompasses Holyhead Mountain and Mynydd Bodafon along with substantial areas of land which form the essential backdrop to the coast. The total coverage of the AONB on Anglesey is approximately 221sq kms (21,500 hectares).

The landscape of the AONB reflects the varied underlying geology and is a diverse mixture of marine and terrestrial habitats, including rugged cliffs, heathland, sand dunes, salt marshes and mud flats. Holyhead Mountain, the cliffs of North and South Stack and rocky coves are the dominant features of the island's northern coastline. The east coast is characterised by vertical limestone cliffs and sandy beaches, whilst the west coast is less rugged and consists of stretches of sand dunes and beaches. The Menai Strait can be considered in two parts, eastern and western. The eastern section from Beaumaris to Menai Bridge is well wooded with relatively large settlements. The western section is similarly wooded but is much more rural in character.

3.3 The AONB also contains many habitats which have statutory protection because of their nature conservation value. These designations include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs);
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs);
- A National Nature Reserve (NNR);
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs);

- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).

These support a wealth of habitats and wildlife, notably:

- Heathland;
- Sea Cliffs;
- Sand Dunes;
- Rocky Shores;
- Choughs;
- Grey Seals;
- Shore Dock;
- Harbour Porpoises;
- Silver Studded Blue Butterflies;
- Marsh Fritillary.

Some Sites of Special Scientific Interest are actively managed by voluntary wildlife bodies or charitable trusts as non-statutory nature reserves, however, the majority are in private ownership.

3.4 Three sections of open, undeveloped coastline have also been designated as Heritage Coasts. These designations complement the AONB, and cover approximately 50 kms of the coastline. The sections of Heritage Coast are:

- North Anglesey;
- Holyhead Mountain;
- Aberffraw Bay.

3.5 There are many distinctive features to the unique landscape of the AONB. The coastline is undoubtedly a defining feature; however, the character of the landscape has been influenced by centuries of farming and also traditional industries such as quarrying. Agriculture is the main land use in the AONB, and stone walls, cloddiau, hedgerows and field patterns are an integral part of the landscape.

3.6 The AONB is also an important landscape in terms of archaeology and historical interest, with sites ranging from Bronze Age burial chambers to standing stones and hill forts. The UNESCO world heritage site of Beaumaris Castle is also located within the designated area.

3.7 Anglesey is a stronghold of the Welsh language, which is spoken by approximately 60% of its residents. There has been an overall increase of residents with full Welsh language skills since the 2001 census³. The Welsh language is the strongest of the Celtic languages in the British Isles.

³ LUC State of the AONB report 2014



3.8 It is estimated that 16,556⁴ people live within the AONB, an increase of 1.6% since 2001, approximately a quarter of the island’s population. Sizeable settlements within the AONB include Beaumaris, Valley, Newborough and Moelfre. Areas of large-scale development, in particular Holyhead, Amlwch, Benllech, Menai Bridge, Wylfa and RAF Valley, have not been included in the designation.

3.9 Employment within the AONB is mainly based upon tourism and agriculture. Anglesey is a popular area for recreation for the people of North Wales and also the North West of England. The majority are attracted to the island by the quality and number of sandy beaches and the beauty of the coastal landscape.

3.10 The most popular forms of recreation include family visits to the beach, sailing, angling from the shore or boats, cycling, wind surfing, motorised leisure boating, jet skiing, diving, bird watching, horse riding and walking. These all place pressures and demands on the AONB. At the same time, the AONB’s popularity for such activities provides a significant and positive contribution to the local economy.

3.11 No major industrial development is situated within the AONB, however, a nuclear power station; former aluminium smelting plant, and an RAF Training Base are located on the boundary of the designation. There is a focus on Anglesey becoming an energy development Island both in Nuclear and Alternative Energy which may include large scale offshore wind farms, marine turbines and solar farms. The proximity of these industries to the AONB and the need to bring the energy ashore highlights their influence on both the landscape and the seascape of the AONB, and also the pressure from development in close proximity to the countryside and coast.

Activities and pressures on the AONB include:

- Recreational development;
- Agricultural change;
- Caravan and camping Sites;
- Telecommunication equipment;
- Residential development;
- Illuminated signs;
- Traffic congestion;
- Oil and Sewage pollution;
- Noise and light pollution;
- Wind turbines and wirescapes.
- Energy development

Table 2 – A summary of the attributes of the Anglesey AONB

Size	221 sq kms
Population	16,556 (LUC 2014)
Date of Designation	20 December 1966
Date of Confirmation	13 November 1967
SACs	5
SPAs	3
NNRs	1
SSSIs	32
LNRs	3
Unesco Geopark	1
World Heritage Site	1
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	75
Outstanding Historic Landscapes	2
Historic Parks and Gardens	7
Conservation Areas	4
Grade I Listed Buildings	32
Grade II* Listed Buildings	42
Grade II Listed Buildings	491
Heritage Coast	50 kms
Public Rights of Way	370 kms & 120kms permissive coastal path
Common Land	504 hectares



⁴LUC State of the AONB report 2014



Figure 1: AONB / Heritage Coast



Figure 2: European Designations

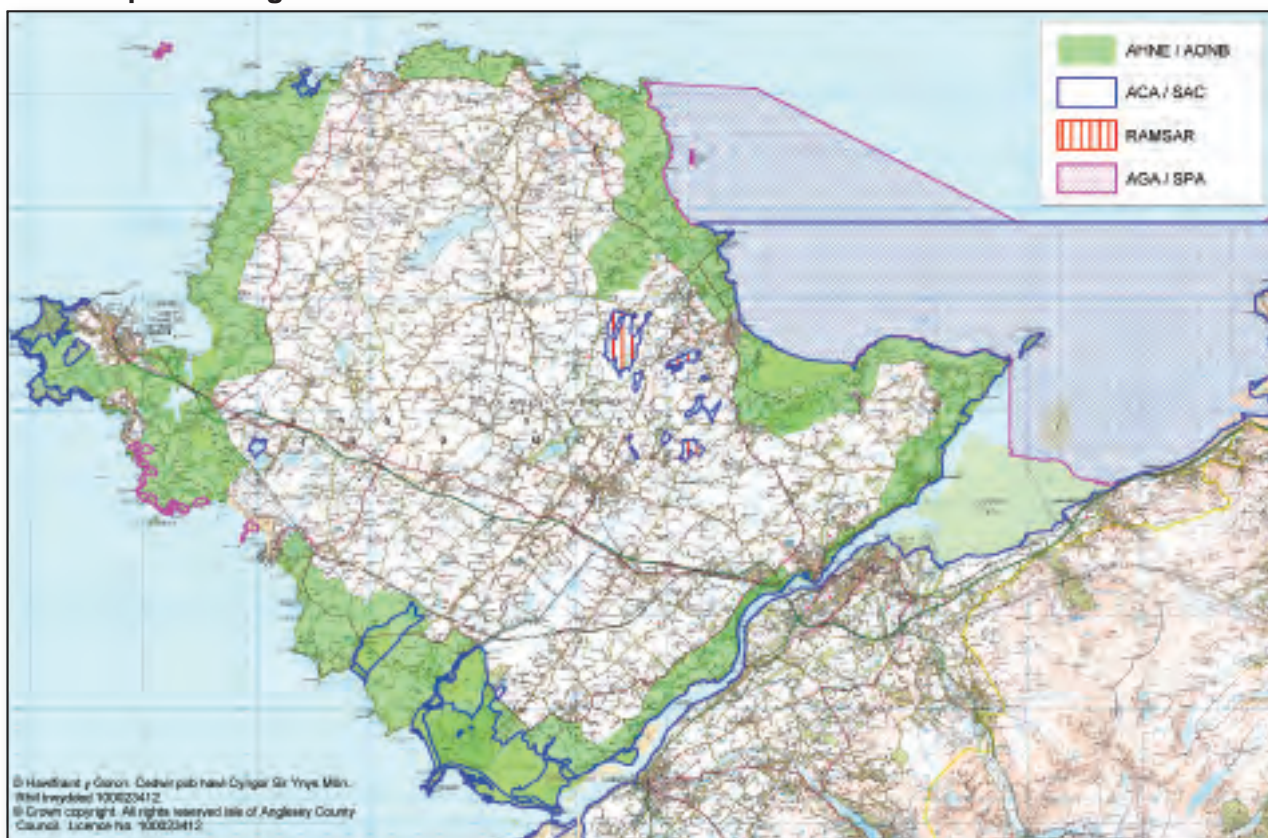
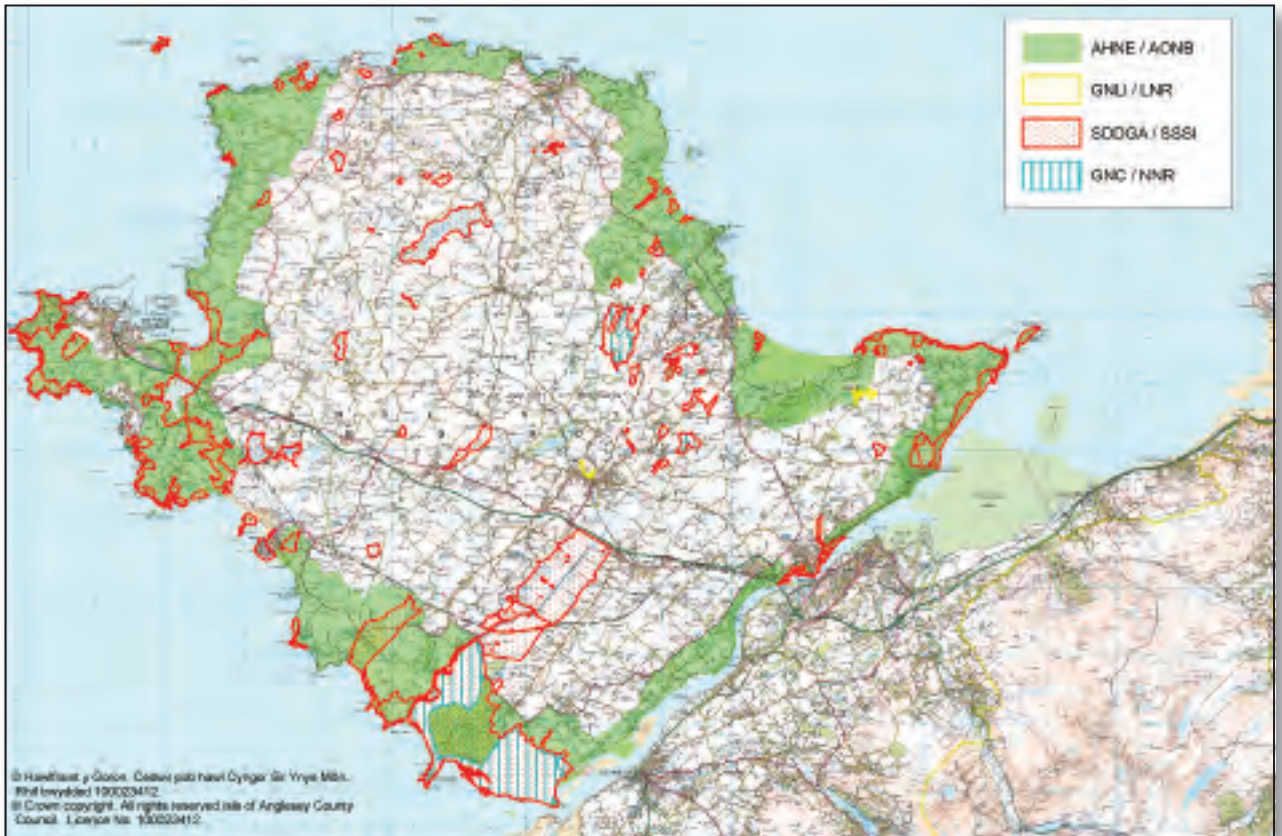




Figure 3: National Designations







4 AONB Guiding Principles and Forces for Change

4.0 AONB Guiding Principles and Forces for Change

4.1 The management of AONB's requires an understanding of the different components that combine to make each AONB distinctive and nationally important.

The main components of AONB's are their **resources** and **activities** which are highlighted for Anglesey in table 5 below.

Resources are the distinctive **features** and **special qualities of the area**, which define the AONB's character. The maintenance of these resources is central

to the sustainability of the AONB.

Activities are the pressure, changes and trends which have either a positive or negative effect on the special qualities, and consequently the well-being of the AONB. These activities represent the diverse environmental, economic and social elements of the AONB and its communities.

Identifying the activities which impact upon the resources is essential to the development of effective policies aimed at the protection of the AONB.





Table 3: A summary of the resources and activities of the Anglesey AONB

RESOURCES	ACTIVITIES
Natural Environment	Visitors
Landscape/Seascape	Recreation
Biodiversity	Tourism
Geology and Geomorphology	Education, Study and Research
Soil	
Air	Land Management
Water	Agriculture
Statutory Wildlife Sites	Woodland Management
Non Statutory Wildlife Sites	Nature Conservation
Cultural	Economic Activity and Development
Historic Landscapes	Industry
Historic Parks and Gardens	Telecommunications
Historic Buildings	Fishing
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	Sustainable Transport
Non Scheduled Archaeological Sites	Illuminated Signs
Welsh Language and Traditions	Residential Development
Dark Skies	Mineral Extraction
Tranquillity	Energy Island Concept
	Môn Menai Action Plan
Recreational	Agriculture
PROW	Tourism
Accessible Land and Water	
	Community and Social
	Development
	Transport
	Community Facilities
	Agriculture
	Tourism
	Pollution
	Land
	Air
	Water
	Light Pollution





Table 4: A summary of Anglesey AONB’s Features and Special Qualities

THE FEATURES OF THE ANGLESEY AONB	THE SPECIAL QUALITIES OF THE ANGLESEY AONB
Coastal Landscape/Seascape Features	Expansive Views/Seascapes
Traditional Agricultural Landscape Features	Peace and Tranquillity
Geological and Geomorphological features	Islands around Anglesey
<p><i>The resources and activities are shown in greater detail in appendix 1.</i></p>	Broadleaved Woodlands
	Lowland Coastal Heath
	Species Rich Roadside Verges
	Ecologically Important Coastal and Wetland habitats (including rocky shores, mudflats and estuaries, saltmarshes, beaches and dunes)
	Built Environment including Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings
	Archaeology and Ancient Monuments/ Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens
	Rural Agricultural/Coastal Communities
	Welsh Language
	Soil, Air and Water Quality
	Public Rights of Way Network
Accessible Land and Water	

4.2 The Ecosystem Approach (Natural Resource Management)

The previous Plan took into account the emerging role of ecosystem goods and services and took an overall look at the likely impacts of Climate Change. Since the last Plan was published there have been many changes in Wales including the merger of the Forestry

Commission, Environment Agency Wales and the Countryside Council for Wales into Natural Resources Wales. This reinforces Welsh Government’s wishes for a more joined up approach to natural resource management. The approach does have merits as the benefits from food, clean water and fresh air are extremely valuable as evidenced in the following table.

Table 5: Ecosystem services

SUPPORTING SERVICES:	PROVISIONING SERVICES:	REGULATING SERVICES:	CULTURAL SERVICES:
Functions provided by ecosystems that underpin all of the other services	Products of ecosystems such as water, food and the supply of raw materials	The results of natural processes such as water purification and air quality	Non-material benefits that result from our interaction with the natural environment
Soil Formation	Water Supply	Air Quality	Cultural Heritage
Primary Production	Food Production	Climate	Health and Wellbeing
Nutrient Cycling	Timber	Water Quality	Inspirational values
Water Cycling	Energy	Erosion	Tranquillity
Biodiversity	Fibre & Fuel	Soil Quality	Recreation and Tourism

It will be a priority of this Plan to identify precisely what services are provided both within and outside the AONB so that decisions are based on their good management. We will also need to identify and agree who and what the Plan affects.

As a starting point the following table identifies some of the above services and their impacts on the AONB. It should be recognised that many of these have more influence on ecosystems outside the AONB boundary.



Table 6: Ecosystem Services delivered on Anglesey

SUPPORTING SERVICES	PROVISIONING SERVICES	REGULATING SERVICES	CULTURAL SERVICES
Functions provided by ecosystems that underpin all of the other services	Products of ecosystems such as water, food and the supply of raw materials.	The results of natural processes such as water purification and air quality	Non-material benefits that result from our interaction with the natural environment
SOIL FORMATION	WATER SUPPLY	AIR QUALITY REGULATION	CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES
Soil is formed by the interaction between plants, micro-organisms and the underlying geology. We depend on healthy soils for growing food. Soils are slow to form but can be quickly degraded by poor land management, erosion and the impacts of weather and climate	Clean water is essential for life. The fenlands and reedbeds in the river catchments of Anglesey perform an important cleansing function in the provision of drinking water	Plants and trees are central to the cycle of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. They have an important role to play in regulating levels of air pollution	Human influence and settlement can be traced back to the Mesolithic hunter gatherers and early agriculture. The AONB has a rich historic heritage in terms of its art, culture, ancient monuments historic buildings and industry. This has great social, as well as economic value. Regional character and sense of place enhances local identity and provides distinctiveness
PRIMARY PRODUCTION	FOOD PRODUCTION	CLIMATE REGULATION & CARBON STORAGE	RECREATION AND TOURISM
We rely greatly on processes such as photosynthesis where plants use solar energy to convert water, carbon dioxide and nutrients into oxygen and biological growth which provides food and other raw materials	Farmers in the Anglesey AONB produce food and other raw materials. The farmed environment is a major producer of sheep and cattle as well as other local produce such as cheeses and vegetables	The range of habitats within and adjacent to the AONB have an influence on climate at both local and global scales through the capture and storage of carbon from the atmosphere. The fens found on Anglesey are large areas of peat that help store approximately 750,000 tonnes of carbon	Recreation and tourism are an important element in the economy of Anglesey and the varied coastline, rich wildlife, coastal path and other visitor attractions of the AONB contribute significantly to this industry
NUTRIENT CYCLING	TIMBER	WATER FLOW AND FLOOD REGULATION	HEALTH AND WELL BEING
Plants, animals and micro-organisms are essential to the natural cycle of nutrients and help maintain soil and water quality. Increased levels of nutrients such as nitrates and phosphates from sewage and fertilisers can result in poor water quality and loss of biodiversity	Broadleaved woodland and coniferous forest, cover around 13.4% of the total area of the AONB. Many estate woodlands are under sound management. There is great potential for bringing other areas of woodland into active management through community participation	The water catchments, rivers, streams, marshes, bogs and fens help regulate the flow of water and drainage of the land through storage and reducing surface run-off. If properly managed they can help reduce flooding at times of high rainfall and sustain river flows and surface water levels during droughts	The landscape and seascape of the Anglesey AONB provides opportunities for a range of activities that help contribute to the health and well-being of local communities, health care groups and visitors

(continued on the next page...)



Table 6: Ecosystem Services delivered on Anglesey (continued)

WATER CYCLING	ENERGY	EROSION REGULATION	TRANQUILLITY
We rely on the natural environment and its functions to provide us with fresh water	The AONB has the potential to accommodate a range of renewable energy schemes that are compatible with its special qualities. There is scope for developing small scale and village energy schemes	The coastline of Anglesey is prone to erosion in a certain number of locations due to tidal action and increasingly, storm events. This can be both positive and negative. Areas of saltmarsh absorb wave energy in storms that might otherwise erode the coastline. Inland, the risk of erosion can be managed through tree and vegetation cover and by taking care over cultivation over large areas or on slopes	Relative tranquillity is recognised as a special quality of the AONB. It provides a resource and a benefit that is greatly valued. Tranquillity is also important at night and the dark skies of Anglesey are increasingly recognised as being of high importance
BIODIVERSITY	GENETIC DIVERSITY	SOIL QUALITY	SPIRITUAL AND INSPIRATIONAL VALUES
Plants and animals drive many of the processes that result in a healthy ecosystem and the benefits we get from it. It is vital to conserve the diversity of species and habitats, as they underpin the processes we rely on to sustain our lives	The Bio-diversity and seed bank within the AONB are a resource for the future. Local breeds help maintain important genetic diversity and contribute to both our cultural heritage and local distinctiveness	Varying soil types provide a mosaic of habitats and various crops	Anglesey is renowned for its coastal landscape and its sense of place. The area has provided inspiration for artists and writers. It continues to provide people with the opportunity to understand and enjoy its special qualities. The area enables people to escape, be inspired, and find spiritual renewal.

WATER QUALITY

Disease and pest regulation

Natural processes such as predation and climatic conditions help to control the spread of disease and pests

POLLINATION

The effective pollination of crops by bees and other pollinators is vital to the life cycle of many plants. The AONB relies on this 'natural service' for growing food crops as well as other plants and wildflowers





This process has evolved into an idea known as the 'Ecosystem Approach' which has been defined as

A strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.⁵

This approach provides a way to manage nature that combines three core themes

- the ecology of the natural environment, including its functions and processes
- the benefits that people get from the natural environment (ecosystem services)
- the value of nature to society (in both monetary and non-monetary terms)

On Anglesey, adopting an ecosystem approach would mean a full recognition of the values the AONB's special qualities offer to people and if maintained and enhanced, to future generations. The AONB contains and adjoins other protected sites. Its health is bound to the development of its surrounding landscapes and seascape. The sustainable management of healthy resilient and productive ecosystems in the AONB can make an important contribution to a network of 'ecosystem hotspots' across Wales. In order to achieve this it is crucial that local people, relevant statutory and voluntary agencies and visitors have an understanding of the special qualities that define the Isle of Anglesey AONB (page 18,19), and the forces affecting them. It is also important to understand who is likely to be affected by the Plan and how we communicate with them.

The 12 principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity set out a framework that should become a part of the decision making process when adopting an ecosystem approach. The principles are as follows

- 1) the objectives of managing land are a societal choice
- 2) management should be decentralized to the lowest appropriate level
- 3) managers should consider the effects of their activities on adjacent and other ecosystems
- 4) recognize potential gains from management and understand and manage the ecosystem in an economic context
- 5) encourage ecosystem resilience
- 6) ecosystems must be managed within the limits of their function
- 7) the ecosystem approach should be undertaken at the appropriate spatial and temporal scales

⁵ Convention on Biological Diversity

- 8) objectives for ecosystem management should be set for the long term
- 9) there will be a need to accept and manage change so as to achieve optimal outcomes
- 10) the ecosystem approach should seek the appropriate balance between conservation and the use of biological diversity
- 11) The ecosystem approach should consider all forms of relevant information to aid the process
- 12) The ecosystem approach should involve all relevant sectors of society and scientific disciplines

In order to ensure that this approach is properly understood and embedded into the Management Plan the AONB Partnership will need to:

- Identify and describe the services delivered by the AONB
- Assess the condition of each service
- Assign a value to them, both monetary and non-monetary
- Produce maps which may identify where land management changes could benefit ecosystem services

Some of this work is included in this Plan but it will be essential to undertake effective engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities to ensure the principles are addressed through the plan process.

4.3 Landscape

The landscape of the AONB is a diverse mixture of many features, which are both distinctive and appealing. As the Anglesey AONB is predominantly a coastal designation, features such as cliffs, rocky shores, islands, sandy beaches and sand dunes tend to dominate the landscape. A significant proportion of the AONB is farmland, whilst there are also significant areas of heathland, semi natural woodland, intertidal wetlands and lakes.

The AONB has a relatively open, rolling, undulating landscape. The topography of Anglesey generally falls from the north east to the south west, and this is represented in the landscape of the AONB. The North and North West coastlines are dominated by impressive ancient Precambrian and Cambrian sea cliffs, particularly on Holy Island, while on the eastern side of the Island; limestone cliffs provide an interesting contrast. The south western coast is characterised by a series of rocky headlands and intervening sandy bays and dunes which generally enclose shallow lakes or



marshes. The Menai Strait shore has low cliffs capped with woodland and rolling farmland on glacial deposits.

There is limited natural woodland coverage in the AONB. Anglesey is one of the least wooded counties in the United Kingdom (IACC 2004). Woodlands are most common along the Menai Strait and on the east coast of the AONB. A number of the Estates located in the AONB maintain significant areas of broadleaved woodlands. These include Baron Hill, Bodior, Bodorgan, Dulas, Penrhos and Plas Newydd. The AONB also includes two extensive conifer plantations at Newborough and Penraeth.

The Anglesey Landscape Strategy prepared in 1999 was reviewed during 2010 in response to changes within the LANDMAP methodology which resulted from the application of the process to Wales as a whole. Consequently in 2003 the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) introduced a quality assurance programme for checking LANDMAP studies. This has led to alterations to the LANDMAP aspect topic areas and evaluation levels. One of the many outcomes of the review was an

increase in the number of Landscape Character Areas from 15 to 18 (as shown in **Figure 4** below).

It is important to recognise that the boundaries between LCAs are rarely distinct and are based upon best judgement of a gradual, but discernible change in character. The general character of Anglesey reflects a complex, underlying geology and effects of geomorphological processes such as glaciation. The island contains some of the oldest rocks in Wales and Britain as a whole, and these are clearly illustrated in the topography of the island. Extensive tree cover is generally scarce, although ancient semi-natural woodlands are found along the Menai Strait, and extensive plantations can be found around Mynydd Llwydiarth and Newborough Warren. The island shows a rich cultural history with evidence of man's actions extending over some 8000 years. There are over 200 Scheduled Ancient Monuments ranging from Bronze Age burial chambers to later medieval features. More recent landscape features include the planned landscapes of large estates, such as Plas Newydd and transportation routes.

Figure 4: Anglesey Landscape Character Area





4.4 Seascapes

Seascapes are a highly valued part of the Welsh scenery, they can also be some of our last 'wild' landscape areas and support a wealth of natural heritage. Seascapes can loosely be defined as "An area of sea, coastline and land as perceived by people, whose character results from the actions and interactions of land and sea, by natural and/or human factors" (CCW 2010).

This definition clearly implies that seascapes relate to more than just the view as it also embraces the ecological and cultural resources in the marine and coastal environment. Coastal protected landscapes are clearly key components of nationally important seascapes and we need to understand how we value, identify and manage these nationally important resources.

In 2013 the Isle of Anglesey County Council undertook a seascape character assessment of its coastline. This was done in collaboration with Snowdonia National Park and the Countryside Council for Wales, now Natural Resources Wales. The work was a continuation of the regional seascapes work carried out by the CCW in 2009 and highlighted in the previous plan.

The joint study identified 36 Seascape Character Areas from the Conwy Estuary down to Aberdyfi (see map below). The work also extended out to the 12 nautical mile limit of our territorial waters. Land outside of the study area boundary that contributes to the seascape

was also recorded. Within the study area there is a great diversity of terrestrial, intertidal and marine environments. These stem from the varied geology, geomorphology and coastal processes within the area, and also from thousands of years of human activity on land and sea. Combinations of natural and cultural processes continue to shape the evolution of the area's seascapes.

Seascape character assessment is a development of the well-established process of landscape character assessment. It divides the study area into Seascape Character Types (SCTs) (areas of recognisable character which occur across the study area) and Seascape Character Areas (SCAs) (geographically-distinct areas with a unique sense of place, and comprised of different combinations of SCTs). The project has identified 17 terrestrial SCTs; 7 inter-tidal SCTs and 12 marine SCTs. It has also identified seascape features such as lighthouses, harbours and defensive sites.

A profile is provided for each SCT which includes a brief description and a map showing the locations where it occurs. Profiles are also provided for each of the SCAs (which are named by their geographical position) describing their location and context; summary description; constituent SCTs; key characteristics; cultural benefits and services; natural influences and sites; cultural influences and sites; perceptual qualities; forces for change and inherent sensitivity.

Copies of the SCA can be found at www.anglesey.gov.uk/aonb



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Figure 5: Seascapes Character Areas



1 Conwy Estuary	9 Cemlyn Bay	17 Caernarfon
2 Conwy Bay	10 Carmel Head to Penrhyn	18 Abermenai
3 Traeth Lafan	11 Holyhead	28 North-east of Anglesey
4 Menai Strait	12 Inland Sea	29 North of Anglesey
5 Penmon	13 Holyhead Mountain	30 North-west of Anglesey
6 Red Wharf Bay to Moelfre	14 Rhoscolyn	31 West of Anglesey
7 Dulas Bay	15 Rhosneigr	32 Caernafon Bay
8 Amlwch and Cemaes	16 Malltraeth	





4.5 Shoreline Management Plans

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner.

The SMP is a non-statutory policy document for coastal defence management planning. It takes account of other existing planning initiatives and legislative requirements, and is intended to inform wider strategic planning. It does not set policy for anything other than coastal defence management. However, from this perspective, it aims to provide the context to, and the consequences of, management decisions made in other sectors of coastal management.

The plans and policies impacting on Anglesey are contained within the West of Wales shoreline management plan 2 under Coastal areas F and G. They take into account predictions for sea level rise and climate change and present strategies for a 50 year period and also a 100 year period. Policies range from doing nothing to holding the line in order to protect land and property. These scenarios will undoubtedly impact on the AONB and will need to be considered during the ecosystem approach assessments

4.6 Anglesey Energy Island

The Energy Island Programme (EIP) is a partnership between public and private sector organisations with the vision of putting Anglesey at the forefront of energy research and development, production and servicing, bringing with it potentially huge economic rewards, through pursuit of the following:

- Production – Investing in low carbon energy production to help secure a stable energy future for Wales.
- Demonstration – Establishing world-class facilities to place Anglesey as a leading location for low carbon energy innovation and demonstration.
- Servicing – Ensuring that local companies and people benefit and take advantage of opportunities from new energy investments.

As a result the EIP will potentially result in a £25bn investment over the next 10-15 years, through investments such as:

- New Nuclear Build at Wylfa which will create 6,000 jobs during the build phase and numerous local supply chain opportunities;
- New National Grid Transmission Infrastructure to connect the proposed low carbon developments on Anglesey to the mainland network;

- Proposed development of a Tourism Village and Leisure Facilities by Land and Lakes
- Proposed wave energy developments on the West coast of Anglesey

From an AONB's perspective all proposed development as part of the Energy Island Programme should have regard to the AONB designation in terms of the AONB's primary purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty.

Further details on Energy Island can be obtained on the website [\[REDACTED\]](#)

4.7 Destination Management Plan (DMP)

The local economy on Anglesey is fragile. There are high levels of migration amongst young people, high levels of unemployment, significant levels of social deprivation and rural economic problems. One of the major difficulties facing peripheral economies like Anglesey is the ability to generate new employment, especially in higher value sectors.

Replacing lost jobs and delivering on growth targets will not be easy. Realistically, only a small number of sectors can work within Anglesey's peripheral location and be relied on to deliver new jobs. Tourism is a sector that can, and does, contribute to local prosperity and quality of life in Anglesey.

Tourism can also have negative impacts. It can affect the natural environment and general character of an area. The growth in visitors can create unwelcome development pressures for the local community, employment issues and congestion on the roads and at key sites. Tourism can't therefore just be left to develop unchecked; it has to be managed in a sustainable way, to maximise the benefits for long-term prosperity and reduce the negative impacts.

Destination Management is a process of coordinating the management of all the aspects of a destination that contribute to a visitor's experience, taking account of the needs of visitors, local residents, businesses and the environment. A Destination Management Plan (DMP) is a shared statement of intent to manage a destination over a stated period of time, articulating the roles of the different stakeholders and identifying clear actions that they will take. In these definitions, 'manage' and 'management' are taken in their widest sense. Crucially, destination management includes the planning, development and marketing of a destination as well as how it is managed physically, financially, operationally and in other ways.

Tourism is a complicated industry involving the public, private and third sectors – and the local community. The private sector comprises many businesses, most of



them small. Working alone, these enterprises cannot manage and sustain tourism across a destination. They cannot provide or maintain the necessary infrastructure or train and develop a skilled workforce without some assistance. Similarly, there are many public agencies and departments within agencies that contribute in different ways to tourism development and management along with a plethora of third sector economic development projects. For tourism to be successful and make a constructive contribution to the local community, all parties need to co-ordinate activity and work to common, agreed goals, set down in a reference document such as the DMP. This is therefore a plan for all those with an interest in the future of tourism in Anglesey which includes:

- The private sector, responsible for meeting the day-to-day needs of visitors.
- Local Government departments, responsible for destination management.
- The various economic and community development projects that impact on tourism and the destination.
- Politicians, who have to agree policy and allocate resources
- The local community with an interest in tourism related opportunities and possible impacts upon their way of life.

This DM Plan sets the parameters for tourism development within Anglesey for the period 2012-2016. The Plan, however, is simply a tool in an on-going Destination Management Planning process. It is not an end in itself but more of a flexible reference point that will need to be reviewed and updated through the Plan period and beyond.

4.8 Môn Menai Coastal Action Plan

In 2007 the Economic Development Unit of Anglesey County Council commissioned a report with the express aim of considering the best way to deliver benefit from the coastline of the Môn-Menai Area. The specific terms of reference to the study team stated that the purpose of the study was *“To develop proposals to make the best use of the spectacular Anglesey Coastline (in terms of both onshore and offshore activities), in order to maximise economic benefit”*.

The study area included the whole coast of Anglesey and the Gwynedd shore of the Menai Strait running from Dinas Dinlle in the west to Hiraël Bay and Porth Penrhyn in the east. In total, the study area considered approximately 125 miles (240 kms) of coastline.

The Action Plan concluded by proposing 58 separate projects encompassed within 12 different themes. It also recognised that not all these projects could be achieved either due to funding, partner interest or development

restrictions. Of those that could be achieved, the Plan stated that they should be chosen on the following grounds; cost-benefit ratio, and ease of development and availability of funding.

4.9 Anglesey Coastal Environment Project

The 2009-2015 ERDF Coastal Environment Project develops on-shore and off-shore facilities to maximise economic benefits and impacts from the coastline of Anglesey.

The Project’s priority activities can be summarised as:

- Maritime Infrastructure
- Access and Movement
- Interpretation and Enjoyment
- Commercial Opportunities

The Project has implemented a variety of innovative activities at strategic locations around the coastline of Anglesey - enhancing the standard and availability of coastal recreation infrastructure to provide increased opportunities for people (both local communities and visitors) to participate in activities around the coast. Through developing the outstanding natural environment, the project improves the appeal and reputation of Anglesey as a tourist destination and provides facilities to sustain the overall quality of the island’s coastal towns and villages. The project supports and encourages businesses to capitalise upon the opportunities arising from coastal activities and marine leisure with recognised growth potential.

It is expected that, throughout the lifetime of the project, it will:

- Provide enhanced and/ or new coastal recreation infrastructure;
- Provide support for existing and new local maritime businesses;
- Improve direct and/ or in-direct employment opportunities within the marine leisure sector;
- Provide improved opportunities for participation in physical activities which will lead to improvements in social inclusion, health and well-being;
- Improve the appeal and reputation of Anglesey as a tourist destination;
- Provide facilities to sustain Anglesey’s coastal towns and villages;
- Promote and engender a strong local maritime leisure interest;
- Embrace Anglesey’s maritime culture and history (including the Welsh language) and engender pride in the local environment.

4.10 Summary

It is clear that the AONB faces some major developmen-



tal pressures over this plan period and further into the future. By gaining a better understanding of the AONB's special qualities and features and improving our understanding of the ecosystem approach and its implications it will be possible to prepare clear policies to help manage these pressures.

These policies will draw on information from the Landscape and Seascape work already completed as well as the guiding principles contained within the Shoreline Management Plan to help inform our understanding of possible climate change impacts on the AONB coast. They will also help determine the likely impacts the major developments may have on the AONB and how they can be mitigated for.



Rhoscolyn beacon





5 The Vision and Strategy for the Isle of Anglesey AONB

5.0 The Vision and Strategy for the Isle of Anglesey AONB

The State of the AONB report provides the basis for establishing a Vision and Strategy for the AONB which is a long term statement about the future of the AONB, relating specifically to the statutory purpose of the designation which is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB. Tied to this is the relationship to the environmental, economic, social, cultural and historic qualities of the AONB that need to be conserved and enhanced for present and future generations through appropriate management.

It will help guide the AONB Partnership in ensuring that the AONB:

- Is an inspiration to local people and visitors who are actively involved in enjoying and managing its outstanding landscape/seascape
- Landscape/Seascape character, beauty and diversity are enhanced with tranquil areas and unspoilt panoramic views
- Landscape is carefully managed to protect, enhance and make best use of its natural resources and the services they provide ensuring that they are undiminished for future generations
- Habitats are functional and well connected and that they support viable species populations
- Coastline is valued and enjoyed, retaining its natural and undeveloped character with a thriving marine environment
- Offers a greater understanding of the historic environment and the evolution of the landscape and that a high value is placed on caring for our heritage and culture
- Farming and woodland sectors are diverse, thriving and underpinning the sustainable management of the landscape through an ecosystem approach

- Communities enjoy sustainable economic and social prosperity with improving service provision and a high quality of life
- Provides equal access to all people in a sustainable way so that they can enjoy the recreational and lifelong learning opportunities it offers as well as the opportunities provided for the health and well-being of future generations

THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE AONB

The unique landscape/seascape, natural beauty and special qualities of the Isle of Anglesey AONB are conserved and enhanced for the benefit of present and future generations. Communities within the AONB are dynamic and vibrant and can relate to their local environment whilst sustainable activities contribute positively to a healthy rural and coastal economy.

The ecosystem approach will help integrate the management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and sustainable use. The management of the Holyhead Breakwater Country Park will be an exemplar in best practice.

During the preparation of the Management Plan the Ecosystem Approach has continued to develop and part of that development is the inclusion of partners in the wider management of the landscape as a whole. As part of this development it has become clear that there is a need to identify data and information that can help us manage the AONB in a more cohesive manner. This will be developed over the plan period under the Ecosystem approach theme.

Linked to the Vision is the Strategy which identifies the objectives, policies and management required to attain the Vision for the AONB by steering change in a positive and sustainable way for the benefit of the AONB's environment, economy and communities.

The objectives are designed to direct management across the whole AONB and they form the strategic framework for the designation between 2015 and 2020.

The Vision and Strategy for the AONB are broken down and explored through the following six themes and subsequent policies and sub policies which have their own unique code for reference and identification.



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AONB Theme	Code	Policy/Code
Enhancing Countryside and Coastal Character	CCC	e.g. Landscape CCC 1.0
Maintaining Nature and the Environment	NE	e.g. Habitats and Species Conservation NE 1.0
Supporting Opportunities for Visiting and Enjoying the AONB	VE	e.g. Clean and Safe AONB VE 1.0
Maintaining the Living and Working Landscape	LWL	e.g. Understanding AA 1.0
Raising Awareness and Appreciation	AA	e.g. Land Management LWL 1.0
Developing the Ecosystem Approach	TEA	e.g. Understanding and Awareness TEA 1.0

5.1 Enhancing Countryside and Coastal Character (CCC): Aim

The natural beauty, special qualities and distinctiveness of the landscape of the Isle of Anglesey AONB, including its natural, cultural and historical features, will be conserved and enhanced for the benefit of present and future generations.

Management Objective 1: Landscape/Seascape

- The coastal landscape/seascape will be actively conserved through appropriate management.

Policies

- CCC 1.1 LANDMAP is used as the process by which the landscape character of the AONB is valued and assessed
- CCC 1.2 The Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment is used to help determine the likely impacts of marine developments on the special qualities and features of the AONB
- CCC 1.3 There is a need to maintain the accessibility and conservation interest of sites of geological and geomorphological importance
- CCC 1.4 Elements of the landscape that have been degraded and lost their character will be restored and enhanced to safeguard the quality of the landscape

Management Objective 2: Historic Landscape and Culture

- Historic, archaeological and cultural sites are important features of the Isle of Anglesey AONB. Strong planning policies will protect such sites from development that degrades the special qualities of the AONB.

Policies

- CCC 2.1 Identify, protect and actively conserve the historic, archaeological and cultural resources of the AONB with relevant agencies
- CCC 2.2 Support the use of traditional skills and practices during restoration of the AONB's special qualities
- CCC 2.3 Ensure that high quality, co-ordinated and consistent interpretation material is provided to inform people about the rich history of the AONB

Management Objective 3: Development

- Planning Policies will ensure that all development within and adjacent to the boundary of the AONB is compatible with the aims and objectives of the designation and that new developments enhance local character.

Policies

- CCC 3.1 All development proposals within and up to 2Km adjacent to the AONB will be rigorously assessed to minimise inappropriate development which might damage the special qualities and features of the AONB or the integrity of European designated sites
- CCC 3.2 All new developments and re-developments within and up to 2Km adjacent to the AONB will be expected to adopt the highest standard of design, materials and landscaping in order to enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB. Proposals of an appropriate scale and nature, embodying the principles of sustainable development, will be supported
- CCC 3.3 Ensure that planning policies reflect the



statutory duty of the Council to conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB

- CCC 3.4 Continue to encourage the under grounding of existing and proposed power and telephone lines
- CCC 3.5 Continue to encourage the highest standards of equipment design for telecommunication masts to minimise their visual impact on the special qualities and features of the AONB

Management Objective 4: Peace and Tranquillity

- Unspoilt panoramic views and tranquil atmosphere are safeguarded from improvement that would degrade the special quality of the AONB.

Policies

- CCC 4.1 Work to maintain the solitude and natural beauty of the AONB
- CCC 4.2 Work towards securing Dark Skies status for Anglesey
- CCC 4.3 Ensure noise intrusion into the AONB is within acceptable limits

5.2 Maintaining Nature and the Environment (NE): Aim

The whole community has accepted the importance of conserving the natural world and wildlife and supports legislation that protects the environment from inappropriate and damaging activities. Designated wildlife sites are managed sensitively and form part of an increasingly rich matrix of wildlife-friendly countryside. Incidents of pollution of soil, air and water in the AONB will be reduced.

Management Objective: Habitat and Species Conservation

- The coast and countryside is managed sensitively to maintain the diversity of habitats and species in a favourable condition and to improve connectivity between sites.

Policies

- NE 1.1 Continue to deliver the Anglesey Biodiversity Action plan priorities
- NE 1.2 Maintain, restore and enhance priority habitats and biodiversity in the AONB. Particular attention will be paid to sites with International and National designations such as SPAs, SACs, NNRs and SSSIs
- NE 1.3 Identify, locate and remove invasive

non-native species

Management Objective 2: Soil, Air and Water

- The quality of the soil, air and water – both freshwater and seawater – is regularly monitored to maintain standards that exceed UK and European standards.

Policies

- NE 2.1 Work with the community as a whole to protect soils, air and water from pollution
- NE 2.2 Monitor soil, air and water quality regularly to ensure that the AONB meets or exceeds the expected standards
- NE 2.3 Reduce wastage by actively promoting water efficiency measures and more sustainable patterns of domestic, industrial, agricultural and leisure water use

Management Objective 3: Designated Areas and Other Important Sites

- Both statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites are managed for their biodiversity, aesthetic and amenity value`.

Policies

- NE 3.1 Work with site managers to maintain, restore, expand and sometimes create wildlife habitats
- NE 3.2 Ensure that non-statutory local wildlife sites are recognised as fundamental components of the AONB and the wider Anglesey countryside
- NE 3.3 Ensure that high quality interpretative material is readily available to both residents and visitors so that they are informed about the interest and value of the AONBs natural environment and wildlife

Management Objective 4: Research

- Monitor the species and habitats that characterise the AONB to develop a clear understanding of the management required to conserve and enhance their special qualities and features.

Policies

- NE 4.1 Promote open sharing of information collected in research with those organisations having an interest in the AONB
- NE 4.2 Make better use of the resources available at the Local Biological Records Centre (COFNOD)



5.3 Supporting Opportunities for Visiting and Enjoying the AONB (VE): Aim

The community as a whole have opportunities to experience and appreciate the tranquillity of the AONB's special qualities and features in a sensitive and sympathetic way.

Management Objective 1: A Clean and Safe AONB

- The impacts of pollution and recreation upon the special qualities and features of the AONB are regularly monitored to ensure that any incidents are within acceptable limits.

Policies

- VE 1.1 Promote understanding and awareness between recreation, conservation and local interest groups
- VE 1.2 Work to improve people's enjoyment of the AONB by reducing incidents of littering, dog fouling and fly tipping and associated anti-social behaviour

Management Objective 2: Tourism

- Develop partnerships that secure sustainable recreation activities that support the statutory purposes of designation and contribute to the local economy by supporting rural services and employment.

Policies

- VE 2.1 Ensure the tourism industry makes a vital and sustainable contribution to the Anglesey AONB economy
- VE 2.2 Raise awareness of the special qualities and features of the AONB that are key assets to the tourism sector
- VE2.3 Ensure that the Destination Management Plan supports the conservation and enhancement of the AONBs special qualities and Features

Management Objective 3: Recreation

- Ensure that the AONB continues to be a popular location for sustainable recreation with both residents and visitors and that the risk of damage to the AONB's Special Qualities and Features are lessened by working with user groups to reduce instances of conflict.

Policies

- VE 3.1 Promote sustainable recreational activities and facilities that complement the special qualities and features of the AONB
- VE 3.2 Promote enjoyment of the AONB for residents and visitors by encouraging

recreation and leisure activities that are consistent with the conservation of the area's special qualities and features

Management Objective 4: Access

- Implement the PRoW improvement plan to raise awareness of access opportunities and ensure uses appropriate to the purposes of designation.

Policies

- VE 4.1 Promote access for all (where appropriate), whilst also protecting the AONB's special qualities and features and the integrity of the European sites, ensuring there is a co-ordinated approach to the appropriate management and promotion of public access and quiet recreational activities.
- VE 4.2 Ensure that the PROW network is maintained at a high standard and that appropriate information and clear signage conserves and enhances the special qualities and features of the AONB and the integrity of the European sites
- VE 4.3 The All Wales Coastal Path complements the PRoW network and where deemed appropriate provides opportunities for recreation that are accessible to all. Monitor the impacts of the Coastal Footpath on the special qualities and features of the AONB
- VE 4.4 Monitor the management of open access land and the links to and from access land

5.4 Maintaining the Living and Working Landscape (LWL): Aim

Communities within, and adjacent to, the AONB contribute to the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities and features whilst increasing their existing economic and social activities sustainably thus providing a resource to the people of Anglesey.

Management Objective 1: Land Management

- Land managers safeguard sustainable land use activities that support the special qualities and contribute to the local economy by providing products and services.

Policies

- LWL 1.1 Support farming so that it remains one of the principal land uses within the Anglesey AONB and contributes to maintaining the quality of the landscape and the AONB's special qualities and features.
- LWL 1.2 Ensure the continued viability of agriculture and its allied businesses in ways which



- conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB
- LWL 1.3 Influence policy, plans and funding streams which support farmers and other rural landowners
- LWL 1.4 Support the sound management and appropriate expansion of woodlands within the AONB for both their commercial and social value.
- LWL 1.5 Support opportunities for farmers and landowners to identify and develop environmentally sustainable diversification enterprises that conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB
- LWL 1.6 Encourage and support measures, including financial subsidies under agri-environment schemes which are targeted towards the enhancement of the special qualities and features of the AONB

Management Objective 2: Viable Communities

- Maintain local culture and rural services, products and activities by securing affordable homes for local people and supporting the Welsh language.

Policies

- LWL 2.1 Promote local employment and local business opportunities which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's special qualities and features; support local communities within the AONB and increase the ability of people to live and work locally
- LWL 2.2 Recognise a proven need for affordable housing within the AONB in accordance with relevant planning and housing policies
- LWL 2.3 Encourage and enhance the retention and provision of local services within the AONB's communities whilst reducing the move towards urbanisation

Management Objective 3: Community Involvement

- Engage with the communities of the AONB through meaningful consultation to improve understanding of the statutory nature of the AONB and create opportunities for better engagement.

Policies

- LWL 3.1 Support and enable communities to develop and deliver high quality, community-led initiatives that contribute to the understanding, conservation, and enhancement of the special qualities and features of the AONB.

- LWL 3.2 Work with others to help develop and deliver the health and well-being agenda in the AONB
- LWL 3.3 Continue to build and maintain the volunteering capacity, and diversity of volunteer roles and the range of opportunities that deliver AONB purposes

Management Objective 4: Business

- Explore the opportunities that Businesses can provide that actively contribute to a healthy rural economy and provide employment opportunities for the people that live on Anglesey.

Policies

- LWL 4.1 Work with partners to increase the availability and speed of broadband and the coverage of the mobile phone network, to facilitate business growth, encourage home working and improve the quality of rural life.
- LWL 4.2 Promote a profitable, high quality local food processing economy as a way of revitalising rural incomes, and to raise awareness among local residents, organizations and visitors about the benefits to the landscape/seascape, economy and social fabric of purchasing locally sourced foods
- LWL 4.3 Support opportunities that encourage local businesses in the AONB to become more environmentally and economically sustainable, particularly in ways that conserve the special qualities and features of the AONB

Management Objective 5: Sustainability

- Increase the proportion of the resident population who adopt environmentally friendly lifestyles by providing information on and examples of successful projects.

Policies

- LWL 5.1 Ensure that the sustainability concept is recognised and understood as a basic requirement underlying all policies
- LWL 5.2 Ensure that the landscape and the special qualities and features of the AONB are recognised and valued as an economic asset
- LWL 5.3 Promote the efficient, sustainable use of the AONB's natural resources to conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB
- LWL 5.4 Promote the objectives of the Waste



Hierarchy in the AONB, which are to reduce, reuse and recycle thus ensuring the sustainable management of waste

Management Objective 6: Transport

- National and local transport agencies have put in place policies, guidance and decisions to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB, maintain local distinctiveness, provide services and support a buoyant rural economy

Policies

- LWL 6.1 Promote the integration and use of more sustainable public transport systems as part of a multi-modal approach in the AONB
- LWL 6.2 Encourage cycling for both commuting and leisure purposes through the development and promotion of a seamless and safer network and by exploring opportunities for future off-road cycling infrastructure
- LWL 6.3 Ensure that the special qualities and features of the AONB are fully respected in the planning, design, provision and management of all types of transport schemes.
- LWL 6.4 Promote the AONB as a model for high standards of design in highway schemes, infrastructure and associated landscaping which complement the special qualities of the AONB

5.5 Raising Awareness and appreciation of the AONB (AA): Aim

People understand and support the primary purpose of the AONB to conserve and enhance the Natural Beauty of the area and that they contribute positively to its current and future management through initiatives developed by the Countryside and AONB service and its partners.

Management Objective 1: Understanding and Life Long Learning

- Make the whole community aware of the benefits AONB designation brings by regularly promoting the special qualities and features of the AONB and explaining its management needs.

Policies

- AA 1.1 Support initiatives for children and young people to understand more about the Anglesey AONB's changing landscape and its special qualities and features through outdoor learning

AA 1.2 Work with schools to improve connections between the special qualities and features of the Anglesey AONB, landscape change and their curricular and extra-curricular activities

AA 1.3 Work with partners to provide opportunities for outdoor learning for all ages and abilities in keeping with the goals of lifelong learning and social well-being

AA 1.4 Work with partners to ensure there is greater awareness and appreciation of the Anglesey AONB by those who live, work or visit the AONB

Management Objective 2: Interpretation and Information

- Reveal the meanings and relationships of the area's cultural and natural heritage to promote understanding and appreciation of the AONB through effective interpretation that enhances the special qualities and features of the AONB by involvement with landscapes and sites.

Policies

- AA 2.1 Increase the profile of the AONB through effective and consistent interpretation and information for both residents and visitors

Management Objective 3: Interpretation and Information

- The JAC will continuously seek opportunities to promote joint working with and between stakeholders to secure the purposes of designation and maximise funds.

Policies

- AA 3.1 Foster effective partnership and administrative arrangements to lead and co-ordinate the management of the AONB via the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)
- AA 3.2 Share our knowledge and that of others as well as best practice and skills in protected landscape management through the JAC and the Protected Landscape network

5.6 Developing the Ecosystem Approach (TEA) – Aim

The ecosystem approach is recognised as being a process in planning a sustainable future for the economy, environment and communities. The natural environment of the AONB (and Anglesey as a whole) is managed for nature and people in a more joined up-way and the process is better understood. The 12 ecosystem approach principles, as set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity, are clearly conveyed and



understood by all AONB Partners and become part of the decision making process.

Management Objective 1: Understanding and Awareness

- Explain and promote the Convention on Biological Diversity and develop an agreed model for applying an ecosystem approach to the management of the natural environment with all key stakeholders.

Policies

- TEA 1.1 Ensure that the Ecosystem Approach is clearly understood, as are the 12 principles, and that all partners are identified and included in consultations
- TEA 1.2 Promote the role that the Ecosystem Approach has in relation to integrated sustainable land management and the wider landscape of the AONB and Anglesey and the range of goods and services this delivers
- TEA 1.3 Encourage and support research into the role various ecosystems provide within the AONB

- TEA 1.4 Ensure that the impacts of climate change on the Anglesey AONB are recognised and understood and that mitigation and adaptation to climate change are established within the Ecosystem approach

Management Objective 2: Research

- Identify and describe the ecosystem services delivered by the area within 12 months and assess the condition and value of those services by 2020.

Policies

- TEA 2.1 Ensure that all necessary data sources are identified and accessible so that informed choices can be clearly made.
- TEA 2.2 Work with partners to assign values to the various ecosystem services recognising the non-use value that some services provide.
- TEA 2.3 Work with partners to create opportunity maps, using identified data, where land management changes could provide enhanced ecosystem services.







6 The Action Plan for the Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

6.0 The Action Plan for the Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

6.1 The Action Plan.

6.2 The Action Plan is the final part of the policy framework that includes the strategy and vision. The actions are derived from these two chapters and follow the same 6 themes outlined in those chapters.

To deliver the actions, and thus achieve the sustainable

management of the AONB it is necessary to rely on the goodwill and understanding of the individuals and organisations controlling or influencing land management.

The AONB Partnership will be the main mechanism of delivery of this action plan and an agreed structure will be discussed and agreed during meetings of the Joint Advisory Committee where amendments may occur due to changes in legislation and funding. This will ensure that the goal of integrated land management is achieved.

AONB Theme: Enhancing Countryside and Coastal Character

AIM: The natural beauty, special qualities and distinctiveness of the landscape of the Isle of Anglesey AONB, including its natural, cultural and historical features, will be conserved and enhanced for the benefit of present and future generations.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 1: LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE

The coastal landscape/seascape will be actively conserved through appropriate management.

CCC 1	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
CCC 1.1	LANDMAP is used as the process by which the landscape character of the AONB is valued and assessed	Landmap will be used when assessing new and proposed developments	IoACC	JAC / NRW	Ongoing	
		Landmap and GIS training for officers				
CCC 1.2	The Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment is used to determine the likely impacts of marine developments on the special qualities and features of the AONB	Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment will be used when assessing new and proposed marine developments	IoACC	JAC / NRW	Ongoing	
CCC 1.3	There is a need to maintain the accessibility and conservation interest of sites of geological and geomorphological importance	Support and develop the work of GeoMôn	IoACC	JAC / NRW	2016	
		Assist GeoMôn in securing future Geopark status				
CCC 1.4	Elements of the landscape that have been degraded and lost their character will be restored and enhanced to safeguard the quality of the landscape	Identify areas of degradation and character loss and prioritise key areas for restoration	JAC	IoACC	Ongoing	



MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 2: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND CULTURE

Historic, archaeological and cultural sites are important features of the Isle of Anglesey AONB. Strong planning policies will protect such sites from development that degrades the special qualities of the AONB.

CCC 2	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
CCC 2.1	Identify, protect and actively conserve the historic and archaeological resources of the AONB	Promote the management and conservation of the AONB's Historical and Archaeological features	GAT	IoACC	Ongoing	
		Identify key archaeological locations within the AONB that can be used for education purposes				
CCC 2.2	Support the use of traditional skills and practices during restoration of the AONB's special qualities	Continue to offer training in traditional skills through the AONB volunteer programme	IoACC	JAC	Ongoing	
CCC 2.3	Ensure that high quality, co-ordinated and consistent interpretation material is provided to inform people about the rich history of the AONB	Identify key messages and themes and appropriate methods and materials	JAC	IoACC / NRW	Annual review	

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 3: DEVELOPMENT

Planning Policies will ensure that all development within and adjacent to the boundary of the AONB is compatible with the aims and objectives of the designation and that new developments enhance local character.

CCC 3	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
CCC 3.1	All development proposals within and up to 2Km adjacent to the AONB will be rigorously assessed to minimise inappropriate development which might damage the special qualities and features of the AONB or the integrity of European designated sites	AONB staff to respond to planning consultations where appropriate	IoACC	JAC JPPU NRW	Ongoing	
		Development Management to provide AONB staff with a weekly summary of planning applications located in the AONB or up to 2kms adjacent to the AONB				
		Built and Natural Environment staff to respond to planning consultations to ensure specialist professional landscape advice/opinion is provided when considering landscape impacts on special qualities and features of the AONB and be prepared to defend the appeal. AONB staff to be informed of planning cases and outcomes of appeals				

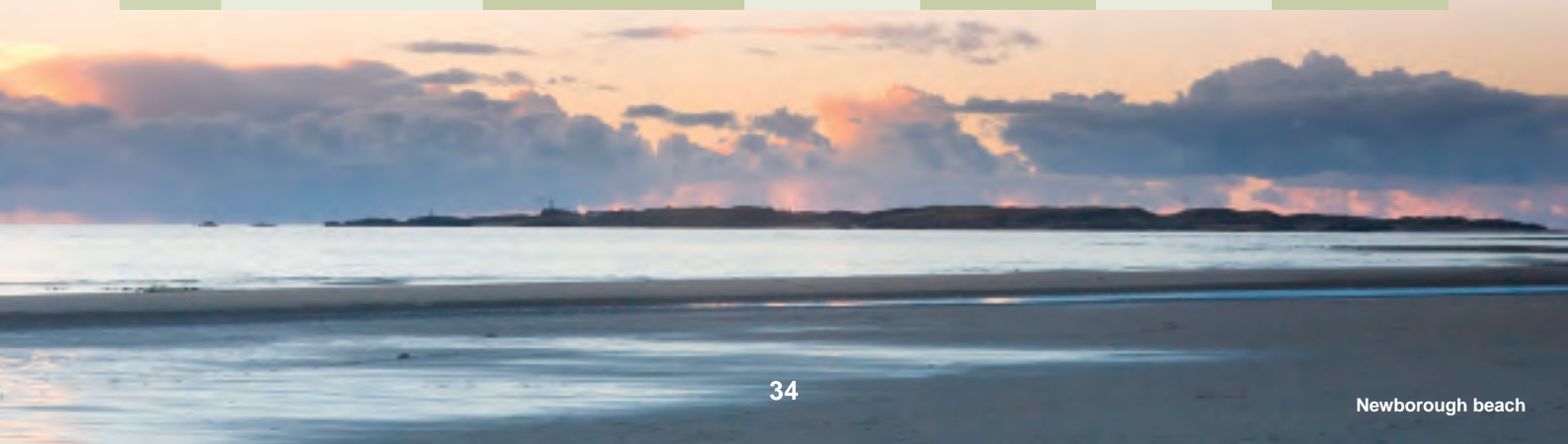
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MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 3: DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Planning Policies will ensure that all development within and adjacent to the boundary of the AONB is compatible with the aims and objectives of the designation and that new developments enhance local character.

CCC 3	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
CCC 3.2	All new developments and re-developments within and up to 2Km adjacent to the AONB will be expected to adopt the highest standard of design, materials and landscaping in order to enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB. Proposals of an appropriate scale and nature, embodying the principles of sustainable development, will be supported	Work towards securing a design guide for the AONB based on similar design guides in other AONBs in Wales	IoACC	JAC JPPU NRW	Ongoing	
		Improve and develop the dialogue with Section 85 organisations undertaking work in the AONB				
		Monitor and report on new development and redevelopment within the AONB				
CCC 3.3	Ensure that planning policies reflect the statutory duty of the council to conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB	Where relevant and or necessary ensure all developments within and adjacent to the AONB have agreed appropriate mitigation	IoACC	JPPU	Ongoing	
		Ensure the LDP supports AONB policies				
CCC 3.4	Continue to encourage the under grounding of existing and proposed power and telephone lines	Maintain working relationship with the Joint Planning Policy Unit	IoACC	JAC	Ongoing	
		Meet with suppliers and other protected landscapes in North Wales on a regular basis to agree sites to be undergrounded				
CCC 3.5	Continue to encourage the highest standards of equipment design for telecommunication masts to minimise their visual impact on the special qualities and features of the AONB	Monitor and report on undergrounding at agreed sites	IoACC	JAC	Ongoing	
		Work with Development Management to minimise the impacts of any proposed masts in the AONB				





MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 4: PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY

Unspoilt panoramic views and tranquil atmosphere are safeguarded from improvements that would degrade the special quality of the AONB.

CCC 4	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
CCC 4.1	Work to maintain the solitude and natural beauty of the AONB	Promote and support the Supplementary Guidance Note: Design Guide for the Urban and Rural environment	IoACC	JAC	Ongoing	
CCC 4.2	Work towards securing Dark Skies status for Anglesey	Work with the JAC and other partners to promote the economic and environmental value of dark skies	IoACC	JAC Economic and Community Regeneration	2017	
		Work with JAC and other partners to actively pursue an International Dark Skies Award for Anglesey	IoACC	JAC Dark Skies Wales	2017	
CCC 4.3	Ensure noise intrusion into the AONB is within acceptable limits	Analyse data in conjunction with Environmental Health Services	IoACC	JAC NRW	Ongoing	
		Monitor and report on intrusion mapping by NRW				
		Engage with the relevant stakeholders to reduce the prevalence of noisy marine activities along some parts of the coast				



Bull Bay



AONB Theme: Maintaining Nature and the Environment

AIM: The whole community has accepted the importance of conserving the natural world and wildlife and supports legislation that protects the environment from inappropriate and damaging activities. Designated wildlife sites are managed sensitively and form part of an increasingly rich matrix of wildlife-friendly countryside. Incidents of pollution of soil, air and water in the AONB will be reduced.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 1: HABITAT AND SPECIES CONSERVATION

The coast and countryside is managed sensitively to maintain the diversity of habitats and species in a favourable condition and to improve connectivity between sites.

NE 1	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
NE 1.1	Continue to deliver The Anglesey Biodiversity Action plan priorities	Assist and support activities aimed at conserving and enhancing BAP targets	IoACC	JAC Wildlife Forum NRW	Ongoing	
NE 1.2	Maintain, restore and enhance priority habitats and biodiversity in the AONB. Particular attention will be paid to sites with International and National designations such as SPAs, SACs, NNRs and SSSIs	Raise awareness of the ecological importance of the AONB's special qualities and features	IoACC	Wildlife Forum	Ongoing	
		Continue to support the work of projects aimed at preventing such declines	JAC			
NE 1.3	Identify, locate and remove invasive non-native species	AONB Community Warden to lead and co-ordinate the Anglesey Balsam Partnership	IoACC Balsam Partnership	JAC NRW	Ongoing	
		Work with volunteers and contractors on agreed water catchments				
		Record, monitor and report on data relating to areas of known invasive non-natives				

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 2: SOIL AIR AND WATER

The quality of the soil, air and water – both freshwater and seawater – is regularly monitored to maintain standards that exceed UK and European standards.

NE 2	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
NE 2.1	Work with the community as a whole to protect soils, air and water from pollution	Compile relevant data that will help in determining the values associated with the ecosystem approach	IoACC	NRW JAC	2015 /16	
NE 2.2	Monitor soil, air and water quality regularly to ensure that the AONB meets or exceeds the expected standards	Support the work of agencies monitoring soil, air and water quality	IoACC	NRW	Ongoing	
NE 2.3	Reduce wastage by actively promoting water efficiency measures and more sustainable patterns of domestic, industrial, agricultural and leisure water use	Work with NRW and the Farming Unions to gather relevant data and to better understand the links to the Water Framework Directive	IoACC Balsam Partnership	JAC NRW	Ongoing	



MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 3: DESIGNATED AREAS AND OTHER IMPORTANT SITES

Both statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites are managed for their biodiversity, aesthetic and amenity value.

NE 3	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
NE 3.1	Work with site managers to maintain, restore, expand and sometimes create wildlife habitats	Work with the JAC to identify suitable sites for co-operation	IoACC	JAC NRW	Ongoing	
NE 3.2	Ensure that non-statutory local wildlife sites are recognised as fundamental components of the AONB and the wider Anglesey countryside	Work with the JAC to identify suitable sites for co-operation	IoACC	JAC NRW Wildlife Forum	Ongoing	
NE 3.3	Ensure that high quality interpretative material is readily available to both residents and visitors so that they are informed about the interest and value of our natural environment and wildlife	Work with partners and the JAC to identify suitable sites for co-operation	IoACC	JAC NRW	Ongoing	

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 4: RESEARCH

Monitor the species and habitats that characterise the AONB to develop a clear understanding of the management required to conserve and enhance their special qualities and features.

NE 4	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
NE 4.1	Promote the open sharing of information collected in research with those organisations having an interest in the AONB	Identify past, present and future research relevant to AONB Policies and Actions in particular to the Ecosystem approach	AONB	JAC NRW	Ongoing	
		Survey and re-evaluate the AONB's special qualities and features using up to date data	AONB	JAC NRW	2015/16	
NE 4.2	Make better use of the resources available at the Local Biological Records Centre (COFNOD)	Identify data sources relating to the AONB's special qualities and features	IoACC	JAC	Ongoing	
		Maintain recording system to monitor changes in the landscape and share with COFNOD				





AONB Theme: Supporting Opportunities for Visiting and Enjoying the AONB

AIM: The community as a whole have opportunities to experience and appreciate the tranquillity of the AONB's Special Qualities and features in a sensitive and sympathetic way.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 1: A CLEAN AND SAFE AONB

The impacts of pollution and recreation upon the special qualities and features of the AONB are regularly monitored to ensure that any incidents are within acceptable limits.

VE 1	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
VE 1.1	Promote understanding and awareness between recreation, conservation and local interest groups	JAC partners to assist in resolving conflicts between landowners, residents and visitors	AONB JAC	IoACC	Ongoing	
		Continue to support the Powered/Personal Watercraft Registration scheme				
		Maintain and further develop dialogue with relevant IACC departments				
VE 1.2	Work to improve people's enjoyment of the AONB by reducing incidents of littering, dog fouling and fly tipping and associated anti-social behaviour	Raise awareness of littering, dog fouling and fly tipping and associated anti-social behaviour within the AONB	IoACC	JAC	Ongoing	
		Arrange clean up events at various sites within the AONB				

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 2: TOURISM

Develop partnerships that secure sustainable recreation activities that support the statutory purposes of designation and contribute to the local economy by supporting rural services and employment.

VE 2	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
VE 2.1	Ensure the tourism industry makes a vital and sustainable contribution to the Anglesey AONB economy	Maintain close working relationship with the IoACC Tourism team to ensure that the Destination Management Plan continues to support AONB policies	IoACC	JAC	Ongoing	
		Explore opportunities for closer links between the JAC and the Destination Anglesey Partnership				
		Support further research on trends in tourism and recreational use within the AONB				
VE 2.2	Raise awareness of the special qualities of the AONB that are key assets to the tourism sector	Identify specific special qualities related to tourism and determine their value	AONB & Tourism Team	JAC DAP	2016	

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MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 2: TOURISM (...continued)

Develop partnerships that secure sustainable recreation activities that support the statutory purposes of designation and contribute to the local economy by supporting rural services and employment.

VE 2	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
VE 2.3	Ensure that the Destination Management Plan supports the conservation and enhancement of the AONBs Special Qualities and Features	Identify specific special qualities related to tourism and determine their value	AONB & Tourism Team	JAC DAP	2016	

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 3: RECREATION

Ensure that the AONB continues to be a popular location for sustainable recreation with both residents and visitors and that the risk of damage to the AONB's Special Qualities and Features are lessened by working with user groups to reduce instances of conflict.

VE 3	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
VE 3.1	Promote sustainable recreational activities and facilities that complement the special qualities and features of the AONB	<p>The AONB Service to provide an annual programme of activities</p> <p>Identify and promote sustainable recreational activities and joint working opportunities with the Outdoor Environmental Charter Group</p>	AONB	JAC Activity providers	Ongoing	
VE 3.2	Promote enjoyment of the AONB for residents and visitors by encouraging recreation and leisure activities that are consistent with the conservation of the area's special qualities and features.	<p>The AONB Service to provide an annual programme of activities in co-operation with the relevant partners</p> <p>Promote the Sustainable Development Fund as a means of joint funding projects with other funding streams</p>	AONB	JAC NRW	Ongoing	



Moelfre



MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 4: ACCESS

Implement the PRow improvement plan to raise awareness of access opportunities and ensure uses appropriate to the purposes of designation.

VE 4	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
VE 4.1	Promote access for all (where appropriate), whilst also protecting the AONB's special qualities and features and the integrity of the European sites, ensuring there is a co-ordinated approach to the appropriate management and promotion of public access and quiet recreational activities.	Encourage JAC partners to provide or support suitable access where possible and provide regular updates through the JAC meetings	JAC	IoACC	Ongoing	
VE 4.2	Ensure that the PROW network is maintained at a high standard and that appropriate information and clear signage conserves and enhances the special qualities and features of the AONB and the integrity of the European sites	<p>Improve signage between villages, towns, other promoted routes, countryside sites, car parks and visitor facilities</p> <p>Promote a co-ordinated approach to signage within the AONB to prevent cluttering</p>	JAC IoACC	NRW	Ongoing	
VE 4.3	The All Wales Coastal Path complements the PRow network and where deemed appropriate provides opportunities for recreation that are accessible to all. Monitor the impacts of the Coastal Footpath on the special qualities and features of the AONB	Explore opportunities for creating circular routes linking rural communities to the coastal path	AONB	IoACC JAC	Ongoing	
VE 4.4	Monitor the management of open access land and the links to and from access land	<p>Continue to develop the use of visitor monitoring devices</p> <p>Evaluate the results from the monitoring devices on a quarterly basis. Disseminate data to relevant departments and partners</p> <p>Establish and maintain a photo monitoring system to monitor impacts in priority areas</p>	AONB	IoACC JAC	Quarterly reporting	



AONB Theme: Maintaining the Living and Working Landscape

AIM: Communities within, and adjacent to, the AONB contribute to the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities and features whilst increasing their existing economic and social activities sustainably thus providing a resource to the people of Anglesey.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 1: LAND MANAGEMENT

Land managers safeguard sustainable land use activities that support the special qualities and contribute to the local economy by providing products and services.

LWL 1	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
LWL 1.1	Support farming so that it remains one of the principal land uses within the Anglesey AONB and contributes to maintaining the quality of the landscape and the AONB's special qualities and features	Support and promote policies, plans and grants which support farming	JAC	AONB IoACC NRW	Ongoing	
LWL 1.2	Ensure the continued viability of agriculture and its allied businesses in ways which conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB	Continue to support the Anglesey Grazing Animals Project Continue to support and promote the production of local produce	AONB	JAC IoACC	Ongoing	
LWL 1.3	Influence policy, plans and funding streams which support farmers and other rural landowners	Comment on proposals and consultations when deemed necessary	JAC AONB	IoACC NRW	Ongoing	
LWL 1.4	Support the sound management and appropriate expansion of woodlands within the AONB for both their commercial and social value	Assess the effects of fragmentation of woodland upon the landscape and biodiversity, through survey work and recording in order to identify priority areas for corrective action Ensure that woodland planting and management takes full account of the landscape character of the AONB Aid the development of a sustainable wood based economy Continue to promote the use of woodlands as community assets and their potential for health and well-being	Coed Cymru	IoACC JAC NRW & SDF Grant Recipients	Ongoing	

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MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 1: LAND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Land managers will safeguard sustainable land use activities that support the special qualities and contribute to the local economy by providing products and services.

LWL 1	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
LWL 1.5	Support opportunities for farmers and landowners to identify and develop environmentally sustainable diversification enterprises that conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB	Promote the Sustainable Development Fund as a means of joint funding projects with other funding streams	AONB	JAC NRW	Ongoing	
LWL 1.6	Encourage and support measures, including financial subsidies under agri-environment schemes which are targeted towards the enhancement of the special qualities and features of the AONB	Work with the NAAONB to influence national policies in relation to subsidies and agri-environment schemes Promote the Sustainable Development Fund as a means of joint funding projects with other funding streams	AONB & NAAONB	JAC	Ongoing	

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 2: VIABLE COMMUNITIES

Maintain local culture and rural services, products and activities by securing affordable homes for local people and supporting the Welsh language.

LWL 2	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
LWL 2.1	Promote local employment and local business opportunities which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's special qualities; support local communities within the AONB and increase the ability of people to live and work locally	Promote volunteering opportunities with relevant employment agencies Maintain and further develop dialogue with all relevant partners Maintain and further develop links with Communities First	IoACC	JAC NRW	Ongoing	
LWL 2.2	Recognise a proven need for affordable housing within the AONB in accordance with relevant planning and housing policies	Improve dialogue with internal departments of Anglesey County Council as well as external agencies	AONB	JAC IoACC	Ongoing	
LWL 2.3	Encourage and enhance the retention and provision of local services within the AONB's communities whilst reducing the move towards urbanisation	Through a research project identify local service provision in villages within the AONB and any future threats Identify examples of best practice from other AONBs	AONB	JAC & Bangor University	Ongoing	



MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 3: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Engage with the communities of the AONB through meaningful consultation to improve understanding of the statutory nature of the AONB and create opportunities for better engagement

LWL 3	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
LWL 3.1	Support and enable communities to develop and deliver high quality, community-led initiatives that contribute to the understanding, conservation, and enhancement of the special qualities and features of the AONB	AONB Community Wardens to maintain and promote existing links with communities	AONB	JAC IoACC Community Councils	Ongoing	
		Promote and encourage membership of the AONB volunteer group				
		AONB Service to provide an annual programme of activities				
		Identify areas of land which the AONB Service could jointly manage with support from local communities				
LWL 3.2	Work with others to help develop and deliver the health and well-being agenda in the AONB	Identify existing best practice in the AONB	AONB	JAC	Ongoing	
		Promote the Sustainable Development Fund as a means of joint funding projects with other funding streams				
		Maintain and further develop closer working with Medrwn Môn and Menter Môn				
LWL 3.3	Continue to build and maintain the volunteering capacity, and diversity of volunteer roles and the range of opportunities that deliver AONB purposes	AONB Community Wardens to maintain and promote existing range of volunteering opportunities whilst seeking new areas of work	AONB	JAC IoACC	Ongoing	



Red Wharf Bay



MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 4: BUSINESS

Explore the opportunities that Businesses can provide that actively contribute to a healthy rural economy and provide employment opportunities for the people that live on Anglesey

LWL 4	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
LWL 4.1	Work with partners to increase the availability and speed of broadband and the coverage of the mobile phone network, to facilitate business growth, encourage home working and improve the quality of rural life	Work with providers through the JAC to identify and resolve any foreseeable issues	JAC	IoACC	Ongoing	
LWL 4.2	Promote a profitable, high quality local food processing economy as a way of revitalising rural incomes, and to raise awareness among local residents, organizations and visitors about the benefits to the landscape/seascape, economy and social fabric of purchasing locally sourced foods	Continue to support local produce markets Continue attendance at relevant events and shows e.g. Menai Bridge Food Fair Promote the Sustainable Development Fund as a means of joint funding projects with other funding streams	AONB	IoACC JAC	Ongoing	
LWL 4.3	Support opportunities that encourage local businesses in the AONB to become more environmentally and economically sustainable, particularly in ways that conserve the special qualities and features of the AONB	Promote joint working with Menter Môn and the Economic Development Unit Promote the Sustainable Development Fund as a means of joint funding projects with other funding streams	AONB	JAC IoACC	Ongoing	

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 5: SUSTAINABILITY

Increase the proportion of the resident population who adopt environmentally friendly lifestyles by providing information on and examples of successful projects.

LWL 5	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
LWL 5.1	Ensure that the sustainability concept is recognised and understood as a basic requirement underlying all policies	Develop the AONB as a model of integrated rural development, setting a standard for other protected landscapes Explore the links to the ecosystem approach	AONB	JAC NRW IoACC	2015/16	
LWL 5.2	Ensure that the landscape and the special qualities of the AONB are recognised and valued as an economic asset	Identify important landscape/seascape elements and explore the links between the special qualities and the ecosystem approach	AONB	JAC IoACC	2017	

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MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 5: SUSTAINABILITY (continued)

Increase the proportion of the resident population who adopt environmentally friendly lifestyles by providing information on and examples of successful projects.

LWL 5	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
LWL 5.3	Promote the efficient, sustainable use of the AONB's natural resources to conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB	Identify current and future uses of the AONBs natural resources and explore the links to the ecosystem approach	AONB	JAC NRW IoACC	2015/16	
LWL 5.4	Promote the objectives of the Waste Hierarchy in the AONB, which are to reduce, reuse and recycle thus ensuring the sustainable management of waste	Support Welsh Government and Waste Management strategies Maintain working relationship with Keep Wales Tidy Promote the Sustainable Development Fund as a means of joint funding projects with other funding streams	IoACC	AONB JAC	Ongoing	





MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 6: TRANSPORT

National and local transport agencies have put in place policies, guidance and decisions to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB, maintain local distinctiveness, provide services and support a buoyant rural economy

LWL 6	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
LWL 6.1	Promote the integration and use of more sustainable public transport systems as part of a multi-modal approach in the AONB	Ensure the AONB Service has an opportunity to contribute to any relevant plans	IoACC	AONB JAC	Ongoing	
		Ensure Transport and PROW Strategies support the AONB policies				
LWL 6.2	Encourage cycling for both commuting and leisure purposes through the development and promotion of a seamless and safer network and by exploring opportunities for future off-road cycling infrastructure	Identify examples of best practice from other protected landscapes	IoACC	JAC	Ongoing	
		Work with relevant organisations to identify and secure appropriate cycling infrastructure				
LWL 6.3	Ensure that the special qualities and features of the AONB are fully respected in the planning, design, provision and management of all types of transport schemes	Improve dialogue with the Highways Department of the County Council	IoACC	JAC	Ongoing	
		Promote and support the Supplementary Guidance Note: Design Guide for the Urban and Rural environment with particular emphasis on Guidance Note 30 Development in the AONB				
LWL 6.4	Promote the AONB as a model for high standards of design in highway schemes, infrastructure and associated landscaping which complement the special qualities and features of the AONB	Collate examples of good and best practice in the AONB	IoACC AONB	JAC	Ongoing	
		Improve and further develop dialogue with Section 85 Organisations and monitor compliance				
		Promote and support the Supplementary Guidance Note: Design Guide for the Urban and Rural environment with particular emphasis on Guidance Note 30 Development in the AONB				



AONB Theme: Raising Awareness and Appreciation of the AONB

AIM: People understand and support the primary purpose of the AONB to conserve and enhance the Natural Beauty of the area and that they contribute positively to its current and future management through initiatives developed by the Countryside and AONB service and its partners. The Holyhead Breakwater Country Park provides an exemplar to demonstrate these principles.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 1: UNDERSTANDING AND LIFE LONG LEARNING

Make the whole community aware of the benefits AONB designation brings by regularly promoting the special qualities and features of the AONB and explaining its management needs.

AA 1	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
AA 1.1	Support initiatives for children and young people to understand more about the Anglesey AONB's changing landscape and its special qualities and features through outdoor learning	AONB Service and Partners to provide annual programme of educational activities	AONB	OLW NRW JAC IoACC	Ongoing	
		Continue to support the work of Outdoor Learning Wales on Anglesey				
		Continue to promote the Anglesey Young Rangers programme				
AA 1.2	Work with schools to improve connections between the special qualities and features of the Anglesey AONB, landscape change and their curricular and extra-curricular activities	Raise awareness of the education resources available from the AONB and the Breakwater Country Park	AONB	JAC NRW	Ongoing	
AA 1.3	Work with partners to provide opportunities for outdoor learning for all ages and abilities in keeping with the goals of lifelong learning and social well-being	Raise awareness of the education resources available from the AONB and the Breakwater Country Park	AONB	JAC NRW	Ongoing	
AA 1.4	Work with partners to ensure there is greater awareness and appreciation of the Anglesey AONB by those who live, work or visit the AONB	Continue to produce the Anglesey AONB newsletter <i>Sŵn y Môr</i>	AONB IoACC	JAC NRW	Ongoing	
		Create and develop links with Bangor University and the Llandrillo Menai Group to improve understanding of the AONB				





MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 2: INTERPRETATION AND INFORMATION

Reveal the meanings and relationships of the area's cultural and natural heritage to promote understanding and appreciation of the AONB through effective interpretation that enhances the special qualities and features of the AONB by involvement with landscapes and sites

AA 2	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
AA 2.1	Increase the profile of the AONB through effective and consistent interpretation and information for both residents and visitors	Continue to produce and annual Newsletter	AONB IoACC	JAC NRW	Ongoing	
		Continue to support and contribute to the Welsh Protected Landscape calendar				
		Prepare a programme of events and activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the AONB				

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 3: INTEGRATION

The JAC will continuously seek opportunities to promote joint working with and between stakeholders to secure the purposes of designation and maximise funds

AA 3	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
AA 3.1	Foster effective partnership and administrative arrangements to lead and co-ordinate the management of the AONB via the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)	Continue to seek funding for 2 AONB Community Wardens	AONB IoACC	JAC NRW	Ongoing	
		Review and Strengthen the role of the JAC including training and governance				
		Produce a biannual JAC newsletter				
		Seek new resources to implement the management plan				
		Arrange 4 meetings annually (of which 2 are site visits)				
Create links between JAC partners to the AONB volunteer group						
AA 3.2	Share our knowledge, best practice and skills in protected landscape management through the JAC and the Protected Landscape network	Develop a working group with Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB, Llŷn AONB and Snowdonia National Park	AONB NAAONB	JAC NRW North Wales Protected Landscapes	Ongoing	
		Arrange reciprocal visits to the North Wales Protected Landscapes				
		Continue membership of the NAAONB & Europarc; attend meetings, seminars, workshops, training events and conferences when appropriate				



AONB Theme: Developing the Ecosystem Approach

AIM: The ecosystem approach is recognised as being a process in planning a sustainable future for the economy, environment and communities. The natural environment of the AONB (and Anglesey as a whole) is managed for nature and people in a more joined up-way and the process is better understood. The 12 ecosystem approach principles, as set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity, are clearly conveyed and understood by all AONB Partners and become part of the decision making process

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 1: UNDERSTANDING AND AWARENESS

Explain and promote the Convention on Biological Diversity and develop an agreed model for applying an ecosystem approach to the management of the natural environment with all key stakeholders

TEA 1	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
TEA 1.1	Ensure that the Ecosystem Approach is clearly understood and recognised, as are the 12 principles, and that all partners are identified and included in consultations	Work with consultants and partners to identify key stakeholders and the principles they can influence	AONB	IoACC JAC NRW	2015/16	
TEA 1.2	Promote the role that the Ecosystem Approach has in relation to integrated sustainable land management and the wider landscape of the AONB and Anglesey and the range of goods and services this delivers	Carry out a series of workshops with Stakeholders to identify the goods and services delivered by the Ecosystems on Anglesey and their impact on the special qualities and features of the AONB	AONB	IoACC JAC NRW	2015/16	
TEA 1.3	Encourage and support research into the role various ecosystems provide within the AONB	Work with NRW and Further Education bodies on relevant research projects	AONB	NRW JAC Bangor University Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Ongoing	
TEA 1.4	Ensure that the impacts of climate change on the Anglesey AONB are understood and recognised and that mitigation and adaptation to climate change are established within the Ecosystem approach	Establish a research project with partners especially Further Education bodies	JAC	NRW JAC Bangor University Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	2016	





MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE 2: RESEARCH

Identify and describe the ecosystem services delivered by the area within 12 months and assess the condition and value of those services by 2020

TEA 2	POLICY	ACTIONS	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
TEA 2.1	Ensure that all necessary data sources are identified and accessible so that informed choices can be clearly made	Identify all relevant sources of data and make available to partners	IoACC	JAC NRW	Ongoing	
TEA 2.2	Work with partners to assign values to the various ecosystem services recognising the non-use value that some services provide	Carry out a series of workshops with stakeholders to identify the goods and services delivered by the ecosystems on Anglesey and their impact on the special qualities of the AONB	AONB	IoACC JAC NRW	2015/16	
TEA 2.3	Work with partners to create opportunity maps, using identified data, where land management changes could provide enhanced ecosystem services	Carry out a series of workshops with stakeholders to create opportunity maps and data to enable decisions	AONB	IoACC JAC NRW	2015/16	



Penmon



Appendix 1

Summary of evidence base, legislative and policy context



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL



Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales



Landscapes
for life
.org.uk



THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty



GYMDEITHAS
GENEDLAETHOL
Ardal o Harddwch
Naturiol Eithriadol



Summary of evidence base, legislative and policy context



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1 AONB Evidence base

1.1 Landscape/Seascape

1.1.1 The landscape quality of Anglesey and the AONB, as for the whole of Wales, is assessed using LANDMAP which assesses the diversity of landscapes, identifies and explains their most important characteristics and qualities – whether they are ordinary but locally important or nationally recognised landscapes.

LANDMAP is a computer based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities, and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set. The landscape is broken down into 5 nationally recognised layers which are:

- 1. Visual and Sensory
- 2. History
- 3. Landscape habitats
- 4. Culture
- 5. Geology

As stated in the last plan this data is now quality assured and comparisons can be made between the earliest data and the assured data. The differences were shown in the previous plan and since then the information has been reviewed and comparisons can be made between the 2009 maps and the maps in this plan.

Figure 1: Visual and sensory evaluations

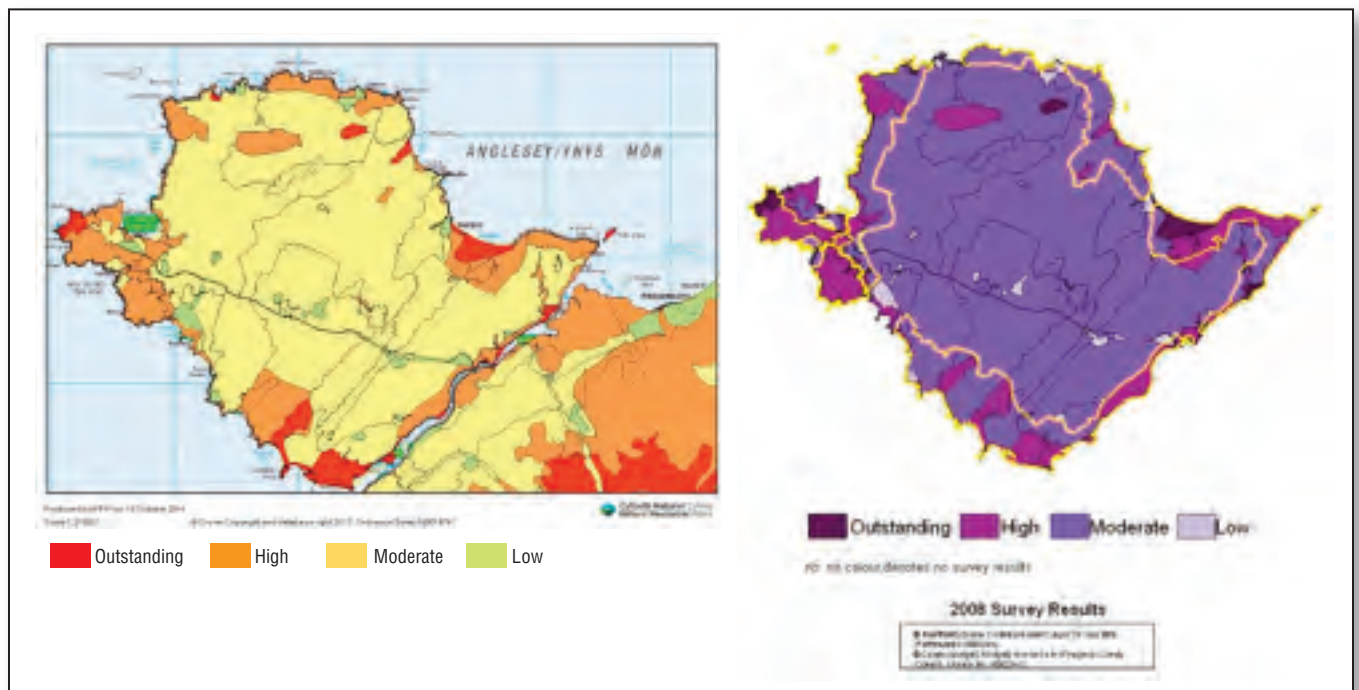




Figure 2: Landscape Habitats evaluations

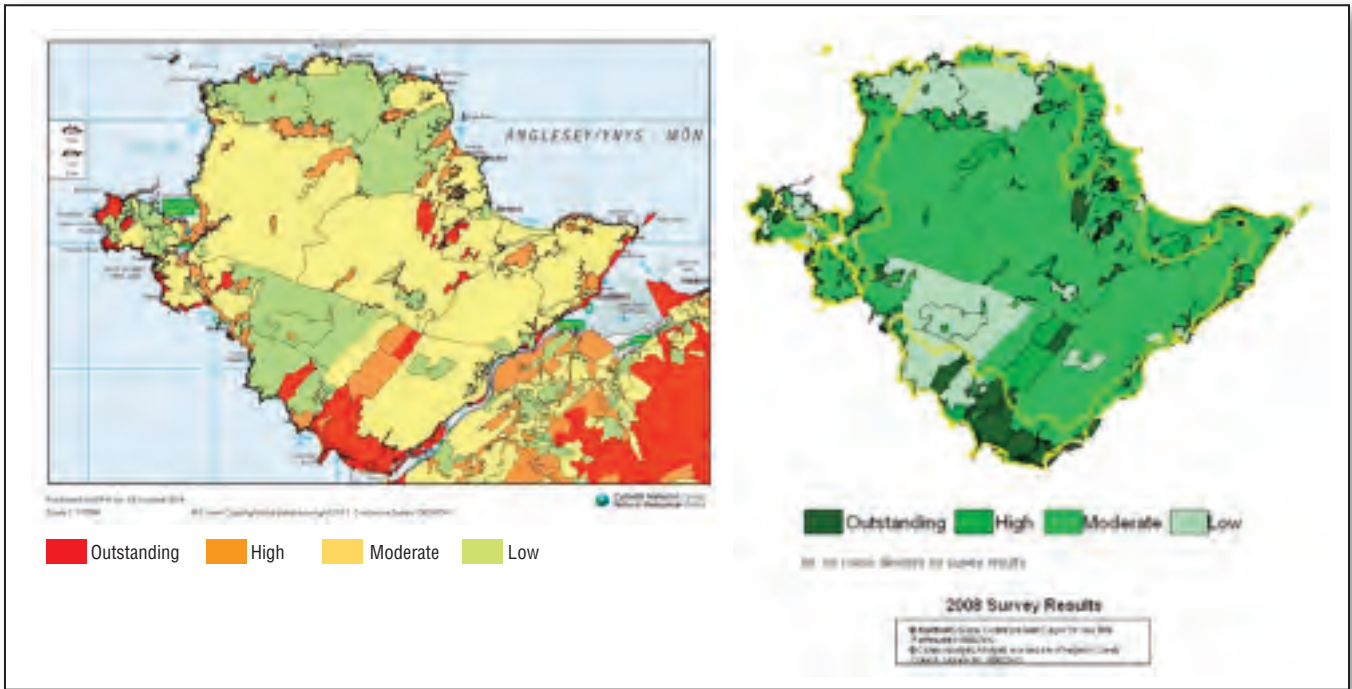


Figure 3: Geology evaluations

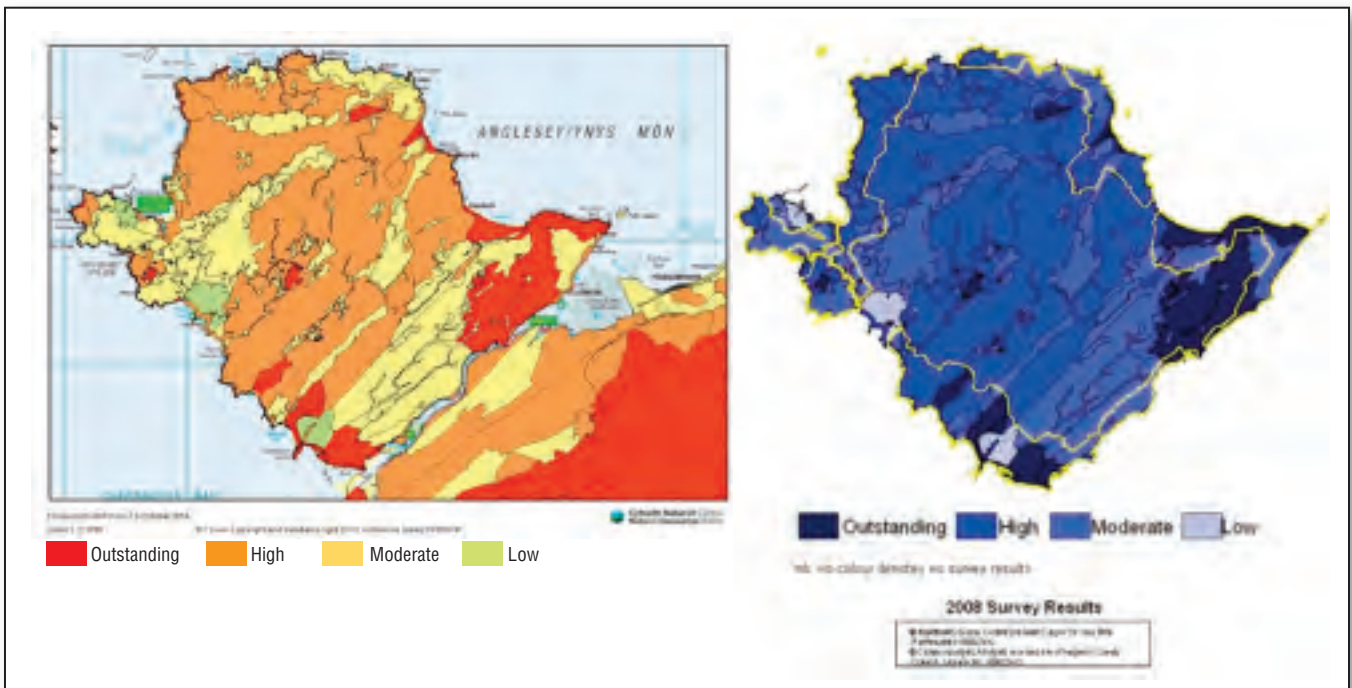




Figure 4: Historic evaluations

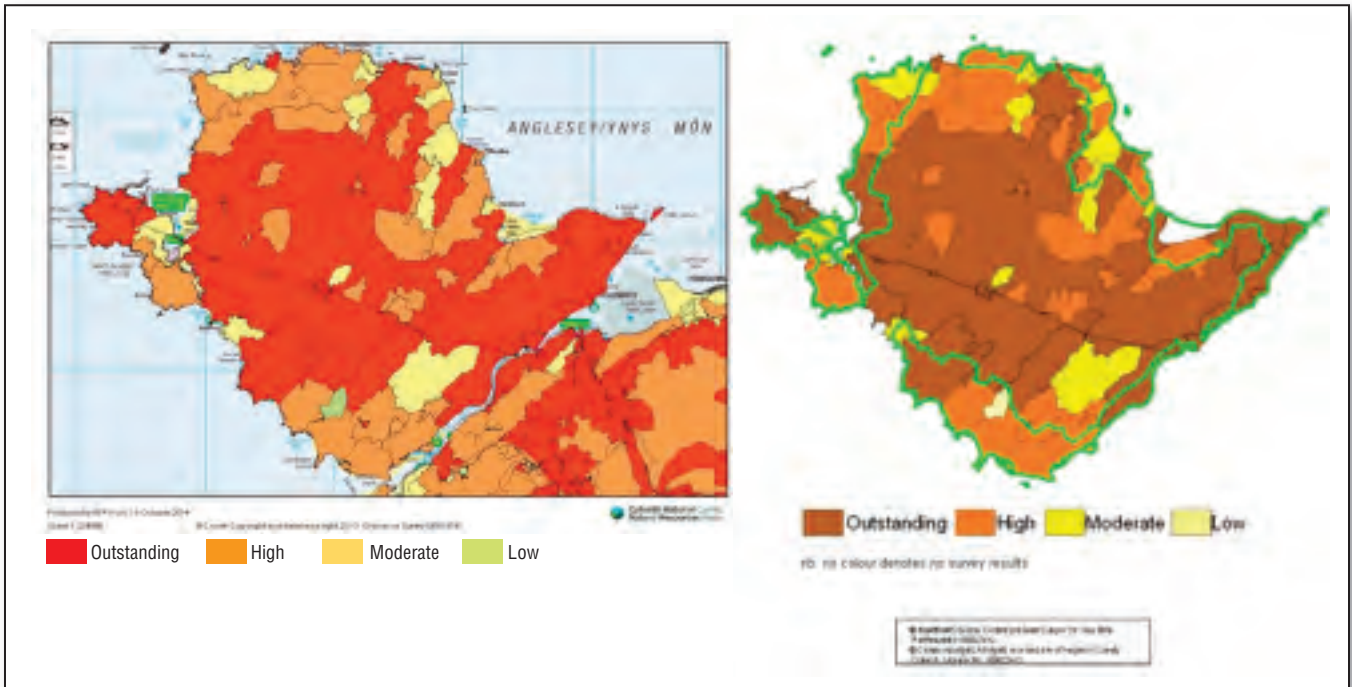


Figure 5: Cultural evaluations

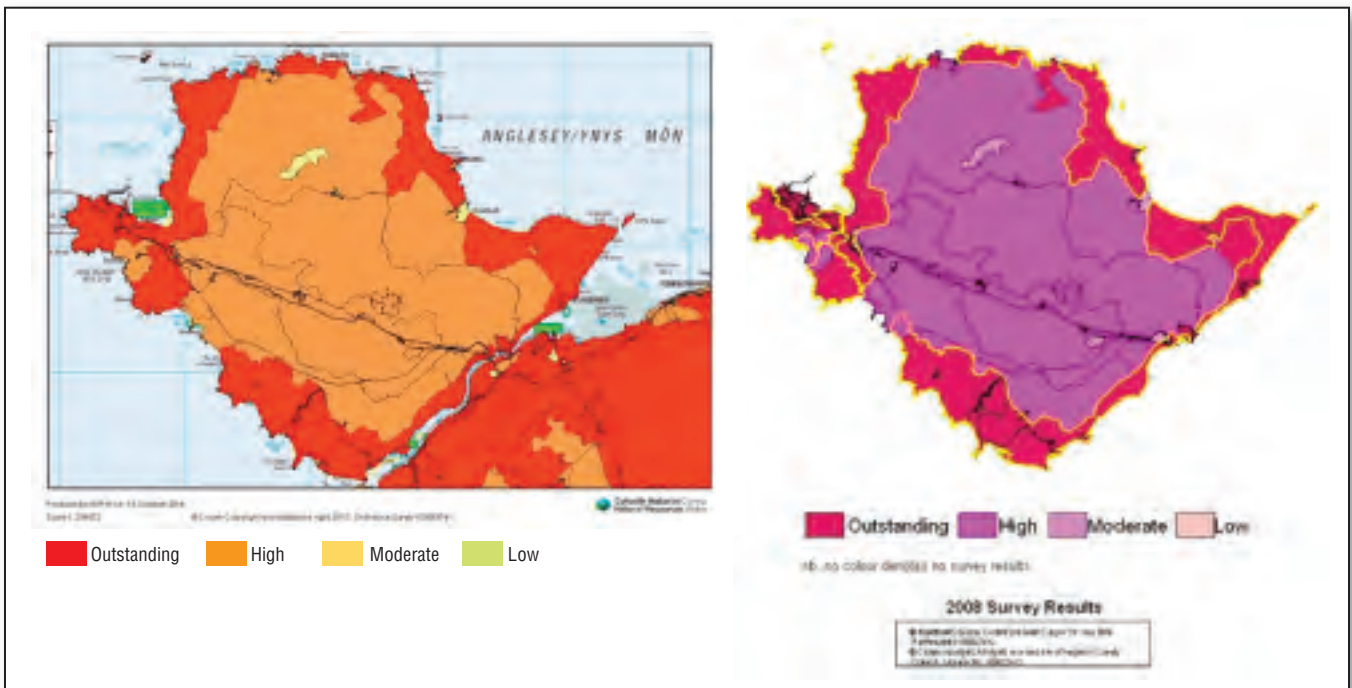
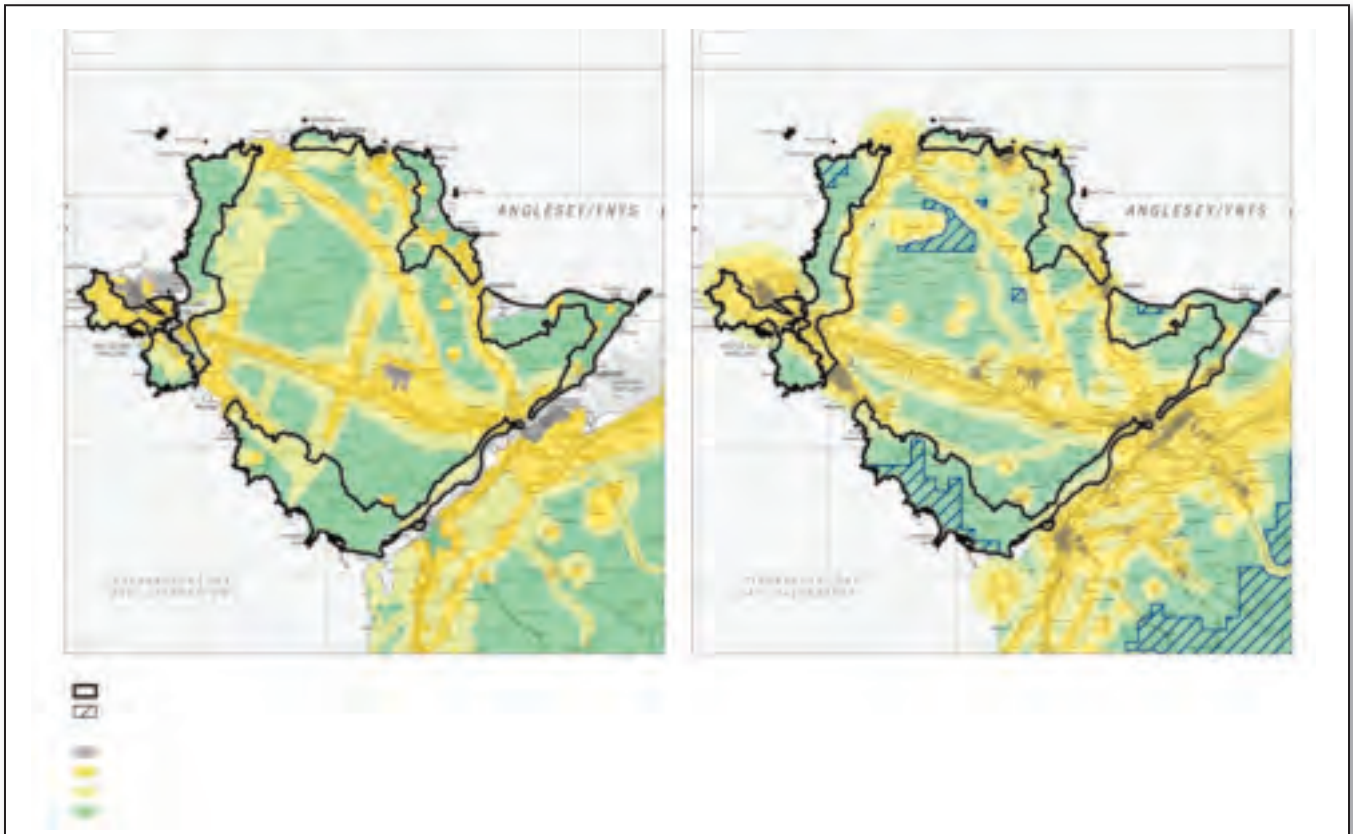


Figure 6: Tranquillity evaluations



1.1.2 The information provided in the maps and the descriptions that are associated with them in the database will guide us when we;

- Provide a description of the AONB for a wide audience;
- Raise awareness of the AONB, identifying the special character, special qualities and national and international importance of its landscape;
- Indicate the factors that have influenced landscape change in the past, and those that are likely to do so in the future;
- Provide guidance for landowners, land managers and policy makers on the conservation and enhancement of the characteristic landscape types of the area.

1.1.3 The influence on the character of the AONB by 'expansive views' is significant. By virtue of their height, scale and sheer size, the mountains of Snowdonia dominate the majority of the AONB's landscape. Add to this the ever changing appearance of the sea then the perception of the landscape of the AONB is one of exposure, openness, wilderness and a feeling of isolation.

The nature of the expansive views can be summarised as follows:

- Views across the Irish Sea;
- Views across those areas of Anglesey not included in the AONB designation;
- Local views, for example across the Menai Strait;
- Distant views, such as to the Great Orme, Snowdonia, Llyn Peninsula and the Isle of Man, often described as "borrowed landscapes".

1.1.4 The perception of the AONB's overall sense of peace and tranquillity is reaffirmed by the Tranquillity Areas Wales Report commissioned by the CCW in 1997. The purpose of the report was to identify the areas of the Welsh countryside that were relatively undisturbed by noise and visual intrusion and therefore considered unspoilt by urban influences. This data is currently being updated by CCW and will be considered when published.

The categories of possible intrusions include:

- Road Traffic;
- Settlements;
- Electrical Infrastructure;
- Industrial Sites;
- Aircraft;
- Wind Farms;
- Race Tracks

In addition to those identified in the 1997 report consid-



eration should also be given to offshore developments and the noise associated with jet skis.

The report concludes that the AONB is a relatively undisturbed and tranquil part of Anglesey, however there

is periodic yet significant noise and visual intrusion from aircraft, settlements, electrical infrastructure and recreational activities (CCW 1997). Further work on a tranquil area map for Wales was carried out by Land Use Consultants on behalf of CCW in 2009.

Table 1: Landscape/Seascape Resource - Special Qualities of the AONB

SPECIAL QUALITIES	EXTENT OF RESOURCE	CONDITION (derived from landmap)	WHY IMPORTANT?	FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION
Coastal Landscape Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea Cliffs and Rocky shores Sand Dunes Sandy Beaches Saltmarsh 	Sea cliffs are prominent on the west and north coasts, in particular at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rhoscolyn South Stack Ynys y Fydlyn Ynys Llanddwyn 	Variable	The AONB is a landscape designation The coastal landscape helps to define the character of Anglesey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in land management practices Changes in legislation Inappropriate development Economic pressures and threats Sea level rise, and the subsequent need for sea defences tied into this is managed retreat Development pressures Recreational pressures Pollution Decline of traditional light grazing Scrub development Conifer planting Common Agricultural Policy (European, National and Regional policy implications) Non-native Invasive Species
	Large dune systems are located at Newborough and Aberffraw. Dunes also located at Traeth Dulas, Red Wharf Bay and Rhosneigr	Variable	These features are distinctive, appealing and integral elements of the coastal landscape	
	Sandy beaches are located throughout the AONB. Includes beaches at Lligwy, Aberffraw, Llanddona and Llanddwyn	Variable	Beaches are an important economic asset for Anglesey	
	Saltmarshes are located throughout the AONB and Include: Traeth Melynog, Cefni Estuary, Cymyran Strait and Inland Sea, Traeth Dulas and Traeth Coch	Good	Saltmarsh is an important buffer between land and sea and provides coastal protection.	
Traditional Agricultural Landscape Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ancient Hedgerows Stone Walls Cloddiau 	Ancient hedgerows are more concentrated in the south and east of the AONB.	Declining	The AONB is a landscape designation The agricultural landscape helps to define the character of Anglesey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in land management practices Changes in legislation Inappropriate development Economic pressures and threats General neglect Removal to increase field sizes Road widening Inappropriate cutting regimes Changes in grant schemes Non-native Invasive Species
	Associated with boundaries (parish, estate and farm) country lanes and trackways.		These features are a valuable wildlife habitat and are link corridors for flora and fauna	
			These features are an integral element of the AONB's landscape	
Expansive Views	Throughout the AONB	Good	Such views provide a significant contrast and backdrop to the landscape of Anglesey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in land management practices Inappropriate development Energy production and transmission

(continued next page...)



Table 1 – Landscape/Seascape Resource - Special Qualities of the AONB (continued)

SPECIAL QUALITIES	EXTENT OF RESOURCE	CONDITION (derived from landmap)	WHY IMPORTANT?	FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION
Peace and Tranquillity	Majority of the AONB	Poor to good	<p>The landscape provides a rewarding experience for both residents and tourists</p> <p>The landscape is an economic asset</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in land management practices • Changes in legislation • Inappropriate development • Energy production • Inappropriate recreation • Transport • Race track developments
Islands around Anglesey	30 islands are included in the AONB designation	Variable	These islands are an important physical link between the landscape and seascape of Anglesey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and sea level rise • Changes in legislation • Natural processes • Off shore developments

1.2 Geology and Geomorphology

1.2.1 Anglesey is the largest island located adjacent to the Welsh coastline. The current landform of Anglesey was only formed 8000 years ago when an increase in post glacial meltwater led to a dramatic rise in the sea level, causing the narrow valleys which today form the Menai Strait, to flood. Holy Island was also created during the same period. The importance of the Island’s geology has long been appreciated and understood and in order to promote this recognition GeoMôn was established through the Anglesey Geodiversity Partnership. The main focus of GeoMôn was to have the geodiversity of Anglesey recognised as being of International importance. In 2013 GeoMôn successfully retained the UNESCO ‘Geopark’ status for Anglesey which is supported by the European Geoparks Network.

1.2.2 The solid geology of the Anglesey AONB is noted for its variety, from the ancient Precambrian rocks covering two thirds of the island including the northern coast, Holy Island and down to the Menai Strait, to the unique outcrops of Sandstone in Lligwy Bay, and the concentration of Carboniferous Limestone in the East from Moelfre to Penmon.

1.2.3 The geology of the AONB consists primarily of Precambrian rocks. These rocks form the Mona Complex, a 6000 metre basement that consists of metamorphosed sediments, volcanic and igneous intrusions (GeoMôn 2009). Two thirds of Anglesey, and consequently the AONB, has been formed from these Precambrian rocks. For example, the intensely folded South Stack, The Skerries, Carmel Head, Llanddwyn

Island and Cemaes Bay are all part of the Mona Complex. They reflect their tectonic origin and were, in the main, formed at either constructive or destructive oceanic plate margins. Apart from the Scottish Highlands, Anglesey consists of the most extensive tract of ancient rocks in Great Britain (IACC 1999). Within the area of the Mona complex, geological coastal features such as cliffs, arches, inlets, caves and islands are distinctive features.

The geology of the east and south east regions of the AONB is dominated by Carboniferous Limestone. Both the sea cliffs and the surface outcrops in the form of limestone pavements are notable geological features, particularly around Lligwy and Penmon.

The geology of the Island has a distinctive linear pattern which follows a north east – south west direction. The geology is limited by the presence of fault lines which appear on the landscape as small escarpments.

In the north of the AONB, away from the cliffs, the solid geology lies buried beneath boulder clay which forms an extensive drumlin field and other glacial deposits. Shaped by melting ice and glacial runoff estuarine sands, gravels and the drumlins are distinctive geomorphological feature.

Other notable geomorphological features in the AONB include the extensive sand dunes at Newborough and Aberffraw, raised beaches, coastal wetlands and saltmarshes in the lower areas.

1.2.4 The importance of the AONB’s geology has been recognised through the protection of several sites as



either Geological Conservation Review sites (GCR) or Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS).

GCR's are nationally important sites, protected by law as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. There are 21 GCR's

in the Anglesey AONB, including Rhoscolyn, Carmel Head and Llanddwyn Island. The AONB also includes 31 RIGS including Point Lynas, The Skerries, Church Bay and the Beaumaris Dykes.

Table 2: A summary of the significant geological and geomorphological features of the Anglesey AONB

COMPONENT ASPECTS	CONDITION (derived from landmap)	DESCRIPTION
Holyhead Mountain	High	Precambrian outcrop. Heavily folded. Highest point on Anglesey
Holy Island	High	Primarily intensely folded green -micaschists. Lower lying and shorter cliff faces. Rare serpentine intrusions derived from the earth's mantle. GCR Sites
Carmel Head	High	Thrust and folded Precambrian and Ordovician rocks. Coves and spectacular caves. GCR site
Skerries	High	Melange and volcanic rocks. Precambrian island group
North West Drumlin Field	High	Extensive post glacial geomorphological landform
Northern Coastal Zone	High	Precambrian rare stromatolitic fossils, important sedimentary melange. Complex rocky landform
Mynydd Eilian	High	Precambrian/Ordovician fault. RIGS site
Lligwy Bay Sandstone Zone	High	Devonian Old Red Sandstone GCR Site. Unique in North Wales
Eastern limestone zone	High	Includes small areas of limestone pavement on extensive carboniferous limestone. GCR and RIGS sites. Important quarrying area
Penmon Limestone	High	Carboniferous limestone. Areas of limestone pavement. GCR and RIGS sites
Menai Zone	High	Areas of schists, limestone and red measures. GCR and RIGS sites
Newborough Warren Blown Sand	High	Major geomorphological complex GCR site adjacent to world class pillow lavas erupted on a sea bed at a constructive ocean plate margin
Aberffraw Blown Sand	High	Complex of blown sand. Important dune system. GCR site





Table 3: Geology - Special qualities of the AONB

SPECIAL QUALITIES	EXTENT OF RESOURCE	CONDITION (derived from landmap)	WHY IMPORTANT?	FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION
<p>Geological and Geomorphological Features</p>	<p>21 GCR's and 31 RIGS have been designated in the AONB. Since 2009 the entire island has been designated a UNESCO European Geopark and is a member of the Global Geoparks Network</p>	<p>Variable</p>	<p>The Island's geology and geomorphology has a dramatic effect on the AONB's landscape and biodiversity</p> <p>Anglesey consists of some of the most ancient tracts of rocks in Great Britain</p> <p>The features provide an insight into the geological evolution of the Island</p> <p>The geology has influenced the location and nature of Anglesey's communities, economic activities and the transport infrastructure</p> <p>A Geopark is a territory with a geological heritage of European significance and a sustainable development strategy with a strong management structure. It aims to protect geodiversity, to promote geological heritage to the general public as well as to support sustainable economic development of geopark territories primarily through the development of geological tourism.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in land management practices • Changes in legislation • Inappropriate development including sea defences • Economic pressures and threats • Climatic change and sea level rise • Recreational pressures • Management agreements and the availability of funding • Vegetation and non-native invasive species • Quarrying • Accessibility of exposure





Figure 7: Geological designations



1.3 Ecology and Biodiversity

1.3.1 The diversity of the AONB's habitats and wildlife also adds to the distinctiveness of the AONB. The AONB's rich matrix of habitats is heavily influenced by the sea, as well as the effects of agriculture, development, climate change, drainage, afforestation, visitor pressures, succession and the underlying geology.

Analysis of the information from the Anglesey Local Biodiversity Action Plan (IACC [b] 2002) reveals that the AONB contains notable examples of marine, aquatic and terrestrial habitats and their typical species.

These habitats and species are key components of the AONB's landscape. A loss of any of these habitats would have a detrimental and dramatic effect on the quality of the landscape features.

The number of environmental designations present in the AONB is also a clear indication of the value and importance of the AONB, both aesthetically, and in terms of its biodiversity.

1.3.2 Marine Habitats

Sandy Beaches

There are many sandy beaches in the AONB. They are

important in terms of biodiversity because of their intertidal flora and fauna, and also because many beaches are nesting and feeding sites for birds.

Rocky Shores

Rocky shores are characterised by rock pools, cliffs and areas of shingle and boulders. They can be found throughout the Anglesey AONB. Rocky shores are important areas for nesting birds, and also intertidal flora and fauna. The shingle ridge at Cemlyn is a particularly fine example of a 'bay head barrier'.

Recreational pressure on these shores is increasing, and at South Stack, the RSPB, with co-operation from the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), have introduced a voluntary agreement to limit the effects of the public on breeding birds. This excellent example of recreational restraint should be encouraged in other locations around coast.

Sand Dunes

There are extensive areas of sand dunes on the Western coast of the AONB at Aberffraw, Newborough Warren and Rhosneigr. Sand dunes are formed when wind-blown sand collects into mounds, which are then colonised and stabilised by species such as marram grass. The sand dunes have a diverse and characteristic flora including mosses, lichens and orchids.

Saline Lagoons



An extensive saline lagoon exists at Cemlyn Bay, where the shingle bar has cut off an area of brackish water from the sea. The lagoon is one of the largest in Wales and has a specialised invertebrate fauna. The islands in the pool are also an important tern breeding colony in the summer.

Saltmarsh and Mudflats

There are numerous examples of saltmarsh and mudflats along Anglesey's coast such as the Inland Sea, Alaw Estuary and Traeth Dulas. These are important sites for migratory waterfowl and wading birds and as fish nursery areas. The mudflats and saltmarshes of the Cefni, Braint and Alaw estuaries, in particular, are recognised for their importance in an European context as part of the Glannau Môn Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

1.3.3 Aquatic Habitats

Lakes, Rivers and Ponds

The AONB contains numerous lakes, rivers and ponds and is one of the richest lake resources in Wales. Llyn Maelog and Llyn Coron are the largest lakes in the AONB, and they are important sites for migratory and breeding birds and also for their aquatic plant species.

Rivers act as wildlife corridors for many species, including water voles and otters.

There are also many ponds throughout the AONB, including some which are permanent and temporary. The temporary ponds tend to appear after periods of sustained rainfall. The ponds contain various species, including amphibians, insects and water plants. Over recent years many ponds have been lost due to neglect or deliberate infilling.

Reedbeds

Reedbeds are often located around lakes and areas of wet ground. In the AONB, this includes Llyn Maelog, Rhoscolyn and Llanlleiana. Reeds provide a sheltered habitat for birds, such as Bitterns and it is hoped that this species will hopefully soon re-establish itself on the island.

Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Grazing marsh exists in low lying areas of wet land. The habitat is made up of wet pasture and man-made drainage channels. The ditches tend to be colonised by various aquatic plants and invertebrate communities, whilst the grazing marsh supports birds such as snipe, lapwing and curlew.

1.3.4 Terrestrial Habitats

Farmland

Agriculture is the main land use in the AONB. The

agricultural landscape of the AONB consists of areas of semi-improved and improved grassland, rough grazing and crops with small, isolated woodlands.

The varied nature of this agricultural landscape is due to the interaction of a number of factors: physical, historic and climatic (IACC 1996).

The amount of improved grassland in the AONB has risen since the AONB designation in 1966 as a result of more efficient management techniques and the use of more resilient grass varieties. These practices have led to a reduction in the biodiversity associated with grassland flora and fauna on a national scale.

Hedgerows

Hedgerows are a distinctive feature of the AONB, especially in the East and South of the Island. Hedgerows are a vital component of the AONB's landscape, and they are also important wildlife corridors for many species. Since 1997 the Hedgerow Regulations have lent some protection to important hedgerows [REDACTED]. Locally these regulations are administered by the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

Ancient hedgerows in the AONB are typically found along country lanes, estate boundaries and former parish boundaries.

Hedgerows, cloddiau and stonewalls are also common features of the agricultural landscape. Many enclosure hedgerows from the late 18th Century are composed mainly of hawthorn and blackthorn, and are less important as defined by the Hedgerow Regulations.

Woodlands

Semi natural woodlands, consisting of broadleaved species such as oak, alder and ash, are mainly located in the South and East of the AONB. These woodlands have a variety of associated flora and fauna, including bluebells, wood anemones and bats.

There are also two extensive conifer plantations in the AONB, one at Newborough, the other at Pentraeth. Before recent reintroductions at Newborough the plantation at Pentraeth held the last red squirrel population on the island. Anglesey is one of the few areas left in Wales where red squirrels survive.

Flower Rich Roadside Verges

Road Side verges are notable features of the AONB, especially when in full bloom. Some of these verges support numerous wild flowers, including primroses and early purple orchids.

Heathland

Heathland, in particular coastal heath, is an extremely important feature of the AONB landscape. Heathland consists mainly of heather and gorse, with bracken, grassland and scrub. This habitat supports wildlife such



as silver studded blue butterflies, reptiles and choughs.

Within the AONB the main areas of coastal heathland are located at Holyhead Mountain, Mynydd Bodafon, Penrhoslligwy, Fedw Fawr, Mariandrys and Bwrdd Arthur.

1.3.5 Biodiversity Action Plan and the AONB

Anglesey’s Local Biodiversity Action Plan is a partnership approach between a variety of organisations, including the IACC, NRW, the North Wales Wildlife Trust and others.

The plan seeks to preserve and enhance local habitats and species which are of UK, Welsh or local importance, by listing sets of specific planned actions to be undertaken in coming years. Action plans seek to conserve and enhance the status of habitats and species that have suffered high losses, or which are particularly threatened.

Because of its ecological importance, the AONB is a focus point for Biodiversity action. Many of the habitats and species that are found within the AONB have their own action plans.

Table 4: Ecology & Biodiversity - Special qualities of the AONB

SPECIAL QUALITIES	EXTENT OF RESOURCE	CONDITION (LUC 2014)	WHY IMPORTANT?	FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION
Broadleaved Woodland	The majority of the semi-natural woodland on Anglesey (1000ha) is located in the AONB, in particular along the Menai Strait and the east coast	Declining	Anglesey is one of the least wooded counties in the UK There is limited natural woodland coverage in the AONB Woodlands are a distinctive, appealing and integral element of the AONB’s landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing isolation between woodlands General neglect Grazing of ground layer restricts natural regeneration Changes in land management practices Competition from non-native invasive species
Lowland and Coastal Heath	The majority of the heathland on Anglesey is located in the AONB. Present at many SSSI’s including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tre Wilmot Penrhoslligwy Fedw Fawr Mariandrys Bwrdd Arthur Ty Croes Holyhead Mountain Mynydd Bodafon Breakwater Country Park 	Unfavourable recovering	On a world scale, heathland is a rare habitat, with its major stronghold in Western Europe Anglesey’s heathland constitutes approximately 12.5% of the lowland heathland in Wales and 1.7% of the heathland in the UK Heathland is a distinctive and integral element of the AONB’s landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overgrazing leading to loss of dwarf shrubs Abandonment of cliff top grazing due to recreational pressure Scrub development Changing agricultural practices Abandonment of Commons The decline in appropriate burning regimes of heathland Atmospheric eutrophication



1.4 Historic Environment

1.4.1 Early Settlement

Anglesey's landscape contains a wealth of prehistoric remains that span more than 10,000 years of human history. Flint scatters and middens (heaps of domestic waste) have been found at a number of coastal locations on the island and are all that survives of the hunter-gather groups who lived here following the end of the last Ice Age. The first agricultural communities which lived in western Britain from around 6000 years ago placed their dead in stone burial chambers, six of which survive in the AONB. Recent discoveries close to one of the most famous of these, Trefignath Burial Chamber, have revealed buried remains of a rectangular timber building dating to the same period: an extremely rare survival and the first to be found on the island.

A change in the way people buried their dead occurred between 4,000 and 5,000 years ago, and a new type of burial can be seen at Trwyn Du, Aberffraw, where coastal erosion has revealed a burial containing a single body in a D-shaped grave under a circular stone cairn. Occasional standing stones, usually single examples, though also found in groups of two or three, were erected at about this time, though most lie inland of the coast.

Much more survives of the later prehistoric period, from about 3000 years ago, including round house settlements and hillforts. Most of the hillforts are situated near the coast, and include Din Silwy, which is located on a large limestone plateau overlooking Red Wharf Bay, as well as Caer y Twr on Holyhead Mountain, which has stone-built ramparts surviving up to 3m high in places. Just below this, near South Stack, are the remains of a round house settlement which was lived in during the late prehistoric period. Further south again at Porth Dafarch is a complex site containing Bronze Age burials, round houses occupied during the Roman period and burials of post-Roman date. Other fine examples of late prehistoric settlements are to be found across the island, at places such as Din Lligwy near Moelfre and at Penmon. It is thought that by the late Iron Age, just over 2000 years ago, much of the island had already been cleared of trees. By this period, Anglesey was a landscape of dispersed farming settlements.

The island was known to the Romans as Mona, and it seems to have become an important military target soon after the conquest of southern Britain. Three campaigns led to the final subjugation of the island in 78 A.D. The Roman Army's interest in Anglesey was probably linked to its great agricultural potential. Anglesey is thought to have been an important source of grain for North Wales in the Iron Age and Roman periods. The island was also exploited by the Romans for its mineral wealth, in particular the copper resources at Amlwch. In the later Roman

period a fort was built at Holyhead and a look-out tower on the mountain above in response to a threat from Ireland.

Despite the conquest, there seems to have been much continuity from the Iron Age through the Romano-British periods for much of the population, with settlements and agricultural practices taking a relatively similar form across many centuries.

1.4.2 The Medieval Countryside

Following the departure of the Roman army in the late fourth century A.D., Anglesey became the power base of the Princes of Gwynedd. Aberffraw, on the west coast, was the probable location of the principle court or llys of the Princes in the early medieval period. Other important centres in this period include Rhosyr (Newborough), Cemaes, Penrhos Lligwy and Llanfaes. Llanfaes, once the most important commercial centres of medieval Anglesey, was destroyed on command of Edward I at the time of the conquest to make way for a new town and castle, Beaumaris. The castle is designated as part of a World Heritage Site. The population of Llanfaes was moved to form the new borough of Newborough at the south of the island.

By the late middle ages there was very little woodland left on the island, with Coedcadw near Beaumaris being the only surviving wood of any size. The landscape contained large areas of open fields divided into strips and farmed in common with neighbours. Meadow land and poorer land was used for grazing, and strict rules were necessary to ensure stock was kept away from the open fields during the growing and harvesting seasons. Small nucleated settlements were occupied by bond tenants, whilst freeholders lived in isolated farmsteads. There are no examples of small medieval cottages remaining, though the slightly later half-crucked and thatched cottage at Swtan, Porth y Cychod gives a good idea how one of these cottages would have looked, as do the foundations at Hendai in Newborough Forest.

1.4.3 The importance of the sea

Marine communication and coastal resources including fishing have been vitally important throughout Anglesey's history. Fishing has employed many techniques including the use of nets, boats and hook and line, which have persisted until the present day, but the use of fixed barriers or fish weirs has largely died out. The weir was a very efficient method of catching large amounts of fish with a relatively low input of resources. The remains of many of these survive around the Anglesey coastline, including Gorad Tre-Castell and Gallow's Point near Beaumaris, and Traeth Lligwy, Moelfre. The sea has also been harnessed as a source of power. Tidal mills worked by penning up water behind dams on the incoming tide. As the tide fell, the water was let out



through a sluice gate where it turned the mill wheel. Remains of five tide mills can be seen in the rocky inlets of the narrow strait between Holy Island and Anglesey, including a particularly fine example at Felin Carnau, Valley. The sea has also played an important part in travel and communication since the earliest times. Some of the burial tombs of the earliest farmers, which were constructed around 5000 years ago, reveal contact with eastern Ireland. The intricate zig-zag and spiral decorations pecked into stones at Barclodiad y Gawres (Llanfaelog) are similar to those found in Ireland. Although Holyhead is the only surviving major port on Anglesey today, they were more numerous in the past. Cemaes and Moelfre were significant fishing ports from the eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries, and the copper mined from Parys Mountain in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was shipped out through Amlwch. Historical documents show that there were over ten ports and harbours around the coast of Anglesey in the sixteenth century, including Aberffraw, Traeth Coch and Beaumaris.

Prior to the construction of Telford's bridge across the Menai Strait in 1826 and the opening of Stephenson's bridge carrying the Chester and Holyhead railway in 1850, the only means of communication between Anglesey and the mainland was by boat. Six ferries plied the Menai Strait from Caernarfon in the south to Beaumaris in the north. The sea sometimes poses a direct threat to life on the land. For example, almost half of the parish of Newborough was covered by sand in a devastating storm on 6th December 1330 and accounts of further storms and incursion by the sea survive from the 14th century. The coastal heritage of Anglesey in today's AONB landscape is very rich, varying from headlands with prehistoric defensive sites, to stretches of ornamental nineteenth century parkland, and from seaside holiday developments to working harbours.

1.4.4 Churches, chapels and holy wells – religion in the landscape

Religious life and ceremony has left its mark on the Anglesey landscape since the earliest times. Prehistoric standing stones, such as those at Penrhos Feilw on Holy Island, and elaborate burial tombs hint at ritual activities and beliefs that we have no detailed knowledge of today.

Our earliest knowledge of Christianity on Anglesey is derived from a series of inscribed stones dating from the 6th and 7th centuries AD. Cemeteries from the same period containing burials in stone-lined graves have been found in many locations around the coast, including Trearddur Bay and Penmon. Land was donated to the church by members of the ruling families, and churches established on these sites frequently dominated the ecclesiastical scene, and were responsible for sub-churches in their area. Examples include Penmon, Llanellian and Holyhead. Each would have

been staffed by canons and ruled by an Abbot, and were called 'clas' churches, after the 'claswyr' or canons. At Ynys Seiriol a particularly ascetic community with Irish affinities, part of a larger group called Culdees (Celi Du or 'Servants of God') were established. Ynys Seiriol and Penmon were, in the 12th century, granted to the Augustinians, who built the monastic buildings now alongside Penmon Church.

Penmon is one of two locations in the AONB classified by Cadw as an Outstanding Historic Landscape. The other is Amlwch and Parys Mountain, which encroaches slightly into the boundary of the AONB.

A distinctive feature of the Anglesey landscape is the large number of isolated medieval churches (many of which are protected listed buildings), distant from villages and towns and often accompanied by no more than a single farm. Many of the churches would have originally served an adjacent village or hamlet which has not survived through to the modern day. The earliest standing remains date from the 12th century, when nearly all the medieval churches were first built and the parochial system was established. Many churches, however, were rebuilt either in the later medieval or in Victorian times.

Numerous 'holy' wells also bear the names of Celtic saints. Some of these wells may date back to the early medieval period, if not to earlier times. Many of these sites have been known and used for hundreds of years and commonly have had later superstructures, such as enclosing walls and roofs, added to them. The wells, which can be found throughout the island usually have strong folklore associations and are traditionally thought to have healing powers.

During the 18th and 19th centuries as society and the economy changed, so too did attitudes to religion. By the 1850s, when Nonconformists accounted for eight out of ten of the inhabitants of Wales, chapels were being built in huge numbers and were architecturally elaborate. Chapels are a distinctive landmark of the streetscapes of most settlements throughout the island.

1.4.5 Rural life and the cottage economy - from the C16th – C19th

Whilst arable and pasture have dominated the economy of the island for centuries, people have also exploited a wide range of other resources in the Anglesey landscape. Throughout much of the history of the island, the bulk of the population practised a subsistence economy, relying upon the land for their livelihood. People cut peat and turves for fuel and gathered rushes to make candles and reeds to thatch their cottages. In some cases these activities developed into quite substantial rural industries. At Newborough, villagers cut marram grass which grew on the sand dunes of Newborough Common and used it to make mats,



baskets, ropes, hay-stack covers, brooms and other products. These were sold both locally and at markets on Anglesey and the mainland. The industry seems to have flourished in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and despite declining after the early nineteenth century, when the common was enclosed and townspeople had to start paying for the right to harvest the grass, the practice survived into the 1930s. Mills for grinding grain were a significant feature in the landscape and were an important part of the local economy. Whilst the majority were water powered, and a very good example can be seen at Cemlyn on the north coast, others were wind powered. Post mills (timber windmills supported on a single post) were built up to the 17th century, but in the 18th century these were replaced by the tall stone-built tower mills that still dominate parts of the landscape.

1.4.6 Improvement of the landscape and the rise of the landed estates

The open fields of medieval arable cultivation were slowly replaced by piecemeal enclosure. Farms as discrete blocks of land with associated farmsteads and scattered cottages became the norm and pasture for livestock became the dominant agricultural concern. The enclosure and subdivision of the open fields had begun by the 16th century. Initially these enclosures would have consisted of small fields, or closes, which in some cases followed the strips of the open fields. The irregular patchwork of fields can still be seen in the landscape, for example around Aberffraw. By the early 19th century large ruler-straight fields were being laid out in many areas, obscuring and all but obliterating the pattern of the medieval landscape.

The livestock raised and fattened on the pastures of Anglesey were sold at local markets, such as at Beaumaris, Llannerchymedd and Llangefni, as well as further afield. There is also a long tradition of droving from Anglesey. Records dating as far back as the early fifteenth century record cattle crossing the Menai from Porthaethwy to the mainland. They were swum over the Strait, from where they would be driven overland to markets in England.

Property transactions including the purchase of the crown lands, available from the 17th century, led to the creation of a number of large estates and consolidated farms. The increasing wealth of the landed gentry found expression in architecture, for example in substantial and ornate houses at Plas Newydd and Bodorgan. It can also be seen in the design and creation of gardens and parkland. Six parks and gardens located within the AONB have been included on the Cadw / International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. These sites are:

- Plas Newydd

- Plas Rhianfa
- Llanidan
- Carreglwyd
- Bodorgan;
- Cestyll

Because the landed gentry owned so much of the island between them they were able to take the lead in landscape 'improvements' designed to increase agricultural productivity. Other improvement work besides the enclosure of the landscape included the drainage of many wetland areas including numerous small lakes throughout the island, though of particular coastal significance were the reclamation and enclosure of coastal estuaries. Llangefni, for example, had been a coastal town until the enclosure of the Cefni estuary.

1.4.7 Industrial Anglesey

Despite being a predominantly rural area, Anglesey, by the late eighteenth century, was also the focus of considerable industrial activity. The most dramatic works were the copper mines at Parys Mountain, and these, with the town of Amlwch and port at Porth Amlwch form a remarkable landscape. Copper workings can be found at many other places around the coast, including Llanbadrig and Llanfairynghornwy. Stone extraction is evident in many locations, including limestone from Penmon, granite from Holyhead and roofing slate from Llanellian.

The construction of the 2.4km breakwater at Holyhead between 1848 and 1873 has left a defining monument and a landscape which includes quarries, tramways, industrial buildings, a Victorian gothic country house and terraces of workers housing. A number of brickworks were founded close to the coast, both because of the plentiful supply of appropriate raw material, and convenient transport by boat. The best example is at Porth Wen, Llanbadrig, where domed shaped kilns and tall chimneys contrast with the rugged sea cliffs. Improvements to road and rail were essential to handle increasing trade and passenger transport, and these are nowhere more evident than in Telford's suspension bridge and Stephenson's rail bridge across the Menai Strait.

1.4.8 Twentieth Century

A number of key defensive and military facilities were located on the island during the two World Wars, including RAF Bodorgan (originally known as RAF Aberffraw) which opened in 1940. Targets towed behind radio controlled planes operated from the base were used to train anti-aircraft gunners at Ty Croes. The Saunders Roe factory at Beaumaris modified American built flying boats and sea planes to British specifications as well as producing hulls for British amphibious aircraft, and towards the end of the war, motor torpedo boats.



The twentieth century saw tourism and, more recently, energy production (in the shape of Wylfa nuclear power station and windfarms) take substantial roles in shaping the present day landscapes of the AONB. Wylfa, operating from 1971, is now reaching the end of its productive life. Also built at the same time was the large aluminium works at Holyhead, designed to use surplus power from Wylfa.

Changes in agriculture have led to a decline in the use of traditional farm buildings and an increase in the ubiquitous large general purpose barns which now dominate the farmstead. Many farmhouses and farm buildings are no longer in agricultural use, and are either renovated for a new commuting or partially resident holiday population or allowed to fall into ruin.

1.4.9 Statutory Protection

- 67 Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- 565 Listed Buildings
- 4 Conservation Areas
- 2 registered historic landscapes
- 6 registered historic parks and gardens
- 3 stretches of Heritage Coast
- 1 designated wrecks
- 1 World Heritage Site

Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)

A schedule has been kept since 1882 of monuments considered to be of national importance by the government. The current legislation, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, supports a formal system of Scheduled Monument Consent for any work to a designated monument. Scheduling is the only legal protection specifically for archaeological sites.

It is a legal requirement to obtain the written consent of Welsh Ministers before carrying out most types of work on a scheduled monument, including repairs. This permission, Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC), can be obtained from Cadw.

Listed Buildings (LBs)

Listing helps us acknowledge and understand our shared history. It marks and celebrates a building's special architectural and historic interest, and also brings it under the consideration of the planning system so that some thought will be taken about its future. The older a building is, the more likely it is to be listed.

Any works which will change the character of a Listed Building require Listed Building Consent (LBC). Private applicants will need consent from the Anglesey local planning authority, who apply to the Planning Division of the Welsh Government for consent. If the planning authority considers that consent should be granted, then in most cases the papers are referred to Cadw. Cadw's role is to consider the issues raised by the application and recommend whether it should be 'called in' for consideration by the Welsh Government. In

practice, this will be the Planning Division or the Planning Inspectorate. It is a criminal offence to alter a LB without LBC.

There are a total of 565 listed buildings in the AONB; 32 grade I, 42 grade II* and 491 grade II.

Conservation Areas (CAs)

The first conservation areas in the UK were designated in 1967 and there are now over 500 conservation areas in Wales. They are designated for their special architectural and historic interest. Of the 12 Conservation Areas in Anglesey, four lie within the AONB: Aberffraw, Beaumaris, Holyhead Mountain and Menai Bridge. Anglesey local council requires Conservation Area Consent (CAC) for the following developments in a Conservation Area:-

- The demolition of buildings exceeding 115m3.
- The demolition of any wall exceeding 1.0m in height, if it abuts a highway or public open space.
- The demolition of any wall exceeding 2.0m in height.
- Permitted development such as extensions and satellite disks, require CAC, for some domestic properties

In addition, works to trees requires six weeks written notice of the intention to fell top or lop any tree with a trunk in excess of 75mm in diameter at a height of 1.0m above ground level (subject to some exceptions).

Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales

To recognise the value of historic landscapes, and raise awareness of their importance, Cadw, in partnership with the Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS UK), compiled a Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales. In two volumes, it identifies 58 landscapes of outstanding or special historic interest, which are considered to be the best examples of different types of historic landscapes in Wales. Two of these lie within or partly within Anglesey AONB: Amlwch and Parys Mountain (HLW Gw 1), and Penmon (HLW Gw 15).

Historic Landscape Characterisation has been carried out for these landscape areas by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. Characterisation takes a closer look at the historic landscape by showing the processes that have shaped the landscape over centuries of human activity, contributing to its present character.

The Register provides information to decision makers and landscape managers, to help ensure that the historic character of the landscape is sustained, and that where change is being considered, it is well-informed. These historic landscapes are a material consideration in the planning process, as outlined in PPW Wales (2014), paragraph 6.5.25.

Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of



Special Historic Interest in Wales

Cadw has undertaken a comprehensive survey of historic parks and gardens in Wales. Those thought to be of national importance have been included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. The Register was compiled in order to aid the informed conservation of historic parks and gardens by owners, local planning authorities, developers, statutory bodies and all concerned with them. It is non-statutory and has been issued in six volumes. It was completed in 2002 but is not a closed list - sites can be added (or subtracted) at any time. There are currently almost 400 sites on the Register.

Sites on the Register are graded I, II* and II in the same way as listed buildings. Approximately 10 per cent of sites are grade I and 23 per cent grade II*. Of Nine parks and gardens identified on Anglesey, six lie within the AONB: Plas Newydd is grade I (international importance); Bordorgan, Carreglwyd and Llanidan are grade II*; Cestyll and Plas Rhanfa are grade II.

Heritage Coast

The AONB includes three sections of open, undeveloped coastline which have been designated as Heritage Coast. These non-statutory designations cover approximately 50 kms (31 miles) of the coastline. The

sections of Heritage Coast are:

- North Anglesey 28.6kms (17 miles)
- Holyhead Mountain 12.9kms (8 miles)
- Aberffraw Bay 7.7kms (4.5 miles)

World Heritage Site

World Heritage Sites are places that the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO has inscribed on a list of international sites because of their outstanding universal value, the importance of which is so great as to transcend national boundaries. Countries with world heritage sites are required to afford the highest level of protection to these places, which means not only looking after the sites themselves but also their setting. The protection of world heritage sites in Wales is effected by Welsh Government planning guidance, the planning policies of local authorities, and, supplementary planning guidance issued by the local authorities to guide developers and owners of properties within world heritage sites or their buffer zones.

Wales currently has three world heritage sites.

Beaumaris Castle is one of four castles included in the World Heritage Site of the Castles and Town Walls of Edward I in Gwynedd which also includes the castles at Caernarfon, Conwy, Beaumaris and Harlech.

Table 5: A summary of the significant attributes of the historic andscape of the Anglesey AONB

COMPONENT ASPECTS	EVALUATION (derived from Landmap)	DESCRIPTION
Penrhos	High	Disparate unit, home of Stanley family
Holyhead	High	Large port. Originally Roman. Main expansion in 18th and 19th centuries
Holyhead Mountain / Penrhosfeilw	Outstanding	Open area. Important prehistoric elements. Evidence of later encroachment on commons
Llaneilian / Pengorfwysfa	High	Early medieval settlement pattern, later development follows roads
Mynydd Parys / Amlwch	Outstanding	Town closely linked to copper/lead mining areas
Parciau / Lligwy	Outstanding	Parkland area. Important relict archaeology. Virtually no settlements
Dulas	High	Area of parkland. Distinct
Moelfre	High	Nucleated settlement. Examples of rare relict strip medieval fields
Mynydd Llwydiarth	High	Unenclosed until conifer planting. Potentially important remains
Llanddona	High	Post medieval enclosure of common. Nucleated settlement
Penmon / Ynys Seiriol	Outstanding	Relict archaeology, deer park, priory on CCW/Cadw/ICOMOS Register

(...continued on the next page)

Table 5: A summary of the significant attributes of the historic andscape of the Anglesey AONB
 (...continued)

COMPONENT ASPECTS	EVALUATION (derived from Landmap)	DESCRIPTION
Beaumaris / Llanfair	Outstanding	Disparate historic character and periods of national significance. The Castle is designated as part of a World Heritage Site
Plas Newydd	Outstanding	Important parkland. Owned by National Trust. Grade 1 on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales
Niwbrwrch / Brynsiencyn	High	Area of small nucleated settlements. Late prehistoric relict archaeology
Coedwig a Chwningar Niwbrwrch	High	Plantation. Underlying relief archaeology. Distinctive settlement pattern
Stad Bodorgan	Outstanding	18th century estate. On Cadw Parks and Garden Register
Aberffraw	High	Medieval landscape - important area



Hen Gapel Lligwy



Table 6: The special qualities of the Anglesey AONB

SPECIAL QUALITIES	EXTENT OF RESOURCE	CONDITION (LUC 2014)	WHY IMPORTANT?	FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION
The Built Environment	<p>Throughout the AONB 4 Conservation Areas have been designated in the AONB. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaumaris • Aberffraw • Holyhead Mountain Village • Menai Bridge <p>403 Listed Buildings are located within the AONB</p>	Variable	<p>These features provide an insight into past activities in the AONB, and are a record of human evolution on the Island</p> <p>These features are an integral element of the AONB's landscape</p> <p>The variety of the built environment helps to define the AONB. Located within the AONB are examples of industrial, religious, cultural and agricultural features</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neglect and lack of management, leading to decay and disrepair • Land management practices • Changes in legislation • 'Conversion Appeal' • Inappropriate development • Management agreements and the availability of funding • Lack of public awareness
Archaeology and Ancient Monuments	<p>75 Statutorily Protected Scheduled Ancient Monuments and numerous Non Scheduled Archaeological Sites have been designated in the AONB</p> <p>Two Outstanding Historic Landscapes are located in the AONB</p>	Variable	<p>These features provide an insight into past activities in the AONB, and are a record of human evolution of the Island</p> <p>These features are an integral element of the AONB's landscape</p> <p>The historic landscape of the AONB has a cultural, economic and educational value</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neglect and lack of management, leading to decay and disrepair • Land management practices • Changes in legislation • Inappropriate development • Agricultural practices • Management agreements and the availability of funding • Lack of public awareness

1.5 Culture

1.5.1 Anglesey has a clear and obvious geographical boundary. The fact that Anglesey is an island appears to strongly influence its culture. A large proportion of the inhabitants identify with the Island, and it is clear that Anglesey has both a “strong sense of its own identity” and a “distinctive sense of itself” (IACC 1999).

1.5.2 The AONB is still a stronghold of the Welsh language and the proportion of the population with full Welsh language skills has increased across the AONB since 2001 and is significantly higher than nationally. For many, it is the normal means of daily communication. It is interesting to note the differences in Welsh dialect between the north and the south of the AONB, and that the South of the AONB has predominantly less Welsh speakers than other parts of the AONB. Communities within the AONB are served by four Welsh Local Papers; Papur Menai, Y Glorian, Yr Arwydd and Y Rhwyd¹.

1.5.3 The culture, language and communities of the AONB also rely upon the viability of the agricultural industry of the area, as they are all strongly linked historically to farming.

1.5.4 Areas also exist which have been influenced by non-Welsh culture. These include Trearddur Bay, Rhosneigr, Holyhead, Amlwch and Beaumaris. Although only one is located within the AONB, all these areas have a significant influence on their surrounding communities. Trearddur Bay and Rhosneigr are popular tourist and retirement destinations; the port at Holyhead is an integral feature of the whole island; Amlwch once had a strong mining community, with many families from Cornwall and Derbyshire moving to the area to work on Parys Mountain; whilst Beaumaris is regarded as a relatively affluent area.

¹ State of the AONB Report 2014 LUC



Table 7: A summary of the significant cultural attributes of the Anglesey AONB

COMPONENT ASPECTS	CONDITION (derived from landmap)	DESCRIPTION
Holyhead	Outstanding	Historic port. Important sense of place
Penrhos	High	Home of Stanley family since 1763. Influential in Island life
Cemaes	High	Fishing town, important local brickworks. Welsh language dominant
A5 / Pont Menai	Outstanding	Telford's Road - related to development of Holyhead. Important cultural landscape element
Sea / Shipwrecks	High	Relates to Skerries and North Coast
Northern Anglesey	High	Extensive rural and coastal area. Area notorious for smuggling
Mynydd Parys - Amlwch	Outstanding	Town linked to mining at Mynydd Parys
Moelfre	High	Historic site and port lifeboat station
Llanfihangel Tre'r Beirdd / Mynydd Bodafon	High	Linked to local cultural inputs, teaching, surveying
Penrhos Lligwy	High	Area rich in archaeology and historic associations
Pentraeth - Plas Gwyn	High	Important cultural and literary associations
Llanddona	High	Associated with witchcraft and smuggling
Penmon	Outstanding	Priory church associated with Saint Seiriol
Baron Hill	High	Home of Bulkeley family, long the most powerful in Anglesey
Llanfair / Menai Bridge	High	Linked to Telford's developments, and railway
Plas Newydd	Outstanding	Seat of Marquis of Anglesey
Brynsiencyn	High	19th century creation, men worked in mainland quarries
Plas Llanidan - Church	High	Links to revival of druidism and eisteddfod
Newborough	Outstanding	Planned community, dates from 14th century
Bodorgan	High	Planned estate. Seat of Meyrick family
Aberffraw	Outstanding	Key site. Associated with Llywelyn the last and Mabinogion
Porth Trecastell	Outstanding	Important historic site



Plas Newydd

Table 8: Culture – Special qualities of the AONB

SPECIAL QUALITIES	EXTENT OF RESOURCE	CONDITION	WHY IMPORTANT?	FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION
Rural and Agricultural Communities	Located throughout the AONB	Unknown	<p>The agricultural landscape helps to define the character of Anglesey</p> <p>The communities in the AONB are founded upon Welsh culture, traditions and agricultural practices. Such communities are the 'backbone' to the AONB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demise of family succession and ownership in the agricultural industry and small businesses • Migration patterns / population structures • Lack of affordable housing • Lack of employment opportunities
The Welsh language	Knowledge of Welsh is approximately three times more common within the Isle of Anglesey AONB than in Wales as a whole	Improving	<p>Welsh is the normal means of daily communication for over 60% of people living within the Anglesey AONB</p> <p>The Welsh language contributes towards the identity of the Island and subsequently the AONB. The cultural features of the AONB are an economic asset</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration patterns / population structures • Loss of community cohesion and traditions • Demise in local traditions and skills • The influence of the media

1.6 Soil

1.6.1 The Agricultural Land Classification system categorises land into one of 5 grades. The best and most versatile agricultural land is designated as either Grade 1, 2 or 3 (see figure 15). The quality of these grades ranges from excellent (Grade 1) to good (Grade 3).

The Anglesey AONB includes land classified as Grades 2, 3, 4 and 5.

1.6.2 There are a number of potential contaminated land sites located in the AONB. These include industrial sites, landfill sites and spoil from non-active mine workings. Any redevelopment of these sites could lead to the mobilisation of contaminants in the land, which could have a severe impact on the AONB. Any future development schemes in, or in close proximity to the AONB could also have significant land contamination issues.

1.6.3 A common practice on Anglesey is the reuse of liquid and sludge waste from the food industry and abattoirs. The waste is spread over agricultural land as a means of disposal, although it can have value as a substitute for both organic and inorganic fertilisers. It may also in some circumstances act as a soil conditioner. The amount and method of spreading should be in accordance with the Codes of Good Agricultural

Practice. Regular monitoring of the practice is required as it could have an effect on the AONB in the future.

1.6.4 Fly tipping is increasingly becoming a problem across Anglesey (Environment Agency 1999). The limited availability of waste transfer stations on the Island, the location of the civic amenity sites at Penhesgyn and Gwalchmai and the increased cost of land filling to those who have waste to dispose, has meant that it is far easier and cheaper to dispose of the waste through fly tipping. In April 2009 the Welsh Assembly Government also set out its targets for the reduction of waste which are “By 2025: A high recycling society of a least 70% recycling across all sectors, and diverting waste from landfill sites and by 2050: Zero waste, so products and services are designed with waste prevention in mind” (WAG Waste Strategy 2009). Inert industrial and commercial waste is the most common form of waste dumped on Anglesey. These issues could lead to an increase in the number of fly tipping sites in the AONB.





Figure 8: Agricultural Land Classification

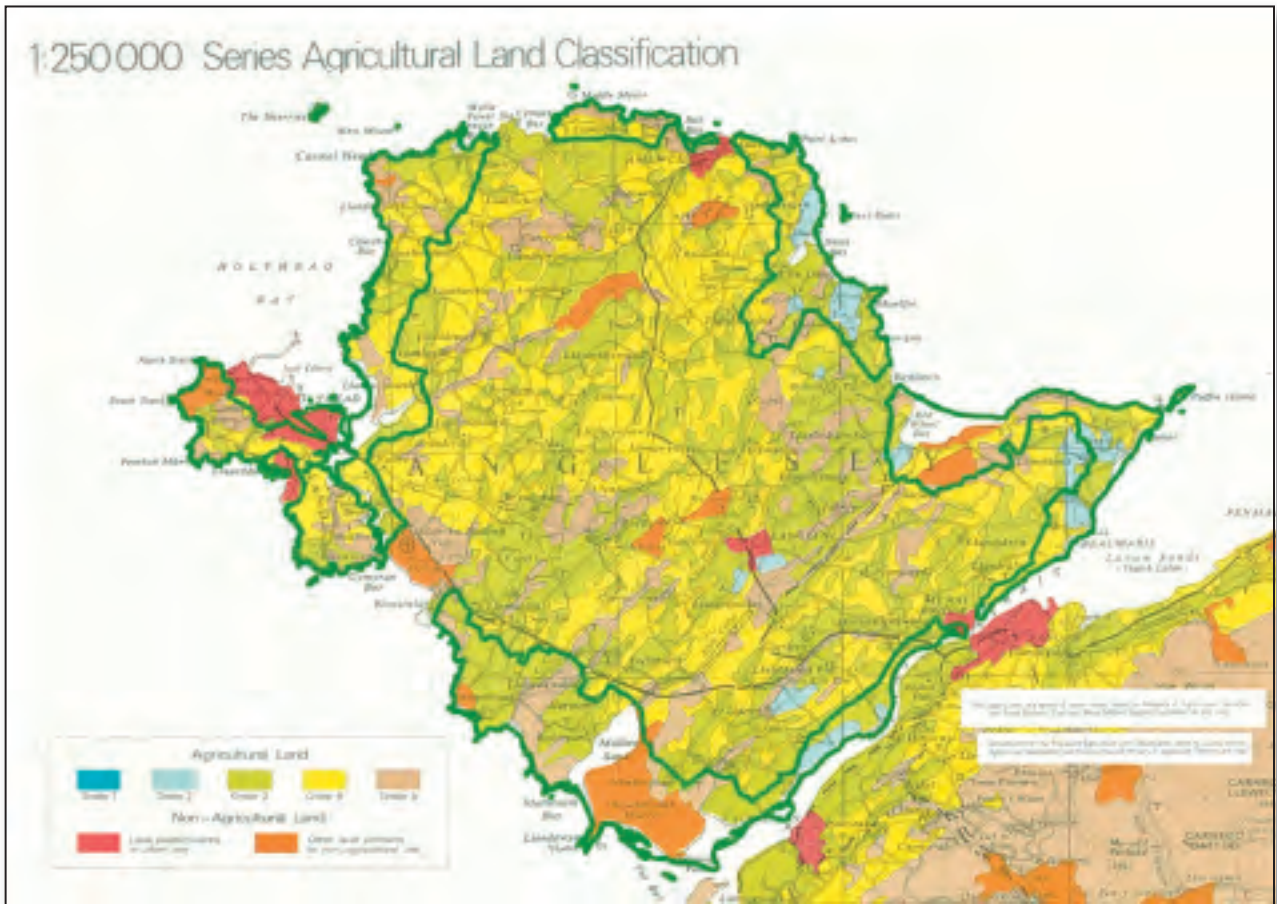


Table 9: Soil – Special Qualities of the AONB

SPECIAL QUALITIES	EXTENT OF RESOURCE	CONDITION (Soil map of Anglesey)	WHY IMPORTANT?	FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION
Soil Quality	Located throughout the AONB	<p>Grade 2 land = 4% of the AONB</p> <p>Grade 3 land = 34% of the AONB</p> <p>Grade 4 land = 28% of the AONB</p> <p>Grade 5 land = 20% of the AONB</p>	<p>Soil contamination can have a negative impact upon the landscape and biodiversity features of the AONB</p> <p>Favourable soil quality in the AONB is important for both residents and visitors</p> <p>The quality of the soil has implications for health, tourism and recreation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural, industrial and economic activities • An increase in fly tipping • Limited availability of waste transfer stations • Increasing costs of disposing waste in accordance with regulations • Lack of public awareness • The peripheral location of Penhesgyn, the civic amenity waste site • Pollution, including that originating from industries and activities not located within the AONB • Legislation and regulations



1.7 Air

1.7.1 The air quality of the AONB is generally good (Environment Agency 1999), though it can vary due to the influence of the island’s geography, climate and the type of activities which occur.²

The majority of Anglesey’s industrial activity (one of the main sources of air borne pollutants) is located in areas which are not within the AONB. However, it is clear that the AONB can be directly influenced by any releases from such industries.

Regular monitoring by the IACC reveals that there are significant quantities of sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide released around the Holyhead area.

The AONB’s air quality is also affected by an increasing number of road users on the island, in particular around Llanfair P.G. and Menai Bridge, where traffic congestion is a daily occurrence on the A55. Significant amounts of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter are regularly recorded on the Britannia Bridge.

² 2013 Air Quality Progress Report

Table 10: Air Quality – Special Qualities of the AONB

SPECIAL QUALITIES	EXTENT OF RESOURCE	CONDITION (IoACC 2014y)	WHY IMPORTANT?	FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION
Air Quality	Throughout the AONB	Good	<p>Air pollution can have a negative impact upon the visual landscape, biodiversity, culture and heritage features of the AONB</p> <p>Favourable air quality in the AONB is important for both residents and visitors</p> <p>The quality of the air has implications for health, tourism and recreation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial activity The cumulative effects of the transport network Pollution, including that originating from industries and activities not located in the AONB (including light and noise) Development pressure Energy production Climatic and topographical conditions Legislation and regulations

1.8 Water

1.8.1 Beaches

Anglesey has an extensive bathing water monitoring programme, with the number of beaches sampled

having increased from 3 in 1992 to 26 in 2014. Sampling has historically been undertaken in accordance with the EC Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) however, since 2011 monitoring has been done to the new EC Directive.

Table 11: The Mandatory standard (Imperative/Guideline)

PARAMETER	LIMIT	COMPLIANCE
Total Coliforms	<10,000 cfu / 100ml	95%
Faecal Coliforms	<2,000 cfu / 100ml	95%

Table 12: The The Guideline standard (Imperative/Guideline)

PARAMETER	LIMIT	COMPLIANCE
Total Coliforms	<500 cfu / 100ml	80%
Faecal Coliforms	<100 cfu / 100 ml	80%
Faecal Streptococci	<100 cfu / 100 ml	90%



In 2014, 13 EC Identified beaches were sampled by the Environment Agency and 13 Non EC Identified Beaches were sampled by Anglesey County Council. On the

whole, water quality has improved over time, with 85% of beaches achieving the guideline standard in 2008, compared with only 33% in 1992.

Table 13: The The Guideline standard (Imperative/Guideline)

YEAR	GUIDELINE % (no.)	MANDATORY % (no.)	FAIL % (no.)	TOTAL NUMBER OF BEACHES
2009	77 (20)	23 (6)	0 (0)	26
2010	85 (22)	15 (4)	0 (0)	26
2011	85 (22)	15 (4)	0 (0)	26
2012	85 (22)	15 (4)	0 (0)	26
2013	85 (22)	14 (3)	1 (1)	26
2014	85 (22)	14 (3)	1 (1)	26

1.8.2 Rivers

The water quality of the AONB’s rivers is generally favourable.

1.8.3 Sheep Dips

The use of synthetic pyrethroid sheep dips can dramatically influence the quality of water courses due to the toxic effects of discharges on aquatic fauna and flora.

1.8.4 Sewage Discharges

Untreated sewage is released from numerous outfalls located around the coastline although they are decreasing in number.

1.8.5 Discharges from Boats

In the moorings and marinas around Anglesey, there is evidence of both oil pollution and bilgewater/toilet discharges from boats, which are unsightly.

Table 14: Water Quality - the special qualities of the Anglesey AONB

SPECIAL QUALITIES	EXTENT OF RESOURCE	CONDITION (IoACC 2014 & NRW)	WHY IMPORTANT?	FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION
Water Quality	Throughout and surrounding the AONB	Improving	<p>Favourable water quality in the AONB is important for both residents and visitors</p> <p>The quality of the water has implications for health, tourism, recreation and the viability of various economic activities</p> <p>Water pollution can have a negative impact upon the visual and biodiversity features of the AONB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism and economic pressures • Industrial activity • Agricultural practices • Legislation and regulations • Recreational pressures • Development pressures • Pollution, including that originating from industries and activities not located within the AONB • Climatic factors • Increased demand for fresh water



Ynys Dulas



1.9 Public rights of Way and Accessible Land and water

1.9.1 Public Rights of Way (PROW) are the principal means of accessing and enjoying the countryside. There are 376 kms of PROW in the AONB. The PROW network consists of Public Footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways. PROWs are the responsibility of the IACC's Highway Department, who protect and maintain them. The majority of the PROW are maintained in a favourable condition, however the standard of certain paths is poor due to the presence of obstructions, poor signage and a lack of satisfactory maintenance (IACC 1997). All PROW on Anglesey are managed by the County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan which was adopted in 2008, as required by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.

The CROW Act also requires every Council to set up a Local Access Forum which will provide advice regarding the improvement of public access to land in their area for the purposes of open air recreation and enjoyment. The CROW Act stipulates that the Forum must be consulted on issues such as wardening, the making of bye laws and the management of PROW. The Local Access Forum for Anglesey was established on the 19th July, 2002 and it meets a minimum of 3 times a year.

1.9.2 Many of the most popular PROW in the AONB have been included in a series of guided walks and cycling tours, developed by the IACC, local walking groups and Menter Môn (Anglesey's LEADER II group). They are proving extremely popular with tourists. The walks and tours are mainly located in areas of visual, cultural and historical importance, and thus provide the public with an effective and valuable insight into the Anglesey AONB. The cycling tours are managed in accordance with the IACC's Cycling Strategy.

The Isle of Anglesey Coastal Path is a continually developing round island route. Although there is a complete circular route, work is ongoing to secure new access and move sections nearer to the coast.

At present, the 209kms long coastal path is made up of 119kms of PROW, 53kms of road 45kms of access provided by organisations such as the National Trust, Natural Resources Wales and RSPB and 15kms of permissive path. These include alternative tidal routes on some sections.

The Isle of Anglesey Coastal Path is part of a Welsh Government funded programme for the all Wales Coast Path. The coastal path is a long distance trail of national importance.

1.9.3 Two Sustrans National Cycling Routes are also located within the AONB. These two routes are the Holyhead to Cardiff and Holyhead to Liverpool cycle ways (IACC [c] 2000).

1.9.4 The CROW Act 2000 gives a new right of access on foot (subject to certain restrictions) to 'open country' and common land in Wales and England. Open country is defined as mountain, moor, heath or down. The revised conclusive map of Access Land (24/09/2014) records 712 hectares of 'open country' and 818 hectares of Common Land on Anglesey. The statutory right of access to Access Land became operational in 2004.

Substantial areas within the AONB are categorised as 'open country', including Holyhead Mountain, around Rhoscolyn and between Llanbadrig and Llanlleiana.

Common land is a remnant feature from when the manorial / estate system of land management was practiced. Commons are areas of rough grazing land which survived the enclosure legislation of the early 19th century, and as a result, they remain today as unfenced open spaces (Clayden 1985).

The majority of common land is privately owned, and many commons are important for their landscape, agricultural, biodiversity and archaeological features (www.wales.gov.uk). Common land is subjected to certain rights of common which are enjoyed by designated commoners. These include a right to fish, graze stock, collect peat and collect firewood on a specific common. Under the CROW Act 2000, registered common land became "access land" giving the public free open access on foot subject to certain regulations. All common land areas on Anglesey now have a statutory right of public access.

There is 818 hectares of common land on Anglesey of which 529 hectares is located within the AONB. The highest concentration of common land in the AONB is in the east / south east (Llanddona and Llangoed) and west / south west (Aberffraw and Newborough). There are isolated areas of common land throughout the designation.

The largest areas of common land are Tywyn Aberffraw (248 hectares), Penrhosfeilw Common (91.6 hectares) and Tywyn Llangadwaladr (58.9 hectares).

1.9.5 The coastline is a popular and accessible feature of the AONB. Sandy beaches, such as Llanddwyn and Red Wharf Bay, attract numerous visitors, whilst the coves of Porth Swtan (Church Bay) and Porth Nobla allow for the quiet enjoyment of the area. The safety, cleanliness and quality of the beaches in the AONB have led to the recent presentation of 26 Seaside Awards. In 2014, the beaches at Llanddwyn, Llanddona, Porth Dafarch, Benllech, Trearddur and Church Bay held European Blue Flag awards, whilst the other beaches hold either, Resort, Rural or Green Coast Seaside awards (Keep Wales Tidy 2014).

Access to the AONB is also possible on land owned



and/or managed by voluntary wildlife bodies or charitable trusts such as the National Trust (for example Fedw Fawr, Ynys Y Fydlyn and Carmel Head) and the RSPB (South Stack). Statutory and non-statutory nature reserves, woodlands and areas of common land also provide access opportunities in the AONB.

1.9.6 The coastline is also popular for water based recreation, such as sailing, wind surfing, sea fishing, Scuba diving, swimming, sea kayaking and increasingly, jet skiing.

Moorings, slip ways and other facilities are available in several places around the coastline. The East coast, in particular Red Wharf Bay and Traeth Bychan are popular areas for sailing and jet skiing, as is Beaumaris. The West coast, exposed as it is to the Irish Sea, is popular for more active pursuits, such as surfing and wind surfing. Improvements to the existing coastal infrastructure and facilities have been undertaken by the County Council under the Coastal Environment Project. It is hoped that these improvements will increase the economic potential of coastline.

Table 15: Public Rights of Way - The special qualities of the Anglesey AONB

SPECIAL QUALITIES	EXTENT OF RESOURCE	CONDITION (IoACC 2014 & NRW)	WHY IMPORTANT?	FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION
Public Rights of Way	376 kilometres of Public Rights of Way (PROW) in the AONB	Poor	The accessibility of the AONB is important for both residents and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather • Climate • Usage • Internal management and the availability of funding • External funding e.g. NRW / WAG / EU • Changes in legislation e.g. The Marine Bill
	80% of the coastline is accessible by the current Isle of Anglesey Coastal Path, including:	Improving	The accessibility of the AONB has implications for health, tourism and recreation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 119kms of PROW • 45kms of access provided by the National Trust, Forestry Commission and RSPB • 14kms of permissive access 	Good	<p>An accessible AONB is also an environmental educational resources</p> <p>The accessibility of the AONB is integral to people being able to enjoy the area's special qualities</p>	
Accessible Land and Water	1530 hectares of access land on Anglesey	Good	The accessibility of the AONB is important for both residents and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in legislation • Legal issues of common land • The selection criteria for award beaches • Organisational views regarding permissive public access • Negotiations on permissive paths
	712 hectares is open country on Anglesey (616 Ha in the AONB)	Improving	The accessibility of the AONB has implications for health, tourism and recreation	
	Of which Approximately 818 hectares is common land (529 Ha in the AONB)		An accessible AONB is also an environmental educational resources	
	26 seaside award beaches have been designated in the AONB (Potential for change annually)	Unknown	<p>The accessibility of the AONB is integral to people being able to enjoy the area's special qualities</p> <p>Increased economic contribution through recreation tourism</p>	
Accessible nature reserves include: 5 SACs, 3 SPAs, 1 NNR and 2 LNR's				



2 The Activities in the AONB

2.0 The Activities in the AONB

2.1 Land Management

Headline Indicators³

- Land in the AONB under agricultural production has stayed relatively stable since 2008 (less than 1% decrease in coverage)
- Grassland cover has reduced, whilst land under arable cropping and horticulture has seen a significant increase (both around 15%).
- Poultry farming has witnessed a significant increase in livestock numbers (+59%) with pig numbers showing the greatest decline (-42%).
- There has also been a small increase in sheep numbers and 8% decrease in cattle.
- Glastir agreements cover just over 10% of the land in the AONB.
- Of these, 61% are Entry level (a 20ha increase since 2012) and 39% are Advanced, which covers the same amount of land as the previous year.
- Common land covers just over 500 hectares, which has seen only a very small decrease in area since 2004.

Agriculture has had, and still does have a significant influence on the rural landscape of Anglesey. Agriculture is the primary land use on the Island, and the character and quality of the AONB's landscape is directly related to agricultural practices. Defining features of the Anglesey AONB which have been influenced by agriculture include hedgerows, dry stone walls and field patterns. It is clear that the viability and stability of agriculture is a key element in the ongoing management of the AONB. It is inevitable that change will occur and that these changes may lead to increased pressure on the core environmental, social and cultural features of the AONB.

The economy and communities of the AONB are clearly influenced by agriculture. The rural economy is dependent upon the viability of farming, in particular the provision of employment in a region where many other opportunities are limited. Numerous families and individuals are involved in the agricultural industry, and are thus financially dependent upon it. Agriculture also helps to sustain the well-being and structure of rural communities, especially the Welsh language and culture.

Traditionally, agriculture on the Island has been based upon small and medium sized mixed farms and holdings. In recent years there has been a shift from this mixed system approach towards the specialised production of beef and sheep. As a result, beef and sheep farms are the most common type of farm in the AONB. Although less than 13% of active holdings contained dairy herds, this activity represented around half of the total gross income from farming in the AONB. The value of dairy farming to the local economy is likely to be considerably higher than that of beef or sheep farming even though the average size of dairy holdings is well below the national average (LUC 2008). Both arable crops and agriculture have seen an increase since the previous plan which could imply some agricultural improvement or conversion of grassland to more intensive crop production. Farming of poultry has increased significantly with the biggest proportional increase⁴.

A common and traditional practice seen on Anglesey is the letting of land to farmers from upland and hill areas, usually Snowdonia, to graze their stock on a short term basis. The income this generates for the landowner tends to be greater than that they would usually generate if the land was farmed with their own livestock.

The number of farms in the AONB has increased slightly although this is due to the subdivision of existing farms. The number of holdings rose by 15 to a total of 441. Farms are also being occupied by people who are not dependent upon the agricultural output for their income. This is true of a number of farms in the south and south west of the AONB.

There are a number of issues relating to agriculture which have an impact on the wider management of the AONB, these include;

- A difficulty in grazing areas of coastal heathland where there is public access;
- Scrub development on important habitats, where grazing no longer occurs;
- The possible conflict between farmers and those undertaking recreational activities;
- Over grazing of fragile habitats;
- Opportunities for diversification.

There are a number of factors which are likely to have an impact on farming in the future and these are bound to have an effect on the landscape of the AONB. The first is climate change which may lead to crop and stock diversification.

The second is the delivery of ecosystem services, or the

³ LUC State of the AONB 2014

⁴ LUC 2014



ecosystem approach, whereby farmers will have a direct role in delivering biodiversity targets, landscape quality and high air and water quality, and public access. Farmers will need assistance in identifying key areas and habitats on their holdings which will help deliver these services. This in turn could lead to payments for these services such as water regulation and flood control. It is likely that these developments will have an impact on the landscape of the AONB. It is therefore vital that we help in the promotion of the wider understanding of the value of farming to the landscape, economy and the rural communities whilst also agreeing the ecosystem services these holdings provide.

Perhaps of equal and possibly greater importance, could be changes in land management regimes, outside of planning control, but having a key impact on the landscape. Such changes include:

- Changing agricultural patterns
- Ongoing reform of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- The move to increase forestry and woodland cover
- Ecosystem services management of habitats and species.

As Glastir was only introduced in 2012, data on take-up in the AONB is only available from the years 2012 and 2013. The available data shows that Glastir Entry uptake is a total of 1,190.69 hectares in 2013, an increase of approximately 20 hectares on 2012, while Glastir Advanced uptake has the same coverage of 774.1 hectares across both years. Glastir as a whole covers 1,964.8 hectares of the AONB. There is currently no spatial data indicating the locational distribution of this agreement land.



Cwyfan



Table 16: The impact of Land Management on the Anglesey AONB

GENERAL IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE AONB	Land management activities have had a tremendous effect upon the AONB helping to shape the landscape we see. The AONB is a living, working landscape, and many people depend upon it for a living. These activities have helped to shape the landscape which we see before us today.
POSITIVE IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic impacts • Employment opportunities in the AONB • The maintenance of rural population, social structures and culture • Protection and enhancement of many natural landscape and biodiversity features • Improved opportunities for recreation in the AONB • Support for rural skills and traditions • Management of Historic features
NEGATIVE IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution • Habitat and species loss • Visual impact of humans on the landscape, for example silage bags and agricultural outbuildings • Over exploitation of the AONB for economic returns can lead to degradation • Possible loss of Historic features and intrusion
REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS TO THE ACTIVITY THAT WILL BENEFIT THE AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP reform, changes to subsidies and an increase in diversification schemes • An increase in the uptake of agri-environmental schemes • Increased awareness and interest in organic farming • Changes to current agricultural practices, including a reduction in use of pesticides and chemicals • Provision of sustainable management advice to farmers • Encourage appropriate management of existing woodlands and the planting of local provenance woodlands • Raise awareness of the benefits of consuming local produce, and encourage effective marketing
BENEFITS OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers will become more aware of the needs of the AONB and may change their approach to agriculture. The threat of environmental degradation will reduce, and the special qualities of the AONB will be protected for future generations. This has implications for tourism, recreation and appreciation of the AONB • It will help to safeguard the future of the local economy and communities • The AONB will continue to provide opportunities for employment, either directly in land management activities or in associated industries. This will help to maintain rural skills, working traditions and culture • There will be less risk of environmental incidents, and the activities will not be as detrimental to the environment
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisioning Services: Food, Genetic Diversity, Energy • Regulating Services: Air quality regulation, soil quality, pollination, water quality • Cultural Services: Cultural heritage values, recreation and tourism services





2.2 Nature Conservation

Headline Indicators⁵

- The area coverage of international and national conservation designations in the AONB has not changed since 2008.
- There are five SACs covering just under 13% of the total land area of the AONB.
- In addition, three SPAs cover nearly 3% of the AONB area.
- 32 SSSIs covering nearly 5,000 hectares (19%) are found in the AONB.
- Newborough Warren & Ynys Llanddwyn NNR lies entirely within the protected landscape.
- Coniferous woodland cover has decreased by 8% since 2002, but is still the most common woodland type found in the AONB

2.2.1 Woodland

The areas of the AONB with most woodland coverage are the eastern and western regions, where there is a mixture of both broadleaved and coniferous woodland. Some conifer plantations are on former heathland and red squirrels are now widespread throughout woodlands on Anglesey.

The state of broadleaf woodlands in the AONB has improved as more woodlands are being actively managed. There has been a reduction of the effects of grazing through woodlands being made stockproof and the threat of invasive non-native species has been reduced largely through the removal of rhododendron. New broadleaf woodlands have been created in the AONB over the last 10 years. However, there are still adverse effects on broadleaf woodlands due to poor management, conflict with agriculture and grazing animals, threat of invasive non-native species and pressures from development. There is an increasing threat to the health of woodlands through the spread on imported diseases such as *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Chalara dieback of ash (Chalara fraxinea)*

The planting of two commercial conifer plantations by the Forestry Commission has had a significant influence on the woodland cover on Anglesey, and in particular, the AONB. The amount of woodland cover on the Island actually doubled between 1952 and 1993 due to the planting activities of the Forestry Commission. Newborough Forest is the largest of the two conifer plantations. It covers approximately 950 hectares (Anglesey Woodland Strategy) of the AONB. Mynydd Llwydiarth, near Pentraeth, covers approximately 244 hectares. Much of the plantation was planted during 1951 and 1967, and certain areas as recently as 1995. It has been noted that there has been an 8% reduction

in the coniferous woodland cover since the previous plan which can be linked to the Newborough Forest Management Plan 2010-15.

Also located within the AONB are several small, privately owned commercial plantations.

The importance of woodlands to the AONB is considerable. Primarily, woodlands are an important and distinctive characteristic of the landscape, in particular along the Menai Strait.

Secondly, trees, hedgerows and woodlands are important features of the biodiversity of the AONB, supporting many species of flora and fauna. Woodlands and hedgerows also act as wildlife corridors, linking various habitats across Anglesey.

It is generally accepted that broadleaved woodlands are more diverse and important for wildlife than the conifer plantations. Mynydd Llwydiarth supported the remaining population of red squirrels on the Island but they have subsequently been introduced to a number of other woodlands (notably Newborough).

Many woodlands in the AONB are accessible to the public for informal recreational activities. Woodlands perform a valuable social function which can benefit the whole community. This has been exemplified by the Actif Woods Wales project (funded by the SDF grant) which aims to reconnect people with woodlands further details of which can be found at

██████████
██████████ Notable amenity woodlands have had grant aid to improve access and use including Coed Cyrnol in Menai Bridge and Coed Aberlleiniog around Castell Aberlleiniog, Llangoed. These community woodlands are proving extremely popular.

The management of woodlands is an important form of employment in the AONB. Employment with regard to general management, planting, harvesting, processing, and transportation are integral to effective management, as is recreation management. Many jobs in associated industries are also supported. They provide fuel in the form of logs to many households on Anglesey and this use has increased with increasing fuel prices. Woodlands are also an effective method of shelter, providing cover from the adverse effects of wind, rain and sun.

Woodlands have been shown to be extremely effective at flood management which has been evidence by experiments at Pontbren in mid Wales proving the positive effects of strategic tree planting to control run-off and reduce peak flows in watercourses.

Carbon sequestration by woodlands is well recorded and this is greater in woodlands with young or juvenile trees that are actively growing. Where these woodlands



are being managed for timber, as long as the timber is not going as fuel and being burned, the carbon is being removed from the atmosphere.

2.2.2 Nature Conservation

To complement the protection of the landscape provided by the AONB (and the sections of Heritage Coasts), certain sites have also been designated because of the need to protect their natural resources, invariably their nature conservation value. These designations are integral to the protection of the AONB's special qualities.

There are numerous designations located within the Anglesey AONB. These designations are of international, national and local importance, and they include both statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites. The statutory sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC),

Special Protection Areas (SPA), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserves (NNR).

2.2.3 Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation

SPAs and SACs are part of the Natura 2000 European network of nature conservation sites which have been established as a result of the 'EC Habitats Directive', which aims to conserve the Continent's natural habitats and wild fauna and flora (www.defra.gov.uk).

SACs are designated to protect and conserve vulnerable habitats and their associated flora and fauna, whilst SPAs are designated to conserve and protect rare and vulnerable species of birds the sites are also used by certain migratory species. There are five SACs and three SPAs within the Anglesey AONB which hasn't changed since 2008. They are as follows;

Table 17: Special Areas of Conservation & Special Protection Areas

SAC	AREA IN AONB (HA)	COMPONENT SSSI
Cemlyn Bay	43.53	Cemlyn Bay
Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh	1057.56	Newborough Warren-Ynys Llanddwyn Tywyn Aberffraw
Holy Island Coast	448.41	Holy Island Coast Tre Wilmot
Menai Strait and Conwy Bay	155.17	Arfordir Gogleddol Penmon Glannau Penmon – Biwmares Glannau Porthaethwy
Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes	1626.07	Newborough Warren – Ynys Llanddwyn Tywyn Aberffraw

SAC	AREA IN AONB (HA)	COMPONENT SSSI
Puffin Island	31.33	Puffin Island
Holy Island Coast	593.73	Glannau Rhoscolyn Glannau Ynys Gybi: Holy Island Coast Tre Wilmot
Ynys Feurig, Cemlyn Bay and The Skerries	60.55	Cemlyn Bay The Skerries





2.2.4 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

SSSIs provide protection to the finest wildlife and geological features in Great Britain. Most SSSI's are privately owned, yet they are managed in partnership with NRW to ensure sensitive and appropriate

management, and sites designated as a result of their wildlife features of flora, fauna and geology include Puffin Island, Penrhosligwy and Rhoscolyn. There are a total of 32 SSSIs located within or partially within the AONB that cover just less than 5000 hectares. They are follows;

Table 18: Sites of Special Scientific Interest

SSSI Name	Area within the AONB (Ha)
Arfordir Gogleddol Penmon	98.17
Baron Hill Park	112.43
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	696.01
Bwrdd Arthur	17.65
Carmel Head	8.77
Cemlyn Bay	43.53
Clegir mawr	9.40
Coed y Gell and Morfa Dulas	19.22
Glannau Penmon – Beaumaris	136.55
Glannau Porthaethwy	45.18
Glannau Rhoscolyn	145.49
Glannau Ynys Cybi – Holy Island Coast	385.05
Henborth	10.96
Llanbadrig – Dinas Gynfor	26.49
Llyn Garreg-Lwyd	17.74
Llyn Maelog	36.10
Llynau y Fali – Valley Lakes	0.65

SSSI Name	Area within the AONB (Ha)
Newborough Warren – Ynys Llanddwyn	2315.24
Penrhos Lligwy	6.07
Penrhynnoedd Llangadwaladr	176.78
Ynys Seiriol – Puffin Island	31.33
Rhoscolyn Reedbed	15.03
Rhosneigr Reefs	0.24
Rhosydd Llanddona	12.39
Sgistau Glas Ynys Mon – Anglesey Blue Schist	0.96
The Skerries	17.03
Traeth Lligwy	26.63
Tre Wilmot	63.35
Trwyn Dwiban	14.70
Ty Croes	28.25
Tyddyn y Waen	6.07
Tywyn Aberffraw	369.89

No new SSSIs have been designated since 2008.

2.2.5 National Nature Reserves

Declared under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, NNRs are managed by NRW in accordance with a management plan, with the objective of conserving the site's special features. Newborough Warren / Llanddwyn Island, which covers 1554 hectares, is the only NNR designated within the AONB.

to be strengthened with the publication of the Joint Local Development Plan.

2.2.6 Local Nature Reserves

There are 3 Local Nature Reserves located within or partly within the boundary of the AONB. One is located in Llanddona, another at Aberlleiniog/Llangoed and last in Coed Cynrol Menai Bridge. The three reserves cover a total of 28 hectares. Menter Môn and the respective Community Councils are responsible for the management of the reserves although advice and support is given through Coed Cymru and the AONB service.

Non-statutory wildlife sites should not be confused with Non-statutory wildlife reserves which are managed by various organisations such as the R.S.P.B. (South Stack) and the North Wales Wildlife Trust (Cemlyn), which generally has one or more of the aforementioned statutory designations.

2.2.7 Non-statutory Wildlife Sites

Non-statutory wildlife sites (sometimes referred to as non-designated wildlife sites), are predominantly managed by a range of voluntary wildlife bodies and charitable trusts and there are 69 sites located within the AONB. Often small in scale but of high conservation value their importance in terms of connectivity should not be underestimated. The status of these sites is likely

Nature Conservation is clearly an important aspect of land management. The variety of designations located within the AONB provides extensive protection for the biodiversity and landscape features of the area. The management of designated areas also supports employment in the AONB, such as reserve wardens and contractors. Nature reserves are an invaluable educational resource, and they annually attract numerous schools and colleges to the region. Similarly, the reserves also attract large numbers of tourists and visitors to the AONB. Informal recreational activities, such as walking and bird watching are also possible due to the accessibility of many of the reserves. These values will become increasingly important as we move towards identifying the services these sites provide.



Table 19: The impact of Nature Conservation on the Anglesey AONB

GENERAL IMPACT ON THE AONB	General Mosaic of habitats and species present on Anglesey with opportunities for improving connectivity
POSITIVE IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic impacts • Employment opportunities in the AONB • The maintenance of rural culture • Protection and enhancement of many natural landscape and biodiversity features
NEGATIVE IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of pollution • Habitat and species loss • Visual impact of humans on the landscape, for example silage bags and agricultural outbuildings • Over exploitation can lead to degradation
REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS TO THE ACTIVITY THAT WILL BENEFIT THE AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in the uptake of agri-environmental schemes • Changes to current agricultural practices, including a reduction in use of pesticides and chemicals • Provision of sustainable management advice to farmers • Encourage appropriate management of existing woodlands and the planting of local provenance woodlands
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Services: Soil Formation, Nutrient cycling, water cycling and biodiversity • Provisioning Services: Water supply and genetic diversity • Regulating services: Air quality, climate regulation and climate storage, soil and water quality, pollination • Cultural Services: Cultural heritage values

2.3 Economic Activity

2.3.1 As an island, the distinctive and diverse 201 km coastline underpins many key economic, social and environmental attributes and activities that have a significant impact upon the well-being and quality of life of the Island’s communities. Tourism and recreation contribute significantly to the local economy, and the quality of the natural environment, in particular the coastline, is integral to the appeal of Anglesey. The Island is renowned for its scenery, wildlife, beaches and the opportunities for terrestrial and maritime activities (e.g. walking, sailing, wind surfing, diving and fishing) as well as the peace and tranquillity it offers.

Anglesey’s precarious current and future economic status has been well documented, with the island facing a series of unprecedented economic related challenges. These challenges can be summarised as high levels of social deprivation, unemployment and youth out migration; a high dependency upon a very small number of large employers; and the prevalence of a number of small scale, low-skill employment sectors.

It is clear from this information that the successful management and administration of the AONB plays a significant role in the local economy. Consequently, investment in the protection of the landscape of Anglesey is an investment in the economic infrastructure of the Island.



South Stack



2.3.2 Tourism

Headline Indicators⁶

- Visitor spending in the AONB has more than doubled since 2007 to approximately £55.7 million in 2012
- The number of visitors to the AONB has increased by 42% to just under 400,000
- Visitors staying in non-serviced accommodation are now more common than day visitors (accounting for 41%)
- The overall number of people employed in the tourist sector has increased by 45% since 2007
- There has been an increase in numbers employed in all sectors, although the overall proportion employed in accommodation has decreased

Data on the number of visitors, their expenditure and contribution to local employment is calculated annually at a Local Authority level by using the STEAM model (LUC 2008). STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor) is a standardised method of estimating key measures of tourism based on an occupancy rates for different types of tourism accommodation, the available bed stock, attendance at attractions/major events and Tourist Information Centre footfall.

The headline figures shown above do not take into account visitors who may not be staying on the Island and may visit the AONB for just a walk. The latest County Council estimates suggest that Anglesey as a whole attracts over 1.5 million visitors a year and consequently generates a tourism revenue of £256 million a year. The tourism industry also provides employment for over 4000 people (STEAM 2013).

Due to the size and location of the AONB designation, it is evident that many visitors experience aspects of the AONB during their visit (whether intentionally or unintentionally), and as such contribute greatly to the local economy.

Anglesey is clearly a popular destination because of:

- The beaches and the countryside;
- The scenery and the landscape;
- The tranquillity of the island.
- The culture, history and archaeology
- The wildlife and recreational opportunities

The most visited areas of Anglesey appear to be:

- Menai Bridge and the East coast area;
- Beaumaris and the Eastern tip of the Island;

- South coast;
- Holyhead and the West coast.

When these facts are taken into account it is clear that the landscape of the AONB is extremely popular with tourists.

The financial contribution of tourism to the AONB's economy is also vital. The purchase of food and drink accounts for the majority of expenditure, followed by accommodation costs (including the costs of rented accommodation, caravans, hotels and guest houses etc). The data collected by LUC (2014), also suggests that total employment in the tourism sector within the AONB is 1065 people (full time equivalent). Annually, a significant amount of money is generated by tourism, which ultimately supports the many workers involved in the industry.

In 2013 the Welsh Government along with Visit Wales launched their new Coastal Tourism Strategy entitled Partnership for Growth. The vision of the strategy is that

Wales will provide the warmest of welcomes, outstanding quality and excellent value for money and memorable, authentic experiences to every visitor.

The **goal** is for:

Tourism to grow in a sustainable way and to make an increasing contribution to the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales.

The strategy corresponds with the aims and objectives of the Anglesey Destination Management Plan



⁶ LUC 2014



2.3.3 Mineral Extraction

Mineral extraction includes the activities of mining, quarrying and dredging.

The minerals most commonly worked on Anglesey are limestones, sandstones, quartzites, granites, sand, gravel and shales. These minerals are used locally, regionally and nationally mainly for road building and construction.



Table 20: The mineral sites with existing planning permission located in the AONB

SITE	MINERALS	ACTIVE OR NON ACTIVE
Aberstrecht Quarry, Moelfre	Limestone	Active
Holyhead Mountain	Igneous	Non active
Penrhos, Holyhead	Sand	Non active
Plas Coch, Llanedwen	Sandstone	Non active
Tan Dinas, Llanddona	Limestone	Non active
Dinmor, Penmon	Limestone	Non active
Ty'n Llwydan, Bodorgan (a)	Sand	Non active
Ty'n Llwydan, Bodorgan (b)	Sand	Non active

The effects of mineral extraction on the AONB are minimal, as there is only one site currently active. This would change considerably if other sites were to be reworked in the future.

2.3.3 Fishing

Commercial fishing off the coastline of the AONB is a common occurrence. Fixed and drift nets have traditionally been used to catch species such as skate, herring and bass. Boats usually operate from Holyhead, Cemaes Bay, Amlwch as well as Bangor, Conwy and Caernarfon. Potting, netting and lining also occur along the entire coast of Anglesey. Limited trawling of the Menai Strait also occurs, where cod, herring, plaice and dogfish are usually caught.

Periwinkles and whelks are collected from the sea around Penmon and Puffin Island; a whelk fishery is being developed off the North Coast of the Island and potting for lobster, brown crab and prawns is also carried out. There is also a major shellfishery in the Menai Strait and proposed developments of a similar operation in Beddmanarch bay.

2.3.4 Industrial Activity

Industrial activity in the AONB tends to be either of a medium or small scale. Such activities include:

- Food Production;

- Manufacturing;
- Engineering.

There is no large scale, or heavy industrial activity located within the AONB. However, there are two notable examples of such industrial activity situated adjacent to the boundary of the designation. These industries have a dramatic visual influence on the AONB, and will continue to do so in the future. There is also the potential for air, noise water and light pollution to affect the AONB. The industrial activities are

- Wylfa Nuclear Power Station, Cemaes Bay. It is the largest Magnox-type power station in the world. Land around the existing station will be used for the development of a new generation of Nuclear Power station;
- Three wind farms. Consisting of 72 operational wind turbines, each measuring between 30-39 metres in height, the wind farms have been constructed over an area of 837 hectares.

Economic and social regeneration are seen as the key drivers in moving the Islands economy forward in order to meet future challenges. The AONB clearly adds value to the island's local economy but must retain its unique nature. For businesses to survive and prosper they will have to adapt and change whilst embracing the true value of sustainability.



Table 21: The impact of economic activity on the Anglesey AONB

GENERAL IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE AONB	Primarily, tourism, agriculture, fishing and industrial activities provide employment opportunities and help to sustain the AONB’s communities. However, these activities can also increase the risk of pollution, lead to the exploitation of resources and the degradation of the landscape
POSITIVE IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Social and economic support for communities • Landscape management • The maintenance of an evenly distributed population structure • Financial investment in the region • Improvements to services and attractions throughout the AONB • Increased awareness and appreciation of the AONB and Anglesey • Management of Historic features
NEGATIVE IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution including light and noise • Exploitation of resources • Visual and sensory degradation of the AONB impacting on tranquillity and other special qualities • Increased pressures (notably seasonal pressures) on the transport and public service infrastructure • Increased threats to biodiversity • Possible loss of Historic features
REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS TO THE ACTIVITY THAT WILL BENEFIT THE AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and encourage sustainable tourism in the AONB • Monitor the impact of the fishing industry • Restrict future mining activities in the AONB • Employment opportunities in the AONB should be sensitive to the landscape and visual features of the AONB • Encourage businesses to adhere to pollution control regulations • Ensure appropriate procedures are in place to respond to pollution incidents • Encourage further sensitive and sympathetic improvements to the tourist, public service and transport infrastructures • Restrict light and noise pollution
BENEFITS OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The special qualities of the AONB will be protected for future generations • An adoption of sustainable tourism principles will help to secure the future of the industry, with the associated financial benefits helping to secure the future of the local economy and communities • There will be less risk of environmental incidents • The soil, air and water of the AONB will not be as polluted • Improvements to the public service and transport infrastructures will improve the quality of life of the local communities
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES	Cultural Services: Tranquillity, Cultural heritage values and recreation and tourism services Provisioning services: Energy



Holyhead harbour



2.4 Recreation

2.4.1 The Isle of Anglesey is becoming increasingly popular as a recreational destination for many types of activities and attracts over 1 million visitors annually. Whilst the promotion of recreation, seen as an activity done for pleasure and/or relaxation, is not a statutory purpose of the AONB designation, managing the impacts of these recreational activities will become increasingly important if we are to conserve and enhance the outstanding landscape features of the AONB.

The quality, diversity and accessibility of the AONB landscape as well as the Anglesey Coastal Path are clearly major attractions but many other opportunities exist for those seeking a more thrilling experience. Some of these activities include:

- Visiting beaches;
- Walking;
- Cycling;
- Fishing – from the shore as well as from Charter Boats;
- Bird watching;
- Water based recreation including coasteering as well as boating and sailing;
- Environmental education (often combined with some of the above activities)

The importance of recreation to the AONB cannot be underestimated. People become more active in the

countryside, their appreciation of the environment and areas such as AONBs increases. The local economy also benefits from increased spending in the area, which helps to sustain local facilities and services.

As previously stated an increase in the popularity of the AONB and recreation can lead to increased pressures on the landscape. Conflict between different recreational user groups, parking difficulties at 'honey pot' sites and litter are issues associated with recreation.

Clearly, activities such as walking, cycling and bird watching are dependent upon the accessibility of the PROW network. The PROW network has a fundamental role in meeting the demands of the public for access to the countryside, and the network itself is proving to be a popular and important recreational resource for the thousands of people who visit the Anglesey AONB. The recently published Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP), identifies priority areas of work on PROW network. Further work is being carried out in Coastal Zone area which comes inland 2km all along the coast and aims to improve links with the Coastal Path.

The importance of opportunities for local communities to experience recreation in the AONB must also be recognised. Recreational activities allow local people to enjoy the natural beauty of the AONB landscape, which contributes to their quality of life. The associated health benefits of recreation are also clear.



Malltraeth



Table 22: The impact of recreation on the Anglesey AONB

GENERAL IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE AONB	The AONB is becoming increasingly popular for recreation. The local economy benefits greatly from the increasing amount of visitors to the region. However, the environmental effects of this popularity can be severe
POSITIVE IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in a recreational activity improves a person’s quality of life, and has associated health benefits. • Participation in recreational activities in the AONB increases awareness and appreciation of the designation and the environment. • The increasing popularity of recreation in the AONB will lead to increased visitor spending in the region
NEGATIVE IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict between different user groups • Increased amounts of litter • Increased potential for pollution • Traffic congestion and parking difficulties at the most popular sites • Many activities can have a visual impact upon the AONB
REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS TO THE ACTIVITY THAT WILL BENEFIT THE AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure sensitive promotion and management of recreation • Promotion of sustainable activities in the AONB • Encourage tolerance between different user groups • The development of codes of conduct for the more contentious activities • Improved management of Personal Watercraft • Improve public awareness and appreciation of the importance of the AONB • Encourage further improvements to the PROW network
BENEFITS OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sensitive and sustainable approach to recreation should help to safeguard the future of the resource – the AONB. This will safeguard future opportunities for participating in the various activities in the region, and also ensure future economic benefits for Anglesey • PROW are essential to recreation in the AONB. They are integral to the accessibility of the countryside. PROW are important to both visitors and local communities • Improved tolerance and conduct between users groups will further increase the attractiveness and appeal of the AONB
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural services: Cultural heritage values, recreation and tourism, health and well-being and tranquillity



Llanbadrig church



2.5 Development

2.5.1 The AONB is subject to range of development pressures which are generally controlled by the town and country planning system. Of course there are many forms of rural activity including the majority of agricultural and forestry operations which are not subject to planning control. In the majority of other cases consent is required from the IACC, acting as the local planning authority, before development proceeds.

2.5.2 Planning Issues

The AONB has experienced a wide range of pressures since its original designation in 1966. These pressures have related to the ongoing growth of settlements, a demand for tourism facilities and the provision of major developments.

Planning applications for development within the AONB are often received regarding (IACC [a] 2014):

- Telecommunication equipment;

- Agricultural development;
- Residential development;
- Illuminated signs;
- Leisure and tourism developments.

2.5.3 Ongoing Change

Possible changes to the landscape which the development plan may need to face in the coming years include:

- Protection of open, undeveloped coastline;
- Diversification of the rural economy giving rise to new demands on the resources of the AONB;
- Protection of sites designated for their nature conservation importance;
- Sustaining rural communities;
- Promoting the use of the Welsh language;
- The challenges of changing forms of energy generation;
- Promoting a high quality and diverse tourism product;
- Changes induced by climate change.

Table 23: The impact of recreation on the Anglesey AONB

GENERAL IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE AONB	Development pressures have had a significant effect upon the special qualities of the AONB, in particular the landscape. Such threats and pressures are likely to increase as economic demands upon the AONB increase in the future
POSITIVE IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and economic benefits of employment as a result of development • Appropriate development can help to sustain rural communities • Development in the AONB can lead to improvements to the transport infrastructure • Some sympathetic conservation and rebuilding work of important cultural and heritage features
NEGATIVE IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate development • Increasing threat of highly visible structures e.g. telecommunication masts, wind turbines and pylons • Degradation of visual and biodiversity features due to recreational, agricultural and tourism developments • Cumulative effects of inappropriate small scale development and building features, for example flat roofing and pebble dashed exteriors of buildings • Inappropriate use of highway kerbs and ranch style fencing as well as un-rendered breeze blocks for walling • Degradation of important cultural and historic features
REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS TO THE ACTIVITY THAT WILL BENEFIT THE AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure planning applications do not detract from the overall effect and quality of the AONB • Resist all proposals of development which will have a negative effect upon the special qualities of the AONB • Encourage sympathetic conversion of ruined buildings • The development of design guidance with regard to the built and historic environment of the AONB • Encourage appropriate and suitable housing in the AONB
BENEFITS OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key characteristics and special qualities of the AONB will be protected from inappropriate development, which should help to safeguard the scenery, tranquillity and appeal of the area. Such measures should ensure that tourists will continue to be attracted to the AONB. This will benefit the AONB's economy, communities, social structure and culture, whilst the quality of life of residents should be maintained



2.6 Transport

2.6.1 The geography and dispersed settlement pattern of the Island heavily influences the transport patterns of the Anglesey AONB. On Anglesey, 80% of households own a car (ONS 2007), in the peripheral areas of Anglesey, which tend to be within the AONB, this figure rises dramatically to 90% (ONS 2007). It appears that a vast majority of the AONB’s population is reliant upon cars to proceed with their daily lives. As such, cars have become, and will increasingly be an integral component of Anglesey’s social and economic infrastructure (IACC 2001) and the urban and rural highway network of the Island is central to this trend. This local reliance on cars as a means of transport, coupled with the seasonal increase in traffic during the summer, can lead to parking difficulties in the most popular areas of the AONB.

The AONB contains numerous ‘Category Two - Regional/County Strategic Routes’ and ‘Category Three - District/Local Links’ (IACC 2001) which are vital to the economic development and social well-being of the AONB through the efficient movement of both private and public transport vehicles.

The A55 is the Island’s most strategic transport corridor, carrying daily an estimated 33,362 vehicles on the most heavily used section between Llanfairpwll and the Britannia Bridge (NAW 2014). Traffic congestion is a daily occurrence on the A55 around Britannia Bridge, which has consequences for the air quality of the AONB. However, only short sections of the road are located within the AONB.

The port of Holyhead operates ferries to and from

Ireland. Approximately 1.9 million passengers and 746,000 vehicles use the port each year (Department for Transport Port Statistics 2012).

An important transport link is the main line railway from Holyhead to London. The stations at Holyhead, Valley, Rhosneigr, Bodorgan and Llanfairpwll are either located in, or near to the AONB. The renovation of the spur line from Gaerwen to Amlwch is also a possibility within this plan period.

Air facilities are available at both Mona and Valley airfields with scheduled air services operating between Anglesey Airport (civilian terminal at Valley) and Cardiff (IACC 2008)

There is an extensive network of bus services on Anglesey, either operated commercially or under contract from the County Council. Approximately 1.4 million passenger journeys are made annually using these buses (IACC 2013).

Two National Cycle Network routes pass through the AONB. These are the Holyhead to Cardiff route (NCN8, also known as Lôn Las Cymru) and Holyhead to Reading via Chester route (NCN5). A further route, NCN566, links Llanddeusant to Malltraeth via NCN5, with the Southern part of NCN566 following the mainly off road route known as Lôn Las Cefni. 4 rural cycling tours have been signed and promoted by Menter Môn, and are identified as:

- Nico
- Giach
- Hebog
- Telor





Table 24: The impact of transport on the Anglesey AONB

<p>GENERAL IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE AONB</p>	<p>Various modes of transport can be seen in the AONB, including cars, buses, lorries, trains and bicycles. They are all integral to the social and economic development of the AONB. However, this reliance can have both environmental and visual effects on the region</p>
<p>POSITIVE IMPACTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increasingly mobile community • The existence of an accessible transport network which can be utilised by both residents and tourists • The transport network is integral to the viability of economic activity in the AONB
<p>NEGATIVE IMPACTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic congestion • Pollution • Threats to biodiversity • A visual degradation of the landscape
<p>REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS TO THE ACTIVITY THAT WILL BENEFIT THE AONB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transport infrastructure requires sympathetic environmental improvements and maintenance • Encourage alternative means of travel and reduce local reliance on cars • Encourage the use of public transport through appropriate marketing and public information • Encourage opportunities for the use of bicycles instead of cars • Encourage the development of cycleways, in particular between schools and housing • Encourage car park and bus shelter designs which are sensitive and sympathetic to the landscape
<p>BENEFITS OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction in the reliance on motor cars means a reduction in congestion and air pollution • Improvement to the public transport systems means greater mobility for the AONB's communities • Sustainable transport has environmental benefits • Improvements to car parks should help to reduce congestion at the most popular sites • Cycling has associated health benefits • An increase in cycling would present opportunities for the development of cycle hire businesses in the AONB



Menai suspension bridge



3 AONBs – National and Regional Policy Support

3.0 AONBs – National and Regional Policy Support

3.1 Designated Landscapes

The AONBs of Wales, together with the other designated landscapes in the UK are also part of a world-wide network of protected areas known as ‘Protected Landscapes’. AONBs in the UK have been categorised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) as ‘Category V Protected Landscapes’. Category V Protected Landscapes are defined as “Areas 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 an area”.

In March 2007 the UK signed and ratified the European Landscape Convention (ELC), which is a Council of Europe initiative. The ELC provides a broad framework for the planning and management of all landscapes across member states. The ELC defines ‘landscape’ as “an area, perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”.

The ELC represents some common core principles and actions as shown below;

- Putting people – from all cultures and communities – and their surroundings, at the heart of spatial planning and sustainable development.
- Recognising that landscape exists everywhere, not just in special places and, whether beautiful or degraded, is everyone’s shared inheritance.
- Increasing awareness and understanding of landscape and its value, as a unifying framework for all land-use sectors.
- Promoting a more accessible, integrated and forward looking approach to managing inherited landscapes and shaping new landscapes.

In the UK AONBs were originally designated under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. This act allowed the finest rural landscapes in Wales and England to be protected as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (or National Parks), for the benefit of present and future generations.

There are currently 46 AONBs designated throughout Wales, England and Northern Ireland. The first to be designated was Gower in 1956, the most recent, Tamar Valley in 1995. Together, the AONBs contain some of

the most renowned and nationally important landscapes in Wales, England and Northern Ireland and share equal status with National Parks in terms of scenic beauty and landscape protection. This is further reinforced in Planning Policy Wales (Version 7 2014).

3.2 AONBs

The main purpose of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the designated area. The most recent description of Natural Beauty was compiled by CCW in 2006 and was widely consulted on. It stated that:

Description of Natural Beauty

“Natural Beauty”, when used both generally and specifically as in the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act and other legislation, is a complex and multifaceted concept that is concerned with landscape in its broadest sense. It relates primarily to unspoiled, but not necessarily extensive, rural landscapes that are largely free from the effects of disfiguring development or urbanisation. Although the legislation makes clear that it includes flora, fauna, geological and physiographic features, it applies not only to landscapes where nature is dominant but also to those which have been shaped and nurtured by human activities. People perceive and appreciate “Natural Beauty” through all their senses, responding to many different aspects of the landscape, including its distinctive character, its aesthetic qualities, the presence of wildlife, its cultural and historical dimensions and its sense of freedom. Perceptions of, and preferences for “natural beauty” are informed by people’s personal characteristics, cultural backgrounds and individual interests. “Natural Beauty” occurs, to varying degrees, in many, though by no means, all landscapes. Some places may, however, be judged to display “natural beauty” to an outstanding degree and may as a result be recognised as warranting a national level of protection.

The conservation of the fauna, flora, landscape and geology of each AONB is also central to the designation. As previously stated this was originally laid out in the 1949 Act. It was then modified in the Countryside Act 1968 and then, for AONBs, it was confirmed in the CRoW Act 2000 and for the National Parks under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

The status of AONBs was strengthened by the introduction of the CROW Act 2000 as the Act:



- Places a statutory responsibility on local authorities to produce AONB management plans, to support the delivery of the AONB purpose;
- Gives all public bodies and statutory undertakers a duty of regard to AONB purposes, heralding a new era of integrated local management for our finest countryside;
- Creates a new management option of AONB Conservation Boards, with national and local membership, which can independently address complex issues including social and economic issues.

The CRoW Act also defines the role of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in particular its responsibility for the designation of AONBs and as a consultee in planning matters which affect AONBs. It also has a wider role in terms of being the statutory adviser to the Welsh Government (WG) on landscape and nature conservation and recreation in the countryside including AONBs. NRW is also the source of grant aid for a wide range of activities carried out in the AONB as match funding linked to the delivery of the management plan. The grant partnership funding from NRW matched with funding from the Isle of Anglesey County Council supports the delivery of a range of activities within the AONB.

Further guidance on AONB purposes was included in the 2003 CCW publication 'An Introduction to AONBs':

AONB Purposes

The primary statutory purpose of designating a tract of countryside as an AONB is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. The concept of 'natural beauty' as defined in the Acts includes the protection of flora, fauna and geological as well as landscape features. However, it is very important that the cultural dimension of the landscape, including the historical, spiritual and inspirational elements, as well as the physical human shaping of the land is fully recognised. In Wales the added dimension of the language provides an essential element of cultural richness that must be recognised too. These should be integrated into the management of AONBs.

In contrast to National Parks, AONBs have never been given a statutory recreation purpose. However, as scenically attractive areas, they have always been popular with visitors, and it has long been recognised that the demand should be met so long as it is consistent with the conservation of the area and with the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

In pursuing the primary purpose of designation account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry and other rural industries. The economic and

social need of local communities and in particular the promotion of sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment is vital. The contribution that the environment makes to quality of life and the economic advantage it creates is significant. This implies the need for an integrated approach to the management of AONBs and the achievement of conservation through appropriate social and economic development.

In Wales, the statutory requirement for the Welsh Assembly Government to pursue sustainable development serves to give heightened importance to the interaction between the conservation of AONBs, and the needs of recreation and tourism, the local economy and local communities.

The role and influence of humans in shaping the British landscape over thousands of years should not be underestimated either, and AONBs should also conserve archaeological and architectural features.

Concern still remains for the social and economic needs of the rural communities situated in the AONBs and is an important feature of AONB management. Existing rural industries need to be maintained to safeguard the viability of communities, as they are an integral part of every AONB.

In Wales the un-adopted Policy Statement for Protected Landscapes (both AONBs and National Parks), provides a shared vision, outcomes and operational framework for the management of individual designated landscapes and for national stakeholders whose policies and decisions influence designated landscape management. It also provides for flexibility of management and delivery within each area. Further details of the Policy Statement can be found at www.wales.gov.uk.

3.3 Heritage Coasts

Three sections of coastline within Anglesey's AONB are also designated as Heritage Coasts. Heritage coasts are a non-statutory landscape designation that exist to protect areas of undeveloped coastline in Wales and England from development and also to make them accessible to the public for recreation and enjoyment (Countryside Commission 1995). The CCW's policy regarding Heritage Coasts is (CCW 1996):

Heritage Coasts

NRW will continue to encourage the work done in Heritage Coasts and encourage its lessons to be used elsewhere. The future of Heritage Coasts will be considered as part of a possible review of designations. This will also cover the possibility of amalgamating Heritage Coast and AONB boundaries.



3.4 Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) came into force in the European Union in December 2000 and was adopted into UK law in 2003. Its main aim is “to reach good chemical and ecological systems in inland and coastal waters by 2015”. Specifically it is designed to;

- Enhance the status and prevent further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands, which depend on aquatic ecosystems
- Promote the sustainable use of water
- Reduce pollution of water
- Ensure progressive reduction of groundwater pollution

The WFD is also designed to improve and integrate the way water bodies are managed. In Wales, much of the implementation will be undertaken by Natural Resources Wales and achieved in partnership through River Basin Management Plans. The Isle of Anglesey as a whole is covered by one plan.

3.5 Marine Plans

Further to the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 the Marine Policy Statement (MPS) was adopted in 2011 and is the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment.

The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby:

- Promote sustainable economic development;
- Enable the UK’s move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects;
- Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; and
- Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues.

The Welsh Government intends to produce a single Marine Plan for Wales by the end of 2015. A Statement of Public Participation has already been consulted upon and further consultation can be expected on a draft plan during the summer / winter of 2014/15. The role of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) will be part of this process.

Another Act which has a bearing on the management of the AONB is the ‘Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006’. The Act states that ‘Every

public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity’.

3.6 Planning Policy Guidance

Although AONBs are a national designation, statutory responsibility for the administration of the Isle of Anglesey AONB rests locally with the Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC). Welsh Planning Policy Guidance requires the local planning authorities with responsibility for AONBs to protect and promote their natural beauty and value.

Planning policy for the AONB is located in several documents. All Wales guidance is contained within Planning Policy Guidance published by the Welsh Assembly Government. This guidance highlights the importance of the AONB as part of the designated landscapes of Wales and requires local planning authorities to protect and promote their value.

The Planning Policy Wales (PPW) document (Welsh Government Edition 7 July 2014) reaffirms the need for local authorities to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape designations (AONBs and National Parks) in Wales.

The Guidance states that:

- Development plan policies and development management 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 (PPW 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 plans 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 (PPW 5.3.6);
- “The duty to have regard to National Parks and AONB purposes applies to activities affecting these areas, whether those activities lie within or outside the designated areas” (PPW 5.3.7);
- “Statutory designation does not necessarily prohibit development, but proposals for development must be carefully assessed for their effect on those natural



heritage interests which the designation is intended to protect” (PPW 5.5.5);

- In National Parks or AONBs, special considerations apply to major development proposals which are more national than local in character. Major developments should not take place in National Parks or AONBs except in exceptional circumstances. This may arise where, after rigorous examination, there is demonstrated to be an overriding public need and refusal would be severely detrimental to the local economy and there is no potential for locating the development elsewhere or meeting the need in some other way. Any construction and restoration must be carried out to high environmental standards. Consideration of applications for major developments should therefore include an assessment of:
 - the need for the development, in terms of national considerations, and the impact of

permitting it or refusing it upon the local economy;

- the cost of and scope for providing the development outside the designated area or meeting the need for it in some other way;
- any detrimental effect on the environment and the landscape, and the extent to which that could be moderated (PPW 5.5.6).

At a local level, policy guidance is taken forward in the development plan for the area. Development plans include the policies which protect the landscape and character of these nationally important areas from any inappropriate development.

The current development plans for Ynys Môn consists of the adopted Gwynedd Structure Plan (1993) and the Ynys Môn Local Plan (1996), which contains policies relating to the AONB. Certain policies have direct reference whilst others protect features within the AONB.

Table 1: A summary of the 1993 Gwynedd Structure Plan’s policies relating to the Anglesey AONB

POLICY	DESCRIPTION
D1	It is the policy.... to protect and enhance the environment of the Ynys Môn AONB
D5	There will be a presumption against proposals to develop sites along the coastline outside the main settlements which would conflict with its landscape character and nature conservation value
D10	To ensure that the heritage of wild flora and fauna and geological and physiographic features are safeguarded, particularly NNR’s, SSSI’s, RSPB reserves, wetlands, SPA’s, Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and other areas of high nature conservation interest
D15	In considering proposals for development the Planning Authorities will ensure that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Scheduled ancient monuments and their settings will be preserved intact and planning permission will normally be refused. ii. Areas of archaeological importance and unscheduled archaeological sites and their settings which are considered to be of sufficient regional, local or academic interest to merit preservation, will be preserved and planning permission will be refused
DD6	Proposals for the mining and working of minerals will be assessed against the impact on the AONB and Heritage Coasts
D13	Proposals for the large scale extraction of metalliferous ores in the AONB and Heritage Coasts where such development would cause demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance will not be permitted

Table 2: A summary of the 1993 Gwynedd Structure Plan’s policies relating to the Anglesey AONB

POLICY	DESCRIPTION
30	Within the AONB the Council will give priority to the protection and enhancement of the landscape when considering planning applications
32	The Council will refuse applications which result in the loss of trees, hedgerows, stone walls, ‘cloddiau’ and other traditional landscape features
36	Development will not be permitted in the undeveloped areas on and adjoining the coast where the nature or scale of the development would harm the character of the coast
39	The Council will use its planning powers to ensure that Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their settings are retained intact. Unscheduled archaeological sites and their settings of sufficient importance to merit preservation will also be protected
46	Proposals for telecommunications development will be approved where they will not have an unacceptable impact on areas of nature conservation or landscape significance



Under the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 there was a requirement for each unitary planning authority in Wales to prepare a Unitary Development Plan (UDP) for its area. Work on the Ynys Môn UDP stopped in December 2005. However, due to the advanced stage reached in its preparation (post Inspectors Report) it is

given weight as a material consideration in dealing with current applications. The UDP contains policies relating to the character of the landscape of the island and for the protection and promotion of the area designated as an AONB.

Table 3: A summary of the Stopped 2005 Deposit Unitary Development Plan’s policies relating to the Anglesey AONB

POLICY	DESCRIPTION
EN2	Within the AONB the Council will give priority to the protection and enhancement of the landscape. Applications for major development will be subject to the most rigorous examination. Any construction or restoration should be carried out to high environmental standards.
EN5	Development will not be permitted where it would adversely affect either directly or indirectly the integrity of a site, or proposed sites of European importance for nature conservation, including Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, including potential or candidate or listed sites awaiting designation. Where development is permitted the Authority will consider the use of conditions or planning obligations to ensure the protection and enhancement of the site’s nature conservation interest.
EN6	Development that is likely to result in damage or have a detrimental effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest will be subject to special scrutiny and will not be permitted unless the reasons for the development clearly outweigh the value of the site itself. Where development is permitted the Authority will consider the use of conditions or planning obligations to ensure the protection and enhancement of the site’s nature conservation interest.
EN7	Development will not be permitted where it would cause unacceptable harm to a Local Nature Reserve, Ancient Woodlands and ancient woodland sites that have been replanted/regenerated, a site of Importance for Nature Conservation or a Regionally Important Geological / Geomorphologic Site unless it can be demonstrated that there are reasons for the proposal which clearly outweigh the need to safeguard the site. Where proven environmental, economic or social need necessitates the loss or damage of all or part of a site, developers will be expected to create a suitable replacement habitat and to make provision for future management.
EN12	The Council will use its planning powers to ensure that Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their settings are retained intact and preserved for future generations. Unscheduled Archaeological Sites and broader historic landscapes which merit protection for their historic interest and significance will also be protected. Where proposals affect other unscheduled archaeological remains which do not merit preservation, provision will be made to encourage, develop or provide further opportunities to record, investigate, properly manage, understand or enhance the historic environment.
PO8a	Development will only be permitted in the undeveloped areas on and adjoining the coast where the nature or scale of the development would not harm the character of the coast. Proposals should wherever possible enhance the coastal and marine environments.



Newborough beach



The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) places a requirement on each Local Planning authority to produce a Local Development Plan (LDP). An aim of the LDP system is to produce plans that are more strategic, concise and distinctive. One way of achieving this is through avoiding unnecessary repetition of national policy. A Joint Local Development Plan is in the process of being prepared for the Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd Local Planning Authority Area. Once adopted the Joint Local Development Plan will replace the current adopted development plans. The deposit version of the plan was released for public consultation 2015 with anticipated adoption in 2016.

One of the purposes of the AONB Management Plan is to define objectives to determine and coordinate the future management of the Isle of Anglesey AONB within

the context of this planning policy framework.

The protection and promotion of the AONB through planning policies is also reflected in the IACC's aims and strategic outcomes. A number of these objectives complement the IACC's statutory role of administering the Anglesey AONB. The Council's new strategic aim is to "To promote and protect the interests of the island, its citizens and communities". In doing so, the Authority will work towards achieving five strategic outcomes, namely to create and Anglesey

- which has a thriving and prosperous rural economy
- where people achieve their full potential
- where people are healthy and safe
- where people enjoy, protect and enhance their built and natural environment for future generations
- where people are proud of their Council





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