Appendix 1
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:

- Visual and Sensory
- History
- Landscape habitats
- Culture
- 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
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-
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL QUALITIES</th>
<th>EXTENT OF RESOURCE</th>
<th>CONDITION (derived from landmap)</th>
<th>WHY IMPORTANT?</th>
<th>FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Coastal Landscape Features:** | Sea cliffs are prominent on the west and north coasts, in particular at:  
- Rhoscolyn  
- South Stack  
- Ynys y Fydlyn  
- Ynys Llanddwy | Variable | The AONB is a landscape designation |  
- 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 | The coastal landscape helps to define the character of Anglesey |  
- 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 |
|   | Sandy beaches are located throughout the AONB. Includes beaches at Lligwy, Aberffraw, Llanddona and Llanddwy | Variable | These features are distinctive, appealing and integral elements of the coastal landscape |  
- 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 |
|   | 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. |  
- 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 |
| **Traditional Agricultural Landscape Features:** | Ancient hedgerows are more concentrated in the south and east of the AONB. Associated with boundaries (parish, estate and farm) country lanes and trackways. | Declining | The AONB is a landscape designation  
The agricultural landscape helps to define the character of Anglesey |  
- Changes in land management practices  
- Changes in legislation  
- Inappropriate development  
- Economic pressures and threats  
- General neglect  
- Road widening  
- Inappropriate cutting regimes  
- Changes in grant schemes  
- Non-native Invasive Species |
|   |  |  | These features are a valuable wildlife habitat and are link corridors for flora and fauna |  
- Changes in land management practices  
- Changes in legislation  
- Inappropriate development  
- Economic pressures and threats  
- General neglect  
- Road widening  
- Inappropriate cutting regimes  
- Changes in grant schemes  
- Non-native Invasive Species |
|   |  |  | These features are an integral element of the AONB’s landscape |  
- Changes in land management practices  
- Changes in legislation  
- Inappropriate development  
- Economic pressures and threats  
- General neglect  
- Road widening  
- Inappropriate cutting regimes  
- Changes in grant schemes  
- Non-native Invasive Species |
| **Expansive Views** | Throughout the AONB | Good | Such views provide a significant contrast and backdrop to the landscape of Anglesey |  
- Changes in land management practices  
- Inappropriate development  
- Energy production and transmission |

(continued next page...)

5
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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL QUALITIES</th>
<th>EXTENT OF RESOURCE</th>
<th>CONDITION (derived from landmap)</th>
<th>WHY IMPORTANT?</th>
<th>FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peace and Tranquillity</td>
<td>Majority of the AONB</td>
<td>Poor to good</td>
<td>The landscape provides a rewarding experience for both residents and tourists</td>
<td>• Changes in land management practices&lt;br&gt;• Changes in legislation&lt;br&gt;• Inappropriate development&lt;br&gt;• Energy production&lt;br&gt;• Inappropriate recreation&lt;br&gt;• Transport&lt;br&gt;• Race track developments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islands around Anglesey</td>
<td>30 islands are included in the AONB designation</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>These islands are an important physical link between the landscape and seascape of Anglesey</td>
<td>• Climate change and sea level rise&lt;br&gt;• Changes in legislation&lt;br&gt;• Natural processes&lt;br&gt;• Off shore developments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT ASPECTS</th>
<th>CONDITION (derived from landmap)</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holyhead Mountain</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Precambrian outcrop. Heavily folded. Highest point on Anglesey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Island</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Primarily intensely folded green -micaschists. Lower lying and shorter cliff faces. Rare serpentine intrusions derived from the earth's mantle. GCR Sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmel Head</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Thrust and folded Precambrian and Ordovician rocks. Coves and spectacular caves. GCR site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skerries</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Melange and volcanic rocks. Precambrian island group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West Drumlin Field</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Extensive post glacial geomorphological landform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Coastal Zone</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Precambrian rare stromatolitic fossils, important sedimentary melange. Complex rocky landform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mynydd Eliian</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Precambrian/Ordovician fault. RIGS site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lligwy Bay Sandstone Zone</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Devonian Old Red Sandstone GCR Site. Unique in North Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern limestone zone</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Includes small areas of limestone pavement on extensive carboniferous limestone. GCR and RIGS sites. Important quarrying area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penmon Limestone</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Carboniferous limestone. Areas of limestone pavement. GCR and RIGS sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menai Zone</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Areas of schists, limestone and red measures. GCR and RIGS sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newborough Warren Blown Sand</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Major geomorphological complex GCR site adjacent to world class pillow lavas erupted on a sea bed at a constructive ocean plate margin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberffraw Blown Sand</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Complex of blown sand. Important dune system. GCR site</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 3: Geology - Special qualities of the AONB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL QUALITIES</th>
<th>EXTENT OF RESOURCE</th>
<th>CONDITION (derived from landmap)</th>
<th>WHY IMPORTANT?</th>
<th>FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geological and Geomorphological Features</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>The Island’s geology and geomorphology has a dramatic effect on the AONB’s landscape and biodiversity.</td>
<td>Anglesey consists of some of the most ancient tracts of rocks in Great Britain. The features provide an insight into the geological evolution of the Island. The geology has influenced the location and nature of Anglesey’s communities, economic activities and the transport infrastructure. 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.</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 [c] 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 characteris-tic 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 Giannau 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 (www.nature.net). 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
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.

### 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL QUALITIES</th>
<th>EXTENT OF RESOURCE</th>
<th>CONDITION (LUC 2014)</th>
<th>WHY IMPORTANT?</th>
<th>FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadleaved Woodland</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Declining</td>
<td>Anglesey is one of the least wooded counties in the UK</td>
<td>• Increasing isolation between woodlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>There is limited natural woodland coverage in the AONB</td>
<td>• General neglect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Woodlands are a distinctive, appealing and integral element of the AONB’s landscape</td>
<td>• Grazing of ground layer restricts natural regeneration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowland and Coastal Heath</td>
<td>The majority of the heathland on Anglesey is located in the AONB. Present at many SSSI’s including: • Tre Wilmot • Penrhoslligwy • Fedw Fawr • Mariandrys • Bwrdd Arthur • Ty Croes • Holyhead Mountain • Mynydd Bodafon • Breakwater Country Park</td>
<td>Unfavourable recovering</td>
<td>On a world scale, heathland is a rare habitat, with its major stronghold in Western Europe</td>
<td>• Changes in land management practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anglesey’s heathland constitutes approximately 12.5% of the lowland heathland in Wales and 1.7% of the heathland in the UK</td>
<td>• Competition from non-native invasive species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Heathland is a distinctive and integral element of the AONB’s landscape</td>
<td>Overgrazing leading to loss of dwarf shrubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Abandonment of cliff top grazing due to recreational pressure</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Scrub development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Changing agricultural practices</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Abandonment of Commons</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The decline in appropriate burning regimes of heathland</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Atmospheric eutrophication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 principate 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-cruck 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 slice 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 Camau, 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 (Llanfairfechan) 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. Cemais 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 Seriol a particularly ascetic community with Irish affinities, part of a larger group called Culdees (Ceil 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,
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, Llanerchymedd 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 Strait. 

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.

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 Llanfairyngarthw. 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.

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 Rhianfa 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 landscape of the Anglesey AONB

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

(...continued on the next page)
Table 5: A summary of the significant attributes of the historic landscape of the Anglesey AONB

(...continued)

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

Hen Gapel Lligwy
The Built Environment

Throughout the AONB, 4 Conservation Areas have been designated in the AONB. They are:

- Beaumaris
- Aberffraw
- Holyhead Mountain Village
- Menai Bridge

403 Listed Buildings are located within the AONB.

Archaeology and Ancient Monuments

75 Statutorily Protected Scheduled Ancient Monuments and numerous Non Scheduled Archaeological Sites have been designated in the AONB.

Two Outstanding Historic Landscapes are located in the AONB.

Table 6: The special qualities of the Anglesey AONB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL QUALITIES</th>
<th>EXTENT OF RESOURCE</th>
<th>CONDITION (LUC 2014)</th>
<th>WHY IMPORTANT?</th>
<th>FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Built Environment</td>
<td>Throughout the AONB 4 Conservation Areas have been designated in the AONB. They are:</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>These features provide an insight into past activities in the AONB, and are a record of human evolution on the Island</td>
<td>• Neglect and lack of management, leading to decay and disrepair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Beaumaris</td>
<td></td>
<td>These features are an integral element of the AONB’s landscape</td>
<td>• Land management practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Aberffraw</td>
<td></td>
<td>The variety of the built environment helps to define the AONB. Located within the AONB are examples of industrial, religious, cultural and agricultural features</td>
<td>• Changes in legislation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Holyhead Mountain Village</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• ‘Conversion Appeal’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Menai Bridge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Inappropriate development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>403 Listed Buildings are located within the AONB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Management agreements and the availability of funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75 Statutorily Protected Scheduled Ancient Monuments and numerous Non Scheduled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lack of public awareness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeological Sites have been designated in the AONB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two Outstanding Historic Landscapes are located in the AONB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT ASPECTS</th>
<th>CONDITION (derived from landmap)</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holyhead</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Historic port. Important sense of place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penrhos</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Home of Stanley family since 1763. Influential in Island life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemaes</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Fishing town, important local brickworks. Welsh language dominant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5 / Pont Menai</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Telford’s Road - related to development of Holyhead. Important cultural landscape element</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea / Shipwrecks</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Relates to Skerries and North Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Anglesey</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Extensive rural and coastal area. Area notorious for smuggling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mynydd Parys - Amlwch</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Town linked to mining at Mynydd Parys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moelfre</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Historic site and port lifeboat station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Llanfihangel Tre’r Beirdd / Mynydd Bodafon</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Linked to local cultural inputs, teaching, surveying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penrhos Lligwy</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Area rich in archaeology and historic associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pentraeth - Plas Gwyn</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Important cultural and literary associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Llanddona</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Associated with witchcraft and smuggling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penmon</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Priory church associated with Saint Seiriol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baron Hill</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Home of Bulkeley family, long the most powerful in Anglesey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Llanfair / Menai Bridge</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Linked to Telford’s developments, and railway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plas Newydd</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Seat of Marquis of Anglesey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brynsiencyn</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>19th century creation, men worked in mainland quarries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plas Llanidan - Church</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Links to revival of druidism and eisteddfod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newborough</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Planned community, dates from 14th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodorgan</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Planned estate. Seat of Meyrick family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberffraw</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Key site. Associated with Llywelyn the last and Mabinogion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porth Trecastell</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Important historic site</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 8: Culture – Special qualities of the AONB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL QUALITIES</th>
<th>EXTENT OF RESOURCE</th>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>WHY IMPORTANT?</th>
<th>FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural and Agricultural Communities</td>
<td>Located throughout the AONB</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>The agricultural landscape helps to define the character of Anglesey</td>
<td>• Demise of family succession and ownership in the agricultural industry and small businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The communities in the AONB are founded upon Welsh culture, traditions and agricultural practices. Such communities are the ‘backbone’ to the AONB</td>
<td>• Migration patterns / population structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lack of affordable housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lack of employment opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Welsh language</td>
<td>Knowledge of Welsh is approximately three times more common within the Isle of Anglesey AONB than in Wales as a whole</td>
<td>Improving</td>
<td>Welsh is the normal means of daily communication for over 60% of people living within the Anglesey AONB</td>
<td>• Migration patterns / population structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Welsh language contributes towards the identity of the Island and subsequently the AONB. The cultural features of the AONB are an economic asset</td>
<td>• Loss of community cohesion and traditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Demise in local traditions and skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• The influence of the media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 at 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL QUALITIES</th>
<th>EXTENT OF RESOURCE</th>
<th>CONDITION (Soil map of Anglesey)</th>
<th>WHY IMPORTANT?</th>
<th>FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soil Quality</td>
<td>Located throughout the AONB</td>
<td>Grade 2 land = 4% of the AONB Grade 3 land = 34% of the AONB Grade 4 land = 28% of the AONB Grade 5 land = 20% of the AONB</td>
<td>Soil contamination can have a negative impact upon the landscape and biodiversity features of the AONB Favourable soil quality in the AONB is important for both residents and visitors The quality of the soil has implications for health, tourism and recreation</td>
<td>• 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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Table 10: Air Quality – Special Qualities of the AONB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL QUALITIES</th>
<th>EXTENT OF RESOURCE</th>
<th>CONDITION (IACC 2014)</th>
<th>WHY IMPORTANT?</th>
<th>FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality</td>
<td>Throughout the AONB</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Air pollution can have a negative impact upon the visual landscape, biodiversity, culture and heritage features of the AONB</td>
<td>• 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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARAMETER</th>
<th>LIMIT</th>
<th>COMPLIANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliforms</td>
<td>&lt;10,000 cfu / 100ml</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faecal Coliforms</td>
<td>&lt;2,000 cfu / 100ml</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARAMETER</th>
<th>LIMIT</th>
<th>COMPLIANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliforms</td>
<td>&lt;500 cfu / 100ml</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faecal Coliforms</td>
<td>&lt;100 cfu / 100 ml</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faecal Streptococci</td>
<td>&lt;100 cfu / 100 ml</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Guideline standard (Imperative/Guideline)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>GUIDELINE % (no.)</th>
<th>MANDATORY % (no.)</th>
<th>FAIL % (no.)</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF BEACHES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>77 (20)</td>
<td>23 (6)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>85 (22)</td>
<td>15 (4)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>85 (22)</td>
<td>15 (4)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>85 (22)</td>
<td>15 (4)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>85 (22)</td>
<td>14 (3)</td>
<td>1 (1)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>85 (22)</td>
<td>14 (3)</td>
<td>1 (1)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL QUALITIES</th>
<th>EXTENT OF RESOURCE</th>
<th>CONDITION (IoACC 2014 &amp; NRW)</th>
<th>WHY IMPORTANT?</th>
<th>FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Quality</td>
<td>Throughout and surrounding the AONB</td>
<td>Improving</td>
<td>Favourable water quality in the AONB is important for both residents and visitors</td>
<td>• Tourism and economic pressures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The quality of the water has implications for health, tourism, recreation and the viability of various economic activities</td>
<td>• Agricultural practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Water pollution can have a negative impact upon the visual and biodiversity features of the AONB</td>
<td>• Recreational pressures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Pollution, including that originating from industries and activities not located within the AONB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Increased demand for fresh water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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), Penrhosfelin 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 Llanddwyyn 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 Llanddwyyn, Llanddona, Porth Dafarch, Benllech, Trefarddwr 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL QUALITIES</th>
<th>EXTENT OF RESOURCE</th>
<th>CONDITION (IoACC 2014 &amp; NRW)</th>
<th>WHY IMPORTANT?</th>
<th>FACTORS AFFECTING CONDITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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    | • 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 |                                                                                           |
|                         | • 119 kms of PROW  | Good                          | An accessible AONB is also an environmental educational resources             |                                                                                           |
|                         | • 45 kms of access provided by the National Trust, Forestry Commission and RSPB |                                | The accessibility of the AONB is integral to people being able to enjoy the area’s special qualities |                                                                                           |
|                         | • 14 kms of permissive access |                                |                                                                              |                                                                                           |
| Accessible Land and Water | 1530 hectares of access land on Anglesey | Good                           | The accessibility of the AONB is important for both residents and visitors    | • 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) | Unknown                        | An accessible AONB is also an environmental educational resources             |                                                                                           |
|                         | 26 seaside award beaches have been designated in the AONB (Potential for change annually) |                                | The accessibility of the AONB is integral to people being able to enjoy the area’s special qualities |                                                                                           |
|                         | Accessible nature reserves include: 5 SACs, 3 SPAs, 1 NNR and 2 LNR’s |                                | Increased economic contribution through recreation tourism                    |                                                                                           |
2.0 The Activities in the AONB

2.1 Land Management

Headline Indicators

- 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 increase.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE AONB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSITIVE IMPACTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Economic impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Employment opportunities in the AONB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The maintenance of rural population, social structures and culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Protection and enhancement of many natural landscape and biodiversity features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improved opportunities for recreation in the AONB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Support for rural skills and traditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Management of Historic features</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEGATIVE IMPACTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Pollution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Habitat and species loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Visual impact of humans on the landscape, for example silage bags and agricultural outbuildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Over exploitation of the AONB for economic returns can lead to degradation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Possible loss of Historic features and intrusion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS TO THE ACTIVITY THAT WILL BENEFIT THE AONB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• CAP reform, changes to subsidies and an increase in diversification schemes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• An increase in the uptake of agri-environmental schemes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increased awareness and interest in organic farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Changes to current agricultural practices, including a reduction in use of pesticides and chemicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provision of sustainable management advice to farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Encourage appropriate management of existing woodlands and the planting of local provenance woodlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Raise awareness of the benefits of consuming local produce, and encourage effective marketing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENEFITS OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• It will help to safeguard the future of the local economy and communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• There will be less risk of environmental incidents, and the activities will not be as detrimental to the environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECOSYSTEM SERVICES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Provisioning Services: Food, Genetic Diversity, Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Regulating Services: Air quality regulation, soil quality, pollination, water quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cultural Services: Cultural heritage values, recreation and tourism services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2 Nature Conservation

Headline Indicators

- 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 http://www.coedlleol.org.uk/actif-woods-groups/anglesey/. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAC</th>
<th>AREA IN AONB (HA)</th>
<th>COMPONENT SSSI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cemlyn Bay</td>
<td>43.53</td>
<td>Cemlyn Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh</td>
<td>1057.56</td>
<td>Newborough Warren-Ynys Llanddwyw Tywyn Aberffraw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Island Coast</td>
<td>448.41</td>
<td>Holy Island Coast Tre Wilmot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menai Strait and Conwy Bay</td>
<td>155.17</td>
<td>Arfordir Gogleddol Penmon Glannau Penmon – Biwmares Glannau Porthaethwy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes</td>
<td>1626.07</td>
<td>Newborough Warren – Ynys Llanddwyw Tywyn Aberffraw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puffin Island</td>
<td>31.33</td>
<td>Puffin Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Island Coast</td>
<td>593.73</td>
<td>Glannau Rhoscolyn Glannau Ynys Gybi: Holy Island Coast Tre Wilmot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ynys Feurig, Cemlyn Bay and The Skerries</td>
<td>60.55</td>
<td>Cemlyn Bay The Skerries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2.4 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

SSSIs provide protection to the finest wildlife and geological features in Great Britain. Most SSSIs 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, Penrhoslligwy 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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SSSI Name</th>
<th>Area within the AONB (Ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newborough Warren – Ynys Llanddwy</td>
<td>2315.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penrhos Lligwy</td>
<td>6.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penrhynoedd Llangadwaladr</td>
<td>176.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ynys Seiriol – Puffin Island</td>
<td>31.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhoscolyn Reedbed</td>
<td>15.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhosneig Reefs</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhosydd Llanddona</td>
<td>12.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgistaau Glas Ynys Mon – Anglesey Blue Schist</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Skerries</td>
<td>17.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traeth Lligwy</td>
<td>26.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tre Wilmot</td>
<td>63.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twyn Dwiban</td>
<td>14.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ty Croes</td>
<td>28.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyddyn y Waen</td>
<td>6.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tywyn Aberfraw</td>
<td>369.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 / Llanddwywn Island, which covers 1554 hectares, is the only NNR designated within the AONB.

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 Cymru 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.

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

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL IMPACT ON THE AONB</th>
<th>General Mosaic of habitats and species present on Anglesey with opportunities for improving connectivity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| POSITIVE IMPACTS | • Economic impacts  
• Employment opportunities in the AONB  
• The maintenance of rural culture  
• Protection and enhancement of many natural landscape and biodiversity features |
| NEGATIVE IMPACTS | • 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 | • 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 | • 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.
2.3.2 Tourism

**Headline Indicators**

- 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 tranquility 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

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*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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>MINERALS</th>
<th>ACTIVE OR NON ACTIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberstrech Quarry, Moel Eife</td>
<td>Limestone</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holyhead Mountain</td>
<td>Igneous</td>
<td>Non active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penrhos, Holyhead</td>
<td>Sand</td>
<td>Non active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plas Coch, Llanedwen</td>
<td>Sandstone</td>
<td>Non active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tan Dinas, Llanddona</td>
<td>Limestone</td>
<td>Non active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinmor, Penmon</td>
<td>Limestone</td>
<td>Non active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ty’n Llwydan, Bodorgan (a)</td>
<td>Sand</td>
<td>Non active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ty’n Llwydan, Bodorgan (b)</td>
<td>Sand</td>
<td>Non active</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

- 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 | • 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 | • 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 | • 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 | • 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: Tranquility, Cultural heritage values and recreation and tourism services  
Provisioning services: Energy |
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.
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 | • 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 | • 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 | • 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 | • 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 | • Cultural services: Cultural heritage values, recreation and tourism, health and well-being and tranquility |
### Table 23: The impact of recreation on the Anglesey AONB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE AONB</th>
<th>POSITIVE IMPACTS</th>
<th>NEGATIVE IMPACTS</th>
<th>REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS TO THE ACTIVITY THAT WILL BENEFIT THE AONB</th>
<th>BENEFITS OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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 | • 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 | • 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 | • 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 | • 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

| GENERAL IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE AONB | 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 |
| POSITIVE IMPACTS | • 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 |
| NEGATIVE IMPACTS | • Traffic congestion • Pollution • Threats to biodiversity • A visual degradation of the landscape |
| REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS TO THE ACTIVITY THAT WILL BENEFIT THE AONB | • 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 |
| BENEFITS OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY | • 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 |
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 GROW 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>It is the policy to protect and enhance the environment of the Ynys Môn AONB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D5</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D10</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| D15    | In considering proposals for development the Planning Authorities will ensure that:  
  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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Within the AONB the Council will give priority to the protection and enhancement of the landscape when considering planning applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>The Council will refuse applications which result in the loss of trees, hedgerows, stone walls, ‘cloddiau’ and other traditional landscape features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Proposals for telecommunications development will be approved where they will not have an unacceptable impact on areas of nature conservation or landscape significance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EN2</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN5</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN6</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN7</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN12</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO8a</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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