

**The Dingle**  
**Local Nature Reserve**



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## **Executive Summary**

Owned and managed by the Isle of Anglesey County Council (IoACC), the Dingle Local Nature Reserve, Llangefni is a popular 18 hectare deciduous woodland. It is located in the centre of the market town of Llangefni and is bisected by the Cefni river.

The Management Plan's aim is to continue to improve and enhance visitors enjoyment and understanding whilst maintaining and improving the biodiversity of the site.

The Dingle Local Nature Reserve receives over 60'000 visitors every year. One of the main attractions on this site is the 1km long wooden boardwalk constructed with grant aid in 2002 and allows access for all to the woodland. 10 acres of adjacent land was purchased in 2007. This was planted with 6000 deciduous trees and footpaths created linking it with the existing woodland. It is now an integral part of the reserve. The woodland is an important resource in terms of education, health and wellbeing, culture and tourism.

The site is managed by the Isle of Anglesey County Councils Countryside and AONB Service.

The Management Plan sets out its principle management objectives and provides a detailed work programme of site management.

**Mission Statement**

To run a well managed site where visitors can enjoy quiet informal recreation in a biologically diverse woodland.

To conserve and enhance the woodland for future generations to enjoy.

To balance the conservation of the landscape and wildlife of the site with informal recreation and the needs of the local community.

To provide opportunities for the public enjoyment of both the reserve and the wider countryside.

## Objectives

The County Council's aim is:

TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE  
INTERESTS OF THE ISLAND, ITS  
CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES

Outcomes: To achieve this aim, we want to create an Anglesey:

- Which has a thriving and prosperous rural economy
  - 1.1 We will be at the forefront of energy R&D and production of low carbon and renewable energy for the benefit of current and future generations
  - 1.2 We will support and encourage entrepreneurship, business and employment growth.
  - 1.3 We will be one of the most visited tourist destinations in Wales
- Where people achieve their full potential
  - 2.1 Our children and young people's needs and aspirations are met
  - 2.2 We will be better educated and more skilled to meet the needs of the labour market
  - 2.3 We will value and promote equal opportunities for all.
  - 2.4 We will take pride in our language and culture and promote our cultural heritage
- Where people are healthy and safe
  - 3.1 We will safeguard and improve the "life chances" of vulnerable children and adults in our society.
  - 3.2 We will live our lives safe crime, disorder and danger.
  - 3.3 We will ensure that the housing needs of the island are met.
  - 3.4 we will live longer and healthier lives
- Where people enjoy, protect and enhance their built and natural environment for future generations
  - 4.1 We will work with partners to provide the necessary infrastructure capacity to meet the needs of our citizens, businesses and communities.
  - 4.2 We will promote, protect and make sustainable use of our unique built heritage and natural environment.
  - 4.3 We will ensure clean and environmentally sustainable communities
- where people are proud of their Council
  - 5.1 We will listen to our citizens and deliver on our promises.
  - 5.2 We will work in partnership to improve the outcomes for our citizens.
  - 5.3 We will value our staff and treat our citizens and environment with respect.
  - 5.4 We will be ambitious and outward looking

## **Transformation plan**

The County Council's Transformation Plan sets out the way we hope to improve the authority over the next three years.

Our vision for Anglesey is that by 2016:

***“we will be a professional and well-run Council, innovative and outward-looking in our approach, committed to developing people and partnerships in order to deliver efficient and effective services of good quality, that are highly valued by our citizens.”***

This means that by 2016 the Isle of Anglesey Council will have:

- increased the pride in Anglesey, of its elected members, management, staff, services and amenities
- respect within the local government family in Wales, locally, regionally and nationally
- elected members, managers and staff who make a difference and grow in capability as a result
- an understanding of and be proactively managing the performance of our services, targeting improvement actions where and when this is needed
- areas of innovation, good practice and service excellence that other organisations seek to benchmark themselves against
- productive, transparent and trusting relationships with our partners
- satisfied our auditors in terms of leadership, governance and organisation

## 1. DESCRIPTION

This linear 18.82 ha broadleaved woodland is mainly situated along the northern valley side of the Afon Cefni. It is situated in the north west of Llangefni close to the centre of the town.

Oak is dominant over much of the site, but exotic tree species, particularly Sycamore, Scots Pine, Beech and Sweet Chestnut, are frequent. Wych Elm was abundant until the onset of Dutch Elm Disease after which they were felled.

The woodland is covered by a Tree Preservation Order

The river flood plain supports a strip of reedswamp, until recently, dominated by Himalayan Balsam with Reed Canary Grass and Willow present.

Improvements have seen the construction of 1km of wooden boardwalk, 4 oak bridges, wooden sculptures and sculpted benches with on and off site interpretation.

### General Information

<b>1.1 Site:</b>	The Dingle / Nant y Pandy
<b>Status :</b>	Local Nature Reserve Tree preservation order covers the site Part of the reserve is semi natural ancient woodland
<b>Size:</b>	18.82 hectares/ 46.50 acres
<b>Situation:</b>	Llangefni
<b>County:</b>	Anglesey
<b>Site manager:</b>	Anglesey County Council
<b>Contact details:</b>	The Countryside & AONB Service 01248 752428

### 1.2 Location

See maps

Grid ref.456759

OS 1.50000 Landranger 114

### 1.3 Owner:

Anglesey County Council

Cwmni Tref Llangefni

### 1.4 Date of acquisition

See map (2)

Area 1 - 1924 from Baron Hill Estates

Area 2 - 1991 from Railway Board

Area 3 - 2000 from liquidators KPMG

Area 4 - April 2007 by Cwmni Tref Llangefni from Alun Smyrna Jones and Mair Baxter.

### 1.5 Legal rights of access

See map (3)

Two public footpaths No. 1 and No 2, cross land within the ownership of the council.

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Footpath No 1 has been improved by the Highways department as a shared use cycle and footpath.

This path is now used by cycles and pedestrians but has not yet been designated.

## 1.6 Management infrastructure

Site managed by the Countryside & AONB Service, Isle of Anglesey County Council.

## 1.7 Map coverage

O.S 1.50000 LANDRANGER 114

O.S 1.25000 EXPLORER 262

BGS 1.50000(British Geological Survey) Anglesey Special Sheet - Drift edition

## 1.8 Photographic coverage

1:10000 black and white aerial photographs (IOACC)

1:10000 colour aerial photographs (CCW)

Other photographs of the site held by (IOACC)

Mapinfo aerial photos 2000

## Compartments

See map (4)

Four compartments

Compartment 1

Nant y Pandy - Situated in the section which follows the steep valley slopes on the north eastern side of the Afon Cefni

Compartment 2

Coed Plas - situated on the slopes behind the church

Compartment 3 - situated on the south western side of the Afon Cefni

Compartment 4 – Coed Smyrna situated between Coed Plas and Compartment 1 (10 acres of previously grazed land recently added to the Local Nature Reserve in April 2007)

## 1.9 Environmental information

### Physical

### Climate

Anglesey generally has cool summers and mild winters. Extreme weather is avoided due to its proximity to the sea and the warming effects of the Gulf Stream.

### Hydrology

The Cefni, which is the longest river on Anglesey, flows in a south easterly direction through Nant y Pandy (compartment 1). It then flows to the south west where it enters the sea at Malltraeth. A small lake, Llyn Pwmp, which is held back by a stone weir, has



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been reduced in size in the twentieth century. It was previously used to supply water for the Cefni mill, to provide water for the Anglesey Central Railway Company, and by using an electric generator, to provide light for Llangefni in the 1920's.

### Geology

The underlying geology is Gwna Green Schists.

### Elevation

The elevation ranges from approximately 30 to 40 metres above sea level.

### Soils

The soils are predominately brown earths, although there are likely to be gleyed and alluvial soils in the valley bottom. The vegetation indicates that the soil is slightly acid.

### Biological

#### Flora

The wood was originally a mixed Oak/Wych elm woodland, but much of the elm has died and has been removed. Up to 50% or more of the canopy species are exotic chiefly Sycamore, beech, Scots pine and Sweet chestnut. Bird cherry is particularly abundant, both in the canopy and understory. The understory varies, being well developed in compartment one but sparse in compartment two. The most constant and abundant species in the understory are Bird cherry, Wych elm, Sycamore and Hawthorn. Holly and Hazel occur occasionally. 50% is designated as Ancient Semi Natural Woodland.

Between August 2004 and August 2005 Cynefin Consultants undertook a comprehensive baseline ecological survey of the woodland. A National Vegetation Classification (NVC) was undertaken to sub community level.

The woodland is comprised of 2 communities -

**W8e** Ash/Field maple and Dog's mercury, which is located mainly to the west of the River Cefni.

**W10a** Oak/Bracken and Bramble, which is located mainly to the east of the woodland.

There are also notable areas of wet wood close to type **W7a** Alder/Ash Yellow Pimpernel

Stands of Sweet chestnut, Larch, Beech and Poplar are also found.

The woodland is a mix of young, mature and over mature trees with gaps in the canopy, and abundant dead wood.

( See appendix 1)

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## **Bryophytes (Mosses and Liverworts)**

Insight Cymru compiled a report in June 2005 on the bryophytes found at The Dingle with 94 different records including one only previously recorded once (in 1881) (see appendix 2)

## **Fungi**

In the autumn of 2004 Charles Aron of Insight Cymru was commissioned to survey the fungi of the Dingle LNR. 153 taxa were discovered during the survey covering a wide range of families including 3 new recordings for Wales and 7 new recordings for Anglesey.  
(See appendix.3)

## **Ground flora**

The ground flora is typically species poor, with bluebell and bramble the most abundant and consistent dominants. Other species are locally frequent, notably Wood anemone, Lesser celandine, Honeysuckle, Red campion and ferns.

In shady, humid areas the broad buckler fern and wood rush can be seen.

The wood was surveyed in 1982 by the Nature Conservancy Council and in 1991 by the consultancy branch of the North Wales Wildlife Trust. A lichen survey was undertaken by Francis Rose in 1970.

See Appendix (1) for a species list of these species.

## **Invasive species**

Himalayan Balsam has been abundant along the River Cefni and has also spread into the woodland where it can form a dense carpet, impoverishing the ground flora and suppressing tree seedling growth. Since 2004 a programme of eradicating Himalayan Balsam has taken place with much success.

Japanese knotweed is found in the Dingle but is limited to the boundary with the station car park.

Sycamore is found throughout the reserve. It has a lower wildlife value than native trees like oak. It seeds prolifically and the fast growing seedlings out compete other species leading to sycamore dominance and a reduction in the wildlife value of the site.

Sycamore regeneration has been targeted by volunteer groups since 2011 ( Better Woodlands for Wales targets ). Selective sycamore felling has also taken place with grant aid from Better woodland for Wales.

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## **Fauna**

### **Birds**

The woods support a varied bird community including several locally uncommon woodland species such as Nuthatch, Woodcock, Tree creeper, Greater and Lesser Spotted woodpecker. Common species include Wrens, Robins, Blue tits and Blackbird, Chiff Chaff, Black Cap, Willow warbler, Pied flycatchers and Wood warbler are sometimes summer visitors to the site.

Dippers and Grey Wagtails can be seen by the river as well as the occasional Kingfisher. Buzzards have also been seen here.

The presence of old trees with suitable nesting holes is important for maintaining a diverse bird community.

In April & May 2005 Peter Stuttard undertook a bird survey using British Trust for Ornithology methodology. He recorded 33 species in the survey period with the wren being recorded most and blackbirds, blue tits and robins being numerous. The Bullfinch, with a single record was the rarest.

(See appendix 4)

### **Mammals**

#### **Bats**

A bat survey was carried out by the Gwynedd Bat Group in October 2005 where 7 types of bat were identified along with 1 unidentified species. the identified species were:

Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule, Myotis 1, Myotis 2 Long Eared Bat and the Lesser Horseshoe Bat. (Myotis 1 is probably the Whiskered or Brandts Bat and Myotis 2 is probably the Natterers Bat). The survey showed that bats were present in the Dingle but didn't prove that they were resident there.

In December 2005 the old Pumphouse was converted into a bat roost and otter holt.

There is no evidence to date of bats roosting there.

(See appendix 5.)

#### **Red squirrels**

Following the trapping of the grey squirrels in the reserve (and the rest of the island) red squirrels were introduced to the reserve in 2012. The Anglesey Red squirrels Society, with assistance from the Countryside and AONB Service introduced 5 adult Red squirrels which (to date (2014) are producing offspring and are seen regularly in the woodland.

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## Otters

In a survey undertaken in October 2004 by Wildscape ( Rob Greig) otters were found to be present in the Dingle with two temporary holts being found as well as signs of activity such as spraints (otter droppings), including one underneath the boardwalk close to Llyn Bach.

(See appendix 6). In 2012 another survey (Cefni catchment – undertaken by Menter Môn) found 16 spraints along the Cefni river within the Dingle LNR.

## Water Voles

In September 2004 Rebecca Gwynne and Gareth Pritchard from Menter Môn conducted a Water Vole survey at the Dingle LNR. No evidence of Water voles was found along the length of river surveyed.

Significant rainfall prior to the survey may have had a bearing on the result.

(See appendix.7)

Foxes and small mammals such as Wood mice and Shrews are also to be found here.

## Invertebrates

The lack of very mature trees and shortage of dead wood limits the invertebrate fauna but

a survey by A.P.Fowles, CCW, recorded a range of species. These were mainly common species which occur widely on Anglesey. These include butterflies such as the speckled wood, gatekeeper, the comma, small tortoiseshell, peacock and red admiral.

The chief exception is the hoverfly *Brachypalpoides lenta* which is characteristically associated with ancient woodlands where the larvae live in dead wood It is a local species in Wales and will be restricted in its distribution on Anglesey. The hoverflies *Pipiza* and *Xylota sylvarum* are also uncommon woodland insects found in the Dingle.

An Invertebrate survey undertaken by Insight Cymru in the Summer of 2005 concentrated on butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies, aquatic invertebrates and Hoverflies. Notable species found include:

*Cheilosia semifasciata* (red data Book RDB3 species)

*Prionosyphon serricornis* - a tree-dwelling water beetle.

*Helophorus alternans* - a scarce water beetle found in small water bodies.

(See appendix 8)

## Reptiles

There has been evidence of slow worms on the site and it is likely that adders and grass snakes can be found here.

## Fish

Brown trout and rudd are common on the stretch of the Afon Cefni within the Dingle.

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Last. Sea trout and salmon are known to use the Cefni river to spawn

## **Amphibians**

Palmate newts have been seen in the restored St Cyngars well

## **1.10 Cultural**

### **Archaeological / past land use**

Consultation with the Gwynedd Archaeological trust in 1992 revealed no known listed sites.

Ffynnon Cyngar, although not ancient in structure, may well be medieval in origin. St Cyngar was a sixth century saint and uncle to St Cybi.

### **Past management - Nature conservation**

A Baron Hill map held by University of Wales, Bangor, printed in the mid 1700's shows the area to be rough grazing although some trees probably existed. The 1913 - 1915 Ordnance Survey map showed it as a mixed conifer - deciduous woodland

In the 1960's, a beech plantation was planted in compartment one.

1984 saw the felling of some mature oak and replanting.

In 1991/92, dead elm were felled along the footpaths. During this period footpaths were renovated, the fish weir was restored, and gabions were installed to create an artificial bank.

The site has been protected by a tree preservation order since 1971.

1997-2002 - Woodland Grant Scheme.

After a tree survey was completed in 1999, tree felling took place in February / March 2000 along boundaries next to property. This was done for health and safety reasons. Health and safety felling has occurred when necessary.

### **Present conservation interest**

The site is a Local Nature Reserve. Declared in 1996.

Ancient semi natural woodland.

Proposed SSSI

A Tree Preservation Order covers the site

## **Landscape**

The greater part of the site is mainly broadleaved woodland situated along the steep sided river valley of the Cefni. The Cefni runs in a south westerly direction through the site with a small lake, Llyn Pwmp, situated adjacent to a small stone built weir.

The woodland is locally important as only 1016 hectares of broadleaved woodland can be found on Anglesey.

## **Public interest / Community relations**

Local people use the site for informal recreation - dog walking, jogging, birdwatching. One public footpath and 1 shared use foot/cyclepath traverse the site, as well as a permissive path through Coed Plas and the newly opened Coed Smyrna section of the reserve.

Many people use the paths as short cuts.

The boardwalk is very popular since it opened in December 2002 with 40'000 + users per calendar year.

The two main entrances to the site are via two pay and display car parks.

Fishing takes place at Llyn Pwmp and along the river.

The woodland is also used for birdwatching.

Guided walks have taken place at the site including wheelchair walks and walks for the visually impaired.

Visitors to the island also use the Reserve.

In 2011 the Park was awarded the Green Flag award for quality green spaces in UK.

Awarded again in 2012, 2013 and 2014

### **Green Flag Award**

*Below are the criteria for achieving Green Flag status ( From Keep Britain Tidy website)*

#### ***Eight key criteria***

##### ***1. A welcoming place***

*When approaching or entering the park/green space, the overall impression for any member of the community - regardless of the purpose of their visit - should be positive and inviting. There should be:*

- Good and safe access*
- Good signage to and in the park/green space*
- Equal access for all members of the community*

##### ***2. Healthy, safe and secure***

*The park/green space must be a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use. Any issues that have come to light must be addressed in the management plan and implemented on the ground. New issues that arise must be addressed promptly and appropriately.*

- Equipment and facilities must be safe to use*
- It must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse*
- Dog fouling must be adequately addressed*
- Health and safety policies should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed*
- Toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment where relevant (e.g. life belts by water) should be available in or near the park/green space, and be clearly signposted.*

### **3. Clean and well maintained**

*For aesthetic as well as health and safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be adequately addressed, in particular:*

- *Litter and other waste management*
- *The maintenance of grounds, buildings, equipment and other features*
- *A policy on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.*

### **4. Sustainability**

*Methods used in maintaining the park/green space and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying on best practices available according to current knowledge. Management should be aware of the range of techniques available to them, and demonstrate that informed choices have been made and are regularly reviewed. Parks/green spaces should:*

- *Have an environmental policy or charter and management strategy in place, which is in practice and regularly reviewed*
- *Minimise and justify pesticide use*
- *Eliminate horticultural peat use*
- *Recycle waste plant material*
- *Demonstrate high horticultural and arboricultural standards*
- *Have energy conservation, pollution reduction, waste recycling, and resource conservation measures*

### **5. Conservation and heritage**

*Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of:*

- *Natural features, wildlife and fauna*
- *Landscapes*
- *Buildings and structural features*
- *These should serve their function well without placing undue pressure on the surrounding environment*

### **6. Community involvement**

*The park/green space management should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community who represent as many park/green space user groups as possible.*

*The following should be demonstrated:*

- *Knowledge of user community and levels and patterns of use*
- *Evidence of community involvement in management and/or developments and results*

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*achieved*

- *Appropriate levels of provision of recreational facilities for all sectors of the community*

## **7. Marketing**

- *A marketing strategy should be in place, which is in practice and regularly reviewed*
- *There should be good provision of information to users, e.g. about management strategies, activities, features, ways to get involved*
- *The park/green space should be promoted as a community resource*

## **8. Management**

- *A management plan or strategy should be in place*
- *This should clearly and adequately address all of the above criteria and any other relevant aspects of the park/green space's management*
- *The plan must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed*
- *A financially sound management of the park/green space must also be demonstrated.*

## **Interpretation use / Facilities**

Two A0 size information panels are located at the Station and Church car park entrances to the Dingle, as well as two smaller panels located next to the pay and display machines. All four were replaced in 2012 with funding from CCW. 3 A2 panels installed at Bowling Green, School and Pandy entrances January 2015

A panel describing the work of the Red squirrel society and Red squirrels in general was put up in 2013 close to where the squirrels were released. Two leaflets were produced (one general and one on the sculptures) and distributed all over the island. The general leaflet was reproduced (5000 copies) in 2013 Also a 16 page booklet was produced in 2007.

Tunnickliffes Guide to the Birds of the Dingle is available.

An audio trail produced by the Economic Development/Ymweld a Mon released in 2014

- **Sculptures** - 3 sculptors, Nigel Talbot, Reese Ingram and Dominic Clare, created gateway sculptures as part of the Cyd Coed Project. Nigel Talbot's Petrified Forest, located at Station car park, consists of 25 split oak timbers adorned with 150 copper disks designed by local schoolchildren. These were removed in November 2014 due to health and safety reasons and will be reinstalled at a different location in 2015. At the St Cyngar Car park entrance Reese Ingram installed dragonfly themed sculptures and benches. Dominic Clare's smaller sculptures are dotted around the woodland and his entrance to Coed Plas (opposite the Bowling green) enhanced this smaller underused gateway. Dominic also created 3 new sculptures in 2012 from CCW and Ymweld a Môn grant aid.



## **Recreational use / Facilities Educational use / Facilities**

The local secondary school uses the site at the end of every summer term.

Local primary schools have used the site for field trips and other events such as seed collection, tree identification, tree planting and creating environmental artworks e.g the willow dragon created in 2006

## **Bibliography**

The Rivers of Anglesey, Gwilym T. Jones. Pub 1989, Gee and son.

The Place Names of Anglesey, Gwilym T. Jones and Tomos Roberts. Pub 1996, Isle of Anglesey County Council and Research Centre Wales, University of Wales, Bangor.

## **2.Amenity**

### **Access** (see map 2)

- **Public rights of way** - Footpaths no.1 and 2. Footpath no.1 has been improved since 2003 and is now a shared use foot and cycle track. It is 3 metres wide and links the Dingle with Llyn Cefni/Bodffordd and Malltraeth. This track is maintained by the Highways Department of the Isle of Anglesey County Council.
- **Permissive paths** - These paths are located within Compartment 2( Coed Plas) and Compartment 4 (Coed Smyrna). They are maintained by The Countryside and AONB Service.
- **The wooden boardwalk** - 650 metres of wooden boardwalk was constructed in the Autumn of 2002. This was part of the Cyd Coed Woodlands for all scheme which was a 100% grant for woodlands in deprived areas (Tudur ward in Llangefni). This Forestry Commission Project was funded by the European Union and the Welsh Assembly Government. The boardwalk is 1.5 metres wide and is accessible for all including wheelchairs and prams etc. It was constructed by the New Deal/Menter Môn from a design by Impact Leisure.  
In the Spring of 2006 an additional 350 metres of Boardwalk was added, again constructed by the New Deal/Menter Môn. This differed from the previous sections as every other piece of deck was treated with an anti- slip medium called Rocbinda. The boardwalk is fenced off in certain areas - close to water and where it is over 90cm above the ground. The remaining 650 metres of boardwalk is to be treated with Rocbinda in the Summer of 2007.

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It is maintained by the Isle of Anglesey County Councils Countryside and AONB Service.

Most of untreated deck replaced in 2011/12 and 13 with grant aid from Tidy Towns and Ymweld a Môn

- **The Bridges** - There are 2 main bridges which cross the Cefni river, both constructed by Impact Leisure as part of the improvements in 2002. A smaller bridge crosses the small leat by Llyn Bach and an oak section of boardwalk hugs the bank opposite Llyn Bach. Although these are maintained by The Countryside and AONB team the Councils Property section have agreed to survey the above 4 bridges every 4 years. In 2013 the camber bridge was made more rigid with the supports strengthened. The bank had been eroded by floodwater during the previous winter.

**Recreation** (See map3) Benches - There is a mix of bench styles in the reserve from traditional slab benches to sculpted benches. The sculpted benches were created as part of the Cyd Coed project and were put in in the Spring of 2003. New benches installed 2012 as part of Ymweld a Môn grant with an additional 2 in 2014 (NRW funding)

- **Picnic tables** - 1 picnic table was constructed during the Cyd Coed project. A fan shaped set of 3 tables and benches was created by sculptor Nigel Talbot as part of his gateway sculpture at the station car park entrance to the Dingle.

## 2.1 Access management

### Objectives

1. To ensure the site is safe for use through regular safety audit procedures
2. To manage public access and enhance the footpath network where appropriate, and to consider the needs of the disabled and the less abled..

### Action points

- Maintain the paths, gates, bridges, walls and fences in a safe and presentable manner to ensure safe public access.
- Regular safety patrols
- Regular strimming and vegetation clearance.
- Regular dog waste runs
- Regular litter picks
- Regular checks of Deep water sign
- Weekly checks of all external locks
- Weekly check of boardwalk deck, kick rails and fencing
- Weekly check of all bridges
- Maintain fence in a safe manner.
- Annual risk assessment
- Annual Structures dept. check of all structures

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- Ensure vegetation is cut back to allow free and easy access.
- Promote paths by means of leaflets and displays.
- Develop new waymarked trails within the reserve designed for different abilities.
- Improve disabled and less abled access within the reserve.
- Conduct a visitor survey re. recreation/access in the reserve

## **2.2 Recreation management**

### **Objectives**

- 1. To monitor the condition and function of the infrastructure**
- 2. To develop and promote new recreational pastimes/activities in the reserve**

### **Action Points**

- Maintain the benches in a safe and acceptable condition.
- Maintain the picnic tables in a safe and acceptable condition.
- Regularly mow the grassy areas at Church car park
- Ensure vegetation does not encroach on to the boardwalk or paths
- Develop geocaching, and other similar activities,
- Look into developing orienteering course.
- Increase range of benches in reserve
- Conduct a visitor survey re. recreation/access in the reserve

## **2.3 Interpretation management**

### **Objectives**

1. To provide the required level and standard of interpretive material for all users of the reserve.
2. To continue to develop and improve interpretation and signage within and outside the reserve.

### **Action Points**

- Leaflets readily available.
- Create and develop new and lively interpretation within the reserve in an innovative manner ( to include sculptures/environmental art) including new media
- Create new Gateway signs/sculptures for the reserve
- Maintain information panels in the reserve in an acceptable manner.
- Ensure wardens are knowledgeable and up to date with current countryside/ coastal and local issues.

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- Develop and improve upon guided walks and talks and events for community groups, schools and visitors.
- Ensure all text is bilingual and conforms to the Councils bilingual policy
- Create new media for site

### **3.**

#### **The Woodland Habitat**

##### **Four compartments**

#### **1. Oak woodland on North Eastern slope of woodland and Coed Plas.**

#### **2. Wet woodland.**

#### **3. Woodland on South Western slope above boardwalk.**

#### **4. Coed Smyrna. New woodland planted in 2008**

##### **3.1 Management of woodland 1 - (see map 4)**

- Retain as lowland mixed broadleaved woodland
- Retain a proportion of mature and veteran trees (including Scots Pine)
- Manage standing (where safe) and fallen deadwood as habitats.
- retain a diversity of habitats through mixed age classes of mixed species of trees and shrubs.
- Thinning areas of even aged woodland
- Managing Hazel and Sweet chestnut coppice.
- Monitoring and controlling Sycamore regeneration. (Toleration of no more than 25% sycamore regeneration)
- Control of invasive species - Himalayan balsam/ Japanese knotweed and Variegated archangel.
- Tree safety work close to paths/ boardwalk and properties.
- 

##### **3.2 Management of Compartment 2 - (see map 4)**

- Retain as a wet woodland
- Maintain diversity of woodland by coppicing
- Maintain a proportion of mature and veteran trees
- Manage standing (where safe) and fallen deadwood
- Control of invasive species - Himalayan balsam.
- Tree safety works close to paths and boardwalk

Little intervention apart from coppicing, some thinning, safety works and invasive species removal

##### **3.3 Management of woodland 3 - (see map 4)**

- Retain as lowland mixed broadleaved woodland
- Retain a proportion of mature and veteran trees (including Scots pine)
- Manage standing (where safe) and fallen deadwood as habitats.
- retain a diversity of habitats through mixed age classes of mixed species of trees and shrubs.
- Thinning areas of even aged woodland

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- Managing Hazel coppice.
- Monitoring and controlling Sycamore regeneration. (Toleration of no more than 25% sycamore regeneration)
- Control of invasive species - Himalayan balsam/ Japanese knotweed and Variegated archangel.
- Tree safety work close to paths/ boardwalk and properties

From 2010 to 2015 the woodland has been part of the Forestry Commission (Now Natural Resources Wales) Better Woodlands for Wales. This has helped in the management of the woodland by financing Himalayan balsam control, Sycamore regeneration control, thinning, coppicing and access work in the woodland.

It has funded most of the work but a high percentage has been undertaken by volunteers and has been incorporated into the volunteers work programme. See appendix.

### **4.**

#### **New Land – Coed Smyrna**

10 acres of land has recently come under the management of the Countryside and AONB Service. This land (see map 4) was bought by Cwmni Tref Llangefni in April 2007 from Alun Smyrna Jones and Mair Baxter using funds from the Ehangu Nant y Pandy project (Funded by the Big Lottery Fund) and the Countryside Council for Wales.

In April 5000 trees were planted in this recent addition to the LNR.. This was funded by the Forestry Commissions Woodland Grant Scheme A mix of broad leafed trees was planted with a few Scots pine. 1500 Sessile oak, which were grown from seed collected in the Dingle in the Autumn of 2004, were planted on the steeper sections of this parcel of land. Other trees included Ash, Hazel, Rowan, Birch, Wild cherry, Alder, Whitebeam, Willow and small numbers of Scots pine and Elm.

2 areas were not planted as they are earmarked for educational use in the future.

A 10 metre strip along the boundary of the woodland has not been planted - the idea being that natural regeneration will occur.

This area officially opened in 2012

3 sculpted benches and 2 sculptures are now located in Coed Smyrna.

Footpath improvements were undertaken at the southern entrance to this part of the reserve in 2013

In the future there is the possibility of a footpath link from the Northern corner of the new land to Oriol Ynys Môn.

- Two other parcels of land have been added to the reserve (see map 4) These two parcels were in County Council ownership and were transferred over to be managed by the Countryside and AONB Service as part of the Local Nature Reserve in 2005. Both sites were planted with native broadleaved trees in March 2005. New land 1 (3.11 hectares) will be managed as woodland compartment 2.

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New land 2 (0.22 hectares) will be managed as woodland compartment 1.

## **4.1 Management of New Land**

- Beating up of newly planted trees (replanting of unsuccessful trees)
- Monitor for Invasive species - Himalayan Balsam/Japanese Knotweed/Variiegated Archangel/Sycamore
- Control of Invasive species if found
- Removal of bamboo canes **2009**
- Removal of protective spirals **2010/11**
- Development of path network within the New Land 3 and create links into Coed Plas.
- Regular maintenance of educational areas and path network
- Creation of wet area/pond
- Monitor Gorse
- Monitor regeneration in boundary area
- Sycamore removal. Toleration of no more than 5%

## **5. Invasive species**

### **5.1. Himalayan balsam (*impatiens glandulifera*)**

Himalayan Balsam has been the most notable invasive plant species in the reserve. It was introduced to Britain in 1839 and has since escaped and colonised many river banks and damp ground. It grows in dense stands which suppress the growth of native vegetation. As it dies down in the autumn it dies back leaving river banks bare of vegetation and liable to erosion.

Hand picking and by mechanical means (strimming) are the methods of choice for removing Himalayan balsam. When there is a dense area of balsam strimming is the preferred option with hand pulling ideal in the more inaccessible areas.

Himalayan balsam seeds have a life of two years in the soil so repeat pulls are needed. Since 2004

there has been a marked reduced presence of Himalayan balsam in the Dingle

### **5.2. Japanese knotweed (*fallopia japonica*).**

Another invasive plant introduced in the nineteenth century is the Japanese Knotweed It grows in dense clumps and can cause serious structural damage whilst displacing native flora. All known areas were treated successfully in 2004/05/06 by spraying with glyphosate. The woodland is monitored yearly for knotweed. If found then it is treated.

### **5.3. Variiegated Yellow Archangel (*Galeobdolon luteum*)**

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An aggressive garden hybrid has an efficient method of vegetative spread and smothers native species. The known locations of archangel was successfully sprayed in 2005. Monitoring for this plant should take place in the spring/summer. If found it should be sprayed with glyphosate.

### **6 The Pump House**

The pump house (see map 1) was constructed in the 1930 and was used to supply water from the River Cefni to a reservoir located close to Ysgol Cornhir. It ceased to be used in the 1960's and fell into disrepair and had, for a number of years been used for recreational drug use. Evidence of drug paraphernalia was widespread.

Discussions were held as to whether or not it should be demolished but it was decided to convert the building into a Bat roost and Otter holt.

Through funding from the Big Lottery Extending the Dingle project and the Countryside Council for Wales (Species Challenge Fund), work was completed in December 2005 and the pump house was converted into permanent artificial bat and otter residences.

### **7. Biodiversity management**

Following the many reports funded by the Big Lottery Extending the Dingle project, the following management proposals were put forward.

- **General**

The survey of Bryophytes (moss and Liverwort ) habitats stated that the Dingle is essentially a wooded riverine valley, within which a variety of woodland types and management histories can be discerned. It also contains areas of grassland and scrub which add considerably to the overall biodiversity of the site. The open, sheltered "hotspots" in the river floodplain, where tall herb vegetation is well developed makes an important contribution to the biodiversity of the Dingle. One of these areas had recently been planted with trees the previous winter (2004/05).

The other "hotspots" should not, in the future be planted with trees.

(see appendix 2) New bryophyte Survey, NVC and phase surveys carried out 2012) see appendix

- **Fungi**

The fungi report of 2004 stated that the reserve is of considerable mycological interest and that many more interesting species are likely to turn up in the future.

Maintaining the existing mix of tree species and overall age structure will help ensure that the mycota remains intact.

The importance of dead wood, both fallen and standing, has been clearly highlighted by the richness of saprophytic species in the survey findings.

The infestation of Himalayan Balsam is undesirable and may inhibit the fruiting of both mycorrhizal and saprophytic fungi. In terms of the conservation of fungi at the site,

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mechanical control of Himalayan Balsam is likely to have significant advantages over chemical control.

(see appendix 3) regular fungal foreys carried out every autumn None in 2012.

- **Bats**

Surveyed by the Gwynedd Bat Group in August and September 2005.

Although the methodology was succesful and 8 species of bat were recorded, the surveys did not provide an overall use of the woodland by bats.

*Common pipistrelle*

*Soprano pipistrelle*

*Noctule*

*Long eared bat*

*Lesser horseshoe*

*Myotis 1 – probably Brandts/whiskered*

*Myotis 2 – probably Natterers*

*Unidentified.*

- **Otters**

Surveyed by Wildscape in 2004 and Menter Mon 2012

As the site is clearly used by otters, protection of what is already there is paramount. Mature trees and continued regeneration is important, providing cover, food and holt sites.

Only remove mature trees when in the public interest - tree safety works.

Maintain the existing open wetland areas.

Not to remove fallen or hanging trees unless they are impeding flow and are a risk to the public.

Removal of Himalayan balsam. If not removed then this could possibly result in loss of riverbank integrity through erosion in the winter when the plant dies back and leaves bare mud banks without sufficient vegetation to buffer soil loss against water flow, particularly during flooding

. \* Such conditions may also contribute to increased siltation in the channel which could smother fish spawning beds resulting in lower oxygen levels.

Removal of litter (glass ,cans, needles, supermarket trolleys etc.), pollutants (car batteries, paint, plastics etc.) and fishing line and wires..

An annual otter survey would help identify new holts, breeding activity, effectiveness of current management of site and any new threats which may develop to the river and its wildlife. (see appendix 5)

- **Water voles**

Although no evidence was found following the survey of September 2004 there is evidence of Water vole activity upstream and downstream from the Dingle.

To encourage Water Voles some management prescriptions were suggested.

Himalayan Balsam monoculture would not be beneficial as the voles feed on a variety of plant species and rely on different parts of plants throughout the year therefore the



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greater diversity of native plant species available to them the more likely they are to establish themselves in the area. Therefore balsam control is important.

Possible small pond creation in the wetland area close to Llyn Pwmp could encourage the establishment of the voles.

American Mink is a voracious predator of the Water Vole.

If Mink was found to be present in or close to the Dingle then control methods would need to be considered. No evidence to date in the Dingle, but there is evidence on Anglesey.

Another survey should be carried out in 2008 between the end of May and the end of July.

(see appendix 6 )

### • **Invertebrates**

The Invertebrate survey carried out in 2005 concluded that the Dingle is an important site in the Anglesey context, and probably in the wider context of northwest Wales.

It was noted that for this to continue then the hotspots that are the floodplain areas need to be maintained as they are and not let scrub encroach or further plant up these areas.

It was also suggested that trees planted in new land 1 in 2005 should be removed. A

Possible compromise would be to remove some trees and create some glade areas.

Himalayan balsam and bracken should be controlled using non chemical methods. This helps maintain a diversity of habitats, flora and fauna.

(see appendix 7)

## **8. Education**

### **Objectives**

- **To develop a coherent education programme for schools**
- **To develop an education resource for Keystage 1 and 2**

### **Action point**

- Increase educational visits to 10 p.a
- Update and add educational activities
- Actively market educational activities

## **9. Volunteer participation**

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Various groups have over the years participated in conservation, habitat management and access work at the Reserve these include.

- Ysgol Corn Hir – Tree planting
- Ysgol Bodedern – Boardwalk repair
- The Probation Service – Boardwalk repair
- AONB volunteer group – Boardwalk repair
- Coleg Menai – boardwalk repair, tree pruning
- The Princes Trust – boardwalk repair, Himalayan balsam control
- Digartref Caergybi – boardwalk repair, Himalayan balsam control
- CAIS – Drug and Alcohol Treatment North Wales

The Dingle volunteer group was set up in 2012 and has regular work parties every fortnight with a varied work programme. This has included *boardwalk repair, sycamore regeneration control, removal of tree guards, scrub clearance, controlled burning, litter picks, Himalayan balsam control, hazel coppicing and willow weaving*. Much of the work programme for the volunteers has come from the Better Woodlands for Wales grant work programme.

### **Action points**

- To continue to develop the existing volunteer group into a coherent and regular programme

### **Partners (internal and external)**

#### **Internal**

- Waste Management – refuse collection/ Tidy towns officer
- Highways - Public Rights of Way including the shared use cycletrack
- Structures
- Property Section

#### **External**

- NRW – The Countryside Council for Wales part fund a high percentage of work within Local Nature Reserve
- 
- Keep Wales Tidy – Working closely with project officer re.volunteer groups
- Cefni Angling Association
- Cwmni Tref Llangefni
- Cyngor Tref Llangefni

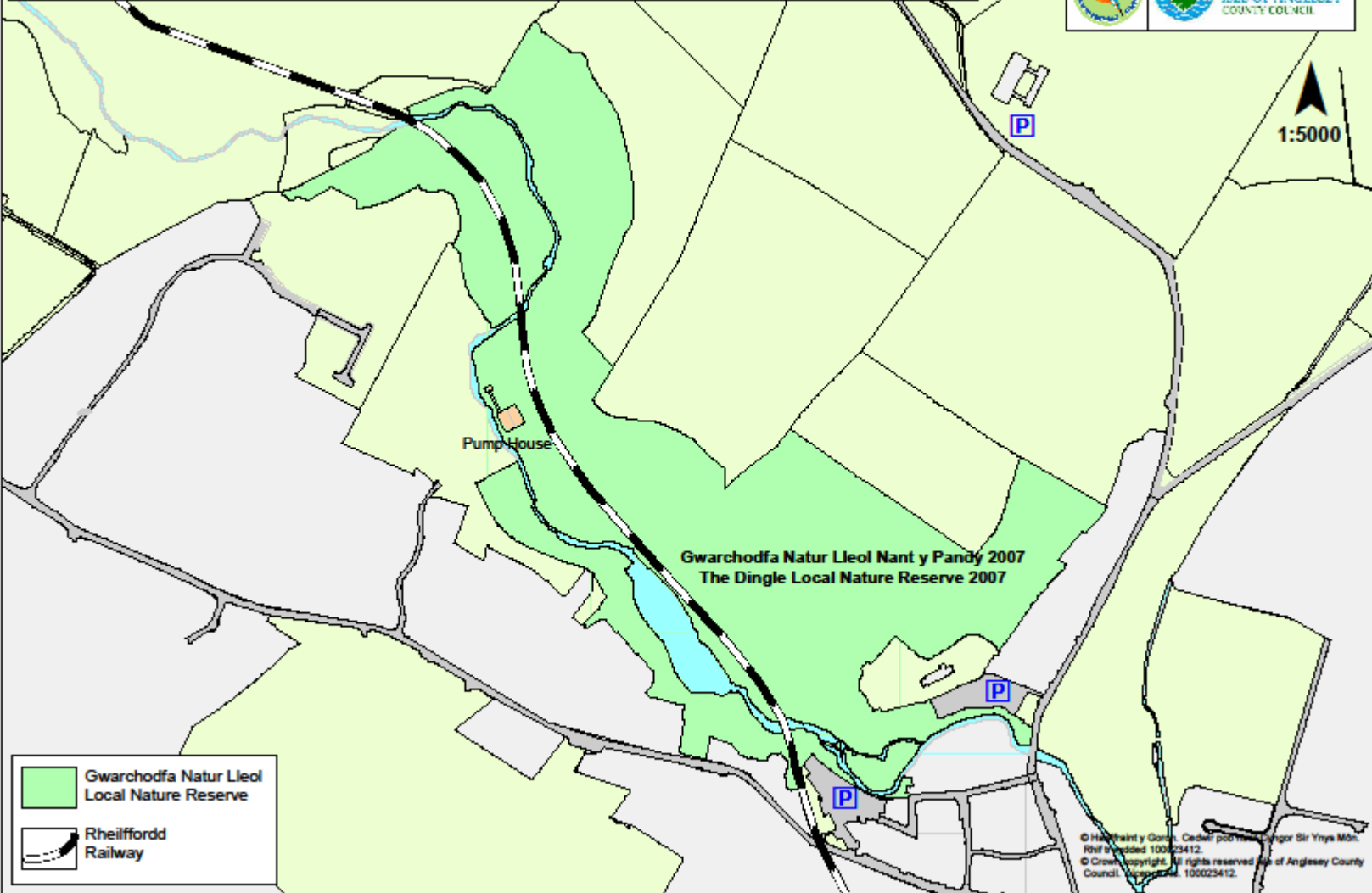
### **Action points**

## Management Plan Dingle Local Nature Reserve Llangefni 2015 - 2020

- To continue working with existing partners and developing new partners.
- To develop joint funding initiatives

# **Appendix 1 MAPS**

Map 1 - Maint y Warchodfa / Extent of Reserve 18.82 ha / 46.50 acres



 Gwarchodfa Natur Lleol Local Nature Reserve

 Rheilffordd Railway

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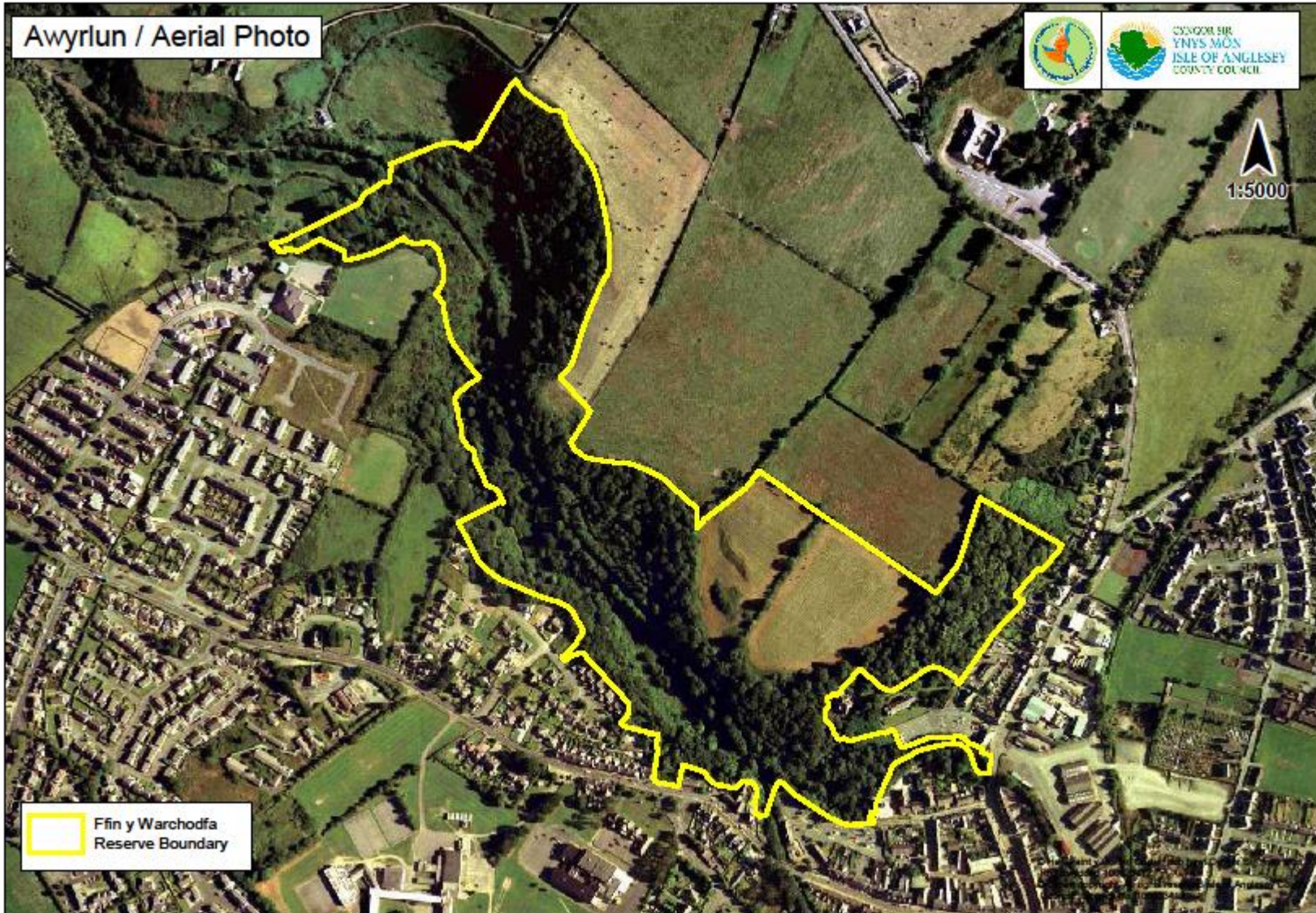
Awrlun / Aerial Photo



YNGOR SIR  
YNYN MON  
ISLE OF ANGLESEY  
COUNTY COUNCIL



1:5000











Ffin y Warchodfa  
Reserve Boundary

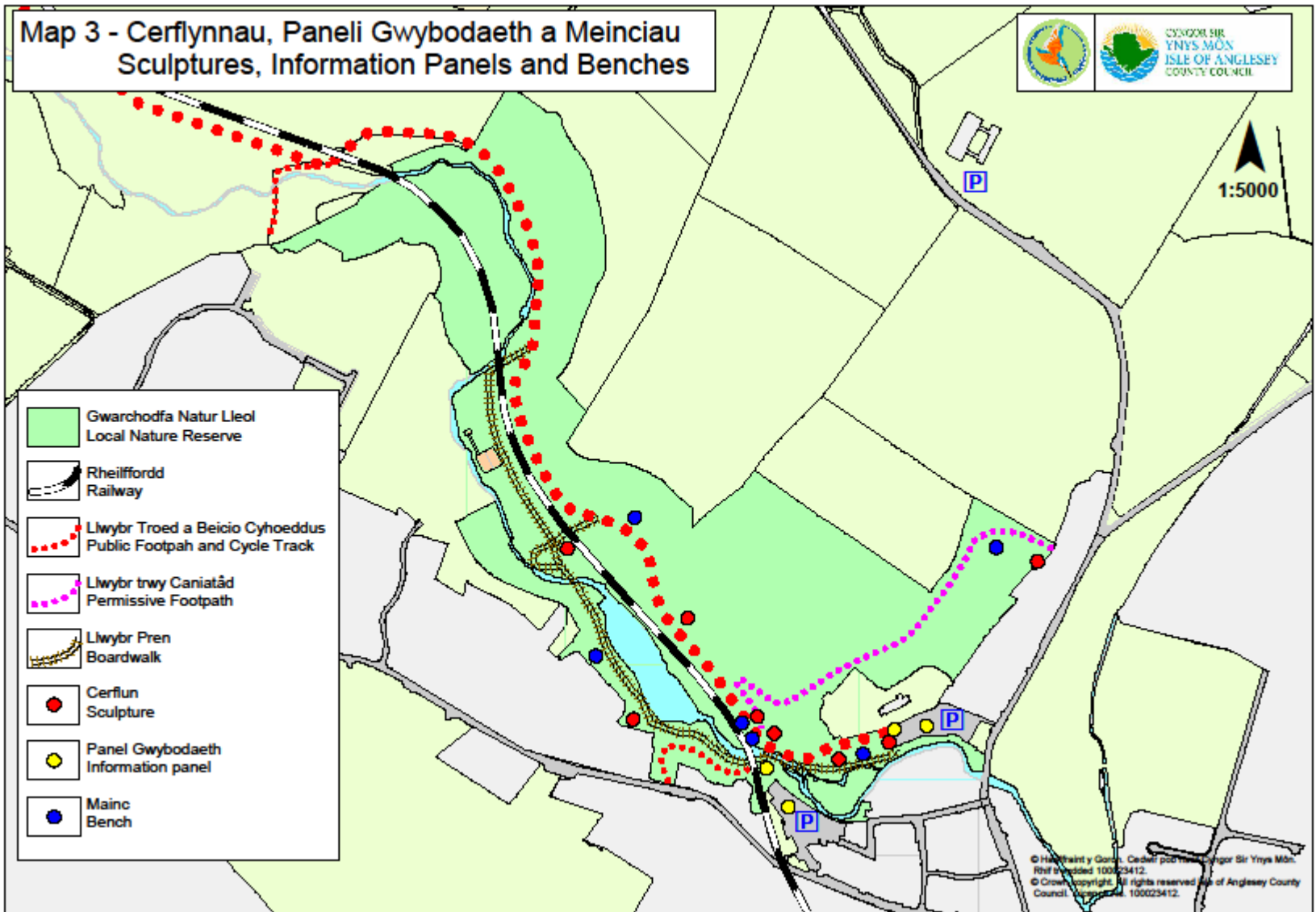
### Map 3 - Cerflynnau, Paneli Gwybodaeth a Meinciau Sculptures, Information Panels and Benches



CYNGOR SIR  
YNYSS MON  
ISLE OF ANGLESEY  
COUNTY COUNCIL



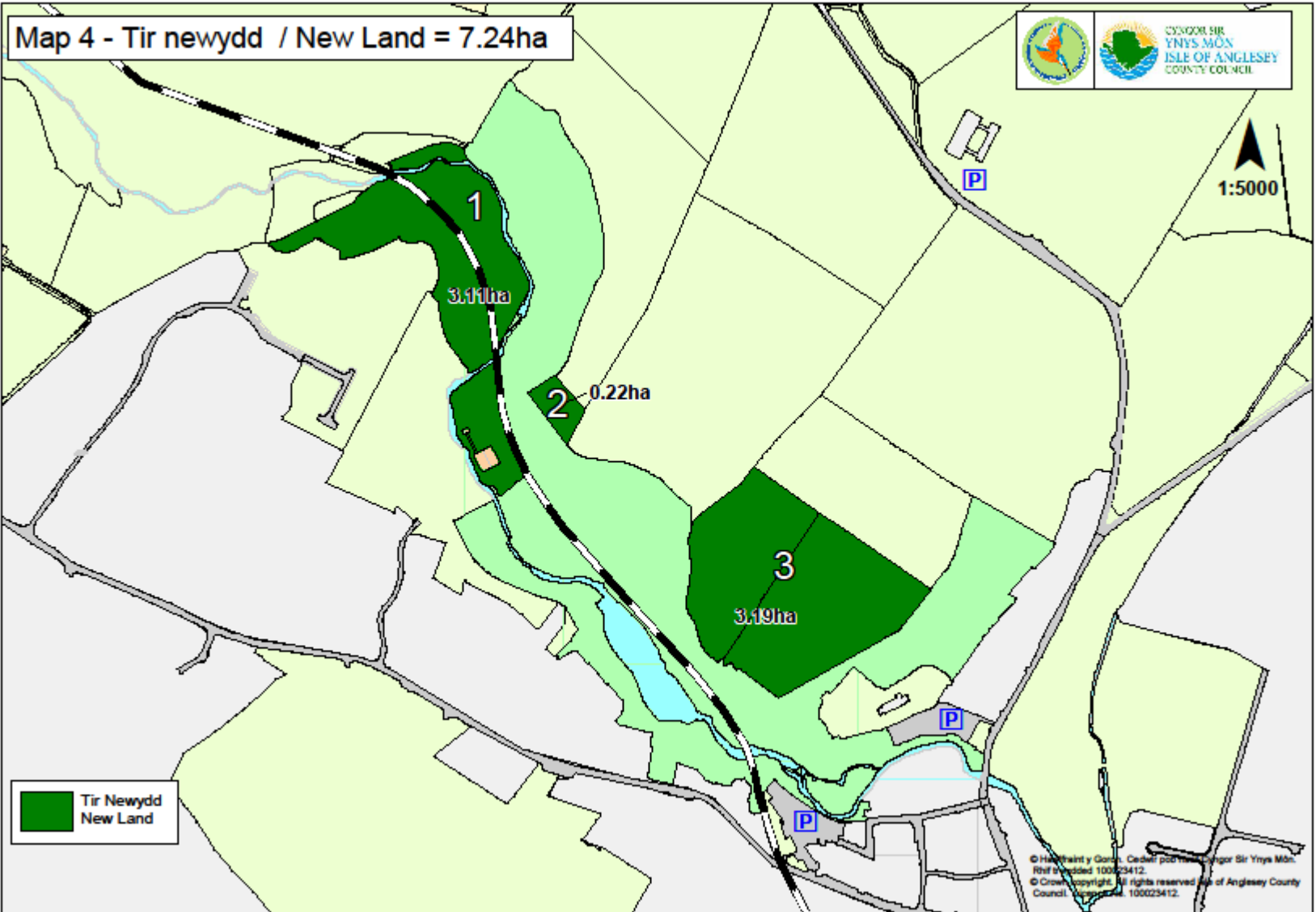
-  Gwarchodfa Natur Lleol  
Local Nature Reserve
-  Rheilffordd  
Railway
-  Llwybr Troed a Beicio Cyhoeddus  
Public Footpath and Cycle Track
-  Llwybr trwy Caniatâd  
Permissive Footpath
-  Llwybr Pren  
Boardwalk
-  Cerflun  
Sculpture
-  Panel Gwybodaeth  
Information panel
-  Mainc  
Bench



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Map 4 - Tir newydd / New Land = 7.24ha

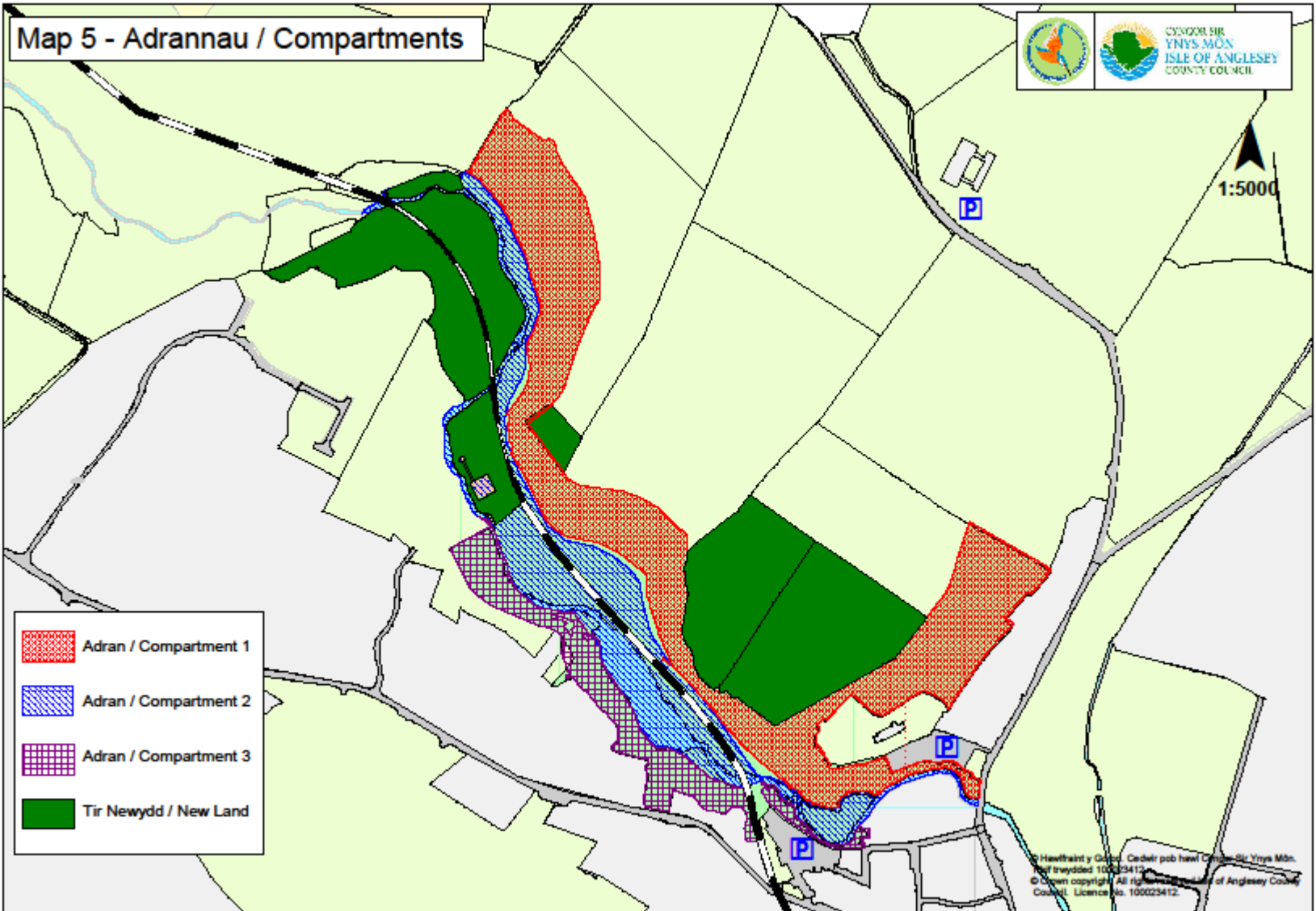




# Map 5 - Adrannau / Compartments



-  Adran / Compartment 1
-  Adran / Compartment 2
-  Adran / Compartment 3
-  Tir Newydd / New Land



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