

# Gwynedd Landscape Strategy - Update (2012)



CYNGOR SIR  
YNY'S MON  
ISLE OF ANGLESEY  
COUNTY COUNCIL



Anglesey & Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan



# GWYNEDD INTRODUCTION

## Background

The landscape strategies for Anglesey and Gwynedd were both published in 1999. The strategies were developed using the Countryside Council for Wales LANDMAP methodology, which establishes a systematic method for recording and retrieving information about landscapes' specific qualities. This information assists decision makers and advisors in development planning, agri-environment, forestry and environmental enhancement. The process is based upon assessing facets or "aspects" of the landscape, some of which are given relative values and others provide supporting information. A more detailed summary of the methodology is given in Appendix A of this report. This document has been developed from the Welsh Development Agency.

The core of the strategy was the subdivision of the two local authority areas into Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). A list and a plan showing their distribution is shown on Figure 1.0. The LCAs provide a meaningful framework of landscape units, of like character, around which policy or management decisions can be made.

Both the Isle of Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council consider that, due to the close inter-relationship of each area, particularly in visual and physical terms in the vicinity of the Menai Strait, implementation of any strategy recommendations should be considered in unison.

## Purpose

An important landscape strategy conclusion was the need to develop ways and means of ensuring that all parties with an interest in the landscape – council officers, government agencies, landowners, farmers, developers and the public – recognise the need to take into account and understand the differences in landscape character that exist across the two areas. It is from this desire that these design guidelines have been developed. The information is presented primarily in terms of the different LCAs identified, rather than specific sites or areas. Separate guidance notes on agricultural landscapes and transport corridors have been included, as these design issues are common to all areas.

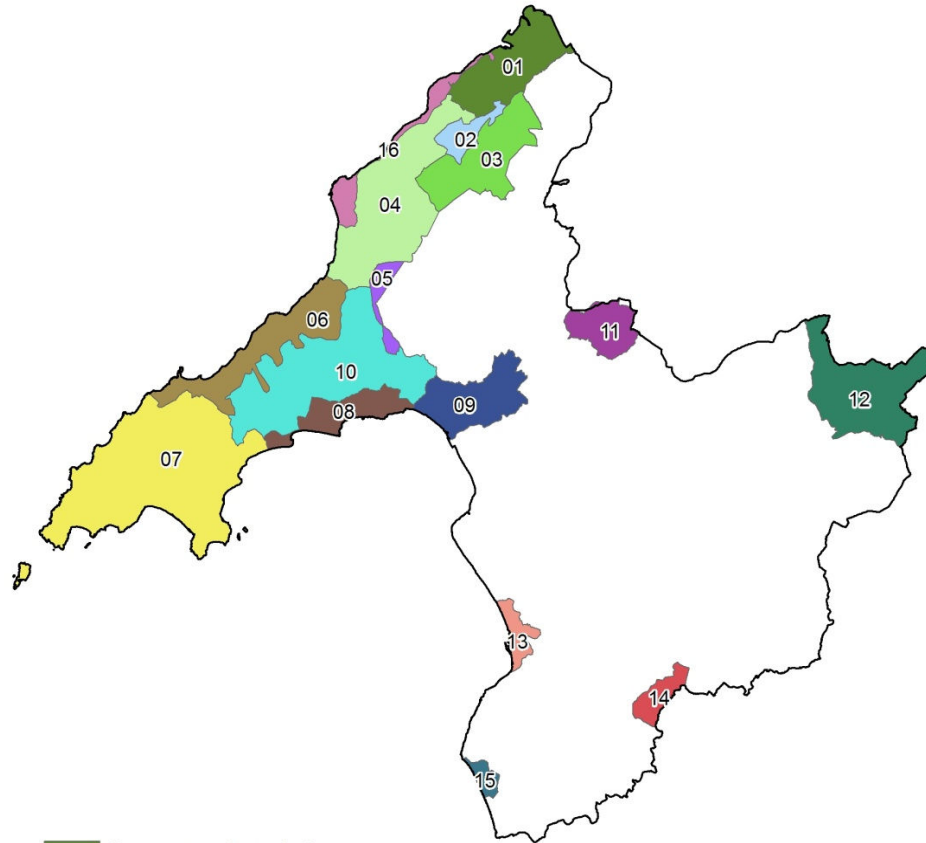
## Use

It is hoped that the guidance notes will give users a sense of the varied forms and types of landscape within Anglesey and Gwynedd. The LANDMAP methodology has allowed the identification of the varied elements that make up the landscape. The use of the LCAs as a mechanism to deliver the advice provides a means of examining those elements in relation to specific locations. It has not been the intention of either local authority to prescribe or restrict what could be done or considered in each area. The guidance notes have been prepared to assist all parties to ensure the key issues relating to the landscape are considered when development or landscape proposals are being put forward. The Councils do not wish to hinder innovative design, but they are keen that key local qualities are properly taken into account.

Many of the key issues relate to more than one LCA and it is intended that users should refer to the LCA in which their proposed scheme is located. To assist cross references to adjacent LCAs or broader design guidance elements are provided.



# GWYNEDD INTRODUCTION



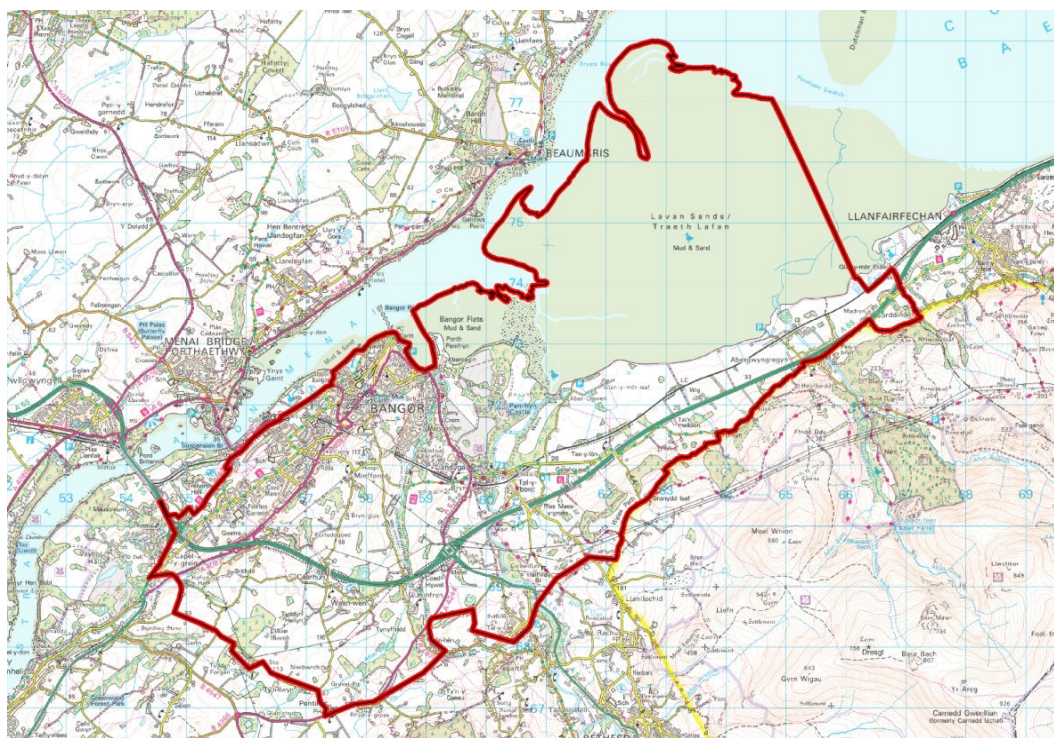
- 01 : Bangor Coastal Plain
- 02 : Penisarwaun Plateau
- 03 : Llanberis - Bethesda
- 04 : Caernarfon - Coast & Plateau
- 05 : Snowdon Massif
- 06 : Llyn North Coast
- 07 : Western Llyn
- 08 : Pwllheli - Criccieth Coast
- 09 : Porthmadog
- 10 : Central Llyn
- 11 : Blaenau Ffestiniog
- 12 : Llandderfel
- 13 : Barmouth
- 14 : Corris
- 15 : Tywyn
- 16 : Menai Coast

### CHARACTER



- Narrow coastal plain, bounded inland by Snowdon Massif and overlooked from the National Park
- Dissected by a number of small south-north running streams, often small, wooded valleys
- Landscape pattern largely reflects influence of Penrhyn Estate – planned, formal parkland, estate farms and settlements. It also includes historically important industrial relics at Nantlle Slate Quarries
- Large expanse of intertidal sand and mudflats at TraethLafan
- Dissected by A55 road, opened up vista of area, important in setting sense of entrance to Gwynedd
- Vernacular boundaries, especially slate fences, cloddiau and hedges
- Strong visual links with the Menai Straits and southern edge of the Anglesey AONB.

### LOCATION



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown



# GWYNEDD BANGOR COASTAL PLAIN

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 1

## KEY DESIGN ISSUES



### TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

New development and management proposals should ensure that:

- Visual impacts from and towards main road/rail corridors are properly considered
- Mitigation measures reflect the wider landscape structure and that sites are not considered in isolation
- The location takes local landforms into account e.g. by retaining existing boundaries/trees and setting buildings along slopes, avoiding breaking ridgelines. Area is adjacent to and overlooked from the National Park
- Since the area is a gateway to Gwynedd, the implications upon perceived quality of the area should be addressed
- A number of key landmark buildings are considered – Penrhyn Castle, the University, and Ysbyty Gwynedd. The impacts upon their settings should be fully considered



### HABITAT MANAGEMENT

There are a number of important habitats in this area, including broad-leaved woodland, saltmarsh, intertidal sand and mudflats, mire and grassland. Any development or management scheme should ensure that:

- Direct and consequential impacts upon habitats are properly addressed, including those which might have an impact on the internationally important wetlands within the adjacent Menai Strait and Conwy Bay Special Area of Conservation.
- Potential for habitat development or enhancement are considered
- The importance of broad-leaved woodland is recognised
- Any habitat management schemes consider Glastir and the local Biodiversity Action Plan in their recommendations and implementations



### HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

A significant part of the area is included in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, including all of TraethLafan. The area exhibits a mix of historic landscape characters, with the medieval town of Bangor, Nantlle Slate Quarries (including outstanding industrial relics from the 19<sup>th</sup> century), the 19<sup>th</sup> century realigned field patterns along the northern coastal strip and the legacy of the Penrhyn Estate predominant. All proposals for development and management should:

- Respect the nature of the pattern and detail of the historic fabric of the landscape
- Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).

### RELATIONSHIP TO SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AND ANGLESEY AONB

Any developments or management proposals should recognise possible visual impacts upon the northern edge of the Snowdonia National Park, as well as the southern edge of the Anglesey AONB (on the northern banks of the Menai Straits). Views into and out from the area from the two protected landscapes are therefore very important. This will influence location, scale, form and materials used in any development.



### **SETTLEMENT EDGE**

Development schemes around settlement edges should:

- Be of a form and scale that reflects the character of each settlement
- Be considered in terms of impacts upon the wider landscape, rather than the site alone
- Seek to utilise landform and vegetation patterns to assist in mitigation of any impacts
- Respect the character and setting of the Conservation Areas at Bangor, Llandygai and Glasinfryn.

It is important that standard solutions are not applied in order that the inherent characteristics of the locality are incorporated into the design.

### **FUTURE ISSUES**

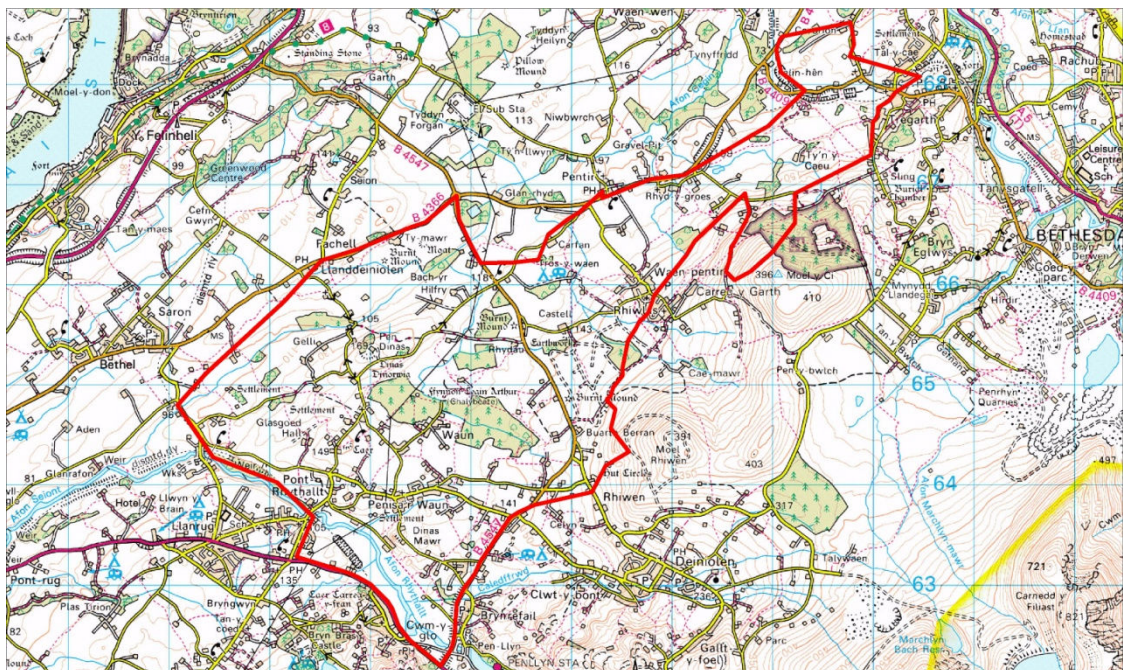
The area is likely to see continued pressure for development seeking to take full advantage of the transportation network. Integration with the wider landscape will be vital. Bangor will also continue to be the focus for residential development. Thorough attention to detail necessary. Effective agricultural land management by Penrhyn Estate and University essential. See Guidance Notes on Transport Corridors and Agricultural Landscapes.

## CHARACTER



- Agricultural area with distinct small/regular gently undulating
- Occupying an intermediate zone between coast on or around 100m contour
- Exhibits a number of post glacial landforms such as alluvial fans
- Number of small, densely clustered settlements
- Large areas of woodlands and plantations

## LOCATION



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Cynor Gwynedd – 100023387 – 2005.

Continued over...



# GWYNEDD PENISARWAUN PLATEAU

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 2

## KEY DESIGN ISSUES



### BUILDINGS – FORM AND MATERIALS

Any new development proposals should ensure that:

- The location, scale and form of building reflects the settlement pattern. Most settlements are small and often densely clustered
- Materials untypical of the area – pantiles, light bricks are avoided, and traditional patterns e.g. use of local stone and slate as a roofing material, are maintained.
- They respect the character and setting of the Conservation Area at Tregarth.



### HABITAT MANAGEMENT

There are a number of important habitat types in this area, including marshy grassland, reed beds, mire, saltmarsh and broadleaf woodland. Any development or management scheme should ensure that:

- Developments are integrated into the landscape i.e. use of landform, hedges, trees etc., use of vernacular boundaries
- Direct and indirect impacts upon habitats are properly addressed
- Potential for habitat development or enhancement is considered, to link with Tir Goral and local Biodiversity Action Plan
- The potential to increase diversity of plantations, particularly conifer, over a longer term is examined.



### HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

All of the area has been included in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. It exhibits a distinct historic landscape character, which is built on elements (some relict, many still in use) which date from the prehistoric period (including the Iron Age hillfort of DinasDinorwig) and demonstrate centuries of continuity. The landscape is particularly valued for its surviving enclosure, road and settlement patterns with distinct local vernacular, reflecting the area's dual economy of farming and slate quarrying dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. All purposes for development and management should:

- Respect the nature of the pattern and the detail of the historic fabric of the landscape
- Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).

### FUTURE ISSUES

The area may suffer from decline in the farming sector or changes in agricultural practices. See Guidance Note on Agricultural Landscapes.

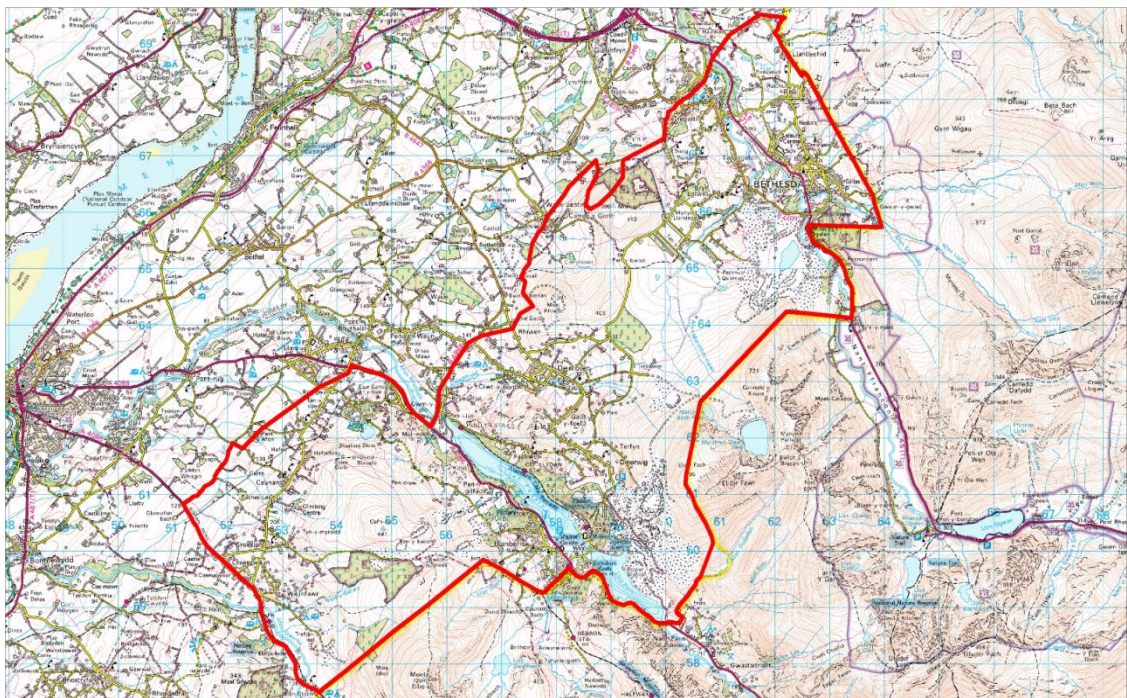


## CHARACTER



- Fringe of Snowdon Massif, includes extensive areas of former slate workings
- Typified by small, nucleated quarrying communities
- Water bodies, woodlands and wet marshy areas important features
- Tourism becoming increasingly important

## LOCATION



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Cyngor Gwynedd – 100023387 – 2005.

Continued over...






# GWYNEDD LLANBERIS - BETHESDA

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 3

## KEY DESIGN ISSUES

	<p><b>BUILDINGS – FORM AND MATERIALS</b></p> <p>Any new development proposals should ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The location, scale and form of building reflects the settlement pattern. Most settlements are small and often densely clustered</li> <li>▪ Materials untypical of the area – pantiles, light bricks, are avoided, and traditional patterns are maintained, e.g. the use of slate as a roofing material.</li> <li>▪ They respect the character and setting of the Conservation Areas at Llanllechid, Tanysgafell, Bryn Eglwys, Lon y Graig, Llwybr Mai/Tan y Bwch, MynyddLlandygai and Braichmelyn.</li> </ul> <p>This area abuts and is overlooked by the National Park and forms an important buffer landscape.</p>
	<p><b>QUARRYING LANDSCAPES</b></p> <p>Much of the area has been included in the Register of Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. The areas of abandoned slate quarries and waste tips provide perhaps the over-riding historical and cultural landscape identity of Gwynedd, as well as offering potential for a number of opportunities for the future e.g. recreational, habitat management, reclamation, employment.</p> <p>Any proposals should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ recognise the historic and cultural significance of these areas</li> <li>▪ respect the nature of the pattern and the detail of the historic fabric of the landscape</li> <li>▪ recognise the nature conservation potential of these areas within the overall historical and cultural context</li> <li>▪ Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).</li> <li>▪ Recognise the scope to use the scale of these sites to accommodate development and provide a particular landscape quality.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>HABITAT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>New development and management proposals should seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provide for wider management of key habitats – broadleaf woodlands, heaths, mires, grassland and exposed rock/quarry tips</li> <li>▪ develop and enhance the existing habitat and link with the local Biodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>▪ Ensure proper integration into other programmes, such as TirGofal.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>HISTORIC LANDSCAPES</b></p> <p>The majority of the area has been included in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. It includes a range of medieval and industrial landscapes, including part of the wooded Penrhyn Estate and relics of the slate mining industry (e.g. in and around Bethesda – one of the best preserved 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial towns in Wales). In-between the mining settlements are swathes of unenclosed upland, with early sheepwalks, enclosures and smallholdings still readable in the landscape. All purposes for development and management should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Respect the nature of the pattern and the detail of the historic fabric of the landscape</li> <li>▪ Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic</li> </ul>

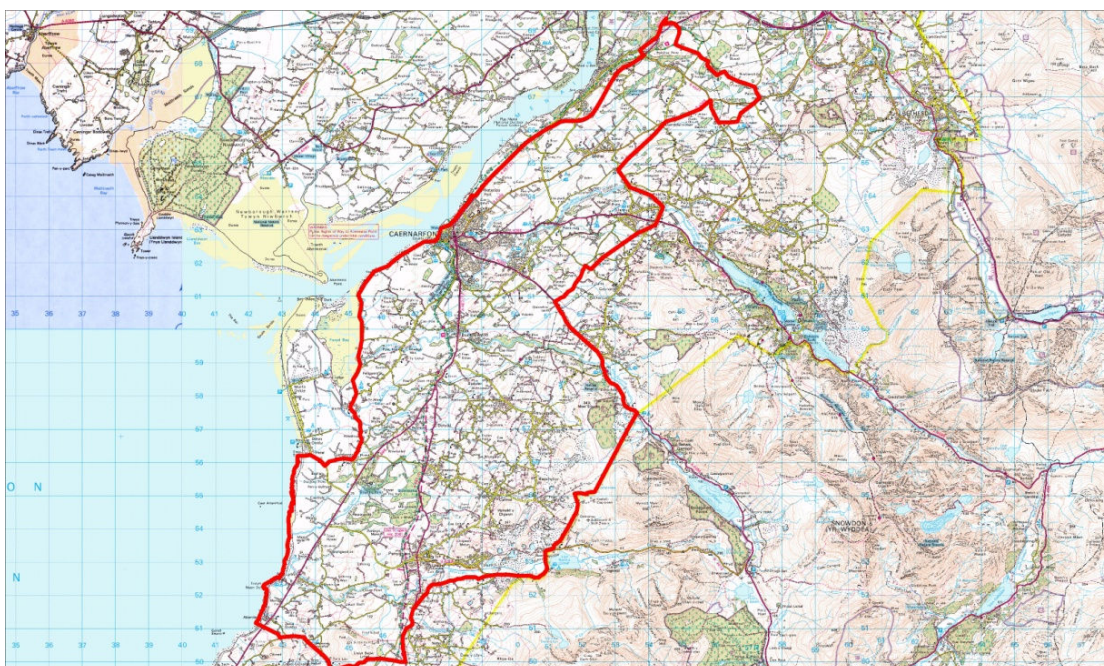
	landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).
	<p><b>RELATIONSHIP TO SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK</b>  Any developments or management proposals should take account of the area's important role as a buffer and setting to Snowdonia National Park. Views into the area from the National Park are critical. This will influence location, scale, form and materials used in any development.</p>
<p><b>FUTURE ISSUES</b>  Llanberis, a tourist 'Honey Pot', will continue to form a focus for tourist related development. The area forms part of the Slate Area Initiative and could see changes in respect of employment related developments. Careful attention to detail required in order to integrate necessary developments with the landscape. Outlying areas may suffer from decline in the farming sector or changes in agricultural practices. See Guidance Note on Agricultural Landscapes.</p>	

### CHARACTER



- A long broad fringe adjacent to the Menai Coast LCA, extending to the upland fringes of Moel Tryfan and Mynydd y Cillgwyn
- Character of landscape influenced by glacial actions and resultant deposits and landforms
- Mixture of settlement types – small villages to large towns. Caernarfon, important historic core, with modern settlement edges of varying quality
- Range of coastal habitats and landscapes, which contribute to character of the area.
- Area provides an important setting to the Anglesey AONB to the north (beyond the Menai Straits) and Llŷn AONB to the south

### LOCATION



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Cynfor Gwynedd – 100023387 – 2005.



# GWYNEDD

## CAERNARFON-COAST AND PLATEAU

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 4

### KEY DESIGN ISSUES



#### SETTLEMENT EDGE

Development around settlement edges should:

- Be of a form and scale that reflects the character of each settlement
- Be considered in terms of impacts upon the wider landscape, rather than the site alone
- Seek to integrate into the landscape using landform, hedges, trees, etc. to minimise impacts
- Respect the character and setting of the landscape's Conservation Areas (e.g. Glynllifon, Llandwrog, Bontnewydd, Caernarfon and Llanwnda)

It is important that standard solutions are not applied in order that the inherent characteristics of the locality are incorporated into the design.



#### HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

Some of the eastern and northern parts of the area have been included in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Dinorwig and the Nantle Valley). In addition, the castle and town walls of Caernarfon are internationally recognised as a World Heritage Site. The area displays a complex mix of historic landscapes of different characters and periods, dominated by 19<sup>th</sup> century estate farmland with valued areas of parkland remaining (e.g. at Glynllifon). Interspersed amongst the estatelands are prehistoric remains including ancient hut circles and hillforts. All proposals for development and management should:

- Respect the nature of the pattern and the detail of the historic fabric of the landscape
- Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).



#### COASTAL LANDSCAPES

Development and management proposals should take into account:

- Any direct or indirect impacts upon the range of coastal habitats
- The visual impact on people's perception of the coast, its character and qualities
- Impacts on the setting of the Menai Straits and special qualities of the nearby Anglesey and Llŷn AONBs.



#### QUARRYING LANDSCAPES

The areas of abandoned slate quarries and waste tips provide perhaps the over-riding historical and cultural landscape identity of Gwynedd, as well as offering potential for a number of opportunities for the future e.g. recreational, habitat management, reclamation, employment. Any proposals should:

- Recognise the historic and cultural significance of these areas
- Consider the visual impacts of any scheme. Many of these sites readily blend into the wider landscape
- Recognise the nature conservation potential of these areas within the overall historical and cultural context
- Recognise the scope to use these sites to accommodate development and provide a particular landscape quality



#### HABITAT MANAGEMENT

New development and management proposals should seek to:

- Provide for wider management of key habitats – broadleaved woodlands, heathland, mires, coastal edge, reed beds and grassland
- Develop and enhance the existing habitat and link with the local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Ensure proper integration into other programmes, such as Glastir.

**RELATIONSHIP TO THE ANGLESEY AND LLYN AONBs**

Any developments or management proposals in the north-western part of the LCA should recognise possible visual impacts upon the southern edge of the Anglesey AONB (on the northern banks of the Menai Straits). Similarly, proposals in the south-west of the LCA, adjacent to the Llŷn AONB, should be aware of the landscape's important role in providing a setting to the protected landscape. Views into and out from the area from the two protected landscapes are therefore very important. This will influence location, scale, form and materials used in any development.

**FUTURE ISSUES**

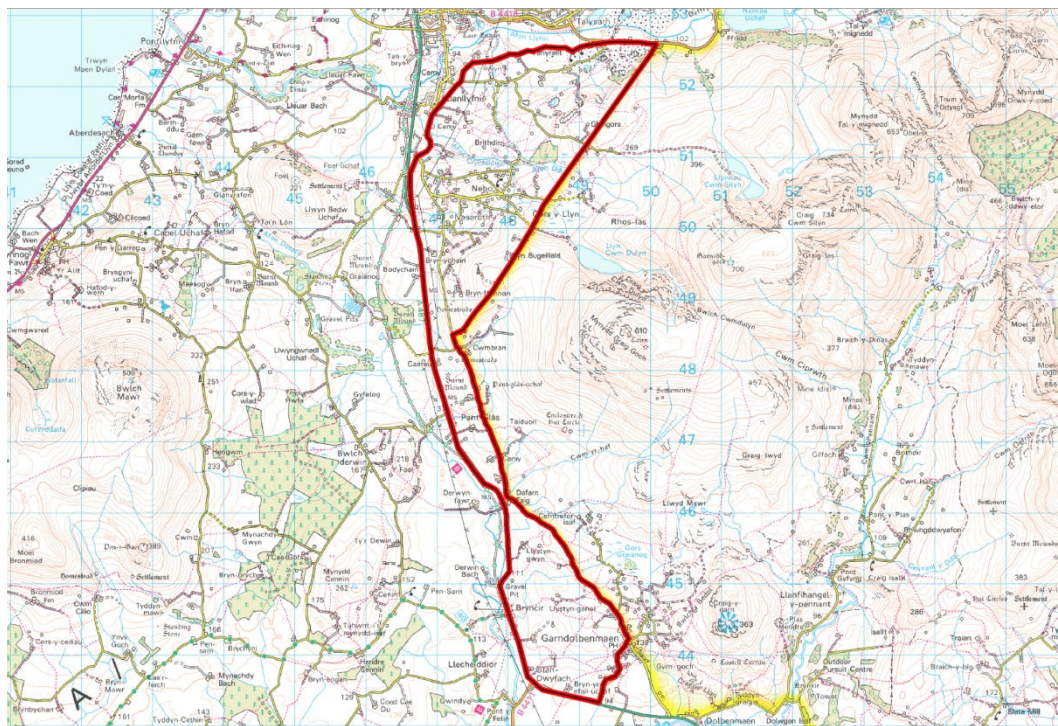
Continued pressure for tourist related developments. Ongoing and possible road improvements to A487. Penygroes could be the focus for additional employment activity. Caernarfon will continue to be a focus for employment, residential and tourist related development. Management of outlying areas may suffer from decline in farming or changes in agricultural practices. Coastal management may require careful consideration. See Guidance Notes on Transport Corridors and Agricultural Landscapes.

## CHARACTER



- Small, fringe area on the western edge of Snowdonia National Park.
- Upland, mountain character
- Includes former slate workings in Dyffryn Nantlle
- Vernacular boundaries: dry stone walls

## LOCATION MAP





# GWYNEDD SNOWDON MASSIF

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 5

## KEY DESIGN ISSUES



### HABITAT MANAGEMENT

New development and management proposals should seek to:

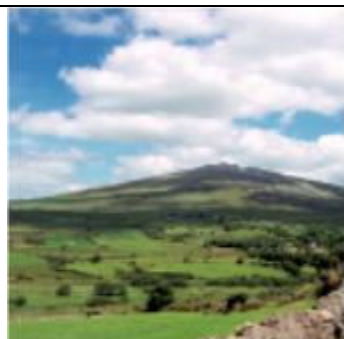
- Provide for wider management of key habitats – broadleaved woodlands, heaths, mires, marshy grassland and open water.
- develop and enhance the existing habitat and link with the local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Ensure proper integration into other programmes, such as Glastir.



### HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

The northern part of the area has been included in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Nantlle Valley). The area displays a strong historic landscape character of small, regular fields and scattered cottage settlement whose origins lie in 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure, often associated with the slate quarries. In place, these overlie relict archaeological sites of earlier periods (e.g. Bryncir Roman Fort). All proposals for development and management should:

- respect the nature of the pattern and the detail of the historic fabric of the landscape
- Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).



### RELATIONSHIP TO SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK

Any developments or management proposals should take account of the area's important role as a buffer and setting to Snowdonia National Park. Any developments or management proposals should recognise possible visual impacts upon the western edge of the Snowdonia National Park, from which views into the character area are critical. This will influence location, scale, form and materials used in any development.



### QUARRYING LANDSCAPES

The areas of abandoned slate quarries and waste tips provide perhaps the over-riding historical and cultural landscapes identity of Gwynedd, as well as offering potential for a number of opportunities for the future e.g. recreational, habitat management, reclamation, employment. Any proposals should:

- recognise the historic and cultural significance of these areas
- respect the nature of the pattern and the details of the historic fabric of the landscape
- recognise the nature conservation potential of these areas within the overall historical and cultural context
- Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).
- Recognise the scope to use these sites to accommodate development and provide a particular landscape quality.

### FUTURE ISSUES

Changes in agricultural practices and decline in agriculture could be a cause for concern. See Guidance Note on Agricultural Landscapes.

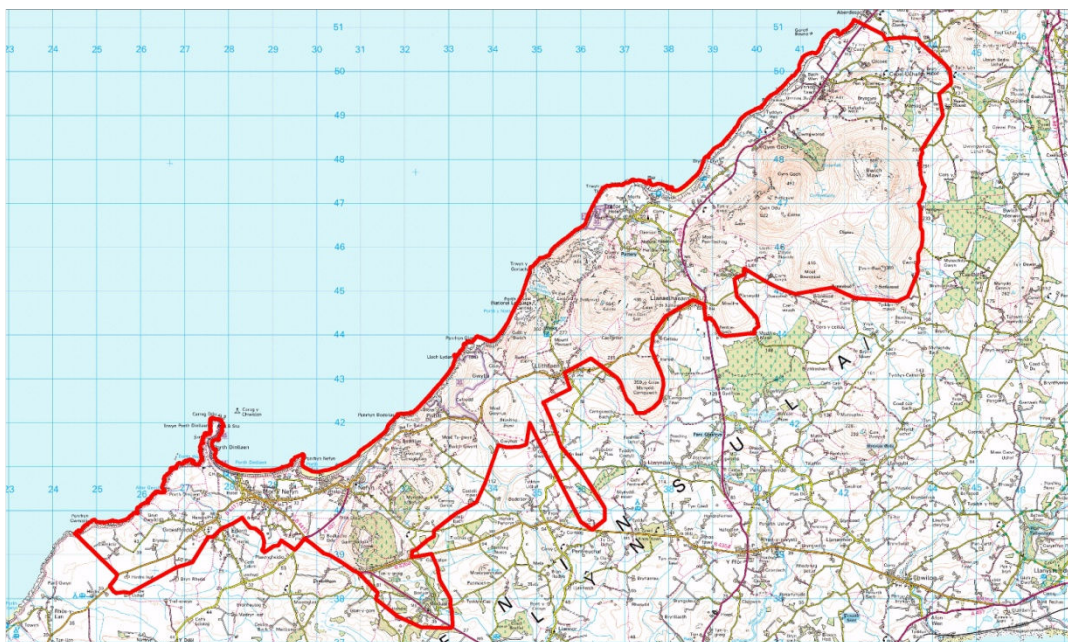


## CHARACTER



- Narrow coastal strip along northern coast of Llŷn Peninsula, all of which is defined as Heritage Coast
- Typified by a string of upstanding landform. Bwlch Mawr, Gyrn Goch, Gyrn Ddu and Garn Boduan, running down to narrow coastal plain
- Small settlements of significant historic and cultural values
- Range of habitat types of importance, particularly coastal and upland heath and rocky outcrops
- Lies almost entirely within the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## LOCATION





## GWYNEDD LLYN NORTH COAST

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 6

### KEY DESIGN ISSUES



#### HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

A substantial part of the area has been included in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Llein and Bardsey Island). The area is very rich in historic landscape terms. It contains complex and extensive evidence for the appearance of the landscape at various times, including the prehistoric (especially on higher, unenclosed land such as BwlchMawr), the medieval (town of Nefyn and strip fields around Morfa) and the industrial (coastal quarries and settlements) periods. All proposals for development and management should:

- Respect the nature of the pattern and the detail of the historic fabric of the landscape
- Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).



#### HABITAT MANAGEMENT

New development and management proposals should seek to:

- Provide for wider management of key habitats – broadleaved woodlands, upland/coastal heaths, sandy bays, grassland, and scree/rocky outcrops and cliffs (including sections within the LleinSeacliffs Special Area of Conservation).
- Develop and enhance the existing habitat and link with the local biodiversity Action Plan
- Ensure proper integration into other programmes, such as Glastir.



#### COASTAL LANDSCAPES

The majority of the coastline is readily accessible or visible to the public. Development and management proposals should take into account:

- Any direct or consequential impacts upon the range of coastal habitats
- The visual impact on people's perception of the coast, its character and special qualities as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



#### TOURISM DEVELOPMENTS

Any proposals for new or expanded tourism developments should:

- Seek to use landform and vegetation pattern to mitigate impacts
- Review the potential for less intrusive and less intensive land use. Impacts may be less if development is less concentrated
- Reflect scale, pattern and character of the local road network
- Seek to ensure that built environment reflect scale, form, pattern and use local materials of the area
- Respect the character and setting of Conservation Areas (e.g. ClynogFawr, Trefor, Nefyn)
- Ensure visual impacts from wider area – paths, bridleways, lanes – are fully taken into account

It should be remembered that this character area lies within the Llyn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a nationally designated landscape.

### FUTURE ISSUES

Continued pressure for tourist related developments. Improvements to the A499 Llanaelhaearn – Aberdesach should be carefully managed. Changes in farming practices may affect the management of

this area and the decline in the farming sector is a cause for concern. See Guidance Note on Agricultural Landscapes.



## GWYNEDD WESTERN LLYN

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

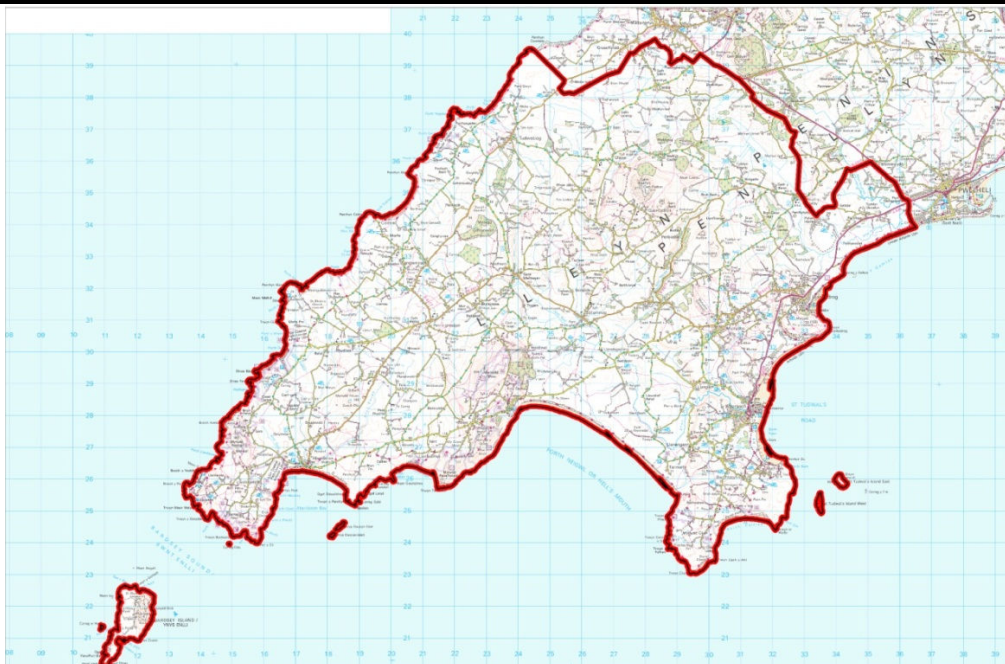
# 7

### CHARACTER



- Western extremity of Gwynedd includes Ynys Enlli, landscape dominated by presence and sense of proximity to the coast, includes part of the Heritage Coast
- Landform would be the effect of glacial actions upon older bedrocks
- Coastline ranges from exposed cliff faces on the northern shore, to the broader, sheltered, shelving bays at Aberdaron and PorthNeigwl and the offshore islands of Bardsey and St Tudwal's.
- Diverse range of coastal and terrestrial habitats, many of international and national significance, all giving a rich diversity to the landscape and seascape.
- Parts of the area are typified by a dispersed settlement typical of the western fringes of Britain.
- Tourism developments (caravan parks and camp sites) have had a marked effect upon the landscape
- A large proportion of the Character Area falls within the Llŷn AONB

### LOCATION



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Cyngor Gwynedd – 100023387 – 2005.



## GWYNEDD WESTERN LLYN

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 7

### KEY DESIGN ISSUES



#### **TOURIST DEVELOPMENTS**

Any proposals for new or expanded tourism developments should:

- Seek to use landform and vegetation pattern to mitigate impacts
- Review the potential for less intrusive and less intensive land use to reduce the impact of development
- Reflect scale, pattern and character of the local road network
- Respect the character and setting of Conservation Areas (Llanengan, Llangian, Llaniestyn, Aberdaran)
- Seek to ensure that built elements reflect scale, form, pattern and use local materials of the area
- Ensure visual impacts from wider area – paths, bridleways, lanes – are fully taken into account

It should be remembered this character area lies partially within the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a nationally designated landscape.



#### **HABITAT MANAGEMENT**

New development and management proposals should seek to:

- Provide for wider management of key habitats – broadleaved woodlands, coastal heath and grassland, wetland/saltmarsh and open water.
- Protect and appropriately manage the internationally important coastal and marine habitats, including the area's sea cliffs – home to valuable seabird populations including puffins and Manx shearwater
- Develop and enhance the existing habitat and link with the local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Ensure proper integration into other programmes, such as Glastir.



#### **COASTAL LANDSCAPES**

The majority of the coastline is readily accessible or visible to the public. Development and management take into account:

- Any direct or consequential impacts upon the range of coastal habitats
- The visual impact on people's perception of the coast, its character and qualities.

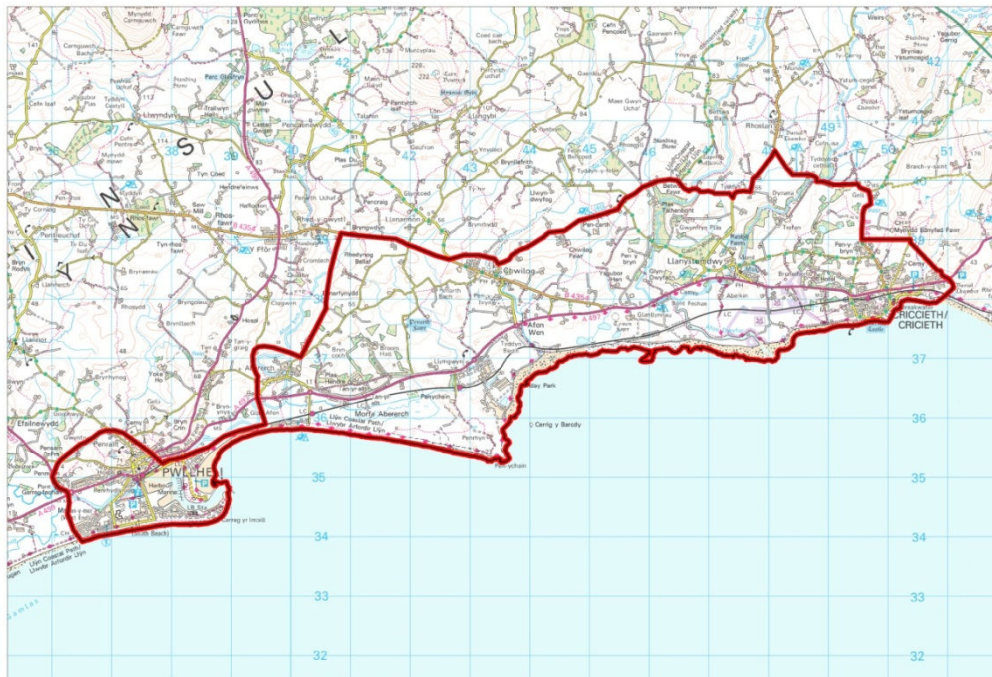
	<p><b>HISTORIC LANDSCAPES</b></p> <p>The whole of this area lies within an area included in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Lley and Bardsey Island). Whilst it has few major monuments, the landscape is felt to possess an unparalleled wealth of small-scale historic and archaeological features demonstrating both the continuity and territorial continuity of the peninsula. It includes the impressive Iron Age hillfort of Garn Fadryn, some of the best preserved medieval strip fields in North Wales (at Uwchmynydd), good examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century smallholdings and cottages, and a Grade II listed parkland at Cefnamwlch. All proposals for development and management should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Respect the nature of the pattern and the detail of the historic fabric of the landscape</li> <li>▪ Respect the cultural significance of the landscape</li> <li>▪ Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).</li> </ul>
	<p><b>SETTLEMENT PATTERN/EDGE</b></p> <p>In considering proposals for development or landscape management, consideration should be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring that the settlement pattern of the area is taken into account – avoid concentrations of development in dispersed settlement areas</li> <li>▪ Seeking to use landform and vegetation patterns to mitigate impacts</li> <li>▪ Ensuring that the scale, form and materials of buildings reflects local pattern</li> <li>▪ Respecting the character and setting of Conservation Areas (Llanengan, Llangian, Llaniestyn, Aberdaran)</li> <li>▪ Reflecting the character of the existing vernacular boundaries: cloddiau, sunken lanes and hedgerows with scattered trees.</li> </ul>
<p><b>FUTURE ISSUES</b></p> <p>Ongoing and continued pressure for tourist related developments. Changes in farming practices may affect the management of this area and the decline in the farming sector is a cause for concern. Continued pressure for single dwellings/small sites for residential development may cause ‘nucleation’ of current dispersed villages/hamlets. See Guidance Note on Agricultural Landscapes.</p>	

### CHARACTER



- Narrow, lower lying coastal plain lying below the 50 metre contour
- Dissected by a number of small river valleys such as the AfonErch, AfonDwyfach and AfonDwyfor
- Area exhibits a variety of habitats from outer tidal areas, dune systems extending inland to more typical agricultural landscapes
- Tourism is an important feature within the landscape ranging from the 19<sup>th</sup> century development of Pwllheli and Criccieth to the more recent holiday camp at Penychain.

### LOCATION





# GWYNEDD PWLLELI-CRICCIETH COAST

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 8

## KEY DESIGN ISSUES



### TOURISM DEVELOPMENTS

Any proposals for new or expanded tourism developments should:

- Seek to use landform and vegetation pattern to mitigate impacts
- Review potential for less intrusive and less intensive land use. Impacts may be less if development is less concentrated.
- Reflect scale, pattern and character of the local road network
- Seek to ensure that built elements reflect scale, form, pattern and use local materials of the area
- Respect the character and setting of the Conservation Areas at Pwllheli, Criccieth and Llanstymdwy
- Ensure visual impacts from wider area – paths, bridleways, lanes – are fully taken into account



### SETTLEMENT PATTERN / EDGE

Proposals for development or landscape management should consider: the settlement pattern of the area is taken into account –use the landform and vegetation patterns to mitigate impacts the scale, form, and materials of buildings and that they reflect the local pattern.



### HABITAT MANAGEMENT

New development and management proposals should seek to:

- Provide for wider management of key coastal and inland habitats – broadleaved woodlands, heaths, grassland, open water, saltmarsh, sand dunes, dune grasslands, fen and exposed rock and mires
- Develop and enhance the existing habitat and link with the local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Ensure proper integration into other programmes, such as Glastir.



### HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

The western part of this area, around Pwhelli, falls within the wider Llyn and Bardsey Island Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest – valued for its wealth of small-scale historic and archaeological features demonstrating both the continuity and territorial continuity of the peninsula. . This Character Area also includes tracts of 19<sup>th</sup> century estate farmland and areas of designed parkland, such as at GwynfrynPlas. Pwllheli itself demonstrates different phases of historical development from the medieval period to the present. However, large areas of the coastal strip are dominated by modern holiday parks and related infrastructure, as well as the main A497 road and rail corridors. (All proposals for development and management should:

- Respect the cultural significance and historic patterns of the landscape
- Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).
- Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both are taken into account (this could include visual the pattern and scale of these elements).

## FUTURE ISSUES

Improvements to A497 Aberech – Llanystumdwy. It is possible that the area will continue to be the focus for tourist related development. Pwllheli in particular will continue to be the focus for further residential/employment/leisure development. Changes in farming practice may affect landscape management and the decline in the farming sector is a cause for concern. See Guidance Note on Agricultural Landscapes.



## CHARACTER



- An area bounded by the Snowdonia National Park to the north, east and south
- Significant cultural and historical influences are evident in the landscape, particularly related to the 19<sup>th</sup> century reclamation of TraethMawr
- Tourism is important in the area with a variety of associated facilities
- Wide range of valuable habitats; wetlands, dunes, broadleaf woodlands and rocky slopes
- Quarry works, commercial concerns and the A487(T) all have an impact on the landscape

## LOCATION







# GWYNEDD PORTHMADOG

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 9

## KEY DESIGN ISSUES

	<p><b>ENCROACHMENT</b></p> <p>The Afon Glaslyn provides a nationally and internationally important wetland habitat, covered by both SSSI and SAC designations. Its flat, open character offers potential for reclamation and development. A visually prominent area which requires careful consideration to be given to development to protect the environs of the setting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seek to ensure any developments take into account existing developments within the surroundings.</li> <li>▪ Ensure visual impacts are minimised by careful consideration of location and views from the wider landscape, including the National Park.</li> <li>▪ Address edge details carefully, through choice of boundary types and materials, and landscape treatment to reflect the character of the area. Avoid dense blocks of planting, seek to follow existing pattern of ditches, streams and water bodies.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>IMPACT OF TOURISM</b></p> <p>By its nature the area is an important tourist destination – Ffestiniog Railway, Portmeirion, MorfaBychan and Porthmadog itself, with the marina, as well as its juxtaposition to the Snowdonia National Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All new tourist related developments should be considered in terms of their wider visual impacts within the landscape as well as specific local impacts.</li> <li>▪ Any developments should take into account habitats of international/national importance, such as the coastal dunes at MorfaBychan, and proposals should be drawn up so as to minimise impacts and facilitate longer-term management.</li> <li>▪ The scale of developments should reflect the existing vegetation pattern of the area. Particular care must be given to choice and use of species. Mitigation may be better served by changes in location and design details, rather than extensive new planting.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>HISTORIC LANDSCAPES</b></p> <p>The eastern half of the Character Area falls within the Aberglaslyn Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. This represents one of the most ambitious 19<sup>th</sup> century land reclamation initiatives in Wales, and includes the Porthmadog Embankment (once described as the wonder of Wales), planned Georgian town of Tremadog and Italianate village of Portmeirion designed by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis (both Conservation Areas). Earlier features include prehistoric sites on the upland at Moel y Gest and the remains of an important promontory fort (formerly associated with Welsh princes) at Aber Ia. All proposals for development and management should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Respect the cultural significance and historic patterns of the landscape</li> <li>▪ Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).</li> <li>▪ Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both are taken into account (this could include visual the pattern and scale of these elements).</li> </ul>
	<p><b>SETTLEMENT EDGE DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p>The quality of the landscape character area is markedly affected by the settlements within it. Most have important historic cores, with a range of fine quality buildings. More recent edge developments are changing that character.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seek to ensure new edge developments respect the scale and form of the landscape, in terms of building form, size and scale.</li> <li>▪ Try to ensure vernacular qualities of the settlements are retained in</li> </ul>



new developments.

- Respect the character and setting of the Conservation Areas at Porthmadog, Tremadog and Portmeirion
- Consider varying densities of development to reflect local character.
- Carefully consider choice of materials and colours of buildings to fit into the local context.
- Ensure landscape treatment is considered within the context of the wider landscape. The character area has variable densities of trees and woodlands, and specific boundary details.



#### **RELATIONSHIP TO NATIONAL PARK**

The area directly abuts Snowdonia National Park and offers spectacular views of the mountain core. For visitors it represents an important gateway into the National Park. In association with other guidance notes:

- Wider land management programmes should ensure distinctive landscape features, such as field boundaries and broadleaved woodlands, are managed with a view to their interrelationship to the National Park.
- See the area as a 'buffer zone' to the National Park, and ensure all development proposals address this relationship.
- Ensure the wider visual impacts from the National Park of development are taken into account in considering their location, form, scale, materials and colour

#### **FUTURE ISSUES**

Ongoing and continued pressure for residential/retail development in Porthmadog and in its vicinity. Improvements to the A487 Tremadog – Porthmadog – Penrhydeudraeth. Coastal management issues. See Guidance Notes on Transport Corridors and Agricultural Landscapes.

## CHARACTER



- Broadly relates to the central plateau of the Llŷn Peninsula over and above the 50 metre contour.
- Generally homogenous area interspersed by prominent hills such as Mynydd Cennin and Y Foel. Landform dominated by the impact of glacial deposits.
- Essentially agricultural in nature, there are large forestry plantations such as Bwlch Derwin.
- Historic elements remain, with prehistoric and medieval features present, although they are often isolated within the larger areas of 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosures
- Quarrying has and continues to impact upon the landscape. The character area forms an important buffer zone between the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to the west and Snowdonia National Park to the east.

## LOCATION





# GWYNEDD CENTRAL LLYN

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 10

## KEY DESIGN ISSUES



### HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

The western part of the area has been included in the Register of landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. The area is very rich and varied in historic landscape terms, with evidence for millennia of development in the form of field patterns, dispersed settlement, sites of archaeological interest and transport routes. All proposals for development and management should:

- Respect the nature of the pattern and the detail of the historic fabric of the landscape
- Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).



### HABITAT MANAGEMENT

New development and management proposals should seek to:

- Provide for wider management of key habitats – heaths, mires, grassland, exposed rock and open water
- Develop and enhance the existing habitat and link with the local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Ensure proper integration into other programmes, such as Glastir.



### SETTLEMENT EDGE

Development schemes around settlement edges should:

- Be of a form and scale that reflects the character of each settlement
- Be considered in terms of impacts upon the wider landscape, rather than the site alone
- Seek to utilise landform and vegetation patterns to assist in mitigation of any impacts

It is important that standard solutions are not applied, in order that developments integrate into the vernacular of the area.

### RELATIONSHIP TO SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AND LLYN AONB

Any developments or management proposals should recognise the area's functional role as a setting to the western fringes of Snowdonia National Park, as well as the northern and eastern edges of the Llŷn AONB. Views into and out from the area from the two protected landscapes are therefore very important. This will influence location, scale, form and materials used in any development.

### FUTURE ISSUES

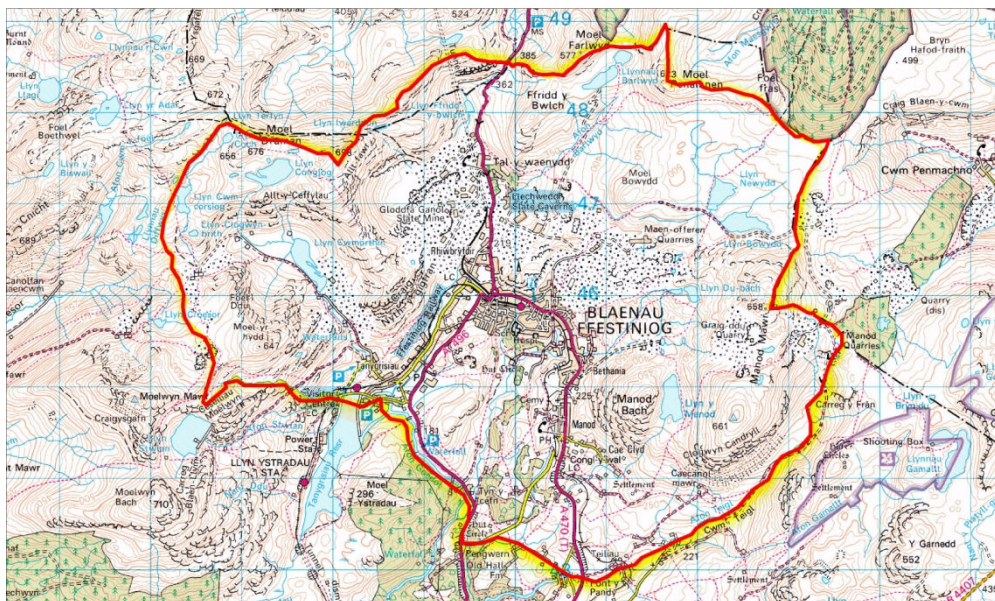
Changes in farming practices may affect landscape management and the decline in the farming sector is a cause for concern. Expansion of mineral extraction at Graianog. See Guidance Note on Agricultural Landscapes.

## CHARACTER



- Discrete landscape unit surrounded by Snowdonia National Park.
- Strong visual links to adjacent mountains of the Snowdon Massif.
- Landscape dominated by the slate waste of former mineral extraction. This is the town in Wales most strongly associated with slate quarrying.
- Town characterised by distinctive pattern of traditional, slate roofed terraced housing developed as a response to the expansion of slate quarrying in the nineteenth century.
- Lower ground characterised by small fields interspersed with broadleaved woodland blocks. Higher slopes partially covered with forestry plantations.

## LOCATION



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Cynon Gwynedd – 100023387 – 2005.







# GWYNEDD BLAENAU FFESTINIOG

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 11

## KEY DESIGN ISSUES

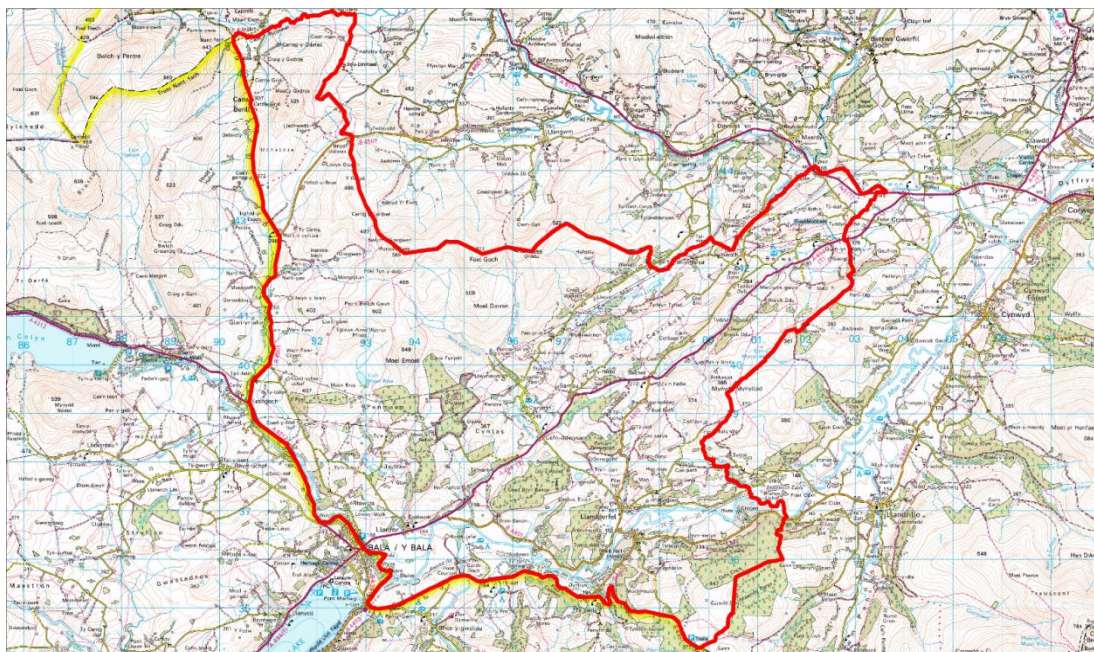
	<p><b>SETTLEMENT EDGE</b></p> <p>The settlement pattern is a distinctive feature of the area, and new development should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Be of form and scale that reflect the character of the core settlement.</li> <li>▪ Try to ensure that the distinctive vernacular qualities of the area are retained in new developments, particularly the use of local slate.</li> <li>▪ Seek to utilise landform and vegetation pattern to assist integration into wider landscape</li> <li>▪ Consider the visual, biodiversity and industrial archaeology of the area's distinctive slate quarries.</li> </ul> <p>It is important that standardised solutions are not applied in order that the characteristics of the locality are incorporated into the design.</p>
	<p><b>FORESTRY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>The eastern edge of the LCA includes part of the Gwydyr Forest. This is a large area of predominantly conifer plantations managed by Forest Enterprise. Although not visibly prominent, they form part of the wider landscape framework. It is important that the visual and biodiversity effects are properly assessed and taken into account in developing and carrying out felling, restocking and other woodland management, e.g. broadleaved species along watercourses and plantation edge, creation of clearance within plantation.</p>
	<p><b>HABITAT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>The habitat matrix for the LCA is quite diverse, and it presents opportunities for enhancement and development of habitat types to increase habitat diversity through management of the various elements, i.e. upland heath and acid grassland, oak woodland, conifer plantation, disused slate quarry workings. The following should be taken into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure any countryside management schemes retain and enhance habitats.</li> <li>▪ Ensure recommendations for habitat development is considered to link with the Gwynedd LBAP.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>HISTORIC LANDSCAPES</b></p> <p>All of this Character Area is defined as a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. This is due to its rich and vast concentration of slate quarrying and mining relics dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (the Victorian slate capital of the world), as well as the location of Britain's first hydro-electric pumped storage scheme at Tanygrisiau (built in 1963). The dam is one of the most prominent man-made landmarks in Gwynedd, visible from great distances to the south.</p> <p>All proposals for development and management should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Respect the nature of the pattern and the detail of the historic fabric of the landscape.</li> <li>▪ Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).</li> </ul>
	<p><b>RELATIONSHIP TO SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK</b></p> <p>This Character Area is bounded on all sides by the National Park, and as such all new development/management proposals should consider the landscape's very strong visual and historical links to and from the protected landscape.</p>

## CHARACTER



- On the eastern edge of the zone from the Arenig Uplands
- Predominantly agricultural, up to 500 metres including Moel y Gydros, Moel Darren, Foel Fach and Moel Emoel.
- Number of broadleaved conifer plantations.
- Varied habitats from open shores of Llyn Tegid.

## LOCATION



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Cyngor Gwynedd – 100023387 – 2005.





# GWYNEDD LLANDDERFEL

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 12

## KEY DESIGN ISSUES



### SETTLEMENT EDGE

The river valley floodplain around Bala show signs of increasing development, particularly around the industrial estate. Important that any proposals properly reflect the scale and pattern of the landscape and recognise potential visual impacts upon the north eastern edge of the National Park. Mitigation measures, such as planting and boundary treatment should also reflect this scale and pattern.

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

The western edge of this LCA around Bala is part on the Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Bala and Bala Lakesides). This is in recognition of the natural and historically strategic route corridor of the upper Dee Valley, which includes important sites from the Roman and medieval period (e.g. Llanfor Roman Fort and camps). Around Sarnau is an historic landscape of irregular fields and woods little changed since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, while pockets of marginal upland and forestry are found elsewhere. All proposals for development and management should:

- Respect the nature of the pattern and the detail of the historic fabric of the landscape.
- Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).



### FORESTRY

The broadleaved woods and conifer plantations are important visual features within the landscape and provide key habitat elements. Longer term felling proposals should take into account likely visual effects, and the potential for enhanced habitat development.

### RELATIONSHIP TO SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK

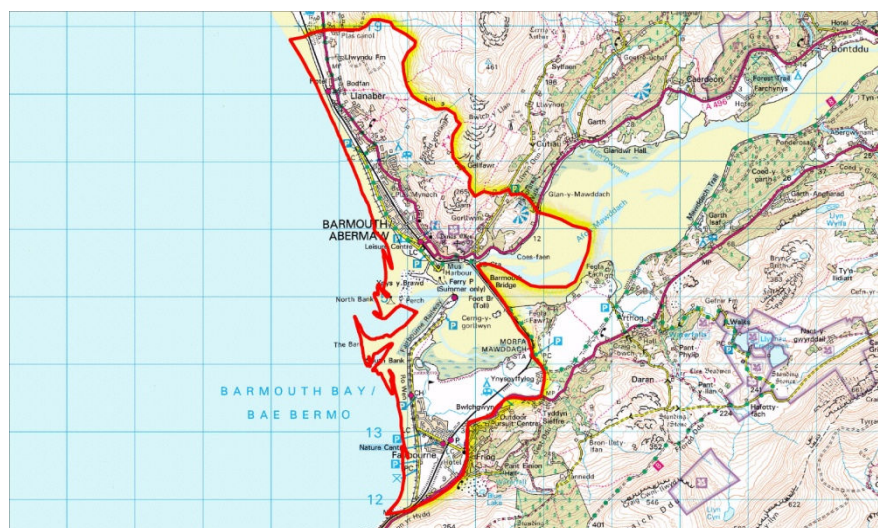
Snowdonia National Park lies immediately adjacent to the LCA in the west, and as such all new development/management proposals within the character area should consider the landscape's very strong visual and historical links to and from the protected landscape.

## CHARACTER



- Victorian town of Barmouth and holiday resort of Fairbourne at the mouth of the Mawddach Estuary.
- As a direct consequence of its location to coast flanked by upland landscape it includes elements of LCA 15.
- Marked contrasts within the landscape of broad, open estuary with rising good ground inland formed by the Ardudwy coastal north and the Cadair Idris range to the south.
- Valley sides agricultural in character with areas of woodland and conifer plantation.
- Area typified by expansive vistas and long distance views coastline, dominated by beaches, dune-land, and the local of Barmouth Bridge across the Mawddach Estuary.

## LOCATION





# GWYNEDD BARMOUTH

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 13

## KEY DESIGN ISSUES



### SETTLEMENT EDGE

The two primary settlements of Barmouth and Fairbourne are quite different in scale and form; Barmouth is a linear settlement with attractive Victorian frontage, whereas Fairbourne is a modern, nucleated 'holiday village'. It is important that the following issues are considered:

- Ensure any new developments reflect the different settlement forms.
- When addressing mitigation proposals for settlement edge developments, consider their impacts in broadest sense.
- The character and setting of the Conservation Area at Abermaw is considered in any new development proposals.

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

All of the LCA falls within the Mawddach Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, valued for extensive relict evidence of diverse land use and activity from prehistoric and later periods (including the rare wooden viaduct/ trestle bridge crossing the estuary). All proposals for development and management should:

- Respect the nature of the pattern and the detail of the historic fabric of the landscape.
- Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).



### COASTAL LANDSCAPES

Open coastal location, particularly north of Barmouth and around Fairbourne, precludes extensive landscape treatment.



### HABITAT MANAGEMENT

The area includes a range of habitat type from coastal to upland fringe. A number of these have statutory protection. Any development or management programme should:-

- Respect protected sites
- Develop opportunities to increase habitat diversity, through management of the key habitats – dunes, inter-tidal sands, wooded Ffridd.
- Ensure distinctive features or elements are retained.
- Ensure recommendations for habitat development and enhancement is considered and link with the Gwynedd LBAP.

### RELATIONSHIP TO SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK

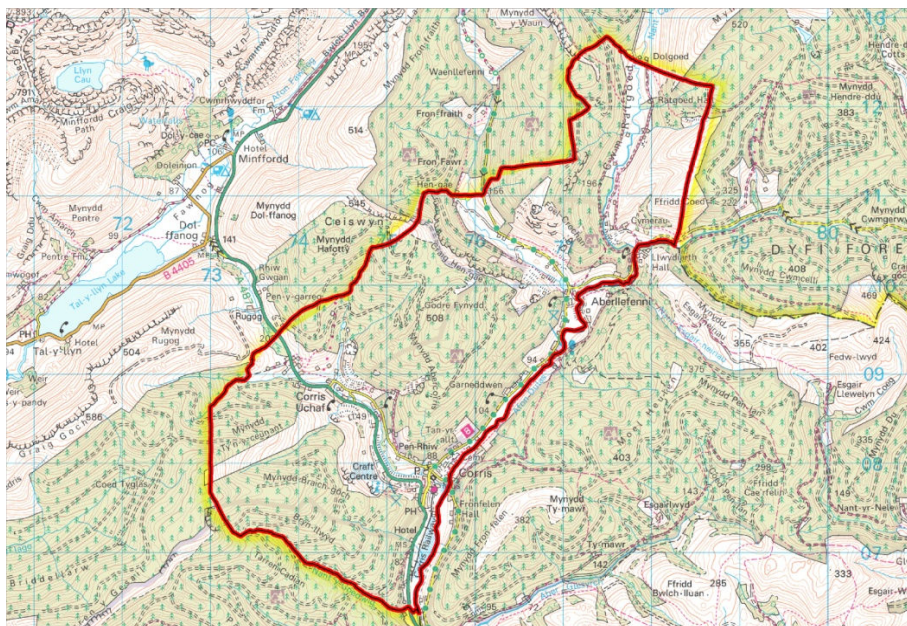
Snowdonia National Park lies immediately adjacent to the LCA, and as such all new development/management proposals within the character area should consider the landscape's very strong visual and historical links to and from the protected landscape.

## CHARACTER



- Includes upper reaches of Dulas and Llefenni valleys that feed into the Dovey and includes open uplands and extensive conifer plantations, together with areas of broadleaved woodland.
- Southern edge National Park, former slate mining valley, with remnant quarry sites and slate waste.
- Visual impact less extensive than for other former slate mining areas.

## LOCATION



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Cynffwrdd Gwynedd – 100023387 – 2005.



# GWYNEDD CORRIS

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 14

## KEY DESIGN ISSUES



### FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

The landscape is dominated by conifer plantations and broadleaved woodlands. Felling, restocking and management proposals for areas should ensure visual and habitat issues are properly considered, e.g. broadleaved species along watercourses, creation of clearances.



### SLATE WASTE

A number of former slate quarries remain scattered throughout the area. Any development should consider the visual, biodiversity and industrial archaeology of each quarry.

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

The slate quarrying remains around Corris contain important relics of the Welsh mining industry, and as such are classified as 'Outstanding' by LANDMAP. To the south of the valley is the distinctive Victorian settlement of Penrhyndeudraeth, which grew to support the expanding slate industry. All proposals for development and management should:

- Respect the nature of the pattern and the detail of the historic fabric of the landscape.
- Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).

### RELATIONSHIP TO SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK

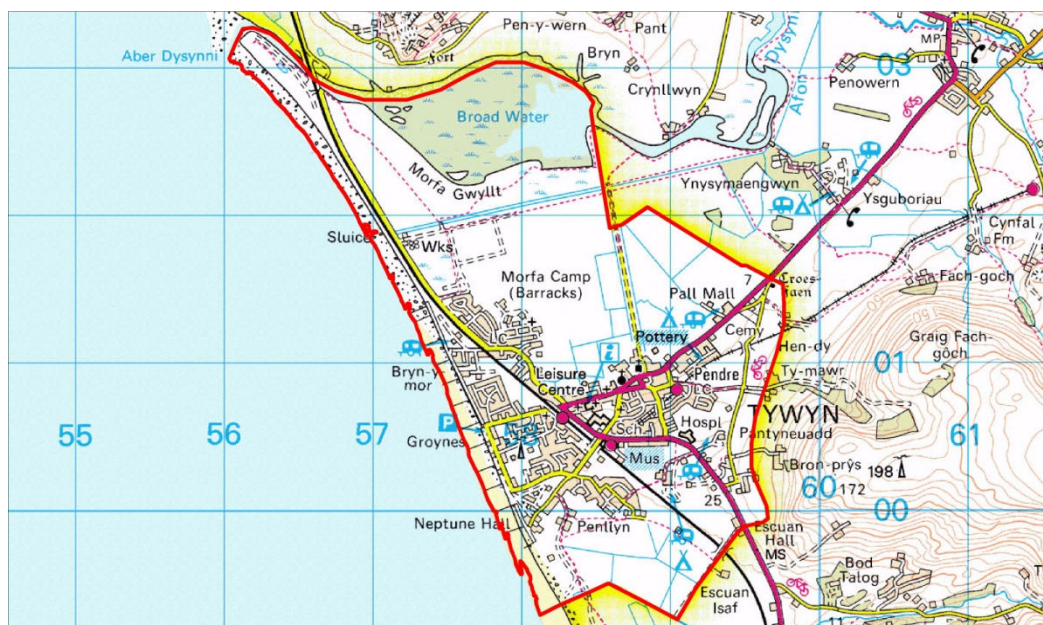
Snowdonia National Park lies immediately adjacent to the LCA (on all sides except for the south, which is within Powys), and as such all new development/management proposals within the character area should consider the landscape's very strong visual and historical links to and from the protected landscape.

## CHARACTER



- Ancient settlement associated with St Cadfan, now dominated by tourist developments.
- Flat, open coastal landscape adjacent to mouth of AfonDysynni with little or no screening vegetation and consequent sharp edges between town and country, and upland fringes inland.
- Important coastal habitats, including dune systems, with statutory designations.

## LOCATION



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Cyngor Gwynedd – 100023387 – 2005.



# GWYNEDD TYWYN

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 15

## KEY DESIGN ISSUES



### SETTLEMENT EDGE

The existing settlement edge is characterised by a sharp edge. Little screening potential, important that future developments seek through design, aspect and location to mitigate visual impacts. This particularly relates to caravan parks and other tourist developments.



### HABITAT MANAGEMENT

There are a number of nationally important coastal habitat features within the LCA. Any future management or development schemes must properly take account of likely effects upon their status. Ensure that the recommendations for habitat development and enhancement are linked with the Gwynedd LBAP.

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

All of this Character Area falls within the Dysynni Valley Landscape of Special Historic Interest, on merit of the diverse evidence of human occupation and activity from the prehistoric to the recent past. This includes the ecclesiastical origins of Tywyn, which developed further after the opening of the Cambrian railway in 1863 and growth of the tourist industry. Surrounding the town is an area of productive farmland created in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries through drainage and reclamation, within which are preserved archaeological remains from earlier periods (rated as 'Outstanding' in LANDMAP). All proposals for development and management should:

- Respect the nature of the pattern and the detail of the historic fabric of the landscape.
- Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains (known and unknown) are taken into account (this could include visual impacts upon the setting of historic landscapes, or disruption to the pattern and scale of these elements).

### RELATIONSHIP TO SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK

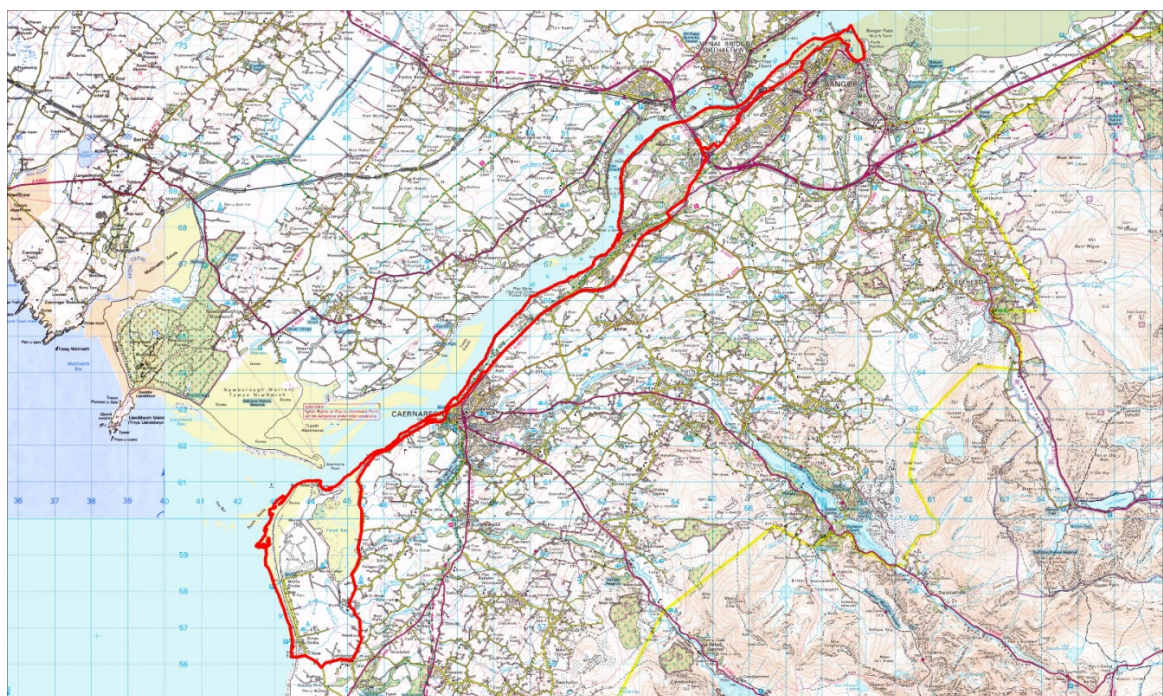
Snowdonia National Park lies immediately adjacent to the LCA, and as such all new development/management proposals within the character area should consider the landscape's very strong visual and historical links to and from the protected landscape.

## CHARACTER



- Narrow coastal area running from DinasDinlle in the west to Bangor.
- Typified by a varied range of landscape types – woodland, educational, historic, nature conservation, commercial airfield.
- Varied landscape pattern reflecting land use.
- Overriding feature is visual and sensory influence of the sea – tides, wind, patterns of movement.
- Range of distinct boundary features.
- Excludes urban area of Caernarfon which is covered by the Conservation Area and World Heritage Site Designation.
- Area provides a setting to the Menai Straits as well as the Anglesey AONB, which lies on the opposite site of the water.

## LOCATION







# GWYNEDD MENAI COAST

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER  
AREA

# 16

## KEY DESIGN ISSUES



### HABITAT MANAGEMENT

The area contains a number of important habitats relating to the Menai Straits and associated littoral areas, such as Foryd Bay. Any development or management plans should ensure that:

- Direct and consequential effects upon habitats are properly addressed
- Potential for habitat development or enhancement is considered
- Ensure requirements of Gwynedd BAP are addressed



### HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

The Vaynol Estate is an important feature of the area, located between Felinheli and Bangor and included on the Register of Outstanding Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales (as part of the wider Dinorwig landscape). The area is subject to development pressure from the adjacent ParcMenaiBusiness Park but also for events and use of the house and grounds. In the south-west of the LCA is the valued 18<sup>th</sup> century Fort Belan – guarding the western entry to the Menai Straits, as well as the Iron Age promontory fort at DinasDinlle Camp (a Scheduled Monument).

All proposals for developments should:

- Ensure the underlying historic qualities and features of the parkland estate at Vaynolare respected
- Ensure that direct and indirect impacts on both upstanding features and buried remains are taken into account
- Ensure that the visual qualities of the area – vistas, viewpoints and setting – are properly considered



### RECREATIONAL USES

There are a number of recreational features within the area particularly at Treborth near Bangor and Bangor Pier. It is important that future proposals at this site and elsewhere within the area properly respect the juxtaposition to the Menai Straits and visual connectivity with Anglesey AONB. Views both in and out need to be carefully considered.



### COMMERCIAL USES

There are a number of commercial land uses within the area, such as the industrial area at Griffiths Crossing and adjacent former Ferodo Factory, together with Caernarfon Airport. Future uses of these areas should:

- Ensure views into and out of the site do not detract from the qualities of the area
- Consider impacts upon adjacent land use
- Ensure built form does not detract from the qualities of the area




### SETTLEMENT EDGE

The area includes the coastal fringe of Caernarfon and Bangor and includes the settlements of DinasDinlle and Felinheli. Development and management schemes should:

- Be of a form and scale that reflects the characters of each settlement
- Be considered in terms of wider landscape effects
- Seek to utilise landform and vegetation to assist in the mitigation of any impacts
- Use local boundary features – cloddiau, hedgerows, walls.
- Respect the character and setting of the Conservation Areas at Y Faenol and Aberpwll.
- It is important that standard solutions are not applied so as to ensure the inherent local character is incorporated into the design.

### RELATIONSHIP TO ANGLESEY AONB

Anglesey AONB lies on the other side of the Menai Straits, and as such

	<p>forms a prominent backdrop to views across the water, as well as providing a setting to the protected landscape. As such all new development/management proposals within the character area should consider the landscape's very strong visual links to and from the protected landscape.</p>
	<p><b>EDUCATIONAL LAND USES</b></p> <p>The area from Pont Britannia to Bangor is characterised by a high proportion of sites owned by the University, such as the Coleg Normal Campus. The general principles outlined previously apply to this area, particularly wider visual effects and setting.</p>
<p><b>FUTURE ISSUES</b></p> <p>The proximity of Bangor and Caernarfon will ensure that part of the area remains subject to development pressure. Careful consideration will need to be given to detail, but also to broader massing, such as the University area in Bangor. The Menai Straits is an internationally important biodiversity area and impacts, direct and indirect, will increasingly require careful review and consideration.</p>	



## GWYNEDD TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

Anglesey and Gwynedd are crossed by a number of primary transport routes in the region.

- A5/A55(T) - Anglesey and Gwynedd
- A487(T) - Gwynedd
- A497 - Gwynedd
- A499 - Gwynedd
- A5025 - Anglesey
- A4080 - Anglesey

The Chester – Holyhead railway line runs through Bangor on its way to Holyhead. These roads and the railway line have an important influence upon the perception of both Anglesey and Gwynedd by locals and visitors. This perception is influenced by the speed at which people travel. The faster the speed, the greater the importance of the scale of the adjacent landscape. In developing appropriate design guidance the following factors are considered important.



Continued over...



## GWYNEDD TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

### **Landscape Structure**

Much of the landscape associated with roads and railways is already managed and maintained. This is particularly so of the trunk road network. In addressing this within terms of the wider landscape, attention should be given to:-

- Ensuring that the wider landscape corridor associated with transport routes is taken into account. This includes both views into the corridor.
- seeking to enhance biodiversity value of habitats, e.g. by management methods that encourage a variety of plant and animal species
- Ensuring that proposals link in with adjacent habitats and landscape features, e.g. by ensuring that designs integrate with the existing landscape elements.
- Ensuring health and safety issues are taken into account
- ensuring that the setting of historical features/buildings is protected
- Providing all year interest for the road user – this can be achieved through a mixture of herb layer, shrub and tree planning and appropriate management of existing vegetation.

### **Vistas and Viewpoints**

Any proposals for development adjacent to or within the visual zone of a transport corridor should be examined in terms of their impact upon key vistas and viewpoints. Examples include:-

- approach to Bangor from the east and the visual setting of Penrhyn Castle and estate
- Menai Strait – views out from both road bridges
- Malltraeth Marsh on the A5/A55 corridor, Anglesey
- A5/A55 approaches to Holyhead across the Inland Sea and across to Beddmenarch Bay
- A487 from Caernarfon to Y Felinheli – borrowed views across the Menai Strait to Anglesey
- A487 between Nebo and Bryncir – views across to the upstanding peaks of the Llyn Peninsula
- A487 Penmorfa – Tremadog – views across the Glaslyn into Snowdonia
- A499 – Llyn North Coast – views of upstanding peaks along the Llyn coast
- A497 – Aberech – Criccieth – extensive views across coastal fringes and Tremadog Bay in addition careful consideration needs to be given to location of signage and lighting schemes. This is particularly important where darkness is impinged upon by potential light pollution.

### **Landscape Scale**

An important feature of the transport corridors within the area is their often close interrelationship with the scale and pattern of the landscape through which they pass. Notwithstanding the needs for highway safety, developments adjacent to road corridors and improvements to the roads themselves should:-

- take into account the scale and pattern of the landscape
- avoid the introduction of urban elements, such as kerbs and lights, into essentially rural landscapes
- pay careful attention to boundary details, their scale and location
- ensure that development proposals are seen within the context of the wider landscape, as well as the local landscape
- Consider that all roads, railways etc. are, to a greater or lesser extent, elements of the historic landscape which should be considered when works are being planned.

It is important to remember that a number of these roads pass through or are adjacent to nationally designated landscapes, for example Snowdonia National Park, the Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Llyn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



## GWYNEDD AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

The majority of the landscape of both Anglesey and Gwynedd is agricultural in character and type. Planning should take into account the necessity for development to retain youth and support a balanced community in often rural areas. Both areas are typified by extensive areas of improved grasslands interspersed with a range of other habitats – water bodies, mire, heath, scrub and woodland. Both areas are examined within this design guidance note, with a number of generic factors being considered. It is important that reference is also made to the guidance sheets for each character area. Thus in considering development or land management proposals, the following factors need to be taken into account:-

- Boundaries – field boundaries vary in style and form throughout Anglesey and Gwynedd and are characteristic not only of local area, but of period as well. Examples include



**Stone walls**



**Clawdd**



**Slate fences**



**Hedgerows**



**Post and wire fences**



**Wet fences (ditches)**



**Gates/stiles**

Each contributes to the particular character of the area. In general every effort should be made to retain and manage boundaries as appropriate to the locality, avoid use of inappropriate materials. If landholdings are rationalised, try to ensure as many of the existing boundaries are retained as possible. New boundaries (e.g. roadside walls) should be in the local style.

- Habitats – agricultural landscapes offer the potential to maintain and increase the variety and quality of rural habitats. Key potential areas include:



**Adjacent to and within field boundaries**



**Poorly drained areas**



**Streams and ditches**



**Areas of scrub and woodland**



**Field heathlands**



**Arable field margins**

In addition, consideration should be given to taking opportunities to increase interest or diversity of existing grassland area through changes to management practices. Schemes should be considered within the context of their wider implications for the area and should be compatible with good agricultural practice.



## GWYNEDD AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Buildings – the development of buildings within the wider countryside raises a number of issues. Whilst the viability of a farm unit should not be compromised, modern farm buildings are often out of scale with traditional farm buildings within the area, which themselves vary in character/appearance according to age, function, area, etc. Careful consideration should be given to :-



**Building location in respect of vistas and viewpoints**



**Colour and scale**



**Materials**



**Style**



**Mitigation**

Mitigation requires careful consideration in that much of the area is not typified by extensive tree belts or woodlands. Accordingly the other factors identified become increasingly important. Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, ICOMOS (UK) and Countryside Council for Wales have drawn up a non-statutory Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, in order to raise awareness of the historical dimension alongside the more traditional and long-established concerns of wildlife protection and scenic amenity. The register contains some thirty-six landscape areas, many of which are concentrated in the north west of the country.



## GWYNEDD FURTHER INFORMATION

The following organisations will be able to provide advice and guidance on the use of these guidelines, together with an indication of sources of funding.

Gwynedd Council  
Regulatory Department (Planning,  
Transport and Public Protection)  
Council Offices  
Caernarfon  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1SH  
Tel: 01766 771000  
Fax: 01286 678962

Forestry Commission  
North Wales Conservancy  
ClawyddNewydd  
Ruthin  
Denbighshire  
LL15 2NL  
Tel: 01824 750492  
Fax: 01824 750483

Isle of Anglesey County Council Planning and  
Economic Development Department Council  
Offices  
Llangefni  
Anglesey  
LL77 7TW  
Tel: 01248 752400  
Fax: 01248 725412

CoedCyrmu c/o  
Project Officer  
Isle of Anglesey County Council/  
Gwynedd County Council

Countryside Council for Wales  
North West Wales Area Llys Y  
Bont  
Ffordd Y Parc  
ParcMenai  
Bangor  
Gwynedd  
LL57 4BH  
Tel: 01248 672500  
Fax: 01248 679259

TirGofal c/o  
Project Officer  
Countryside Council for Wales  
Welsh Development Agency  
North Wales Division  
Unit 7  
St Asaph Business Park  
St Asaph  
Denbighshire  
LL17 0LJ  
Tel: 01745 586293  
Fax: 01745 586262

Environment Agency  
FforddPenlanParc  
Menai  
Bangor  
Gwynedd  
LL57 4BP  
Tel: 01248 670770  
Fax: 01248 670561

**REFERENCES:** Countryside Strategies and local Biodiversity Action Plan have been developed by Gwynedd Council and Anglesey County Council, and are available at County Offices. The Gwynedd Unitary Development Plan, Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 10, and in particular supplementary guidance for Wales in "Roads in Lowland Areas", are available at County Offices.



# GWYNEDD APPENDIX A

## **LANDMAP Assessment – Approach and Methodology**

The CCW/Wales Landscape Partnership Group landscape assessment process \*LANDMAP (\*landscape assessment and decision making process) has been subject to a series of pilot studies and detailed assessments of a limited number of local authority areas throughout Wales and the methodology details are currently being finalised by CCW.

The basis of the LANDMAP methodology is to provide a means of assessing landscapes for every major type of decision making – agri-environmental, countryside management, development, enhancement and forestry.

The process seeks to optimise the resources available by bringing together the many facets of the landscape into a single, multi-purpose assessment. It adopts an approach that allows the data accrued to be enhanced and developed as opportunities allow.

The process effectively subdivides the landscape into a series of components or ‘aspects’. At the time of the survey and analysis, the following aspects were examined in detail:-

- Visual and Sensory
- Biodiversity (vegetation and habitats)
- Earth Science (geology, geomorphology and hydrology)
- History
- Culture – including artistic associations and folklore. These are supported by other contextual data, where no formal assessment was undertaken, but information was gathered which has supported the strategy development process. This has included:-
  - Settlement and Land Use
  - Agriculture
  - Forestry
  - Public Perception
  - Planning and Development Framework
- Related strategies and initiatives in each instance, where possible, national data sets are utilised so as to ensure compatibility between different areas undertaking LANDMAP and thus providing:-
  - A common framework for landscape data (ecological, historic and cultural) on a national level.
  - Aggregation and dis-aggregation of data between national, Unitary Authority/National Park and local level.
  - A means of detecting and monitoring landscape change.

There are a number of key stages within the LANDMAP process that are relevant to this study. These can be summarised as follows:-

Continued over...





# GWYNEDD APPENDIX A

## **Stage 1 : Orientation**

This initial stage is concerned with establishing the scope of the assessment, the use of the information derived, timescale and programming, resources and the use of a Geographic Information System (GIS) to record data, together with establishing the Local Steering Group, which oversees the management and direction of the study. The members of drawn from local authority, government, and land management organisations.

## **Stage 2 : Generation of Aspect Areas**

This stage is key to the overall development of a landscape assessment and associated strategies. The information for each aspect is held in the form of maps and related data tables, and the aspects themselves are divided into two types.

- (i) Contextual Information – these are descriptive layers of information, but do not necessarily belong to a single discipline. Accordingly it is not possible to evaluate the intrinsic value of the elements within this layer since there is no sound justification for valuing one element against another.

The areas covered within this category area:

- (a) Development
- (b) Settlement Pattern
- (c) Agriculture
- (d) Forestry

- (ii) Evaluated Aspects – these reflect that the LANDMAP process is based upon the fact that most elements within the landscape can be seen to have an intrinsic value within their own aspect and that within these, it is possible to evaluate the relative intrinsic value of the different elements. The aspect areas within this category are:-

- (a) Visual and Sensory
- (b) Biodiversity (vegetation and habitat)
- (c) Earth Science (geology, geomorphology and hydrology)
- (d) History
- (e) Culture including artistic associations and folklore To assist in managing the data and transcribing it into the GIS format, the information gathered in this assessment process is recorded on a standard proforma.

For each aspect, the study is subdivided into a number of discrete, geographical units or 'Aspect Areas' and data is collected on the following:

- Area Description
- Evaluation
- Management Recommendations
- Existing Condition
- Preferred State
- Broad Management Aims
- Urgency of Management Inputs

Continued over...



# GWYNEDD APPENDIX A

Within this, the evaluation process adopts a standardised approach which allows for comparison between different local authority areas. In more detail these evaluation categories are as follows:-

<b>Outstanding</b>	-	areas or sites of international or national importance
<b>High</b>	-	areas or sites of regional/county importance
<b>Moderate</b>	-	areas or sites of local importance
<b>Low</b>	-	areas or sites of low value
<b>Unknown</b>	-	where insufficient information exists to allow the element to be properly evaluated

Another important input to this stage of the process is ensuring that the views of the public are incorporated within the overall process in terms of:

- features/landscape which are of value to the local community
- The sense of local identity within the landscape
- The value placed by the public on landscapes and individual features
- What the public considers as being important to conserve, enhance and change
- The difference between the views of local residents and visitors Within the Anglesey study, the public perception element of the landscape assessment has been undertaken by Market Research Wales Limited. The study consisted of a combination of qualitative (focus groups) and quantitative (household questionnaires) techniques. A key feature of this exercise has been the identification of specific data that can be digitised within the GIS format, and provide another layer of information to assist the users.

### **Stage 3: Landscape Assessment and Recommendations**

Stage 3 of the study is concerned with establishing the landscape character for the study area, together with providing management guidance for the various decision makers. The key to this task is the analysis and assessment of the evaluated aspects to provide *Landscape Character Areas* (LCAs). The use of the GIS approach is important in this respect as it allows ease of handling of the different layers of information.

In essence the LCAs provide a series of geographical units of like character and concerns, and the boundaries reflect the inherent form of the landscape. Within the study area it is apparent that the earth sciences data has a primary influence upon the landscape, and in developing the LCAs, this aspect area provided the initial framework against which other aspect areas are appraised. The final definition of the LCA is undertaken by using a matrix approach, where evaluated aspect topics are considered against the evaluation level.

Where difficulty arises in determining the true extent of a Landscape Character Area it is important to establish what underlying qualities are determining the character of the landscape. This will require a thorough review of the evaluated aspect data beginning with visual and sensory qualities and considering the other aspects in turn. For each Landscape Character Area a series of management recommendations will be provided which are based upon the detailed appraisal exercise and reflect relevant policy initiatives of the Local Authority, CCW, WDA and other organisations.

