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To: Members of the Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty Joint Committee

Date: 14 June 2019

Direct Dial: 01824 712589

e-mail: democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT COMMITTEE** to be held at **10.00 am on FRIDAY, 21 JUNE 2019** in **CONFERENCE ROOM 1A, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN.**

Yours sincerely

G. Williams
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

AGENDA

- 1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
- 2 MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8TH MARCH 2019** (Pages 5 - 10)
To consider the minutes of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held on 8th March 2019
- 3 DRAFT MINUTES OF AONB PARTNERSHIP 22ND MARCH 2019** (Pages 11 - 18)
To note the minutes of the meeting held 22nd March 2019 (copy attached).
- 4 DRAFT MINUTES OF OUR PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP 11TH APRIL 2019** (Pages 19 - 22)
To note the minutes of the meeting held 11th April 2019 (copy attached)

- 5 JOINT COMMITTEE BUDGET** (Pages 23 - 40)
Standing Item report (copy attached) presented by Paula O'Hanlon, Senior Finance and Assurance Officer / Gareth O Williams, Finance Manager.
- 6 AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN**
To receive a verbal update from David Shiel, AONB Senior Countryside Officer.
- 7 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND ANNUAL REPORT**
To consider a verbal update from Ceri Lloyd, AONB Sustainable Development Officer.
- 8 JOINT COMMITTEE LEGAL AGREEMENT REPORT** (Pages 41 - 92)
To consider a report by Lisa Jones, Legal Services Manager.
- 9 VISITOR APPRAISAL STUDY REPORT AND PRESENTATION** (Pages 93 - 212)
To receive a report (copy attached) and presentation by David Shiel, AONB Senior Countryside Officer.
- 10 AONB ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION**
To consider a verbal report by Howard Sutcliffe, AONB Officer.
- 11 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT** (Pages 213 - 230)
To consider a report by Howard Sutcliffe, AONB Officer (copy attached).
- 12 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 231 - 234)
To consider a revised forward work programme (copy attached) by Howard Sutcliffe, AONB Officer.
- 13 NEXT MEETING**
- | | | | | |
|--------|---------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Friday | 22nd November | 2019 | The Guild Hall | WCBC |
| Friday | 3rd April | 2020 | County Hall Mold | FCC |
| Friday | 3rd July | 2020 | County Hall Ruthin | DCC |
| Friday | 13th November | 2020 | The Guild Hall | WCBC |

MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Derek Butler
Councillor Bobby Feeley
Councillor Hugh Jones

Councillor David Kelly
Councillor Carolyn Thomas
Councillor Tony Thomas

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held in COUNTY HALL, MOLD, FLINTSHIRE on Friday, 8 March 2019 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Chair: Councillor Tony Thomas (Denbighshire County Council)
Councillor Billy Mullin on behalf of Derek Butler and Carolyn Thomas (Flintshire County Council)

ALSO PRESENT

Howard Sutcliffe (AONB Officer), David Shiel (Assistant AONB Officer), Michael Skuse (AONB Partnership and Friends of AONB), Paul Mitchell (Natural Resources Wales), Paula O'Hanlon (Senior Finance Officer, DCC), Huw Rees (Head of Countryside & Heritage Services DCC), Gareth O Williams (Finance Manager, DCC), Gary Williams (Head of Legal, HR & Democratic Services, DCC), Anna Irwin (Senior Conservation & Environment Officer, WCBC), Martin Howarth (Rights of Way, WCBC), Kate Thomson (Our Picturesque Landscape Partnership Officer) and Sharon Thomas (Democratic Services Officer, FCC)

1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Apologies were received from Councillors: Hugh Jones (Wrexham County Borough Council), Bobby Feeley (Denbighshire County Council), Derek Butler and Carolyn Thomas (Flintshire County Council) and Mr. Tom Woodall (Flintshire County Council)

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Joint Committee held on 23 November 2018 were submitted.

Accuracy

Item 7 - It was clarified that appointments had not yet been made to the Grazing Animals Sustainable Management Scheme.

Matters Arising

Item 3 - On the Dark Sky initiative, it was reported that a Dark Sky Officer (Dani Robertson) had been appointed through the partnership with Snowdonia National Park, Anglesey AONB and Llŷn AONB. The role was to co-ordinate events and

engage with businesses, in addition to progressing a potential single Dark Sky designation across protected areas of North Wales.

Item 3 - A report to consider lessons learned from the Llantysilio Mountain fire would be received at the special meeting of Denbighshire County Council's Communities Scrutiny Committee on 20 March 2019 at Llangollen Pavilion. DCC's Head of Legal, HR & Democratic Services (GW) provided details of the format for the full-day meeting which would be open to the public.

Whilst this fire had taken place outside the permitted burning season (October to March in Wales), the AONB team had also engaged with the Fire Service in relation to recent fires at Glyndyfrdwy and Velvet hill at Valle Crucis.

Item 7 - The Assistant AONB Officer (DS) provided clarification on some of the sites across North East Wales which were due to benefit from the Grazing Animals Sustainable Management Scheme. He said that a more detailed update on progress with the scheme could be shared at a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the amendment, the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting held on 23 November 2018 be approved as a correct record.

3 DRAFT MINUTES OF OUR PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

The draft minutes of the January meeting of the Our Picturesque Landscape Project Steering Group were received.

In response to a question from Councillor David Kelly, the Assistant AONB Officer (DS) provided clarification on the membership of the Steering Group.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Steering Group meeting held on 16 January 2019 be received.

4 JOINT COMMITTEE BUDGET

DCC's Finance Manager (GOW) introduced the report on the anticipated position of the Joint Committee's revenue budget outturn for 2018/19. Additional information omitted from the published report was circulated.

The budget continued to be well managed with a small underspend projected for year end. This was mainly due to a vacant position which was now filled. The news that all three Authorities had committed to the same level of funding for 2019/20 was welcomed by the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the latest forecast financial outturn for 2018/19 be noted along with progress against the agreed budget.

5 LEGAL AGREEMENT REPORT

DCC's Head of Legal, HR & Democratic Services (GW) presented a report to consider the Legal Agreement for the Joint Committee which set out the purpose, Terms of Reference and key arrangements between the three Authorities. The Agreement was due to be reviewed, amended or adopted prior to its 5th year anniversary at the end of March 2019.

The AONB Officer (HS) suggested that he and the legal officers update the document to reflect some minor changes, and bring back to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Head of Legal, HR & Democratic Services and AONB Officer update the Joint Committee Legal Agreement and submit the final version to the next meeting to be adopted for the next five years.

6 JOINT WORKING WITH WHS BOARD - JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT AND POTENTIAL SUMMER FIELD VISIT

The AONB Officer (HS) proposed that a meeting be arranged between the Chairs of the Joint Committee and the World Heritage Site Board to agree a joint statement of intent to reflect the working relationship.

RESOLVED:

That the AONB Officer arrange a meeting between the Chair of the Joint Committee and Chair of the WHS Board.

7 CROW ACT 2000 SECTION 85 ORGANISATION UPDATE

The AONB Officer (HS) reported on a positive meeting with Welsh Water to agree a landscaping scheme for water treatment works below the aqueduct in Trevor which now required him to engage with Natural Resources Wales.

During an update on undergrounding electricity lines by Scottish Power Energy Networks, it was noted that a number of new areas were being considered including Minera. The National Grid line from Legacy to Nercwys, just outside the AONB boundary, was currently awaiting approval.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

8 GENERIC AONB OPORTUNITIES WITHIN LOCAL AUTHORITIES LETTER / MEETING

The AONB Officer (HS) gave examples of signage issues across the area which could have benefitted from consultation with the Joint Committee. He suggested that the role of the Joint Committee could be highlighted by the Chair writing to Local Authorities or by a meeting between Members and officers to share knowledge on specific topics, as demonstrated on the Dark Skies project.

The Chair agreed that both actions should be undertaken.

RESOLVED:

That the AONB Officer arrange for a letter to be sent from the Chair to Local Authorities and meetings between Lead Members and officers as appropriate.

9 UPDATE OUR PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE

Kate Thomson, the Heritage Lottery Fund Our Picturesque Landscape Partnership Officer, gave a presentation on progress with the five year project which was centred on the Dee Valley. The key points were:

- Kate was one of three officers in the team based at Plas Newydd.
- The work programme comprised projects for each of the five years, with some brought forward as funding became available.
- Information was shared on conservation work involving the use of volunteers and Countryside teams to improve views and access whilst achieving environmental benefits.
- Engagement with community groups to plant trees and improve the woodland with future focus on managing the woodland plan.
- Working with local people through the 'Connecting people with Picturesque' initiative.
- Improving access to the Dell in Plas Newydd and restoring key features from the time when the Ladies of Llangollen lived there.
- Artwork commissioned of the project area to be used for promotion purposes.

RESOLVED - That the presentation be noted.

10 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The AONB Manager (HS) presented the Forward Work Programme and reported on the main items scheduled. The main points of interest were:

- On the AONB management plan, advice was awaited from NRW and budget pressures may result in the need for funding contributions from Welsh Government.
- The AONB Forum at Llanrhaedr Springs had been well attended.
- The Climate Change project was currently on hold but remained an aspiration.
- SP network lines - examples given of potential schemes at Plas Newydd and Offa's Dyke path.

Information was highlighted on projects being undertaken by each of the partnership working groups using the funding allocated. The Assistant AONB Officer (DS) reported that the Land Management group had commissioned a film highlighting the importance of ash trees in the landscape and an aerial survey to photograph Alun Valley at Loggerheads to monitor the impact of Ash dieback.

The AONB Officer (HS) continued that a project by the Understanding and Enjoyment working group involved the restoration of three stone stiles near Cilcain. Following concerns raised by Councillor David Kelly about historic stone stiles near Minera which were not protected by Cadw, the officer stated that the AONB management plan sought to recognise the importance of retaining such historic features in the landscape.

RESOLVED - That the Forward Work Programme be noted.

11 FUTURE MEETING DATES 2019

21 June 2019 in Ruthin
22 November 2019 in Wrexham

The Chair advised that he and the AONB Officer would report back to the Committee on their meeting with the Chair of the Llŷn AONB.

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Andrew Worthington OBE Chair, Councillor Paul Cunningham(Vice Chair), Councillor Colin Legg, Councillor Martyn Holland, Councillor Owen Thomas, John Roberts, Del Roberts-Jones, Rajan Madhok, Martin Howarth.

Welcome

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Councillor Hugh Jones agreed to Chair the meeting. He extended a warm welcome to new Partnership members Huw Morgan and Rajan Madhok,

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 12th October 2018

The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Matters arising

Page 8 item 7

NAAONB Outstanding Week 2018

The AONB Officer said that the full length of the World Heritage Site (WHS) was walked in stages as part of the week and that there had been good attendance on all of the walks. Outstanding Week would be repeated this year and it was featured in Out & About.

2. Update from Working Groups

An update from the Chair of the Working Groups.

2.1 Heritage, Culture & Communities Working Group

Chair of the group, Christine Evans explained that Ian Grant of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) and the AONB Rangers had been completing scrub clearance at the 6m high Motte, Tomen y Faerdre, Llanarmon yn Ial and more work would be carried out during October.

Offa's Dyke Excavation at Chirk Castle 2018

CPAT Senior Archaeologist, Ian Grant, had led on an excavation in the grounds of Chirk Castle.

Dating of the Offa's Dyke

Carbon dating was completed, and two points of interest arose from the results, firstly, the dates demonstrated that the bank was built after AD 430 and therefore clearly post Roman. The second was that the date AD 887-1019 was over 100 years after the reign of Offa. Further research and analysis was ongoing.

Restoration of Cilcain Decoy Station

The group had been investigating the possibility of restoration of the Bunker which was used as a decoy for German bombers in WW2. Ian Grant along with members of the Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley would undertake a site visit with the aim of protecting the site and providing interpretation.

Coed Bell Oak Woodland, Prestatyn

The group had allocated its budget of £1k towards scrub clearance.

2.2 Land Management & the Natural Environment Working Group

Moorland Fire on Llanysilio Mountain

Chair of the group, Les Starling, introduced Senior Countryside Warden, Rhun Jones, who provided an update of the aftermath of the moorland fire. DCC Scrutiny Committee had convened an 'evidence gathering / lessons learnt' meeting and the Countryside Service's contribution had been recognised and appreciated. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) had also been investigating the fire and had noted that a reduction of grazing might be partly to blame for the fire. The source of the fire had not been identified but it had been suggested that it could have arisen from a controlled burn. The meeting also considered future management of the mountain.

Discussion ensued. A Member enquired if there had been enough Fire Service staff present. Rhun responded that there had been enough staff. Consideration had been given as to whether the army should have been drafted in to assist. However, this did not happen and the fire was never declared a major incident, because property was not at risk.

Appropriate Management of Controlled Burning

Concerns were raised regarding future controlled burning and it was explained that land management was driven by agricultural needs. Responsible burning would be promoted and the fire service would be involved in this process.

One member proposed that local press be invited to look at the devastation that the fire had caused and for the policy regarding fire breaks to be explained.

Flailbot

The Rangers were currently using a Flailbot which was very effective with the removal of old gorse on mountain slopes. Cutting had been taking place on Moel Famau and Moel Fenlli.

Discussion ensued and it was queried why the machine was being used during the middle of the lambing season. It was explained that snow had caused a delay in the programme and hopefully this would not happen in future years.

SMS Grazing Bid

The bid had been successful. 41 sites would be utilised for sustainable grazing. Two project officers were to be appointed and the jobs were currently advertised.

2.3

Landscape Character & Built Environment Working Group

Cllr Martyn Holland had submitted apologies for today's meeting and the AONB Planning Officer delivered an update on the work of the group. He explained that in addition to the routine work of dealing with planning and development related consultations, the group were focussed on delivery of three main areas of work arising from the AONB Management Plan, the Dark Sky Initiative; Reducing Visual Intrusion and Monitoring Landscape Change.

Dark Sky Initiative

A Presentation had been made to the group on the familiarisation visit to the North Pennines AONB. It had been a very informative trip, which included a site visit to their outdoor observatory. A North Wales Protected Landscapes Dark Sky Officer had now been appointed, Dani Robertson, who had also made a presentation to the group. Dani would be assisting the AONB with the application for formal recognition of dark sky status. She was also leading on a series of educational events planned throughout the year which would feature in the latest Out and About programme of events. Some of the events would be in partnership with Techniquet, Wrexham.

It was confirmed that the AONB would require a Lighting Plan as part of the submission for formal dark sky recognition, and a piece of work would shortly be commissioned across the three Local Authorities. It was noted that some upgrading of street lighting had already been completed, which had reduced light pollution, but there had been comments that this has resulted in less effective CCTV monitoring in some areas. However, there was evidence that crime was not increased as a result of reduced lighting.

Reducing Visual Intrusion - Overhead Electricity Lines

The group has been involved for some time with a long-term partnership project in conjunction with Scottish Power to underground the most prominent overhead electricity lines in the AONB. This work was ongoing and the next project to be commenced was at the Horseshoe Pass.

Monitoring Landscape Change - Ash Die Back

As 70 percent of Wales is now affected by Ash Die Back, including most of the AONB, the group had recognised that this had significant potential to change landscape character. The Tree Council had recently developed an Ash Dieback Tool Kit particularly aimed at land managers, which it is hoped would be considered further at a future meeting of the group. It was understood that Welsh Government were also convening a working group to focus on the issue. Community Partnership

Officer, Rachel Jones presented a recently commissioned film and drone survey showing the extent of Ash Die Back in the Alyn Valley, notably Loggerheads Country Park, which also recorded and celebrated what we could lose. The film was shown to the meeting and would be launched to the public soon. The AONB would also be inviting the general public to share their images of Ash trees.

2.4 **Recreation, Enjoyment & Understanding Working Group**

The Chair of the Group John Roberts had submitted his apologies, therefore Roger Cragg gave the update on behalf of the group.

Nature for Health Project

The Project was a joint venture by Denbighshire Housing Team and Denbighshire Countryside Service, and promoted well-being benefits associated with being outside in the natural environment. The scheme would use environmental social prescribing in four areas: Rhyl, Prestatyn, Llangollen, and Corwen, for twice a week activities such as allotments, volunteering and walks. DCC Housing Officer, Emily Reddy, was leading on the project and had good links with the residents. There had been a good response to the project and it was felt that working with members of the Countryside Service had encouraged more people to attend. It was a good and collaborative project.

Footpaths

There had been excellent support from all three Local Authorities and it was pleasing to see all three Local Authorities Rights of Way Teams attending the meeting. Flintshire Team had recently been reorganised. It was recognised that all Teams were providing a good service in what were very challenging financial circumstances.

Data on footpaths

In general the data up to date, assistance was offered to DCC however, there were some complications with loaning out of recording tablets. data was available on the GIS system. This item was ongoing.

Fixed point photography

A meeting had been convened with Offa's Dyke Path Officer, Rob Dingle, to discuss possible fixed point photography at locations on the Offa's Dyke Path.

2.5 **Sustainable Tourism & Business Engagement Working Group**

Chair of the Group, Dewi Davies, provided an update on behalf of the group.

Visitor Appraisal Study

The AONB Team had received an initial draft of the report. Additional information has been provided to the appointed consultants, and a second draft would be circulated to the group shortly.

Action

The Study would be brought to the Partnership when complete

Stay, Eat Do – Clwydian Range Tourism Group

The Current themes were: arts and crafts and countryside skills. The project had received a lot of media attention.

North East Wales Volunteer Group

Four volunteer business groups had met to discuss administration and other pressures. The group were exploring the possibility of sharing resources -people, expertise, and time across different groups. Funding would be required to appoint a business professional to explore appropriate governance improvements.

The Corwen Giant

This was a joint project with Visit Wales, the giant 'Drewyn' would be woken up by the community on Saturday 23rd March during the launch event. The project would provide a good profile for Corwen and the railway. The Sustainable Development Officer, Ceri Lloyd, had led on this project on behalf of the AONB. Members were invited to attend the launch.

10 year anniversary of the World Heritage Site

There was a proposed package of activities in collaboration between the AONB, Local Authorities, Canal and River Trust, and community groups, leading to a bid to Visit Wales Tourism TPIF.

Denbighshire County Council Tourism Strategy

The copy of the new draft strategy was currently out for consultation.

2.6 **Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Working Group**

Chair of the group, Mike Skuse, reported that out of a total of £50,000 for the 2019/2020 year, the group had awarded just over £25,000 at a recent meeting. Other applications were on now on the horizon and projects would be submitted at the next meeting. Amongst those approved were:

❖ NWT's Graigfechan Eco-Connectivity Project	£14,000 over two years
❖ Training in Basic Rural Skills within the AONB in Flintshire – partnership project between the AONB and FCC	£2,350
❖ Waking up the Corwen Giant	£1,500

The Sustainable Development Officer, Ceri Lloyd, reported that Welsh Government had just confirmed that Additional 147k would be provided for Wales' AONB's from an SDF underspend for this year.

The Chair commented that it never ceased to amaze him the amount of work that volunteers completed and thanked everyone for contributing to making the AONB the very special place that it is.

3. **Section 85 Progress**

Pontcysyllte Waste Water Treatment Works

The AONB Officer reported that he had held a private meeting with Dwr Cymru Managing Director for Waste Water, Steve Wilson, Steve was currently in negotiations with NRW regarding how to get the sewage works into the relevant framework.

Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI)

A number of local farmers were applying for LEI in Tremeirchion area.

Undergrounding of Lines - Scottish Power

Work was being completed on the Horseshoe Pass, and a range of schemes were now being investigated including Llangar Church, Fron Bache, Plas Newydd pumping station.

4. **Area Statement Process**

North East Wales, Senior Natural Resources Planning Officer, Richard Dearing Provided a PowerPoint presentation on Wales Area Statement Process.

In summary, the aim was "The sustainable management of our natural resources in a way and at a rate that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations and which contribute to the seven well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

(See attached presentation). Discussion ensued.

Concerns were raised regarding the current difficulties with livestock and what was proposed for the farming community. Richard responded that no decisions had been made as yet, and that NRW would work very closely with the farming community and any proposals/ opportunities would be shared.

Members also raised concerns about noise and light pollution and the importance of engagement with the local communities during the process.

Mike Skuse thought that the Future Generations Act might be seen to dilute the safeguards given to protected landscapes, and wondered whether it might perhaps be interpreted in a way that would permit some windfarm development within the AONB.

6. The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB)

Chief Executive of the NAAONB, Howard Davies provided a clear and concise power point presentation explaining the purpose of the Association and that there were 46 AONB's in England and Wales covering 8000 square miles, 700 elected members, with AONB partnerships turnover around £20 million per annum. (see attached presentation).

Concerns were raised that a large number of people did not seem to recognise the importance of AONB's compared to National Parks. This was acknowledged. Most people did know about locations like Moel Famau and the Cotswolds but failed to recognise that these areas were within an AONB. It was agreed that the approach to landscapes as a whole must be one of integration.

The AONB Officer was the lead officer representing the NAAONB on the National Grid Committee.

7. Update from the AONB Officer

70th Anniversary of Access to Countryside Act

The Act provides powers for protecting the natural beauty of some of the finest and most loved landscapes. The AONB Officer said that this year marked the 70th anniversary of the Act. In order to celebrate the anniversary the NAAONB were working with Arts Councils to arrange an artist in residence, and nature improvement throughout AONB's

Joint Committee

The AONB Officer and the Chair of the Joint Committee had undertaken a site visit to the Llŷn Peninsula and had **proposed to meet** with some other AONB Chair's that were based in Wales.

Legal Agreement

The agreement was now due to be renewed. It had worked well for the past five years, and only minimal changes would be required.

Generic letter to Local Authorities and Members

The Chair of the Joint Committee had sent a generic letter to all three Local Authorities and Members to remind them of the importance of the AONB area. He had provided an example of a recently erected signpost on the Horseshoe Pass and yellow signs that the AONB had not been consulted on.

Our Picturesque Landscape Project (OPL)

Some small projects had commenced including the Clinker Path at Trevor which had been completed and the steps at Plas Newydd were currently underway.

8. Any Other Business

Curlew Cymru Project

Senior Countryside Warden, Rhun Jones, explained that neither of the Curlew Project bids had been successful. He emphasised that members of Curlew Cymru were willing to attend community groups to give presentations as the profile of the project needed to be raised. A Meeting would be held next week to consider the future options

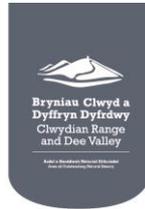
9. Future Meeting Dates

Date		Time	Venue
Friday 14th June	2019	at 10 am	Corwen Sports Pavilion AONB Awards to be presented
Friday 18th October	2019	at 10 am	To be decided

AONB Annual Forum November 7 th (Evening)	2019	Evening	
Friday 14 th February	2020	10 am	To be decided
Friday 5 th June	2020	10 am	To be decided
Friday 9 th October	2020	10 am	To be decided

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Our Picturesque Landscape Project

Steering Group Meeting Minutes

Trevor and Garth Community Centre, Trevor

2.00 pm 11 April 2019

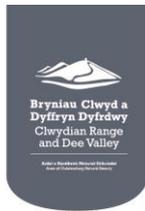
Members present

Howard Sutcliffe (HS) (Chair), David Shiel (DS), Paul Mitchel (PM) Huw Rees (HR), Sarah Jones (SJ), Allan Forrest (AF), Kate Thomson (KT), Sallyanne Hall (SH), Nicola Lewis-Smith (NLS), Fiona Gale (FG) Anna Irwin (AI), Steve Greuter (SG), Ffion Roberts (FR)

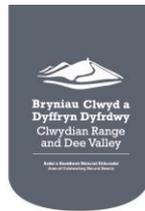
Apologies

Liz Carding, Samantha Williams, Karen Weaver, J Richards, Clare Files, Del Roberts-Jones, John Roberts, Rhun Jones, Martin Howarth.

Welcome to new members	HS introduced new members to the group since the last meeting. Steve Greuter (SG) from Wrexham County Council, Fiona Gale (FG) and new to post with OPL, Ffion Roberts (FR)
Minutes of the last meeting held on 16 January 2019	OPL have now received the formal document giving the project permission to start. This was received 22nd March 2019. The first claim to HLF has been completed satisfactorily. HR asked for confirmation of the official project end date, which was confirmed as being 4 th November 2023.
Project Update	Hard copies circulated to all of the group of the OPL update document enlarged to A3 as agreed at the last meeting. It was agreed to change 'committed spends' to 'spends to date'. <u>A1 Improving the view - Pontcysyllte</u> We are still waiting for the contractor to supply quotes for drawing up detailed woodland plan for the area. AF circulated large Land Registry maps <u>A9 Wenffrwd</u> Access negotiations with adjacent landowners have been agreed. Trial pits and topographical surveys took place in March. Subject to planning, progress should be imminent. UPDATE – Planning consent approved 12th April 2019.



	<p>Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) have visited the site and are adding to the interpretation plan to include Wenffrwd. They showed great enthusiasm for the site.</p> <p>At some point in the future a meeting for the Steering Group will be arranged to this site.</p> <p><u>A11- River Canal/ Access Management</u></p> <p>Llantysilio Green car park reconfiguration study is being funded by Cadwyn Clwyd. New appointment of Bronwen Thomas who will work on how this will look.</p> <p>Lower Dee Mill park has an erosion problem which is impacting on the park use. Funding of £9K has been secured and a design is in progress which will also look at flood risk for the park.</p> <p><u>B2 Clinker Path</u></p> <p>Clinker path completed for now. Successful litter pick with Keep Wales Tidy was had and the residents are using the path. The meeting was held here today for the group to be able to see the Clinker path.</p> <p>HS congratulated the OPL team on solving a long held aspiration of the community to have a path from the Community Centre to the canal.</p> <p><u>B3 Horseshoe Falls</u></p> <p>A surveys has been completed. CRT are in the process of producing a 3D model of the concept. NLS to update the group when this model is available to see.</p> <p><u>B4 Interpretation</u></p> <p>Designs for the Trevor Basin roundels have been commissioned which will lead from the Basin car park to the Aqueduct, with the purpose of ‘connecting’ the visitors. Copies of the initial designs were circulated.</p> <p>A discussion was held around the Totem pole feature.</p> <p>David Goodman illustrations selected for the branding of OPL. A banner with one of the illustrations was displayed during the meeting of the group. Sheila Dee from the Chester and Shrewsbury Rail Partnership is keen to carry through this imagery for development of Ruabon and Chirk railway stations.</p> <p><u>Digital Trails – (ibeacon)</u></p> <p>OPL putting money towards the set of digital trails. SH is working with David Crane from Llangollen Museum and are searching for images of then and now for specific areas of the trail.</p> <p><u>Virtual Balloon ride</u></p> <p>The original project plan is not feasible and alternatives are being considered taking into account budget and timescales. There are problems with virtual reality which need to be considered.</p>
Risk Register	The project risks were considered in turn.
Financial Update	DS gave a financial update and review of the funding gap for the project.



<p>Celebrations Events 2019</p>	<p>Events to mark the WHS inscription funded by OPL are mostly closed events but others bringing in community groups locally and from further afield. These include.-</p> <p>2 MIND groups producing mosaic art.</p> <p>Criw Celf – theme of engineering and Canal World Heritage Site.</p> <p>Drawing project year 9 Dinas Bran</p> <p>Artist working with 2 local primary schools – Recycled art.</p> <p>Youth Clubs projects.</p> <p>Ysgol Caer Drewyn involved in activities to promote the Corwen Eisteddfod.</p> <p>Flash Mob, Technquest and Thomas Telford play</p> <p>10 things to do in the Dee Valley, rewarding people to explore the valley.</p> <p>Spring Trails in Dell, Plas Newydd.</p> <p>Go Wild in the Dell, Plas Newydd.</p>
<p>Any Other Business</p>	<p>HLF have noted that Monitoring and Evaluation concentrating on qualitative rather than quantitative data to be sought. OPL Monitoring and Evaluation tender has gone out.</p>
<p>Date and venue of next meeting</p>	<p>Next meeting to be on the :</p> <p>11 July 2019 in Ty Mawr County Park, 10am to 12pm.</p> <p>HS suggested that local community venues are to be used for meetings in the future. KT and FR will try to coordinate venue with any project work</p>
	<p>Meeting closed at 15:45pm, and the group were taken to view the Clinker Path.</p>

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**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**JOINT COMMITTEE
of the
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

Held on: 21st June 2019

Lead Member / Officer: Steve Gadd

Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon

Title: Joint Committee Outturn and Accounts 2018/19 & Draft budget 2019/20

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the AONB's revenue budget outturn position as at 31st March 2019 alongside the draft budget for 2019/20.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the AONB's financial position as at 31st March 2019 and to seek approval of the budget for 2019/20.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members are asked to note the financial outturn for 2018/19 (Appendix 1) and formally approve the 2019/20 draft budget (appendix 2). Members are also asked to review and sign, the Annual Return for 2018/19 (Appendix 3) and note the Reserve Balances as at 31st March 2019 (Appendix 4).

4. Report details.

The report provides a summary of the AONB's revenue outturn for 2018/19 detailed in Appendix 1. The final outturn position shows an overall underspend of £21,275 (Core £16,244 and Area £5,031), which has been funded from the revenue reserve. Funds of £28,774 have been drawn down from the project reserve to fund project activity in 2018/19. Additional SDF grant funding of £147,000 received in March, has been placed in the project reserve for SDF projects in 2019/20.

The report also provides a copy of the Welsh Audit Office Annual Return for smaller local government bodies in Wales for the year ended 31 March 2019 (Appendix 3) for consideration and approval. The return is currently being audited by DCC's Internal Audit Department so a signed copy will be available at the meeting.

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

Effective management of the AONB's revenue budgets will help the delivery of the agreed management plan priorities for the current year and underpins activity in all areas, particularly our relationships with funding partners and our joint priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no direct costs associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

N/A

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The financial position is a standing item at each meeting of the Joint Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

This report outlines the financial position for the AONB for 2018/19.

The approval and signing of the formal Welsh Audit Office Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2019 (Appendix 3) is a statutory requirement prior to External Audit carrying out an audit of the accounts.

Denbighshire has increased its level of contribution for the 2019/20 financial year. The draft budget for 19/20 assumes that there will be no change to the contributions from either FCC or WCBC. The level of grant from NRW remains consistent with 2018/19.

As at the 31st March 2019 the balance in the AONB Reserve stood at £259,133 but £203,678 of this is earmarked for specific projects which will progress during the 2019/20 financial year. The balance of £55,455 is available to support the 2019/20 budget and offset any future funding pressures or to be utilised as the Joint Committee recommends.

The agreed budget for 2019/20 will ensure the financial stability for the JC over the next 12 months. However it must still be recognised that the budgets of all public sector bodies are coming under increasing pressure due to the economic climate and

the uncertainties surrounding Brexit, which means that future funding levels may not be relied upon.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The proposed budget is dependent on income from NRW, Welsh Government and the three Local Authorities. Any changes to these income levels will pose a risk to the future delivery of projects and our ability to deliver against the priorities in the AONB Management Plan.

11. Power to make the Decision

Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

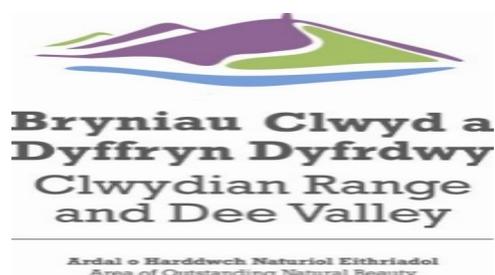
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	Budget 2018/19	Outturn 2018/19
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	174,939	170,417
Training & Conference	2,000	1,224
Subscriptions	3,300	3,434
Insurance	1,210	
Total Employee costs	181,449	175,075
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>		
Vehicle Hire	500	955
Mileage	5,200	4,345
Use of Public Transport	500	435
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	6,200	5,734
<u>Other</u>		
Protective Clothing	500	153
Uniforms	1,500	
General Equipment	300	198
Event / Partnership Expenditure	4,000	3,589
Prof Fees	0	
Audit Fees	1,134	1,134
IT costs	1,800	2,882
Telephones	2,500	461
Publications	300	
Total Other Expenses	12,034	8,417
<u>Projects</u>		
Grants	55,000	51,849
Total Project costs	55,000	51,849
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	254,683	241,075
INCOME		
NRW Salary Grant	-107,000	-107,000
SDF Mgmt fee	-5,000	-5,000
SDF Grant	-50,000	-52,086
LA Funding	-92,683	-92,683
Other fees /contributions	0	-550
TOTAL INCOME	-254,683	-257,319
Total Net Expenditure	0	-16,244

(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

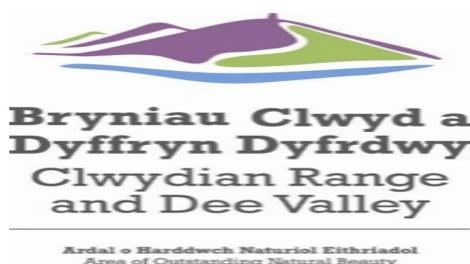
AREA - REVENUE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AT 31st March 2019

	Budget 2018/19	Outturn 2018/19
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	152,542	145,542
Training	600	90
Insurance	1,055	
Total Employee costs	154,197	145,632
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>		
Fuel	4,200	3,625
Fleet	17,000	16,793
Travel	2,000	2,036
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	23,200	22,454
<u>Other</u>		
General Equipment	150	196
Site Management	3,000	5,123
IT	800	2,109
Telephones	2,200	666
Projects/Activity expenditure		4,485
Legal fees		87
Staff advertising	0	265
Total Other Expenses	6,150	12,930
<u>Projects</u>		
Management Plan	2,500	0
Total Project costs	2,500	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	186,047	181,016
INCOME		
NRW Forestry Partnership	-11,500	-19,500
Reserve - NRW funds for Dee Valley Warden	-8,000	0
LA Salary funding	-166,547	-166,547
TOTAL INCOME	-186,047	-186,047
Total Net Expenditure	-0	-5,031



	Budget 2018/19	Outturn 2018/19	Draft budget 19/20
	£	£	£
EXPENDITURE			
<u>Employees</u>			
Salaries	174,939	170,417	182,961
Training & Conference	2,000	1,224	1,000
Subscriptions	3,300	3,434	3,122
Insurance	1,210		668
Total Employee costs	181,449	175,075	187,751
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>			
Vehicle Hire	500	955	1,000
Mileage	5,200	4,345	4,500
Use of Public Transport	500	435	500
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	6,200	5,734	6,000
<u>Other</u>			
Protective Clothing	500	153	2,000
Uniforms	1,500		
General Equipment	300	198	
Event / Partnership Expenditure	4,000	3,589	
Audit Fees	1,134	1,134	1,134
Management Plan			2,500
IT costs	1,800	2,882	2,832
Telephones	2,500	461	500
Publications	300		
Total Other Expenses	12,034	8,417	8,966
<u>Projects</u>			
Grants	55,000	51,849	50,000
Total Project costs	55,000	51,849	50,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	254,683	241,075	252,717
INCOME			
NRW CRDV Grant	-107,000	-107,000	-107,000
SDF Mgmt fee	-5,000	-5,000	-5,000
SDF Grant	-50,000	-52,086	-50,000
LA Funding	-92,683	-92,683	-84,217
Other fees /contributions	0	-550	
Reserve			-6,500
TOTAL INCOME	-254,683	-257,319	-252,717
Total Net Expenditure	0	-16,244	0

	Budget 2018/19	Outturn 2018/19	Draft budget 19/20
	£	£	£
EXPENDITURE			
<u>Employees</u>			
Salaries	152,542	145,542	172,392
Training	600	90	
Insurance	1,055		630
Total Employee costs	154,197	145,632	173,022
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>			
Fuel	4,200	3,625	3,700
Fleet	17,000	16,793	17,000
Travel	2,000	2,036	2,000
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	23,200	22,454	22,700
<u>Other</u>			
General Equipment	150	196	
Site Management	3,000	5,123	5,000
IT	800	2,109	2,100
Telephones	2,200	666	700
Projects/Activity expenditure		4,485	4,000
Legal fees		87	
Staff advertising		265	
Total Other Expenses	6,150	12,930	11,800
<u>Projects</u>			
Management Plan	2,500	0	
Total Project costs	2,500	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	186,047	181,016	207,522
INCOME			
NRW Forestry Partnership	-11,500	-19,500	-19,500
LA funding	-166,547	-166,547	-183,022
Reserve	-8,000		-5,000
TOTAL INCOME	-186,047	-186,047	-207,522
Total Net Expenditure	-0	-5,031	0



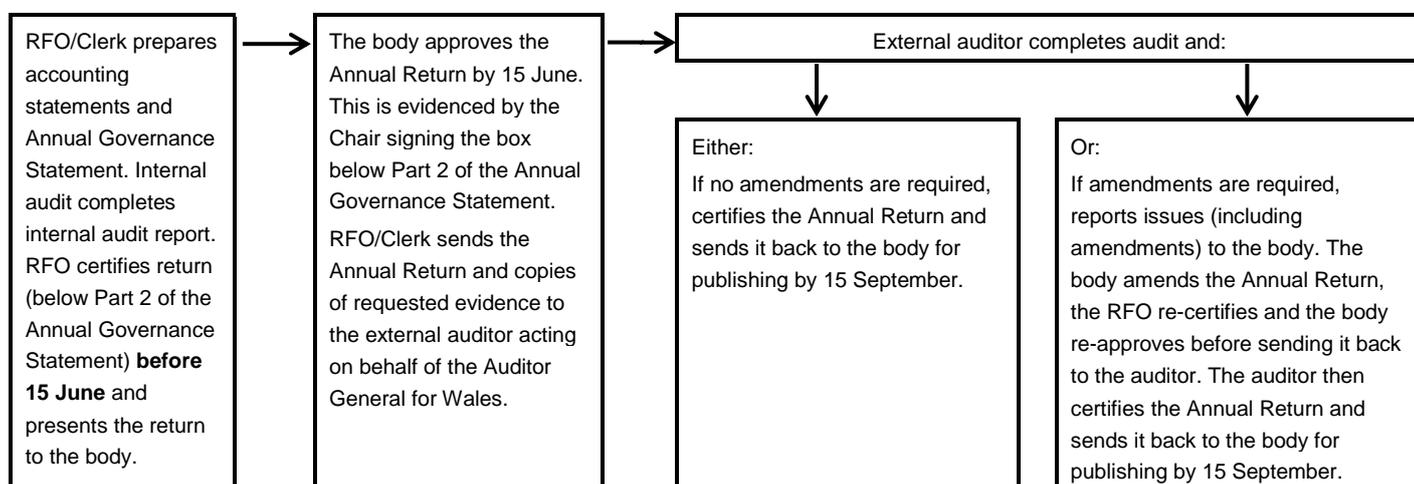
Smaller relevant local government bodies in Wales Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

THE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT PROCESS

Section 12 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 requires local government bodies in Wales to make up their accounts each year to 31 March and to have those accounts audited by the Auditor General for Wales. Regulation 14 of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 states that smaller local government bodies i.e. those with annual income and expenditure below £2.5 million must prepare their accounts in accordance with proper practices.

For minor joint committees with income and expenditure below £2.5 million, proper practices are set out in the One Voice Wales/Society of Local Council Clerks publication 'Governance and accountability for local councils in Wales – A Practitioners' Guide' (the Practitioners' Guide). The Practitioners' Guide requires that they prepare their accounts in the form of an annual return. This annual return meets the requirements of the Practitioners' Guide.

The accounts and audit arrangements follow the process as set out below.



Please read the guidance on completing this Annual Return and complete all sections highlighted in red including the Annual Governance Statement.

APPROVING THE ANNUAL RETURN

There are two boxes for certification and approval by the body. The second box is only required if the annual return has to be amended as a result of the audit. You should only complete the top box before sending the form to the auditor.

The committee must approve the annual return BEFORE the accounts and supporting documents are made available for public inspection under section 30 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

The Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report is to be completed by the auditor acting on behalf of the Auditor General. It MUST NOT be completed by the Clerk/RFO, the Chair or the internal auditor.

Audited and certified returns are sent back to the body for publication and display of the accounting statements, Annual Governance Statement and the Auditor General for Wales' certificate and report.

Accounting statements 2018-19 for:

Name of body: Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2018 (£)	31 March 2019 (£)	Please round all figures to nearest £. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances. All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.
Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments			
1. Balances brought forward	77,697	119,632	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	279,330	261,408	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	290,228	438,219	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	-357,977	-315,959	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg. termination costs.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	-169,645	-244,168	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	119,632	259,133	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).
Statement of balances			
8. (+) Debtors and stock balances	28,409	86,265	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body and stock balances held at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	99,126	184,244	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	-7902	-11,376	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	119,632	259,133	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	0	0	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the **Committee**, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2019, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Committee:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
<p>1. We have put in place arrangements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effective financial management during the year; and the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12
<p>2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
<p>3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6
<p>4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23
<p>5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Committee and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
<p>6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8
<p>7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
<p>8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Committee approval and certification

The Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and for the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.

<p>Certification by the RFO</p> <p>I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Committee and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2019.</p>	<p>Approval by the Committee</p> <p>I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Committee under minute reference:</p>
	Insert minute reference and date of meeting
RFO signature:	Chair of meeting signature:
Name: Steve Gadd	Name:
Date: 21/06/19	Date: 21/06/19

Committee re-approval and re-certification (only required if the annual return has been amended at audit)

<p>Certification by the RFO</p> <p>I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2019.</p>	<p>Approval by the Committee</p> <p>I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Committee under minute reference:</p>
	Insert minute reference and date of meeting
RFO signature: signature required	Chair of meeting signature: signature required
Name: name required	Name: name required
Date: dd/mm/yyyy	Date: dd/mm/yyyy

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

The external auditor conducts the audit on behalf of, and in accordance with, guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales. On the basis of their review of the Annual Return and supporting information, they report whether any matters that come to their attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

We certify that we have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2019 of:

Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB

External auditor's report

[Except for the matters reported below]* On the basis of our review, in our opinion, the information contained in the Annual Return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

[[These matters along with]* Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the body and our recommendations for improvement are included in our report to the body dated _____.]

Other matters and recommendations

On the basis of our review, we draw the body's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect our audit opinion but should be addressed by the body.

(Continue on a separate sheet if required.)

External auditor's name:

External auditor's signature:

Date:

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

* Delete as appropriate.

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB

The Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2019.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Committee's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text

For any risk areas identified by the Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:					
	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
11. Insert risk area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
12. Insert risk area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
13. Insert risk area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text

* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

** If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Committee are included in my detailed report to the Committee dated _____.] * Delete if no report prepared.

Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Committee's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the body during the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit:
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit:
Date:

Guidance notes on completing the Annual Return

1. You must apply proper practices when preparing this annual return. Proper practices are set out in the Practitioners' Guide.
2. Make sure that the Annual Return is fully completed ie, no empty red boxes. Please avoid making any amendments to the completed return. If this is unavoidable, cross out the incorrect entries, make sure the amendments are drawn to the attention of the body, properly initialled and an explanation for them is provided to the external auditor. **Please do not use correction fluid.** Annual returns that are incomplete or contain unapproved and/or unexplained amendments or correction fluid will be returned unaudited and may incur additional costs. Ask your auditor for an electronic copy of the form if required.
3. Use a second pair of eyes, perhaps the Chair or a member, to review your Annual Return for completeness before sending the original form to the auditor.
4. Make sure that your accounting statements add up, that the balance carried forward from the previous year (line 7 of 2018) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (line 1 of 2019). Explain any differences between the 2018 figures on this annual return and the amounts recorded in last year's annual return.
5. Explain fully any significant variances in the accounting statements. Do not just send in a copy of your detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include a detailed analysis to support your explanation and be specific about the values of individual elements making up the variances.
6. Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation you send to your auditor with the Annual Return covers **all** your bank accounts and cash balances. If there are no reconciling items, please state this and provide evidence of the bank balances. If your Committee holds any short-term investments, please note their value on the bank reconciliation. The auditor should also be able to agree your bank reconciliation to line 9 in the accounting statements. More help on bank reconciliations is available in the Practitioners' Guide.
7. **Every committee must send to the external auditor, information to support the assertions made in the Annual Governance Statement even if you have not done so before.** Your auditor will tell you what information you need to provide. Please read the audit notice carefully to ensure you include all the information the auditor has asked for. You should send **copies** of the original records (certified by the Clerk and Chair as accurate copies) to the external auditor and not the original documents themselves.
8. Please do not send the auditor any information that you are not specifically asked for. Doing so is not helpful.
9. If the auditor has to review unsolicited information, repeat a request for information, receives an incomplete bank reconciliation or explanation of variances or receives original documents that must be returned, the auditor will incur additional costs for which they are entitled to charge additional fees.
10. **Please deal with all correspondence with the external auditor promptly.** This will help you to meet your statutory obligations and will minimise the cost of the audit.
11. **Please note that if completing the electronic form, you must print the form for it to be certified by the RFO and signed by the Chair before it is sent to the auditor.**

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean that you may not have met requirements		Done?	
Initial submission to the external auditor		Yes	No
Accounts	Do the papers to be sent to the external auditor include an explanation of significant variations from last year to this year?		
	Does the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2019 agree to Line 9?		
Approval	Has the RFO certified the accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement (Regulation 15 (1)) no later than 15 June 2019?		
	Has the body approved the accounting statements before 15 June 2019 and has Section 3 been signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting at which approval was given?		
All sections	Have all pink boxes in the accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement been completed and explanations provided where needed?		
	Has all the information requested by the external auditor been sent with this Annual Return? Please refer to your notice of audit and any additional schedules provided by your external auditor.		

If accounts are amended after receipt of the Auditor General's report on matters arising		Yes	No
Accounts	Have the amended accounting statements been approved and Section 3 re-signed and re-dated as evidence of the Committee's approval of the amendments before re-submission to the auditor?		

AONB Reserve M99001BC01

	2018/19				
	Opening balance 01.04.18	Revenue budget	Project funding		Closing Balance 31.03.19
	£	£	£	£	£
Opening balance	<u>-119,632</u>	-31,205		-88,428	
<u>Underspend / overspend</u>					
General		-21,275			-44,480
NRW matchfunding for Dee Valley Warden					-8,000
<u>Projects</u>					
Outreach Walks Funding 16/17					-827
Corwen projects					-1,425
Outreach Engagement project (KA)					-2,500
EBD Asst Outdoor Provides					-1,950
EBD Pop Up Shop food Trail					2,400
Scottish Power Overhead lines - Llysfasi					-5,500
Flintshire AONB Badge					-711
Other/Misc income/sales etc			1,847		1
Visitor Appraisal Study			13,397	-1,470	3,397
WG Grant					-6,758
Whitebeam project		-2,975	2,975		-1,575
Tourism Growth Plan (TGP)					-11,230
SDF Grant			15,000	-147,000	-30,000
		-24,250		-115,251	
Closing balance	<u>-55,455</u>		0	-203,678	<u>-259,133</u>

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**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**JOINT COMMITTEE
Of the
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

Held on:	21st June 2019
Lead Member / Officer:	Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services
Report Author:	Lisa Jones, Deputy Monitoring Officer/Legal Services Manager
Title:	Updated Joint Committee Legal Agreement

1. What is the report about?

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee Legal Agreement.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide Members with the suggested amendments in respect of the review of the Joint Committee Agreement

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Joint Committee approves the amendments to the Legal Agreement and recommends their adoption by the three partner Councils.

4. Report details.

The current Legal Agreement was presented to the Joint Committee at the last meeting, where the Committee was advised, that as is common in the terms of most arrangements, it is good practice to review agreements periodically, with the Joint Committee Agreement due for review on the 5th Anniversary.

A copy of the current Agreement is attached as Appendix 1 for completeness and ease of reference, with the proposed Deed of Amendment at Appendix 2.

The key changes are as follows:

- Improved terminology and wording in the Interpretation section
- Clause 11 confirmation of agreement to a further 5 year term
- Clause 19 updated to reflect GDPR
- Standing Orders and the ability to send substitutes
- Appendix 3 new diagram
- Appendix 5 change of wording from 'Conference' to 'Forum'.
- Appendix 7 – updated budget
- Appendix 8 updated core team numbers

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

The Legal Agreement is the cornerstone of the work of the Joint Committee, AONB Partnership and its officers in the delivery of the Management Plan. It provides the framework for engaging the stakeholders of the AONB.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no additional costs involved in amending the Agreement or the effect of such amendments; the budget is one that is approved by the joint committee annually.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

The Well-being Assessment undertaken by Denbighshire County Council shows that the Legal Agreement assists in realising a number of the seven well-being goals through the AONB Management Plan current/future in a positive way.

There is no requirement for a further well being assessment to take place on the back of the amendments being proposed.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

Consultation and advice had been sought through the AONB Officers Working Group, together with Denbighshire's Legal Team. The draft amendments have been shared with the relevant legal representatives in all three Councils; any further feedback will be shared with the Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

"There are no additional costs associated in this report. The proposed Legal Agreement is consistent with how the Joint Committee has been run successfully over its initial 5 years and is therefore supported from a financial perspective."

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

It is important to review/update/modernise the Legal Agreement for it to be effective.

11. Power to make the Decision

Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000, where Local authorities can enter arrangements to 'discharge functions jointly with one or more other local authorities by means of a Joint Committee'

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CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY

AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

JOINT COMMITTEE AGREEMENT



**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

An AGREEMENT made as a deed the
2014 BETWEEN

1st day of June

Denbighshire County Council of County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, Denbighshire of the first part ("DCC") and Flintshire County Council of County Hall, Mold, Flintshire of the second part ("FCC") and Wrexham County Borough Council of The Guildhall, Wrexham of the third part ("WCBC")

WHEREAS

- (1) The Authorities wish to establish a Joint Committee of the Authorities with the aims powers functions objectives and duties referred to in this Agreement
- (2) The Authorities have agreed to enter into this Agreement to give effect to those wishes

1. INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 Expressions in the left hand column of the interpretation table below shall be construed in accordance with the right hand column

Interpretation Table	
Action Plan	an annual plan of action approved by the Joint Committee of projects, schemes and actions to be undertaken by the Joint Committee, any Authority or any Partner to implement the strategy and policies of the Management Plan
Actions Budget	The aggregate budget (inclusive of external funding) available to the Joint Committee or to any Authority or Partner in any year for the purpose of carrying into effect the Action Plan.
Annual Contribution	The contribution payable by each Authority towards the Core Budget as determined under paragraph 8.3.
Annual Report	the annual report of the Joint Committee
AONB	an area designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty under Section 82 of the CROW Act
AONB Annual Forum	An annual forum on AONB activities and issues having the terms of reference and constitution set out in Appendix 5
AONB Community Council Meeting	A forum of (among others)

	representatives of the Community Council of each Community within the AONB to consider AONB activities and issues.
AONB Officer	The officer appointed as Head of the AONB Unit
AONB Partnership	A partnership formed to advise the Joint Committee on the exercise of the Functions and having the terms of reference and constitution set out in Appendix 4
AONB Team	the team of officers employed by the Lead Authority within Denbighshire's Countryside and Heritage Service and having the role and functions described in Section 5.
Associated Bodies	The AONB Annual Forum, the AONB Community Council Meeting, any Topic Group, the Officers' Working Group and the AONB Partnership.
Budget	the Core Budget (both central and Area) and the Actions Budget of the Joint Committee in any year
Call In	The process whereby an Executive decision is called in by non executive members of an Authority.
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB (CR and DV AONB)	the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Commencement Date	2014
Core Budget	the budget(including overheads) relating to expenditure on core functions in any year relating to both central and area activities.
Core Functions	those Functions which are potentially eligible from time to time for the highest prevailing rate of grant payable by Natural Resources Wales
Core Grant	The grant payable by Natural Resources Wales in any year towards expenditure on Core Functions
CROW Act	the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
Functions	the functions of the Joint Committee as set out in paragraph 3.3.
General Development Proposals	developments within existing village boundaries; extensions to existing buildings, approval of conditions in relation to existing planning permissions; amended applications; access and boundaries; alterations to

	existing telecoms infrastructure; small domestic or other structures such as sheds or stable blocks.
Joint Committee	the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Joint Committee
Lead Authority	Denbighshire County Council or as determined under paragraph 9.6.
Management Plan	The AONB management plan for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB either prepared and published or reviewed, adopted and published by the Joint Committee under Section 89 of the CROW Act
Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	Natural Resources Wales or other agent or department of the Welsh Government from time to time charged with the designation, funding and oversight of AONBs in Wales.
Non-Core Functions	Those Functions which are eligible from time to time for a grant which is lower than the highest prevailing rate of grant payable by Natural Resources Wales or which are not eligible for grants payable by Natural Resources Wales.
Non-Core Funding	The funding in any year towards expenditure on Non-Core functions and the Action Plan
Objectives	the objectives of the Joint Committee as set out in paragraph 3.2 to this Agreement
Officers Working Group	The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officers Working Group having the role and functions described in Section 4.
Overheads	the employee costs (including on costs) and the costs of administration, insurance, training, premises, transport, supplies, publications, consumables and recharges of the AONB Unit; and the costs (direct and indirect) associated with the management operation and administration of the Joint Committee, and the Associated Bodies.
Partner	Any body, organisation or person from time to time contributing to the achievement of the aims of the AONB Partnership
Standing Orders	the standing orders of the Joint Committee set out in Appendix 1 to

	this Agreement
Topic Group	Any group tasked by the Officers Working Group to provide it with specialist advice on any specified topic relating to the exercise of the functions and the attainment of the objectives.

- 1.2 Except where the contrary intention appears, references in this Agreement to the singular shall include the plural and vice versa and references to the masculine gender shall be taken as meaning both masculine and feminine genders.
- 1.3 References to sections are to the sections 1 - 23 of this Agreement, references to paragraphs are to paragraphs within those sections and references to appendices are to the Appendices 1 - 8 of this Agreement
- 1.4 References to "year" and "years" are to the financial year or years of the Authorities commencing on 1 April in any year and finishing on 31 March in the following year. The last year shall however end on the date upon which this Agreement terminates.
- 1.5 This Agreement shall have effect from the Commencement Date and shall continue in force in accordance with the provisions of Section 11.

2. THE JOINT COMMITTEE

- 2.1 The Authorities, in exercise of their powers under Sections 101(5), 102(1) and 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 20 of the Local Government Act 2000, Section 37 of the Countryside Act 1968, Sections 85, 89 and 90 of the CROW Act and all other enabling powers, establish and agree fully to participate in the Joint Committee in order to achieve the Objectives through the Functions and, subject to paragraph 10, to encourage the Authorities collectively and individually to provide or procure sufficient resources to realise the Objectives.
- 2.2 The Joint Committee shall be constituted and conduct its business in accordance with the Standing Orders.
- 2.3 The Joint Committee shall comprise the following membership:
- 2.3.1 The Lead Authority will appoint two members being County Councillors who are members of the Lead Authority's Executive Board or Cabinet.
- 2.3.2 Each Authority other than the Lead Authority will appoint two members being Councillors of that Authority who are members of that Authority's Executive Board or Cabinet.

2.4 The Financial Regulations, Contract Standing Orders and the Rules of Debate of the Lead Authority shall apply.

3. OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

3.1 The Authorities constitute the Joint Committee for the purpose of acting jointly to exercise and discharge the Functions and, subject to the Budget approved in accordance with section 8, to attain and realise the Objectives.

3.2 The Objectives of the Joint Committee are:-

3.2.1 to seek to ensure that the natural beauty of the AONB is conserved and enhanced.

3.2.2 to sustain and enhance the conservation value of the AONB.

3.2.3 through consultation with the Authorities, with Partners and the general public, to promote wider public understanding of the purposes for which the AONB was designated.

3.2.4 to seek, by influencing the Authorities, Partners and other bodies and organisations, to achieve a synergy between existing and future activities within the AONB and the purposes for which the AONB was designated.

3.2.5 to seek to ensure that the parts of the AONB to which the public has rights of access are accessible and, as appropriate, to achieve wider access to the AONB by actual or virtual means.

3.2.6 to promote the sharing of good practice and consistency of approach towards the AONB across the Authorities.

3.2.7 to have due regard to the needs of agriculture and forestry and to the economic and social interests of rural areas

3.2.8 to seek to ensure that the Functions are so exercised as to attract the maximum available funding from Natural Resources Wales and from other external funding sources consistent with the attainment of the other Objectives set out above

3.3 The Functions of the Joint Committee in relation to the Objectives are:-

3.3.1 after consultation with the Authorities and the AONB Partnership, to prepare and publish the Management Plan or to review, adopt and publish the Management Plan

3.3.2 after consultation with the Authorities and the AONB Partnership, to produce and approve an Action Plan for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the Management Plan

- 3.3.3 to monitor the implementation of the Management Plan and of the Action Plan by means of the Annual Report and to make recommendations to all or any of the Authorities and the Partners as to their implementation.
- 3.3.4 to administer and undertake the Core Functions within the Core Budget and to carry out undertake procure or implement the non-Core Functions and the Action Plan in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and within the Actions Budget
- 3.3.5 to undertake the periodic review of any published Management Plan and to consider and make representations upon any matter relating to the Objectives and the Functions
- 3.3.6 through the Annual Report and by such other means as the Joint Committee think fit to publicise the Management Plan to the Authorities, Partners and the general public
- 3.3.7 to consider and make representations on Local Development Plan Policies and proposals and proposals for development within or affecting the CR and DV AONB.
- 3.3.8 regularly to review and scrutinise the actions taken by the Officers Working Group.
- 3.3.9 to undertake such public and other consultation as the Joint Committee shall consider desirable or necessary in relation to the achievement of the Objectives and to collate and share with the AONB Partnership, the Authorities, Partners and others the results of such consultation
- 3.3.10 to carry out, procure or promote any activities or matters which are incidental or ancillary to the exercise of the Functions and which the Joint Committee deem to be of benefit to CR and DV AONB
- 3.3.11 to consider and review the membership of the AONB Partnership.
- 3.4 Subject to paragraph 3.5 below the Joint Committee will have delegated powers from the Authorities to expend the Budget and to implement or procure the implementation of the Action Plan for that year previously approved by the Joint Committee subject to the financial and resources implications of those decisions being contained within the Budget for the then current financial year or within the approved budgets of the Authorities.
- 3.5 The Joint Committee shall refer to the Authorities any matter which falls outside the Joint Committee's delegated powers or which the Joint Committee consider for any reason should properly be decided by the Authorities and not by the Joint Committee.
- 3.6 The Joint Committee shall not have power to borrow.

- 3.7 Subject to paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 above the Authorities shall also each delegate and empower the Joint Committee to discharge the Functions on its behalf via the Officers' Working Group and the AONB Team in the manner set out in this Agreement.
- 3.8 The Joint Committee shall appoint the Secretary to the Joint Committee and the Treasurer to the Joint Committee. The Secretary to the Joint Committee shall be the Head of Legal and Democratic Services of the Lead Authority or such other officer of the Lead Authority as he may nominate. The Treasurer to the Joint Committee shall be the Section 151 officer of the Lead Authority. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall have respectively the functions powers and duties set out in Appendix 2.
- 3.9 The Joint Committee shall not employ any employees.

4. OFFICERS' WORKING GROUP

- 4.1 The Authorities will establish the Officers' Working Group which shall comprise one nominated officer representative of each Authority. The Secretary to the Joint Committee and the Treasurer to the Joint Committee or their respective nominees shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the Officers' Working Group and to speak on any item of business.
- 4.2 The officer of each Authority nominated to serve as its officer representative on the Officers' Working Group shall be a senior officer of that authority having responsibility at officer level for, or close senior level involvement in, the AONB.
- 4.3 Each officer nominated under paragraph 4.1 shall be entitled to attend, but not to vote at, meetings of the Joint Committee.
- 4.4 If the officer nominated under paragraph 4.1 is unable to attend a meeting of the Joint Committee or the Officers' Working Group, the Authority which nominated the officer may nominate a substitute of comparable seniority to attend that meeting. The nomination of such officer shall be made to the Chair of the Officers' Working Group either prior to or at the meeting.
- 4.5 The Officers' Working Group shall co-opt as advisers any nominee for the time being of Natural Resources Wales (not exceeding five persons in aggregate at any time), who shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the Officers' Working Group and to speak on any item of business. The Officers' Working Group may co-opt other officers of the Authorities and any Partner (whether in an individual or a representative capacity) from time to time, who shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the Officers' Working Group during their co-option and to speak on any item of business.

- 4.7 The Joint Committee shall have the Officers Working Group and the AONB Team at its disposal in order to discharge the Functions.
- 4.8 The functions of the Officers' Working Group will be:-
- 4.8.1 to consider and make recommendations in consultation with the AONB Partnership and AONB Team as to the strategic direction; implementation and delivery of the Management Plan and the Annual Action Plan; to promote in all practicable respects the objectives of the Joint Committee and to develop policies (including development plan policies affecting the AONB) for these purposes.
- 4.8.2 To make recommendations to the Joint Committee, in consultation with the AONB Partnership, about the Budget and on proposals for joint commissioning, joint ventures and the establishment of partnership agreements and service level agreements relating to the attainment of the Objectives.
- 4.9 The Officers' Working Group shall implement the decisions of the Joint Committee taken under the powers delegated to the Joint Committee.
- 4.10 The Officers' Working Group shall comply with the Lead Authority's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
- 4.11 The Officers' Working Group may establish any Topic Group to assist it in carrying out its functions.

5. AONB TEAM

- 5.1 The Joint Committee and the Officers' Working Group will be supported by the AONB Team
- 5.2 The AONB Team will comprise the AONB Officer and such other dedicated staff as may be employed from time to time wholly or mainly for the purposes of the AONB functions from within the Core Budget.
- 5.3 The AONB TEAM will:-
- 5.3.1 co-ordinate and prioritise the day to day activities of the Joint Committee in attaining the Objectives and promote the value of CR and DV AONB in the community
 - 5.3.2 liaise between and advise and influence the Joint Committee, the Authorities, the Associated Bodies, Partners and other agencies and persons
 - 5.3.3 monitor progress and expenditure on individual projects in the Action Plan and prepare the Management Plan and Action Plan for consideration, and make recommendations on them
 - 5.3.4 in consultation with the Treasurer, appraise individual projects for funding and for inclusion in the Action Plan including the assessment of the adequacy of the financial and management controls in place for each such project
 - 5.3.5 monitor and co-ordinate progress and expenditure on individual projects within the Action Plan and evaluate and report on the outcomes and effectiveness of projects
 - 5.3.6 seek additional funding from all sources to assist the delivery of the Objectives and the Action Plan
 - 5.3.7 provide planning advise to the Joint Committee on Local Development Plan policies and proposals and on proposals for development affecting CR and DV AONB.
 - 5.3.8 Respond to any General Development Proposals which may be delegated to them by the Joint Committee.
- 5.4 The members of the AONB Team shall be employees of the Lead Authority and accordingly their terms and conditions of service shall be those of the Lead Authority. The Team shall work in close partnership with any of the Authorities equivalent staff who may be employed by any Authority.
- 5.5 All members of the AONB Team shall comply with the Lead Authority's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
- 5.6 Other support services for the Joint Committee shall include the provision of financial, legal and administrative services and such support services to the Joint Committee (to the extent that they are not provided by the Officers' Working Group) shall be provided by the Lead Authority subject to democratic services support being provided in rotation by the Authorities.

6. DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

The delivery structure is detailed in the structure diagram Appendix 3.

7. CONTRACTS

Every contract for the execution of work for or the supply of goods or services to the Joint Committee and the procedures relating thereto shall comply in all respects with the Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders of the Lead Authority.

8. FINANCIAL

8.1 Subject to the provisions of this paragraph 8, all expenditure incurred by the Joint Committee each year in attaining the Objectives and discharging the Functions will, having regard to the nature of the expenditure in question, be met from the Core Budget or the Actions Budget.

8.2 The Core Budget will be funded from Core Grant and the Annual Contribution of each Authority

8.3 Core Budget

8.3.1 In each year the Core Budget shall be such amount as the Joint Committee, after consultation with the AONB Partnership and having considered the views of each Authority following consultation under paragraph 8.7.3 and taken into account the Core Grant for the year in question, shall decide is necessary to meet the estimated cost of undertaking the Core Functions.

8.3.2 The members of the Joint Committee propose in principle funding the central core budget (net of any central core grant) equally as indicated in Appendix 7.

8.3.3 Over the initial term of the agreement, members of the Joint Committee will agree to work towards funding the combined core ,central and area apportionment, as set out in Appendix 7 achieving these figures by the 5th year of the initial five year term. These amounts will make up the annual contribution of each Authority for the year to which the annual contribution relates, having regard to the relevant local government pay settlement.

8.3.4 The Joint Committee shall (save in exceptional circumstances) consider the proposed Budget and notify each Authority of its proposed Annual Contribution for the following year.

8.4 Actions Budget

8.4.1 The Actions Budget will relate to those projects within the Action Plan for the implementation of which the Joint Committee will be responsible in any year.

8.4.2 Each Authority or Partner (as the case may be) will have primary responsibility for procuring the funding for any project within the Action Plan which it has agreed to promote and implement.

8.4.3 The Joint Committee, the Officers' Working Group and the AONB Team, in consultation with the AONB Partnership, will assist any Authority or Partner in its efforts to procure external funding for any project in the Action Plan.

8.4.4 Each Authority may contribute any additional monies over and above the budget, to the Actions Budget or to the separate funding of any part of the Action Plan.

8.4.5 The Joint Committee shall determine the priority of those projects within the Action Plan to be funded from the Actions Budget in any year.

8.5 Budget Planning

The Joint Committee, when considering the proposed Budget for the following year, will consider a financial forecast of its anticipated budgetary requirements for the subsequent two financial years.

8.6 Capital Expenditure

The Joint Committee may incur expenditure in respect of items which must or, in the Joint Committee's discretion, may properly be determined as capital expenditure in accordance with the requirements from time to time of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Regulations made thereunder

8.7 Administration of the Budget

8.7.1 Subject to section 8, the proposed Budget for each year of this Agreement shall be prepared by the Treasurer to the Joint Committee in consultation with the s.151 Officer of each Authority.

8.7.2 The proposed Budget shall be considered by the Joint Committee at the earliest practicable date in the year preceding the year to which the Budget relates.

8.7.3 Before the Budget is submitted for the approval of the Joint Committee, the proposed Budget will be copied to each Authority by the Treasurer to the Joint Committee for prior consideration by each authority so that each Authority is briefed on the level of funding which the Joint Committee are to be asked to consider for the following year. The Joint Committee will not approve a higher Budget in any year than that on which each Authority has been consulted unless any increase in the approved Budget is wholly attributable to an increase before any external grant.

8.7.4 The Budget for 2013/14 at the Commencement Date is the total cost set out in Appendix 7. The posts listed in Appendix 8 are the AONB Team posts under paragraph 5.2 for which provision is made from the Commencement Date within the Core Budget.

8.7.5 A scheme of management for the establishment of a reserve is set out at Appendix 6. The scheme provides a facility to carry forward into the next year any underspend of the Budget but requires firstly that (unless otherwise stipulated as a condition of Core Grant or Non-Core Grant funding or other external funding) that the funding of any overspend of the Budget is met in any year by transfer from the reserve. If the reserve is insufficient to meet the overspend in any year, then unless the Authorities agree to provide an additional sum to fund the deficit in accordance with their respective shares, the Joint Committee will make any necessary adjustment in the Budget for the following year.

8.8 Payments

- 8.8.1 Any payment due from an Authority to the Joint Committee in any year in respect of the Annual Contribution shall be made on 1 April based on the amount of the Annual Contribution determined under paragraph 8.3.2. The invoice will be in official form and will meet Customs and Excise VAT requirements.
- 8.8.2 All sums payable by any Authority pursuant to this Agreement are exclusive of VAT. Each Authority shall pay any VAT properly chargeable on any supply made under this Agreement
- 8.8.3 The amount of any payment due from the Joint Committee to an Authority or from an Authority to the Joint Committee may not be set off against any other payment due from an Authority to the Joint Committee or from the Joint Committee to an Authority (as the case may be)

8.9 Records

- 8.9.1. The Treasurer to the Joint Committee will be responsible for keeping records of income and expenditure relating to the expenditure of the Joint Committee on Core Functions and Non-Core Functions and will produce as necessary but not less than twice yearly monitoring reports to the Joint Committee. The Treasurer or other financial officer of each other Authority will provide any necessary financial information for this purpose. The Treasurer to the Joint Committee will prepare and submit for the approval of the Joint Committee final closure accounts by not later than 30 May in the year following the year to which the accounts relate.
- 8.9.2 The accounts of the Joint Committee will be included in the accounts of each Authority for audit purposes.
- 8.9.3 For the purposes of VAT the arrangements shall be:
- 8.9.3.1 The Joint Committee shall be registered for VAT or,
- 8.9.3.2 The Lead Authority act as host for VAT purposes, subject to concession by HMRC.

8.10 Mutual Understanding

The Authorities agree that this Agreement may give rise to situations in which one or more of the Authorities may invest in or take part in a particular project or projects within the Action Plan for a year the costs of which are not being shared with or contributed to by other of the Authorities (each "a Non-contributing Authority").

9. LEAD AUTHORITY

9.1 Denbighshire County Council is appointed from the date of this Agreement as the Lead Authority for the purposes mentioned in paragraphs 9.3 to 9.11 below

9.2 The role of the Lead Authority shall be exercised subject to the approval of the Joint Committee and shall be as follows:-

9.2.1 to undertake the duties and responsibilities of the Lead Authority referred to in the Agreement

9.2.2 to act on behalf of the Joint Committee when this achieves Best Value or adds value to the attainment of the Objectives or the performance of the Functions or when it is necessary or desirable to do so in order to attract or secure external funding or other resources from outside the Authorities and/or;

9.2.3 to make and provide all appropriate banking accounting and audit arrangements and services required for the due and proper receipt, holding and application of the Joint Committee's funds and/or;

9.2.4 to be the legal point of contact with suppliers for all joint procurements and/or;

9.2.5 subject to paragraph 5.6, to provide such administrative resources as shall be reasonably necessary to enable the Joint Committee to discharge their respective roles, duties and functions and which are not otherwise provided for under this Agreement.

9.2.6 to provide the secretariat for any relevant meetings of the Associated Bodies.

9.3 Each of the other Authorities shall (and hereby duly undertake with the Lead Authority to) indemnify the Lead Authority against and/or contribute and pay in equal shares all or any liabilities claims costs and/or expenses of or reasonably incurred by the Lead Authority in or in connection with or in the course of or as a result of:-

9.3.1 performing or discharging its roles and/or responsibilities in paragraph 9.2 of this Agreement as the Lead Authority: and/or

9.3.2 undertaking any contract or commitment on behalf of the Joint Committee for the purposes of or pursuant to this Agreement

PROVIDED THAT such indemnity on the part of the other Authorities shall not extend to liabilities or claims arising or costs and/or expenses incurred by reason or in consequence of any of the following on the part of the Lead Authority that is to say, negligence or misconduct to a material degree, persistent breach of law or duty (that is to say persisted in after the same shall have been brought to the attention of or known to the Lead Authority), act or omission known to the Lead Authority to be

contrary to proper local government practice or local government law or substantial or persistent failure (after due notice) to redress performance of the duties of the Lead Authority which shall not comply with the requirements or the standards of or set by this Agreement

- 9.4 The Lead Authority shall owe no duty of care to the other Authorities and have no liability or responsibility in respect of or in relation to the performance or discharge of (or omission to perform or discharge) any role or function referred to in Clause 9.2 the discharge or exercise of which requires the approval of the Joint Committee (save to the extent that such role or function is discharged or exercised by the Lead Authority negligently or in a manner known to the Lead Authority to be contrary to proper local government practice or local government law) or which is otherwise carried out or to be carried out in the manner requested or required by, (or which is omitted to be performed on the instruction or request of) the Joint Committee.
- 9.5 The Lead Authority shall owe no duty of care to the other Authorities or any of them (whether in contract or in tort) in respect of the roles and responsibilities of the Joint Committee.
- 9.6 The Lead Authority shall cease to act as Lead Authority if so required by notices in writing given to the Lead Authority by a simple majority of the Authorities and expiring at the end of any financial year. In the event that the Lead Authority shall cease to act, the Authorities shall refer the decision on appointment of the Lead Authority back to their respective Cabinets or Executive Board.
- 9.7 Any documentation held by the Lead Authority which remains relevant after it has ceased to act as such shall (on the request of the new Lead Authority or the Joint Committee) be handed over or copied to the new Lead Authority or the Joint Committee
- 9.8 The Authorities agree that the Lead Authority shall be entitled to call on the funds of the Joint Committee to pay any redundancy or other lawful claim arising in respect of the termination of the employment of any officer wholly or mainly employed by the Lead Authority for the purposes of carrying out this Agreement PROVIDED THAT the Lead Authority shall FIRST consult with the Joint Committee, such consultation to include discussion on any suitable alternative employment for the officer concerned. The Authorities recognise that TUPE may apply and in any event will adhere to the principles of TUPE in relation to those affected staff.
- 9.9 If the funds of the Joint Committee shall not be sufficient to meet the loss, costs or damages incurred by or claims against the Lead Authority the other Authorities shall each indemnify the Lead Authority in equal shares against the amount incurred by or claimed against the Lead Authority (to the intent that the Lead Authority shall likewise be liable for such an equal share)

10. PROVISION OF NON CASH RESOURCE

- 10.1 The Authorities agree that they will make reasonable endeavours to provide such non-monetary resources and assistance and in-kind support to the Joint Committee as shall be reasonably requested by the Joint Committee from time to time
- 10.2 No requirement or request shall be made of an Authority under Clause 10.1 which shall have the effect of compelling that Authority to incur unbudgeted expenditure.
- 10.3 Provision of support under this Section 10 may be included in the calculation of the Annual Contribution for the following financial year.

11. DURATION, WITHDRAWAL AND TERMINATION

- 11.1 This Agreement shall come into force on the Commencement Date and shall continue until the 31st March 2019 before such date there shall be a review of the Agreement and unless there is any variation, withdrawal or termination under the Agreement, the Agreement shall continue on a rolling 5 year term, with a review on or before the expiry of each 5 year term.
- 11.2 Any Authority may withdraw from the Joint Committee by giving not less than 18 months notice to the other Authorities and the Secretary of the Joint Committee.
- 11.3 Any Authority wishing to withdraw from the Joint Committee undertakes as a condition of withdrawal to make prior to withdrawal such reasonable payment or payments which fairly reflect the actual losses caused by or anticipated as a result of the withdrawal as shall be determined by the other Authorities pursuant to clauses 8 and 9
- 11.4 In the event of any withdrawal, unless otherwise agreed by the remaining Authorities, this Agreement shall continue.
- 11.5 The Authorities agree that this Agreement may be determined upon terms agreed by the Authorities.
- 11.6 In the event of termination of this Agreement each party shall undertake to pay such reasonable payment or payments which fairly reflect the obligations of that Council pursuant to this Agreement on the basis of sections 8 and 9; any assets held by the Authorities shall where reasonably practicable be divided proportionately or be retained by an Authority for its own use subject to an equitable settlement to the other parties; or be dealt with as otherwise agreed between the Authorities. In the absence of any agreement in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures.

11.7 It shall be the duty of all the Authorities to minimise any losses arising from the determination of this Agreement.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

Insurance

- 12.1 Save as otherwise provided for in Section 9 (Lead Authority) and Section 11 (Termination), any necessary compensation or other essential financial payment or legal obligation to the payment or fulfilment of which any Authority or any third party may become entitled as a result of or in connection with the discharge of any of the Functions shall as between the Joint Committee and the Authorities be paid or fulfilled wholly by the Joint Committee and the Joint Committee shall accordingly ensure that adequate insurance cover is effected and maintained in respect of any such liability.
- 12.2 The cost of such insurance shall be an Overhead and accordingly part of the Core Budget.
- 12.3 The Lead Authority shall be responsible for making all necessary insurance arrangements on behalf of the Joint Committee and (where given) in accordance with the Joint Committee's instructions.

Civil Litigation

- 12.4 The institution and defence of necessary civil litigation by the Joint Committee arising from the pursuit of the Objectives or the discharge of the Functions shall be undertaken in a representative capacity by the Lead Authority.

Criminal Proceedings

- 12.5 The conduct of any criminal proceedings in the Magistrates Court or the Crown Court brought by or against the Joint Committee arising out of the pursuit of the Objectives or the discharge of the Functions shall be undertaken in a representative capacity by the Lead Authority unless the Joint Committee, having regard to the circumstances giving rise to the proceedings, agree that another Authority should do so.

Law and Jurisdiction

- 12.6 This Agreement shall be governed by the law of England and Wales and the parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

13. VARIATION OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement may be varied at any time upon such terms as the Authorities after consultation with the Joint Committee may agree.

14. NOTICES

Any notice to be served under this Agreement upon any Authority will be served at the principal offices for the time being of that Authority for the attention of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services or Head of the Paid Service of that Authority.

15. INTERESTS OF MEMBERS IN CONTRACTS AND OTHER MATTERS

15.1 Every member of the Joint Committee shall at all times comply with the principles specified by the Welsh Ministers under Section 49 of the Local Government Act 2000 which are to govern their conduct. They should also abide by the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Members Accord.

15.2 Any member of the Joint Committee who has an interest defined in the Members Code of Conduct of his or her Council shall comply with the requirements of that Code as regards the disclosure of that interest and as regards withdrawing from participation in consequence of that interest.

15.3 The Secretary of the Joint Committee shall keep a record of particulars of any disclosures by members which shall be open during normal office hours for public inspection.

16. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

16.1 If at any time any dispute or difference shall arise between the Authorities in respect of any matters arising out of this Agreement or the meaning or effect of this Agreement or anything herein contained or the rights or liabilities of any of the Authorities the same shall be referred to the relevant Corporate Directors of the Authorities in dispute. Each Director shall undertake and agree to pursue a positive approach towards the dispute resolution which avoids legal proceedings and maintains strong working relationships between the parties. There shall be a commitment to resolving the matter within 10 working days.

16.2 In the event that the dispute is not settled at Director level, and the context so requires, it shall be referred to the respective Chief Executives who shall use their best endeavours to reach a resolution within a further 10 working days.

16.3 In the event that any dispute or difference between the Councils relating to this Agreement which it has not been possible to resolve through the decision making process of the Joint Committee or otherwise, the Authorities may either agree to refer the matter to arbitration or utilise the termination procedures at section 11.

17. FORCE MAJEURE

The Authorities shall be released from their respective obligations under the Agreement if national emergency, war, prohibitive government

regulations or any other cause (except strike action) beyond the control of the Authorities or any of them renders the performance of this Agreement impossible.

18. PARTNERS

- 18.1 The Authorities wish to encourage the Joint Committee, in consultation with the AONB Advisory Partnership, to promote, establish, and foster links with Partners to support the Objectives and Functions.
- 18.2 The form of the link with any Partner shall be in the discretion of the Joint Committee but, subject to paragraph 18.3 below, shall accord so far as reasonably practicable with the wishes of the Joint Committee and the Partner in question.
- 18.3 Nothing in this Agreement or otherwise shall require or oblige the Joint Committee to, nor shall the Joint Committee without the approval of the Authorities, enter into links with commercial or trading organisations bodies or persons where the nature or business of that commercial or trading organisation body or person gives rise or could give rise to, any conflict of interest (for example without limitation by reason of the possible procurement or use by the Joint Committee of equipment or services provided by a particular business).
- 18.4 Subject to paragraph 18.3 above the Joint Committee may form links under this Section with any Partner who is prepared to provide financial or in kind support to the Joint Committee in furtherance of the Objectives and Functions.
- 18.5 Where a link is established pursuant to paragraph 18.4 above, then, provided that the financial or in-kind support given by the Partner in question to the Budget is, in each financial year in which such support is given, of equal value to or greater than the Annual Contribution of any Authority for that year, the Joint Committee shall invite to the meetings of the Joint Committee for that year a representative of that Partner (who shall not be a member or officer of an Authority) who shall have the right to speak but not to vote.
- 18.6 Where and for so long as pursuant to paragraph 18.5 a Partner is entitled to send a representative to meetings of the Joint Committee, that Partner shall also be entitled to send a representative to meetings of the Officer Working Group which representative shall have the right to speak thereat.
- 18.7 Where pursuant to paragraph 18.5 a Partner is for the time being entitled to send a representative to meetings of the Joint Committee and the Officers' Working Group and, at the end of the year in question, that Partner ceases to provide support at the level referred to in the proviso in paragraph 18.5, the Partner shall cease to be entitled to exercise the powers in paragraphs 18.5 and 18.6.

18.8 Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this Section, it shall be for individual Authorities to determine what links each wishes to have with any Partner.

19. DATA PROTECTION

19.1 The Authorities shall at all times comply with the DPA, including maintaining a valid and up to date registration or notification under the DPA, covering any data processing to be performed in connection with this Agreement and their responsibilities as data processors and/or data controllers.

19.2 The Authorities shall only undertake processing of Personal Data reasonably required in connection with the operation of this Agreement.

19.3 The Authorities shall not transfer any Personal Data to any country or territory outside the European Economic Area.

19.4 The Authorities shall not disclose Personal Data to any third parties other than:

19.4.1 in response to a data subject access request;

19.4.2 to employees and contractors to whom such disclosure is necessary in order to comply with their obligations under this Agreement; or

19.4.3 to the extent required to comply with a legal obligation

20. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

20.1 The parties recognise that they are public authorities as defined by FOI Legislation and therefore recognise that information relating to this Agreement may be the subject of an Information Request.

20.2 The parties shall assist each other in complying with their obligations under FOI Legislation, including but not limited to assistance without charge, in gathering information to respond to an Information Request.

20.3 Any Authority shall be entitled to disclose any information relating to this Agreement in response to an Information Request, save that in respect of any Information Request which is in whole or part a request for Exempt Information:

20.3.1 the Authority which receives the Information Request shall circulate the Information Request and shall discuss it with the other Council

20.3.2 the Authority which receives the Information Request shall in good faith consider any representations raised by one or more Authority when deciding whether to disclose Exempt Information; and

20.3.3 the Authority which receives the Information Request shall not disclose any Exempt Information beyond the disclosure required by FOI Legislation without the consent of the Council to which it relates.

20.4 The parties to this Agreement acknowledge and agree that any decision made an Authority which receives an Information Request as to whether to disclose information relating to this Agreement pursuant to FOI legislation is solely the decision of that Authority. A party will not be liable to any party to this Agreement for any loss, damage, harm or detrimental effect arising from or in connection with the disclosure of information in response to an Information Request.

21 SEVERANCE

If any provision of this Agreement is declared by any judicial or other competent authority to be void voidable unlawful or otherwise unenforceable or indications to that effect are received by the Authorities from any competent authority the Authorities shall amend the provision in such a reasonable manner as achieves the intention of the Authorities without being unlawful or if agreed between the Authorities it may be severed from this Agreement but the remaining provisions shall remain in full force unless the Authorities agree that the effect of such declaration is to defeat their original intention

.22. AGREEMENT TO REMAIN IN FULL FORCE

Any failure by an Authority to insist upon the performance of any of the conditions of this Agreement or to exercise any right under it shall not be construed as a waiver by such Authority and this Agreement shall continue and remain in full force and effect notwithstanding any such failure.

23. WELSH LANGUAGE

The Welsh language policy of the Lead Authority shall apply to this Agreement

APPENDIX 1

STANDING ORDERS OF THE CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AONB JOINT COMMITTEE

1. Interpretation

- 1.1 The decision of the Chairman of the meeting as to the interpretation of any standing order or on any question of procedure not provided for by these standing orders shall be final. No debate may ensue thereon.

2. Meetings

- 2.1 The annual meeting of the Joint Committee in each year shall be held as soon as practicable after 1 June in each year and shall amongst other things receive the closing accounts for the preceding year.
- 2.2 The Joint Committee shall between each annual meeting normally meet at intervals of four months or on such other occasions or greater frequency as they may agree and shall meet on such day and at such time and place as they may determine provided that a meeting shall be held as soon as practicable after November of each year for the purpose of considering the Joint Committee's budget for the following year.
- 2.3 Unless otherwise agreed, the Joint Committee shall meet in rotation at the offices of the three Authorities.
- 2.4 With the exception of the annual meeting and the Budget meeting, the Secretary with the agreement of the Chairman and Vice Chairman may cancel any meeting of the Joint Committee if in his or her opinion insufficient business has arisen for consideration.
- 2.5 A special meeting of the Joint Committee shall be convened at any time by the Secretary upon the instructions of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

3. Notice of Meetings

- 3.1 At least 3 clear days before a meeting of the Joint Committee:
- 3.1.1 a summons to attend the meeting specifying business proposed to be transacted shall be sent electronically by the Secretary to the Joint Committee to the last email address given for that purpose by each member of the Joint Committee and to the Chief Executive of each Authority and to
- 3.1.2 notice of the time and place of the intended meeting shall be published at the offices each Authority by the Chief Executive of that Authority

3.2 Lack of service on a member of the Joint Committee of the summons referred to in paragraph 3.1.1 above shall not affect the validity of a meeting of the Joint Committee

3.3 Except in the case of business required by this standing order to be transacted at a meeting of the Joint Committee and other business to be brought before the meeting as a matter of urgency, of which the Chairman Vice Chairman and the Secretary shall have prior notice and which the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Secretary consider should be discussed at the meeting, no business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Joint Committee other than that specified in the summons relating thereto.

4. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

4.1 At its annual meeting the Joint Committee shall determine from amongst its members a Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee for the period from the commencement of that meeting of the Joint Committee up to the commencement of the next following annual meeting of the Joint Committee.

4.2 Each person proposed for any office shall be duly nominated and seconded by members attending the meeting before his or her name is submitted to the vote of the meeting. When there are more than two persons nominated for any appointment and of the votes given there is not an overall majority in favour of one person, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote shall be taken and so on until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person.

4.3 In the event of a vacancy arising in the office of a Chairman or Vice Chairman appointed under paragraph 4.1 above, the Joint Committee at its next meeting shall appoint another member to hold such office from the commencement of that meeting until the commencement of the next following annual meeting.

5. Membership of the Joint Committee

5.1 Subject to paragraph 2, each member of the Joint Committee shall be a Councillor of the Authority by whom he or she shall have been appointed holding membership of the current Executive of that Authority and shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the Joint Committee following his or her appointment unless he or she ceases to be a representative of the Authority appointing him or her or resigns his or her membership of the Joint Committee or his or her appointment is revoked by the Authority appointing him or her.

5.2 Each Authority shall fill any casual vacancy during any year in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and shall advise the Secretary to the Joint Committee within 7 days of such appointment.

5.3 Where paragraph 8.5 of the agreement applies to the Joint Committee, they shall invite the representative of the Partner in question to attend meetings of the Joint Committee who shall have the right to speak but not to vote, as that paragraph provides. Such representative shall not be a member or officer of an Authority.

5.4 The Joint Committee for the time being shall co-opt as advisers to the Joint Committee the Chairman of the AONB Partnership, the AONB Officer, a representative of Natural Resources Wales, to attend and speak (but not vote) at meetings of the Joint Committee and may from time to time co-opt one or more other advisers to attend such meeting or meetings of the Joint Committee as the Joint Committee may specify having regard to the knowledge or skill of the co-opted adviser, and the contribution he may make to the business of the Joint Committee at that meeting or those meetings. Such other co-opted adviser(s) shall be entitled to speak but not to vote.

6. Chairman of Meeting

6.1 At each meeting of the Joint Committee the Chairman, if present, shall preside.

6.2 If the Chairman is absent from a meeting of the Joint Committee the Vice Chairman, if present, shall preside.

6.3 If both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee are absent from a meeting of the Joint Committee such member of the Joint Committee as the members present shall select shall preside.

7. Quorum

7.1 No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Joint Committee unless at least one member from each Authority are present.

7.2 If during any meeting of the Joint Committee the Chairman, after counting the number of members present, declares that there is not a quorum for the meeting then the meeting shall stand adjourned to a date and time fixed by the Chairman or, in the absence of a date and time being fixed, to the next ordinary meeting of the Joint Committee to which the consideration of any business not transacted shall be referred.

8. Order of Business

8.1 At every meeting of the Joint Committee the order of business shall be to select a person to preside if the Chairman or Vice Chairman are absent and thereafter shall be in accordance with the order specified in the notice of the meeting except that such order may be varied either by the Chairman at his or her discretion or on a request agreed to by the Joint Committee.

- 8.2 The Agenda shall not include an 'Any Other Business ' Item.
- 8.3 Every Member (whether a Member of the Joint Committee or not) attending a meeting of the Joint Committee shall sign his/her name on the attendance sheet provided for that purpose.
- 8.4 Proceedings at meetings may not be photographed, videoed, sound recorded, broadcast or transmitted in any way (including via social media) outside the meeting by individual Members appointed to the Joint Committee, the Press or the public without the prior permission of the Chair.
- 8.5 Use of text based social media such as Twitter, Facebook, SMS text messaging by Members who are not appointed to the body whose meeting they are attending, the Press and the public is permitted during the meetings provided that this does not cause a nuisance or annoyance to others during the meeting.
- 8.6 If any activity permitted under this standing order shall create a nuisance or annoyance to others attending the meeting Standing Order 4 may be invoked by the Chair to resolve the issue.
- 8.7 No broadcasting, photographing, video or sound recording or any transmission of proceedings from a meeting will be permitted where the Press and Public have been excluded as permitted under the Access to Information provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 or any subsequent amendment.

9. Minutes

- 9.1 Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Joint Committee shall be drawn up and entered into a book kept for that purpose and shall be signed at the next meeting of the Joint Committee by the Member presiding, and any minute purporting to be so signed shall be received in evidence without further proof.
- 9.2 Notwithstanding anything in any enactment or rule of law to the contrary, the minutes of the proceedings of meetings of the Joint Committee may be recorded and distributed in electronic form.
- 9.3 The Chairman shall move "That the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee held on...be signed as a correct record". If the accuracy is not questioned the Chairman shall sign the minutes.

10. Rules of Debate

The Rules of Debate of the Lead Authority shall apply to this Joint Committee

11. Voting

- 11.1 The mode of voting at meetings of the Joint Committee shall be by show of hands.
- 11.2 The Chairman will not have a casting vote. In the event of an equality of votes of the voting members of the Joint Committee, who are present at the meeting in question on any proposal before the Joint Committee at that meeting, the Chairman shall declare that the proposal is not carried.

12. Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters

- 12.1 (a) Every Member of the Joint Committee shall at all times comply with the principles specified in law, including those specified by the Secretary of State under Section 49 of the Local Government Act 2000, which are to govern their conduct.
 - (b) Any Member of the Joint Committee who has an interest as defined in the Members' Code of Conduct of his or her Council shall comply with the requirements of that Code as regards the disclosure of that interest and as regards withdrawing from participation in consequence of that interest.
- 12.2 The Secretary to the Joint Committee shall keep a record of particulars of any disclosures by members which shall be open during normal office hours for public inspection.

13. Expression of Dissent

No expression of dissent shall be entered in the minutes of the Joint Committee. Any two members may demand that a named vote be taken.

14. Disturbance at Meetings

- 14.1 If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings of any meeting the Chairman shall warn that person. If the interruption continues the Chairman shall order the person's removal from the meeting room.
- 14.2 In the case of general disturbance in any part of the meeting room open to the public the Chairman shall order that part to be cleared.
- 14.3 If a member of the Joint Committee in the opinion of the Chairman behaves improperly or offensively or deliberately obstructs business the Chairman shall warn that person. If the member continues to behave

improperly the Chairman or any member may move that either the member leave the meeting or that the meeting is adjourned for a specified period.

15. Variation and Revocation of Standing Orders

Any addition, variation or revocation of these Standing Orders shall when proposed and seconded stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Joint Committee, provided that this standing order shall not apply to any review of standing orders at the annual meetings of the Joint Committee. Any such addition, variation or revocation shall be first referred to each Authority for their approval.

16. Suspension of Standing Orders

Any standing order may be suspended for all or part of the business of a meeting of the Joint Committee at which suspension is moved. Such a motion cannot be moved unless a quorum is present nor can such a motion be moved if the effect of the suspension would conflict with the terms of any agreement entered into by the Authorities.

17. Rescission of Previous Resolutions

No motion to rescind any resolution passed within the preceding six months nor any motion to the same effect as any motion negative within the preceding six months shall be in order unless the notice of such motion shall have been given and specified in the summons and the notice shall bear, in addition to the name of the member who proposed the motion, the name of three members. When any such motion has been disposed of by the Joint Committee it shall not be open to any member to propose a similar motion within a further period of three months

18. Meetings Open to the Public and Confidential Items

18.1 Meetings of the Joint Committee will be open to the public except to the extent that they are excluded under standing order 18.2

18.2 The public may be excluded from a meeting of the Joint Committee during an item of business whenever it is likely, in the view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that, if members of the public were present during the item, confidential information as defined in section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 as defined in section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed to them.

19 Call In Procedures

19.1 Any partner Authority shall be entitled to Call In a decision of the Joint Committee in accordance with the Call In Procedures of the Authority who wishes to call in.

19.2 If any decision of the Joint Committee is subject to call in by an Authority, the Joint Committee shall take no action to implement that decision unless the call in process upholds the decision.

20. Delegations

The Joint Committee may delegate a function to an officer of the Officers Working Group or the AONB team, which may include delegations in respect of certain general planning consultations.

APPENDIX 2

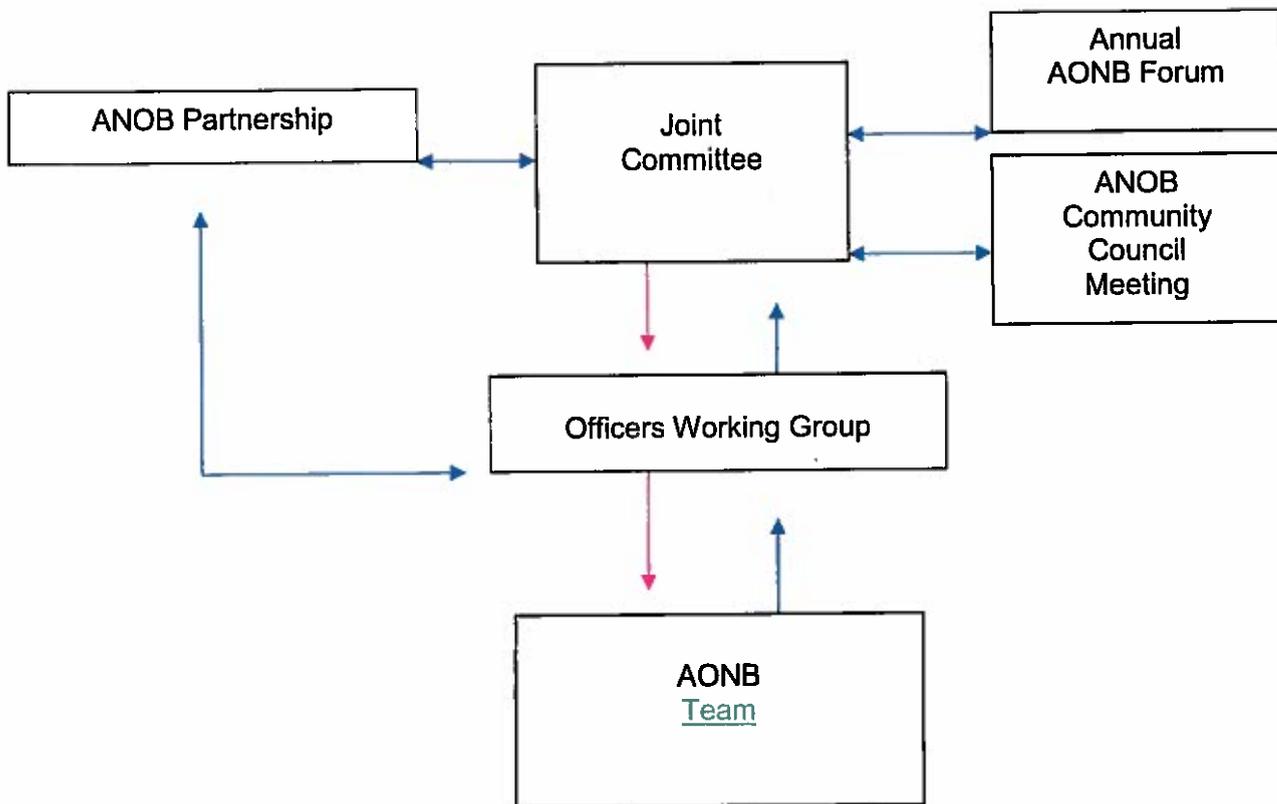
1. SECRETARY TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

- 1.1 In addition to any other powers and duties referred to in this Agreement the Secretary to the Joint Committee shall:
- 1.2 prepare and circulate agendas reports and minutes for consideration by the Joint Committee.
- 1.3 sign on behalf of the Joint Committee any document necessary to give effect to any resolution of the Joint Committee.
- 1.4 sign any document which is a necessary step in any legal procedure or proceedings.

2. TREASURER TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

- 2.1 In addition to any other powers and duties referred to in this Agreement the Treasurer to the Joint Committee is authorised to produce the Budget estimates and the accounts of the Joint Committee.

STRUCTURE FOR THE CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AREA OF
OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE



Colour Key

↔ Flow of information

→ Delegation

AONB PARTNERSHIP**Terms of reference for the AONB Partnership**

To bring together key interests in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB to consider and advise on conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty and locally distinctive character of the landscape, including its physical, ecological and cultural make-up; and in particular:

- Raise awareness of the importance and purpose of the AONB
- Contribute to and help implement the AONB Management Plan
- Encourage local communities and all public bodies and agencies to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB and its setting
- Promote the sustainable social and economic well being of the area
- Provide a forum for discussion for issues affecting the AONB
- Advise local authorities and other agencies on the impact of their activities on the AONB and on the preparation of their plans covering all or part of the AONB, to ensure that policies and practices are consistent with the AONB management plan
- Advise the Joint Committee in relation to the Local Development Plan to ensure that the protection of the AONB is properly taken account of and that a consistency of approach is achieved over the whole area
- Advise the Joint Committee about the impact of any development proposals, within or adjacent to the AONB, that are likely to affect significantly the character and natural beauty of the area
- Make recommendations to the Joint Committee regarding the appropriate recipients of any Welsh Government's AONB Sustainable Development Fund monies.
- Foster links with other protected landscapes

[

List of members for AONB Partnership appointed for 4 years	
AONB-wide representatives (selected by the local authority sub group members of the Partnership)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 local authority members (3 from each Council as nominated by their respective Councils) • 3 land management interests • 2 rural community interests • 2 urban community interests • 1 business interests
Management Plan priorities representatives (selected by the local authority sub group members of the Partnership) <i>Current management plan priorities shown</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Landscape • 1 Natural • 1 Historical • 1 Access and Recreation • 1 Built Environment
Special Interest representatives (selected by the local authorities) No more than 9 years consecutive service ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 individuals or organisations
In making the appointments, the local authorities will ensure that the World Heritage Site is represented	

1. Secretariat

- 8.1 The AONB Team will provide the secretariat for meetings of the AONB Partnership and will prepare and distribute the agenda and minutes of meetings and distribute any reports to be considered.
- 8.2 The AONB Team will ensure that the minutes of the AONB Partnership are referred to the Joint Committee and to the Officers Working Group as soon as is practicable after any meeting of the AONB Partnership and that any recommendations of the AONB Partnership to either the Joint Committee or the Officers Working Group (as the case may be) are considered by them.
- 8.3 Any Authority, Other Representative or Partner may ask the AONB Team to include an item on the agenda for consideration at a subsequent meeting of the AONB Partnership.

9 Delegated Powers

- 9.1 The AONB Partnership will have no delegated powers.

¹ A limit of nine consecutive years is in line with standard practice for the appointment of individuals to public bodies.

AONB ANNUAL FORUM

The role of the Forum is to embrace a wide range of interests. Attendance is by open invitation but the AONB Partnership and any supporting working groups are standing members

1. Role and Functions

1.1 There will be an AONB Annual FORUM with the following Terms of Reference:

Terms of reference for an AONB Annual Forum

The AONB Forum advises the AONB Partnership and champions the AONB, provides a united voice to promote its care and management. By bringing together a wide range of interests the Forum develops and reviews the AONB Management Plan and takes direct action by leading and supporting initiatives in the area. The AONB Forum:

- Receives the an update on AONB activity and monitors and evaluate progress in achieving the management plan objectives
- Raises awareness of the importance and purpose of the AONB
- Provides a forum for discussion of major issues affecting the AONB
- Encourages and develops community involvement in the management of the AONB
- Explores how partners can assist in the implementation of the management plan
- Promotes innovation, acting as a catalyst for new ideas and approaches
- Plays a lead role in championing a sustainable future for the AONB and its communities²
- Encourages and recruits wide political and financial support for management measures

1.2 The AONB Annual Conference will meet annually on such date after the annual meeting of the AONB Partnership as shall be decided by the Officers' Working Group, in consultation with the AONB Partnership.

1.3 The AONB Annual Conference will be chaired by the Chairman for the time being of the AONB Partnership or, in his/her absence, by such person as the attendee may elect. If any AONB Annual Forum has a particular theme, the Chairman of the AONB Partnership, with the

² Linked to the vision of a sustainable Wales in One Wales One Planet, Sustainable Development Charter, Welsh Assembly Government, May 2010

concurrence of the specialist presenter, may nominate that person to act as Chairman for that meeting.

- 1.4 Each attendee will be entitled to speak and, if there is a vote, to vote on any item of business.
- 1.5 If there is a request for any issue or matter to be put to a vote, it will be decided by a simple majority of the attendees on a show of hands. The Chairman will not have a casting vote.

2. Secretariat

2.1 The AONB Team will:

- (a) provide the Secretariat for the AONB Annual Forum
- (b) arrange the venue (at a convenient location within or close to Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB)
- (c) convene each AONB Annual Forum and prepare and distribute the Agenda for and the minutes of each meeting
- (d) prepare, or co-ordinate the preparation of, any reports and presentations to be considered by or made to the AONB Annual Forum.

- 2.2 The AONB Team will ensure that a written report of the proceedings of the AONB Annual Forum is referred to the Officers' Working Group, the AONB Partnership and the Joint Committee as soon as is practicable after the AONB Annual Conference has been held and that any recommendations made by the AONB Annual Forum to any of them are considered.

3. Delegated Powers

- 3.1 The AONB Annual Forum will not have any delegated powers. Any recommendation made by the AONB Annual Forum to the Officers' Working Group, the AONB Partnership or the Joint Committee (as the case may be) will be of an advisory nature and will not be binding on them.

RESERVE MANAGEMENT SCHEME

1. Purpose of Reserve

1.1 The purpose of the reserve is to hold accumulated surpluses of the Joint Committee which can be made available, subject to the approval of the Joint Committee, to:-

- (a) Meet any deficits arising on the Core Budget
- (b) Set aside sums for future investment through the Actions Budget
- (c) Finance any other specified use approved by the Joint Committee

2. Operation of the Reserve

2.1 The reserve shall be under the control of the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee may give approval to the use of the reserve for the purposes of the Objectives or the Functions

3. Investment of Reserve Balance

3.1 The Treasurer to the Joint Committee is authorised to invest balances from time to time either internally or externally in an approved investment as appropriate

4. Contribution to the Reserve

4.1 Where the Joint Committee under spends the Core Budget in any year the balance may be transferred to the reserve

5. Payments to be met from the Reserve

5.1 No direct payments are to be made from the reserve

5.2 Subject to the approval of the Joint Committee contributions from the reserve to the Core Budget or the Actions Budget may be made in respect of specific purposes in furtherance of the Functions

6. Management of the Scheme

6.1 The Treasurer to the Joint Committee is authorised to make the accounting entries necessary to achieve the purposes of the reserve in accordance with proper accounting practices

JOINT COMMITTEE BUDGET 2013/14

AONB JOINT COMMITTEE PROPOSED BUDGET

	2013/14	
TOTAL AONB NET BUDGET	£205,202	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET	£391,427	
TOTAL INCOME BUDGET	-£217,725	

NET CENTRAL CORE BUDGET	£92,638	
--------------------------------	----------------	--

Expenditure: £263,121

Total Employee Costs £190,479

Total Vehicle & Travel Costs £5,817

Total Other Office Expenses £3,825

Total Project Expenditure - SDF Grants £63,000

Income: -£201,983

Natural Resources Wales: -£170,483

NRW Salary & Project Funding -£100,483

SDF Salary Funding -£7,000

SDF Grant Funding -£63,000

Other Authority Funding: -£31,500

Wrexham CBC Funding -£5,000

Flintshire CC Funding -£26,500

* Included as Net Budget

Net Core Budget Allocated per Authority - Equal Allocation

Denbighshire CC £30,879

Flintshire CC £30,879

Wrexham CBC £30,879

NET AREA CORE BUDGET	£112,563	
-----------------------------	-----------------	--

Expenditure: £128,306

Total Employee Costs £106,351

Total Vehicle & Travel Costs £16,527

Total Other Office Expenses £428

Total Project Expenditure £5,000

Income:	-£15,742
Natural Resources Wales:	-£12,538
NRW Project Funding	-£1,517
NRW Clwyd Forest Partnership Funding	-£11,021
Other DCC Funding - 13/14 Only	-£3,204

Area Budget Allocated per Authority - Area %

Denbighshire CC - 80%	£90,051
Flintshire CC - 10%	£11,256
Wrexham CBC - 10%	£11,256

Joint Committee Funding:	2013/14 Actual	Core/Area Apportionment	Variance
Denbighshire CC *	£173,702	£120,930	-£52,771
Flintshire CC	£26,500	£42,136	£15,636
Wrexham CBC	£5,000	£42,136	£37,136

Note - It is not proposed that DCC will be reducing their annual subsidy based on the Core/Area apportionment

APPENDIX 8

AONB TEAM

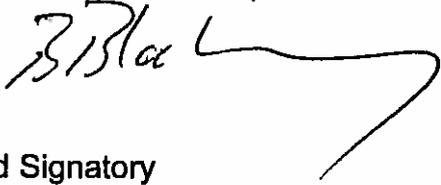
CORE TEAM POSTS 2013/2014

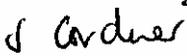
Full Time: 7 Part Time: 3

AONB Officer (x1)
Assistant AONB Officer (x1)
Policy and Access Officer (x1)
Communications Officer (x1) Part Time
Planning Officer (x1) Part Time
Grants Officer (x1)
Countryside Officer (x1)
Area Project Officers (x3) 1 Part Time

IN WITNESS of which the Authorities have caused their respective Common Seals to be affixed to this Agreement as a deed the day and year first before written:-

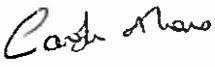
THE COMMON SEAL of
DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
was hereunto affixed in the presence of:-

Chairman 

Authorised Signatory




THE COMMON SEAL of
FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
was hereunto affixed in the presence of:-

Chair: 

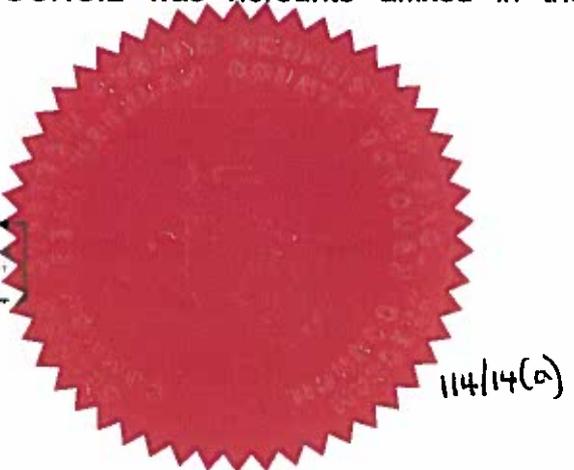
Authorised Signatory




THE COMMON SEAL of
WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL was hereunto affixed in the
presence of:-


Authorised Signatory

Head of Corporate & Customer Services Department



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Deed of amendment

This deed is dated

2019

AUTHORITIES

- (1) **Denbighshire County Council** of County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, Denbighshire;
- (2) **Flintshire County Council** of County Hall, Mold, Flintshire;
- (3) **Wrexham County Borough Council** of The Guildhall, Wrexham.

BACKGROUND

(A) The Authorities have entered into a Joint Committee Agreement dated 1st June 2014 under seal, which governs their relationship and the delegations in respect of a Joint Committee for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This deed is supplemental to the agreement listed at *Schedule 2*.

(B) The Joint Committee Agreement provides for reviews and variations at any time upon such terms as the Authorities agree, following consultation with the Joint Committee.

(C) The Joint Committee was consulted on the 21st June 2019 and supported the amendments to the original agreement dated 1st June 2014.

OPERATIVE PART

1. AMENDMENT

1.1 With effect from [DATE], the Authorities amend the Deed in the manner set out in *Schedule 1* of this Deed of Amendment.

1.2 The Authorities (following consultation with the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee) agree to the amendments made by this deed.

2. GOVERNING LAW

This deed and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

3. JURISDICTION

Each party irrevocably agrees that the courts of England and Wales shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any

dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with this deed or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims).

This document has been executed as a deed and is delivered and takes effect on the date stated at the beginning of it.

**SCHEDULE 1
AMENDMENTS TO THE DEED AND RULES**

Part 1

Amendments to the Deed

1.

1.1 Clause number 1 Interpretation section

AONB Community Council Meeting is deleted and replaced as follows:

AONB Community Council and Local Member Meeting – A forum of (among others) representatives of the Community Council of each community and Local County, or County Borough Council Ward Members, within the AONB, to consider AONB activities and issues.

DPA is defined at clause 1 in the Interpretation as the Data Protection Act 2018

1.2 Clause number 8.7.4 amended to replace 2013/14 with 2019/2020

1.3 Clause 11.1 amended to replace 31st March 2019 with 31st March 2024

1.4 Clause 18.1 deletion of the term Advisory.

1.5 Appendix 1 Standing Orders at paragraph 7 there shall be added a paragraph 7.3 as follows:

In the event of the unavailability of a nominated member of the Joint Committee, either Authority is permitted, by their respective Leader, to nominate a substitute executive member to attend with voting rights; such nomination to be submitted in writing to the Head of Democratic Services of the Host Authority.

Appendix 3

The current diagram is updated and replaced with Schedule 3 to this Deed of Amendment

Appendix 5

The term 'Conference' is replaced with 'Forum'.

Appendix 7

The Joint Committee Budget is replaced with the latest budget and is attached as Schedule 4

Appendix 8

The Full Time posts is reduced by amending 7 to 3; the Part Time posts amending 3 to 2.

SCHEDULE 2

DEEDS

**1. DEEDS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DEEDS RELATING TO THE CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY
AONB JOINT COMMITTEE AGREEMENT**

1.1 List below:

Joint Committee Agreement dated 1st June 2014

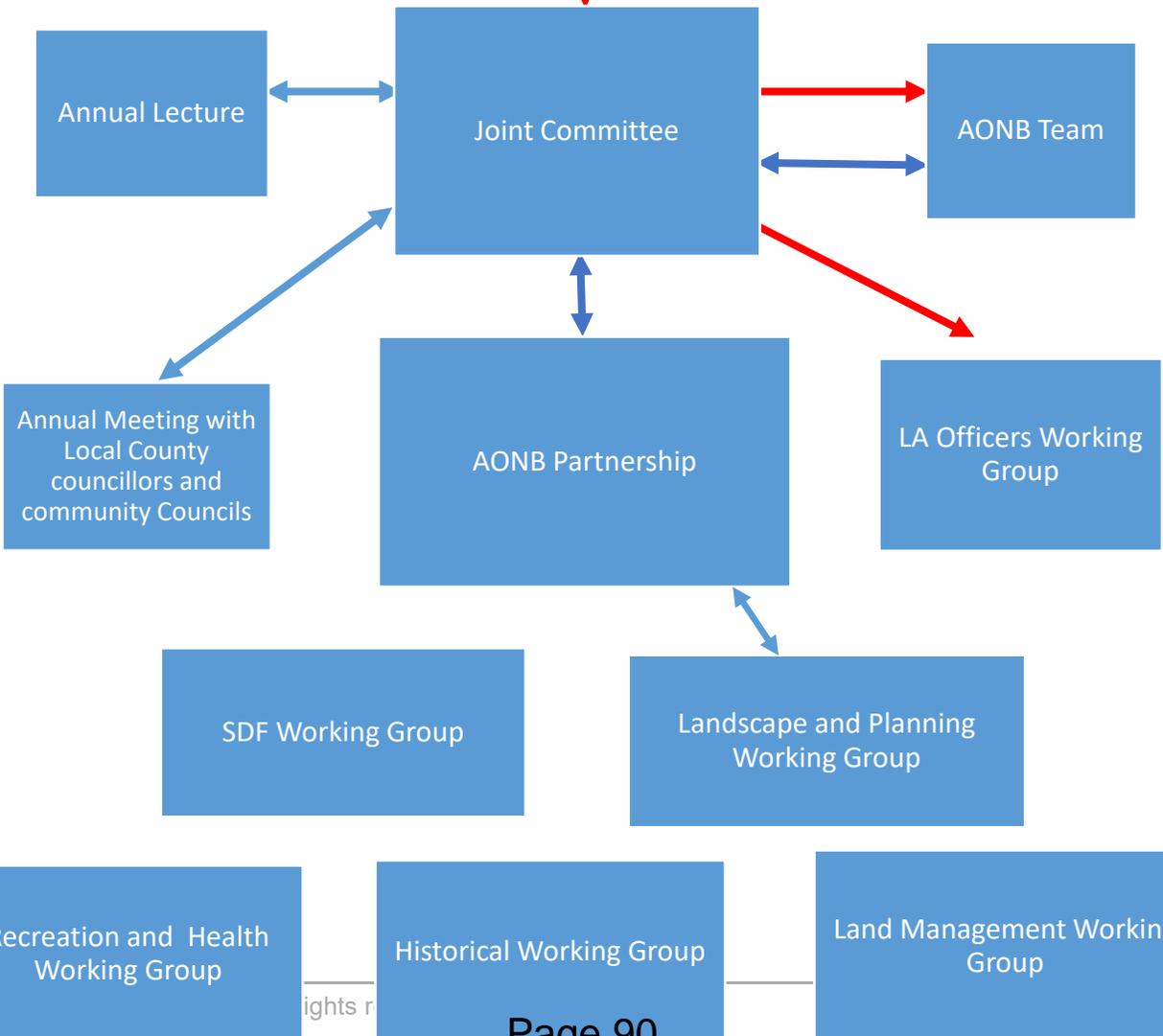
SCHEDULE 3 Structure for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley ANOB Management and Governance



Colour Key

Delegation 

Flow of information 



SCHEDULE 4 – Budget

DCC Countryside Services - AONB Budget	
	Draft budget 19/20
TOTAL AONB NET BUDGET	£214,239
TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET	£460,239
TOTAL INCOME BUDGET	-£246,000
* Total Employee Costs	£356,353
Salary Costs	£355,353
Training	£1,000
* Total Vehicle & Travel Costs	£28,700
Fuel	£3,700
Fleet Vehicles	£18,000
Travelling - Mileage, parking & public transport	£7,000
* Total Overheads	£13,686
Protective Clothing	£2,000
ICT Support/licences etc	£4,932
Mobile Phones	£1,200
Staff Insurance	£1,298
Subscriptions	£3,122
Audit Fees	£1,134
* Total Activity / Grants	£61,500
Site Management	£5,000
Partnerships/events etc	£4,000
Management Plan	£2,500
SDF Grants	£50,000
* Total Income	-£246,000
Natural Resources Wales:	-£126,500
<i>CRDV Partnership</i>	-£107,000
<i>Clwyd Forest Partnership Funding</i>	-£19,500
SDF Salary Funding	-£5,000
SDF Grant Funding	-£50,000
Wrexham CBC Funding	-£26,500
Flintshire CC Funding	-£26,500
Contributions from AONB Reserve	-£11,500

THE COMMON SEAL OF DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

was affixed hereunto in the presence of:

.....

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

was affixed hereunto in the presence of:

.....

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

was affixed hereunto in the presence of:

.....

Authorised Signatory

END OF DOCUMENT





**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Held on:	21st June 2019
Lead Member / Officer:	Howard Sutcliffe
Report Author:	David Shiel
Title:	Report on Visitor Impacts to AONB

1. What is the report about?

In the summer of 2018, the AONB commissioned NEF Consulting to carry out a visitor impacts appraisal, to measure and assess the economic and social wellbeing benefits and the environmental impacts of six key visitor sites across the AONB.

- *Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct*
- *Loggerheads Country Park*
- *Moel Famau Country Park*
- *Panorama*
- *Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin*
- *Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green*
-

The aim of the study was to inform the AONB and WHS response to increasing visitor numbers at these six key sites and to set out a sustainable approach to management, ensuring that the capacity and resilience of these sites are at the heart of that approach.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide information regarding the benefits that key visitor sites in the AONB provide to communities and businesses and to highlight some of the environmental and social challenges that these site are facing.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Joint Committee receives this report for information and its conclusions should inform future management planning for the AONB.

4. Report details.

- *The six sites combined accounted for an estimated £24.1m in direct expenditure by visitors in 2018. These sites therefore accounted for an estimated 19% of all tourist expenditure in rural Denbighshire in 2018.*
- *The six sites supported 365 FTE jobs and led to £7.8m in indirect expenditure by tourist businesses in their local supply chains, supporting a further 84 FTE jobs in 2018 (excluding spending on accommodation and excursions).*
- *Across all sites, almost 92% of survey participants agreed or strongly agreed that living in/ near the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is good for life in their community.*
- *The estimated monetary value of the wellbeing and life satisfaction associated with visiting the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley is £8.8million – 6.5% higher than Wales national average – using wellbeing valuation methodology*
- *The health benefits of a year's worth of walking visitors to the six key AONB sites equate to an estimated £38.1 million in health spending foregone. Of this, an estimated £1.2 million relates to the assumed reduction in CVD, and a further £36.8 million relates to the assumed reduction in type-2 diabetes.*
- *Traffic congestion is an issue at all sites – and has a negative impact on local communities Traffic congestion is perceived by visitors to be worse than at other sites they have visited.*
- *Environmental Impacts – Erosion is a particular issue at Horseshoe Falls, Loggerheads and Panorama where the sites are particularly sensitive – Special Areas of Conservation.*
- *The report has recommended a series of responses that will help to ensure the AONB maximises the social and economic benefits of visitors to these key sites whilst reducing the environmental impacts.*

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

The report gives the AONB a far great understanding of the benefits that visitors to key sites bring to the local economy and rural communities. This highlights some of the main challenges in ensuring that this is sustainable.

Contributes to AONB Management Plan Objectives:

- **PoIART1** - *To promote the sustainable use and enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the AONB in a way that contributes to local prosperity and social inclusiveness.*
- **PoIART2** - *Ensure the attractiveness of the AONB's landscape and views as a primary basis for the areas tourism are retained.*
- **PoIART3** - *Ensure that all visitors and residents are able to experience and*

enjoy the benefits of the special qualities of the AONB within environmental limits.

AONB Sustainable tourism Strategy Objectives:

- **4** - *To improve, manage and monitor visitor flows and environments for tourism, spreading benefits and addressing local impacts.*
- **4j** - *Monitor and assess tourism's economic, social and environmental impacts*

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

No additional resources sought.

Findings of this report feed into and be reflected in Denbighshire's emerging Tourism Strategy and Action Plan.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

An equality impact assessment assesses the likely impact of our decisions on people who share protected characteristics. Equality impact assessment is necessary in order for the council to comply with the Equality Act 2010, and they should be undertaken for any decision or proposal for change. Examples include: a new or revised policy/procedure; a new strategic plan; an efficiency saving proposal; a staff re-structure, etc.), although this list is by no means exhaustive. Basically we should assess the potential impact of any decision that will have any impact on our customers or our staff to ensure that the council meets its duty to:

- *eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;*
- *advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not; and*
- *foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not.*

Please visit the Intranet for guidance on Equality Impact Assessment, or contact Karen Beattie, Corporate Equalities Officer, for further advice.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The study has worked through the AONB Sustainable Tourism Working group and the visitor Management Group for the World Heritage Site. External Partners involved include Wrexham county Borough Council, Canal and River Trust, Flintshire county Council.

Community and business consultation was a key part of the study process and a number of community and business workshops were held.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

N/A

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

11. Power to make the Decision

Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000, where Local authorities can enter arrangements to 'discharge functions jointly with one or more other local authorities by means of a Joint Committee'



Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

Visitor Impacts Appraisal Final Report



Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB – Visitor Impacts Appraisal

Publication: April, 2019

Authors: Rebecca Armstrong, Lynn Beard, Emmet Kiberd, Jasmeet Phagoora, Graham Randles Anke Winchenbach

Client: Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

Copyeditor: Sarah Sutton



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NEF Consulting Limited

New Economics Foundation

10 Salamanca Place

London SE1 7HB

www.nefconsulting.com

Tel: 020 7820 6300





2. Introduction

The AONB *Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2015–2020*³ envisages forms of tourism that ‘take full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities’. One of the strategy’s four functional objectives (visitor and place management) is to ‘improve, manage and monitor visitor flows for tourism, spreading benefits and addressing local impacts’.

Sustainable destination management by the AONB therefore involves careful balancing of multiple objectives, including:

- Conservation and management of natural sites that may be environmentally fragile.
- Contributing to the social wellbeing of local people and communities.
- Regional local economic development, and the spread of benefits throughout the AONB and to surrounding towns and villages.
- Continuing to create special and memorable visitor experiences.

The AONB attracts significant – and growing – numbers of visitors every year, many on day trips from the region as well as neighbouring parts of England. However, there are questions around how widely beyond the AONB the benefits of this tourism are currently spread, and whether there is potential to increase the spread of benefits to other towns and villages within and around it. Increased visitation also results in environmental and social pressures, as well as conflicts of interest over land use and resources, particularly in the case of ‘honeypot’ sites (see Chapter 3).

The overall goal of our research was therefore to carry out an appraisal of the economic, social wellbeing and environmental impacts of visits to six key visitor sites within the AONB: Loggerheads Country Park; Moel Famau Country Park; The Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green Car Park and Picnic Area; Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin; Panorama near Llangollen; and Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct.

³ Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB (2014) *Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2015–2020*, The Tourism Company. Available at <https://www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/files/1079945525-Sustainable%20Tourism%20Strategy%202015%20-%202020.pdf>

Denbigh, Mold, Chirk and Prestatyn have an important relationship with the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.

In the summer of 2018, the AONB commissioned NEF Consulting to carry out a visitor impacts appraisal, to measure and assess the economic and social wellbeing benefits and the environmental impacts of six key visitor sites across the AONB. Sites 1, 5 and 6 are part of the WHS, and site 4 lies in the WHS 'buffer zone' for planning purposes (see Section 3 below):

1. Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct (CAV)
2. Loggerheads Country Park (LCP)
3. Moel Famau Country Park (MFCP)
4. Panorama (P)
5. Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor¹ Basin (PATB)
6. Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green (HFLG)

The aim of the study was to inform the AONB and WHS response to increasing visitor numbers at these six key sites and to set out a sustainable approach to management, ensuring that the capacity and resilience of these sites are at the heart of that approach.

This report presents the findings of the visitor impacts appraisal. It is based upon a combination of extensive research into the local context and strategic management of the AONB, a visitor survey conducted in the area during the high and low seasons and online, and interviews with 20 local businesses.

The research findings include visitor profiles based on the survey data, along with an analysis of the economic impact of visitor expenditure in the area. The report provides an analysis of social impacts, including the benefits to the wellbeing of the visitors and both positive and negative impacts on the local communities. An assessment of the environmental impacts of tourism at the six sites completes the analysis.

Based on the deeper understanding of these impacts, the report goes on to make recommendations for reducing the environmental impacts of visitor numbers while maximising and spreading the economic and social benefits to the wider area. The report concludes with an action plan, detailing options and potential timeframes for implementing these recommendations.

¹ Trevor and Trefor used interchangeably throughout this report.



The study drew on primary research, existing data, the strategic direction of the AONB and examples of best practice from further afield, to produce a series of practical recommendations and action plan designed to:

- Support sustainable growth and visitor management at the key sites, balancing visitor demand with environmental needs and the increased spread of social and economic benefits throughout the AONB and beyond.
- Spread economic benefits generated by visitors to the six sites.
- Promote the social wellbeing of local residents.
- Ensure responsible environmental practice at the six sites in line with their visitation capacity, and reduce negative impacts identified through the study.



1. Executive Summary

Highlights

Economic Impacts

- The six sites combined, accounted for an estimated £24.1m in direct expenditure by visitors in 2018. These sites therefore accounted for an estimated 19% of all tourist expenditure in rural Denbighshire in 2018.
- The estimated total of 449 FTE jobs supported by the expenditure of visitors to the six sites in 2018 was equivalent to 19% of all jobs from tourism in rural Denbighshire in 2018.

Social Impacts

- Across all sites, almost 92% of survey participants agreed or strongly agreed that living in or near to the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is good for life in their community.
- AONB helped participants to relax, escape stress and find personal peace, so we arrive at a wellbeing value of £8.8m per annum.
- Visits to the AONB could lead to an estimated £733,000 of reduced health expenditure per year, made up of approximately £23,000 from reduced incidence of cardiovascular disease and £708,000 from reduced type-2 diabetes.

Environmental Impacts

- We estimate the total cost of litter (including dog waste) and maintenance of paths to be approximately £34,400 per year for all six sites.
- We have estimated that the total value to the AONB's 1.13 million annual visitors of preserving the natural environment is £35.4 million per annum.

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) forms the dramatic upland frontier of North Wales and includes the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) and parts of the Offa's Dyke National Trail. Covering an area of 150sq miles (390sq km), from Prestatyn Hillside in the north to the North Berwyn and Dee Valley in the south, it is a dramatic combination of windswept hilltops, heather moorland, limestone crags and wooded valleys. The AONB also includes many rural villages and the towns of Llangollen and Corwen. Nearby, the towns of Ruthin,



Environmental Impacts

- Generally, visitors did not perceive many significant adverse environmental impacts on their visits, and many expressed their appreciation of how well kept the sites were. This was borne out by external visitors' comparisons of the sites to other natural areas they had visited, based on two environmental issues: litter and erosion.
- Across the sites, the percentage of users considering the respective environmental impact to be about the same, somewhat better or much better than other natural areas was 92% for litter and 90% for erosion, with no significant divergence in views between local and other visitors on these issues.

However, local users and site managers observed and managed a number of negative environmental impacts on a daily basis at all six sites, principally:

- Litter, including dog waste. This represents a particular cost in terms of staff and disposal charges. We estimate the total cost for all six sites to be approximately £17,500 per year.
- Erosion and damage to vegetation, particularly at the more fragile sites such as Loggerheads, Panorama and Horseshoe Falls.
- Maintenance of paths at the sites is costly. We estimate the total cost for all six sites to be approximately £16,900 per year.
- Damage to livestock. It is difficult to put a figure on the cost of stock lost or injured to dog attacks, as this may manifest itself in the loss of the stock or unborn lambs, loss of value of the stock through injury, vets' bills and so on. However, records indicate that seven sheep were killed by dogs at Moel Famau in each of the last two years.

It is highly likely that the value of having a clean and non-eroded natural environment in the AONB overlaps with the wellbeing benefit that visitors obtain from that same area; however, it is difficult to say by how much the two sources of value overlap. For the purposes of this study, the two are treated as distinct.

- Drawing on definitions used in welfare economics, the wellbeing benefit that a visitor derives from the AONB is assumed to represent the use value of the area, while the value of keeping the AONB in pristine condition is assumed to represent its non-use value.
- We have estimated the value to the AONB's 1.13 million annual visitors, of preserving the natural environment, to be a total of £35.4 million per annum. This estimated valuation draws on recent research by Fields in Trust,¹⁷ which used a survey of UK residents to determine how much the average person was willing to pay to preserve and maintain all parks and green spaces in their local authority area.



Some key findings of the research are:

Visitor Profiles

- The six sites in the AONB attracted an estimated 1.1 million visitors in 2018. This total is a sum of the values for the individual sites. Some visitors may be counted two or more times if they visited more than one site.
- The majority of visitors are day-trippers with the exception of those visiting the WHS, where a higher proportion of visitors stayed overnight.
- A clear majority of visitors travel in family groups to most of the sites.
- The vast majority of visitors questioned come to the area to participate in and enjoy independent, non-commercialised activities, and particularly to participate in walks of varying lengths.

Economic impacts

- The visitor survey found that the average daily expenditure per visitor (excluding accommodation) across the six sites was £13.34. This is broadly in line with visitor spend in comparable areas.
- Non-local visitors spent 54% more per day than locals in our survey.
- The difference in spending between non-local and local visitors differs considerably by season. During the high season, non-locals spent 131% more than locals did, whereas during the low season the difference was 32%.
- Local visitors spent 32% less during the high season than during the low season. On the other hand, non-locals spent 20% more during the high season than during the low season.
- We have estimated that the value of expenditure on rafting excursions at Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green is approximately £2 million per year.
- The six sites combined accounted for an estimated £24.1m in direct expenditure by visitors in 2018. These sites therefore accounted for an estimated 19% of all tourist expenditure in rural Denbighshire in 2018.
- Using economic multipliers, we estimated that this £24.1m of direct expenditure at the six sites supported 365 FTE jobs and led to £7.8m in indirect expenditure by tourist businesses in their local supply chains, supporting a further 84 FTE jobs in 2018 (excluding spending on accommodation and excursions).

- The estimated total of 449 FTE jobs supported by the expenditure of visitors to the six sites in 2018 was equivalent to 19% of all jobs from tourism in rural Denbighshire in 2018.²

Table 1.1. Summary of gross economic contribution of visitors to the six sites (2018)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Source/calculation:	AONB and Visit Wales data	Visitor survey data (2018)	Visitor survey data (2018)	Column C * Column D	Applying the STEAM multiplier to our estimated direct expenditure	Column E + Column F
<i>All figures are per annum in 2018 prices</i>	Visitors (est.)	Visitor days (est.)	Expenditure per visitor day (our survey)	Estimated total direct expenditure	Estimated total indirect expenditure	Direct and indirect expenditure
Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct	150,000	261,962	£13.65	£3,574,797	£1,160,234	£4,735,031
Loggerheads Country Park	234,580	409,673	£5.59	£2,290,187	£743,301	£3,033,488
Moel Famau Country Park	263,730	460,581	£10.09	£4,648,031	£1,508,561	£6,156,592
Panorama, near Llangollen	40,520	70,765	£15.94	£1,127,811	£366,041	£1,493,852
Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin	330,083	576,461	£16.09	£9,273,469	£3,009,790	£12,283,259
The Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green	115,000	200,837	£15.71	£3,156,015	£1,024,314	£4,180,329
Total (six sites of interest)	1,133,913	1,980,279		£24,070,310	£7,812,242	£31,882,552
Total for rural Denbighshire as a whole	2,774,284	4,663,542	£27.23	£126,991,352	£41,216,220	£168,207,572
Estimated contribution of our six sites relative to the rural Denbighshire total	40.9%	42.5%		19.0%	19.0%	19.0%

² Based on the total jobs figure reported in 2017 by STEAM, a model of the economic impact of tourism developed by Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd.



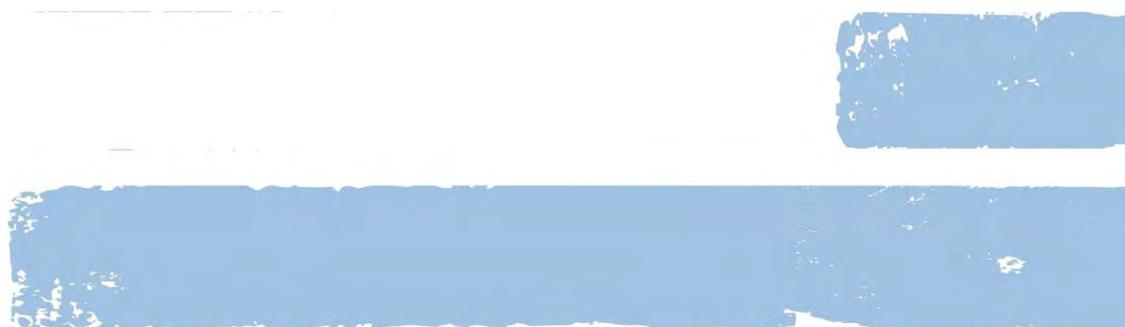
Social Impacts

- Visiting the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB with its various green and blue spaces plays an important role for individual and community health and wellbeing. The cycling and walking paths provide an opportunity for many to increase their physical and social activity.
- There is a direct link between people's perception of wellbeing and measurable health outcomes. Further, there is ample evidence that spending time in nature and being active promotes physical and mental wellbeing, which in turn has implications for healthcare costs.
- Across all sites, almost 92% of survey participants agreed or strongly agreed that living in/ near the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is good for life in their community.
- Negative social impacts and their severity varied between sites. Traffic congestion and issues relating to parking are common concerns across all the busy sites, as is litter.
- Across the six sites, only 8% of the users surveyed considered the site they were visiting to have worse overcrowding than the other natural areas they had visited (with visitors from outside the area being more likely to hold this view, particularly in high season). This figure rose to 20% in relation to vehicle congestion.
- We were able to estimate that the improvement in life satisfaction that people derive from green spaces and parks equates to a wellbeing value of £8.47 per visit. When this valuation is applied to the estimated total number of annual visitors who stated that spending time in the AONB helped them to relax, escape stress and find personal peace, we arrive at a wellbeing value of £8.8m per annum.
- We can also place a monetary value on the health benefits that visitors derive from visiting the AONB. Our survey found that a large majority of visitors to the AONB went walking during their visit. 86% of respondents (204 people) stated that they had done some walking during their visit to the AONB. Like other forms of exercise, walking has a number of important health benefits, including reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and type-2 diabetes. By estimating the extent to which these two categories of risk are reduced, and using the typical cost of treating such health conditions, it is possible to put an approximate monetary value on the health benefits associated with walking while visiting the AONB.
- Our analysis suggests that during their time in the AONB, most people's physical activity amounts to the equivalent of one week of exercise, according to government guidelines. Therefore, we can estimate that visits to the AONB could lead to £733,000 in reduced health expenditure per year, made up of approximately £23,000 from reduced incidence of CVD and £708,000 from reduced incidence of type-2 diabetes.



Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

Visitor Impacts Appraisal Final Report



Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB – Visitor Impacts Appraisal

Publication: April, 2019

Authors: Rebecca Armstrong, Lynn Beard, Emmet Kiberd, Jasmeet Phagoora, Graham Randles Anke Winchenbach

Client: Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

Copyeditor: Sarah Sutton

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NEF Consulting Limited

New Economics Foundation

10 Salamanca Place

London SE1 7HB

www.nefconsulting.com

Tel: 020 7820 6300





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1. Executive Summary

Highlights

Economic Impacts

- The six sites combined, accounted for an estimated £24.1m in direct expenditure by visitors in 2018. These sites therefore accounted for an estimated 19% of all tourist expenditure in rural Denbighshire in 2018.
- The estimated total of 449 FTE jobs supported by the expenditure of visitors to the six sites in 2018 was equivalent to 19% of all jobs from tourism in rural Denbighshire in 2018.

Social Impacts

- Across all sites, almost 92% of survey participants agreed or strongly agreed that living in or near to the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is good for life in their community.
- AONB helped participants to relax, escape stress and find personal peace, so we arrive at a wellbeing value of £8.8m per annum.
- Visits to the AONB could lead to an estimated £733,000 of reduced health expenditure per year, made up of approximately £23,000 from reduced incidence of cardiovascular disease and £708,000 from reduced type-2 diabetes.

Environmental Impacts

- We estimate the total cost of litter (including dog waste) and maintenance of paths to be approximately £34,400 per year for all six sites.
- We have estimated that the total value to the AONB's 1.13 million annual visitors of preserving the natural environment is £35.4 million per annum.

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) forms the dramatic upland frontier of North Wales and includes the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) and parts of the Offa's Dyke National Trail. Covering an area of 150sq miles (390sq km), from Prestatyn Hillside in the north to the North Berwyn and Dee Valley in the south, it is a dramatic combination of windswept hilltops, heather moorland, limestone crags and wooded valleys. The AONB also includes many rural villages and the towns of Llangollen and Corwen. Nearby, the towns of Ruthin,

Denbigh, Mold, Chirk and Prestatyn have an important relationship with the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.

In the summer of 2018, the AONB commissioned NEF Consulting to carry out a visitor impacts appraisal, to measure and assess the economic and social wellbeing benefits and the environmental impacts of six key visitor sites across the AONB. Sites 1, 5 and 6 are part of the WHS, and site 4 lies in the WHS 'buffer zone' for planning purposes (see Section 3 below):

1. Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct (CAV)
2. Loggerheads Country Park (LCP)
3. Moel Famau Country Park (MFCP)
4. Panorama (P)
5. Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor¹ Basin (PATB)
6. Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green (HFLG)

The aim of the study was to inform the AONB and WHS response to increasing visitor numbers at these six key sites and to set out a sustainable approach to management, ensuring that the capacity and resilience of these sites are at the heart of that approach.

This report presents the findings of the visitor impacts appraisal. It is based upon a combination of extensive research into the local context and strategic management of the AONB, a visitor survey conducted in the area during the high and low seasons and online, and interviews with 20 local businesses.

The research findings include visitor profiles based on the survey data, along with an analysis of the economic impact of visitor expenditure in the area. The report provides an analysis of social impacts, including the benefits to the wellbeing of the visitors and both positive and negative impacts on the local communities. An assessment of the environmental impacts of tourism at the six sites completes the analysis.

Based on the deeper understanding of these impacts, the report goes on to make recommendations for reducing the environmental impacts of visitor numbers while maximising and spreading the economic and social benefits to the wider area. The report concludes with an action plan, detailing options and potential timeframes for implementing these recommendations.

¹ Trevor and Trefor used interchangeably throughout this report.



Some key findings of the research are:

Visitor Profiles

- The six sites in the AONB attracted an estimated 1.1 million visitors in 2018. This total is a sum of the values for the individual sites. Some visitors may be counted two or more times if they visited more than one site.
- The majority of visitors are day-trippers with the exception of those visiting the WHS, where a higher proportion of visitors stayed overnight.
- A clear majority of visitors travel in family groups to most of the sites.
- The vast majority of visitors questioned come to the area to participate in and enjoy independent, non-commercialised activities, and particularly to participate in walks of varying lengths.

Economic impacts

- The visitor survey found that the average daily expenditure per visitor (excluding accommodation) across the six sites was £13.34. This is broadly in line with visitor spend in comparable areas.
- Non-local visitors spent 54% more per day than locals in our survey.
- The difference in spending between non-local and local visitors differs considerably by season. During the high season, non-locals spent 131% more than locals did, whereas during the low season the difference was 32%.
- Local visitors spent 32% less during the high season than during the low season. On the other hand, non-locals spent 20% more during the high season than during the low season.
- We have estimated that the value of expenditure on rafting excursions at Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green is approximately £2 million per year.
- The six sites combined accounted for an estimated £24.1m in direct expenditure by visitors in 2018. These sites therefore accounted for an estimated 19% of all tourist expenditure in rural Denbighshire in 2018.
- Using economic multipliers, we estimated that this £24.1m of direct expenditure at the six sites supported 365 FTE jobs and led to £7.8m in indirect expenditure by tourist businesses in their local supply chains, supporting a further 84 FTE jobs in 2018 (excluding spending on accommodation and excursions).

- The estimated total of 449 FTE jobs supported by the expenditure of visitors to the six sites in 2018 was equivalent to 19% of all jobs from tourism in rural Denbighshire in 2018.²

Table 1.1. Summary of gross economic contribution of visitors to the six sites (2018)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Source/calculation:	AONB and Visit Wales data	Visitor survey data (2018)	Visitor survey data (2018)	Column C * Column D	Applying the STEAM multiplier to our estimated direct expenditure	Column E + Column F
<i>All figures are per annum in 2018 prices</i>	Visitors (est.)	Visitor days (est.)	Expenditure per visitor day (our survey)	Estimated total direct expenditure	Estimated total indirect expenditure	Direct and indirect expenditure
Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct	150,000	261,962	£13.65	£3,574,797	£1,160,234	£4,735,031
Loggerheads Country Park	234,580	409,673	£5.59	£2,290,187	£743,301	£3,033,488
Moel Famau Country Park	263,730	460,581	£10.09	£4,648,031	£1,508,561	£6,156,592
Panorama, near Llangollen	40,520	70,765	£15.94	£1,127,811	£366,041	£1,493,852
Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin	330,083	576,461	£16.09	£9,273,469	£3,009,790	£12,283,259
The Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green	115,000	200,837	£15.71	£3,156,015	£1,024,314	£4,180,329
Total (six sites of interest)	1,133,913	1,980,279		£24,070,310	£7,812,242	£31,882,552
Total for rural Denbighshire as a whole	2,774,284	4,663,542	£27.23	£126,991,352	£41,216,220	£168,207,572
Estimated contribution of our six sites relative to the rural Denbighshire total	40.9%	42.5%		19.0%	19.0%	19.0%

² Based on the total jobs figure reported in 2017 by STEAM, a model of the economic impact of tourism developed by Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd.



Social Impacts

- Visiting the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB with its various green and blue spaces plays an important role for individual and community health and wellbeing. The cycling and walking paths provide an opportunity for many to increase their physical and social activity.
- There is a direct link between people's perception of wellbeing and measurable health outcomes. Further, there is ample evidence that spending time in nature and being active promotes physical and mental wellbeing, which in turn has implications for healthcare costs.
- Across all sites, almost 92% of survey participants agreed or strongly agreed that living in/ near the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is good for life in their community.
- Negative social impacts and their severity varied between sites. Traffic congestion and issues relating to parking are common concerns across all the busy sites, as is litter.
- Across the six sites, only 8% of the users surveyed considered the site they were visiting to have worse overcrowding than the other natural areas they had visited (with visitors from outside the area being more likely to hold this view, particularly in high season). This figure rose to 20% in relation to vehicle congestion.
- We were able to estimate that the improvement in life satisfaction that people derive from green spaces and parks equates to a wellbeing value of £8.47 per visit. When this valuation is applied to the estimated total number of annual visitors who stated that spending time in the AONB helped them to relax, escape stress and find personal peace, we arrive at a wellbeing value of £8.8m per annum.
- We can also place a monetary value on the health benefits that visitors derive from visiting the AONB. Our survey found that a large majority of visitors to the AONB went walking during their visit. 86% of respondents (204 people) stated that they had done some walking during their visit to the AONB. Like other forms of exercise, walking has a number of important health benefits, including reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and type-2 diabetes. By estimating the extent to which these two categories of risk are reduced, and using the typical cost of treating such health conditions, it is possible to put an approximate monetary value on the health benefits associated with walking while visiting the AONB.
- Our analysis suggests that during their time in the AONB, most people's physical activity amounts to the equivalent of one week of exercise, according to government guidelines. Therefore, we can estimate that visits to the AONB could lead to £733,000 in reduced health expenditure per year, made up of approximately £23,000 from reduced incidence of CVD and £708,000 from reduced incidence of type-2 diabetes.



Environmental Impacts

- Generally, visitors did not perceive many significant adverse environmental impacts on their visits, and many expressed their appreciation of how well kept the sites were. This was borne out by external visitors' comparisons of the sites to other natural areas they had visited, based on two environmental issues: litter and erosion.
- Across the sites, the percentage of users considering the respective environmental impact to be about the same, somewhat better or much better than other natural areas was 92% for litter and 90% for erosion, with no significant divergence in views between local and other visitors on these issues.

However, local users and site managers observed and managed a number of negative environmental impacts on a daily basis at all six sites, principally:

- Litter, including dog waste. This represents a particular cost in terms of staff and disposal charges. We estimate the total cost for all six sites to be approximately £17,500 per year.
- Erosion and damage to vegetation, particularly at the more fragile sites such as Loggerheads, Panorama and Horseshoe Falls.
- Maintenance of paths at the sites is costly. We estimate the total cost for all six sites to be approximately £16,900 per year.
- Damage to livestock. It is difficult to put a figure on the cost of stock lost or injured to dog attacks, as this may manifest itself in the loss of the stock or unborn lambs, loss of value of the stock through injury, vets' bills and so on. However, records indicate that seven sheep were killed by dogs at Moel Famau in each of the last two years.

It is highly likely that the value of having a clean and non-eroded natural environment in the AONB overlaps with the wellbeing benefit that visitors obtain from that same area; however, it is difficult to say by how much the two sources of value overlap. For the purposes of this study, the two are treated as distinct.

- Drawing on definitions used in welfare economics, the wellbeing benefit that a visitor derives from the AONB is assumed to represent the use value of the area, while the value of keeping the AONB in pristine condition is assumed to represent its non-use value.
- We have estimated the value to the AONB's 1.13 million annual visitors, of preserving the natural environment, to be a total of £35.4 million per annum. This estimated valuation draws on recent research by Fields in Trust,¹⁷ which used a survey of UK residents to determine how much the average person was willing to pay to preserve and maintain all parks and green spaces in their local authority area.



2. Introduction

The AONB *Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2015–2020*³ envisages forms of tourism that ‘take full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities’. One of the strategy’s four functional objectives (visitor and place management) is to ‘improve, manage and monitor visitor flows for tourism, spreading benefits and addressing local impacts’.

Sustainable destination management by the AONB therefore involves careful balancing of multiple objectives, including:

- Conservation and management of natural sites that may be environmentally fragile.
- Contributing to the social wellbeing of local people and communities.
- Regional local economic development, and the spread of benefits throughout the AONB and to surrounding towns and villages.
- Continuing to create special and memorable visitor experiences.

The AONB attracts significant – and growing – numbers of visitors every year, many on day trips from the region as well as neighbouring parts of England. However, there are questions around how widely beyond the AONB the benefits of this tourism are currently spread, and whether there is potential to increase the spread of benefits to other towns and villages within and around it. Increased visitation also results in environmental and social pressures, as well as conflicts of interest over land use and resources, particularly in the case of ‘honeypot’ sites (see Chapter 3).

The overall goal of our research was therefore to carry out an appraisal of the economic, social wellbeing and environmental impacts of visits to six key visitor sites within the AONB: Loggerheads Country Park; Moel Famau Country Park; The Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green Car Park and Picnic Area; Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin; Panorama near Llangollen; and Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct.

³ Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB (2014) *Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2015–2020*, The Tourism Company. Available at <https://www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/files/1079945525-Sustainable%20Tourism%20Strategy%202015%20-%202020.pdf>



The study drew on primary research, existing data, the strategic direction of the AONB and examples of best practice from further afield, to produce a series of practical recommendations and action plan designed to:

- Support sustainable growth and visitor management at the key sites, balancing visitor demand with environmental needs and the increased spread of social and economic benefits throughout the AONB and beyond.
- Spread economic benefits generated by visitors to the six sites.
- Promote the social wellbeing of local residents.
- Ensure responsible environmental practice at the six sites in line with their visitation capacity, and reduce negative impacts identified through the study.



3. The six key visitor sites

The concept of a ‘honeypot’ is used in tourism management to describe a site which is managed to create a cluster of attractions or facilities, ‘around one or two viewpoints to create a complex capable of absorbing a high population density’ (Cooper et al 2008, p.683).⁴ The six sites chosen for this study all represent this concept, some to a greater extent than others, and each has specific issues relating to their management and capacity to absorb large and increasing numbers of visitors:

1. Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct (CAV)
2. Loggerheads Country Park (LCP)
3. Moel Famau Country Park (MFCP)
4. Panorama (P)
5. Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin (PATB)
6. Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green (HFLG)

Although it is difficult to get comparable statistics across all six sites, with different organisations collecting data for different purposes, it is clear that together they represent a significant percentage of visitor numbers for the three local authorities that make up the Visit Wales marketing area of NE Wales (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1 Estimated visitors at study sites

	Visitors 2018 (est.)	Source
Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct	150,000	No accurate data available. A conservative assumption was made, based on data from a 2018 survey for Visit Wales ⁵ , which found that Chirk Castle received 162,351 visitors in 2017.
Loggerheads Country Park	234,580	AONB data 2017/18
Moel Famau Country Park	263,730	AONB data 2017/18
Panorama, near Llangollen	40,520	AONB data 2017/18 for Dinas Bran, used as a proxy for number of visitors to the Panorama

⁴ Cooper, C., Fletcher, J., Fyall, A., Gilbert, D. and Wanhill, S. (2008) *Tourism: Principles and Practice* 4th edn, Prentice Hall.

⁵ <https://gov.wales/docs/caecd/research/2018/181129-visitor-attractions-survey-2017-en.pdf>



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin	330,083	Wrexham County Borough Council (CBC) data 2017 (most recent full year available)
The Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green	115,000	AONB data 2017/18
Total (six sites of interest)	1,133,913	Note: This total for the six sites is a simple sum of the values for the individual sites. It does not represent 'unique' visitors as we assume that some visitors may be counted two or more times if they visited more than one site.

With the exception of the Chirk Aqueduct site, these are all existing and longstanding honeypots, with well-documented studies and extensive planning and visitor management measures put in place in recent years. Their management as honeypots by the AONB has often been designed to concentrate visitor activity and thus protect other sensitive landscapes. Measures such as car parking improvement and the addition of facilities have been put in place, in response to increased visitor numbers; this in turn may have led to further increases in the number of people using the sites (discussed further below). It might therefore be useful to characterise some of these sites as 'sacrifice areas' (Pickering and Buckley, 2003),⁶ where choices are made that prioritise visitors over the protection of the environment in an attempt to limit damage elsewhere.

Some of the sites have also seen significant increases in user numbers as a result of the Visit Wales 'Year of Adventure' campaign in 2016, with increased numbers participating in outdoor activities that have a high profile in the area, such as water sports, cycling and walking. The AONB's *Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2020* also contains measures to further increase tourism numbers in the AONB, so the growth in numbers of visitors is likely to continue in the foreseeable future.

The Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct site is included because it is part of the World Heritage Site (WHS) and visitor numbers are expected to grow in the coming years; increasingly so, as the measures planned for the future will enhance the visitor experience at the site and improve its integration with the rest of the WHS.

This chapter aims to cover:

1. Main facilities and characteristics of each site.
2. Management of the site and arising issues and outcomes.

⁶ Pickering, C. and Buckley, L. (2003) 'Swarming to the Summit', Mountain Research and Development, 23(3). Available online at: [https://doi.org/10.1659/0276-4741\(2003\)023\[0230:STTS\]2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1659/0276-4741(2003)023[0230:STTS]2.0.CO;2) (Retrieved 15 March, 2019)



3.1 The World Heritage Site

Three of our study sites are located in the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal WHS. There is a significant body of academic research on the impacts of WHS designation. Various themes emerge:

- The tension between the conservation of heritage and culture, and the economic and social benefits that tourism can bring to such sites.
- The multiple stakeholders involved in decision-making.
- The difficulty of making generalisations about how such sites should be managed versus the individual nature of issues for specific sites.
- The need to produce site-specific management plans.

The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal received its WHS designation in 2009, and there have been huge increases in visitor numbers to the site since then. Despite this, work undertaken to develop and manage the site, in order to benefit from these increased visitor numbers, has been patchy and underfunded to date.

The particular issues of this WHS relate to its geographical shape and the fact that it crosses three different local authority boundaries, one of which is in England. This produces a particularly complex strategic landscape, a factor that cannot be ignored in our recommendations. There is general recognition (see 3.6 below) that the opportunities generated by the increased visitor numbers since its inscription have not been sufficiently recognised or capitalised on by local communities and businesses, nor by the various administrative bodies related to the site. A number of previous studies have produced a range of different recommendations for the site, including studies by Wrexham County Borough Council (CBC), the Canal and River Trust (CRT) and Denbighshire County Council (DCC). A new version of the Management Plan for the whole WHS and the 'buffer zone' around it are currently in consultation, due for publication during 2019. The Management Plan envisages four delivery groups, relating to: Visitor Management and Economic Regeneration; Planning, Landscape and Conservation; Community; and Education. In addition, the WHS is currently a focus of 'Our Picturesque Landscape' (OPL), a major Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) project for the AONB focused on the Dee Valley that includes the WHS, which began its implementation phase in November 2018.

The complex issues surrounding the Trevor Basin site are also currently under review, by a multi-stakeholder team led by Wrexham CBC. The Trevor Basin Masterplan is also due to be published in 2019.



3.2 Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct



Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct (CAV) marks the eastern end of the WHS. It consists of three historically important structures – the canal tunnel, the aqueduct, and a railway viaduct running alongside the aqueduct: an unusual and attractive juxtaposition. The site is approximately 10 minutes' walk from the town of Chirk. It is at present somewhat underdeveloped as a tourism site, although popular with walkers and canoeists seeking waters quieter than the Dee and less-crowded than towards Llangollen. A nearby café and car park are slightly away from the centre of the town where other facilities and shops are located. Because of its geography, Chirk tends to be oriented away from the Dee Valley and towards the remote and quieter Ceiriog Valley, with the busy Shropshire town of Oswestry just over the border in England. The canal here has traditionally been a secondary attraction, with the dominant focus of the visitor economy being the National Trust property at Chirk Castle. That latter, together with Erddig Hall in Wrexham, is the most-visited 'paid for' attraction in the area (Visit Wales). Both these National Trust properties are well-promoted outside the region, and, along with the WHS attract the vast majority of tourism visits to Wrexham borough.

The OPL plan for a new interpretation of the site intends to integrate further with the WHS, and it is anticipated that visitor numbers will rise as a result of this.



3.3 Loggerheads Country Park

Loggerheads Country Park (LCP) has been a popular visitor destination since the 1920s, traditionally for day trips from Merseyside and other parts of North West England. Its popularity as a focus for visitors is traditionally attributed to the fact that the outdoor centre now known as Kingswood Colomendy was for many years owned and operated by Liverpool City Council as an outdoor education centre for schools in Liverpool. Before being acquired by DCC, the land was owned by a local bus company, who invested in the site and developed facilities as a destination for coach trips. It was revitalised after purchase by DCC, which has invested a significant amount of money and effort to turn it into the attraction it is today.

Parking has recently been expanded to 140 parking spaces, costing £1 for 2 hours, £2 for 4 hours, or £5 for All Day. The café (Caffi Florence) and Visitor Centre are extremely popular with different visitor groups, and the visitor survey showed some user groups comprised of several generations of the same family (see section 4). It is also popular with locals, especially dog walkers.

LCP is also an SAC/SSSI, so its grassland and woodland are protected. However, it has many well-marked and well-interpreted walking trails aimed at all abilities and ages, and is promoted as both buggy-friendly and dog-friendly. It also acts as a starting point for longer walking trails in the area, connecting with other features such as Moel Famau and other points of interest. Its popularity with walkers has led to challenges in protecting some important habitats within the site (discussed further in 5.3).

Honeypot issues at Loggerheads are the outcome of its historical popularity and the high quality of the visitor experience it now offers. It could be argued that the ‘over-tourism’ issues included in the brief for this project arose as a result of the success of the policies that produced this remarkable and popular attraction. Over-tourism is discussed further in the Analysis (Chapter 5).

One particular challenge relates to the issue of ‘snow days’ – an intractable problem for landowners, local residents and managers of the site. The thousands of visitors who descend on the site in their cars when it snows bring with them congestion, anti-social behaviour, litter and other problems, which were specifically mentioned in the brief for this project. These issues are described and explored further in section 5.3.

3.4 Moel Famau Country Park

Moel Famau Country Park (MFCP) is a large area (2,500 acres) of forest and heathland centred on the 1,821 ft (555 m) Moel Famau. It has always been an agricultural site, used for sheep grazing. Part of the forest is owned by Natural Resources Wales. Access to the site is from the main A494, three miles (4.82 km) to the east of LCP, so the two sites are linked in

several important respects. The hill itself (not quite a mountain) is topped by the Jubilee Tower: a solid chunk of Georgian masonry that has an almost iconic status for many of its user groups. It is clearly visible from the Wirral and parts of Cheshire and Merseyside, meaning that it is a ‘must visit’ destination for a number of different user groups. It has also become a popular venue for charity challenges and other activities, usually involving a race up the hill. These seem to have varied over time, but some recent examples include:

- Clwydian Range Runners:
<http://www.clwydianrangerunners.co.uk/>
- Excalibur off-road event:
<https://www.excaliburmarathon.com/event-info/>
- St Kentigern twilight trek:
<http://www.stkentigernhospice.org.uk/event/twilight-trek-2018/>
- Clwydian Hills fell race:
https://www.clwydianfellrace.org/?page_id=375
- Clwydians Santa dash:
<https://www.timeoutdoors.com/events/runs/Clwydians-Santa-Dash-5K>
- ThisOneCounts: Off-road night trail run:
<http://www.thisonecounts.co.uk/events-races/>

These events clearly make a significant contribution to visitor numbers at Moel Famau. Despite this, the site is only mentioned once in Denbighshire’s events strategy.

The summit of Moel Famau is also a popular landmark on the Offa’s Dyke National Trail, where the final stretch of the path to the north can be seen from Prestatyn, making the end in sight. The surrounding woodland known as Coed Moel Famau is also home to many other walks and mountain biking trails, which were well-promoted during the Visit Wales Year of Adventure campaign in 2016.

A detailed visitor survey of Moel Famau was carried out for Natural Resources Wales in 2014, and the findings have been used alongside our survey to analyse visitor profiles (see Chapter 4). The paths and car parks have been continuously improved by DCC in recent years.

Moel Famau has two car parks: the higher one (Penbarras) is managed by DCC (capacity 90 cars, charge £1.50 per day); the larger one (Coed Moel Famau) is managed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), with children’s play facilities and toilets (charge £2.00 per day). The only business currently located at the site is the mobile Shepherd’s Hut in the Penbarras car park, which is open throughout the summer and at weekends during the winter, serving drinks and light refreshments.



3.5 Panorama

Although it is not part of the designated WHS, **Panorama (P)** is in the buffer zone for the WHS and is protected as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This means that its landscape and habitats are regarded as being of international significance and are protected as such. The site is associated with the WHS in several ways, in that part of it lies on the Offa's Dyke National Trail (which crosses the Aqueduct to the south) and various parts of the WHS can be viewed from above, from the narrow mountain roads and walking trails. The dominant features of Panorama are the medieval Castell Dinas Bran, and the spectacular carboniferous limestone escarpment and cliffs, which dominate the landscape of the area. The Panorama provides spectacular views across the Dee Valley. It is readily accessible by car, making it a popular place to park and picnic. In terms of our study, it represents a different set of challenges, largely related to its use for activity sports, especially rock-climbing, with some issues arising locally owing to clashes of interest. It is also popular with a number of different social groups locally and some problems arise relating to anti-social behaviour; this is difficult to police and manage because of the remoteness of the site. Both these user groups contribute to problems of access and untidy car parking. Anecdotally, it is also a very popular place for ashes to be scattered, and as such has great meaning and significance for many local people. The OPL project has plans to manage some of the parking issues and repair some of the damaged caused by indiscriminate parking.

3.6 Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin

The **Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin (PATB)** comprises of a historic canal basin next to the world-famous Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, located within the county of Wrexham. The Aqueduct is now the 'anchor' attraction for the site, though the Trevor Basin, as part of the Llangollen Canal, has been a hub for canal boat holidays for many years. The Canal is Britain's most popular route for canal boat holidays, due to the beauty of the Dee Valley and the opportunity it provides for boating over the Aqueduct. The draft Management Plan shows that visitor numbers to the site have increased since WHS inscription, from around 200,000 in 2009 to over 300,000 in 2017.

The site falls within the wider context of development and planning policy in Wrexham County Borough, the CRT and the AONB. It consists of a combination of rural and brownfield land, which is currently under-developed from both a community and tourism point of view. The area covered by the Masterplan includes the Basin site and a large brownfield area (formerly a chemical factory), as well as the communities of Acrefair, Cefn Mawr and Froncysyllte, which are classed as having above average levels of social and

economic deprivation.⁷ There are a number of community groups active around the PATB site too: Aqueducks (friends of the WHS), Plas Kynaston Canal Group, and the Froncysyllte Community Centre, each representing different interests and with membership overlapping in some cases.

As the main focus for visitors to the site, the Trevor Basin houses a visitor centre with historical and environmental interpretation, a pub, two locally-owned canal-based day trip companies, a café and a static barge selling light refreshments. It is also a major hub for a national canal boat holiday company. A large new car park opened recently on a former brownfield site necessitates a 5-10 minute walk to the Basin for visitors. The former car park next to the Basin is now for disabled access only. At the time of our study this scenario was still subject to teething problems, with many users unaware of, or unwilling to use, the new car park. Consequently cars were being parked in the streets around the Basin or the former car park, causing traffic congestion. It is interesting to note that several posts on Trip Advisor about the Trevor Basin tell potential visitors that parking is free in the streets around the Aqueduct, and also in Froncysyllte at the southern end of the Aqueduct.

We anticipate that these issues will improve and be resolved as new signage and interpretation is planned as part of the Masterplan and OPL projects.

3.7 Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green



The OPL project also covers the **Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green (HFLG)** area, which is located at the far western end of the WHS, about 11 miles (18 km) from the start of the WHS, at Gledrid in Shropshire. It currently provides 25 parking spaces, toilet and picnic tables, in the car park and the adjacent field. The car park is owned by the National Trust and operated by DCC, with the toilet facilities managed on behalf of the AONB by local group Cymdeithas y Cwm. An AONB Ranger is often in attendance. The parking charge (using a machine) is £1 for up to 2 hours or £3 to park all day. Parking is free to National

⁷ Welsh Assembly Government, 2014. <https://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2015/150812-wimd-2014-infographic-results-revised-en.pdf>

Trust members. An annual permit costing £30 is available from DCC. Some users park for free at the Chain Bridge Hotel, especially if the car park is full.

Despite the fact that there are only 25 spaces, the car park is valued by both locals and visitors. The site provides access to the nineteenth century engineering works that divert water from the River Dee at Horseshoe Falls, which marks the start of the Llangollen Canal and the WHS. Nearby attractions and facilities include Chain Bridge (a recently-restored attraction spanning the River Dee), the upscale Chain Bridge Hotel, and the Llangollen Railway (including Berwyn Station). The car park is also used extensively by commercial providers of activity sports based in Llangollen and elsewhere, as an access point for white-water rafting, kayaking, canoeing and tubing opportunities on the Dee. Typically, a 4-wheel drive vehicle and trailer are used to drop off groups of people who then carry their equipment down to the river, along an unmarked path in the adjoining field. The site is also used for all-day parking for individual water sports enthusiasts. It is extensively promoted on the websites of a large range of user-groups, including the AA, the CRT (as part of WHS), and various walking and water sports organisations.

Appendix A.2 provides a list of websites that mention HFLG as a place to park for various activities. The main issue relating to parking is congestion at peak periods. Peak usage is not related directly to its WHS status, but rather to the volume of river users and walkers. Resolving this issue will become ever more pressing over time, as future OPL development plans will increase visits to the WHS.

The HFLG site was redeveloped in 2015 with funding from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) Heritage Tourism Project and Cadw. This enabled the view to be opened up from the car park to the river, provided picnic tables and refurbished the toilets. OPL proposes further changes to the site that will further enhance interpretation, and improve access to some of the historic canal's engineering features at the riverside: this will probably result in an increase in visitor numbers to the car park and greater congestion at peak times. OPL is seeking to address issues of congestion at Horseshoe Falls by engaging with the outdoor activities sector. As well as the OPL projects planned for the site, there is also a AONB Scoping Study in place, with funding from Cadwyn Clwyd, to explore possible redesign of the site.⁸

⁸ Wales Rural Network (WRN) Support Unit (n.d.) 'Llantysilio Green Visitor Flow scoping study' Available on Business Wales website. Accessed on 24 March 2019: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/local-action-groups-and-projects/projects/llantysilio-green-visitor-flow-scoping-study>

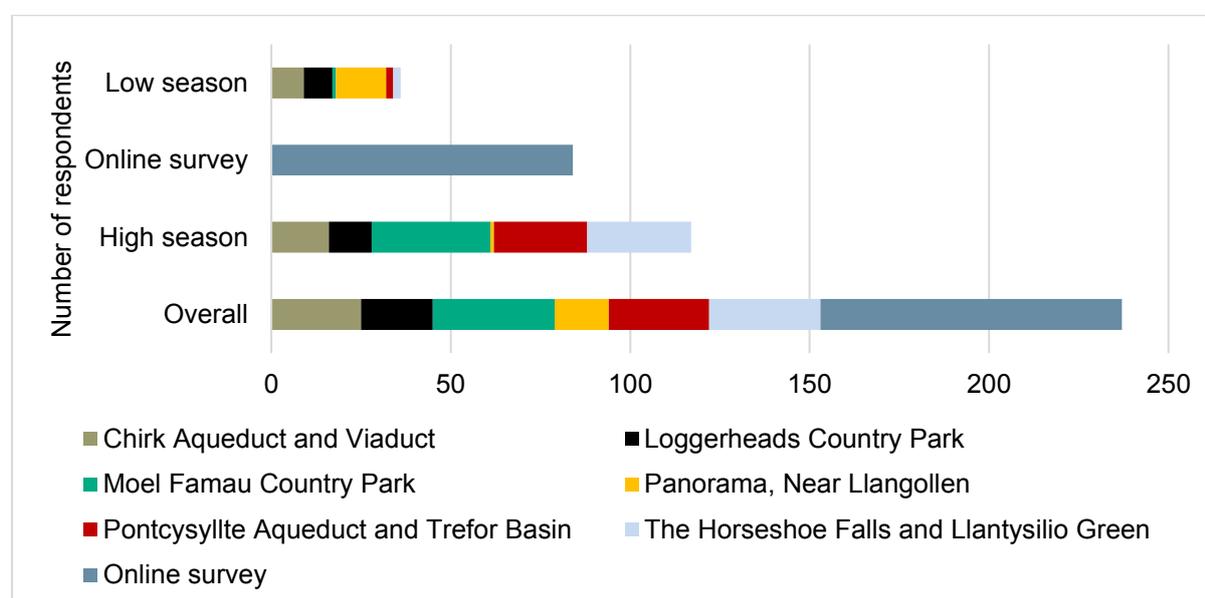


4. Who visits the sites?

4.1 General visitor data

The data for this section comes from responses to visitor surveys conducted at the six sites during one week in the high season (August 2018) and one week in the low season (October 2018), together with an online survey that was open over the same time period. Given the very high numbers of visitors to the six sites over the course of a typical year (over one million in 2018, as shown in Figure 3.1, above) and the short timeframe to conduct the surveys within the scope of the project, the survey results can only be considered an indicative snapshot of the activities at the sites, as opposed to statistically significant findings (Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1 Sample size by site and season/online survey



The visitor survey sample as a whole is relatively well-balanced between the different sites, but there is an imbalance between the low season and the high season samples. This means that results reported for any given site may be skewed towards one season; similarly, results reported for a given season are skewed towards certain sites. For example, we found that visitors to the Horseshoe Falls, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin, and Moel Famau Country Park were mostly non-local. This may be an accurate reflection of the split between local/non-local visitors, or it may be the consequence of our sample at these three sites being > 90% high season, combined with the fact that the average person surveyed during the high season is more likely to be non-local than the average person surveyed in the low season. For this reason, the site-level results should be interpreted with caution.

For the purposes of this study, our definition of 'local' was based on residency in postcodes in Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. However, it should be noted that as these sites are

close to the English border (for example, Loggerheads is 30 minutes’ drive from Chester) some who might have considered themselves ‘local’ are not included in these figures.

Figures show that for two sites (Panorama and LCP), around two thirds of the visitors were ‘local’. The three WHS sites in particular show a clear majority of non-local visitors. For Moel Famau non-local visitors were also in the majority, while most respondents to the online survey were from the local area (Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2 Do you live in the counties of Denbighshire, Wrexham or Flintshire?

(Responses shown are for high and low season responses combined)

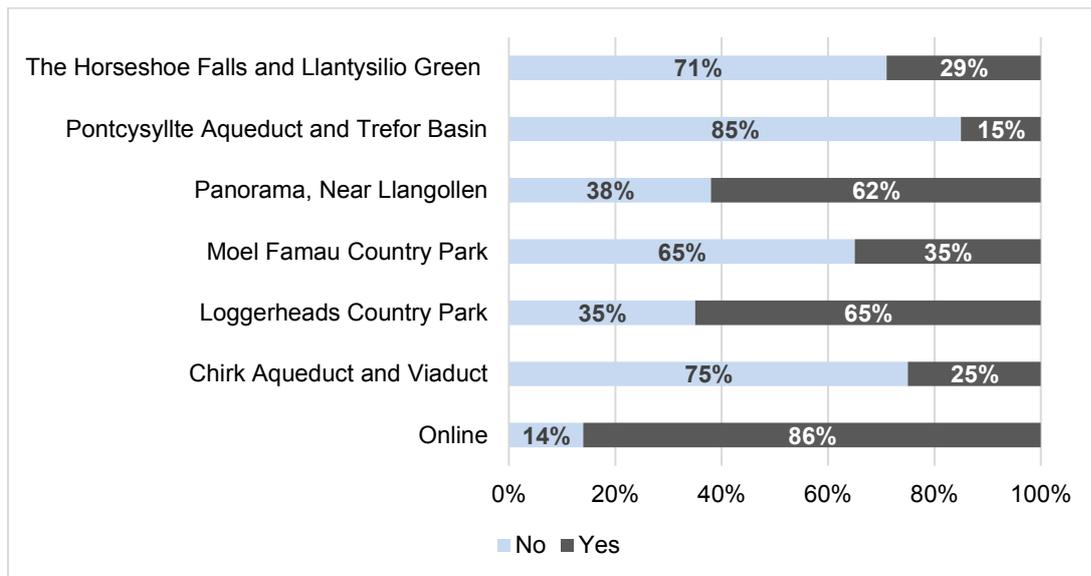
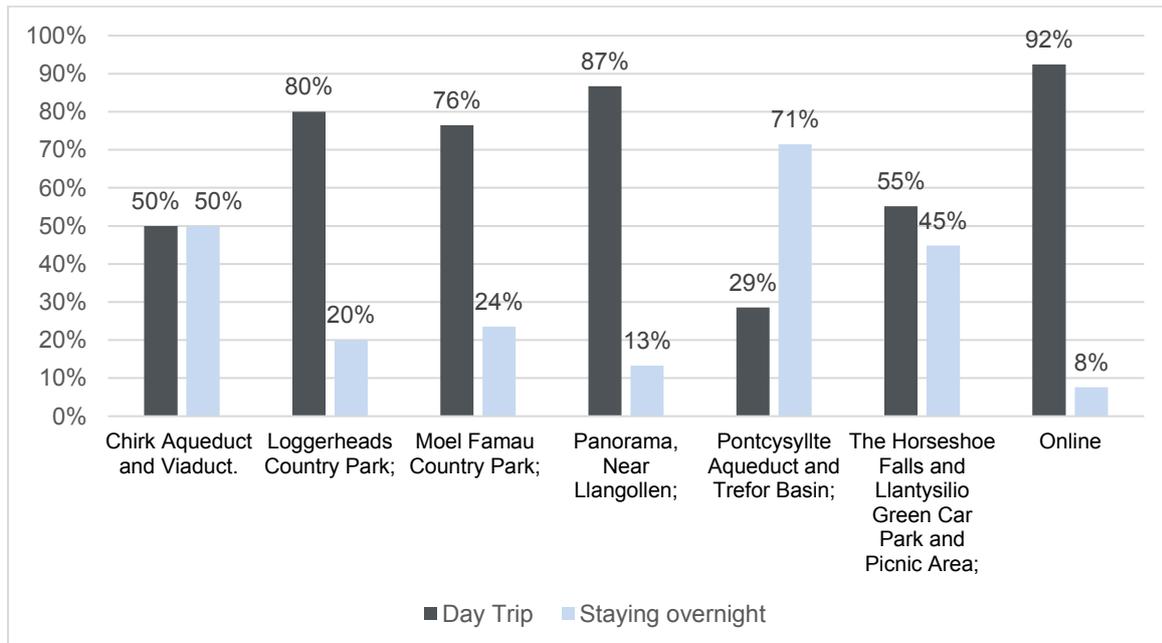


Figure 4.3 Are you on a day trip or staying overnight?





While the WHS sites shows a balance in favour of overnight visitors (people on holiday), the other sites, as well as the online respondents’ survey, show a dominance of day visitors (Figure 4.3). Of the 45 respondents who were ‘overnight’ visitors (predominantly visiting the Dee Valley sites), 29 were staying outside the area: with the largest number staying at the North Wales Coast and 8 or so staying in Cheshire or Shropshire.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, given that the bulk of the survey was completed within the peak school holiday period, the figures relating to the nature of travelling groups (Figure 4.4) show a clear majority of visitors in family groups at most of the sites. The Panorama figures are particularly striking, and when combined with the figures for ‘local’ and ‘non local’ (Figure 4.2) show the value of this site for people who live in the area.

The final group of overview questions focused on people’s motivation for visiting the sites, and asked what they had done or were intending to do during their visit (Figures 4.5 and 4.6). In general, these again show the importance of the WHS as an attraction. They also highlight the fact that the vast majority of visitors questioned come to the area to participate in and enjoy independent, non-commercialised activities, and in particular, to participate in walks of varying lengths. However, this is likely to be at least partly because groups engaged in organised activity sports, such as rock climbing or water sports, could not be easily accessed during the survey.

Figure 4.4 Who are you travelling with today?

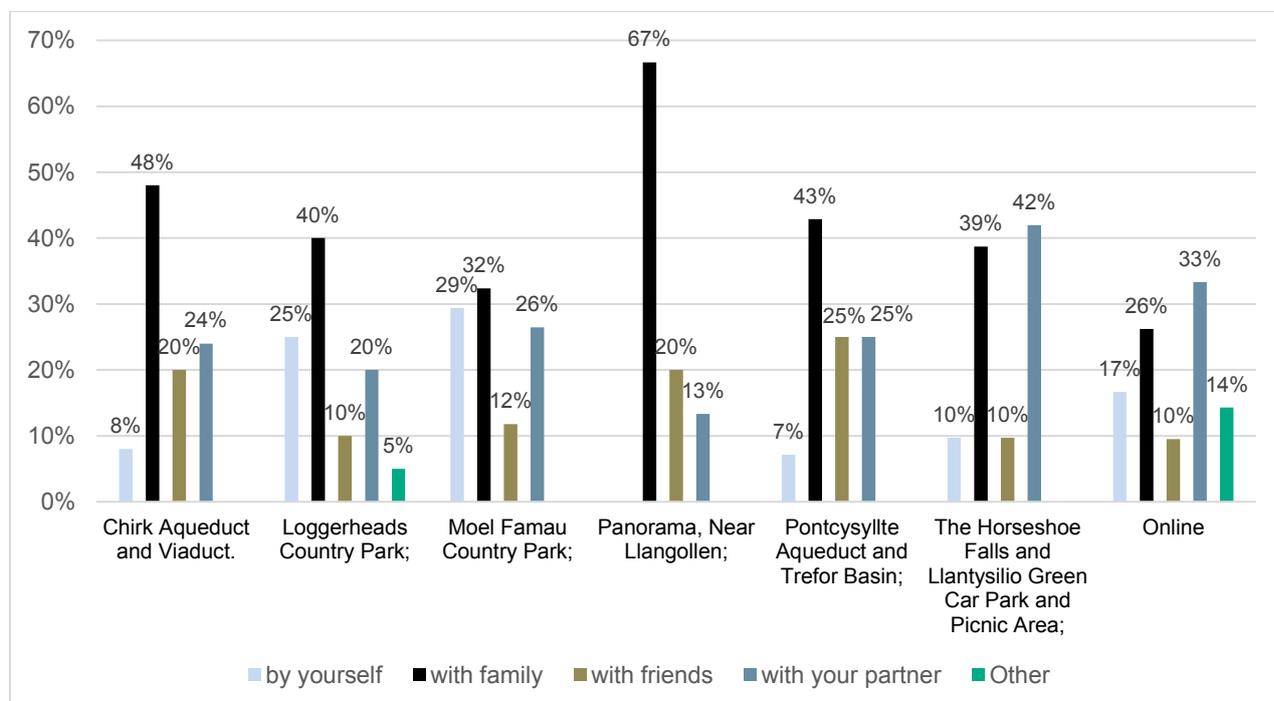




Figure 4.5 What have you done during your visit?

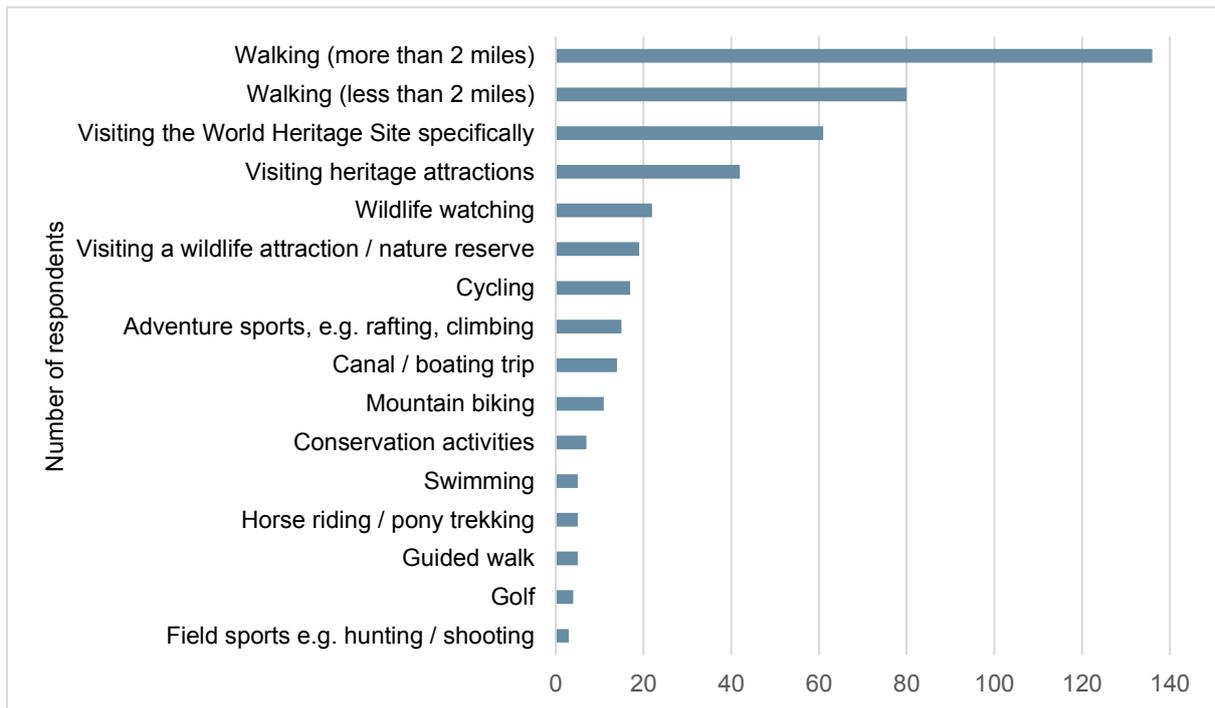
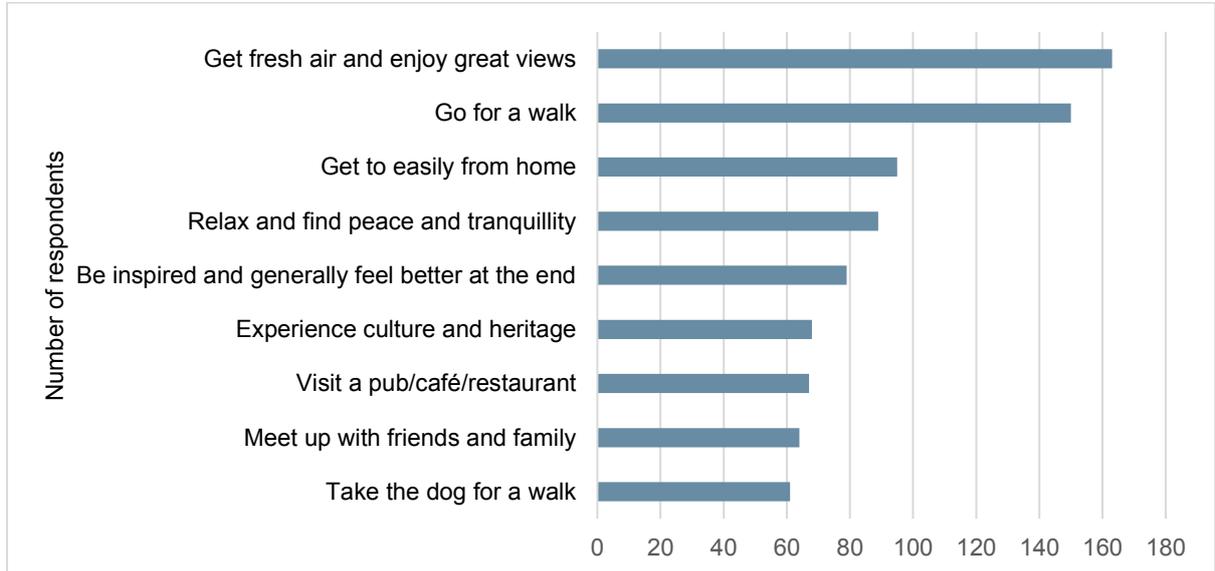


Figure 4.6 Which of the following factors influenced your decision on places to visit in the AONB during your most recent visit (multiple answers invited)?



In response to the general visitor satisfaction question, ‘Is there anything you would like to see improved or changed at the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB?’ more than 25% of respondents answered ‘No’, with ‘car parks’ being the only other answer to be chosen by more than 10% of respondents. Other answers are explored in more depth in the later sections of this report.

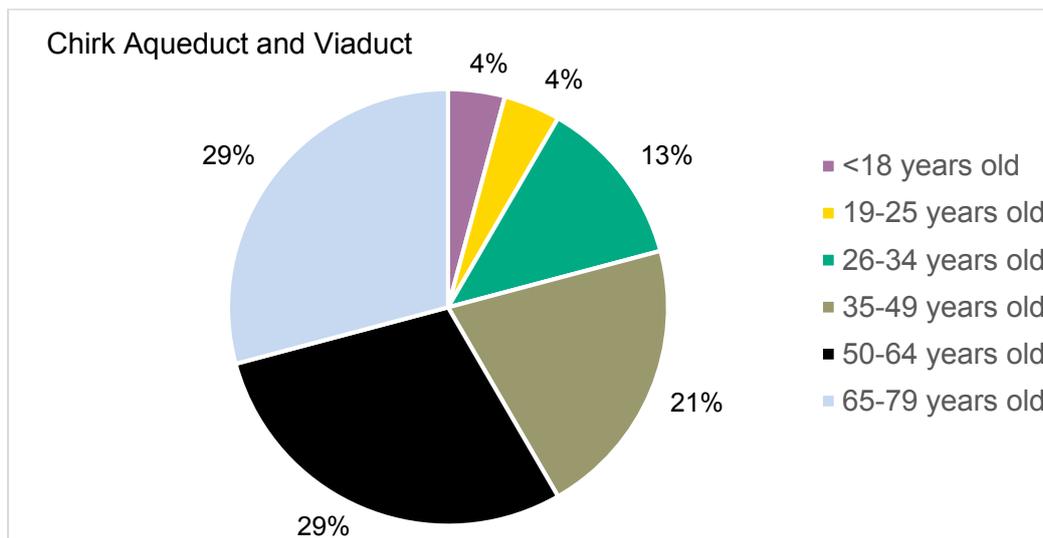


4.2 Typical visitor profile for each site

The graphs below show analysis by age of visitors to each site, based on responses to the visitor survey (Figure 4.7 to Figure 4.13).

4.2.1 Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct

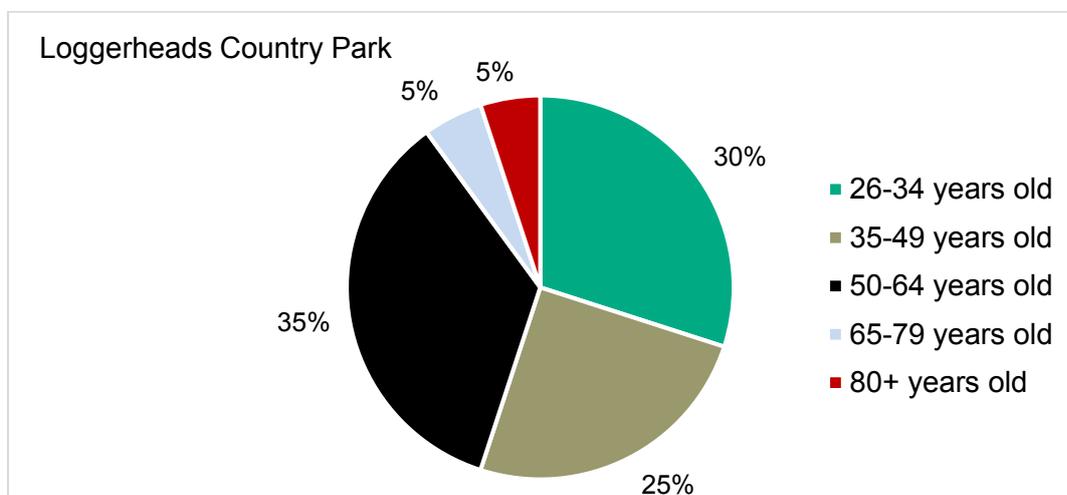
Figure 4.7 Visitor profile: Chirk



The figures for Chirk (Figure 4.7) show a slightly older profile, although this probably reflects a tendency for older people to walk at the site rather than visiting it by boat. We also observed a number of canal boats passing through the site to visit the canal tunnel during the high season visit; though they did not disembark, so we were unable to interview this group of (mainly younger) users. There is nowhere between the Aqueduct and the tunnel for boats to moor.

4.2.2 Loggerheads Country Park

Figure 4.8 Visitor profile: Loggerheads

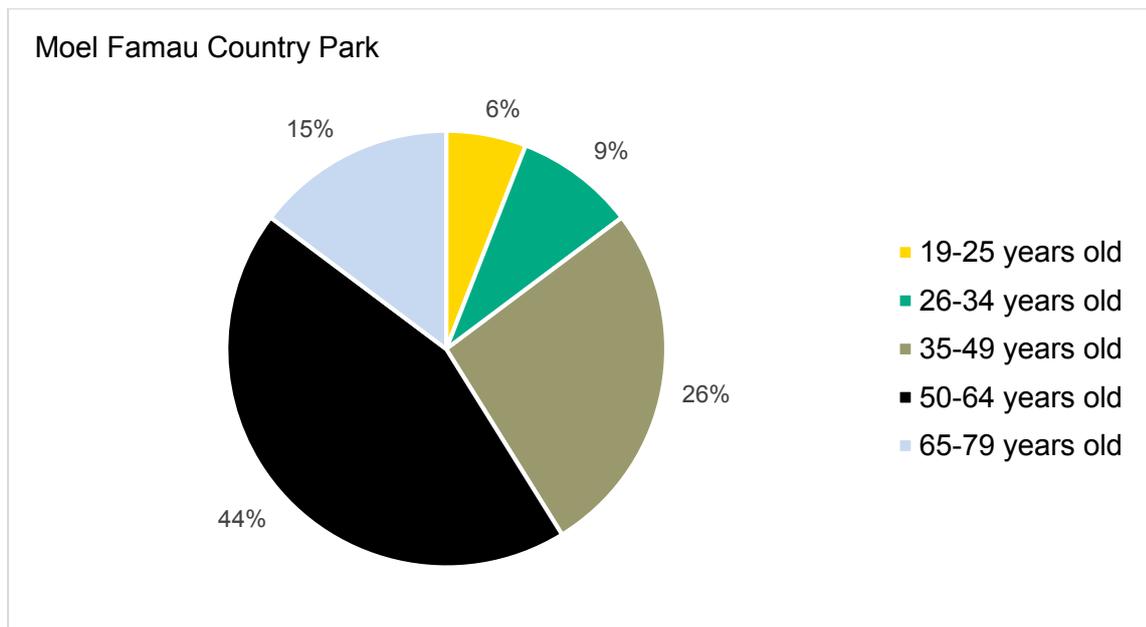




The figures for Loggerheads show a marked dominance of older age groups (Figure 4.8). However, the absence of younger visitors from these figures may be misleading, as younger children in larger groups may not have been included in the responses given by the person answering the questionnaire. As shown in Figure 4.5, the site is very popular with families, who constitute one of the major user groups, which often includes young children as well as grandparents.

4.2.3 Moel Famau Country Park

Figure 4.9 Visitor profile: Moel Famau



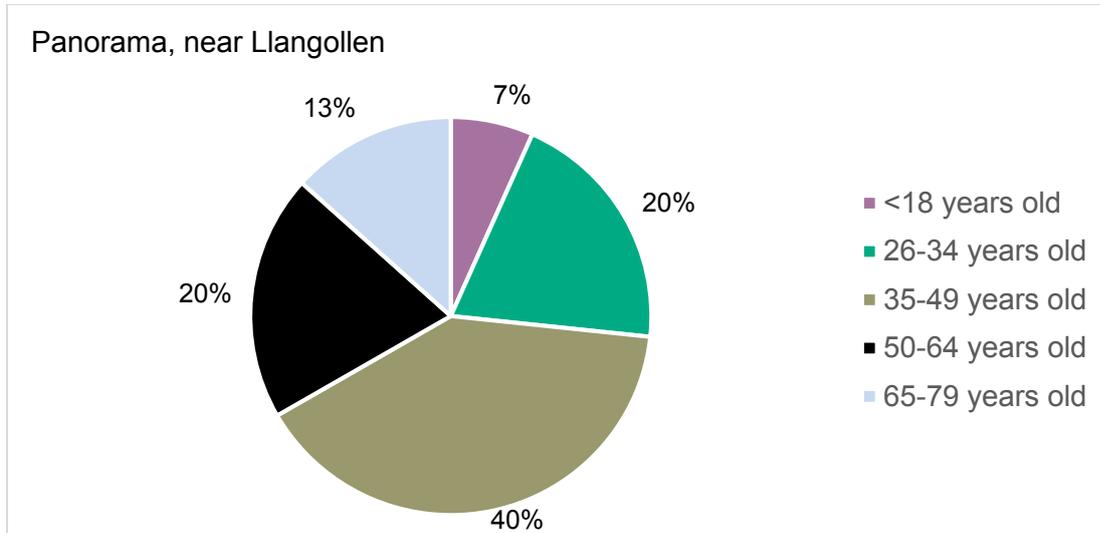
The detailed visitor survey carried out for NRW in 2013⁹ highlighted the popularity of the Moel Famau site, showing that circa 80% of those interviewed were repeat visitors, with circa 60% travelling less than three hours to reach the site. It also showed a visitor profile, which was slightly younger than the profiles for similar forest sites in the rest of Wales. Our figures tend to reflect this picture (Figure 4.9). It is important to note however, that our survey does not capture the large numbers of people using the hill for challenge and charity events, as none were taking place during the period of our survey.

⁹ Natural Resources Wales/Forestry Commission England (2013) *Quality of the Visitor Experience: Moel Famau 2013*.



4.2.4 Panorama

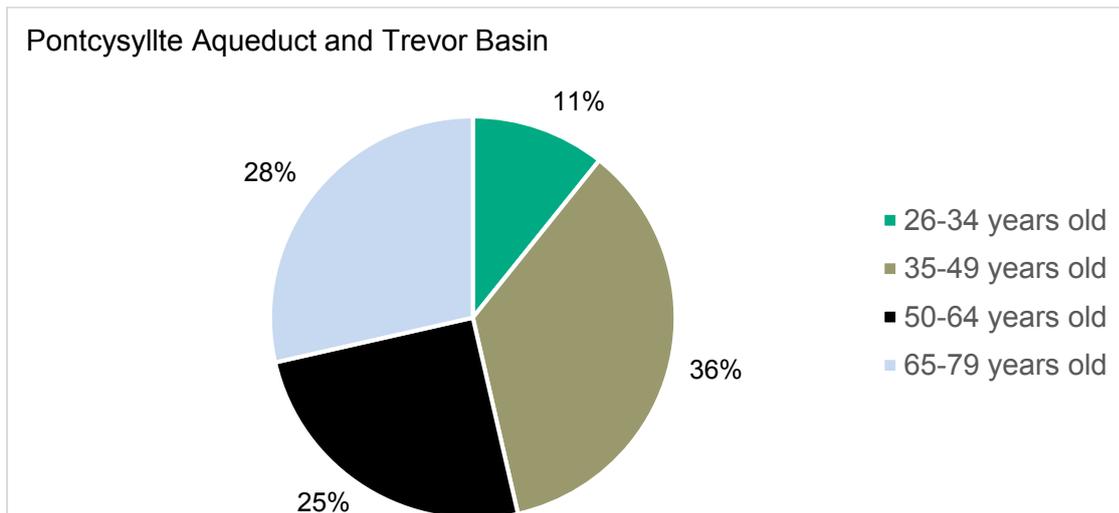
Figure 4.10 Visitor profile: Panorama



The smaller survey sample for Panorama (Figure 4.10) shows a slightly younger visitor profile than the other sites, with more people in the 35-49 age group, which possibly reflects that the site attracts family visits and is used as a venue for activity sports, particularly rock climbing. The figures shown in Figure 4.5 above highlight the popularity of this site for family group visits and also of younger people engaged in activity sports.

4.2.5 Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin

Figure 4.11 Visitor profile: Trevor Basin



The WHS designation puts the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin site in a global rather than local or national context in terms of visitors, and there were more international visitors here than at any of the other sites in the study (Figure 4.11).



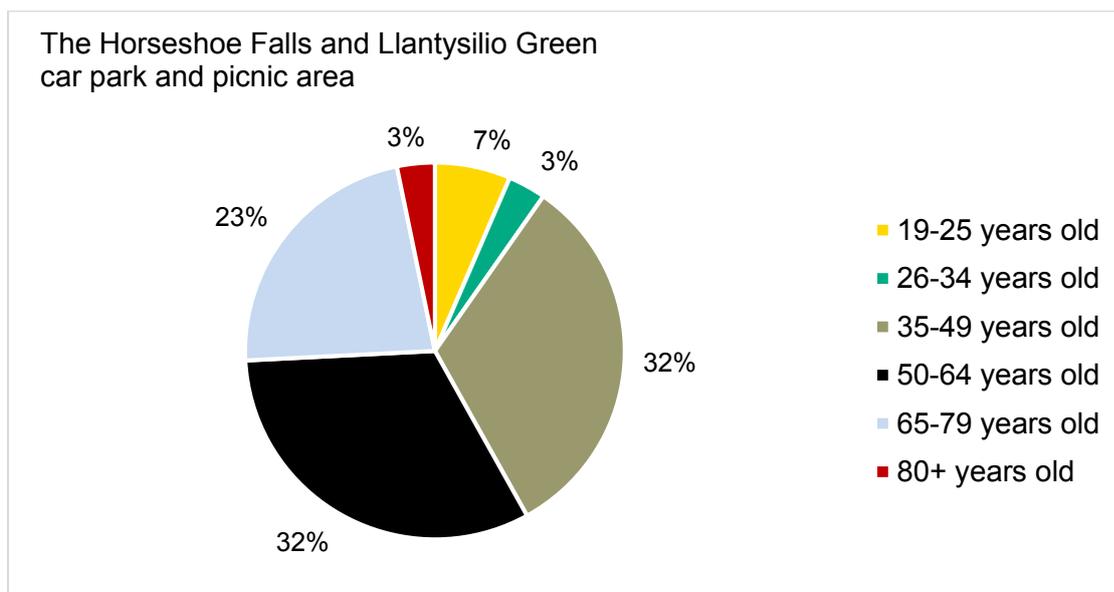
The majority of respondents were aged 35-64 and visiting in a family group or with a partner; they were more likely to be staying overnight, usually in accommodation outside the area. This graph possibly hides a wider range of ages in family groups, as anecdotally some of the groups at this site comprised three generations of family members. Many were also planning to visit Llangollen and Erddig (these are promoted together by Wrexham CBC). Our interviews did not capture feedback from canal boat users; only visitors on foot at the site.

In terms of spend, it was clear that at least some of the overnight visitors on family holidays were anticipating finding more opportunities to spend, possibly on children, and were also looking for opportunities to buy local food (see Section 5.1.3).

It is also interesting to note that very few of those questioned were planning to visit the Horseshoe Falls as part of the WHS visit.

4.2.6 Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green

Figure 4.12 Visitor profile: Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green



The survey interviews took place in the car park at Llantysilio Green rather than at the Horseshoe Falls, so we did not capture the views of visitors to the site who had walked from Llangollen or Trevor, along the towpath. The majority of visitors were parking to visit or use the river, or as a base for walking in the area. There was a smaller percentage of visitors on family picnics, and a very small number who gave visiting the WHS as their main reason for being there (Figure 4.12).

Our interviews also did not record members of organised activity sports groups as they were dropped off and hurried away from the site by the group leaders. The drop-off vehicles do not remain in the car park. These users are generally younger, and would have changed the visitor profile for the site considerably had they been counted in. The visitor

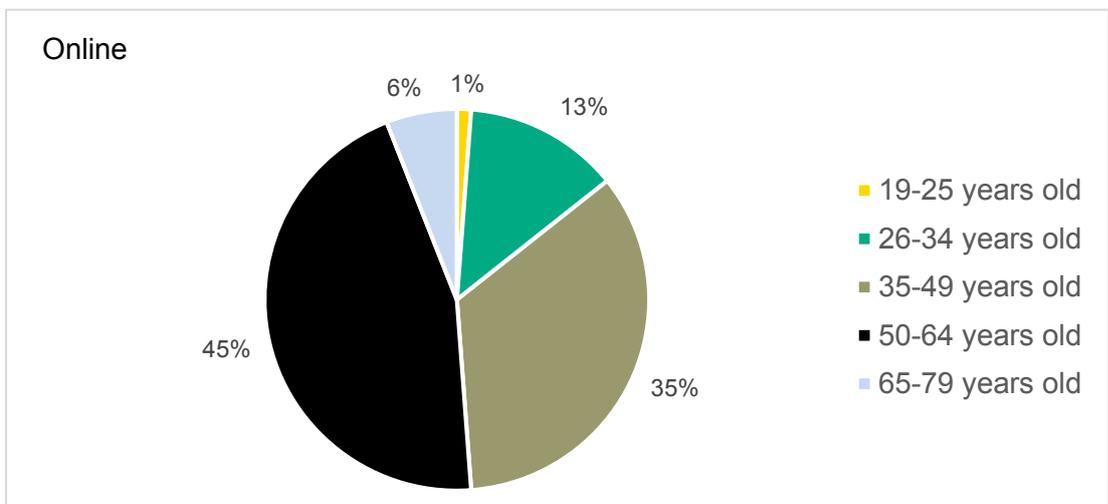


survey data therefore relates to people who arrived at the site by car, occasionally by bike, or sometimes on foot.

The figures do reflect longer stays for individual or small groups of independent water-sports users and walkers or cyclists. We also spoke to (but did not interview) some individuals who had parked at the Chain Bridge Hotel to avoid the charges in the car park. These were mainly independent water-sports participants who parked at the site all day.

4.2.7 Online survey

Figure 4.13 Visitor profile: Online survey



The online survey was completed by 84 individuals with the majority (80%) aged between 35 and 64. It is not clear which of the six sites outlined above the visitors stayed at or whether they visited during high season or low season (Figure 4.13).



5. Analysis of visitor impacts

5.1 Economic impacts

This section discussed findings from two phases of data collection:

1. Business survey
2. Figures on spend from the visitor survey

5.1.1 Across the AONB

The business survey targeted businesses located within the AONB, and near the six sites, as shown below (Figure 5.1). It included two separate elements:

- The first was a series of telephone interviews with businesses within the AONB, carried out over a two-week period in October 2018.
- The second took the form of face-to-face interviews with four key players in the tourism business sector.

Figure 5.1 Summary of telephone business interviews

Site	Business targets	Number interviewed	Comments
LCP	5	3	
MFCP	4	4	
P	4	2	
PATB	8	6	+1 head office outside the area did not reply with requested details
HFLG	4	3	+1 interrupted
CAV	4	2	
Total	29	20	70%

Most of the 'missing' businesses were pubs, because of the difficulty of finding a suitable time when the pub was open and the manager was available to talk. The fragility of the business environment was illustrated by the fact that one of the Dee Valley outdoor activity providers in Llangollen ceased trading in November 2018 – one month after the interview took place.

The businesses were asked a series of questions designed to elicit a range of quantitative data relating to the size of the company, turnover, costs, supply chain, and employment figures – as well as qualitative data on how they valued the six sites in terms of their own



business, their feelings about their own future as businesses, and the area as a tourism destination.

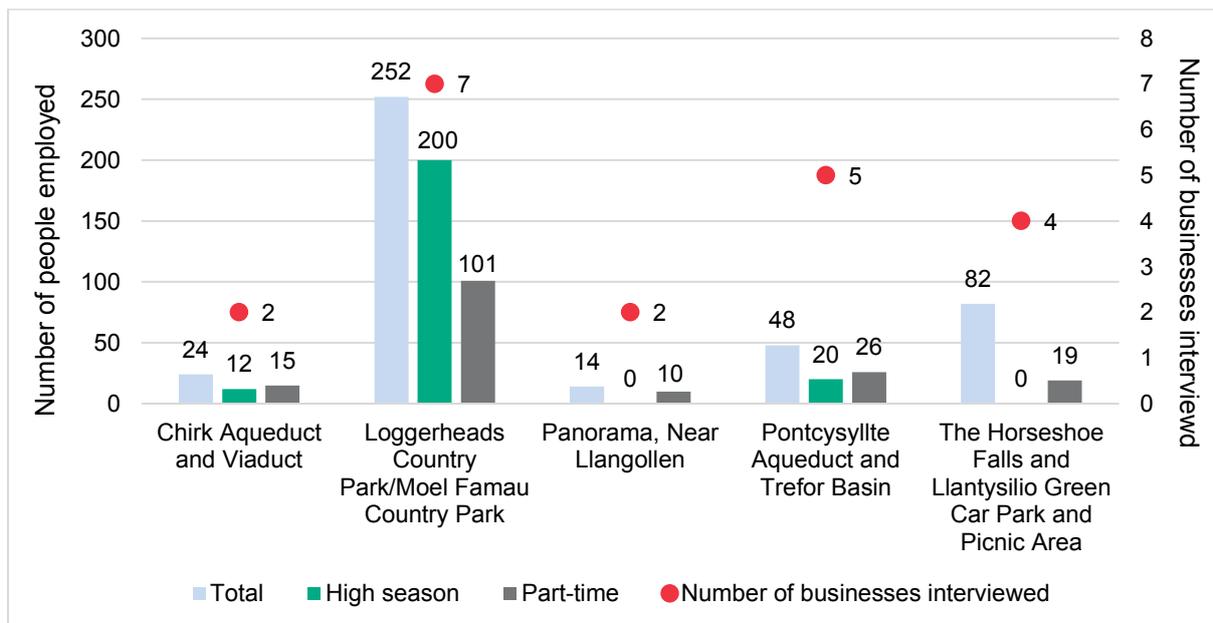
We also conducted four face-to-face interviews with key players in the visitor economy, both within the AONB and in some of the surrounding gateway towns. The aim of these interviews was to elicit an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of the businesses that make up the visitor economy in the area, and where possible, to derive some specific data about supply chains and the use of local suppliers.

Insights across the AONB from the Business Survey

Responses to the telephone survey of businesses within the AONB showed that many businesses were unable or unwilling to provide accurate quantitative data about their revenue and costs. Businesses outside the area (or inside the area but owned by an umbrella organisation) were unable to give accurate performance figures, as the person available for interview was not always in possession of this information. In smaller businesses, the person spoken to (usually a local manager) often did not have an accurate understanding of costs (which vary considerably through the year in any case) and needed encouragement to produce even a ballpark figure for monthly spend with suppliers.

Of the 20 businesses that responded, 3 were owned by larger organisations outside the area, 16 were privately run individual or family businesses and one was in co-operative ownership. A summary of the survey findings in relation to employment is presented in Figure 5.2 below:

Figure 5.2 Summary of employment of surveyed businesses



The following is a summary of the main qualitative findings from the interviews. Findings relating to specific sites are covered in 5.1.2 below.



Attitude

Qualitatively, the business interviews showed a positive outlook across all six sites – most businesses felt they were doing well, and were hopeful about the future, often looking to invest and expand (see below). Almost all felt that there was scope for development of other businesses in the area – but several mentioned there was a lack of people who wanted to run and staff businesses in sometimes remote areas.

It is important to highlight the fact that many are both local and tourism businesses – their success throughout the year (and therefore their sustainability) relies as much on local custom as from visitors. Tourism in high season enables many businesses to survive the lower season and continue to provide a service for local communities.

Several mentioned a lack of support from local authorities as a factor that has, in their opinion, restricted growth opportunities. A few businesses said that they had encountered difficulties with gaining approval from DCC for signage (which they felt would divert passing trade to their business). Both Denbighshire and Wrexham were seen to have had rural planning policies that worked against the development of quality tourism accommodation within the area: now a significant criticism, supported by the visitor surveys (Section 4), which showed that many visitors, particularly to the WHS, were staying outside the area.

Employment

The majority of businesses needing unskilled and part-time workers, employed local people almost exclusively; with 'local' defined as within 10 miles (16 km) of the location of the business. However, there was a strong tendency for more skilled jobs to be filled from outside the area – in particular several catering/hospitality businesses noted the difficulty in hiring high quality chefs (often seen as a barrier to expanding their business). Several businesses (notably pubs and hotels) recognised that excellent quality and local provenance of food were now expected by higher-spending customers. Several employers offered and encouraged the attainment of work-based qualifications for their hospitality staff.

Activity tour operators and centres also hire qualified guides and instructors from outside the area, often on a seasonal basis. These industries are global, with instructors travelling to other parts of the world during northern hemisphere winters.

Use of local suppliers

The extent to which local suppliers were used varied greatly between businesses, often in relation to business type and target market. Some food and drink businesses (for example, Caffi Florence at LCP) have made local supply one of their unique selling points (USP), using and publicising a number of different small and medium-sized local suppliers. Some had different views of 'local' – for example, several regarded Wales as local. (It is interesting to relate this perception to the type of business: upscale outlets with the possibility of a

wider national or international market saw ‘Wales’ as a draw in terms of food provenance, rather than ‘North East Wales’. Smaller businesses had a more immediately local focus, but used this less when marketing their proposition. Interviews also highlighted the importance of food groups (the Dee Valley Good Grub Club and Clwydian Range Food Group) in fostering positive attitude and the desire to use and promote local products. It is important when spreading the economic benefits of tourism that these become a sustainable and visible part of the local tourism offer (see Recommendations, Section 6).

However, several businesses (mainly small catering businesses in the WHS area) said they used local suppliers, but when asked for detail said they used Tesco in Cefn Mawr, or Bookers Cash and Carry in Wrexham, rather than smaller local suppliers whose use would spread the benefits in the immediate area.

Businesses whose ownership lay outside the area had less choice in where to source their supplies and tended to use fewer local suppliers, even for products such as building materials and services. They often bought food and other resources in bulk from suppliers ‘over the border’ in England.

Overall, it is important to recognise and value local community support for these AONB businesses: supplying labour, clients and raw materials.

Insights from business organisations (tourism groups and town centre managers in gateway towns)

These four interviews were designed to get an overview of the economic value and impact of the six sites in ‘gateway’ towns to the AONB. The scope of the brief allowed for attention to focus on four towns: Wrexham, Mold, Ruthin and Llangollen, but further insights, including indicators of spend in Denbigh and Corwen, can be gained from the section below on the analysis of visitor spend (see sections 5.1.2 and 5.1.3).

Discussion in these interviews focused on the key theme of ‘spreading the benefits’ of having large number of visitors to the six sites. The overarching feeling from all four was that the key to this was creating sustainable linkages within the business community. It was recognised that having three local authorities involved, each with a stake in the AONB, comes with its own issues and challenges, and that the creation of a tourism network might be given differing levels of priority by each one.

Overall, it was clear that austerity and central government cuts have had a significant impact on some local tourism initiatives. This had, in some cases, limited the opportunities to develop tourism business networks in the area.

- Denbighshire County Council has a flourishing Tourism Forum, and has also adopted a Tourism Ambassador Scheme, which is being implemented throughout North East Wales. It also supports tourism businesses through its Business

Development Scheme, which is involved in a number of important initiatives involving tourism-related businesses within the county.

- Tourism in Flintshire is suffering from cuts to its funding and uncertainty over future funding options (it is currently dependent on EU rural development funding). However, Flintshire County Council does support a business development officer with responsibility for tourism.
- Wrexham County Borough Council has suffered extreme cuts to its tourism programme. Its Visit Wales-funded Wrexham Tourism Ambassador scheme was proving popular and had grown to 80 members. However, after its funding was cut, it introduced a membership fee, and fell to 22 members. It is now reconstituted as a CIC based around a Wrexham Card, which offers discounts to visitors at member companies.

Understanding and accepting these differences, there is a desire among those interviewed to see a region-wide approach to tourism in North East Wales. This could include creating a stronger brand for the region, greater coordination between towns and popular sites, and the creation of region-wide packages targeted at different sectors of visitors ('interest groups'). At this level, promoting 'North East Wales' as an integrated destination is seen as key to spreading the economic benefits from the six sites to other parts of the area.

- However, it was also suggested in these interviews that across the three local authorities there may be too many local initiatives (including tourism groups for each of the counties, plus other initiatives such as the Clwydian Range Tourism Group, the Clwydian Range Food Group and Dee Valley Good Grub Club). Many are membership groups for owners of small businesses, who have little time to attend meetings, and are confused about which ones are best for them. Some schemes are displacing others – for example, the Good Grub Club has taken on many of the former members of the Wrexham Tourism Ambassador scheme.
- One interviewee also felt that the number of different tourism websites providing information about the area was confusing for visitors.

Compared with the impact on businesses located within the AONB, the business impact of the six sites on the gateway towns is less positive and more variable.

Llangollen

Llangollen is the only town located within the AONB and as such derives many economic benefits from those who visit the area (see Section 5.1.3). However, there are also downsides to the popularity of the town with visitors to the Dee Valley. Many of the businesses interviewed with links to Llangollen mentioned traffic and parking problems within the town as being a significant barrier to growth. This problem was recognised as long ago as

2011¹⁰ The 2011 report also advocated much closer ties between the WHS and the town through transport and marketing initiatives, few of which have been achieved to date. However, the Llangollen 2020 project (currently in a consultation phase) will, if approved, go some way to meeting the recommendations of the 2011 report by making some much-needed improvements, in particular to the flow of traffic, easing traffic congestion and parking problems in the town.

A recent Visitor Survey by Wrexham CBC showed that 70% of those visiting Trevor Basin also visit Llangollen, and it is clear that Llangollen benefits economically from proximity to the WHS (see analysis of spend in 5.1.2) and the absence of opportunities to spend at PATB.

The accommodation sector in Llangollen is seeing developments in different categories after a period of decline, with an emphasis on high-end accommodation. However, one boutique hotel (opened in circa 2013) now offers B&B only, due to the difficulty of finding catering and management staff for a fine dining restaurant.

The Dee Valley Good Grub Club ('where good food and tourism meet') is an important initiative based in Llangollen that is currently being supported by the AONB and the Denbighshire Economic Development Board. The aims of the club are twofold: a) to boost the availability of local food; and b) to attract visitors by promoting the quality of local food.

At the time of writing, the club has 38 members in total, within a 15-mile radius of the River Dee. Of these, 50% of members are in the Dee Valley itself, but it has also 'mopped up' members from some businesses who pulled out of the Wrexham Tourism Ambassador Scheme. (The Good Grub Club has a membership charge of £45 compared with the Ambassador Scheme's £200 pa). The majority of the members are small food producer businesses, but customers are also represented, mainly in the form of hotels and other accommodation providers.

Several of the businesses interviewed for this study are members of the Good Grub Club, and their support for its aims was universal. The opportunity for small suppliers to meet each other and potential customers, through regular meetings and events, was highly valued by both producers and suppliers.

Mold

Mold is a thriving county town with a good range of services including banks, a post office and a wide range of independent shops, making attractive for visitors to the area as well as

¹⁰ Denbighshire County Council (2011) Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site: A Strategy for Llangollen

locals from the surrounding villages. It is interesting to note Trip Adviser places LCP and MF ‘in’ Mold.

There was a widespread belief among the businesses near LCP and MFCP that Mold is ‘the centre’ for these sites. In particular, caravan site managers said that most of their guests would do the majority of their food shopping in Mold, and the town has worked hard in recent years to cultivate a role as a ‘foodie’ centre, specifically through its leading role in Cittaslow¹¹ UK, and through its successful Saturday Market. This view is not necessarily borne out by the visitor survey. Analysis of spend from visitors to MF and LCL in the survey did not provide strong evidence of economic benefits in Mold, although this may be attributable to the timing of the survey.

The Mold Town Centre Manager felt that more could be done by the three local authorities that comprise North East Wales, to work collaboratively. Specifically, by developing tourism products that would spread the business benefits and encourage people to stay longer in the area; rather than just visiting the individual sites as day visitors. He also felt that the area is ‘desperately short’ of the sort of quality accommodation and food offer that would attract higher spending visitors to stay, rather than doing day trips. His suggestions for broadening the appeal of the whole area, not limited only to attracting visitors to Mold, included:

- Grouping holidays around golfing at different locations across the three counties: to include information and suggestions for things that non-golfers could do.
- Making it easy for coach companies from Liverpool and Manchester to put together tours that cover the whole North East Wales area. (He has done specific promotions for Flintshire at exhibitions in these cities and feels that more could be done by the three counties working collaboratively).

Ruthin

In contrast, it is hard to disagree with the view that there is potential for businesses in Ruthin to derive more benefit from visitors to Moel Famau and LCP (the two nearest sites) than is currently the case. Although it has been shown that the accommodation sector in the town is sustainable, with potential for expansion and a promising future in both leisure and business travel,¹² the feeling is that the town is attracting different, possibly more up-market sectors than those who predominantly come to visit MF and LCP. Indeed, the report

¹¹ Cittaslow is an international organisation which exists to promote environmental improvement and quality of life in its member towns and cities. Towns awarded Cittaslow status have to meet a number of criteria, which include a focus on local food production and maintenance of quality.

¹² Denbighshire Study of Hotel Demand and Potential: Hotel Solutions

suggests that the WHS and Llangollen are significant destinations for the more upmarket and international clients that Ruthin is increasingly tending to attract.

One of the camp site managers interviewed said that her clients go shopping at the Saturday market or at supermarkets in Mold, and that Ruthin is more ‘a place to look around’ rather than go shopping.

The Ruthin tourism co-ordinator (Bro Ruthin) felt that the Vale of Clwyd should be included in the AONB so that the area would gain the benefit, and that AONB officers could attend Bro Ruthin meetings to get a better idea of what they were aiming to achieve in the town in the future. The group currently has around 30 members, who are local businesses or other supporters and they are working closely with the Clwydian Range Food Group and the Denbighshire Tourism Forum to foster links with other businesses in the area. The current Masterplan for the town includes plans for a community centre and visitor hub in a former bank site in the middle of the town, with a facility for local producers to showcase their products, both to locals and visitors.

Chirk

The town of Chirk is very under-supplied in terms of the accommodation needed to produce genuine multiplier effects. There is evidence from the visitor survey (see chapter 4) that towns outside the area (Chester, Oswestry, Ellesmere) clearly benefit from the lack of accommodation in the WHS area.

5.1.2 Spending and jobs

Insights from the visitor spend analysis

Based on our analysis of responses from the face-to-face visitor surveys and the online survey, we first show some basic indices relating to non-accommodation visitor spend at the six sites, and then analyse two further questions:

1. Does non-accommodation expenditure spill over from one site to other sites?
2. What is the total annual economic impact of visitors to the six sites on the local economy?

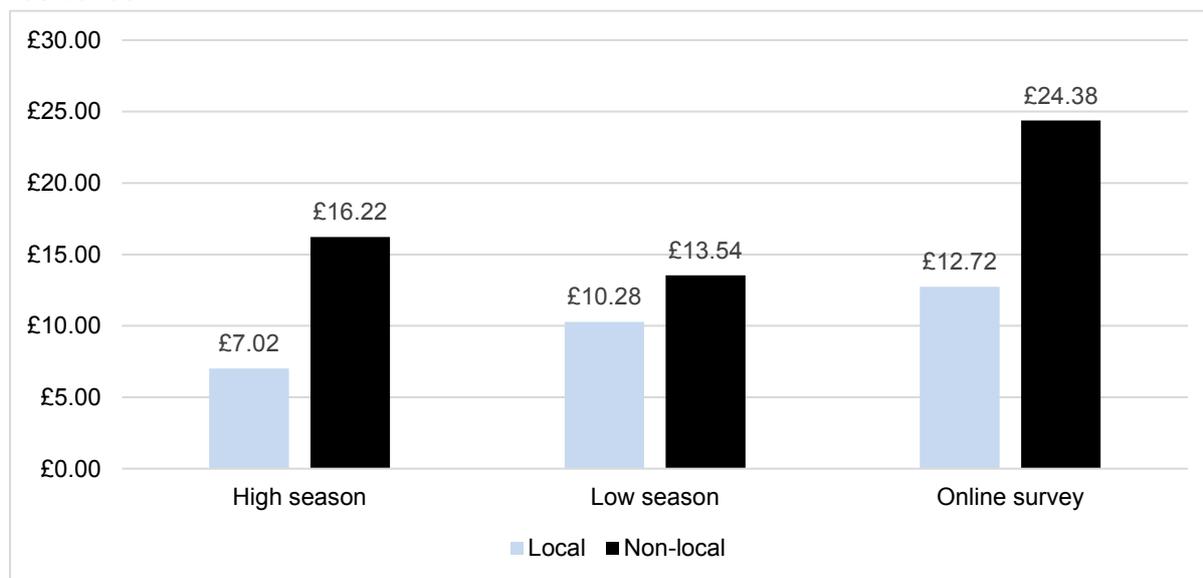
Figure 5.3: Non-accommodation expenditure per visitor per day: by source of visitors

Group	Spend per person	Sample size
Overall	£13.34	237
Local	£10.64	119
Non-local	£16.44	108
High season	£13.28	117
Low season	£11.76	36
Online	£14.18	84

The visitor survey found that the average daily expenditure per visitor (excluding accommodation) across the six sites was £13.34 (see Figure 5.3). This is broadly in line with visitor spend in comparable areas. The data also highlighted the following:

- Of those who responded to the survey question on daily expenditure, ‘non-local’ visitors spent 54% more per day than ‘locals’.
- Those surveyed in person had spent less than those surveyed online, while the amount spent by visitors during the high season (August) was 13% higher than the amount spent by visitors during the low season (October).
- Cross-referencing the season and visitors’ place of residence (Figure 5.4) shows:
 - The difference in spending between non-local and local visitors differs considerably by season. During the high season, non-locals spent 131% more than locals did, whereas during the low season the difference was 32%.
 - Local visitors spent 32% less during the high season than during the low season. On the other hand, non-locals spent 20% more during the high season than during the low season.

Figure 5.4: Non-accommodation expenditure per visitor per day, by season and place of residence



Care should be taken in interpreting these figures, as it is possible that they show a ‘crowding out’ of expenditure, where locals spend less time at the sites, and therefore less money, during the busier high season. Alternatively, it may mean that high season visitors are non-local visitors who are spending more because they are on holiday.

There was considerable variation in the amount spent between the six sites (Figure 5.5).

- Those interviewed at the three WHS sites and the Panorama spent significantly more than those visiting the two more northerly sites (LCP and MF).

- Daily expenditure per visitor was particularly low at Loggerheads Country Park. Visitors to the Panorama, PATB, and the HFLG spent nearly three times as much as visitors to Loggerheads.
- This may be due to visitors viewing Loggerheads as a place to go for a walk, rather than to spend money or eat lunch. The only opportunity to spend money at the park itself is in Caffi Florence. However, the manager of Caffi Florence estimated that at least 50% of her customers come to the park just to visit the café. It is interesting to note that they have never done any surveys of their visitors, and we could suggest that such a survey might provide additional insights into visitor motivations and experience at LCP.

Figure 5.5: Non-accommodation expenditure per visitor per day, by site of survey

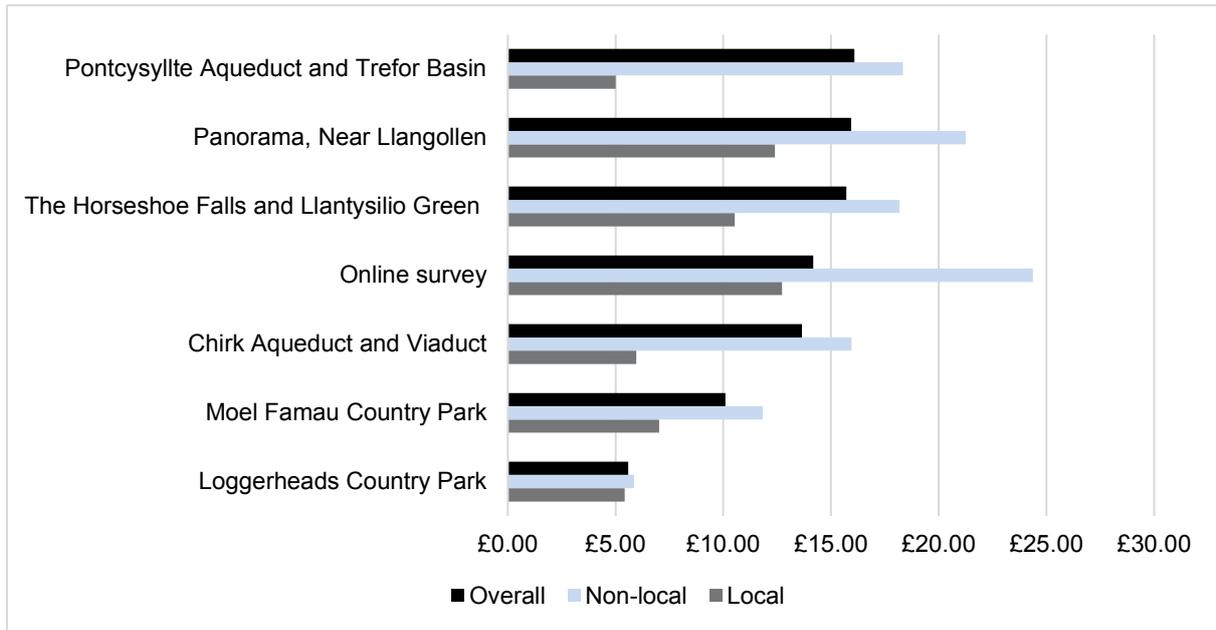
Location where the visitor was surveyed	Spend per person	Sample size
Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct	£13.65	25
Loggerheads Country Park	£5.59	20
Moel Famau Country Park	£10.09	34
Panorama, near Llangollen	£15.94	15
Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin	£16.09	28
The Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green	£15.71	31
Online survey	£14.18	84

At all six sites, non-local visitors spent more than those who lived locally (Figure 5.6), though the difference between these two groups varied by site.

- At LCP, non-local visitors spent only 8% more than local visitors.
- In contrast, non-locals outspent locals by approximately 70% at MF, Panorama, and the HFLG.
- The difference in expenditure was most pronounced at Chirk, where non-locals spent approximately 2.7 times as much as locals; and at PATB, where non-locals spent approximately 3.7 times as much as locals.
- The relatively low spend per person at LCP is a surprising result – however this could simply be a low probability outcome, of the type that can sometimes occur in surveys.



Figure 5.6 Daily non-accommodation expenditure per visitor by site: local and non-local (£)



It is important to note that those arriving at HFLG as part of a rafting excursion were not interviewed and their spending is therefore not included in our survey results. We can however estimate the value of their expenditure on the excursions, as follows:

Operator A (using the car park). Charges: rafting £55 per person per session, 4-5 sessions a day throughout the year, 6 people per raft; canoeing/kayaking £50 per half day, £195 for two days (including Bed and Breakfast).

Last season, Operator B ran two trips a day, with a maximum of 30 people on each rafting trip and 16 tubing (so a max of 46 people for any one trip). Groups met at the centre in Llangollen to get changed and have refreshments, so they just used the car park for dropping off.

Operator C has around 4x as many people using the site. The charges are the same as for Operator A. Operator C also runs instructor training classes: £250-1500 for 1-4 day courses.

A conservative calculation, based only on rafting activities (as we do not have reliable participation numbers for the other activities) and assuming 300 days of activity at two thirds capacity, over one year, and that all operators charge the same as Operator A, shows the following economic value:

- Operator A: £264,000 (55 x 4 x 6 x 300 x 2/3)
- Operator B: £660,000 (55 x 2 x 30 x 300 x 2/3)
- Operator C: £1,100,000 (55 x 100 x 300 x 2/3)

Total (3 operators): £2,024,000



5.1.3 Does non-accommodation expenditure spill over from one site to other sites?

Figure 5.7 summarises the survey findings on expenditure spill-overs from the six sites. The percentages indicate the percentage of visitors to a given site (see column heading) that spent money at a given location (see row heading). For example, 66.7% of those surveyed at the Panorama went on to spend some money in Llangollen. The table is colour coded from red (lowest) to green (highest). We can draw some key themes from this analysis:

- Llangollen is capturing more spill-over expenditure from nearby sites than other locations (e.g. Froncysyllte, Trevor Basin, Cefn Mawr, Horseshoe Falls). There are considerable spill-overs in expenditure from the Panorama, Horseshoe Falls and (to a lesser extent) Trevor Basin. For visitors to the Horseshoe Falls, the average spend per group in Llangollen was higher than in other spill-over areas.
- This suggests either that there are things available in Llangollen which are encouraging visitors to spend more, or perhaps that visitors who spend more are more likely to visit the sites nearer Llangollen.
- The spill-over effect into Llangollen does not seem to apply to visitors to the Chirk Aqueduct; they were most likely to spend their money on the site or in the town of Chirk. There were few spill-overs from Chirk Aqueduct to Llangollen.
- There were fewer spill-overs from the two sites further north.
 - Of the visitors to MFCP, only a handful spent money in places other than the site itself, in descending order of number of people spending money there: Loggerheads CP, Mold, Wrexham, Ruthin, Denbigh. While 47% of the visitors to Moel Famau spent some money on site (mainly on car parking), only 9% of them spent money in Mold and 3% in Ruthin.
 - Of the visitors to Loggerheads CP who were surveyed, almost none spent any money anywhere else. There was one case each of spending in Mold, Wrexham and the village of Cilcain.
 - This is interesting, because although in the business surveys several businesses (mainly camp sites) said that Mold was a focus for spending by their customers, this did not appear in the data from the visitor surveys, which showed very little spill-over to Mold for any of the sites.
- Some areas received virtually no spill-overs in expenditure. Out of those surveyed in person (not online), no one spent money in Corwen, only two respondents spent money in Ruthin and one respondent spent money in Denbigh. This suggests that the direct economic impact of spending is quite localised at the sites in question, and expenditure is not being drawn to the gateway towns to the west.

- A final point to note here is the significance of the ‘Other’ category, which shows that up to one-fifth of non-accommodation expenditure from all sites is spent outside the area.

Figure 5.7: Spill-overs in expenditure between locations

		Location where the visitor was interviewed					
		The Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green	Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin	Panorama, near Llangollen	Moel Famau Country Park	Loggerheads Country Park	Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct
Location where the visitor spent money	Cefn Mawr		3.6%				
	Chirk	6.5%	3.6%				20.0%
	Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct			6.7%			40.0%
	Denbigh				2.9%		
	Froncysyllte			6.7%			
	Llangollen	45.2%	21.4%	66.7%			8.0%
	Loggerheads Country Park			13.3%	11.8%	70.0%	
	Moel Famau Country Park				47.1%		
	Mold				8.8%	5.0%	4.0%
	Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin	9.7%	21.4%	26.7%			
	Ruthin			6.7%	2.9%		
	The Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green	16.1%	3.6%				
	Wrexham		3.6%		5.9%	5.0%	4.0%
	Other location	16.1%	21.4%		11.8%	5.0%	16.0%



5.1.4 Estimating the total annual economic impact of visitors to the six sites, on the local economy

Using multipliers from the STEAM model for rural Denbighshire¹³ and expenditure data collected during our visitor survey, it was possible to estimate the impact of these five sites in terms of:

- Direct expenditure: what visitors spend in the area (excluding accommodation).
- Indirect expenditure: what tourism businesses (who receive the direct expenditure) spend in their supply chains locally.
- Direct full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs: the number of full-time jobs that is equivalent to the number of hours of work that is supported by the aforementioned direct expenditure of visitors.
- Indirect FTE jobs: the number of full-time jobs that is equivalent to the number of hours of work created by the aforementioned indirect expenditure of tourism businesses in their local supply chains.

There is some annual variation in the multipliers used in the STEAM model, so we applied multipliers derived from the average of the last five available years of data (2013-17). These multipliers describe the relationship between direct visitor expenditure, indirect expenditure and employment as follows:

- Direct expenditure → indirect expenditure: every £3.08 spent by visitors creates £1.00 of expenditure by tourism businesses in their local supply chains (see column F of Figure 5.8a, below).
- Direct expenditure → direct FTE jobs: every £65,984 spent by visitors supports one direct FTE job (see column H of Figure 5.8b, below).
- Direct FTE jobs → indirect FTE jobs: every 4.33 direct FTE jobs supported corresponds to one indirect FTE job supported (see column I of Figure 5.8b, below).

Figure 5.8 contains an estimate of the gross economic contribution of the six sites, relative to the overall tourist economy of rural Denbighshire.¹⁴

¹³ While not all of the six sites of interest are located in Denbighshire (two are in Wrexham), of the available STEAM modelling, the rural Denbighshire model was the closest approximation to the geographical area that was analysed in this report.

¹⁴ While not all of the six sites of interest are located within rural Denbighshire, this was seen as the most appropriate geographical benchmark for the sites of interest for which comparable data was available.



Figure 5.8a Gross economic contribution of visitors to the six sites (2018)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	<i>AONB and Visit Wales data</i>	<i>Visitor survey data (2018)</i>	<i>Visitor survey data (2018)</i>	<i>Column C * Column D</i>	<i>Applying the STEAM multiplier to our estimated direct expenditure</i>	<i>Column E + Column F</i>
All figures are per annum in 2018 prices	Visitors (est.)	Visitor days (est.)	Expenditure per visitor day (our survey)	Estimated total direct expenditure	Estimated total indirect expenditure	Direct and indirect expenditure
Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct	150,000	261,962	£13.65	£3,574,797	£1,160,234	£4,735,031
Loggerheads Country Park	234,580	409,673	£5.59	£2,290,187	£743,301	£3,033,488
Moel Famau Country Park	263,730	460,581	£10.09	£4,648,031	£1,508,561	£6,156,592
Panorama, near Llangollen	40,520	70,765	£15.94	£1,127,811	£366,041	£1,493,852
Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin	330,083	576,461	£16.09	£9,273,469	£3,009,790	£12,283,259
The Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green	115,000	200,837	£15.71	£3,156,015	£1,024,314	£4,180,329
Total (six sites of interest)	1,133,913	1,980,279		£24,070,310	£7,812,242	£31,882,552
Total for rural Denbighshire as a whole	2,774,284	4,663,542	£27.23	£126,991,352	£41,216,220	£168,207,572
Estimated contribution of the six sites relative to the rural Denbighshire total	40.9%	42.5%		19.0%	19.0%	19.0%



Figure 5.8b Gross economic contribution of visitors to the six sites (2018)

A	H	I	J
	<i>Applying the STEAM multiplier to our estimated direct expenditure</i>	<i>Applying the STEAM multiplier to our estimated direct FTE jobs</i>	<i>Column H + Column I</i>
All figures are per annum in 2018 prices	Est. direct FTE jobs	Estimated indirect FTE jobs	Direct and indirect FTE jobs
Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct	54	13	67
Loggerheads Country Park	35	8	43
Moel Famau Country Park	70	16	87
Panorama, near Llangollen	17	4	21
Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin	141	32	173
The Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green	48	11	59
Total (six sites of interest)	365	84	449
Total for rural Denbighshire as a whole	1,925	445	2,369
Estimated contribution of the six sites relative to the rural Denbighshire total	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%

The visitor figures for the six sites of interest suggest that they attracted approximately 41% of all tourist visitors to rural Denbighshire during 2018. The average visit from our survey sample was slightly longer than the average visit across rural Denbighshire (1.75 days for our sample, versus 1.68 days in the STEAM 2017 data). This means that the six sites were responsible for visitor days equivalent to 42.5% of all visitor days spent in rural Denbighshire during 2018.



Average non-accommodation expenditure in rural Denbighshire per visitor day in 2018 is estimated at £27.23.¹⁵ This is 2.04 times the amount spent per visitor day by our survey respondents.

Direct expenditure by visitors varied between the six sites (see Figure 5.9). When combined, the sites accounted for an estimated £24.1m in direct expenditure by visitors to the sites in 2018. Looking more specifically at the expenditure by visitors to each site, we found that:

- Visitors to PATB accounted for the largest share, with £9.3m (39% of the total).
- This was followed by MFCP with £4.6m (19%), CAV with £3.6m (15%) and HFLG with £3.2m (13%).
- Relatively less was spent by visitors to LCP (£2.3m or 10% of the total) and at the Panorama (£1.1m or 5% of the total). This was due to lower spend per person at LCP and lower visitor numbers at the Panorama.

It should be noted that that these figures relate to expenditure by visitors to each site but do not imply that all of the expenditure was at the specified site. Our survey aimed to capture all non-accommodation expenditure related to a visit rather than just the site-specific spending.

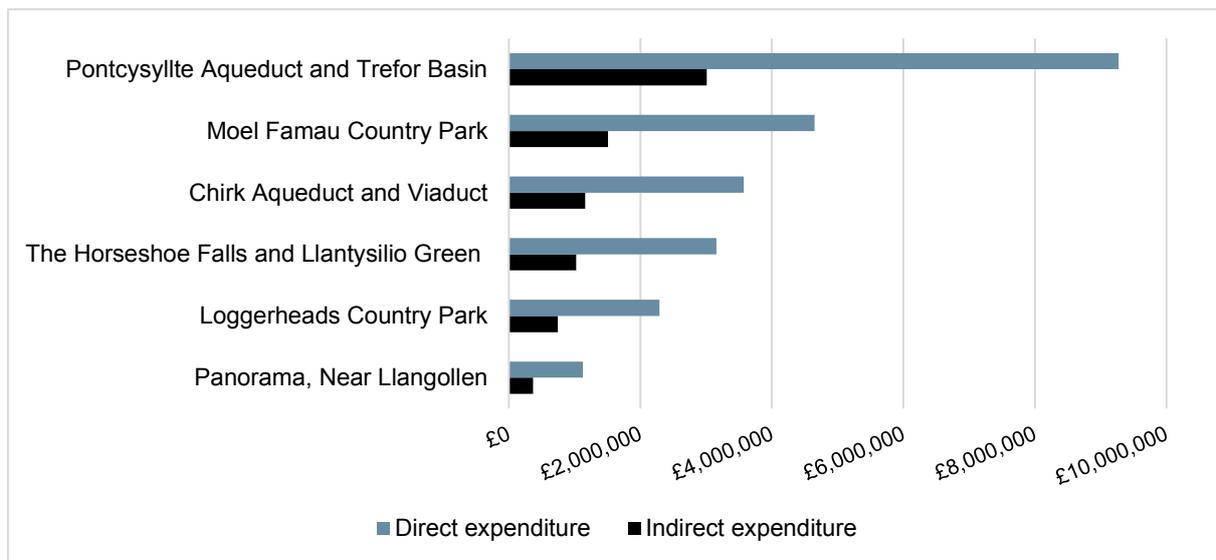
Using the multiplier from the STEAM model, it was estimated that the £24.1m of direct expenditure at the six sites led to £7.8m in indirect expenditure by tourist businesses in their local supply chains.

These six sites therefore accounted for estimated expenditure equivalent to 19% of all tourist expenditure in rural Denbighshire in 2018.

¹⁵ This estimate is derived by removing accommodation expenditure from the 2017 STEAM totals for direct revenue, adding back 20% for VAT, dividing by the number of visitor days from STEAM, and adjusting the resulting number to 2018 prices using the Office for National Statistics GDP deflator.



Figure 5.9: Direct and indirect expenditure by site



Using multipliers from the STEAM model, it is estimated that this direct expenditure by visitors to the six sites directly supported 365 FTE jobs (Figure 5.10).

- This was split in the same proportions as direct expenditure, with visitor expenditure at PATB supporting the most employment (141 FTE jobs or 39% of the total).
- This was followed by LCP (70 FTE jobs), CAV (54), HFLG (48), LCP (35) and the Panorama (17).

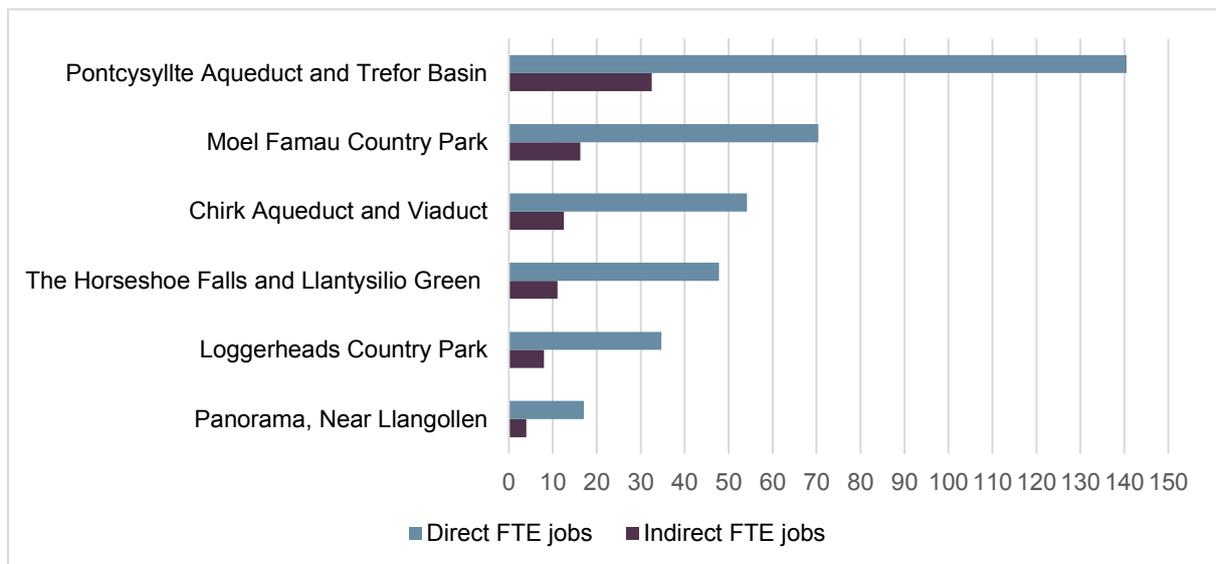
The indirect expenditure by tourism businesses in their local supply chains, which occurs as a result of the direct expenditure of visitors to the six sites, was estimated to support a further 84 FTE jobs in 2018.

The estimated total of 449 FTE jobs supported by the expenditure of visitors to the six sites in 2018 was equivalent to 19% of all jobs from tourism in rural Denbighshire in 2018.¹⁶

¹⁶ Based on the total jobs figure reported by STEAM in 2017.



Figure 5.10: FTE jobs supported by the direct and indirect expenditure of visitors to each site



5.1.5 Economic impacts at site level

Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct

The CAV site has fewer tourism businesses than some of the other sites in this study, but it clearly has great potential to benefit from closer integration with the WHS. Although the Chirk Basin is quite remote from the town there are some healthy hospitality businesses along the towpath and in the surrounding area. These include a significant and growing water sports business, pub and restaurant at Chirk Marina to the north of the site between the town of Chirk and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. The major car park for the CAV section of the WHS is served by a community café and craft shop, which we were unfortunately unable to access for the telephone survey. There is also a community centre and small business hub facility at the car park site. It is possible that with growth in visitor numbers this area could be subject to congestion at times, which might present challenges to the life of this part of the town.

Although the town of Chirk is not a significant focus for tourism, it has a steady throughput of visitors to the popular National Trust property of Chirk Castle. There are also a number of businesses in the town, such as a traditional butcher and several pubs, which are well placed to benefit from a further growth in visitors to the area.

Loggerheads

The figures in Section 4.1 and 4.2 show that the Country Park is visited predominantly by families and older people, with a strong emphasis on ‘locals’ and day trip visits. The on-site café is very popular in summer (high season), although it has to work hard to maintain revenues in the winter months, and arranges a number of events and food-based courses during the low season. It is a trailblazer for local supply, being a member of the Clwydian

Range Food Group (and formerly the Food Trail) which is making significant steps in promoting the food of the area, both to the tourist trade and to local communities. Local food is part of the Group's USP, and provenance is clearly highlighted in their menus.

It is important to point out that our survey would not have captured the large number of users of the Country Park from the nearby Kingswood Colomendy: a large outdoor sports and activity residential centre located within walking distance of Loggerheads CP. The centre is now part of the Kingswood Group (this is their only centre in Wales), which leases the site from its owners, Liverpool CC. The capacity is 700 beds, and they offer educational and activity-based holidays for a wide range of clients, including school groups, groups of adults, special interest groups. Open all year round, their high season runs from Easter to the end of October. Most customers are from the Cheshire, Liverpool and Birmingham areas, especially school groups and groups from charity organisations running holidays for under-privileged children.

Although owned by an 'outside' organisation, the Centre is becoming increasingly autonomous in terms of its supply chain, and has definite plans to use more local producers in future. Its numbers are significant: they are planning to increase to 1000 beds on site by 2020, and employ up to 200 in the high season.

LCP is therefore seen as 'vital' to their business by Colomendy, the Countryside Centre and Caffi Florence. Other businesses see it as important but not vital. Most businesses, apart from these, noted that local economic health was as important to their business as the value of visitors to the site. Several businesses replied that they would look to expand in response to the projected increase in domestic visitors following Brexit (although this was seen by some businesses in the area as a threat as well, in the form of concerns about the future of the Airbus factory on Deeside).

Mold is seen as an important local hub and supply centre, especially for customers of residential caravan sites in the area.

Moel Famau

This is an extremely well-managed site which is popular with a wide range of different user groups. However, with two exceptions, the businesses that were geographically close to Moel Famau said that the site was not of major importance to their business. This reflects the fact that the businesses were accommodation providers, caravan sites and pubs, whereas most of the visitors interviewed were local, or on day trips. Offa's Dyke Way was seen as a more important attractor than Moel Famau for these accommodation businesses.

Shepherd's Hut is the only business located at the site. It was suggested that the Hut has become a destination in itself. The new owner has started to develop the business further by arranging events on the hill, for which she sells tickets.

One interviewee suggested that more could be done to promote links with other businesses, especially accommodation providers, around the numerous events based at Moel Famau. She also suggested that participants in these events often visit the site beforehand to practice for challenges, or afterwards with their families to show them the course. She saw this as an untapped source of custom for nearby businesses, if they could develop promotion along with the events.

Evidence from the interviews suggested that businesses in Ruthin do not benefit greatly from visitors to Moel Famau. Trip Advisor places it in Mold, and neighbouring accommodation providers and campsites all said that Mold was the main service centre used by their clients.

Panorama

Although the sample size was small for Panorama, the visitor survey figures suggest that more visitors to Panorama are locals and day visitors, suggesting that the benefits of this site are predominantly social (wellbeing) rather than economic.

- The campsites nearby reported that Panorama is not a major draw for their visitors and that Llangollen, Valle Crucis, having space for families, and the river are more important.
- The owner of the small tearoom at the top of Garth (open only Thursday–Sunday in the summer) was the only respondent who said that the Panorama was important. Her customer base includes locals (very important), cycling groups from Cheshire or Merseyside (weekends mainly, but significant in number), and often elderly people, or family groups, on a day outing that includes a drive across the Panorama. This business is likely to close in the near future because the owner wants to retire.
- Outdoor activity providers from the Dee Valley and elsewhere use the cliffs on Panorama for rock climbing, charging £45-55 for a session or £90-95 for a day's rock climbing. Numbers and frequency of use are not known. No charge is currently made by the landowner for use of this facility.
- The walking trail route from Dinas Bran down to the Trevor Basin, which includes part of the Panorama, is an important one, being part of the Offa's Dyke National Trail. It also features in a number of walking guides and websites in the area. Opportunities to derive economic benefit from this probably reside in Llangollen, or Acrefair/Trevor, rather than on the mountain itself.

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin

PATB is a different proposition to the other sites. Because of the global reach of the WHS, and the Aqueduct in particular, the survey showed different types of visitor with different expectations: visitors at the Basin expressed surprise that there were not more opportunities to buy local products. People are coming to see a unique site, with expectations that

opportunities to spend money exist. These visitors may be more willing to spend than local visitors to other sites. Further to this, although we did not include visitors on canal boats in our survey at the site, there is also a demand from the large number of boat users who pass through the site, for local food and other tourism items.

The WHS website has few links to other local or Dee Valley businesses. Further, the site is not as well linked to other local suppliers on Trip Adviser as other UK WHS. Alongside any OPL and TBM measures in the future, it is worth considering online presence in more depth, and encouraging the businesses at the site to engage more with the local economy.

The interviews suggested various issues of communication between the different businesses in the area. The longer-standing businesses in the Basin were sceptical that the Masterplan would change anything (having seen a number of different initiatives in the past), and see the new developments as a threat as much as a benefit. One of the newer businesses at the site talked about the difficulty in establishing a relationship with these established businesses, and highlighted the fact that there is currently no sense of unity of purpose between them. One issue seems to be the strong links that one company in particular has with local and regional coach companies, making it difficult for others to enter this lucrative market for large groups of visitors.

A further issue seems to relate to the use of the small parking area at Froncysyllte, by coach companies bringing groups to the Aqueduct for boat trips. In the past, congestion at this site has not been an issue, but recent expansion in other traffic at the Froncysyllte site means that the coaches cannot now be safely accommodated there.

Several of these issues are being explored further by the Masterplan group.

Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green

The economic relationships at this site are interesting. The only business in direct proximity is the Chain Bridge Hotel, a riverside property overlooking the white water rapids for which the area is famous. The hotel has been recently refurbished after a period of decline and has regained its former position as an upmarket place to stay in the area, as well as being a venue for weddings and other events. The owner feels that his 'end' of the WHS is not promoted well enough, whether at the Aqueduct site itself, in Llangollen or the Railway: 'they are not treated as the same brand – it all needs "joining up"' (something that OPL will no doubt seek to do).

The hotel employs mainly younger local (Llangollen) people and offers training in various hospitality-based skills. It has good employee retention and finds it easy to recruit staff if required. They are however thinking of reducing staff in the short-term, in response to challenges in the current market and rising staff costs.

The hotel is also very keen to be seen as sourcing materials locally wherever possible. The manager is a keen contributor to the Dee Valley Good Grub Club, which he sees as an

excellent opportunity to source new suppliers and find out what is going on locally in food and drink production. He feels that it could be more orientated towards hotels as well as suppliers, but thinks it has made an excellent start.

The hotel's visitor profile is somewhat at odds with the profile of most of the visitors to the Horseshoe Falls, and relationships with the site are mixed. When the toilets at the site are closed (often) people often come to use the facilities at the hotel. The hotel also finds an increasing number of cars use the hotel car park, as it is free. One of the problems is restricting access, as the public towpath runs through the hotel car park and directly behind the hotel. The manager characterises his relationship with the site as 'mainly costs without any benefits'.

The HFLG site is also important for camp site operators in the valley above, where many of the water sports users stay, rather than in the more expensive hotel accommodation. These sites offer various forms of lower budget accommodation – caravans, tents, lodges and pods – which are easily accessible and popular with the younger users of the river.

The third category of business relationships with the site is the outdoor and water sports suppliers, who do not pay to use the site, but find it 'invaluable' for their businesses. Many of these users are local companies, based in Llangollen, but it is not unusual to see groups travel to the site from further afield as well.

In terms of adding value to the site, the car park could potentially support a mobile food supplier similar to the Moel Famau Shepherds Hut at peak times.

5.2 Social and environmental impacts across the AONB

5.2.1 Social impacts

Use of the sites by visitors and local people alike generate a number of positive social and wellbeing benefits. Positive social impacts in all six locations include use of the sites by community groups and for physical activity (particularly dog walking). At some sites, local people derive benefit from living near communities whose amenities and shops are boosted by tourism – and therefore their socio-economic environment is also.

Visiting the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB with its various green and blue spaces plays an important role in individual and community health and wellbeing. The cycling and walking paths provide an opportunity for many to increase physical and social activity, for example through dog walking and participation in outdoor group activities.

There is a direct link between peoples' perception of wellbeing and measurable health outcomes. Further, there is ample evidence that spending time in nature and being active



promotes physical and mental wellbeing, such as by lowering blood pressure and enhancing self-esteem, which in turn has implications for healthcare costs.

Beyond individual benefits reported by respondents, we conducted a survey about people’s perception of community benefits living close to the area. Across all sites, almost 92% of survey participants agreed or strongly agreed that living in or near the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is good for life in their community.

When looking into the variance between sites (Figure 5.11), local visitors to Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin perceived the highest benefits for their community life, whereas The Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green Car Park and Picnic Area had the most varied view, with 13% disagreement as to community benefits, which correlates with visiting during high season.

Figure 5.11: To what extent do you agree that living in/near the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is good for life in my community? (Analysis by area)

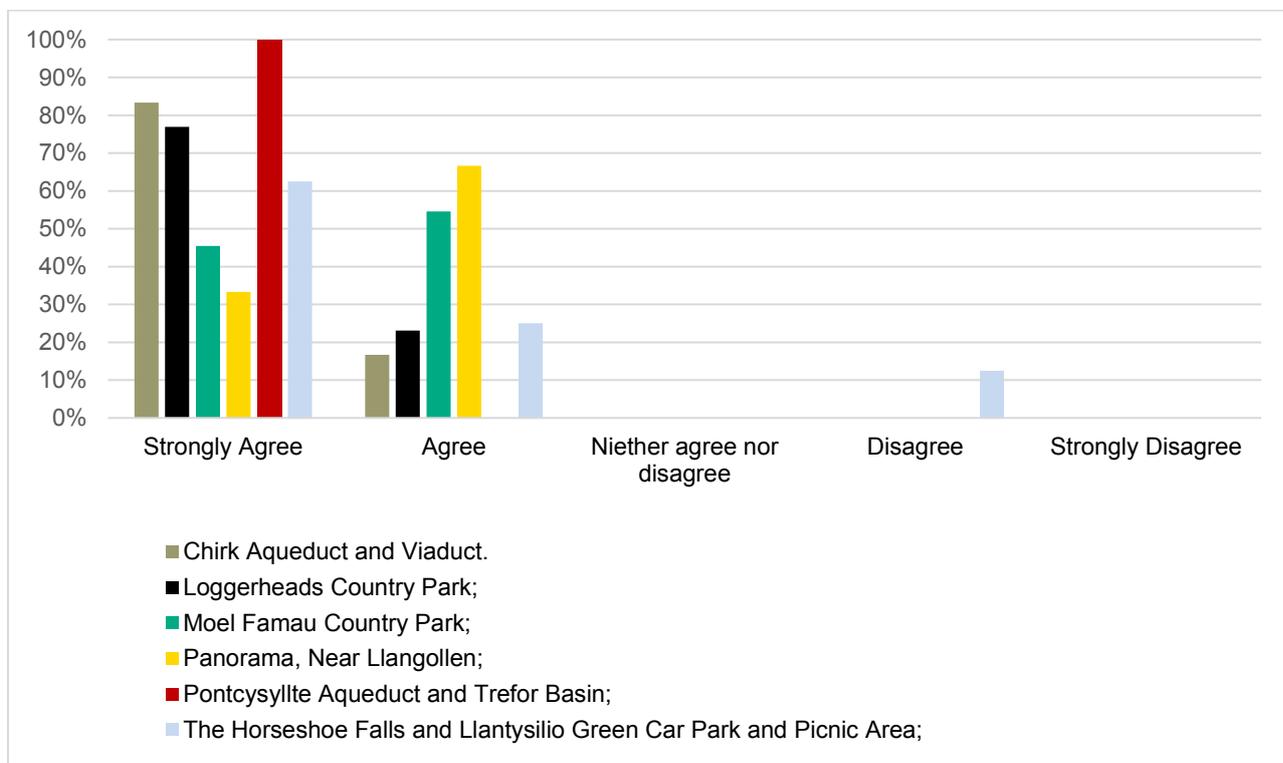
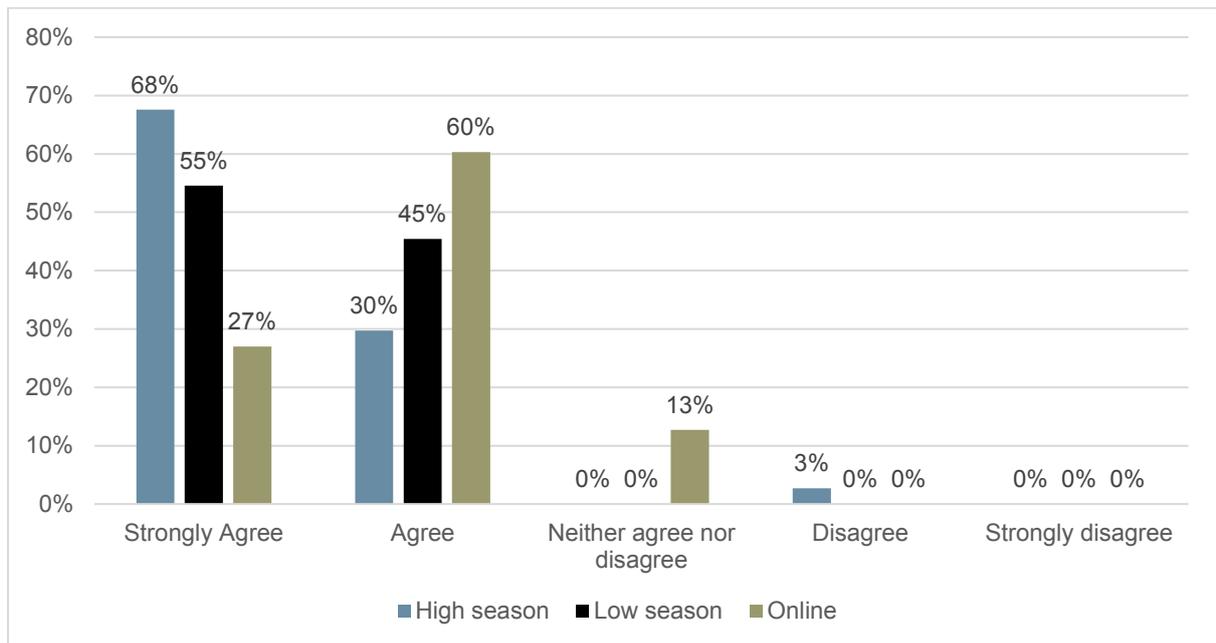


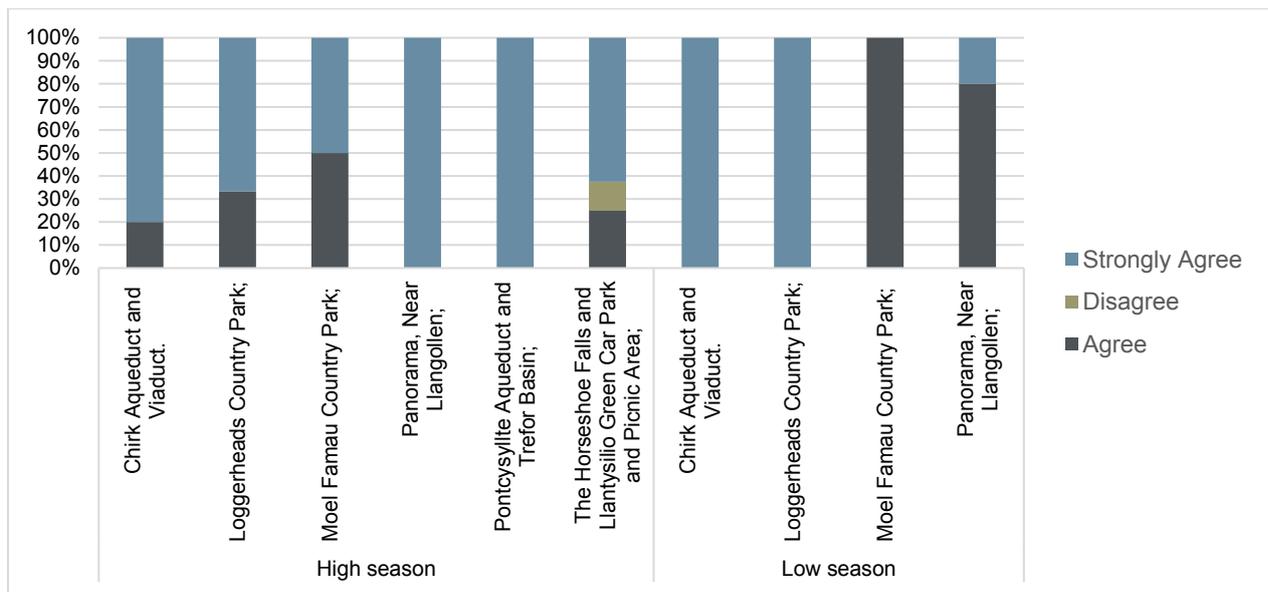


Figure 5.12: To what extent do you agree that living in/near the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is good for life in my community? (Analysis by season and online responses)



The survey showed a marginal difference (97.3%/100%) between high and low season community benefits, which indicates that in terms of perceived wellbeing, seasonality might play a less significant role than anticipated (Figure 5.12). However, when looking at site-specific responses, it is interesting to note that Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct and Loggerheads Country Park receive slightly more favourable results during low than during high season, whereas the picture shows the reverse for Moel Famau Country Park and Panorama, near Llangollen (Figure 5.13).

Figure 5.13: To what extent do you agree that living in/near the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is good for life in my community? (Analysis by season by area)





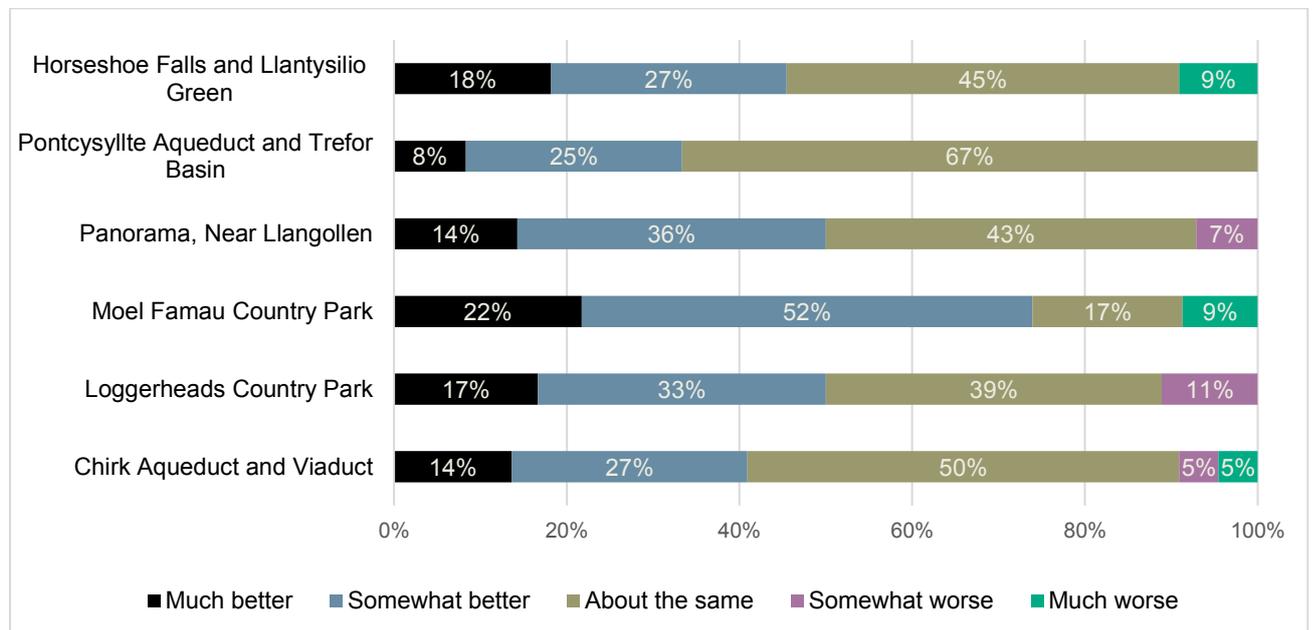
Negative social impacts and their severity varied between sites. Traffic congestion and particularly issues relating to parking were common concerns across all the busy sites, as was litter. Across the six sites, only 8% of the users surveyed considered the site they were visiting to be any worse for overcrowding than other natural areas they had visited (with visitors from outside the area being more likely to hold this view, particularly in high season). This figure rose to 20% in relation to vehicle congestion.

Local people surveyed in the low season had a stronger (i.e. more negative) opinion about this issue than those in the high season, which is perhaps surprising. There is also a perception that there is not sufficient positive 'trade-off' for local residents when the sites are busy, to compensate for the negative impacts they experience.

The graphs below show the spread of opinion among visitors to the six sites, in relation to the two main social impacts on which they were asked to comment: overcrowding and vehicle congestion. They demonstrate that Pontcysyllte Aqueduct was the only location at which all site users considered it to be at least the same, or better, than other natural areas in relation to these two impacts. These responses are analysed at site level in section 5.2.2.

Overcrowding

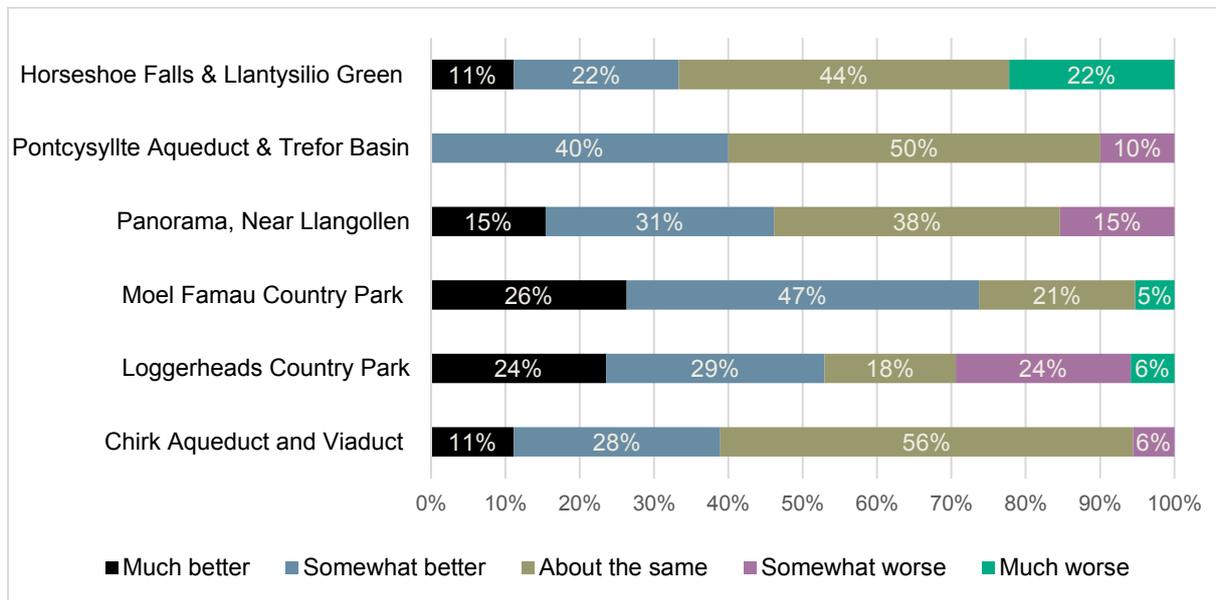
Figure 5.14: Thinking about other natural areas you have visited, how do the sites you visited on your most recent trip to the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB compare with them on overcrowding?





Vehicle congestion

Figure 5.15: Thinking about other natural areas you have visited, how do the sites you visited on your most recent trip to the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB compare with them on vehicle congestion?



5.2.2 Monetising the social value

There was broad agreement from visitors that ‘spending time in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB helps me to relax, escape stress and find personal peace’. 92% of those who responded, said they agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

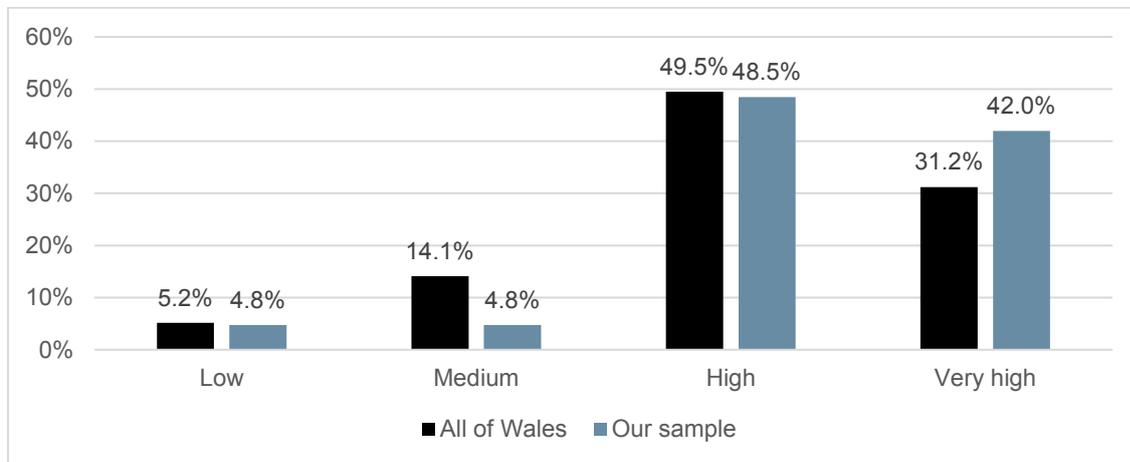
Similarly, the estimated level of life satisfaction of visitors to the AONB was high, relative to the average across the Welsh population. When standardised on a 0-to-10 scale, the life satisfaction of visitors to the AONB was an estimated 6.4% higher than the population average.

This complements the finding of Fields in Trust (2018)¹⁷ that those who had visited a park or green space at least once in the past year had a life satisfaction score 7.0% higher than those who did not. In fact, we are likely to be underestimating the benefit of visiting the AONB

¹⁷ Fields in Trust. (2018). *Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces: Measuring their economic and wellbeing value to individuals*. Available at: <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/research/Revaluing-Parks-and-Green-Spaces-Report.pdf> [accessed 16/01/2019]

because we are benchmarking visitors' life satisfaction against the Welsh population average (in the absence a comparable sample of people who do not use green spaces).

Figure 5.16: Level of life satisfaction (2018)



- The above findings suggest that it is appropriate to apply the same monetised wellbeing benefit found by Fields in Trust (2018), to our population of interest: visitors to the AONB. Fields in Trust used the *wellbeing valuation method* to estimate that the improvement in life satisfaction that people derive from green spaces and parks is £8.47 per visit.
- When this valuation is applied to the estimated total number of annual visitors to the six sites analysed in this report (1.13 million), the total wellbeing benefit to visitors is an estimated £9.6 million per annum.
- Conservatively, taking 92% of this value to reflect the proportion of people in our survey who stated that spending time in the AONB helped them to relax, escape stress and find personal peace, we arrive at a wellbeing value of £8.8m per annum.

We can also place a monetary value on the health benefits that visitors derive from visiting the AONB. Our survey found that a large majority of visitors to the AONB went walking during their visit. 86% of respondents (204 people) stated that they had done some walking on their visit to the AONB. The estimated total number of visitors in 2018 to the six key AONB sites covered in this study was 1,133,913 (see Section 5.1.4). Applying the percentage of visitors who said they spent time walking during their visit, this suggests that the six key sites received 976,026 walking visitors in 2018.

Like other forms of exercise, walking has a number of important health benefits, including reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and type-2 diabetes. By estimating the extent to which these two categories of risk are reduced, and using the typical cost of treating such health conditions, it is possible to put an approximate monetary value on the

health benefits associated with walking while visiting the AONB. Full details of the calculation involved are provided in Appendix A.3.

Our analysis suggests that the health benefits of a year's worth of walking visitors to the six key AONB sites equate to an estimated £38.1 million in health spending foregone. Of this, an estimated £1.2 million relates to the assumed reduction in CVD, and a further £36.8 million relates to the assumed reduction in type-2 diabetes. In our calculation we reduced the value, based on the assumption that a visit to walk in the AONB constitutes one part of a full year programme of regular walking exercise. UK guidelines on physical activity for adults aged 19-64 state that: 'Adults should aim to be active daily. Over a week, activity should add up to at least 150 minutes (2½ hours) of moderate intensity activity in bouts of 10 minutes or more – one way to approach this is to do 30 minutes on at least 5 days a week. ... Alternatively, comparable benefits can be achieved through 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity spread across the week or combinations of moderate and vigorous intensity activity.'¹⁸

According to these guidelines, we can reasonably assume that physical activity during time spent in the AONB amounts, for most people, to the equivalent of one week of exercise. Therefore, dividing the calculated annual financial benefits by 52 weeks we arrive at a figure of £733,000 of reduced health expenditure, made up of approximately £23,000 from reduced incidence of CVD and £708,000 from reduced type-2 diabetes.

5.2.3 Environmental impacts

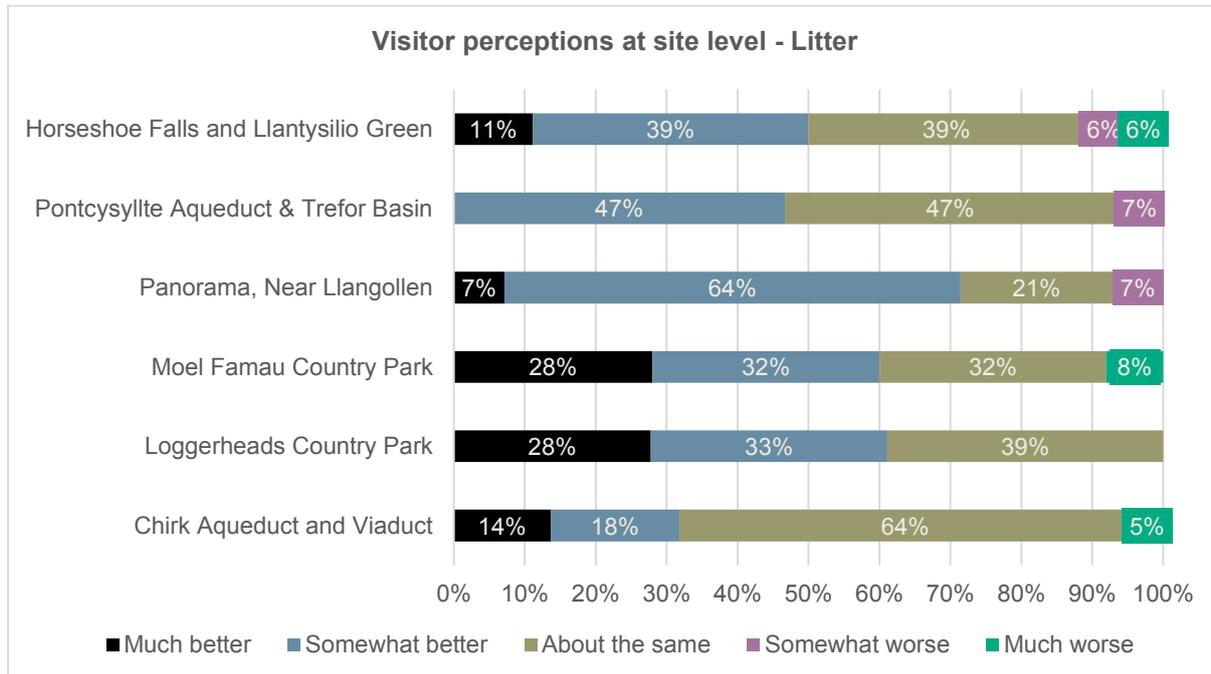
Generally, visitors did not perceive many significant adverse environmental impacts on their visits, and many expressed their appreciation for how well kept the sites were. This was borne out by external visitors' comparisons between the six sites and other natural areas they had visited, when considering two environmental issues: litter and erosion.

Figures 5.17 and 5.18 show that the site considered to be under most environmental pressure from both issues, is Horseshoe Falls.

¹⁸ Guidance from the Chief Medical Office (CMO) on how much physical activity people should be doing, along with supporting documents. UK physical activity guidelines. Factsheet 4: Physical activity guidelines for ADULTS (19-64).

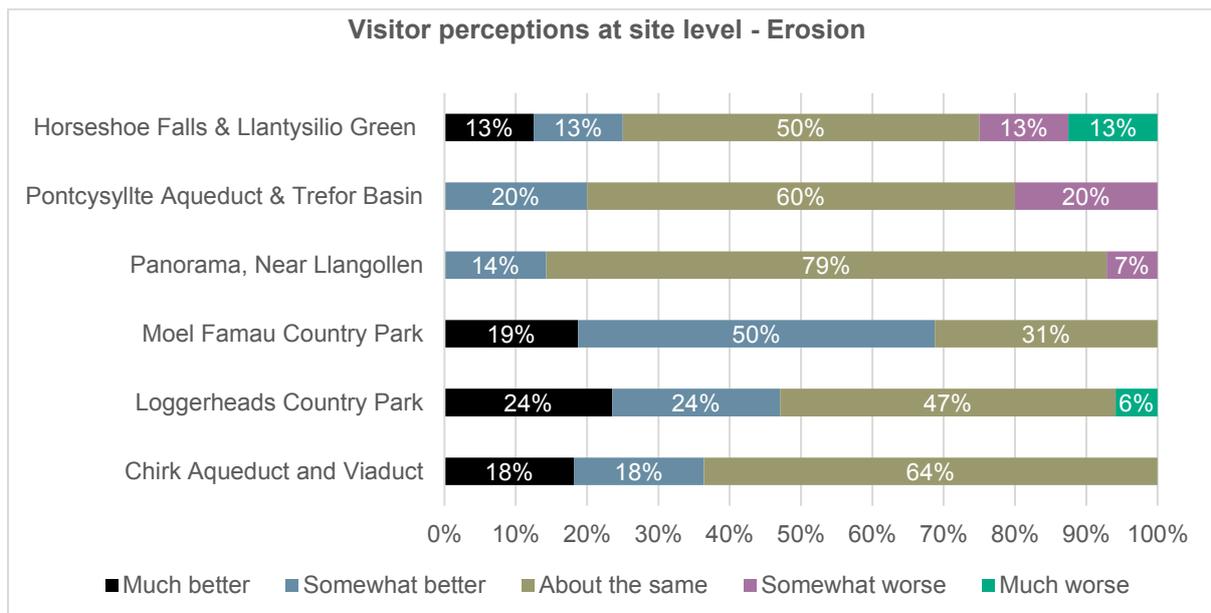
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/213740/dh_128145.pdf

Figure 5.17: Thinking about other natural areas you have visited, how do the sites you visited on your most recent trip to the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB compare with them on litter?



Across the sites, the percentage of users considering them to be about the same, somewhat better or much better than other natural areas was 92% for litter and 90% for erosion, with no significant divergence in views between local and other visitors on these issues.

Figure 5.18: Thinking about other natural areas you have visited, how do the sites you visited on your most recent trip to the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB compare with them on erosion?



However, local users and site managers observe and manage a number of negative environmental impacts on a daily basis at all six sites, principally:

- Litter, including dog waste. This issue in particular represents a cost in terms of staff and disposal charges. The average cost of litter collection over four years was £4,560 per year at Loggerheads Country Park and £1,257 at Llantysilio Green. If we scale up the average of these values to all six sites the total cost would be approximately £17,500 per year.
- Erosion and damage to vegetation, particularly at the more fragile sites such as Loggerheads, Panorama and Horseshoe Falls.
- Maintenance of paths at the sites is costly. The average cost over the last three years was £3,090 per year at Moel Famau, £2,567 per year at Loggerheads and £2,780 per year at Horseshoe Falls. If we scale up the average of these values to all six sites the total cost would be approximately £16,900 per year.
- Damage to livestock. It is difficult to put a figure on the cost of stock lost or injured to dog attacks, as this may manifest in the loss of the stock or unborn lambs, the loss of value of the stock through injury, vets bills etc. However, records indicate that seven sheep were killed by dogs at Moel Famau in each of the last two years.

These impacts are described in more detail at site level below.

Trevor Basin – Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal

In contrast to the other sites, local residents tend to use the Pontcysyllte site for functional rather than leisure use – as a transit route by foot or cycle rather than a walk for relaxation. It is also used by school and community groups. This was the only one of the six sites where all survey respondents, whether local or from outside the AONB, thought the site was the same or better than other natural areas for overcrowding.

Inscription as a World Heritage Site has afforded opportunities in terms of funding, for example, the upgrading of the towpath: making it accessible for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs.

The focus group identified very few environmental issues relating to this site, mainly because it is principally a constructed rather than a natural environment. The main challenge as user numbers grow, relates to maintaining the towpath, as well as the steps down from the aqueduct to the valley below. Damage is also caused to the canal bank by boats hitting it.

Impacts from increased visitor numbers

- Visitor numbers to the site have increased over recent years, especially since the WHS inscription. There is a strong view among local people that the communities

surrounding the site – in particular at Cefn Mawr, Trevor and Froncysyllte – bear the brunt of the negative impacts of visitor activity but see little benefit from tourism. Expectations that tourism would be something of a ‘saviour’ following the decline in local industry and manufacturing in recent decades have been raised but not realised. There is also a feeling among local residents of having been excluded or overlooked in historical planning processes.

- There are two litter bins at the site, which are emptied by staff at the visitor centre. Bins in the car park are managed by Wrexham CBC. No local visitors considered the site to be any worse than other natural areas for litter; 8.3% of visitors from elsewhere thought it was ‘somewhat worse’.
- The toilet facilities at the site are also under extreme pressure on busy days.
- Numerous coach groups visit the site but operate on a tight schedule and tend not to provide opportunities for their guests to use local businesses.
- There can be some recreational use conflict between user groups such as walkers and some cyclists who go along the towpath at speed. Large groups also use the stretch of water along the Pontcysyllte site for paddle sports. There are some issues relating to these user groups, for example when there are large groups of inexperienced paddlers under limited instruction and others who spread their canoes across the grass – as well as the lack of infrastructure for growing numbers of amateur paddle sports users.
- There are also reports of antisocial behaviour at the site, such as drinking and drug-taking, resulting in the police having to be called on occasion.

Congestion, parking and driving

- The principal negative impacts include traffic congestion, especially in summer and at weekends, and parking on residential streets around the site. There is a feeling locally that the infrastructure is not adequate to cope with the level of visitors, especially on busy days. This creates frustration for local residents – although all local survey respondents stated they felt the issue was the same or better than in other natural areas, compared to 12.5% of visitors from outside the area.

In terms of costs, the site is run by four staff, supported by 20 or so volunteers.

The recently opened Chapel Tearooms has been developed in response to the opportunity created by the site’s WHS status and visitor popularity. As such, it also offers a new amenity for local people, who use it as a social meeting place as well as for celebrations such as small gatherings and baby showers – an example of an indirect but positive local social impact created by visitors to the site.

The Masterplan currently being developed for the site should provide opportunities to address these negative impacts and to create more positive benefits for local residents. This is discussed further in the Recommendations in section 6.

Llantysilio – Horseshoe Falls

The site has long been valued by local people as a place to enjoy peace and tranquillity as well as to walk. The inscription as a World Heritage Site served to underline its special qualities and make local people proud. Its WHS status also enabled it to secure funding to upgrade the towpath to be used year-round.

Activities enjoyed by local individuals and groups include water-based activities; use by community groups (such as Scouts, Cubs, Explorers); walking; dog walking; bat walks; and walks along the canal, particularly for those who welcome the level access along the towpath. Groups from further afield such as university canoe clubs or groups from the Plas y Brenin Mountain Centre in Snowdonia are also frequent users. Other positive social impacts include wellbeing benefits.

One practical example provided was that of the local church close to the site, where visitors often spend time and leave written prayers; there is a sense that people find peace there. Donations to the church have increased since the site became part of the AONB and now amount to £500-1000 a year – around 10% of the church's running costs.

However, the character of the Horseshoe Falls site has changed during the last five years. Originally a picnic area with just a few cars, it has transformed to become a car park with a few picnic tables. Increased visitor numbers, an extended tourist season, together with improved and extended access to the river¹⁹ have combined to transform Llantysilio, creating what focus group participants described as 'the perfect storm'. There is a general sense that 'things are moving faster than we can cope with'.

Specific negative social and environmental impacts at this site are:

Impacts from increased visitor numbers

- Increased visitor numbers make the site very crowded in summer, bringing people with barbecues, sunshades and tents, groups, canoes, people sunbathing, children in the river on inflatables; one visitor even used a battery-operated jet ski. As well as organised

¹⁹ Some of the many groups that used to access the river at The Mill now come to Horseshoe Falls. It is also unusual in that it is always possible to canoe at the site, regardless of the weather, compared to the rest of the UK.

groups, it is also common to see groups of 10-15 individual canoeists parking and meeting up to go out on the water together.

- The toilet facilities are managed by local group, Cymdeithas y Cwm. Rising numbers of visitors place these facilities under pressure. Occasionally canoeists use the toilet facilities to get changed, which adds to the user pressure. The running costs of the Llantysilio toilets, excluding water and electricity use, have averaged £4,153 per year over the last four years.
- Some residents felt that the increase in visitor numbers had spoilt the previous sense of peace and tranquillity – with 25% of local survey respondents considering the site to be much worse for overcrowding than other natural areas – in contrast to visitors from further afield who all thought it was the same or better.
- Some local community members consider that the site has deteriorated over the last five years in terms of congestion. As mentioned above, it is notable that this is the only one of the six sites where any local survey respondents (in this case 13%) disagreed with the statement ‘Living in or near the AONB is good for my community’. During the high season local people tend to avoid the site, by going elsewhere. However, it is felt that other locations have also become busier in the last five years.
- There can also be recreational use conflicts between the interests of the different users of the site. These include serious outdoor enthusiasts, amateur groups who slalom their boats down the hill (which threatens the safety of others, especially children and animals) and anglers, who feel their interests have been compromised. There are also some reports of antisocial behaviour and vandalism: ropes intended to rope off the grassland have been taken and made into a rope swing over the river, which has been the cause of two very serious accidents since 2016.

Litter

- Litter is a significant issue at the site. Again, Horseshoe Falls was the only location considered by local people to be worse than in other natural areas: 14.3% thought it was ‘somewhat worse’. For this site 9.1% of visitors from outside the area thought it was ‘much worse’. A member of staff is employed at the site, and Cymdeithas y Cwm also provide assistance.
- The problem is worst in the summer, when the rangers spend three hours every Monday sorting and collecting rubbish that has been scattered around the whole area, in the car park and at the Falls. Volunteers, including outdoor providers’ drivers also collect litter. Operational staff from the Canal and River Trust also carry out regular work to keep the river inlet clear.
- The kind of litter left on the ground by visitors ranges from lager bottles and coffee cups to old barbecues and discarded meat. Eight very large bags (twice the size of domestic rubbish bags) are collected from the bins on Mondays after the weekend, and four on a Friday. Summer 2018 saw exceptional levels of litter, due to the hot

weather. The rangers filled the back of a pick-up truck with tents, barbecues and other litter after just one weekend.

- Installing additional bins beyond the one in the car park would mean that they would need to be emptied around six or seven times a day, which is neither feasible or desirable.
- Dog waste is also an issue here: visitors and locals alike walk their dogs at the site. Some let them off the lead. Dog waste not being picked up is a problem here, as at other sites – particularly near the car park.

Erosion

- Visitor activity – both authorised (use of the site and the water) and unauthorised (such as ‘slaloming’ down the hill, dragging boats, or swinging into the water from the rope swing) is causing erosion of the bank and the grass on the slope leading down to the water. As well as the environmental damage this is causing, it also threatens the integrity of part of the WHS, since the field is part of the inscription.
- Among survey respondents, Horseshoe Falls was the only site where visitors from outside the area considered erosion to be a problem: 20% considered it to be somewhat worse than in other natural areas they had visited. 33% of local people considered that erosion at Horseshoe Falls was much worse than in other comparable areas.

Congestion, parking and driving

- All local survey respondents felt that the issue of congestion, parking and driving was the same or better than in other natural areas, compared to 33% of visitors from outside the area.
- Even the additional parking provided is now under pressure. On busy days when the car park is full, parking spills out onto the road. Although revenue from the car park charges is used to fund the ranger service, which benefits visitors to the site, limited resources make enforcement difficult. Only 40-50% of car park users currently buy a ticket or display a National Trust membership sticker. Some stay in camper vans overnight.
- In addition, the car park was not designed to accommodate the minibuses used by outdoor activity providers. These vehicles also bring trailers with canoes, which find it difficult to turn around in the limited space and cause congestion problems for other vehicles.
- On busy days some water sport companies try to drop off canoes with a member of staff early in the morning, but this is not always practicable. On other occasions they park on the road but this can compromise their customers’ safety.

On the positive side, increased visitor numbers keep the town of Llangollen busy and vibrant, supporting shops directly or indirectly; including a butcher and grocer. Described formerly as a ‘ghost town’ from October to March, the tourist season is now extending so that the winter season only lasts for about two months. However, this is not popular with all local residents, some of whom enjoyed the longer respite from the busy tourist period.

Chirk Aqueduct

The Chirk Aqueduct is a popular site for local people, used for walking – particularly by those with dogs (accounting for some 80% of users). Improvements to the towpath have resulted in more visitors to the site in recent years, and in more people using it to get from one point to another. Visitors staying at the nearby caravan park also walk to the aqueduct. However, many spend only a short time at the site and do not go into Chirk town, which is not well-signed from the site and not obvious to find.

The Chirk site differs from the others in this study as visitor numbers are not generally considered to exceed the capacity of the site to cope with them. However, there are occasions when the site appears under pressure – at peak times, for example, there can be long queues of boats waiting to enter the canal tunnel. The site handles around 15,000 boat manoeuvres a year.

Being a largely ‘constructed’ site meant that few survey respondents expressed environmental concerns about Chirk, as with the Trevor Basin. Just one visitor from outside the area considered it to be ‘much worse’ for litter than other natural areas.

The research therefore focused on identifying social impacts that might result from increased visitor numbers in the future. Since the site is geographically a little removed from the town centre, observations could also be drawn from the experience of Trevor Basin, where many local community members felt they did not gain from tourism to the site. There is already a perception in Chirk that tourism benefits from the WHS are generally concentrated in Trevor, and that the Chirk part of the site is under-promoted.

Impacts from increased visitor numbers

- In terms of current visitor levels, survey respondents who live in and around the AONB did not consider there to be any issues in relation to overcrowding in comparison to other natural sites, whereas some (11.8%) visitors from further afield considered the site to be somewhat or much worse on this issue.
- The main impact currently foreseen – which should be addressed before any further tourism development – is that of inadequate infrastructure, particularly in relation to parking and the potential for congestion. This is not currently perceived as an issue by local survey respondents in comparison to other natural areas, and is considered ‘somewhat worse’ by only 7.7% of visitors from outside the area. However, the area near the site has a good deal of traffic accessing the station (increased by recently

improved access) and other local amenities already, as well as heavy goods vehicles. The road is also used by visitors staying at the caravan park. Being a narrow road through a residential area creates ‘pinch points’.

Nearby Chirk Castle is a very popular visitor attraction,²⁰ which is considered to be close to capacity on busy days. Now that the towpath from Gledrid to Lion Quays is also being upgraded, Chirk will become the first place visitors come to when accessing the WHS from that ‘end’, which creates an opportunity. When combined with the increased investment in the town, and a focus on encouraging visitors to explore the full length of the WHS, there would appear to be the potential to attract more visitors. An increase in visitor numbers to Chirk Aqueduct would be welcomed, if well managed and developed strategically, in order to encourage more visitors into the town itself. However, as outlined above, there are infrastructural and other considerations to be addressed, which we consider further in our Recommendations (Section 6).

Panorama

This site sees visitors for many different reasons, whether walking the Offa’s Dyke National Trail, driving and parking for a walk or outdoor activity, or walking up from Llangollen. It is a destination point because of the attractive view across to Castell Dinas Bran and is therefore a focal point for walks, charity events and occasions such as Bonfire Night. It is clearly valued as a site, especially by local people.

The site is personally valued by the small community of residents and farmers who live there. It also has emotional significance to some local people as a place to remember loved ones. Occasionally memorials are erected, which causes environmental damage, and rangers have to be sensitive when removing them.

The site is used for a variety of purposes – hiking (including many individuals and groups walking the Offa’s Dyke National Trail); dog walking; climbing; mountain biking; and for charity walks, such as the Llangollen Round.²¹ The site is also regularly used by outdoor activity providers who take groups of climbers up to the ridges. At present the companies are not charged for doing so. As with other sites, the interests of these different groups can result in conflicts over recreational use. In addition, although there is public access, the land is a farming landscape. The land is privately owned and importantly, the farming

²⁰ The site received over 162,000 visitors in 2017: <https://gov.wales/docs/caecd/research/2018/181129-visitor-attractions-survey-2017-en.pdf> (Accessed 26 March 2019)

²¹ A charity walk put together by local people – a 33 mile route with a book, with the proceeds going to charity.

community generates its livelihood from it. Not all users appreciate or respect this, which is apparent from the specific negative social impacts identified and described below.

Panorama is an environmentally fragile site, with a number of protected and rare species (such as Peregrine falcons and the Llangollen whitebeam tree) meaning that access by visitors presents particular challenges. The site's status as an SAC and SSSI mean it receives protection and conservation attention, but these are not attributable to tourism. The reported environmental impacts of visitors to the site are unfortunately all currently negative:

Litter

- Litter is a significant issue at the site. The problem is worst in the high season.
- In the summer up to six campervans stay overnight and also leave litter. Denbighshire Council's Street Scene department clear litter from along or near the road once a week, collecting about half a bin bag at a time. In addition, a local volunteer walks the path once a week and collects about a bin bag of litter.
- Twice a year the volunteer group Llangollen Tidy Town Team takes a team of 12–15 people up to Panorama to do a 'deep clean'. The team have recovered a huge variety of items abandoned or fly-tipped there, including a kitchen sink, oxygen mask, tyres, rotting meat, cannabis leftovers, takeaway rubbish and alcohol bottles.
- In November the site is a popular place to set off fireworks and this results in a significant amount of litter being left behind.
- Another issue relates to people picking up dog waste and placing it in a bag but then leaving the bag on the ground, which does not decompose.

Erosion and other damage to flora and fauna

Damage to the rare calcareous grassland and special features of the SAC is caused by people venturing off the path and trampling the ground. There is a deliberate policy of not way-marking in order to preserve the sense of wilderness and protect the landscape at the site, which is one of the few areas of this type in Wales.

- Mountain bikers are not supposed to ride on the site but some do, and take any path, which damages the SAC. Some aggressive behaviour has been reported.
- Motorbike riders and 4x4 drivers use the old tramway from the quarry to illegally access the mountain and cause erosion and damage.
- Fires started by site users have also caused significant damage on occasion.
- The area is a popular place to commemorate loved ones. Some people plant bulbs which are a non-native species and threaten the delicate species of the SAC.
- The majority of the small sample of visitors surveyed at this site did not consider erosion to be any worse at Panorama than in other natural locations they had visited.

- However, the SSSI at Dinas Bran – as well as at Panorama – is seeing impacts on its features from its recreational use, primarily through footfall causing compaction of soils and physical damage to plants and grasslands. Parking along the side of the road is also contributing to erosion.

Farming community impacts

- Lambs escape and stock gets mixed up when visitors leave gates open, and there have been incidents of sheep-worrying by dogs let off the lead, especially towards Dinas Bran. Approximately 20 ewes have been lost during the last 4 years.
- Visitors going off the path also cause damage to fodder intended for silage.
- Elsewhere, visitors frequently try to access a piece of private land where there is no open access and which includes cairns, burial chambers and standing stones, which may be vulnerable to damage.

The environmental damage to the site presents challenges to the AONB in terms of the resources it is able to employ to address them. The damage creates costs, particularly since specialist contractors are often required due to its protected status. For example, on an annual basis, the removal of graffiti at Panorama costs around £4,000 (2017 data) while other remedial work costs around £1,000 per year for 2-3 specialist contractors, plus an estimated 12 – 16 days of time provided by rangers and volunteers. The scale of the work required has increased dramatically in recent years – in 2008 the time required was just one day.

Impacts from increased visitor numbers

- Visitor numbers have increased in recent years, especially at weekends when the site has been described as ‘heaving’. It is now generally busy from Spring to October, as well as in January.
- Climbers use the site year-round whenever the weather is dry. Some walkers get lost and wander off the paths, causing environmental damage (as outlined in the next section), as well as intruding onto private farm property.
- However, there are also examples of positive interaction – for example if a sheep gets stuck on a ledge, walkers will come and tell the farmer so he can rescue it.
- Visitors from outside the AONB do not appear to perceive it as being overcrowded, with all considering it to be either the same or better than comparable natural areas. However, 14.3% of local survey respondents considered it to be ‘somewhat worse’.

Congestion, parking and driving

- The number of cars accessing the site is to some extent limited by the narrow access roads, but on busy days congestion is a significant problem. 16.7% of local survey respondents and 20% of visitors from further afield consider the site to be somewhat worse in this respect than in other natural areas.

- There is no ‘formal’ marked parking, but there are some areas where it is possible to park a few cars.
- Despite boulders being placed along the road to deter people from parking, cars are regularly parked inconsiderately, in passing places or along the road side – as well as causing erosion as mentioned above. Visitors occasionally block the farmer, who owns the land, from getting his tractor or other large vehicles through, to carry out his work.
- Even within the more established parking areas, cars are often parked at random, which prevents the optimum number of cars from being able to use the space, again contributing to the congestion issue.
- Since outdoor activity providers stay with their groups, there can be 5-6 minibuses parked along the site at the same time. The problem is obviously worst on popular days. On Easter Sunday afternoon in 2018 there were 60 cars parked along the one mile (1.5 km) of road between Tan y Castell Farm and the Prospect Garden Tea Rooms.
- The parking issue is also exacerbated by the lack of parking available on Ruabon Moor, which places additional pressure on the Panorama site. In wet weather and snow, cars veer off the road or get stuck and have been frequently pulled out by the farmer.

Anti-social behaviour

- Negative impacts include people, generally considered to be local residents, driving up to the site and drinking, taking drugs or engaging in sexual activity there. It is something of a magnet for young people, especially those who have recently learned to drive.
- The rangers have even had (numerous) reports of people practising golf up on the hillside, causing damage to the roof and windows of a house.
- Anti-social behaviour also causes environmental impacts, explained below.

Loggerheads

The Loggerheads site is well used by local residents and is extremely popular with visitors. For the latter in particular the site has emotional value; it has been used for recreation for almost a hundred years, since Crosville Motor Services brought visitors from the 1920s. Older people now come back to a place associated with their childhood memories, sometimes bringing their own children and grandchildren. Repeat visits are common.

Positive impacts here relate to environmental education: the site receives school groups, Duke of Edinburgh groups, as well as university students coming to carry out studies of the SAC and SSSI designation and river flow. Colomendy outward bound centre also benefits from its proximity to the site.

Local people, similarly, value the site because it has been a place for walking and leisure activities for so many years. The café is well used by residents. Four large events were held at Loggerheads in 2018.



Impacts of visitor numbers

Loggerheads has seen a sharp rise in the number of visitors to the site in recent years. Exacerbated by the extension of the tourist season, this places pressure on the site, especially in relation to parking, the café and toilet facilities. An overflow car park with an additional 70 spaces was created in 2016 to alleviate some of this pressure and avoid the problem of cars being parked along the road. However, on busy days the overflow car park is also often full. 25% of local respondents and 40% of those visiting from outside the area considered Loggerheads to be somewhat worse, or much worse, than other natural areas for vehicle congestion. This view was particularly prevalent among visitors surveyed in the high season.

Visitors surveyed from outside the area all considered the site to be either the same, or better than other natural sites, in relation to overcrowding. However, 16.7% of local respondents felt it was somewhat worse. Focus group respondents explained that there is a feeling among some community members of the area feeling less tranquil and safe, and that their space is being invaded by the increase of tourism.

There are also significant environmental pressures on the site.

There is a particular viewpoint at the top of the cliff, looking across to Moel Famau, where a bench has been situated since it was erected by Crosville Motor Services in around the 1960s. This is an extremely popular and important site in terms of memory making and social wellbeing, which directly conflicts with the fragile environmental character of the site, as explained below. Although another viewpoint has been created to try to discourage visitors from using the older one, evocative associations mean that many visitors will inevitably favour the original.

There has been an increase over the last ten years in the number of visitors to Devil's Gorge, since a 2-mile level route was created – generating positive health and wellbeing benefits particularly for those who would not otherwise have been able to access this spectacular landscape.

There are also frequent complaints about the behaviour of dogs at the site, either from being off the lead or being boisterous around children, especially in the tea gardens area. Dogs going into the river also causes erosion of the bank.

Litter

- Although not a concern for any of the survey respondents, litter is again a significant problem for managers of this site. Every year the rangers collect 6 tonnes of litter from the bins and a further 4.5 tonnes of loose litter, at a total cost of £4,000 per year. While this does not include the rubbish that visitors take home with them, it does demonstrate that 43% of litter left behind at the site is dropped rather than placed in bins.

- In addition, the ranger team collects 8.2 tonnes of dog waste every year. (This is the equivalent in weight of around 400 Welsh border collies!)

Erosion and damage to flora and fauna

- The site is a fragile landscape with SSSI and SAC status. Visitor use causes significant environmental damage to woodland ground flora through erosion and trampling, and it is felt by site managers that there is a ‘ripple effect’ from the increased pressure on the woodlands beyond the park.
- Paths have been gradually widened over time. The worst damage is seen at the popular viewpoint overlooking Moel Famau, where calcareous grassland, an example of the most important grassland in Europe, has been badly damaged. The delicate rock rose also struggles to flourish due to the number of visitors walking across the site.
- This provides a visual illustration of the conflict between the social and wellbeing benefits generated for visitors and the environmental damage caused by so many people walking across the site.
- The extended tourist season (now March to November plus the Christmas holiday period) means that there is an ever-shorter recovery time for such vulnerable species.
- There is also a recreational impact on the caves through increased visitor access, creating threats to species such as bats as well as the geology of the caves. This has resulted in costs such as the £5,000 spent on installing a bat grille at Devil’s Gorge. There is also potential for negative interaction between visitors and the resident adder population.

However, local people generally shared the view of visitors that erosion at Loggerheads was no worse than in other natural areas. This does reinforce the concern that visitors and local people alike may well be unaware of its status as an SAC and SSSI. Managers recognise the issue of whether the site is, or should be promoted as, a ‘country park’ or ‘nature reserve’.

Loggerheads benefits from 2,430 volunteer hours a year – the equivalent of having 1.4 full time workers.

Moel Famau

Moel Famau is well used by local people, who enjoy walking there, especially with dogs – over half the visitors have a dog with them and many have more than one. Visitors are attracted by the spectacular landscape and views and the challenge of reaching the Jubilee Tower at the summit. The site is also part of the Offa’s Dyke National Trail.

Residents are proud of having somewhere beautiful on their doorstep where they can take visitors. Being the highest point in the Clwydian Range also makes it a natural draw for community and other group activities and challenges. It represents a ‘special’ place for local people: for example, a Girl Guide group recently made their pledges at the summit. The site also hosts many charity events on both a small and large scale, from sponsored walks to fancy dress events. 2018 saw 11 large charity events (defined as having 100+ participants).

NRW and DCC jointly operate a permission process for these events and endeavour to spread them out as much as possible. They also encourage early start times, to minimise disruption to other users and local residents.

Impacts from increased visitor numbers

- The majority of survey respondents did not consider overcrowding to be a problem at the site. 11.1% of local residents and 7.1% of visitors from elsewhere considered it to be 'much worse' than comparable natural areas.
- The increase in visitor numbers over recent years (circa 20% increase in the last five years) does not currently appear to be having any significant adverse effect on the surrounding community. Very little anti-social behaviour has been observed, although there have been incidences of vandalism to car park ticket machines. The presence of a dedicated ranger team for Moel Famau and Loggerheads helps to manage social impacts.
- However, conflicts over recreational use sometimes arise between user groups such as walkers and mountain bikers. Bikers often go off the paths or descend at speed, causing concerns – especially for those walkers with children or dogs in their group. Despite a mountain bike loop being created at the foot of Moel Famau a few years ago, many still want to go up to the tower and come back down 'off piste'. This is often fuelled by social media posts.

North East Wales Search and Rescue (NEWSAR) logged nine incidents each year in 2017 and 2018 relating to Moel Famau, compared to a total of just eight across the three previous years. In 2017 to 2018 call outs to Moel Famau represented over 10% of total incidents. The NEWSAR team costs an estimated £25,000 a year to run (being composed of volunteers).

The running costs of the Moel Famau toilets, excluding water and electricity averaged £7,356 over four years.

Congestion, parking and driving

- No local survey respondents considered vehicle congestion at Moel Famau to be an issue compared to other natural areas, but 8.3% of visitors from outside the area thought it was much worse.
- Parking on the roadside – whether to meet up with other members of the rambling group they come with, or to avoid parking charges, is an issue. It can, however, have a traffic calming effect.
- However, those who are not paying represent lost revenue for the AONB which uses the income to fund the rangers at the site.

Moel Famau benefits from around 900 volunteer hours a year – the equivalent of around 0.5 full time workers. They assist with heather management, erosion work, car park management, fencing, gates, building walls and other work. Most are local (from Mold,

Ruthin and Buckley, for example) although some come from further afield, such as Prestatyn and Preston, having a strong attachment to the area. Many are retired; others include university students, especially those studying a relevant subject. These volunteer workers could be considered to save around £7,047 compared with the notional cost of a wage of £7.83 per hour.²²

The main environmental impacts observed by local people and those involved in managing the site are:

Litter

- This is an issue at the site itself as well along the roadside on the access roads. Although local survey respondents did not consider the problem to be any worse than in other comparable areas, 13.3% of visitors from elsewhere thought it was much worse. In a typical year, the rangers collect 5 tonnes of litter – all from the ground – not including the broken plastic sledges left after the snow.
- Local volunteers also collect rubbish, for example as they go around delivering the monthly community magazine.

Dog waste

- More than half of the visitors to Moel Famau have a dog with them, and many have more than one. In one 1.5 hour period in summer 2018, 100 dogs were counted arriving at the site. The site has two dog-waste bins: one in the car park and another along the path towards the summit, some 200 metres from the car park. However, there remains a significant amount of deposited dog waste, particularly at around the 400 metre point from the car park.
- As well as being unpleasant and unsightly for walkers using the path, uncleared dog waste also presents a hazard to livestock. A second bin has been installed along the pathway, which has alleviated the problem to some extent but has by no means resolved it.
- Disposal of the dog waste from the bins also represents a cost to the AONB in terms of staff time and the resources required to collect it.
- In 2018 an estimated total of 3.7 tonnes of dog waste was collected from the bins at Moel Famau.

²² This is a rough estimate based on the National Minimum Wage in 2018 for those aged 25 and over.



Erosion

- The rising number of visitors is contributing to damage to the natural landscape, as demonstrated by damage to the heather, and a gradual widening of the main path to the summit by an estimated 2 metres. The path is the busiest footpath in Denbighshire, since the Jubilee Tower at the summit is a honeypot in its own right, as well as being part of the Offa's Dyke National Trail.
- The ranger team and others, with assistance from NRW, carry out grass reseeding and baling of heather to regenerate it, as well as resurfacing work to the main footpath. This costs between £1,000 and £5,000 every year, assisted by funding from the Offa's Dyke National Trail.
- Mountain biking has also caused erosion in some parts of the site, particularly north of the Jubilee Tower.
- The roadside parking referred to in the section above also causes damage to the banks and affects water run off to nearby housing, as well as looking 'battered and uncared for'.

Damage to livestock

- In common with other areas of North Wales, there have been problems with dogs being let off leads and worrying or even killing sheep, with six sheep known to have been lost in 2017 and another estimated 30 incidences of worrying. This was the subject of a recent campaign by the AONB, using hard-hitting images along the path to seek to change the behaviour of dog owners, resulting in an increase in people keeping their dogs on the lead; in 2018 two sheep were killed. Each year approximately two sheep are knocked down by cars. There is also a concern about the black grouse population at two areas of the site being threatened by dogs running off the lead.
- On other occasions problems are caused by visitors leaving 'self-close' gates propped open (e.g. to enable the rest of their group to pass through quickly on mountain bikes). This enables livestock to escape, causing issues for the farmer as well as environmental damage – for example the sheep will eat saplings in the forest.
- There is a feeling that visitors see the site only as a place for walking and other activities, without appreciating the long-standing use of the landscape for farming; as well as the value that farming offers to their experience in terms of managing the mountain landscape and adding to its aesthetic.

Snow

- Snow causes issues at both Moel Famau and Loggerheads. For safety reasons the car parks are closed but if people have travelled a distance to get to the sites (some from Merseyside and other similar distances) they are not easily deterred.
- Cars are parked dangerously along the main A-roads, plastic sledges are broken or left in the fields; walls and gates are damaged by sliding vehicles.

- Paying a contractor to open the car parks in the snow costs the AONB some £500 per day, as well as a similar amount in lost car park revenue. It also creates additional costs in terms of the staff and other resources required to deal with the impacts created by visitors using the sites on those days.

5.2.4 Monetising the environmental value

Although it is highly likely that the value of having a clean and non-eroded natural environment in the AONB overlaps with the wellbeing benefit gained by visitors to the area, it is difficult to say by how much the two sources of value overlap. For the purposes of this study, the two are treated as distinct. Drawing on definitions used in welfare economics, the wellbeing benefit that a visitor derives from the AONB is assumed to represent the *use value* of the area, while the value of keeping the AONB in pristine condition is assumed to represent its *non-use value*.

Fields in Trust (2018),²³ using a willingness-to-pay survey of UK residents, found that people were willing to pay £2.60 per month on average to a hypothetical non-profit organisation in order to preserve and maintain all parks and green spaces in their local authority area. This translates to £31.20 per person per annum, and is a good approximation of the non-use value of the natural areas within an area comparable in size to the AONB. This is a conservative estimate of the value of the AONB's pristine environment, as the AONB area is more scenic than the average UK local authority and would therefore be expected to attract a higher willingness-to-pay valuation.

When this valuation is applied to the estimated total number of annual visitors to the six sites analysed in this report (1.13 million), the total value to visitors of preserving the natural environment is an estimated £35.4 million per annum.

²³ Fields in Trust. (2018). *Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces: Measuring their economic and wellbeing value to individuals*. Available at: <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/research/Revaluing-Parks-and-Green-Spaces-Report.pdf> [accessed 16/01/2019]



6. Recommendations and Action Plan

6.1 Overarching principles

The research carried out for this project supports, in many respects, what the AONB has done in the past, and recognises the value of the resource invested in strategic planning during the past 15 years. We have set out a number of themed recommendations, for the AONB as a whole and for each individual site. All are guided by the principles below:

6.1.1 Long term sustainability

While funding may be useful and necessary in implementing these recommendations, it is important to ensure that any initiatives developed as an outcome of this work are designed to be sustainable in the long term, beyond any initial period of funding.

Our recommendations are therefore underpinned by a number of key principles or understandings, recognising that:

- The primary focus of the AONB is to manage the sites in a way that protects the environment and enhances natural beauty. This project arises from the ‘tensions’ that result from endeavouring to meet these two requirements – balancing increased social and economic value against the environmental issues that result.
- The AONB also has a formal remit to comply with national legislation, which prioritises the wellbeing of communities and individuals in Wales. In particular, the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 creates an obligation to consider all aspects of wellbeing – social, economic, environmental and cultural.
- These issues are not unique to this area, and learning derived from similar areas in UK and elsewhere can contribute to achieving a balance.
- Many EU/WAG-funded projects that have taken place in the area over the past 10-12 years have worked towards solving some of the long-term issues identified in this study. Funded projects such as various community bus services in the area, The Pub is the Hub scheme, and various community engagement schemes – such as ‘Bus Stop’ and ‘Out and About’ – provide valuable experience of what does and does not work in the area. It is important that learning produced by these projects is not lost.
- Creating more tourism facilities at our six sites may further increase visitor numbers, which may be problematic in some cases. There is evidence that some of the sites are victims of their own success. Is it possible to improve the situation at these sites, or can they be seen as well-managed ‘sacrifice’ areas, which maintain the natural beauty of other places in the area?
- It is important to work with RDP bodies for all three local authorities – particularly Wrexham/ the Trevor Basin Masterplan, Denbighshire/OPL in relation to the WHS – and local initiatives such as Llangollen 2020 and the Ruthin Masterplan.

- A large number of community consultations have taken place in recent years. Is there community fatigue with these (particularly at Trevor Basin)? Now is the time to show progress and communicate headway to all stakeholders.
- In times of restricted local authority funding, resources for dealing with mental health are increasing.

6.1.2 Thinking about best practice

It is important to point out that there is a great deal in the past and present management of these sites by the AONB that represents good practice. The visitor survey showed that the area is highly valued, both by local people, who understand the social and wellbeing benefits of living in an AONB, who generally recognise the need to protect and conserve the landscape, and are proud that people want to visit the area as tourists; and also by the tourists themselves. Both groups feel generally that the sites are well managed and enjoyable to visit, although there are specific issues relating to individual sites which have been explored in Chapter 5.

Businesses in the visitor economy also showed positive attitudes to the area, many with optimism for the future and plans to expand. The perceived economic value to the business sector varied from site to site, as did the indices calculated to show each site's actual economic value. There is also a perception that towns in the surrounding areas (the 'gateway' towns) do not benefit from the growing visitor numbers, and this is borne out to some extent by the analysis. Llangollen has clear dominance in this respect.

On the other hand, local stakeholders identified a number of specific issues, particularly with regard to relationships with local communities and the sites, which highlighted the ongoing economic, social and environmental issues described in Section 5. There is also the issue of those outside the scope of this study – the 'non-users' of the sites who are also members of the local community, who do not currently access the sites.

The recommendations for two of the sites include the formation of a local business group to provide a coherent approach to site development or management, that helps to anchor and spread the economic benefits of large numbers of visitors. It is important that any such group is supported in becoming outward-looking and sustainable. Evidence from other groups (Llangollen, Ruthin, Wrexham) suggests that it is important that such groups have great leadership – either as an individual or a team of leaders. Identifying such leaders and 'champions' is therefore a vital component of any action designed to form such a group.

Business support schemes such as Denbighshire's #LoveLiveLocal are of vital importance in encouraging local residents to support local businesses, and thereby improve business sustainability. There was also recognition among businesses and business groups of the importance to the area of the North East Wales brand. Can the North East Wales



Ambassador Scheme be further supported to ensure sustainability? Could it link with local business groups?

This study explored a number of comparable issues in other areas, and many of these are listed in the specific recommendations below. However, we found that several projects had parallel themes, which can be considered as part of our overview.

6.1.3 What can we learn from?

The following case studies highlight key points of learning:

The Loop Head project²⁴

- This project emphasises the need to take control of the story of our destination: this is also an objective of the ‘Our Picturesque Landscape’ project in the Dee Valley. Although the AONB as a destination is not directly comparable to Loop Head, being bigger geographically and with more than one centre, the principle of how the destination is represented and promoted in a way that ‘sits well’ with local residents is an important one. We explore this further below.
- Tourism itself is not the goal – it is a tool we can use to build a sustainable community: an important message supported by our business survey and fundamental to our recommendations.
- The importance of networking and collaboration: working together instead of seeing other businesses as rivals and ‘the competition’. This approach is working well through some groups that are working with small tourism businesses and food and drink producers; less so with some of the more ‘visitor economy’ focused groups, especially at the Trevor Basin and Llangollen.
- Promoting local sourcing reduces economic leakage. Build on this by continuing to focus on the quality and value of local food as part of the tourism offer. ‘It’s what people expect’.

As we have seen, there is certainly a perception in the ‘gateway’ towns that other places are benefitting at their expense, and this is probably true in the case of Llangollen (especially in relation to Corwen and Chirk). How can this danger be avoided as the Masterplan and OPL produce a greater focus on the Dee Valley and Llangollen in particular?

As presented by the Loop Head project, this suggests that there is a need to change:

²⁴ <https://www.loophead.ie>

- The **model** – from marketing-led to community-led.
- The **metrics** – recognise that large numbers of visitors are not a guarantee that the local community will benefit. Measure what matters locally.
- The **marketing** – change how tourism is sold – communities should decide the story, who is told, and who tells it.

The Loop Head Project embodies a less disparate community than the AONB, and this needs to be borne in mind when seeking to develop on this model. The ‘communities’ of the AONB are many and varied, and various suggestions are made below as to how this can be built into future planning. However, the key principles of consultation and participation embodied in the Loop Head scheme are central to many of the recommendations we make below.

Offa's Country Project

Clwydian Range AONB was involved in the sustainable tourism plan, ‘Walking with Offa’ from 2010 to 2012, which included collaboration around the Offa’s Dyke National Trail, with Wye Valley and Shropshire Hills AONBs. The National Trail is a key attraction for the area, linking several of the six sites. It passes through the WHS, Panorama and Moel Famau, has identifiable spinoff benefits in the local economy, yet it does not appear to contribute to overcrowding or congestion at the sites. It is not clear whether there was any follow-up to the sustainable tourism plan or whether this was an example of a good collaboration that could not be sustained, perhaps due to lack of funding.

Other AONBs

Although reports are not directly comparable in terms of date and questions asked, many of our key indicators (source of visitors, local/outside balance of visitors, levels of spend) are in line with figures given in recent visitor surveys for these other AONBs.

- Wye Valley AONB (which has similar issues of managing the AONB across local authority areas, and similar issues around honeypot sites such as Symonds Yat).
- Shropshire Hills AONB (which has similar visitor profiles and issues, though fewer problems of honeypots. Why is this?)

Issue-specific sites

- **Skye Connect:** Networking of local businesses to spread positive PR messages and economic benefits, and encourage visitors to move away from honeypot sites to mitigate the well-publicised effects of over-tourism <https://www.skye-connect.com/>
- **CoaST:** Membership-based organisation with nearly 3600 members, focused on business sustainability in Cornwall. Membership covers a wide range of ‘tourism’ and ‘non-tourism’ businesses and promotes ideas, events, networking and sharing business success and interest stories throughout Cornwall. The website covers a wide

range of issues relating to sustainability in its widest sense.

<https://www.coastproject.co.uk/>

- **Surrey Hills AONB:** Dealing with complex honeypot issues with associated environmental and social factors, support for enterprise ('Love Local'); promoting access to the AONB using public transport; charitable Community Foundation to fund local community groups.

<https://www.surreyhills.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Surrey-Hills-Members-Brochure-v12-3.pdf>

<https://www.surreyhills.org/trust-fund/about-the-community-foundation-for-surrey/>

- **Fancy Free Walks** A user-generated site for walkers, highlighting circular walks starting from smaller (free) car parks, and focusing on local food and drink; offers attractions en route.

<http://fancyfreewalks.org/>

- **Landscapes for Life:** Focuses particularly on projects in other AONBs relating to mental health and community wellbeing.

<http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/resource/people-enjoying-nature-pen-pilot-project/>

6.2 Suggestions for further research

There are a number of questions that would benefit from further research, which proved beyond the scope of this project in terms of timing and feasibility.

- The visitor survey showed that very few visitors surveyed thought the sites were overcrowded. Can we define 'overcrowding' for each of the sites? There was no overcrowding on any of the days we conducted our survey, even in peak season. What are the specific factors driving overcrowding at each of the sites? For example:
 - Fine weather in school holidays (Llantysilio/ Panorama/Loggerheads).
 - Snow days in winter (Loggerheads, Moel Famau).
- Despite the presence of a number of different types of events within the AONB, the Denbighshire Events Strategy says very little about how these are to be promoted and managed. There would be scope for specific research on different groups of event attendees, for example:
- Moel Famau 'challenge' events: Who attends? Do they stay overnight? If so where? Do they travel alone or in family or groups to these events? What other activities/opportunities might they be looking for during their stay?



- Llangollen Pavilion events such as the Eisteddfod and the Food Festival. Both these (and other smaller events) attract a considerable number of visitors to the area. Visitor profiling would provide useful data.
- The business survey highlighted the difficulty of getting ‘ad hoc’ information from businesses. The regular contact with businesses through Tourism Fora encourages sharing information. Would it be possible to initiate an annual survey to collect ongoing business data?

6.3 Recommendations: AONB-Wide

Management and communication

- Update AONB websites to encourage public understanding of its work. For example, Local Access Forum, AONB Management and AONB Joint Advisory Committee do not have postings of recent meetings and plans.
- Focus on customer communications and messaging through the AONB website and other channels, including social media, to encourage visitors to explore beyond the honey pot sites. For example:
 - On the AONB website, include the gateway towns as well as Llangollen and Corwen under ‘Towns’.
 - Offer support and input into the iBeacon app (funded by Cadwyn Clwyd, and currently in place in Chirk and Mold) with a particular focus on promoting the app through visitor-oriented websites in each location. These could also be linked through the AONB website under the ‘visiting’ tab.
 - Consider a different approach to how the AONB is marketed. One of the objectives of the Denbighshire Destination Management Plan is to ‘promote lesser known attractions and hidden gems to relieve pressure on honeypot sites’. Could an AONB site-specific strategy be based on this aim? Focus on experiences in the AONB as a whole; instead of iconic sites, emphasise the appeal of quiet walks, capturing the moment. This video provides a good example: <https://www.buamarketing.ie/strandhillmoments-video/>
 - Ensure consistency of approach across all AONB and associated staff, including those ‘on the ground’ in management, in customer-facing roles and in communications and marketing. In particular ensure that the challenges of managing the sites on a day-to-day basis are understood and considered by all. For example, this will impact on:
 - Customer messaging. For example, although ‘snow days’ present significant challenges for site managers, perhaps the website is

unintentionally promoting them:

<http://www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/loggerheads-country-park/>

- Training: include content in training for AONB and other site-based staff to encourage them to recommend places for visitors to go after their visit to the ‘honeypot’ sites, places to eat / stop for a drink on the way home and so on.

Increase engagement with local stakeholders

- Establish stakeholder groups for (at least) four of the sites – Loggerheads, Moel Famau, Llantysilio and Panorama. Each could meet approximately twice a year, before and after the main tourist season. We suggest that the membership should be small and focused, bringing together those responsible for managing the site and those with an interest in it, such as community council and resident representatives. The purpose of the group would be to provide a forum in which to air any concerns and discuss practical issues, and to jointly decide upon and implement solutions, as well as evaluate the success of actions taken. This would help ensure that AONB and other resources are focused on the issues that are of most concern. Ideally the meeting could be timed to take place after local community council meetings, so that any issues raised there could be passed on. Articles could also be contributed to local newsletters and magazines to promote further community engagement.
- Through these groups, explore links with education institutions (schools and colleges) to increase economic sustainability of group members through on-the-job training and qualification opportunities, to increase skill levels and encourage staff retention. There is evidence that this works where it is done. (See the CoaST example above).

Support and coordination of local groups

- Work with and coordinate the work of the Clwydian Range Tourism Group and other tourism groups in the area. Build on the outcomes of the ‘Stay Eat Do’ project including linking into packages and creating itineraries, with the inclusion of gateway towns. Itineraries could be themed e.g. industrial, waterways, hidden gems, food etc.
- Continue to support and publicise Clwydian Range Food Group and Dee Valley Good Grub Club and their initiatives, so they become a recognised part of the tourism and local landscape. Focus on further expanding awareness of group members to potential customers (e.g. Kingswood Colomendy). Look at bringing in local shops to the ‘story’ (e.g. Cilcain, Pwllglas), perhaps through a closer link with Denbighshire CC Business Support campaign #LoveLiveLocal.

- Support and encourage specific efforts at collaboration within these groups. Some examples from Loop Head include: The Bootleggers Ball (a fundraising event, where all chefs cook in one restaurant for the evening); a system whereby restaurants in Kilkee rotate their days off on marginal days, which reduces staff costs and competition for business.

Support business opportunities and product development

- Explore opportunities for more mobile ‘pop up’ food offerings (like Moel Famau Shepherd’s Hut). This would require start-up funding and training on a suitable business model to ensure sustainability.
- Explore opportunities to support non-food business initiatives (see CoaST/ Skye Connect for examples of wider networking in the visitor economy, and the use of technology to enhance these networks).
- Consider a branded loyalty and discount scheme e.g. an AONB-wide card, or code on reverse of parking tickets, to be used at local businesses (Example: New Forest card) or local passport (Example: Ironbridge WHS). The business model for this needs to be carefully researched and supported, as the Wrexham card lost a number of members when it became a membership scheme. Focus on encouraging repeat visits and the discovery of new places ‘next time’. Work with engaged businesses first (ideally through existing tourism and food groups) to demonstrate the benefit.
- Develop a programme of circular walks leaflet or website, with walks starting in village centres or quiet car parks or pub car parks. (See www.fancyfreewalks.co.uk, which has many examples of Pub Walks, including a focus on pubs that welcome walkers). The ‘Fancy Free’ brand is a quietly phenomenal and inexpensive success, with a huge variety of different types of walks for different categories of walker – consider liaising with them to develop a North Wales model; or develop something similar with its own brand.
- Market specific themes, for example: ‘Stay for the day’ (rather than just passing through); ‘hidden’ opportunities for different experiences (such as, packages with glamping (e.g. in Corwen) or multi-activity golf breaks); ‘Where next?’ to encourage visitors to think about returning and visiting another site next time. Also with clusters and packages being developed by the Clwydian Range Tourism Group ‘Stay, Eat, Do’ project; and focus marketing on experiences rather than on specific / honeypot sites.
- Greater events strategy focus: a twofold approach:
 1. Spread the benefits of existing events (such as the Moel Famau challenges or Llangollen Pavilion events) by promoting closer links with accommodation and activities in other centres (Corwen, Ruthin).

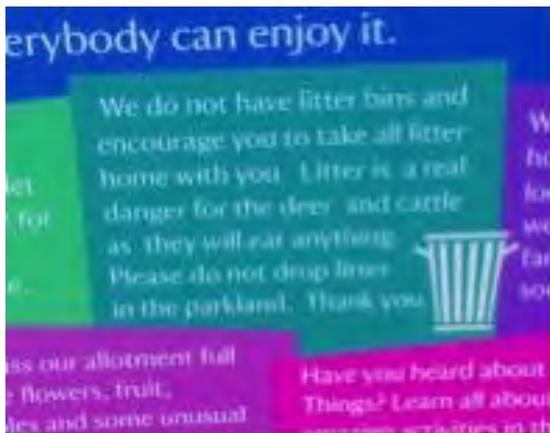
2. Promote events and other attractors that are further away from the honeypots. For example, analysis of the Mythfest event showed that 30% of attendees stayed on in the area overnight.

Infrastructure

- Produce an audit of car parking spaces in the area, including existing public car parks, but also looking for spaces that are under-used at certain times, such as pubs with large car parks (as an added incentive for business), industrial estates at the weekends, sports facilities and otherwise vacant and unused land – to mitigate parking issues. Explore whether and how some of these could be developed into usable (seasonal) parking space for visitors, and consider what steps are needed to enable this (such as negotiation with pub landlords or farmers). See also site-specific issues below.
- In paid-for car parks, use messaging on signs to explain that revenue from the car park funds the ranger service, and generally contributes to making the experience better for the visitor (or what the revenue received this year has paid for). This approach was taken by Surrey Hills AONB at Newlands Corner car park. Emphasise that whilst there is a charge for the car park, access to the site is free (as done at Blaenavon WHS Big Pit).
- Encourage reduced car use: a slightly different strategy may be required at each site, but there may be some common themes. For example: explore cycle hire options at Chirk and Ruabon stations, or at Trevor Basin car park; consider customer pickup by Llangollen activity providers at Trevor Basin for transfer to Llangollen or Llantysilio (providing an option to have a long-term parking permit included in the cost of day/weekend); revisit the Park and Ride bus from Mold, or try one from Ruthin (linked to the events policy); consider trialling sustainable models for shuttle or circular bus routes – see also site-specific suggestions.

Reducing environmental impacts

- Consider behavioural approaches to environmental problems. For example, in relation to messaging in litter strategy: explain to visitors why you don't have bins and why it is important to take litter home.



Example from National Trust (Dyrham Park, Gloucestershire)

- Dog control issue: create specific off-lead areas²⁵; in other places continue to replicate the dog-owner engagement project that saw success in Moel Famau. Focus on explaining why people are being asked to change their behaviour and engage them in the solution. Continue engaging with dog walkers to promote responsible and informed conduct through information, face to face interaction and signage²⁶.
- Dog waste strategy: Explore any more environmentally-friendly (and ranger-friendly) methods for disposal of dog waste, instead of collecting and carrying. For example, some innovative dog waste-to-energy options have been explored elsewhere (such as, to power lighting):
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jan/01/stools-to-fuels-street-lamp-runs-on-dog-poo-bio-energy-waste->
<http://www.streetkleen.co.uk/poopy-power.html>
<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/streetkleen-hopes-use-dog-faeces-3866265>
http://www.pacshell.org/pdf/PSI_TCCD_FeasibilityStudy.pdf

²⁵ For example: <https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/visiting/enjoy-outdoors/walking/walking-with-dogs>

²⁶ For example: <https://www.visit-eastern-moors.org.uk/plan-your-visit/take-the-lead-in-the-peak-district/> and <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SDNPA-HeRe-Evaluating-dog-walking-behaviour-change-Baseline-Report-Final-11-12-18.pdf>



6.4 Site-specific recommendations

6.4.1 Chirk Aqueduct

Management and communication

- The town of Chirk has a very low profile in the area. OPL has a number of suggestions for improved access and interpretation at the WHS site, but the town of Chirk itself does not feature specifically in the plans (although Oswestry and Ellesmere, outside the area, are identified as ‘gateways’ for the OPL area). Lion Quays currently promotes Llangollen and Pontcysyllte on its website as places to visit locally, though says nothing about Chirk. Ensure Chirk is featured and suggested as a place to visit in all AONB and other relevant communications about the area.

Support and coordination of local groups

- There is a clear opportunity for a local business group that would co-ordinate promotion of the town. Improved signage and information (including a website produced by and for Chirk) should encourage people to explore the town. Look at the Chirk and Ceiriog Valley Partnership – ‘a voluntary group of local and tourism-focused businesses committed to protecting and enhancing the visitor experience in Chirk and the Ceiriog Valley’. This group has produced a basic website, leaflet and app, which could form the basis of a more formal (and better funded) business group.

Infrastructure

- OPL has provision for a shuttle bus service for the Aqueduct – could this be linked to the town centre and Chirk station at peak times?
- Develop a parking and traffic management strategy in a way that will avoid congestion; spread traffic around and encourage people to park in places where they will be encouraged to explore the site and the town. Ideally, create lots of small car parks rather than one big one. Explore potential sites and parking options, such as current industrial land, or land owned by Kronospan or Mondelez. Work with businesses that have parking and canal towpath access, to explore options to use their parking (e.g. TnR, Lion Quays).

Support business opportunities and product development

- Explore ways to develop this part of the WHS in a distinctive way. For example:
 - Promote the tunnel as an attraction and be creative with the use of features such as lighting, music, projection and audio.

- Create different vantage points for viewing the aqueduct, such as via marked trails and circular walks, or consider adventurous options such as a tree-top walk.
 - Create trails for children and families, including some leading into the town to sites of interest and businesses such as the Teddy Bear café.
 - Develop and promote Chirk’s industrial heritage story. Could this link with the OPL project?
 - Offer guided tours – creating a potential opportunity for local business.
 - Encourage people to use Glyn Wylfa as a hub, rather than simply parking there. Consider introducing a charge for the car park, that includes a discount at the café.
 - Create circular walks based in the town (as it has a reasonable sized public car park) that incorporate the Aqueduct site.
- Promote Chirk at Trevor Basin: encourage walkers and cyclists in particular to explore the length of the WHS. Interpretation and information should include information on what is available beyond the site in Chirk as well as other businesses along the route.
 - Investigate the feasibility of a bike hire scheme, along the WHS – possibly with funding. Ensure that the business plan is designed for long-term sustainability so that the idea can be taken up by a local group or business.
 - Work specifically with local businesses already attracting visitors to the area, to understand what would appeal to their customers, and what could be developed for them in the town. For example, Lion Quays has parking facilities and will soon benefit from the upgraded towpath access to the site; TnR Coaching, Chirk Marina and the Bunkhouse would be other good businesses to connect with.

6.4.2 Loggerheads

Management and communication

- Emphasise the proximity of the local towns and their amenities on the Loggerheads and AONB web pages, as well as other local websites.
- Promote other walking routes and increase the profile of Community Miles. Set visitors a challenge – such as, how many different routes can they do?



Increase engagement with local stakeholders

- Use the Country Park more for education²⁷. It is a fantastic site, which is well run and provides facilities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the outdoors. Building on existing links with local schools would also provide opportunities through schools and via families, to suggest other sites for visiting. By those means, the impacts and benefits could be spread more widely.

Support business opportunities and product development

- Work with local business groups to identify suitable products and services to promote through the channels referred to above.

Reducing environmental impacts

- Emphasise the special and fragile character of the site by focusing on the tone of the message and the way the site is presented to visitors²⁸.
- Work with Natural Resources Wales to identify the most important areas to protect; devise a visitor management strategy to communicate why they need protecting; engage users of the site in the process to help them to understand that the area could be even more beautiful if we all looked after it more. Create a focal point away from the current damaged area, in a less fragile part of the site. Start by roping off the most fragile areas and gradually increase these, monitoring visitor responses.
- Promote the ‘dogs on leads’ message more strongly, especially in the tea gardens area, as well as promoting the available ‘dogs off leads’ walks.

6.4.3 Moel Famau

Support business opportunities and product development

- Explore ways to spread the benefits of events by linking ‘challenge’ events on the hill with local businesses: promoting places to stay, eat, celebrate, buy gifts and so on. Event participants could be encouraged to bring a bigger group, make a ‘family day’

²⁷ For example, see resources developed by North York Moors National Park:

<https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/about-us/school-and-group-visits/schools-and-colleges/key-stage-3/resources/conflicts-and-problems/Conflict-problems-solutions-2.pdf>

²⁸ This also applies to other sites, in particular Panorama and Moel Famau. An example is the approach taken in the Chilterns AONB:

https://www.chilternsaonb.org/uploads/files/ConservationBoard/ManagementPlan/Management%20Plan%202014-19/chilterns_management_plan_2014-19_final.pdf

or weekend of it. These events are regular and frequent and should be part of the Denbighshire events strategy plan, but at present they do not even feature in the strategy document. Link with Denbigh and Ruthin as places to visit as part of these events.

- Consider the interpretation at the viewpoint at the bottom of the path – highlight Ruthin, Denbigh and other places, create interest so that people want to go and visit. Interpretation should feature the Vale of Clwyd as a whole.
- Continue to explore the possibility of a ‘joint’ car park ticket with Ruthin, so that visitors are encouraged to visit the town, either on this or a subsequent visit.
- See AONB-wide suggestions for developing business networks of suppliers and customers with the aim of supporting year-round sustainability.

Infrastructure

- Promote annual parking passes among local people and regular visitors, such as repeat visitors to the caravan park. It could be that reducing the cost of parking for locals would encourage the use of paid parking and lead to a reduction in roadside free parking.

Reducing environmental impacts

- Focus on behaviour change strategies: for example, by encouraging ramblers’ groups to pay and park responsibly, or to engage with the site more in a practical or financial way²⁹; walkers to keep to the trail; dog owners to understand the reasons why they need to keep their pet on a lead; mountain bikers to avoid eroding the landscape. Focus on engaging and educating visitors about the agricultural nature and heritage of the site, a place where people’s livelihoods depend on the considerate use of the countryside by all.
- Continue to work on creating a dog-friendly route, such as one where people can let their dogs off the lead through the forest and then put them back on the lead when they come out.
- The snow days issue is difficult to manage – most locals and businesses said it causes huge problems (damage and congestion) with no benefits. Other than closing the road to Moel Famau, which would cause a new set of problems, there are no really obvious practical solutions to this challenge.

²⁹ For example: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/mendourmountains>



6.4.4 Panorama

Increase engagement with local stakeholders

- Work with activity companies who derive economic benefit from use of the site for rock climbing and therefore have responsibility for it. Explore the feasibility of user permits and a code of conduct. Stakeholder buy-in will be essential to making this work effectively.
- Set up a group of activity providers and work with Dee Valley Active to get people involved in helping out in practical ways at the site – for example with ‘balsam bash’ days, cutting back the gorse on the crags and so on.

Support business opportunities and product development

- The Prospect Garden Tea Rooms is a strong attractor for older visitors to Panorama as well for as passing cyclists and walkers. It has always been well-signposted, both from the Panorama and the main road below. Explore whether there is scope to replace it when the owner retires with another ‘tea room with a view’, or a mobile or ‘pop up’ tea outlet with parking space and disabled access, when it is closed.

Infrastructure

- Explore options for addressing the parking issues, including the ‘natural’ marking out of parking ‘spaces’ in existing areas and the identification of other available spaces in less fragile areas.
- Promote the idea of walking up from Llangollen instead of driving – making the walk part of the experience, with informative signage.

Reducing environmental impacts

- Promote the area’s conservation status, by getting people involved in understanding importance of protecting the landscape. (Examples from other areas include Chiltern Rangers in Chilterns AONB: <https://chilternrangers.co.uk/> and Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Meadow network: <http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/resource/life-on-the-verge-meadow-network/>.)
- Work with local schools, youth and community groups to provide volunteers for environmental work, to increase the perceived value of the site to local people as a place to cherish and protect. Explore ideas for activity days and education about anti-social behaviour and litter.



- Work on promoting behaviour change, for example by encouraging mountain bikers and walkers to stay on the footpaths³⁰.

6.4.5 Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin

Formal details of the Masterplan are not currently publicly available, but we would suggest that spreading the economic benefits from any development must include provision for the activities outlined below:

Management and communication

- Continue to promote the whole length of the WHS, including places to stop off along the way.

Increase engagement with local stakeholders

- Work on ensuring effective community participation and focus on generating benefits for local residents, such as events space, skills development, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Support and coordination of local groups

- Provide support for businesses and the variety of community groups in Trevor, Acrefair and Cefn Mawr, ensuring that these businesses are serving the local community as well as the visitor economy (Wrexham council/AONB).

Support business opportunities and product development

- Work with businesses to help them to identify and capitalise on the opportunities afforded by WHS inscription. Facilitate collaboration between businesses, as well as opportunities for businesses to meet the individuals and organisations involved in developing the site.
- Encourage businesses at the site to work together more, to produce a community feel and coherent identity for the Basin, and to identify new business opportunities to sell local products in high season.
- Improve the offering at the site, to appeal to a wider variety of markets, including families. Encourage those who can visit mid-week or out of season to do so, through reduced pricing, events and so on. Work with coach companies to identify the factors that inhibit them spending more time in the Basin and with local businesses.

³⁰ For example: http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/814482/lab-erosion.pdf

- Produce maps with suggested circular walks, starting in the car park, that enable visitors to see the aqueduct from a different perspective. Develop attractive trails – for example by improving the paths either side of the aqueduct and making them easy to identify. Provide signage, to point out routes to local communities such as Cefn Mawr and Froncysyllte, with an estimate of walking distances. Create paths that avoid visitors needing to walk along the road.
- Liaise with Wrexham CBC in terms of rural planning strategy, to encourage the development of better accommodation that will encourage people to stay in the area and spend money.

Infrastructure

- The aqueduct site has something that is in short supply in the Dee Valley – parking space (and scope for more). There are a number of options for better use of the large new car park (or its replacement if the current one is temporary), including developing better linkages with the rest of the WHS, Chirk and Llangollen. For example:
 - A shuttle bus to Llangollen and other parts of the WHS would encourage a day trip to the whole site rather than just a flying visit to the aqueduct. (In St Ives, Cornwall for example, an out-of-town station is used as major visitor car park. Shropshire has the Shropshire Hills Shuttle, with services that support and promote it: <http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/enjoying-the-shropshire-hills/shuttles/long-mynd-stiperstones/>.)
 - Explore whether a shuttle bus scheme could tie in with the Llangollen 2020 project (it is also mentioned as an OPL project).
 - Cycle docking for bike hire.
 - Starting point for walks (advertised widely on different user group websites, such as exists for the one starting at Llantysilio).
 - Enhanced toilet facilities.
 - Address the issues of parking signage and work with the relevant authority to explore the possibility of residents-only parking in the surrounding streets.
 - Ensure that the Masterplan builds in ‘future-proofed’ infrastructure for increasing numbers of visitors and users of canal itself.

Reducing environmental impacts

- Work with or set up an activity providers group, to develop ways of working together to enhance the site and resolve any issues of user conflict; for example, through a code of conduct.



6.4.6 Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green

Support business opportunities and product development

- Investigate the feasibility of a mobile refreshment outlet in the car park or field with revenue from the pitch rental going towards services such as litter management or increased ranger presence, to manage negative visitor behaviour.

Infrastructure

- Pursue landscaping and redesign of the car park to best suit all user groups, including consideration of a filter lane for vans and trailers to drop off customers and rafts, as well as a separate entrance and exit.
- Consider having short-stay parking only at Llantysilio in summer months, with an alternative long-stay car park for walkers or all-day water sports users.
- Investigate the possibility of parking at Llangollen Pavilion as well as enabling access to the canal at that point, together with signage, and walking and paddling times for Llangollen and Horseshoe Falls.
- Investigate the feasibility of an alternative ingress point to the river for individuals and groups of water sports users, with separate parking or drop off point, and basic changing facilities. This would involve careful consultation with user groups, including others potentially affected, such as anglers.
- Re-trial a circular bus route if funding is available, charging a modest fare from the outset, to ensure longer-term sustainability and the possibility of a private business taking it on.

Reducing environmental impacts

- Set up and work with activity providers' groups to work together to enhance and care for the site, possibly backed by a code of conduct. Explore options for a joint fund to benefit the site: for example, funding for a warden.
- Work on signage at the site, to include positive messaging to promote responsible behaviour by visitors.



7. Action Plan

	Recommendations	Actions	Timeframe	Key stakeholders
			Short – end 2019 Medium – mid 2021 Long – mid 2024	<i>In addition to AONB lead</i>
AONB-wide	Management and communication	Update AONB websites to encourage public understanding of its work	Medium	AONB communications
		Focus on customer communications and messaging through the AONB website and other channels, including social media, encouraging visitors to explore beyond the honey pot sites: - Inclusion of gateway towns - Support and input into iBeacon app - Re-think marketing approach to emphasise experiences rather than iconic / honeypot sites	Short to medium	AONB staff dealing with communications; Cadwyn Clwyd; town managers; those involved with iBeacon for relevant locations; marketing staff
		Ensure consistency of approach across all AONB and associated staff, including understanding of management challenges: - Customer messaging - Training content for AONB and associated staff	Short	AONB training staff
	Increase engagement with local stakeholders	Establish stakeholder groups for (at least) Loggerheads, Moel Famau, Llantysilio and Panorama	Short	Key stakeholders for each site, representing: Residents; site managers; community council(s); user groups
Explore links with educational institutions		Medium	AONB managers, educational institution contacts; Local Education Authorities	



	Support and coordination of local groups	Work with Clwydian Range Tourism Group and others; build on ‘Stay, Eat, Do’ outcomes	Short to medium	Tourism group representatives; local authority business support
		Continue to support and publicise Clwydian Range Food Group and Dee Valley Good Grub Club and their initiatives	Short to medium	Food groups representatives
		Support and encourage specific efforts at collaboration through local authority Tourism Fora. In particular explore the collection of business data from members on a regular basis.	Short to medium	Local authority tourism officers and Forum group members
	Support business opportunities and product development	Explore opportunities for support and training for more mobile ‘pop up’ food offerings	Medium to long	AONB staff; individual catering businesses and food suppliers
		Encourage local engagement and support for businesses, e.g. through #LoveLiveLocal.	Medium to long	Local business groups; local authority business support
		Explore opportunities to support (including through training, mentoring, publicity and sharing information) non-food business initiatives, such as cycle hire business or walking tours; guides; tourism support businesses; local crafts; local markets; cultural initiatives or other events.	Medium to long	Local business groups; Denbighshire and Flintshire business support
		Consider a branded loyalty or discount scheme to encourage repeat visits and discovery of new places	Medium	Local authority tourism groups
		Continue to build on Community Miles scheme by developing a wider range of walking opportunities and suggested routes, starting in village centres and / or making use of parking in quieter car parks or pub car parks, as in e.g. Fancy Free walks (www.fancyfreewalks.org)	Medium	AONB staff and individuals involved in organising walking festivals in the area.
		Explore new marketing ‘themes’ designed to encourage ‘passing trade’ visitors to stay longer in the area, spend money and visit different parts of the AONB and surrounding area on a return visit (see examples above)	Medium to long	Regional and local tourism groups; AONB marketing staff
		Develop greater focus on an events strategy, to spread the benefits of existing events and promote events and other attractors away from the honeypots	Medium to long	Local authority tourism officers involved in events strategies; event organisers; local business groups



	Infrastructure	Produce an audit of car parking spaces in the area and explore whether and how some of this could be developed into usable (seasonal) parking space for visitors	Short to medium	AONB managers; local authorities; local businesses with parking facilities
		Car park messaging to inform and engage visitors and motivate payment	Short to medium	Site managers; AONB marketing and communications
		Explore ways to encourage reduced car use: - Cycle hire options - Customer pickup by activity providers - Park and Ride options - Sustainable models for shuttle or circular bus routes	Medium to long	Local authorities; cycle hire businesses; potential funders; OPL
	Reducing environmental impacts	Focus on behavioural approaches to environmental problems, such as litter messaging	Short to medium	Site managers; AONB marketing and communications
		Dog control initiatives: - Off-lead areas - Continue / replicate dog-owner engagement project	Short to medium	Site managers; AONB marketing and communications
		Dog waste: explore environmentally friendly disposal and use options	Medium	Site managers; local authorities
Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct	Management and communication	Work for the increased promotion of the town of Chirk in visitor communications and information	Medium	WHS; Canal and River Trust; Chirk councillors; local authority; businesses / groups; Chirk and Ceiriog Valley Partnership; iBeacon team
	Support and coordination of local groups	Set up a local business group, building on the work of the Chirk and Ceiriog Valley Partnership	Short to medium	Local businesses; Wrexham CBC business support
	Infrastructure	Explore options for a shuttle bus service through OPL project	Medium	Local authority; potential funders
		Develop a parking and traffic management strategy, planning to avoid congestion, spread traffic around and encourage visitors to explore site and town	Medium to long	Local authority and councillors; businesses with potential parking availability; WHS; Canal and River Trust



	Support business opportunities and product development	Explore ways to develop this part of the WHS in a distinctive way. For example: - Creative promotion of the tunnel as an attraction - Trails for children and families - Develop and promote industrial heritage story - Develop guided tours - Encourage use of Glyn Wylfa - Create circular walks incorporating the town and Aqueduct site	Medium to long	Canal and River Trust; WHS planners and managers; local business groups; tourism groups and bodies
		Promote Chirk at Trevor Basin	Short to medium	WHS, Canal and River Trust
		Investigate feasibility of bike hire scheme along the WHS	Medium	Canal and River Trust; WHS, local businesses; local authority
		Work with local businesses to understand what appeals to their visitors and what could be developed to attract them to the town	Medium to long	Local businesses and local business group
Loggerheads Country Park	Management and communication	Emphasise the proximity of, and amenities in, the local towns, especially Ruthin, on the Loggerheads and AONB web pages, as well as other local websites	Medium	AONB marketing and communications
		Promote other walking routes e.g. increase the profile of Community Miles	Medium	AONB marketing and communications
	Increase engagement with local stakeholders	Use the Country Park more, for education; build on existing links with local schools	Medium	Site managers; school and community group contacts
	Support business opportunities and product development	Work with local business groups to identify suitable products and services to promote	Medium to long	Business groups
		Emphasise the special and fragile character of the site – focus on the tone of customer messaging	Short to medium	AONB marketing and communications; NRW
		Work with Natural Resources Wales to identify the most important areas to protect; devise visitor management strategy accordingly	Medium	NRW



	Reducing environmental impacts	Promote 'dogs on leads' message more strongly as well as the available 'off leads' walks	Short to medium	Site managers; AONB marketing and communications
Moel Famau Country Park	Support business opportunities and product development	Explore ways to spread the benefit of events by linking 'challenge' events on the hill with local businesses. Promote places to stay, eat, celebrate and buy	Medium to long	Event organisers; Denbighshire tourism officers involved in Events strategy; local businesses and groups; AONB marketing and communications
		Enhance interpretation at the viewpoint at the foot of the path to feature the Vale of Clwyd as a whole and highlight Ruthin, Denbigh and other places	Medium	AONB marketing and communications
		Continue to explore the possibility of a 'joint' car park ticket with Ruthin	Medium	Local authority, local businesses
		Develop a business network of suppliers and customers with the aim of supporting year-round sustainability	Medium to long	Local business groups; Denbighshire Business Support
	Infrastructure	Promote annual parking passes among local people and regular visitors	Medium	AONB; local authority
	Reducing environmental impacts	Focus on behaviour-change strategies to engage and educate visitors	Medium to long	NRW; AONB marketing and communications
Continue to work on creating a dog-friendly route		Short to medium	Site managers	
Panorama	Increase engagement with local stakeholders	Work with activity companies to explore the feasibility of user permits and a code of conduct	Medium	Activity companies and groups; landowner(s); rangers
		Set up a group of activity providers and work with Dee Valley Active, to get people involved in helping out with environmental issues in practical ways	Medium	WHS (Buffer Zone); management; activity companies and groups; landowner(s); rangers
	Support business opportunities and product development	Explore potential alternatives to the Prospect Garden Tea Rooms for refreshments, including mobile or pop-up options	Medium	Local authority; local businesses and groups



	Infrastructure	Explore options for addressing parking issues, including the 'natural' marking out of 'spaces' in existing areas and the identification of spaces in less fragile areas	Short to medium	Landowner(s); rangers; local authority; owners of other parking facilities; WHS Management; OPL
		Promote the idea of walking up from Llangollen instead of driving, including informative signage	Medium	Local authority; OPL; WHS
	Reducing environmental impacts	Promote the area's conservation status, by getting people involved in understanding the importance of protecting the landscape	Medium to long	NRW; WHS management; rangers
		Work with local schools, youth and community groups on volunteer environmental work to increase the perceived value of the site	Medium to long	NRW; rangers; school, youth and community groups
		Work on promoting behaviour change among different user groups	Medium to long	NRW; rangers; WHS management; AONB communications
	Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin	Management and communication	Continue to promote the whole length of the WHS, including places to stop off at, along the way	Medium
Increase engagement with local stakeholders		Work on ensuring effective community participation and focus on generating benefits for local residents	Medium	WHS Masterplan team; local authorities
Support and coordination of local groups		Provide support for businesses and the variety of community groups in Trevor, Acrefair and Cefn Mawr, ensuring they serve local community as well as the visitor economy, to encourage sustainability	Medium	Local businesses; community groups; WHS Masterplan team
Support business opportunities and		Work with businesses to help them identify and capitalise on opportunities of WHS inscription. Facilitate collaboration between businesses, and opportunities to meet site managers and developers	Medium to long	WHS Masterplan team; local authority; local businesses
		Encourage businesses at the site to work together more, to produce a community feel and coherent identity, and identify new business opportunities	Medium to long	WHS Masterplan team; local businesses
		Improve the offering at the site to appeal to a wider variety of markets, including families and coach companies	Medium to long	WHS Masterplan team; local businesses



	product development	Produce maps with suggested circular walks that starting in the car park, with signage to point out routes to local communities, and to include walking distances	Medium	WHS Masterplan team; OPL; local business group
		Encourage Wrexham CBC to support improved accommodation in the immediate area	Medium to long	Wrexham CBC; accommodation providers
	Infrastructure	Identify ways to optimise use of the large car park, for example: - Shuttle bus service to Llangollen and other parts of the WHS - Cycle docking for bike hire - Starting point for walks - Enhanced toilet facilities	Medium to long	WHS Masterplan team; local authorities; potential funders
		Address the issues of parking signage and explore the possibility of residents-only parking in surrounding streets	Short to medium	WHS Masterplan team; local authorities
		Ensure Masterplan builds in 'future-proofed' infrastructure for increasing the numbers of visitors and canal users	Medium	WHS Masterplan team
	Reducing environmental impacts	Work with activity providers to develop ways of working together to enhance site and resolve any user conflict issues through a code of conduct, for example	Medium	Activity companies and groups; WHS Masterplan team
Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green	Support business opportunities and product development	Investigate the feasibility of a mobile refreshment outlet, with future revenue going towards e.g. litter management or an increased ranger presence	Medium	Local authority, local businesses; Llantysilio Community Council
		Pursue landscaping and redesign of car park, to best suit all user groups	Short to medium	National Trust; local authority; funders; rangers; user groups
		Consider having short-stay parking only at Llantysilio in the summer, with an alternative long-stay car park for walkers and all-day water sports users	Medium	National Trust; local authority; funders; Llantysilio Community Council; rangers; user groups



	Infrastructure	Investigate the possibility of parking at Llangollen Pavilion with access to the canal, with signage; to include walking and paddling times to Llangollen and Horseshoe Falls	Medium to long	Local authority; Llangollen Town Council; user groups
		Investigate the feasibility of an alternative ingress point to the river for water sports users, with separate parking or a drop off point, and basic changing facilities. Ensure consultation with affected user groups	Medium to long	Local authority; Llangollen Town Council; landowner(s); user groups
		Re-trial circular bus route if funding is available, charging a modest fare to ensure longer-term sustainability.	Medium	Local authorities; potential funders; OPL
		Consider a paid-for parking pass for residents	Medium	Local authority; Llangollen Town Council; Llantysilio Community Council
	Reducing environmental impacts	Set up or work with an activity providers' group, to enhance and care for the site. Establish a code of conduct. Explore options for a joint fund to benefit the site	Medium to long	Activity providers and groups; OPL
		Work on signage with positive messaging at the site, to promote responsible behaviour by visitors	Short to medium	Rangers; AONB communications; OPL



8. Appendices

A.1 List of abbreviations used in the study

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CAV	Chirk Aqueduct and Viaduct
CRT	Canal and River Trust
DCC	Denbighshire County Council
EU	European Union
HFLG	Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
LCP	Loggerheads Country Park
MFCP	Moel Famau Country Park
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
OPL	Our Picturesque Landscape
P	Panorama
PATB	Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TBM	Trevor Basin Masterplan
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government
WCBC	Wrexham County Borough Council
WHS	World Heritage Site

A.2 Websites that mention Horseshoe Falls and Llantysilio Green as a place to park

The following websites mention HFLG as a place to park for various activities.

- <https://www.pontcysyllte-aqueduct.co.uk/attraction/horseshoe-falls/>
- <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/places-to-visit/llangollen-and-the-horseshoe-falls>
- https://www.theaa.com/motoring_advice/hotspots/snow-walk-22.pdf
- <https://www.dailypost.co.uk/whats-on/picnic-spots-north-wales-beach-13192089>
- <https://www.qualitycottages.co.uk/aroundwales/horseshoe-pass-horseshoe-falls-velvet-hill>
- <https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2731665>

- <https://www.llangollen-maelor-angling.com/middle-section.html>
- http://www.welshdeepartnershipltd.co.uk/files/bb8d32b9_WDP_Handout_Canoe_Access_Horseshoe_Falls_20140901.pdf
- <https://www.proadventure.co.uk/wordpress/horseshoe-falls-and-velvet-hill/>
- http://powysramblers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Report_24_Jul_2016.htm
- <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/find-a-walk-or-route/walk-detail.aspx?walkID=3897837>

A.3 Estimating and monetising the health benefits for visitors to the AONB

- A large majority of visitors to the AONB stated that they went walking during their visit. Out of 237 survey respondents (in person and online), 80 reported walking less than 2 miles on their most recent visit and 136 reported walking further than 2 miles, with 12 respondents reporting having done both. This means that 86% of respondents (204 people) stated that they had done some walking on their visit to the AONB.
- In 2018, the estimated total number of visitors to the six key AONB sites covered in this study was 1,133,913 (see Section 5.1.4). Applying the percentage of visitors who said they spent time walking during their visit, this suggests that the six key sites received 976,026 walking visitors in 2018.
- In estimating these visitor numbers, it was not possible to measure accurately the overlap between visitors to the six sites: namely, how many visitors to the AONB visited more than one of the six sites at one time. For this reason, the visitor numbers reported above are likely to be an overestimate of the true figure.
- Like other forms of exercise, walking has a number of important health benefits, including reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease and type-2 diabetes. By estimating the extent to which these two categories of risk are reduced and using the typical cost of treating such health conditions, it is possible to put an approximate monetary value on the health benefits associated with walking, while visiting the AONB.
- The correlation between walking and reducing the risks of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and type-2 diabetes can be monetised in the following ways:
 - The British Heart Foundation³¹ publishes data on the current occurrence of cardiovascular incidents for UK adults, by age range. It is assumed that the prevalence (a priori) of CVD among visitors to the AONB is the same as for the UK population as a whole: 1.4% of individuals. Additionally, secondary medical

³¹ Townsend, N. et al. (2014). *Cardiovascular Disease Statistics 2014*. British Heart Foundation Centre on Population Approaches for Non-Communicable Disease Prevention, p. 61, Table 2.4.

research indicates that, ‘for heart attack patients who participated in a formal exercise program[me], the death rate is reduced by 20% to 25%.’³² Taking all of this information in combination, it is estimated that 20% of the 1.4% of visitors who would have experienced CVD in the counterfactual scenario, did not – due to improved physical health from walking in the AONB. This meant that 0.29% of those visitors who went walking when in the AONB, avoided a cardiovascular incident, as a consequence of the improvement in their physical health.

- A similar approach is applied for type-2 diabetes. Diabetes UK³³ provides data on the current prevalence of type-2 diabetes for Welsh citizens – 6.0% in 2013 – which is assumed to be representative of the proportion of visitors to the AONB who would have had type-2 diabetes a priori. International evidence³⁴ states that regular moderate exercise can reduce the risk of type-2 diabetes by 46%. Taking all of this information in combination, it is estimated that 46% of the 6.0% of visitors who would have experienced type-2 diabetes in the counterfactual scenario, did not do so, due to improved physical health from walking in the AONB. This meant that 2.77% of those visitors who went walking when in the AONB, avoided type-2 diabetes, as a consequence of the improvement in their physical health.
- The unit costs of treating the two aforementioned conditions, and sources for these costs, are shown in the table below. The percentage of visitors for whom each of the two conditions is assumed to be avoided, is combined with the respective unit costs that would otherwise have been incurred in treating those conditions. This gives an average assume cost saving per walking visitor for each of the two conditions: £1.24 for CVD and £37.75 for type-2 diabetes. The final step is to apply these average cost savings per walking visitor to the estimated total number of walking visitors to the six sites.
- This analysis suggests that the health benefits of a year’s worth of walking visitors to the six key AONB sites equate to an estimated £38.1 million in health spending foregone. Of this, an estimated £1.2 million relates to the assumed reduction in CVD and a further £36.8 million relates to the assumed reduction in type-2 diabetes.
- The final step of the calculation is therefore to reduce the value, based on the assumption that a visit to walk in the AONB constitutes one part of a full year programme of regular walking exercise. UK guidelines on physical activity for adults aged 19-64 state that: ‘Adults should aim to be active daily. Over a week, activity should add up to at least 150

³² Myers, J. (2003). ‘Exercise and Cardiovascular Health’, *Circulation*, 107, e2-e5.

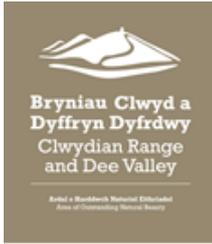
³³ Diabetes UK (2014). Diabetes: Facts and Stats.

³⁴ Colberg, S. R. et al. (2010). ‘Exercise and type 2 diabetes: the American College of Sports Medicine and the American Diabetes Association: joint position statement’. *Diabetes care*, 33(12), e147-67.

minutes (2½ hours) of moderate intensity activity in bouts of 10 minutes or more – one way to approach this is to do 30 minutes on at least 5 days a week. ... Alternatively, comparable benefits can be achieved through 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity spread across the week or combinations of moderate and vigorous intensity activity.³⁵ We can reasonably assume that physical activity during time spent in the AONB amounts, for most people, to be the equivalent of one week of exercise, according to these guidelines. Therefore, dividing the calculated annual financial benefits by 52 weeks we arrive at a figure of £733,000 of reduced health expenditure, made up of approximately £23,000 from reduced incidence of CVD and £708,000 from reduced type-2 diabetes.

Health condition	Cost per annum	Source for unit cost	Assumed proportion of walking visitors for whom health condition is avoided	Assumed cost saved per walking visitor to the AONB (on average)	Estimated annual number of visitors to six key sites in the AONB who went walking	Estimated annual health cost saving due to health benefits of walking for visitors to the AONB
Cardiovascular disease: average annual cost of ongoing NHS care and rehabilitation programmes following a heart attack (myocardial infarction)	£426.72	NICE. (2010). <i>Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease: Costing Report</i> , p.24	0.29%	£1.24	976,026	£1,207,814
Average annual cost per person of medication and healthcare for type-2 diabetes	£1,362.94	BHF National Centre. (2014). <i>Economic Costs of physical inactivity - Evidence briefing</i> , University of Loughborough	2.77%	£37.75		£36,848,351

³⁵ Guidance from the Chief Medical Office on how much physical activity people should be doing, with supporting documents. 'Factsheet 4: Physical activity guidelines for adults (19-64)'. Crown copyright (2011). Available online: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/213740/dh_128145.pdf (Accessed: 26-03-2019).



AONB Joint Committee Meeting

21 June 2019

Agenda Item 11.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE AONB:

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Background

1. The built environment is one of the special qualities of the AONB and contributes to the character and appearance of the area. There is pressure for new development in and around the AONB as an attractive place to live, work and visit, but particular care is required to ensure that new development fits well in the landscape. An important role of the Joint Committee and Partnership is to advise on development policies and proposals affecting the AONB.

Consultations

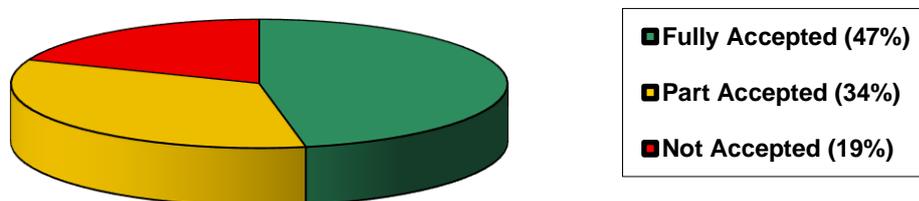
2. The overall number of consultations referred to the AONB in 2018-19 was 285, which is a very similar level of activity to last year (286).
3. The majority of consultations (222 in number, 79% of the total) were planning or related applications for development referred by the three local planning authorities (LPA's). As expected, the majority (79%) were from Denbighshire, followed by Flintshire (21%) and Wrexham (3%). Formal and informal requests for pre and post-application advice continue to account for a significant proportion of all consultations (38 in number, 13% of the total), although this is a slight reduction on last year. Policy related matters (18 in number) accounted for 6% of all consultations, which represents a slight increase in activity over the previous year. Other consultations comprised planning appeals (4) and Welsh Development of National Significance Projects (DNS) (1).
4. A summary of all planning consultations to which the AONB responded during the year are attached as Appendices covering the two half-yearly periods. These show details of the proposal, a summary of the AONB's comments, the LPA's decision where this has been made and an assessment of their response to the AONB's comments.
5. The largest category of proposals continues to be for householder development (35%) followed by residential (22%), including conversions. The proportion of tourism related development proposals continues to grow (19%) and is now the third largest category of development, followed by agriculture/forestry (8%) and commercial/retail and industrial proposals (7%). The remaining consultations comprised energy, utility, Listed Building, advertisements, community and waste developments. The DNS consultation related to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping request in respect of a possible windfarm at Alwen Forest.

6. The majority of decided planning applications (83%) were granted permission, which is comparable with the approval rate in previous years. Only 13% were refused, and 4% of applications were withdrawn by the applicant prior to determination.
7. The AONB raised no objection to the majority of applications, but often suggested design changes, alternative materials or additional landscaping or lighting conditions to help conserve and enhance the character and appearance of the AONB. There were 16 formal objections lodged to development proposals, and significant concerns were raised in respect of 27 further applications.

Local Planning Authority Response to AONB Comments

8. Analysis of LPA responses to substantive comments made by the AONB on decided planning applications (see pie-chart overleaf) shows that the majority of comments made by the AONB were accepted in full (47%) or in part (34%), which is a significant improvement on last year’s position. Only 19% of comments were not accepted or acted upon by the LPA’s, which compares favourably to the 26% of comments not accepted in the previous year. This improvement in performance could in part be the result of efforts to develop the AONB’s relationship with the LPA’s and planning officers, coupled with increased awareness as a result of the adoption of AONB Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) by the LPA’s in 2018.
9. Of the 21 comments not accepted by the LPA’s, 17 applications were determined by Denbighshire and 4 by Flintshire. There were no cases in Wrexham where the AONB’s comments had not been accepted in full or in part. Taking into account the overall number of decisions made by each authority, the percentage of cases where the AONB’s comments were not accepted or acted upon was 20% in Denbighshire and 16% in Flintshire. This is a significant improvement over the position last year when the comparable figures were 25% and 36% for Denbighshire and Flintshire respectively.

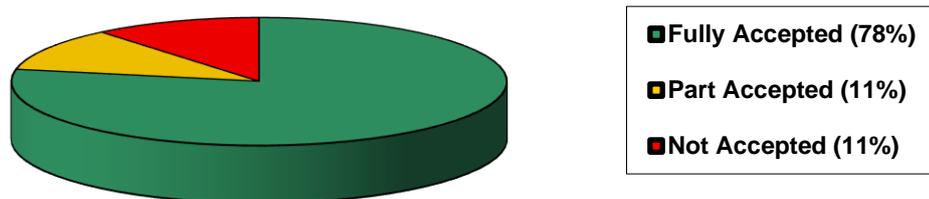
LPA Consideration of AONB Comments 2018-19



10. For the most part, comments made by the AONB which were not accepted related to design, materials, lighting and landscaping, and to suggestions for enhancement as part of a development project. The AONB’s response to the DNS consultation on EIA scoping for a proposed windfarm at Alwen Forest was fully accepted by the Planning Inspectorate.
11. Whilst the LPA’s did not always accept the AONB’s comments, further analysis of decisions in the most significant cases where the AONB had lodged a formal objection to an application shows that the AONB’s position has been fully accepted by the LPA in the

overwhelming majority of cases. Of the 9 objections submitted by the AONB where a decision was made, the LPA's refused 7 applications and granted 2. Furthermore, in one of the cases where permission was granted, significant amendments were negotiated to overcome the AONB's objection. Thus in majority of these serious cases the AONB's comments were accepted in full (78%) or in part (11%), which is a much higher level of acceptance than the overall picture (see pie-chart below). It should also be noted that four other applications to which the AONB objected were withdrawn by the applicant prior to determination, which is often in response to the level of objection to the proposals.

LPA Consideration of AONB Objections 2018-19



Planning Appeals

12. Of the four planning appeals referred to the AONB during the year, three were dismissed by the inspectorate and one was allowed. The dismissed cases were a Listed Building Appeal for the replacement of timber windows with uPVC, a Lawful Development Certificate application for a caravan and camping site at Carrog Station and a large house extension near Llanarmon yn Ial. The AONB objected or raised concerns in respect of all three applications which were taken into account by the inspectorate. A major development for a raw board store at Kronospan, Chirk was allowed on appeal. The inspector had regard to the concerns of the AONB and others about potential adverse impacts but concluded that these were not so significant as to refuse permission.

Unauthorised Development

13. During the year, 19 potential cases of unauthorised development affecting the AONB were referred to the LPA enforcement teams for investigation. Eleven cases were in Denbighshire and 8 were in Flintshire. No cases were referred to Wrexham. Issues raised included engineering/tipping works, , outbuildings, shipping containers, caravans/chalets, vehicle storage, access works, kennels, public footpath restrictions, works to trees and non-compliance with conditions. A site of particular concern is Field Cottage, Gwaenysgor where several potential breaches of planning control have occurred over the past year, including major earthworks and engineering operations, construction of an ornamental pond and unsightly security fences and gates. Enforcement matters are often complex and take some time for the planning authorities to investigate and resolve and many cases are still outstanding.

Policy/Strategic Consultations

14. The number of policy and strategic consultations referred to the AONB in 2018-19 was 18. Welsh Government was the most significant source of consultations during the year, and the AONB commented on eight policy documents, including Draft Planning Policy Wales: Edition 10; National Development Framework: Issues and Options; Subordinate Planning Legislation Review; Petroleum Extraction Policy; Achieving our Low Carbon Pathway; Noise and Soundscape Action Plan 2018-23; Delivery of Housing through the Planning System and the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Wales. The AONB also contributed evidence to the Welsh Affairs Committee Inquiry into Renewable Energy in Wales.
15. The planning authorities continued to make progress on their Local Development Plans (LDP's) during the year, and the AONB responded to the Wrexham LDP Deposit Plan and Focussed Changes consultations. Flintshire also consulted the AONB on their Draft Planning Enforcement Policy. The AONB also wrote to the three planning authorities about the importance of and enforcement of pre-commencement conditions.
16. Comments were submitted to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on their review of Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessments and to National Grid on their Electricity Transmission Network Environment Consultation. The AONB also supported and commented on the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal WHS Draft Management Plan.

Landscape Character and Built Environment Working Group

17. The AONB Partnership Landscape Character and Built Environment Working Group leads on planning and development matters affecting the AONB. The group met on three occasions during the year and continues to develop and review their forward work programme, which prioritises actions arising from the AONB Management Plan. In addition to commenting on policy matters and major development proposals, the group took forward a number of important Management Plan actions during the year, the most significant of these being the AONB Dark Sky Initiative, reducing visual intrusion, monitoring landscape change and developing the AONB's relationship with the LPA's.
18. As part of their work on responding to planning applications, the group had previously expressed concern about the proportion of AONB comments not accepted by the LPA's. The group recognised the need to develop and improve the AONB's relationship with planning officers and committees and in response arranged two workshop sessions with senior planning officers from Denbighshire on development management and planning enforcement. These have helped enhance mutual understanding of the issues faced by both organisations.
19. The AONB's aspiration to secure formal Dark Sky recognition for the area from the International Dark Sky Association moved forward in partnership with the other protected landscapes in North Wales through the joint appointment of a Dark Sky Officer. In addition, developing a better understanding between the AONB and the street lighting authorities, and exploring and learning from successful dark sky initiatives elsewhere in the UK has also been a feature this year. It should also be noted that when making comments on planning applications the AONB now regularly promotes the need for dark sky friendly lighting where this might be an issue, which is being increasingly taken on board by the LPA's.

20. Further progress has been made on reducing visual intrusion through the National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) in the Morwynion Valley and Tremeirchion areas, and further work undertaken with Scottish Power to secure removal and undergrounding of prominent overhead electricity lines at Ty Mawr Country Park and Horseshoe Falls. Efforts continue to be made to secure mitigation and ideally the removal of Pontcysyllte Sewage Works, which detracts from the outstanding universal value of the WHS. With regard to monitoring of landscape change, a particular area of concern highlighted by the Working Group is the potential impact of Ash Dieback on the landscape, and survey work was initiated to assess the problem in the Alyn Valley and surrounding areas. The possibility of long-term monitoring of landscape change through a fixed point photography project capitalising on the contribution which can be made through volunteer action was also supported by the group.

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SUMMARY OF AONB PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

APRIL 2018 - SEPTEMBER 2018

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
03/2018/0152	44 Church Street, Llangollen, LL20 8HY	Alterations to detailing of former shop front	No objection, suggest design changes	Granted 10/05/18	
03/2018/0261	Co-Operative, Llangollen, LL20 8HN	Display of advertisements/signs	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 26/04/18	N/A
27/2018/0252	Plas Eliseg, Llantysilio, LL20 8DE	Construction of vehicular access and parking area	No objection, suggest landscaping	Granted 09/05/18	
16/2018/0249	Llwyn Dedwydd, Llanbedr DC, LL15 1UT	Retention of existing LV overhead line	No observations	Granted 09/05/18	N/A
P/2018/0218	Cross Shop, Froncysyllte LL20 7SN	Conversion to dwelling	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views		N/A
10/2018/0216	Land adjacent to Ty Isaf, Bryneglwys LL21 9LF	Details of dwelling granted outline permission (Code no.10/2017/0627)	No objection, suggest landscaping	Granted 01/05/18	
03/2018/0246	Hafan Deg, Birch Hill Llangollen, LL20 8LN	Insertion of two Velux and one window	No objection	Granted 29/05/18	N/A
17/2018/0281	Hafod Lon, Llandegla LL11 3BG	Erection of extension to dwelling	No objection, suggest natural slate roof	Granted 29/05/18	
058256	Llwyn Derw, Gwernymynydd, CH7 5JS	Change of use of garage to coffee roastery	No observations	Granted 21/05/18	N/A
058254	Land adj to Caer Go, Cilcain, CH7 5HR	Erection of accommodation for gun dog training centre	No observations, suggest further lighting details	Granted 06/12/18	
47/2018/0225	Brynlithrig Hall Rhuallt LL17 0TP	Removal of two dying trees subject to TPO	No objection to felling one tree but concerns about the other	Granted 25/05/18	
05/2017/0685	Car Park Green Lane Corwen, LL21 0DN	Siting of portacabin to provide temporary railway ticket office (retrospective)	No objection, suggest further details of colour and lighting required	Granted 16/05/18	
03/2017/1188	Land adjacent to Mile End Mill Llangollen, LL20 8AD	Erection of detached dwelling and associated works	No objection, suggest materials and lighting details	Granted 22/10/18	
05/2018/0188	Land adjoining Maes y Wern, Carrog, LL21 9AH	Erection of 8 dwellings, access and associated works	No objection, suggest materials, landscaping, affordable housing and lighting details		
053325	Land adj Siglen Uchaf Gwernymynydd, CH7 5LG	Outline application for erection of 10 dwellings (Amended plans)	No objection, suggest need for affordable housing		
42/2018/0250	Bryniau Isaf Dyserth LL18 6BY	Erection of replacement steel framed building	No objection in principle but concerns about scale	Granted 04/06/18	
09/2017/1125	Candy Mill Bridge Bodfari LL16 4DR	Infill of void under bridge including flood relief culverts (Amended plans)	No objection, suggest access amendments	Granted 30/05/18	
16/2018/0241	Wernog, Llanbedr DC, LL15 1YE	Erection of extensions and alterations to dwelling	No objection, but require further information on tree impact and lighting	Granted 18/07/18	
41/2018/0199	1 Derwen Terrace Bodfari LL16 4DH	Erection of first floor rear extension (Amended plans)	No observations	Granted 20/06/18	N/A
05/2018/0333	Tyn Graig Glyndyfrdwy LL21 9HN	Demolition of shed, erection of extension and internal alterations	No objection, subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 04/06/18	N/A
05/2018/0334	Tyn Graig Glyndyfrdwy LL21 9HN	Demolition of shed, erection of extension and internal alterations (Listed Building application)	No objection, subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 31/05/18	N/A
20/2017/1156	Genus, Green Park, Llanrhydd, Ruthin, LL15 2UP	Erection of calf rearing unit comprising two sheds, offices, storage and associated works	No objection subject to materials, lighting details and extra landscaping	Granted 18/06/18	
058312	Tirionfa, Pen-Y-Felin, Nannerch, CH7 5RW	Proposed replacement of a static caravan with holiday chalet	Concerns about scale and precedent, suggest design changes and conditions	Refused 24/10/18	

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
058284	Treetops, Cadole, CH7 5LL	Erection of a boundary acoustic fence	No objection subject to height and hedge retention	Granted 24/05/18	
058361	Meliden, Gwernymynydd, CH7 5LQ	Erection of single storey extension to dwelling and garage	No objection subject to further details and materials	Granted 26/06/18	
03/2018/0374	4 Dolafon Villas Llangollen, LL20 8SU	Erection of safety railings to existing roof (retrospective)	No observations, concerns about retrospection	Granted 20/06/18	N/A
15/2018/0197	Armonfa, Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QE	Erection of extension to dwelling (retrospective)	No observations, concerns about retrospection	Refused 04/06/18	N/A
058124	Land at Bayonne, Gwernaffield, CH7 5ET	Outline application for the erection of a dwelling	Object ; no local need, loss of trees	Granted 18/04/19	
15/2018/0240	North Hills Farm, Graianrhyd, CH7 4QS	Replacement of agricultural store to provide holiday accommodation	Object , harmful impact on AONB	Withdrawn 23/05/18	N/A
058433	Afonwen Craft Centre, Afonwen CH7 5UB	Prefabricated kitchen extension to existing restaurant	No observations	Granted 26/06/18	N/A
03/2018/0284	Land at Llandyn Hall Farm, Llangollen, LL20 7UH	Change of use to holiday touring park (30 units) and associated works	No objection subject to landscaping, lighting, seasonal use and access	Granted 05/10/18	
058382	Fron House, Nannerch, CH7 5RW	Approval of details (external lighting and garage door)	No objection subject to amended light details	Granted 25/05/18	N/A
03/2018/0391	6 Fairway View, Llangollen, LL20 7PS	Erection of extension to side of dwelling	No objection, subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 01/08/18	N/A
058262	Windyridge, Gwaenysgor, LL18 6EP	Erection of two storey extension	No objection in principle, concerns over design, suggest changes	Granted 15/01/19	
058434	Post Office, Cilcain, CH7 5NW	Change of use of shop to create a one bedroom holiday let	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views and stone wall details	Granted 08/10/18	
09/2018/0337	Efail Y Waen Farm Bodfari	Removal of hedgerow and creation of new field access	Concern about loss of important hedgerow	Withdrawn 28/09/18	N/A
23/2017/1218	Bryn Morfydd Hotel Llanrhaeadr Denbigh, LL16 4NP	Demolition of hotel and construction of new 39 bedroom hotel; revisions and extension of holiday lodge park to accommodate 89 lodges, and associated works and landscaping (Amended plans)	Support amended layout and landscaping, subject to further tree protection. Concerns over lighting impact remain.	Granted 17/08/18	
47/2018/0340	Bryn Awel, Cwm LL18 6HU	Erection of first floor extension and alterations	No objection subject to design changes	Granted 13/06/18	
22/2018/0386	Ty Coch Farm Llangynhafal LL16 4LN	Extension to agricultural building	No objection subject to retention/protection of adjacent hedge	Granted 12/06/18	
15/2018/0330	Cyfnant Uchaf Llanarmon-Yn-Ial, CH7 4QD	Demolition of existing extensions, erection of new extension and repairs (Listed Building)	Concerns over design	Granted 01/08/18	
03/2018/0399	37 - 39 Hall Street Llangollen, LL20 8EP	Change of use to domestic and subdivision into two dwellings	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views, suggest design changes	Refused 26/07/18	N/A
03/2018/0491	Co-Operative Llangollen, LL20 8HN	Installation of compressor and condenser in external yard and redecoration	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 05/07/18	N/A
058135	1 The Cottage, Gwernymynydd, CH7 5LP	Conversion of semi-detached dwelling to 2 self-contained dwellings	No objection	Granted 25/10/18	N/A
058124	Land at Bayonne, Gwernaffield, CH7 5ET	Outline application for the erection of an affordable dwelling (Amended description)	Maintain objection	Granted 18/04/19	
10/2018/0440	Land adjacent to Tyn-y-Bedw, Bryneglwys, LL21 9LR	Variation of conditions of planning permission 10/2015/0936 to allow further time to submit details and allow number of units to be reserved matter	No objection	Granted 29/06/18	N/A
03/2018/0492	5 Oak Mews Llangollen, LL20 8RP	Change of use from store to Micropub	No objection	Granted 25/07/18	N/A
20/2017/1156	Genus, Green Park, Llanrhydd, Ruthin, LL15 2UP	Erection of calf rearing unit comprising two sheds, offices and associated works (Amended plans)	Welcome amended landscaping scheme but overall landscaping strategy still required	Granted 18/06/18	
47/2018/0223	Benarth Cottage	Change of use of agricultural land	Concerns about principle and	Refused	

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
	Tremeirchion LL17 0AR	to domestic and conversion of garage to ancillary accommodation	setting of Historic Park; alternative approach suggested.	22/06/18	
47/2018/0411	New Inn Cottage Tremeirchion, LL17 OUG	Demolition of cottage and erection of replacement dwelling and temporary static caravan	Object , loss of traditional building and design of replacement	Granted 17/10/18	
41/2018/0009	Chapel Cottage Bodfari LL16 4DW	Erection of extensions to dwelling (Amended plans)	Welcome amendments; suggest colour condition	Granted 18/07/18	
05/2018/0390	Ty Coed Glyndyfrdwy LL21 9BS	Details of landscaping, external appearance and external lighting for permission 05/2016/0115	No objection, suggest alternative lighting and solar panels	Granted 18/06/18	
15/2018/0475	Perthi Chwarae Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QX	Erection of an agricultural building	No objection, further details required, design changes and tree protection	Granted 09/10/18	
058394	Trelan Newydd, Cilcain, CH7 5NX	Erection of 2no. holiday lodges	No objection, suggest re-siting and further details	Granted 26/06/18	
16/2018/0510	Robin Hill, Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, LL15 1UT	Removal of conservatory and erection of extension to dwelling	No objection	Granted 25/07/18	N/A
03/2018/0349	Spar Stores Llangollen, LL20 8RT	Retention of ATM (retrospective application).	Deplore retrospection but no objection	Granted 12/07/18	N/A
03/2018/0350	Spar Stores Llangollen, LL20 8RT	Retention of illuminated ATM signage (retrospective application)	Deplore retrospection but no objection	Granted 12/07/18	N/A
03/2018/0398	Llangollen Fechan, Llangollen, LL20 7PR	Erection of extension to care home creating 17 additional bedrooms,	No objection subject to landscaping, protection of trees and lighting details		
03/2018/0412	Wynnstay Arms Hotel, Llangollen LL20 8PF	Demolition of existing extension and erection of replacement extension	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 03/08/18	N/A
21/2018/0166	12 Bryn Arto Avenue, Llanferres CH7 5SG	Erection of single storey rear extension (Amended plans)	No objection	Granted 12/09/18	N/A
09/2018/0337	Efail Y Waen Farm, Bodfari	Removal of hedgerow and creation of new field access (Amended plans)	Maintain concern about loss of important hedgerow	Withdrawn 28/09/18	N/A
03/2018/0531	Prince Of Wales Llangollen, LL20 8HN	Conversion of accommodation above public house to form 2 flats	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views, more information required.		
03/2018/0596	22 Bridge Street Llangollen, LL20 8PF	Construction of a new vehicular access and car parking space	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 01/08/18	N/A
05/2018/0586	Carrog Uchaf Carrog, LL21 9ET	Details of materials and floor level conditions (Code No: 05/2016/0630)	No objection	Granted 11/07/18	N/A
20/2018/0624	Pennant, Pentre Celyn LL15 2HF	Erection of extension to rear of dwelling	No objection	Granted 20/08/18	N/A
20/2018/0615	Islwyn Pentre Celyn LL15 2HD	Erection of single storey extension and balcony	No objection subject to materials	Granted 17/08/18	
15/2018/0329	Cyfnant Uchaf Llanarmon-Yn-Ial CH7 4QD	Demolition of existing extensions, erection of new extension and repairs	Concerns over design	Granted 02/08/18	
05/2018/0628	Pen Y Bryn Ucha Corwen, LL21 0BG	Erection of an agricultural building	No objection subject to materials and lighting	Granted 01/08/18	
20/2018/0518	Land adjoining Ty Famau Llanfair DC LL15 2SH	Siting of 4 glamping domes, installation of a septic tank and associated works	No objection subject to colour, landscaping and lighting	Granted 04/09/18	
21/2018/0293	16 Rectory Lane Llanferres CH7 5SR	Demolition of porch and erection of garage	No objection subject to materials	Granted 17/10/18	
058611	Rhyd Y Cilgwyn, Gwaenysgor LL18 6EW	Extension and change of use of existing holiday cottage to dwelling	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Refused 14/08/18	N/A
058561	Thomas Plant Hire Depot, Caerwys, CH7 5BL	Retrospective application for lighting columns and lighting hoods	Serious concerns , further detail required		
21/2018/0601	Hyfrydle Maeshafn CH7 5LU	Erection of extensions to dwelling and demolition of garage	No objection subject to materials and protection of trees	Granted 17/10/18	
47/2018/0619	The Marl, Cwm LL18 5SN	Erection of extensions to dwelling	No objection	Granted 03/09/18	N/A
41/2018/0657	The Old Post Office Bodfari LL16 4DA	Erection of front porch and single storey rear extension	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 22/08/18	N/A
15/2018/0612	Clover Grange	Erection of extension to replace	Object to scale and design	Refused	

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
	Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4TB	existing conservatory		08/08/18	
058581	Pen Y Bryn, Gwernymynydd, CH7 5LG	Erection of two storey extension	Object to design	Withdrawn 07/08/18	N/A
18/2018/0565	Land at Sunnycroft Llandyrnog LL16 4LR	Change of use and erection of building for construction of trailers (retrospective)	Deplore retrospection, suggest landscaping and lighting controls	Refused 07/09/18	N/A
20/2018/0647	Genus Breeding Ltd Llanrhydd LL15 2UP	Details of revised external lighting and landscaping scheme	Welcome landscaping and reduced lighting; need to specify light colour	Granted 17/09/18	
058646	Moelfryn, Llanasa, CH8 9NE	Conversion of redundant barn to holiday accommodation	Object to design	Refused 30/08/18	
03/2018/0639	38 Castle Street Llangollen, LL20 8NH	Display of non-illuminated fascia and projecting sign	Object to design	Refused 04/08/18	
16/2018/0659	Land at Cae Glas Llanbedr DC LL15 1US	Details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of dwelling	No objection, suggest alternative materials	Granted 14/11/18	
22/2018/0656	Ty Newydd Llangynhafal LL15 1RU	Change of use of haulage depot to joinery workshop (Class B1)	No objection subject to noise conditions	Granted 14/09/18	
17/2018/0721	Pen Y Stryd Farm Llandegla LL11 3AH	Conversion of outbuilding to holiday accommodation	No objection subject to holiday use condition	Granted 03/12/18	
47/2018/0411	New Inn Cottage Tremeirchion, LL17 OUG	Demolition of cottage and erection of replacement dwelling and temporary caravan (amended plans)	Concerns with design of replacement	Granted 17/10/18	
3208218 (Planning Inspectorate)	Alwen Forest, LL21 9TT	EIA Scoping - Wind farm (9 turbines, 200 m to tip) and associated infrastructure	Recommend additional LVIA viewpoints	Opinion Issued 27/09/18	
P/2018/0598	Alexandria, Garth LL20 7YL	Erection of garden room	No objection subject to colour and lighting	Granted 13/09/18	
16/2018/0730	Machlud Haul, Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd LL15 1YF	Erection of extension to dwelling	Concerns over design	Granted 21/09/18	
47/2018/0741	1 Hen Afon Tremeirchion LL17 0UP	Erection of extension to dwelling	No observations	Granted 25/09/18	N/A
47/2018/0736	Benarth Cottage Tremeirchion LL17 0AR	Extension to dwelling for annex accommodation and extension to curtilage	No objection subject to materials, landscaping and removal of PD rights	Granted 15/11/18	
15/2018/0726	Bwlch Y Parc Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd LL15 1YF	Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling	No objection	Granted 28/09/18	N/A
058733	Barlows Caravan Park, Caerwys CH7 5BA	Extension of existing holiday park and additional landscaping	No objection subject to further landscaping and lighting details	Granted 16/11/18	
17/2018/0757	Tafarn Y Garth Llandegla, LL11 3AA	Erection of extension to agricultural building	No objection	Granted 02/10/18	N/A
20/2018/0647	Genus Breeding Ltd Llanrhydd LL15 2UP	Details of revised external lighting and landscaping scheme (Amended plans)	No objection	Granted 17/09/18	N/A
03/2018/0723	Outbuildings at Llyn Farm, Trevor LL20 7UN	Conversion of outbuildings to form 4 no. holiday accommodation units,	No objection subject to holiday use and window and lighting details	Granted 02/10/18	
16/2018/0702	Panorama Cottage Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd LL15 1YF	Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling	No objection subject to landscaping, materials and lighting details	Granted 11/09/18	
03/2018/0698	Llandyn Hall Farm Llangollen, LL20 7UH	Erection of extensions and alterations to dwelling	No objection subject to landscaping and materials	Granted 30/08/18	
09/2018/0664	Berth Farm, Bodfari LL16 4HT	Retention of replacement agricultural building (retrospective application)	Deplore retrospection, suggest additional landscaping	Granted 11/09/18	
P/2018/0551	Kronospan Ltd, Chirk, LL14 5NT	Development of an Orientated Strand Board Production Facility	No objection subject to colour and implementation of landscape strategy		
058733	Barlow's Caravan Park, Caerwys, CH7 5BA	Extension of existing holiday park (Amended details)	No objection subject to additional landscaping and details of lighting and overall numbers	Granted 16/11/18	
22/2018/0801	Church Of St Cynhafal Llangynhafal LL15 1RU	Erection of extension to form a kitchenette and lavatory	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 08/11/18	N/A
058770	Thomas Plant Hire Depot,	Application for removal or	Concerns over impact on dark		

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
	Caerwys, CH7 5BL	variation of operational hours condition on 052645	skies		
27/2018/0724	Blue Doors, 3 Fron Deg, Llandynan LL20 7YU	Erection of extensions and alterations to dwelling	No objection in principle but concerns re scale and design	Granted 22/11/18	
058595	Cimmwch Bach, Afonwen, CH7 5US	Demolition of existing barn and erection of replacement building	No objection subject to materials, landscaping and lighting details	Granted 11/09/18	
18/2018/0747	Ffin Caer, Llandyrnog LL16 4HR	Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling	No objection	Granted 17/10/18	N/A
17/2018/0828	The Gate House Llandegla LL11 3AU	Change of use of workshop to holiday accommodation	No objection subject to holiday use and materials	Granted 16/10/18	
058854	Bwlch Cottage, Cilcain CH7 5NS	Garden room extension and dormer window to roof	No objection subject to materials	Refused 26/09/18	N/A
15/2018/0810	Land at Capel Bethel Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QE	Change of use of grazing land to form extension to existing burial ground	No objection subject to landscaping	Granted 08/10/18	
20/2018/0696	Hiridir, Pentre Celyn LL15 2HF	Erection of extensions, re-modelling of existing dwelling and construction of garage and new entrance	No objection, suggest materials and lighting details	Granted 19/09/18	
20/2018/0540	Land at Three Pigeons Inn Graigfechan LL15 2EU	Change of use of touring caravan site 10 holiday studios and associated works	No objection subject to landscaping, holiday use, footpath protection, and lighting details	Granted 24/10/18	
058819	Lynwood, Pantymwyn, CH7 5EP	Erection of replacement dwelling	No objection, but concerns about height and impact on trees. Suggest materials and landscaping.	Refused 01/11/18	
20/2018/0792	Outbuilding at Garreg Lwyd Pentrecelyn LL15 2HR	Conversion of building to form a dwelling, alterations to existing access and erection of car port	No objection subject to materials, landscaping and lighting details	Granted 15/05/19	
03/2018/0860	11 Horseshoe Pass View, Llangollen, LL20 8LU	Erection of a replacement balcony and associated works	No observations	Granted 08/11/18	N/A
03/2018/0771	6 Vicarage Road Llangollen, LL20 8HF	Crown reduction of oak tree subject to TPO	No objection subject to views of Tree Officer	Granted 17/10/18	N/A
05/2018/0790	Bonwm Hydro Powerhouse, Bonwm Corwen, LL21 9EG	Installation of a 100kw micro-hydro scheme with buried pipeline and cable, turbine shed and metering cabinet	No objection subject to materials and details of lighting and metering cabinet	Granted 08/11/18	
16/2018/0903	Maenor Plas Isaf Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd LL15 1UP	Alterations to existing garage to form ancillary accommodation	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 06/11/18	N/A
16/2018/0659	Land at Cae Glas Llanbedr DC LL15 1US	Details of parking scheme and drainage	No observations	Granted 14/11/18	N/A
058828	Norton Lees, Gwernymynydd, CH7 5LW	Proposed decking area to front and rear extension	No objection subject to materials	Granted 02/10/18	
Total Number of Applications: 116					

Policy and Strategic Consultation Responses: March - September 2018

Welsh Government Consultation – Draft Planning Policy Wales: Edition 10

Wrexham Local Development Plan 2013 – 2028: Deposit Plan

Pre-Commencement Conditions – Letter to Chief Planning Officers

Flintshire Draft Planning Enforcement Policy

Welsh Government Consultation – National Development Framework: Issues, Options and Preferred Option

Welsh Government Consultation – Subordinate Planning Legislation Consolidation and Review

Welsh Affairs Committee Inquiry – Renewable Energy in Wales

National Grid Electricity Transmission – Environment Consultation

Welsh Government Consultation-Petroleum Extraction Policy in Wales

Welsh Government Consultation-Achieving our low-carbon pathway to 2030

Welsh Government Consultation-Noise and Soundscape Action Plan 2018-2023

Welsh Government Consultation-Delivery of Housing through the Planning System

Notes:

- (1.) Denbighshire planning application code numbers are shown as **12/3456/7891**, Flintshire as **12345** and Wrexham as **P/1234/5678**. Details of applications can be viewed on the Planning Portal for the relevant authority. See links below:

<http://planning.denbighshire.gov.uk/Planning/lg/GFPlanningWelcome.page>

http://planning.wrexham.gov.uk/Planning/lg/plansearch.page?org.apache.shale.dialog.DIALOG_NAME=gfplanningsearch&Param=l Planning

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Planning/Databases/Planning-Applications.aspx>

- (2.) LPA response to AONB comments colour coded as follows: **green** for fully accepted, **orange** for part accepted and **red** for not accepted.
- (3.) Local Planning Authority (LPA) position updated 30/05/19.
- (4.) Copies of full AONB comments on specific applications available on request.



SUMMARY OF AONB PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

OCTOBER 2018 - MARCH 2019

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
22/2018/0859	Land at Plas Dolben Llangynhafal LL16 4LN	Erection of rural enterprise dwelling (outline application)	No objection, recommend protection of existing trees and landscaping	Granted 27/02/19	
42/2018/0929	Dincolyn Dyserth LL18 6BY	Extension to dwelling, alterations to access and extended curtilage	No objection, but concerns re design; recommend design changes and landscaping	Granted 08/11/19	
21/2018/0944	The Byre, Caer Odyn Llanferres CH7 5SF	Erection of a link attached double garage	No objection, suggest changes to materials	Granted 15/11/19	
058312	Tirionfa, Nannerch, CH7 5RW	Proposed replacement of a static caravan with holiday chalet (Amended plans)	Still concerned about scale and precedent	Refused 24/10/18	
059004	Hillside, Loggerheads Road, Cilcain, CH7 5PG	Erection of timber chalet and car port to replace an summer house and garage	No objection to car port subject to materials but object to chalet	Refused 12/11/18	
21/2018/0703	Uplands, Pant Du Road, Eryrys CH7 4DD	Alterations to existing garage and outbuilding as ancillary accommodation	Concerns with principle of development, favour extending existing dwelling	Refused 12/10/18	
16/2018/0799	Land adjoining Bryn Derw, Llanbedr DC LL15 1TB	Development of 2 affordable dwellings (outline application)	No objection subject to local need, concerns over design	Withdrawn 23/01/19	N/A
P/2018/0835	Sycamore Cottage, Trevor LL20 7YR	Side garage extension	No objection in principle, suggest design changes	Granted 12/02/19	
22/2018/0974	Ty Newydd Llangynhafal LL15 1RU	Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling	No objection	Granted 22/11/18	N/A
22/2018/0859	Land at Plas Dolben Llangynhafal LL16 4LN	Erection of rural enterprise dwelling (outline) Amended plans	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 27/02/19	N/A
43/2018/0751	Land south west of Ffordd Ty Newydd off Ffordd Talargoch, Meliden	Construction of new link road in association with application 43/2018/0750 for residential development	No observations subject to landscaping and lighting details		
43/2018/0750	Land at Mindale Farm, Meliden LL19 8PG	Demolition of dwelling and erection of 133 dwellings and ancillary works, in association with application 43/2018/0751 for new link road	No observations subject to landscaping and lighting details		
03/2018/0785	Land Off Vicarage Road, Llangollen	Amendments to layout and substitution of house types and two garage types	No observations	Granted 25/10/18	N/A
16/2018/0973	Ruthin Lodges, Llanbedr DC	Erection of new 11kv overhead electricity line	No observations	Granted 22/11/18	N/A
03/2018/0970	Land at (Part garden of) Fairlawns Llangollen LL20 7BW	Details of 1 no. dwelling relating to outline permission 03/2016/1195	Suggest amendments to conserve existing tree and additional landscaping	Granted 27/11/18	
059046	South View, Nercwys, CH7 4AZ	Two storey side and rear extensions	Concerns about scale and design	Refused 06/11/18	
47/2018/0962	Bryn Awel, Cwm, LL18 6HU	Erection of stables for private use (retrospective application)	Deplore retrospection but no objection	Granted 12/12/18	N/A
41/2018/0943	Nant Gwilym Farm Tremeirchion LL17 0UG	Erection of extensions and alterations to dwelling	No objection subject to lighting details	Granted 04/12/18	
03/2018/1003	The Station, Abbey Road, Llangollen, LL20 8SN	Demolition of building and erection of replacement modular building	Disappointed with modular design, suggest temporary permission	Granted 30/11/18	
05/2018/0832	Tyn Y Ceubren Glyndyfrdwy	Erection of two-storey rear extension to dwelling	No observations subject to materials and lighting details	Granted 6/11/18	

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
	LL21 9HN				
058954	The Old Coach House, Llanasa, CH8 9NF	Conversion of existing garage into 2 bedroom holiday annex	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Refused 13/12/18	N/A
42/2018/0923	Land off Meliden Road, Dyserth LL18 6BP	Erection of 61 dwellings, alterations to access and associated works	No observations subject to landscaping, layout and lighting amendments	Granted 10/04/19	
42/2018/0929	Dincolyn Dyserth LL18 6BY	Extension to dwelling, alterations to access and curtilage (Amended plans)	Support amendments. No objection	Granted 08/11/18	N/A
27/2018/0724	Blue Doors, 3 Fron Deg, Llandynan LL20 7YU	Erection of extensions and alterations to dwelling (Amended Plans)	Support amendments. No objection	Granted 22/11/18	N/A
05/2014/0849	Land to side of Plas Gwyn/Sun Inn Glyndyfrdwy L21 9HG	Development of land by the erection of a dwelling (outline application including access)	No objection, suggest sympathetic design and landscaping	Granted 27/02/19	
05/2018/0988	Rhydnonnen Isaf Rhewl Llangollen LL20 7AJ	Erection of an agricultural building (retrospective application)	Deplore retrospection but no objection subject to landscaping	Granted 05/12/18	
10/2018/0987	Cae Mawr Llandegla LL11 3BD	Construction of 2 holiday cabins and associated works	Object , adverse landscape impact	Withdrawn 07/12/18	N/A
03/2018/0760	Foel Isa Vivod Llangollen, LL20 7LP	Erection of single storey extension and 2 storey rear extension to dwelling	No objection subject to slate roof	Granted 20/11/18	
15/2018/0759	Land at North Hills Farm, Graianrhyd, CH7 4QS	Change of use for 6 holiday lodges, 15 camping pitches and associated works	Object , impact on views of AONB	Refused 21/02/19	
03/2018/0982	Hollies Cottage Llangollen, LL20 8LN	Alterations to dwelling to form a two-storey extension	No objection	Withdrawn 19/12/18	N/A
P/2018/0835	Sycamore Cottage, Trevor LL20 7YR	Side garage extension (Amended plans)	Welcome amendments. No objection in principle, suggest design changes	Granted 12/02/19	N/A
16/2018/1024	Beechbank, Tan Y Bryn, Llanbedr DC LL15 1AQ	Erection of single storey side extension/lean-to	No observations	Granted 13/12/18	N/A
03/2018/1091	Llandyn Hall Farm Llangollen, LL20 7UH	Variation of permission no. 03/2018/0698 to change appearance of extension	No observations	Granted 17/12/18	N/A
05/2018/1097	Tyn Llwyn Cottage Glyndyfrdwy LL21 9HN	Conversion and extension of outbuilding to holiday accommodation	Concerns re design, suggest redesign and lighting/holiday use conditions	Granted 04/01/19	
20/2018/1041	Hirdir, Pentre Celyn LL15 2HF	Replacement agricultural building	No objection, suggest lighting and landscaping conditions	Granted 13/12/18	
058262	WindyrIDGE, Gwaenysgor, LL18 6EP	Erection of two storey extension (Amended Plans)	No objection subject to stone finish	Granted 15/01/19	
059037	Maes y Coed Farm, Afonwen, CH7 5UB	Listed Building application for restoration of pig outbuildings	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views.		N/A
15/2018/1076	Land at Erw Goed Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QX	Variation of condition to reposition access to land for residential purposes.	No objection	Granted 16/01/19	N/A
059220	Nannerch Hall Farm, Nannerch, CH7 5RD	Extensions and alterations	No objection	Granted 06/02/19	N/A
18/2018/1122	Land adj Maes Llan Llandyrnog LL16 4HF	Variation of planning permission 18/2016/0400 to allow additional 2 years to submit reserved matters	No objection	Granted 10/01/19	N/A
27/2018/1068	3 Brynffynnon Cottages, Rhewl LL20 7BJ	Erection of extension to dwelling	No objection subject to suitable lighting	Granted 14/01/19	
15/2018/0869	Preswylfa Eryrys CH7 4BR	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling	No objection subject to materials, landscaping and lighting conditions	Granted 21/02/19	
27/2018/0925	Site of Former Pentrefelin Bungalow Llangollen, LL20 8EE	Construction of a new vehicular access to serve existing stables	Serious concerns ; impact on WHS; insufficient information	Refused 03/01/19	
47/2018/1066	Land south to Burwen, Rhualt LL17 0TE	Erection of 1 dwelling, detached garage, and new vehicular access	Concerns re scale; request additional information and re-consultation	Granted 18/03/19	
05/2018/1081	Allt Y Celyn, Carrog LL21	Change of use of land for horses,	No objection subject to materials,	Granted	

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
	9LD	erection of stables and parking	landscaping and lighting conditions	14/12/18	
17/2018/0700	The Grousemoor (former Plough Inn) Llandegla LL11 3AB	Change of use of land siting 9 touring caravan pitches and 7 glamping pods	Serious concerns ; inadequate consideration of landscape impact	Withdrawn 15/01/19	N/A
059228	Lynwood, Pantymwyn CH7 5EP	Proposed replacement dwelling	No objection subject to lighting conditions	Granted 09/01/19	
059267	Hill Top, Cilcain, CH7 5NP	Erection of detached garage	No objection subject to lighting conditions	Granted 04/01/19	
47/2018/1118	St Beunos College Tremeirchion LL17 0AS	Alterations west wing, construction of a new boiler house and associated works	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 08/01/19	N/A
15/2018/1039	Land adjacent to Bryn Tirion, Eryrys CH7 4BX	Variation of conditions on permission 15/2007/1065 for extension of time	No objection	Granted 21/12/18	N/A
21/2018/1006	St Davids, Cadole CH7 5LL	Demolition of conservatory, erection of extension and loft conversion	No objection subject to lighting condition	Granted 10/01/19	
15/2018/0965	Outbuildings at Plas Farm Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QJ	Conversion of outbuilding to dwelling (Listed Building Application)	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views		N/A
059045	Maes y Coed Farm, Afonwen CH7 5UB	Change of use of renovated horsebox as holiday accommodation	No objection subject to temporary condition and Conservation Officer views	Refused 14/02/19	N/A
059305	Woodcote, Gwernaffield, CH7 5ET	Erection of attached annexe	No objection in principle but concerns re scale and impact on tree	Granted 09/01/19	
059261	Bwlch Cottage, Cilcain, CH7 5NS	Erection of extension and dormer window in roof	No objection subject to materials	Granted 26/02/19	
20/2018/1129	Pendyffryn Pentre Coch LL15 2YD	Erection of extension to dwelling	No observations	Granted 10/01/19	N/A
15/2018/1111	Clover Grange, Llanarmon Yn Ial, CH7 4TB	Demolition of conservatory and construction of two storey extension	Serious concerns re scale and design	Refused 14/02/19	
15/2018/1076	Land at Erw Goed Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QX	Variation of condition to reposition access to land for residential purposes (amended plans)	No objection	Granted 16/01/19	N/A
20/2018/1142	Llidiart Fawr, Pentre Celyn LL15 2HL	Demolition of dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling	No objection, suggest landscaping and lighting conditions	Granted 23/01/19	
20/2018/0792	Outbuilding at Garreg Lwyd Pentrecelyn LL15 2HR	Conversion of redundant building to dwelling, access and car port (Amended plans)	Welcome addition of new stone walls and gate design	Granted 15/05/19	
47/2018/1172	Sylwfan Tremeirchion LL17 0UN	Erection of outbuildings/retaining wall (partly retrospective)	Object , inappropriate in Conservation Area	Withdrawn 04/02/19	N/A
059362	Aran, Ffordd Telia, Gwaenysgor, LL18 6EW	Erection of car port and extensions to side and rear	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 08/02/19	N/A
41/2018/0977	Bella Vista, Bodfari LL16 4EG	Erection of a replacement agricultural workshop/store	Query agricultural need, suggest design changes	Granted 06/02/19	
03/2018/1148	Deeside Bistro, Llangollen, LL20 8PN	Installation of replacement window based extractor fan	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 21/02/19	N/A
059021	Fron House, Nannerch, CH7 5RW	Proposed extension, siting of 4 holiday lodges, new car park and driveway	Object to part of proposals, suggest design changes, materials and lighting		
05/2018/1213	Sun Inn Glyndyfrdwy LL21 9HG	Erection of extension to provide additional holiday accommodation	No objection subject to lighting and landscaping conditions	Granted 13/02/19	
15/2018/1130	Parc Farm Caravan Park, Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QW	Extension of stone wall with inset hoarding sign	No objection subject to note to applicant re further signage	Granted 13/03/19	
059362	Aran, Ffordd Telia, Gwaenysgor, LL18 6EW	Erection of car port and extensions to side and rear (Amended plans)	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 08/02/19	N/A
16/2018/1204	Land rear of Plas Isa Cottage Llanbedr DC, LL15 1UT	Formation of vehicular access and associated works	No objection subject to landscaping	Granted 15/04/19	

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
45/2018/1215	Land at Rhyl South East, Rhyl LL18 4RQ	Erection of 96 dwellings and associated works	No objection subject to additional landscaping and biodiversity measures		
059381	South View, Nercwys, CH7 4AU	Alteration and extension to dwelling	No observations subject to materials	Granted 12/02/19	
03/2018/1205	Land adjacent to Maes Y Coed, Berwyn, LL20 8AL	Erection of dwelling incorporating existing agricultural building and siting of 2 holiday pods	Object. Contrary to policy and adverse landscape impact	Refused 27/02/19	
21/2018/1173	Uplands Pant Du Road Eryrys CH7 4DD	Alterations to existing garage and outbuilding for holiday accommodation	Concerns raised, request further information	Granted 06/02/19	
03/2018/0236	Capel Pont, Llangollen, LL20 8HT	Erection of car port	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 18/03/19	N/A
03/2018/1160	Gamelin, Llangollen LL20 8TF	Erection of two storey extension to dwelling	No observations	Granted 09/05/19	N/A
41/2019/0015	Minehead, Bodfari LL16 4EG	Erection of extensions to dwelling	No objection	Granted 04/03/19	N/A
47/2018/1066	Land south to Burwen, Rhualt LL17 0TE	Erection of 1 dwelling, garage and new access (Amended plans)	Improved scheme; suggest materials, landscaping and lighting conditions	Granted 18/03/19	
03/2018/1141	Tyn Y Wern Hotel Llangollen, LL20 7PH	Demolition of existing hotel and, erection of 12 dwellings	Object; adverse landscape impact		
059338	Maes Mynan Hall, Afonwen, CH7 5UB	Change of use of carehome to mix of residential and leisure use	No objection, suggest landscape plan and lighting conditions		
059394	Heron's Retreat, Afonwen CH7 5AD	Approval of details - landscaping and chalet appearance (057687)	No objection subject to colour of materials		
059261	Bwlch Cottage, Cilcain, CH7 5NS	Erection of extension and dormer window in roof (Amended plans)	No objection subject to materials	Granted 26/02/19	N/A
10/2019/0010	New Inn Bryneglwys LL21 9LP	Change of use to campsite for 10 tents, siting of 3 no. camping pods and use of woodland and field for tents	No objection subject to landscaping, materials, lighting and seasonal use		
15/2018/0869	Preswylfa, Eryrys CH7 4BR	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling (Amended plans)	No objection subject to materials, landscaping and lighting conditions	Granted 21/02/19	
05/2018/1209	Powys House Corwen, LL21 9EG	Change of use of function/games room to holiday let	No objection subject to holiday use and lighting conditions	Granted 11/04/19	
03/2018/1084	Penddol Farm Caravan Park Llangollen LL20 8SS	Siting of a static unit for use as manager's dwelling for supervision of caravan site	No objection subject to need, suggest materials and lighting conditions	Refused 21/03/19	
17/2018/1184	Ty Hir Farm Llandegla LL11 3AH	Alterations to garage and erection of a single storey extension	No objection in principle, suggest design changes and lighting condition		
41/2019/0147	Station House Caravan Site Bodfari LL16 4DA	Lawful Development Certificate for use of building for music practice	No observations	Refused 28/03/19	N/A
059545	Pen Y Bryn, Gwernymynydd, CH7 5LG	Erection of two storey extension to dwelling	No objection, suggest alternative materials and lighting condition	Granted 28/03/19	
41/2019/0089	Outbuildings at Nant Gwilym Farm Tremeirchion LL17 0UG	Conversion of outbuildings to 4 holiday let units, and associated works	No objection subject to materials, window detail and lighting conditions	Granted 17/04/19	
47/2019/0099	New Inn Cottage Tremeirchion LL17 0UG	Details of materials and landscaping (Code No. 47/2018/0411)	Suggest alternative materials and additional landscaping	Granted 14/03/19	
17/2019/0182	Pen Y Stryt Farm Llandegla LL11 3AH	Conversion of outbuilding to ancillary accommodation for existing dwelling	No objection subject to ancillary accommodation condition	Granted 15/04/19	
22/2019/0188	Land at Plas Dolben Llangynhafal Denbigh, LL16 4LN	Details of dwelling submitted for outline permission 22/2018/0859	No objection	Granted 26/04/19	N/A
03/2018/1179	Glas Aber, Geraint Llangollen, LL20 8AA	Change of use by siting 7 holiday accommodation units, toilet/showerunit and car parking area	Object; adverse landscape impact	Refused 27/03/19	
16/2018/1185	Haulfan Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd	Demolition of dwelling, erection of 2 detached dwellings	No objection subject to materials, lighting and tree protection		

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
	LL15 1UT				
13/2018/1149	Bron Parc, Galltef, Ruthin, LL15 2AR	Erection of a free range egg production unit including silos and associated works	No observations subject to landscaping and lighting conditions		
20/2019/0162	Bryn Teg, Graigfechan, LL15 2HA	Erection of extensions to side and rear of property with associated works	Concerns re scale and design	Granted 17/04/19	
15/2019/0208	Arwelfa, Llanferres CH7 5TA	Erection of detached garage	No objection	Granted 15/04/19	N/A
03/2019/0195	The Old Vicarage Nursing Home Llangollen LL20 8HF	Erection of a single storey new wing extension to provide 8 bedrooms	No objection subject to materials and tree protection		
059672	Moelfryn, Llanasa, CH8 9NE	Conversion of barn into holiday let accommodation	No objection subject to holiday use and lighting		
27/2019/0225	Plas Eliseg Llantysilio LL20 8DE	Proposed conversion of garage to a holiday let	No objection subject to holiday use, lighting and landscaping	Granted 02/05/19	
03/2019/0011	51 Church Street Llangollen, LL20 8HY	Installation of external staircase and fence	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views		N/A
10/2019/0232	Y Bwthyn, 6 Penrhos Bryneglwys LL21 9LU	Demolition of existing sun lounge and erection of single storey extension	No objection	Granted 15/05/19	N/A
17/2019/0279	Land at (Part garden of) 2 Queens Cottages Llandegla, LL11 3AG	Variation of conditions for extension of time for reserved matters and commencement of permission 17/2015/1153	No objection	Granted 20/05/19	N/A
05/2019/0245	Llys Owain, Corwen, LL21 0AH	Change of use to Community Enterprise and Visitor Centre	Support subject to Conservation Officer views		N/A
18/2019/0239	Land at Sunnycroft Llandyrnog LL16 4LR	Change of use and erection of building for construction of vehicular trailers (retrospective)	Deplore retrospection. Recommend landscaping, and lighting conditions	Refused 23/05/19	N/A
41/2019/0213	Outbuilding at Warren House, Bodfari, LL16 4DP	Conversion of outbuilding into annexe accommodation	No objection suggest design changes and lighting conditions		
Total Number of Applications: 106					

Policy and Strategic Consultation Responses: October 2018 - March 2019

NRW Consultation: Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment - Draft Guidance

Welsh Government Consultation - Draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Wales

Wrexham Local Development Plan 2013 – 2028: Consultation on Proposed Focussed and Minor Editing Changes

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal WHS - Draft Management Plan 2019-2029

Notes:

- (1.) Denbighshire planning application code numbers are shown as **12/3456/7891**, Flintshire as **12345** and Wrexham as **P/1234/5678**. Details of applications can be viewed on the Planning Portal for the relevant authority. See links below:

<http://planning.denbighshire.gov.uk/Planning/lg/GFPlanningWelcome.page>

http://planning.wrexham.gov.uk/Planning/lg/plansearch.page?org.apache.shale.dialog.DIALOG_NAME=gfplanningsearch&Param=lg.Planning

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Planning/Databases/Planning-Applications.aspx>

- (2.) LPA response to AONB comments colour coded as follows: **green** for fully accepted, **orange** for part accepted and **red** for not accepted.
- (3.) Local Planning Authority (LPA) position updated 30/05/19
- (4.) Copies of full AONB comments on specific applications available on request.



Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy Clwydian Range and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Forward Work Programme June 2019 Update				
Project Existing	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or Problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost –ve or +ve (£ Cost) or neutral (Through existing and external budgets)
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
Finance				
Finance and Funding	Audited Accounts for signing off post March 2019	2018-19		Neutral
NRW Core AONB Funding	Future Core Funding New three year funding package approved	2018-21		+ve
Strategic Plans 2017-20				
AONB Management Plan	AONB Area Manager presenting to 21.6.19 JC	2019-24		Neutral
Outreach and Volunteers strategy	2x Volunteer Programme Published per annum. Summer Programme currently being developed. Nature for health Project in action Rhyl, Prestatyn, Corwen and Llangollen.	2019-20		Neutral
AONB Tourism Plan	Review Actions-linking into DCC Study. Discussion with Cadwyn on funding	2019-20		Neutral
AONB Joint Committee				
Joint Committee Meetings	Three JC Meetings	2019-20		Neutral
AONB Forum	Tourism Presentation on findings by New Economics Foundation on their 6 place study	Llanrhaedr Springs November 8th		Neutral
AONB Meet Local Members/Town and Community Councillors/AONB Champions	Annual Meet. Met at Stiwt - Presentation by OPL and Dark Skies	Complete attended by 15 guests		Neutral

Forward Work Programme June 2019 Update Continued

Project Existing	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost –ve or +ve or neutral
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
AONB Partnership				
Full AONB Partnership Meetings	Three AONB Partnership Meetings	2019-20		Neutral
AONB Award	Presented to present to John Lawton Roberts and Corwen Community Garden 14.6.19	June 2019		Neutral
Partnership Working Groups:				
Landscape Character and Built Environment	Working on AONB Management Plan	2019-20		+ve
Land Management and the Natural Environment	Working on AONB Management Plan	2019-20		+ve
Heritage, Culture and Communities	Working on AONB Management Plan	2019-20		+ve
Tourism	Working on AONB Management Plan	2019-20		+ve
Recreation and Health	Working on AONB Management Plan	2019-20		+ve
Engaging with business(Non Tourism)	Grant from WG investigating with Cadwyn way forward	2019-20		Neutral

Forward Work Programme June 2019 Update Continued

Project Existing	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost -ve or +ve or neutral
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
AONB Special Projects				
Welsh Government Funding	WG Approved Projects: AONB Management Plan Moorland Mgt fire damage Working with business Cilcain School improvements Historic Environment Projects	2019-20		+ve
NRW Competitive Funding	OPL Match Bid Healthy Walking approved	2018-20		+ve
Our Picturesque Landscape	HLF approve OPL Officer appointed and community Officer. Social Media Officer now appointed	2018-23		+ve
Climate Change Education Project	To train and deliver the programme	2018-19		Neutral

Forward Work Programme June 2019 Update Continued

Project Existing	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost –ve or +ve or neutral
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
Section 85 Organisations				
SP Network Lines	Await Moel Hiraethug and Ponderosa complete 4x new schemes being evaluated currently	2019-20		Neutral
National Grid VIP and Landscape Enhancement Initiative	AONB Officer is rep for 39 AONBs on National Board. NG approved new line Nercwys-Legacy. Scheme 1 of LEI underway. EOI submitted for new round	2019-20		Neutral
WG Future Landscapes Wales	Await Meeting with WG	2019-20		Neutral
Pontcysyllte Sewage Works	Discussions on going, await landscaping designs	2019-20		
Severn Trent	Initial Meeting re mountain reservoirs	2019-20		