



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

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

# Clwydian Range and Dee Valley

## Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**Draft Management Plan 2014**

**SECTION THREE**  
**Action Plan**



## Landscape Quality and Character

	Objectives	Actions	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Priority
LQCO1	Ensure that the natural resources and special qualities of the AONB are recognised and valued	Support Cadwyn Clwyd Renewable Energy Pilot projects and other appropriate community based projects which seek to mitigate the impact of climate change and reduce the carbon footprint of the AONB without harming the special qualities and features of the area or its character and appearance.	Cadwyn / AONB			
LQCO2	Ensure that the impacts of environmental change on the AONB are understood and a strategic response is developed and implemented	Engage with the National Grid's Visual Impact Provision (VIP) programme to reduce the impact of high voltage transmission in the AONB and it's setting.	AONB			
		Promote mast sharing to reduce clutter and impact on the local landscape character of the AONB.				
		Work with the industry to apply the seven 'Holford Rules' and develop guidance for mitigation measures.				
LQCO3	Minimise the cumulative impacts of small-scale change that may erode the special character of the AONB.	Prepare guidance on the introduction of renewable energy technologies into the AONB and its setting, to reduce the impact on the local landscape character				
		Encourage and support energy conservation measures in order to help meet national and regional targets for energy consumption.				
LQCO4	Protect the tranquillity of the AONB and take steps where possible to reduce noise and light pollution.	Identify those special qualities of the AONB that are sensitive to change and monitor their state.				
LQCO5	Where possible reduce visual intrusion by screening or removing eyesores.	Conduct fix point photography monitoring of key viewpoints across the AONB.				
		Establish a monitoring programme from key viewpoints across the AONB				
LQCO6	To investigate and increase our understanding of the cultural diversity of communities within the AONB.	Organise community reminiscence days to engage with communities and draw upon their wealth of knowledge about the area. - 1 per year				
		Support the research and recording of the area's social history				
LQCO7	Develop partnerships that will help to stimulate awareness of and interest in cultural diversity within the AONB.	Hold an annual AONB Forum to stimulate discussion on the areas special qualities and ensure community participation				
		Maintain an AONB Partnership as part of the governance structure for the AONB				

	Objectives	Actions	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Priority
HMRO1	To maintain or extend the current extent of heather moorland within the AONB	Where possible, restore areas of former heathland particularly around Coed Moel Famau, Coed Nercwys, Moel Findeg and Moel Famau.				
HMRO2	To bring areas of heather moorland into positive productive management.	Continue to support the graziers on the Clwydian Range, Llantysilio Mountain and North Berwyn in the management of heathland through cutting and burning.				
		Continue to work with Coleg Cambria Llysfasi to provide training courses in upland management as part of their National Diploma course – 2 events per year.				
HMRO3	Continue to monitor black grouse and other upland bird species as an indicator of habitat condition	Monitor Black Grouse populations and other upland birds every year at key lek sites across the AONB in order to inform and target specific management.	RSPB	AONB NRW	Annual	
HMRO4	Associate food production with ecosystem management.	Work with farmers and graziers to associate lamb from the upland areas with quality landscapes.	AONB	Cadwyn Graziers		
		Engage producers and retailers with the Clwydian Range Food Trail Project to promote local produce and give added value to produce associated with positive conservation works.	Cadwyn	AONB Food Trail		
HMRO5	Support and encourage sustainable grouse management where it has positive environmental and economic impacts	Support the North Wales Moors partnership on Y Berwyn	RSPB	NRW AONB		
HMRO6	Provide support to farmers and landowners in upland areas to bring moorlands into management schemes.	Attend graziers meeting where appropriate	AONB			
		Provide practical support burning in upland areas wherever possible	AONB			

## Limstone Grasslands, cliffs and screes

	Objectives	Actions	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Priority
LGPO1	Maintain the current extent of calcareous grassland and limestone pavement and scree within the AONB.	Ensure that the conservation objectives of each site are understood and incorporated into project plans.				
		Plot and record cave systems in the AONB and identify features at risk.				
		Support and promote projects through the North Wales Bionet Group				
LGPO2	Bring all areas of public owned / managed limestone grassland, cliffs and screes into favourable management schemes.	Carry out targeted scrub control to restore areas of former calcareous grassland habitat at Prestatyn Hillside, the Alyn Valley and Eglwyseg.				
LGPO3	Provide opportunities for privately owned areas of limestone grassland and pavement to come into favourable management schemes.	Develop a Landscape Partnership Scheme Project for HLF to address issues of visitor impacts on areas of limestone grassland, cliffs and screes particularly around Loggerheads, Eglwyseg and the Panorama.				
		Ensure that land managers understand the importance of calcareous habitats and their sensitivity to grazing levels and the enrichment of soils from fertilisers, herbicide application, ploughing and re-seeding.				
LGPO4	Ensure that recreational pressure is minimised in sensitive areas	Reduce the impact of the Offa's Dyke National Trail on the Eglwyseg Screes through path repair and consolidation.	AONB	NRW		
		Assess the floristic changes that recreational pressure associated with soil compaction brings about.				
		Develop the Countryside Grant Scheme to include funding of all special features of the AONB including limestone grassland restoration projects.				

## Woodland and veteran Trees

	Objectives	Actions	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Priority
WVTO1	To maintain the current extent of broadleaved woodland and veteran trees within the AONB.	Support measures to reduce the impacts of pests and diseases on the local landscape character ( <i>Phytophthora Ramorum</i> – Bilberry and Larch -Ash dieback, and <i>Phytophthora Alni</i> – Alder				
		Support appropriate planting programmes that strengthen woodland resilience to environmental change.				
WVTO2	Protect Veteran Trees within the landscape across the AONB	Record the current extent and condition of veteran trees in the AONB.				
WVTO3	To maintain and restore broadleaved woodland towards a favourable condition through the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plans for Upland Mixed Ash Woodlands, upland oak woodlands and wet woodlands.	Bring all areas of public owned / managed broadleaved woodland into favourable management schemes such as Glastir or SSSI Section 15 Agreements by 2013.				
		Implement actions within existing section 15 management agreements and Glastir schemes.				
		Develop the Countryside Grant Scheme to include funding of all special features of the AONB including small woodlands under 2 ha.				
WVTO4	Develop publically owned woodlands as models of best practice in broadleaf woodland management.	Develop management programmes for all Local Authority owned woodlands in particular Bishops Wood, Coed Alex, Alyn Valley Woods, Riverside Woods Llangollen, Corwen Cynwyd Railway line and Coed Pen y Pigyn and along the Dee corridor at Ty Mawr including Jeffry's Wood				

## River Valleys

	Objectives	Actions	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Priority
RVO1	Continue to monitor the extent of key indicator species such as otter and water vole in order to gauge habitat condition.	Meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Catchment Management Plans	NRW	AONB/		
RVO2	Continue to develop a partnership of key agencies and bodies to ensure an integrated and landscape approach to management.	Support the Alyn and Wheeler Living Landscapes Project and its work on riparian connectivity and invasive species.	NWWT	AONB – NRW - NEWWildlife		
		Develop the Countryside Grant Scheme to include funding of all special features of the AONB including water courses	AONB			
RVO3	Support and develop a landscape scale approach to a programme of invasive species control particularly in relation to Himalayan balsam.	Continue to work in partnership with others to control invasive species within the Alyn and Wheeler Living Landscapes Project.				
		Support the DINNS Partnership in addressing invasive species throughout the Dee catchment.				
		Support Big Dee Day to tackle invasive non-native plants and animals, such as Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam.				
RVO4	Raise awareness amongst the general public and landowners/managers of the importance of the river valleys for biodiversity.	Devise and run an exemplar demonstration project on good catchment management				
		Hold an annual workshop on pollution control and good management for landowners, local councillors and professionals.				

## Historic Settlement and Archaeology

	Objectives	Actions	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Priority
HSAO1	Work towards a position where the condition/state of all archaeological sites within the AONB is known and appropriate management work is carried out. Utilise HER information, Pan-Wales projects, Glastir agri-environment schemes and the planning process to facilitate this.	Produce a schedule of historic site enhancements to prioritise works and promote good practice across all types and ages of assets. Target Project Action by the use of an 'At risk' register.				
		Conduct CPD sessions with planners and Highway officers to explain Archaeology and the Planning system and the importance of these small features in maintaining the character of settlements				
		Work with Denbighshire Agricultural Estate at Caer Drewyn to establish an appropriate stocking rate and continue to control scrub around the hillfort.				
HSAO2	Encourage owners of Historic parks and Gardens within the AONB to maintain and restore existing parkland features as noted in the Register.	Work with registered Historic parks and gardens landowners and other relevant agencies to undertake appraisals and to prepare and implement management plans to conserve and enhance the sites.				
HSAO3	Increase the profile of the Historic Environment through effective and consistent interpretation and information.	Raise awareness of the importance of industrial sites and features within the planning and AONB.				
		Through the Our Picturesque Landscape Project devise and run an engagement programme for both residents (including schools, Town and Community Councils and Community Groups) and visitors, promoting awareness and understanding of the Historic Environment of the AONB and the historical links between sites.				
HSAO4	Incorporate information gathered as part of the Historic Environment Record into the continuous management process within the AONB.	Ensure all decisions regarding the Historic Environment are evidence based.				
		Ensure LANDMAP data and the Historic Environment Record are utilised to guide the determination of planning applications and inform agri-environment schemes.				

## Industrial Features and World Heritage Site.

	Objectives	Actions	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Priority
WHSO1	To secure the integrity of the outstanding universal values of the World Heritage Site.	Work in partnership to achieve the aspirations of the World Heritage Site Landscape Management Plan.				
WHSO2	Maintenance of key views to and from the WHS and the visual and cultural setting.	Establish an HLF project with Canal Rivers and Trust and Wrexham County Borough Council to preserve the key views from and into the WHS				
WHSO3	Take steps to limit the impact visitor pressures on the historic integrity and setting of the World Heritage site	Work with Cadw and local landowners to formalise access to the Horseshoe Falls from Llantysilio.				
WHSO4	Ensure a consistent approach to interpretation, signage and quality of the experience across partnership authorities.	Work with the World Heritage Site partnership to develop an Interpretation and strategy for the whole corridor.				
WHSO5	Raise awareness of the importance of industrial sites and features within the planning and AONB.	Through the Our Picturesque Landscape Partnership project assess and restore key features associated with lead mining limestone quarrying particularly around Loggerheads, Minera and Eglwyseg.				
		Work towards the reconsolidation of industrial features on Prestatyn Hillside.				
		Through the Our Picturesque Landscape Project provide high quality interpretation for key industrial sites within the AONB – in particular the Leete at Loggerheads, Devil’s gorge and Minera Lead mines.				
WHSO6	Develop an “at risk “ register for key industrial historic sites and work towards programmes that will respond where action is required.	Establish an HLF project to identify and respond to sites at risk.	AONB	LAs Cadw		



## Hillforts and Defensive Structures

	Objectives	Actions	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Priority
DFS01	Ensure continuation of the Heather and Hillforts Project to maintain existing level of work at the 4 hillforts of Penycloddiau, Moel Arthur, Moel y Gaer Llanbedr and Moel Fenlli and aim to continue programme to include Moel y Gaer Bodfari and Moel Hiraddug.	Monitor the impact of the Offa's Dyke National Trail on the Hillforts of the Clwydian Range.	AONB	NRW DCC /FCC		
		Continue to support a partnership approach to tackling off road vehicular trespass and its impacts on the hillforts, particularly on Llantysilio Mountain - work with Police, NRW and Local Authorities.	DCC RoW	AONB NWP NRW		
DFS02	Ensure the structural integrity features and ensure that impacts of visitor pressure is minimised	Complete the reconsolidation of the masonry at Castell Dinas Bran around the gatehouse.	DCS	AONB Cadw		
		Through the Our Picturesque Landscape project take steps to minimise erosion into Castell Dinas Bran particularly from the eastern access point.	AONB	Cadw DCS		

## Small Historic Features

	Objectives	Actions	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Priority
SHFO1	Raise awareness of the importance of small historic features within both the planning and highways environments by providing training sessions to professionals.	Ensure LANDMAP data and the Historic Environment Record are utilised to guide the determination of planning applications and inform agri-environment schemes.				
		Conduct CPD sessions with planners and Highway officers to explain Archaeology and the Planning system and the importance of these small features in maintaining the character of settlements				
SHFO2	Encourage Communities to identify and map features within their communities on a standard database which is compatible with the HER.	Encourage the use of the Civic Trust Wales historic characterisation tool kit in the AONB's settlements.				
		Visit Local Communities to discuss recording of features				
SHFO3	Encourage Communities to adopt these features and act as their champions by raising awareness within community councils and youth groups.	In line with <i>The Welsh Historic Environment: a Celebration</i> (2009) Establish an Historic Environment Champion from within the AONB Partnership.				

Boundaries						
	Objectives	Actions	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Priority
BO1	Using SDF and other funds develop a Countryside Grant schemes to support projects which will maintain and enhance the most important boundaries in the AONB as well as other Special Features	Continue to support through SDF a grant scheme to facilitate boundary improvement.	AONB			
BO2	In line with aspirations within <i>The Welsh Historic Environment Strategic Statement</i> (2009) raise the skills base amongst the local workforce to increase the number of people who can carry out the necessary conservation and repair work.	Continue to work with Llysfasi College students and staff to provide training courses in Countryside Skills	AONB			
		Continue to offer training days for Countryside Volunteers in hedge laying and dry stonewall construction.	AONB			
BO3	Identify the most important boundaries within the AONB within an historic context.	Gather information on current condition of boundaries within the AONB.				

### Iconic Visitor and Cultural Attractions.

	Objectives	Actions	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Priority
IVCO1	To ensure that visitors and the tourism industry understand the need for, and support the conservation and enhancement of, the special qualities of the AONB as key assets upon which tourism is based.	Maintain Sustainable Tourism Charter status for the AONB.	AONB	Cadwyn FCC / DCC WCBC		
		Co-ordinate the development and implementation of Destination Management Plans that affect the AONB.	DCC FCC WCBC	AONB VW		
		Hold an Annual Tourism Forum				
		Work with Visit Wales and other Protected Landscapes to promote sustainable tourism in Wales				
IVCO2	Promote and assist convenient and sustainable access into the AONB and special places within it.	Utilise countryside sites such as Ty Mawr Country Park and Loggerheads to act as gateways to the AONB through good quality interpretation and information provision.	AONB	Cadwyn CRT WCBC DCC FCC		
IVCO3	Continue to develop public transport links and develop a strategy to reduce congestion between honey-pots and with other centres of population.	Work with the public transport staff and companies to co-ordinate public transport to and from AONB access hubs.				
IVCO4	Investigate ways to reduce congestion around key visitor areas.	Prepare a Visitor Management Plan for the World Heritage Site and consider ways to reduce congestion that will reduce the impact on residents and improve the visitor experience.	CRT	AONB WCBC DCC		

		Implement the scheme for the development of additional car parking at Loggerheads and implement car park improvements at Ty Mawr country Park	AONB	Cadwyn DCC		
IVCO5	Target information relating to the Countryside Code, behaviour and the impact of visitors on conservation status of key sites.	Collect and disseminate data on actual and potential users recreational needs and aspirations.	AONB	NRW NFU FUW		
IVCO6	Assist tourism businesses to embrace the opportunities and responsibilities of being in a protected area	Develop an AONB Tourism Ambassador scheme.	AONB	DCC FCC WCBC		
		Provide support to business groups in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley and continue to develop the Sustainable Tourism Forum of businesses and officers.	AONB	DCC FCC WCBC		

### The Offa's Dyke Trail and Promoted Routes

	Objectives	Actions	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Priority
ODPPRO1	Continue a programme of Rights of Way improvement across the AONB through the use of the Community miles Initiative and other arera access improvement work focusing on increasing opportunities to access the countryside.	Seek safe and convenient access for horses, cyclists and walkers when creating new routes in the AONB.	AONB	DCC RoW		
ODPPRO2	Provide increased opportunities where appropriate for walking, cycling and horse riding in the AONB and promote these opportunities	Crete digital files of all promoted routes within the AONB and make them accessible on the web.	AONB	DCC FCC WCBC		
ODPPRO3	Work with the Local Access Forums to ensure an effective partnership with access users and landowners.	Provide support to farmers and landowners in dealing with recreational pressure.	AONB	FUW NRW NFU		
ODPPRO4	Raise awareness of the acknowledged health and well-being benefits provided by the AONB and develop initiatives promoting physical activity particularly walking and cycling.	Continue to develop through partners volunteer and events programme activities that encourage the use of the countryside Develop and promote Health Walks and Green Gyms close to AONB settlements	AONB			
ODPPRO5	Understand and work towards removing physical and psychological barriers to access enabling all sectors of society to participate in and benefit from	Ensure least restrictive access is applied on all promoted trails in the AONB	AONB	DCC FCC WCBC NRW		

	outdoor access and recreational opportunities.	Continue to provide opportunities for underrepresented groups to experience the special qualities of the AONB.	AONB	NRW		
ODPPRO6	Investigate ways to promote the trail with local tourism businesses and to develop initiatives that will strengthen business links.	Through the Walking with Offa project provide support to tourism businesses in order to ensure that they are able to maximise the potential of the National Trail to the economy of the area.	AONB	Cadwyn DCC CRT WCBC		
ODPPRO7	Strengthen links between the Trail and nearby settlements and places of interest utilising the wider Rights of Way Network and Public Transport.	Through the Walking with Offa cross border collaboration project with other Protected Landscapes work with business groups to increase awareness of the Offa's Dyke Path as a gateway to the AONB.	AONB	Cadwyn DCC CRT WCBC		
ODPPRO8	Monitor erosion in key areas and develop a programme of measures that will reduce the impact of the trail on the landscape by limiting width or depth of path as appropriate.	Carry out erosion control measures on the Offa's Dyke National Trail at Cynr y Brain, Egwyseg, Moel Famau and the hillforts of the Clwydian Range in order to reduce the impact of the trail on the landscape and conservation features of the area.	AONB	NRW		
ODPPRO9	Identify key indicator sites to monitor visitor user numbers within the AONB	Produce an annual monitoring report for key sites such as Ty Mawr Country Park, Loggerheads and People Counter data for the trails in the AONB.	AONB	DCC NRW DCC		

## THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

	Objectives	Actions	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Priority
BEO1	Ensure new development in and around the AONB is sympathetically located in the landscape, and is well designed to complement the character and appearance of the area and its setting, particularly in respect of visual impact, scale, materials and landscaping.	<p>Prepare guides for development at gateway locations to complement the AONB and strengthen local landscape character.</p> <p>To work with the local planning authorities to prepare and adopt formal Supplementary Planning Guidance and design guides for development in the AONB.</p> <p>Facilitate an annual meeting with interested parties on the built environment.</p> <p>Undertake characterisations studies of all settlements, initially focusing on the larger settlements and pressure points, to identify sensitivities and opportunities for change</p> <p>Consider and comment on &gt;100 planning applications and other development proposals in and around the AONB each year, and to seek &gt;85% adoption of the JC's views.</p> <p>Increase awareness and understanding of development issues in the AONB by assisting with planning committee member training and development programmes and continued professional development for officers.</p>	AONB			
BEO2	Conserve and enhance the character and local distinctiveness of historic villages, buildings and gardens within the AONB.	<p>Work with the local authorities to undertake 5 yearly reviews of the Buildings at Risk register and condition surveys covering the AONB and take action to reduce the number of buildings at risk</p> <p>Carry out and/or updating Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans for all Conservation Areas within the AONB,</p>	AONB			
			AONB			



		including boundary reviews and an assessment of the overall condition of the areas.				
		To promote the use of Article 4 Directions to control permitted development in Conservation Areas which is harmful to the character and appearance of the area as identified by Conservation Area Appraisals.				
		Ensure that Historic Parks and Gardens are protected from inappropriate development which would harm the character or recognised special features of the registered site				
BEO3	Promote action to reduce the visual impact of prominent existing development in the AONB.	Develop guidance for the siting and design of agricultural and forestry buildings in the AONB to enhance local landscape character				
		Work with National Grid to reduce the impact of pylons in the Molwynion Valley and Tremeirchion area through their Visual Improvement Project				
		Work with Scottish Power to under- ground overhead lines where-ever possible				

## Sustainable Communities

	Objectives	Actions	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Priority
SCO1	Help local communities to retain and enhance access to essential community services and facilities.	Support and promote appropriate social / community ownership and enterprise projects and initiatives such as 'The Pub's the Hub' which will maintain and improve access to local facilities and services.	AONB			
		Resist development proposals that involve the loss of community facilities such as local shops and public houses.				
		Identify current broadband provision across the AONB and work with communities and other agencies to secure the best possible coverage/speed of service, address broadband 'not-spots', and to promote the WAG Superfast Scheme				
		Promote a profitable, high quality local food processing economy as a way of revitalising rural incomes; and to raising awareness among residents, businesses and visitors about the benefits to the landscape, economy and social fabric of purchasing locally sourced goods.				
SCO2	Support the development of affordable housing for local people in appropriate locations, whilst maintaining the highest standards of design and landscaping.	Support the local authorities in carrying out housing needs and affordability surveys in areas of high demand for affordable housing indicated by LA/HA waiting lists.	AONB			
		Work with local planning and housing authorities to promote affordable housing schemes for local people, to secure affordable units as part of any new market housing development, and to encourage the provision of affordable housing for local people through	AONB			

		conversions and the development of individual new dwellings in villages and hamlets.				
		Promote opportunities to encourage local businesses to become more environmentally and economically sustainable, particularly in ways that conserve the special qualities of the AONB				
SCO3	Foster a sense of place and local pride to secure social well-being.	Promote opportunities to encourage local businesses to become more environmentally and economically sustainable, particularly in ways that conserve the special qualities of the AONB				
		Support a Community Ambassador Scheme to improve communication with communities				
		Liaise with community and Town Councils on an annual basis	AONB			
		Hold an annual Forum	AONB			
		Produce an volunteer programme of events twice per year	AONB			