



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

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**Sustainable Development Fund 2016 – 17**  
**Year 16 Annual Report**

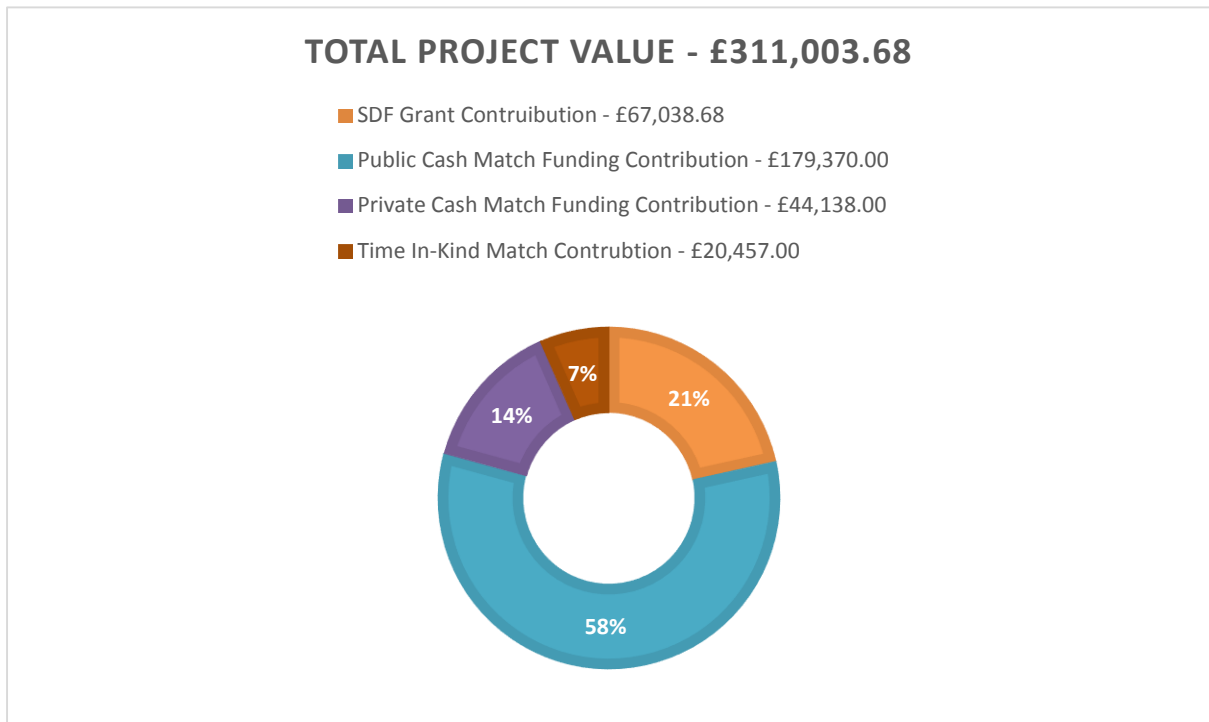


## Sustainable Development Fund Annual Report 2016-17

### Projects

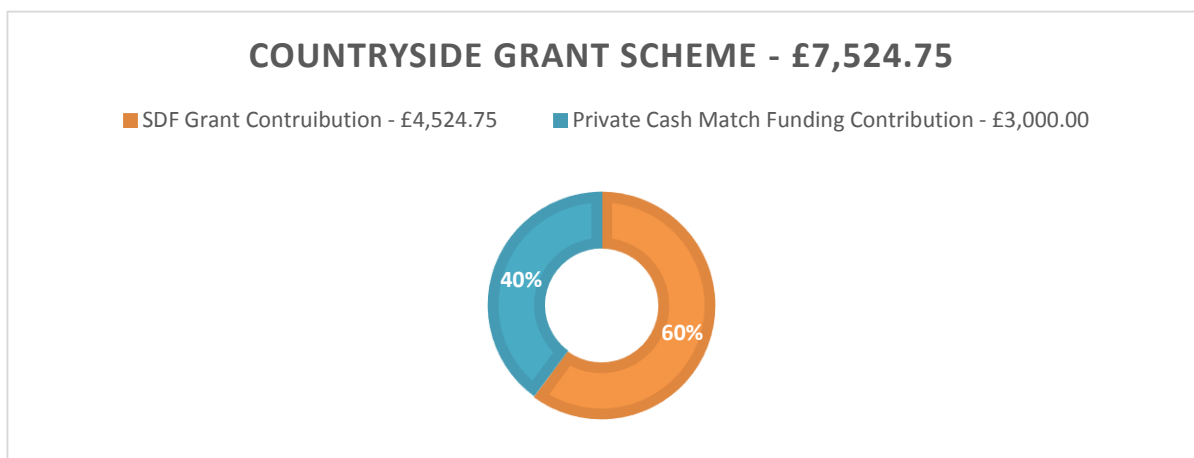
The Sustainable Development Fund in the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB supported 22 projects in the financial year 2016/17, awarding a grant total of £67,038.68.

The total value of the projects supported by SDF which includes additional cash funds levered in and contributions in-kind was £311,003.68p and is broken down as follows;



### Countryside Grant Scheme

SDF supported 4 Countryside Grant Schemes with a value of £7,524.75 – these figures are included in the above



## Performance Indicators

- 100% of the applicants were informed of the decision of the Assessment Panel or the nominated local authority and NRW officers within the stipulated target times.
- 100% of applicants for projects under £3,000 were notified of the nominated officer's decisions within the stipulated target time.
- **8 jobs** were created/supported as a result of SDF projects, plus local contractors engaged in the delivery of 6 projects.
- Volunteering opportunities were created through 12 SDF projects.
- **4000+** volunteer hours were recorded

## Output Measures – Schedule 2

- 7 projects have carried out training days and/ or awareness raising sessions on sustainability with businesses, communities and individuals.

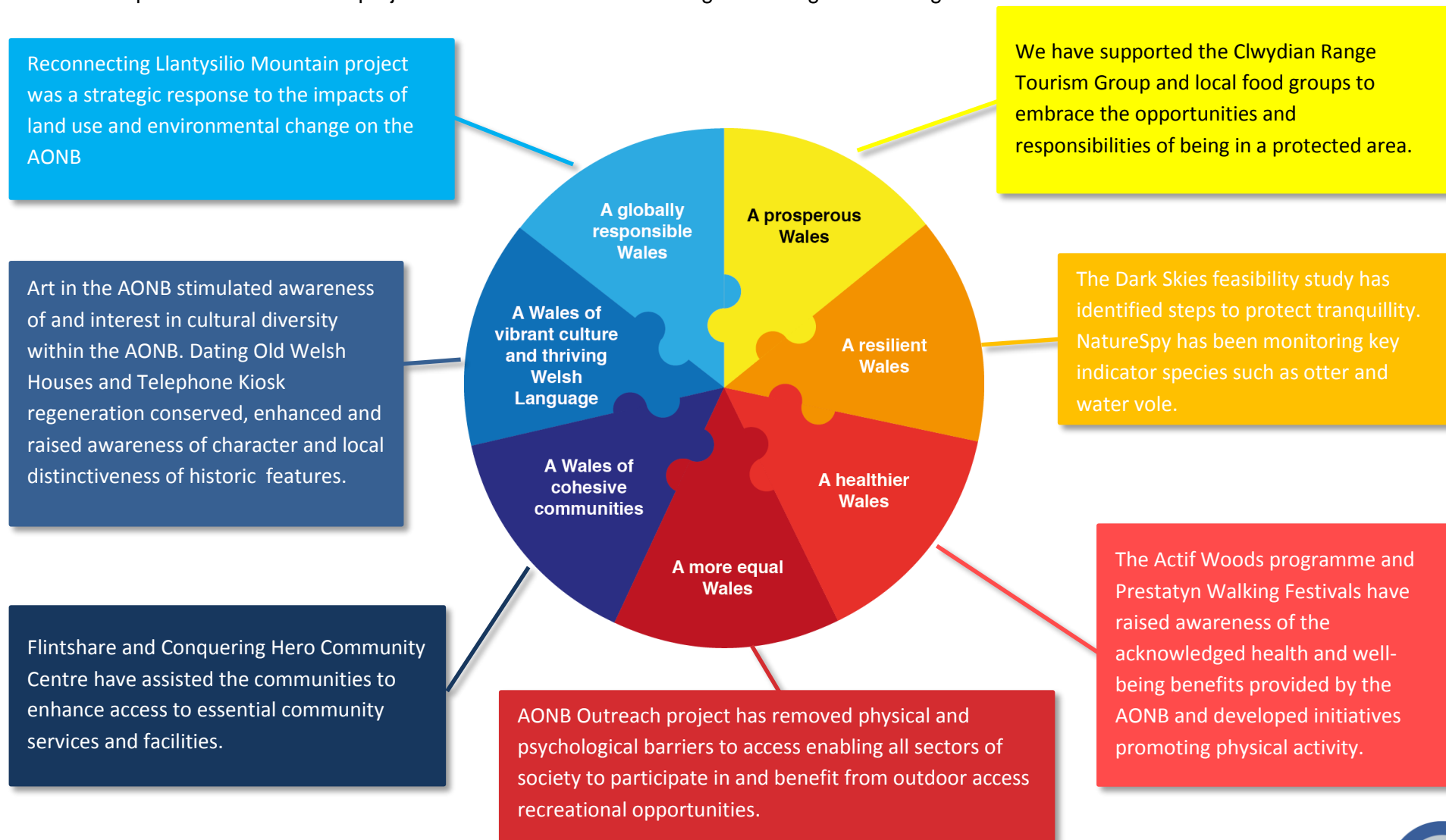


- The total grant awarded was £67,038.68
- The total amount of Match Funding levered in 2016/17 is £243,965.00 a ratio of 4:1 and is broken down as follows;
  - Amount of money levered in from the public sector       -£179,370.00
  - Amount of money levered in from the private sector       -£44,7138.00
  - Amount levered in from the voluntary sector       -£20,457.00
- All projects meet the principles of sustainable development.
- 57% of projects supported will retain community participation post year 1, 2 and 3.



## Well-being goals – how has SDF contributed in 2016/17?

In 2016 the panel considered how projects delivered for the Well-being of future generations goals.



## **Application Process**

Wherever applicable the SDF in the AONB was administered in accordance with the Manual of Guidance on Voluntary Sector Grants and the framework documents provided by Natural Resources Wales.

All successful applicants received a grant offer letter offering SDF grant aid and an acceptance form detailing the conditions of the grant offer. A claim form was also sent, to be returned on completion of the project along with any relevant invoices. Applicants were also requested to complete an outputs form detailing information such as the number of volunteer hours recorded and awareness raising sessions.

Inspection of completed projects was carried out wherever applicable. Where it was not appropriate to inspect a project a local authority officer made an assessment to ensure all aspects of the project were delivered satisfactorily and within the agreed time scale

## **Contentious Applications**

There were no contentious applications.

## **Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB SDF Assessment Panel.**

Representing the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB – Mr. H Sutcliffe (AONB Officer), Mr. D Shiel (Asst. AONB Officer), Mrs Ceri Lloyd (AONB Sustainable Development Officer), Ms K Holthofer (AONB Communications Officer).

### **Partnership Members**

Mr. Michael Skuse – Chair  
Mr Andrew Worthington  
Cllr Bob Dutton  
Ms Christine Evans  
Cllr Hugh Jones  
Cllr Huw Jones  
Cllr Stuart Davies  
Mr John Roberts  
Mr Ian Papworth  
Mr Roger Cragg  
Mr Paul Mitchell



The Panel met twice during the year on 27<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

## Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Sustainable Development Fund Financial details

CRDV	Project Name	Applicant Organisation	Total Project Value including Match	SDF Amount Awarded	Match Amount	Match Funding Breakdown			Percentages		Approved on
						Public	Private	In-kind / Vol	SDF	Match	
	Administration			£ 5,003.87							
1	Carrog Village Map	Fiona Collins	£ 600.00	£ 300.00	£ 300.00		£ 300.00		50%	50%	27.05.2016
2	Dating Old Welsh Houses	Margaret Dunn	£ 16,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 15,000.00	£ 15,000.00			6%	94%	27.05.2016
3	Moel y Gaer Bodfari	Fiona Gale	£ 3,240.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 2,240.00			£ 2,240.00	31%	69%	27.05.2016
4	Limestone Legacy - Outreach work	Helen Mrowiec	£ 59,000.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 56,000.00	£ 54,000.00		£ 2,000.00	5%	95%	27.05.2016
5	Telephone Kiosks	Sarah Jones	£ 20,000.00	£ 5,000.00	£ 15,000.00	£ 15,000.00			25%	75%	27.05.2016
6	Community Transport	Ros Stockdale	£ 1,167.28	£ 667.28	£ 500.00	£ 500.00			57%	43%	27.05.2016
7	Flintshare Cilcain	Pam Worthington	£ 3,854.89	£ 3,004.89	£ 850.00		£ 350.00	£ 500.00	78%	22%	27.05.2016
8	Prestatyn Walking Festival	Martin Fearnley	£ 4,000.00	£ 500.00	£ 3,500.00	£ 3,500.00			13%	87%	27.05.2016
9	Clwydian Range Tourism Group	Jane Clough	£ 11,377.00	£ 2,500.00	£ 8,877.00	£ 7,000.00		£ 1,877.00	22%	78%	27.05.2016
10	Art in the AONB	Sian Fitzgerald	£ 3,011.76	£ 1,511.76	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,500.00			50%	50%	27.05.2016
11	Sesitive Habitats and Sustainable Acces:	Hannah Arndt	£ 6,000.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 3,000.00			50%	50%	27.05.2016
12	Conquering Hero Community Centre	John Gambles	£ 9,118.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 6,118.00		£ 2,578.00	£ 3,540.00	33%	67%	27.05.2016
13	Dee Valley Active	Dee Valley Active	£ 14,000.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 11,000.00	£ 10,500.00	£ 500.00		21%	79%	27.05.2016
14	NatureSpy	James McConnell	£ 25,910.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 22,910.00		£ 17,410.00	£ 5,500.00	12%	88%	27.05.2016
15	Actif Woods	Aime Andrews	£ 14,800.00	£ 4,000.00	£ 10,800.00	£ 10,000.00		£ 800.00	27%	73%	08.11.2016
16	Woodland Skills, Bodfari	Rod Waterfield	£ 37,000.00	£ 4,000.00	£ 33,000.00	£ 9,000.00	£ 20,000.00	£ 4,000.00	11%	89%	08.11.2016
17	Good Grub Club	Robyn Lovelock	£ 8,370.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 6,370.00	£ 6,370.00			24%	76%	08.11.2016
18	Dark Skies	David Shiel	£ 10,160.00	£ 3,160.00	£ 7,000.00	£ 7,000.00			31%	69%	08.11.2016
	<b>Countryside Grant Scheme</b>										
19	<b>FWAG Admin Fee</b>		£ 1,130.00	£ 1,130.00							
20	Mr Lightfoot, Llidiart Fawr		£ 2,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00		£ 1,000.00		50%	50%	
21	G W Pierce, Plas Dolben		£ 394.75	£ 394.75					100%		
22	Fred Dreiling, Siglen Isaf		£ 2,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00		£ 1,000.00		50%	50%	
25	Cefn y Fedw, Garth		£ 2,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00		£ 1,000.00		50%	50%	
	<b>Additional Project Approved March 2017</b>										
26	AONB Outreach Project	Katrina Day	£ 20,000.00	£ 10,000.00	£ 10,000.00	£ 10,000.00			50%	50%	March 2017
27	Reconnecting Llantysilio Mountain	Rhun Jones	£ 8,000.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 6,000.00	£ 6,000.00			25%	75%	March 2017
28	Good Grub Club	Robyn Lovelock	£ 6,000.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 3,000.00			50%	50%	March 2017
29	Rural Skills Training Scheme	Gwyn Rowlands	£ 20,000.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 18,000.00	£ 18,000.00			10%	90%	March 2017
30	Overspend / Additional Projects		£ 1,870.00	£ 1,870.00							
<b>Total Value of Projects (SDF &amp; Match)</b>			£ 311,003.68			£ 179,370.00	£ 44,138.00	£ 20,457.00			
<b>Total SDF Contribution towards projects</b>				£ 67,038.68							
<b>Total Match Funding levered in</b>					£ 243,965.00						
<b>Total SDF Claim from WG inc. Admin</b>				£ 72,042.55							

## CRDV 01 – Carrog Village Map

<b>Applicant</b>	–	Carrog Village Hall
<b>SDF</b>	–	£300 (50% of total £600)
<b>Match funding</b>	–	Private funds 50%

The Community of Carrog replaced and upgraded a community map, which formerly stood by Carrog Bridge.

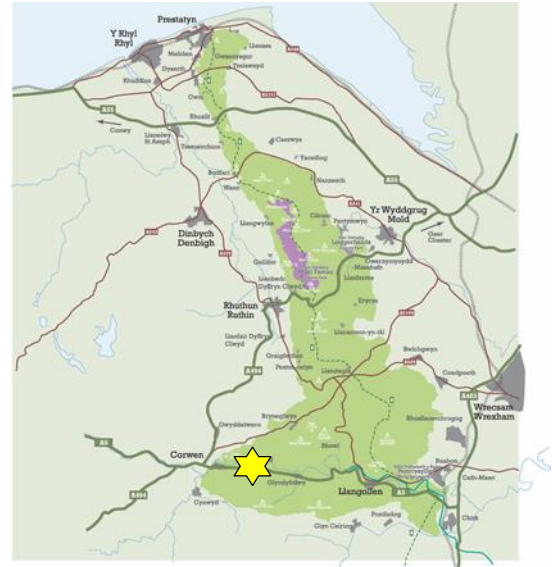
The new map has been created in memory of an active village residents and local historian who recently passed away.

The community appointed a local artist to undertake the design work. This was achieved by a community workshop.

Updating and replacing the map has raised awareness of the local characteristics of culture, landscape and community of the village, and gives local people, particularly the children, pride in and knowledge of the village and its surroundings.

The map also informs visitors to the AONB about the area and the different things to do and see.

The AONB’s Community Partnership Officer has been working with the community and supplied a recycled frame to house the new map and noticeboard.

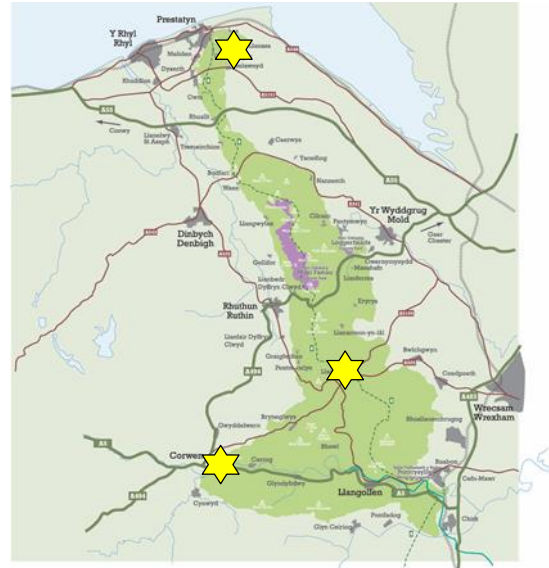


Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £300 cash levered in</li> <li>• 1 x Community Produced map</li> <li>• 1 x local supplier engaged/supported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy PolHE2 – ‘increase our understanding of all aspects of the Historic Environment of the AONB’</li> <li>• Objective HSAO3 – Increase the profile of the Historic Environment through effective and consistent interpretation and information</li> <li>• SHFO3 – Encourage Communities to adopt these features and act as their champions by raising awareness within community councils and youth groups</li> <li>• PolCP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings</li> <li>• BEO2 – Conserve and enhance the character and local distinctiveness of historic villages, buildings and gardens within</li> </ul>
Outcomes	
<p>The map gives local people, particularly the children, pride in and knowledge of the village and its surroundings. It also informs visitors to the AONB about the area.</p>	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% Denbighshire</li> </ul>	



## CRDV 02 – Dating Old Welsh Houses

**Applicant** – Dating Old Welsh Houses Group  
**SDF** – £1,000 (11% of £9,000)  
**Match funding** – A combination of match funding sources £8,000 (89%)



This project was all about celebrating Welsh heritage through the study of traditional houses and the lives of the people who lived in them, thus providing a better understanding of the AONB’s heritage assets.

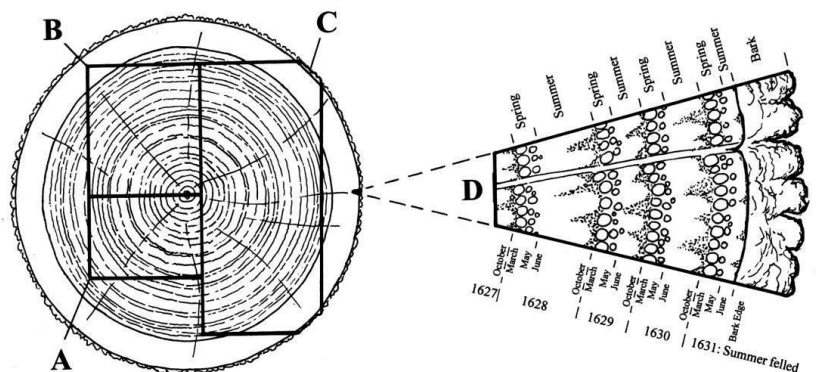
The project was a novel partnership between householders and volunteers in local communities along with conservation and other specialists and involved both paid specialists and local volunteers to identify, date, record and research suitable pre-1700 houses within the AONB.

The project has engaged with 48 householders and 24 + volunteers to record the architecture and research the history of the houses, which were selected on the basis of their potential to be dated accurately by dendro-chronology. The houses included in project were;

- Craig y Castell, Dyserth
- Efenectyd Farm, Glyndyfrdwy, Corwen
- Hendy Groes, Llanasa
- Hafod Bilston, Llandegla
- The Old Post Office, Llanasa

The results have been disseminated widely to professionals, local communities & visitors.

The project included training and volunteer sessions documentary research and building recording.



*The Dendrochronological Dating of Timbers from Efenectyd Farmhouse, Glyndyfrdwy, Denbighshire (SJ 166 434)*



← Hafod  
bilston,  
Llandegla

Craig y  
castell,  
Dyserth →



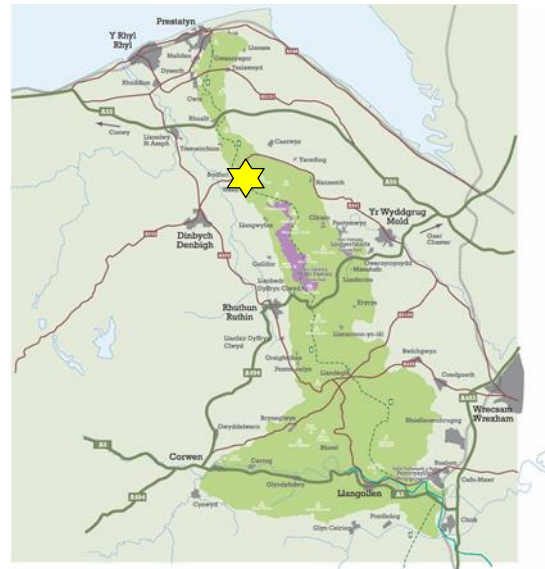
Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £8,000 cash levered in</li> <li>• 6 x Volunteers engaged in research</li> <li>• 520 x people engaged in project</li> <li>• 15 x volunteering opportunities</li> <li>• 666 x volunteer hours</li> <li>• 2 x village walks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PolHE1 – To conserve and enhance features and sites of archaeological, cultural or historic importance within the AONB whilst recognising that the whole of the area has an historic dimension</li> <li>• PolHE2 – Increase our understanding of all aspects of the Historic Environment of the AONB.</li> <li>• HSAO3 – Increase the profile of the Historic Environment through effective and consistent interpretation and information</li> <li>• SHFO2 – Encourage Communities to identify and map features within their communities on a standard database</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p>	
<p>The project has nurtured partnerships with archaeological and conservation bodies and with the public more generally, through the use of our website, social media, newsletters, leaflets, events and study tours.</p>	
<p><b>County Split</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60% Denbighshire</li> <li>• 40 % Flintshire</li> </ul>	

## CRDV 03 – Moel y Gaer

**Applicant** – University of Oxford  
**SDF** – £1,000 (27% of total £3,740)  
**Match funding** – Cambrian Archaeological Society & Private Funds (£2,740 time in-kind contribution)

The project was to enable archaeological excavations to take place at Moel y Gaer hillfort and to facilitate the development of linked art workshops which has provided extra focus of interest for volunteers and visitors. The work took place over a period for two weeks in July.

All community activities were organised in conjunction with Denbighshire's County Archaeologist and were focussed on providing information on the latest techniques used in archaeology as well as more traditional excavation. A successful Open Day was held on 24<sup>th</sup> July which saw 50 visitors being shown around the site and a walk from the village of Bodfari.



A core team of 15 people undertook the 13 days of excavations alongside volunteers. A total of 28 people signed up and all attended, between 12 and 15 people per day including two local school students who are thinking of taking archaeology at university, three already at university and one basing her Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme project on the dig experience.

Some volunteers were experienced excavators having worked with the St. Asaph Archaeological Society, the Clwydian Range Archaeological Group and the Chester Historical Society, for others training was given in excavation and recording techniques. Nine volunteers were returners from last year. A marked difference with last year was the presence of many younger people, mainly from north Wales.

Several archaeological groups also visited including Liverpool

University, the Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society, the Chester Archaeological Society and the St. Asaph Archaeological Society. All activities were advertised as part of the annual Council for British Archaeology Festival of Archaeology.





There will be an exhibition of works produced by Simon Callery and Stefan Gant held next summer in Plas Glyn y Weddw, Llyn AONB, this will link the excavation with the work that has been produced. Simon Callery had an exhibition of work produced out of his time at Moel y Gaer at the Fold gallery in New Cavendish Street, London, last year. (attached a couple of images of this)

The exhibition in the Llyn gives the possibility to link the two AONBs in 2018.

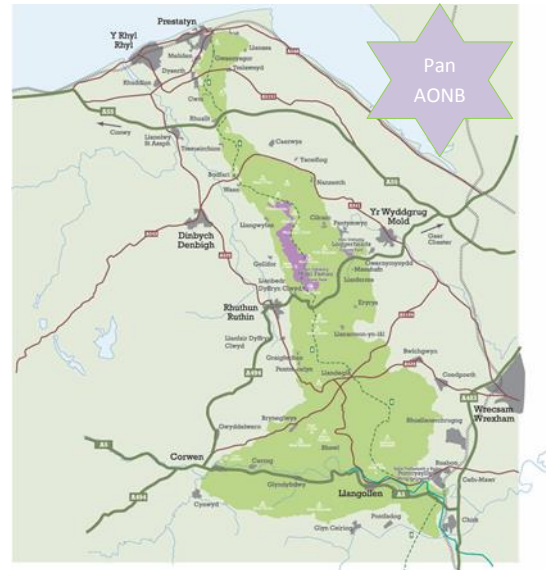
Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x Open Day / awareness raising day</li> <li>• 1 x Guided walk</li> <li>• 93 x people engaged</li> <li>• 13 x training days</li> <li>• 1300 x volunteer hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PolSQ1</b> – Conserve and enhance the Special Qualities and distinctive character of the AONB’s landscape and associated features including the historical built form.</li> <li>• <b>PolHE1</b> – To conserve and enhance features and sites of archaeological, cultural or historic importance within the AONB whilst recognising that the whole of the area has an historic dimension.</li> <li>• <b>PolHE2</b> – Increase our understanding of all aspects of the Historic Environment of the AONB.</li> <li>• <b>HSAO1</b> – Work towards a position where the condition/state of all archaeological sites within the AONB us known and appropriate management work is carried out.</li> <li>• <b>HSAO3</b> – Increase the profile of the Historic Environment through effective and consistent interpretation and information.</li> <li>• <b>DFSO1</b> – Ensure the continuation of the achievements of the Heather and Hillforts Project and maintain existing level of work at the 4 hillforts of Penycloddiau, Moel Arthur, Moel y Gaer Llanbedr and Moel Fenlli and aim to include Moel y Gaer, Bodfari and Moel Hiraddug.</li> </ul>
Outcomes	
<p>The excavation finished with an art exhibition in the Oriol at Loggerheads which ran for a month and featured. Visitors and archaeologists have a greater awareness and understanding of Moel y Gaer hillfort and historic landscape of the Clwydian Range.</p>	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% Denbighshire</li> </ul>	

## CRDV 04 – Limestone Legacy

**Applicant** – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

**SDF** – £3,000 (5% of total £59,000)

**Match funding** – Natural Resources Wales £54,000 cash match funding, Volunteers time in-kind contribution of £2,000



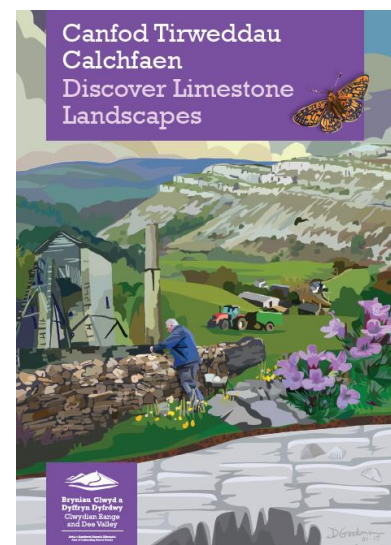
Limestone grassland and pavement is a Special Feature of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB and are characteristic features throughout from Prestatyn Hillside, the Alyn Valley to the Eglwyseg. The main threats facing calcareous grassland in the AONB are inappropriate grazing, scrub encroachment, invasive non-native species and high recreational pressure at certain sites leading to trampling and disturbance.

The Limestone Legacy project focused on raising awareness of importance of these areas of the AONB and tackling some of the issues facing them including habitat restoration, access improvement works, habitat management, volunteer tasks and engagement events. Specific activities did include;



← Vegetation removed opening out the potential for recolonisation of indicator species to calcareous grassland – as well as extensive views of the Eglwyseg escarpment. (left)

A new guide to the outstanding limestone landscapes of the area. The booklet explains the geology of limestone, the special heritage and habitat that are linked to the geology and provides suggested site visits to enable people to explore these fascinating landscapes for themselves. (right) →





← The Loggerheads Boundary Stone Plaque was reinstated an important heritage feature that dates back to local disputes relating to the mining rights within the limestone area at Loggerheads (left)

900m<sup>2</sup> of scrub was cleared to expose quarry workings and open up views from the quarry looking out over the coast. 190m of footpath was cutback to improve access to the quarry. (right)



↑ 1500m<sup>2</sup> of scrub was cut and treated around Pant y Fachwen Cottage. The cottage floor was cleaned and resurfaced. All the vegetation growing on the cottage walls was taken off and any loose masonry was pointed.

A broad programme of events was put together from Family activities and walks of various lengths, including.

- Easter events at Loggerheads
- 2 days of Dry stone walling in Dyserth
- Eglwyseg Limestone Guided Walk
- Limestone Hillfort
- Gop: *what its it?*
- The Great Victorian Dinosaur Hunt
- Trevor Rocks guided walk
- Limestone rocks, ancient lookouts and the coast
- Minera Lead Mines
- Limestone at Froncysyllte guided walk
- Geological Gems (Trevor Rocks)



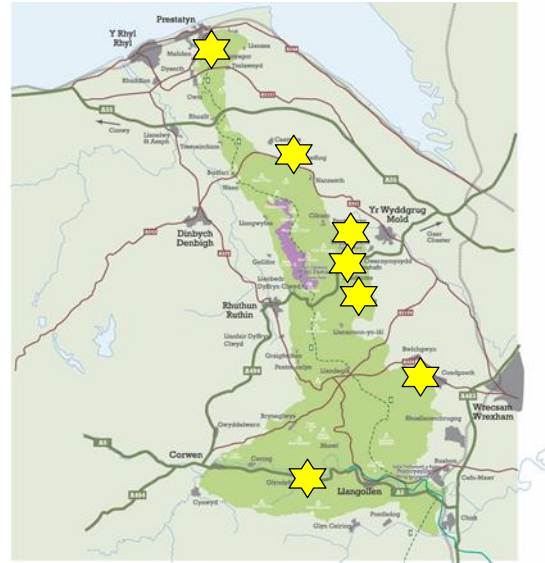
809 people attended Limestone Legacy events during the year.

Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x job created/supported</li> <li>• 0.77 Hectares of habitat improved</li> <li>• 109m of new access created</li> <li>• 2 x interpretation panels</li> <li>• 1 x community miles projects</li> <li>• 2 x volunteer training sessions</li> <li>• 65 x days of volunteering activity (days)</li> <li>• 20 x Volunteer days held</li> <li>• 809 x outreach visits to project area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>POLHW1</b> – Secure natural systems and network that provide more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people</li> <li>• <b>LGPO1</b> – Maintain the current extend of calcareous grassland and limestone pavement within the AONB</li> <li>• <b>PolHE1</b> – To conserve and enhance features and sites of archaeological, cultural or historic importance within the AONB whilst recognising that the whole of the area has an historic dimension.</li> <li>• <b>BO2</b> – In line with aspirations within the Historic Environment Strategic Statement (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</li> <li>• <b>PolART1</b> – 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</li> </ul>
Outcomes	
Improved habitats, walking opportunities and greater awareness of geodiversity of the AONB.	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33% Denbighshire</li> <li>• 33% Flintshire</li> <li>• 33% Wrexham</li> </ul>	

## CRDV 05 – Telephone Kiosk Regeneration

**Applicant** – Cadwyn Clwyd & Various Community Councils  
**SDF** – £5,000 (25% of total £20, 000)  
**Match funding** – £15,000 Made up of RDP LEADER funding and Community Councils

This project has supported the upgrading of 7 K6 Giles Gilbert Scott red telephone kiosks into Tourist Information points within the AONB.

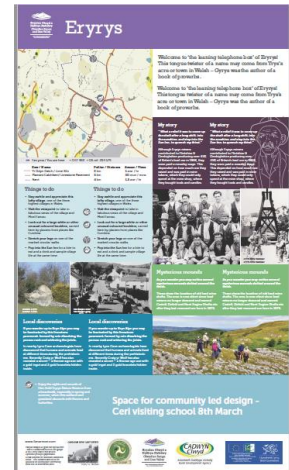


Once under threat of removal these kiosks have been preserved as part of the rural landscape.

Working with a local design company and interpretation consultant all kiosk have a standard shell scheme which include and interpretation panel, informative map and local information which will and encourage visitors to explore the area further, prolonging their stay.

The following communities have been involved in the scheme;

- Glyndyfrdwy
- Eryrys
- Gwaenysgor
- Minera
- Maeshafn
- Tafarn y Gelyn
- Ysgeifiog



AONB staff held a workshop with local schools to produce artwork for the kiosk







← The Community of Eryrys chose to install a bike pump in their kiosk

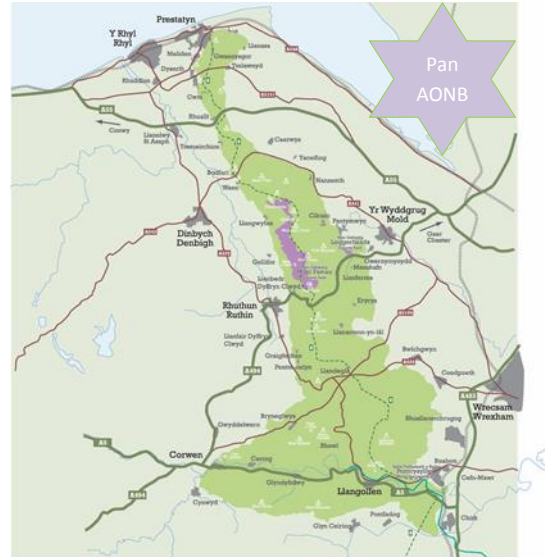
Gwaenysgor Community have installed a defibrillator in their kiosk →



Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 x Regeneration of kiosk</li> <li>• 7 x communities engaged</li> <li>• 7 x volunteering opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PolHE2 - 'increase our understanding of all aspects of the Historic Environment of the AONB'</li> <li>• HSAO3 – Increase the profile of the Historic Environment through effective and consistent interpretation and information</li> <li>• SHFO3 – Encourage Communities to adopt these features and act as their champions by raising awareness within community councils and youth groups</li> <li>• PolCP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings</li> <li>• BEO2 – Conserve and enhance the character and local distinctiveness of historic villages, buildings and gardens within</li> <li>• DFSO5 - Encourage Communities to adopt these features and act as their champions by raising awareness within community councils and youth groups</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <p>Small historic features brought back into community use. Promotion of local area through information points.</p>	
<p><b>County Split</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80% Denbighshire</li> <li>• 10% Flintshire</li> <li>• 10% Wrexham</li> </ul>	

## CRDV 06 – Community Transport

- Applicant** – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
- SDF** – £667.28 (57% of total £1,167.28)
- Match funding** – £500 Denbighshire County Council



The cost of transport is often a barrier to some groups in accessing the countryside. The Sustainable Development Fund supported the AONB to establish a small fund available for groups for the hire of minibuses to enable them to travel and gain better access to the AONB.

This is the fourth year the AONB has provided this service for community groups. In 2016/17 funds were accessed by 6 groups who would not otherwise have been able to visit the AONB.



← Walk Leader Training at Loggerheads Country Park for West Rhyl Community First and Residents

Trip to Llangollen for residents from West Rhyl →



↓ Vision Impaired Groups from Denbighshire & Flintshire on a joint walk at Loggerheads



Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 x people used the community transport scheme to access the AONB</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCO1 – Help local communities to retain and enhance access to essential community services and facilities</li> <li>PCO3 – Foster a sense of place and local pride to secure social well-being</li> </ul>
Outcomes	
<p>The project has worked with underrepresented groups. Individuals have a better understanding of the AONB and its key landmarks.</p>	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	

## CRDV 07 – Flintshare

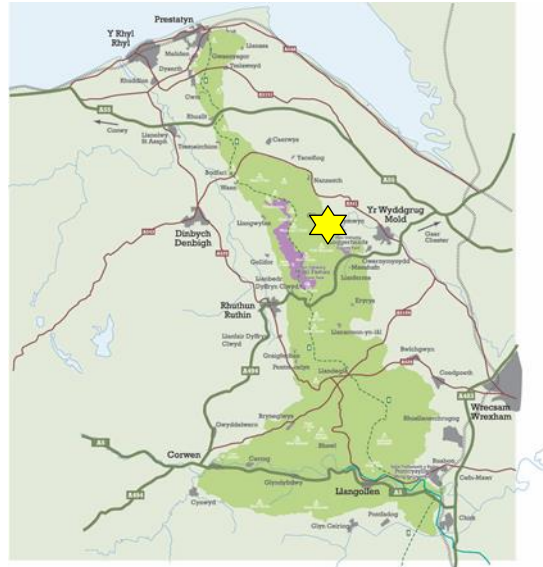
**Applicant** – Flintshare CSA Ltd  
**SDF** – £3,004.89 (78% of total £3,854.89)  
**Match funding** – Flintshare Member donations £350 (9%), Flintshare Volunteer Hours £500 (13%)

FlintShare is a local community group, part of the Community supported Agriculture (CSA) programme, it is dedicated to growing fresh fruit and vegetables primarily for the benefit of its members but also for the wider community.

Funding was provided to develop the Cilcain site to provide safer access to the site and materials to provide protection to the crops as well as equipment to allow members to cultivate the land.

In recent years Flintshares membership has grown. There is a cross section of members of varying ages and abilities. They range from retired people who come regularly, those who are still working and so volunteer less frequently and young families eager to involve their children in where and how their fruit and vegetables come from but all are supportive of the FlintShare aims and like to have local, seasonal organically grown produce.

As part of the project the group have put on 6 events for the public and members and contracted 2 local contractors and 4 local suppliers.



← Picture of left shows damaged bridge.



Picture of right is the new bridge under construction with help from AONB staff and volunteers. →



← Damage to path



SDF enabled the group to appoint a local contractor to improve access to the site

→



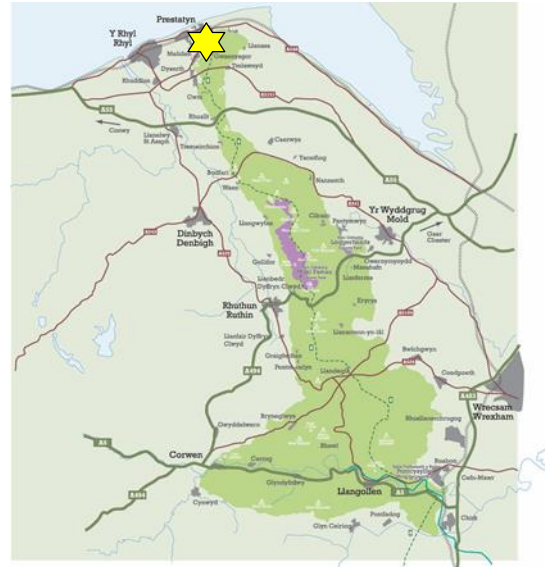
← Produce grown by Flintshire.

Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x job created/supported</li> <li>• 1248 volunteers hours</li> <li>• 6 public events</li> <li>• </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PoISQ3</b> – Secure the equitable, sustainable use of the area’s natural resources to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB</li> <li>• <b>PoIHW1</b> – Secure natural and networks that provide more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people</li> <li>• <b>PoICP3</b> – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings</li> <li>• <b>PoIART1</b> – 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</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p>	
<p>The project has engaged 4 local suppliers and 2 local contractors. The project has reconnected people with how food is produced, and taught them about sustainable food production and eating seasonally. The project also enables members of the group to remain active and socially engaged post retirement.</p>	
<p><b>County Split</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% Flintshire</li> </ul>	

## CRDV 08 – Prestatyn Walking Festival

- Applicant** – Prestatyn & Clwydian Range Festival of Walking
- SDF** – £500 (14% of total £3,500)
- Match funding** – Prestatyn Town Council £1,000, Private Funds £2,500 (86% of total)

The Prestatyn & Clwydian Range Festival of Walking received funding to assist with the running of the festival from 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016. This year was the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the festival which has grown significantly since its opening year.



The festival provides 3 days of opportunities to explore Prestatyn and the Clwydian Range.



The festival held 26 walks over the weekend with over 500 people taking part.

The festival also held a number of events for schools with over 400 children attending. 10% of participants came for outside of the local area.

Walk leaders and guides interpreted the AONB's

As well as providing guided walks the festival held Nordic Walking taters session.



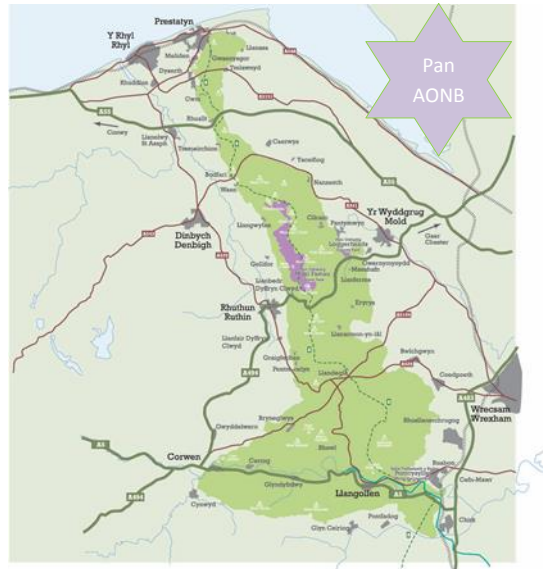


Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 510 x people participated in the walking festival</li> <li>• 769 x school participants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PolART1 – to promote the sustainable use and enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the AONB in a way that contributes to local prosperity and social inclusiveness</li> <li>• PolART5 – Ensure the County Parks and the Offa’s Dyke National Trail provide effective gateways to the AONB in promoting understanding and awareness of its key qualities and features.</li> </ul>
Outcomes	
<p>The festival encouraged walkers to explore and learn more about AONB and the Offa's Dyke National Trail. It also improved the management of visitor flows , encourages and supports tourism related enterprise and enhances visitor experience.</p>	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% Denbighshire</li> <li>• 50% Flintshire</li> </ul>	

## CRDV09 – Clwydian Range Tourism Group

- Applicant** – Clwydian Range Tourism Group
- SDF** – £2,500 (22% of total £11,377.00)
- Match funding** – £8,877 RDP LEADER Funding provided £7,000 and Volunteer time contribution of £1,877.00

SDF support was provided to the Clwydian Range Tourism Group to support the activities of the group in taking forward key aspects of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for the AONB.



The group contracted consultants to explore the feasibility of developing new and innovative ways to encourage visitors to the AONB to combine the three elements of their visit: where they stay; where and what they eat; and what they do while they're here.

The aim of this piece of work was to facilitate cooperation between local tourism businesses to provide a combination of unique experiences to tourists; to encourage them to stay longer in our local area and experience its unique natural beauty and Welsh heritage; whilst also providing a boost to the local economy.

Funding also contributed towards the groups Spring and Autumn meetings which included member training events and mentoring and cluster programmes.

Guest speakers included Ken Skates AM → and Jim Jones from North Wales Tourism. AONB staff are also active participants at these meetings and presentations were given from the AONB's Assistant Officer and Sustainable Development Officer.

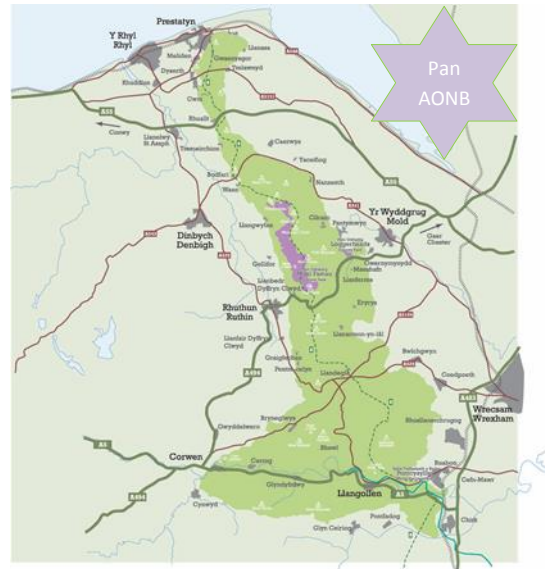




<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Management Plan</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x Training events</li> <li>• 2 x consultation events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PoIART1 – To promote the sustainable use and enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the AONB in a way that contributes to local prosperity and social inclusiveness</li> <li>• ICO7 – Assist tourism businesses to embrace the opportunities and responsibilities of being in a protected area</li> <li>• PoICP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	
<p>More people visiting and staying for longer: the project aims to strengthen and grow the outdoor provision, by creating a climate in which sustainable tourism businesses can establish, grow and survive.</p>	
<b>County Split</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	

**CRDV 10 – Art in the AONB**

- Applicant** – Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB
- SDF** – £1,511.76 (% of total £3,011.76)
- Match funding** – £1,500 Denbighshire County Council



Working in partnership with Denbighshire’s County Councils Art Service and Helfa Gelf Art Trail the AONB in addition to providing inspiration for artists were able to make available the materials and workshops to do it.

Criw Celf – is an art project for gifted and talented young people. Criw Celf works with young people who are in years 7 to 9 at secondary school and Criw Celf Bach engages with children aged between 7 & 11 years old. As part of the project a series of workshops in environmental art were held in and around the AONB to inspire this generation of young artists.



A series of Art Workshops aimed at adults were also established. A typical workshop consisted of an inspirational walk followed by a hand on activity.

Several workshops were also link to established Troedio Clwyd walking for health programme.

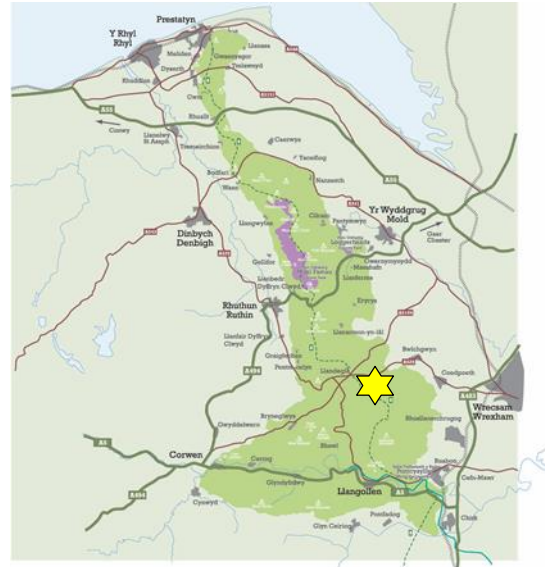
The project also invested in and made excellent use of the AONB’s gallery spaces at Loggerheads Country Park and Plas Newydd Historic House and Gardens.

Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 x events/workshops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PolART1 – 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</li> <li>• PolCP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings</li> <li>• PCO3 – Foster a sense of place and local pride to secure social well-being</li> </ul>
Outcomes	
<p>Opportunities for people to engage in the arts linked to raised awareness of the special qualities of the AONB. The project has highlighted art within the AONB and provided the opportunities and resources.</p>	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	

## CRDV11 – Sensitive Habitats and Sustainable Access

<b>Applicant</b>	–	Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB
<b>SDF</b>	–	£4,000 (57% of total £7,000)
<b>Match funding</b>	–	£3,000 Denbighshire County Council

The aim of this project was to start to address issues of impacts of access in sensitive areas and it focussed on raising awareness of key habitats and sustainable access in the AONB with particular attention given to Coed Llandegla, Llantysilio and Ruabon Mountains.



North Wales Mountain Bike Association in association with Ride North Wales and the AONB through this project wanted to educate user groups about the important wildlife, habitats and geological features, which are special features of the AONB.



The project established a multi-pronged approach to educate visitors and local people about the sensitive nature of certain habitats and the access rights and agreements in place, both historical legal rights and new access provided through permissive agreements.

A local film maker was contracted to create bespoke short films for use on social media sites and viewing at Coed Llandegla visitor centre. The films highlighted the sensitive areas such as heather moorlands, peat erosion, ground nesting birds and key messages around management issues through interviews with AONB staff and partners.

A leaflet has also been produced which maps the mountain bike trails in Coed Llandegla forest and the publicly accessible routes in and out of the forest. In addition to key messages about the area and to educate about the sensitive wildlife, habitats and features.

Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 x short films</li> <li>• 1 x information leaflet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PolART1 – 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</li> <li>• PolART2 – Ensure the attractiveness of the AONB’s landscape and views as a primary basis for the areas tourism are retained</li> <li>• PolART3 – Ensure that all visitors and residents are able to experience and enjoy the benefits od and the special qualities of the AONB within environmental limits</li> <li>• PolART4 – Ensure that the honey pots and other key access points are managed to a high standard and that they act as models of good practice in access and conservation delivery.</li> <li>• IVCO1 – 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.</li> <li>• ICO2 – Promote and assist convenient and sustainable access into the AONB and special places within it.</li> <li>• ICCO5 – Target information relating to the Countryside Code, behaviour and the impact of visitors on the conservation status of keys sites</li> <li>• ODPO8 – 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</li> <li>• PolCP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings</li> <li>• PCO3 – Foster a sense of place and local pride to secure social well-being</li> </ul>
Outcomes	
<p>Recreation user groups are better informed.</p>	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	

## CRDV 12 – Conquering Hero Community Centre External Facilities Improvement

**Applicant** – Cymdeithas y Cwm  
**SDF** – £3,000 (33% of total £9,118)  
**Match funding** – CYC Cash £2,578, CYC time in-kind £3,100, In-kind donations £440

Cymdeithas y Cwm with AONB support have enhanced the open space within the village for the use of locals and visitors to the area by developing and equipping the terraced space in front of the community centre.

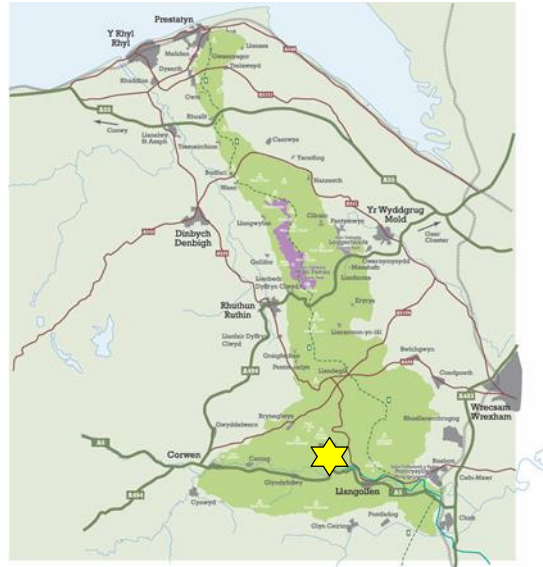
The improved accessibility means that the outside area is now an extension of the Community Centre itself, increasing the activities available to the community of Rhewl in the Dee Valley.

For visitors it has provided much needed facilities for people to sit down and take a rest while enjoying the southern part of the AONB whilst also being able to access enhanced information about the area and its attractions.

Funding has contributed towards;

- Landscaping to make the terrace all one level, improving access.
- Provision of a range of seating and tables
- Free access to drinking water and water bowls for animals
- Improve the planting to attract more insects and other wild life
- Improve the signage to highlight the community resource and to provide interpretation panels about the Dee Valley AONB and the local area

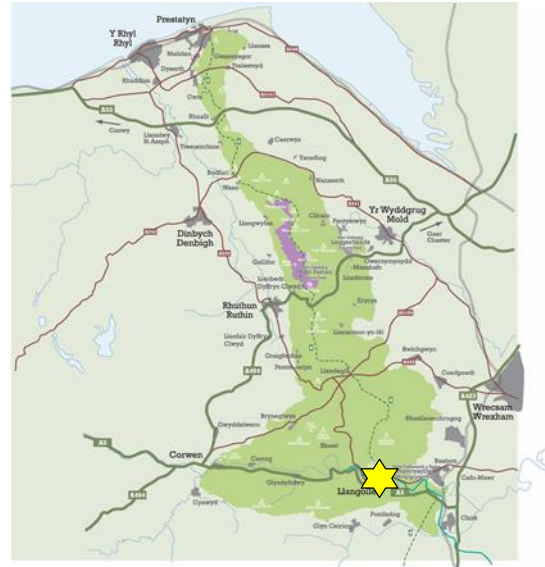
Cymdeithas y Cwm hope that these improvements will increase bookings of the hall by 20%



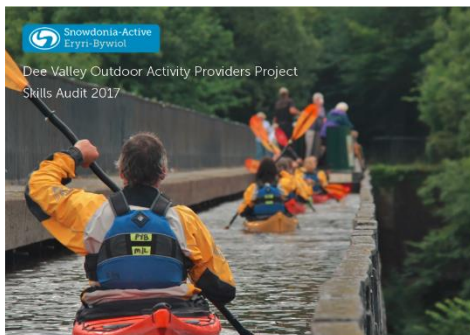
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Management Plan</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 354 x Volunteer Hours</li> <li>• 30 x Public events / Volunteering opportunities</li> <li>• 7 x local contractors engaged</li> <li>• 1 x newsletter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PolART1 – To promote the sustainable use and enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the AONB in a way that contributes to local prosperity and social inclusiveness</li> <li>• PolCP2 – Retain and improve essential services and facilities for local people</li> <li>• PolCP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings</li> <li>• PCO3 – Foster a sense of place and local pride to secure social well-being</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	
<p>More versatile outdoor space for the community. Greater flexibility within the community centre. Increase in community centre usage.</p>	
<b>County Split</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	

## CRDV 13 – Dee Valley Active

<b>Applicant</b>	–	Dee Valley Active Business Group
<b>SDF</b>	–	£3,000 (% of total £9,118)
<b>Match funding</b>	–	Denbighshire County Council Cash £10,500, Canal and River Trust £500



AONB officers have been working closely with Dee Valley Active, a group of outdoor activity companies operating in the southern part of the AONB, to promote sustainable outdoor activity in the Dee Valley.



The project appointed Snowdonia Active to undertake an initial skills audit to determine the gaps that may be limiting the local benefits this sector provides. The audit found that a shortage of the necessary skills around water sports activity on the River Dee was a limiting factor to the growth of businesses in the Dee Valley. The results of the audit informed a bespoke training programme in outdoor activity. The course is a combination of technical and environmental sessions focusing on the special nature of the landscape and some of the conflicts between outdoor recreation and sensitive sites. Technical sessions included Paddlesports Leader, REC First Aid and Whitewater Rescue Technician PRO.

The project also held two environmental awareness raising sessions for the sector.

‘Pulling the Plug’ on the Llangollen Canal was a bespoke session specifically pulling together experts on the Llangollen Canal World Heritage Site to share information businesses can then use when delivering paddling sessions. This activity took place paddling in an open canoe on the canal to enable trainees and established activity providers to learn more about the history of the canal, flora, fauna, environmental best practice, wildlife and geological highlights which can be seen from the canal.



Dee Valley on Water informed delegates about the ecology of the river and river banks, the geological highlights which can be seen from the river and the history of the stone bridges which cross the river Dee whilst also gaining insight to the unique qualities of the AONB.

The project has also produced a guide to the area that features opportunities for recreation and the special landscape features of the area including wildlife conservation, the historic landscape and land management.



Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x skills audit</li> <li>• 10 x individuals trained</li> <li>• 10 x individuals/businesses engaged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• PoICP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings</li> <li>• PCO3 – Foster a sense of place and local pride to secure social well-being</li> <li>• IVCO5 –Target information relating to the Countryside Code, behaviour and the impact of visitors on the conservation status of key sites.</li> <li>• IVCO8 – To promote and secure the sympathetic enhancement of the World Heritage Site, its facilities and setting, to create a high quality visitors experience, having regard to the other policies in this management strategy.</li> </ul>
Outcomes	
Recreation user groups are better informed.	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% Denbighshire</li> </ul>	

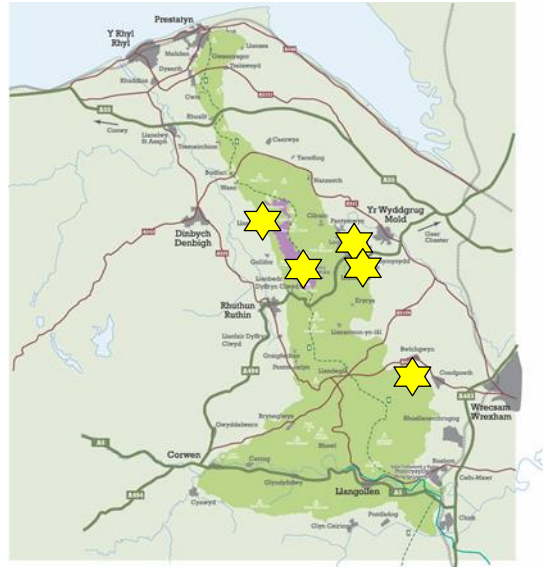


## CRDV14 – NatureSpy, Deescovery

- Applicant** – NatureSpy  
**SDF** – £3,000 (12% of total £25,910)  
**Match funding** – NatureSpy £17,400, Time in-kind contribution £5,500

The NatureSpy project had two aims.

- 1) Locate and identify species via camera trapping in the area and produce a species distribution map of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, whilst also training volunteers in the use of camera trapping
- 2) To use the camera trap footage captured as an educational tool to educate local people about the AONB and the wildlife within it.



### Aim 1: Species Inventory

Innovative camera trap technology and techniques were used throughout the AONB to locate and identify the variety of species in the area. Sites included; Loggerheads CP, Coed Nercwys, Coed Alex, Minera Lead Mines, Moel Famau CP, Coed Llangwyfan, Moel Findeg, Trefor Railway Line.

A species inventory has been taken of the whole area. Adder, Deer, Water Vole, Otter, Black Grouse and Polecat. All wildlife records captured have been submitted to Cofnod and analysis will then be carried out on the data at the end of the project into areas including activity patterns, behaviour and distribution.

10 volunteers were recruited and trained for the duration of the project.



*James from Naturespy  
live interview with Radio Wales*

## **Aim two: Wildlife Education**

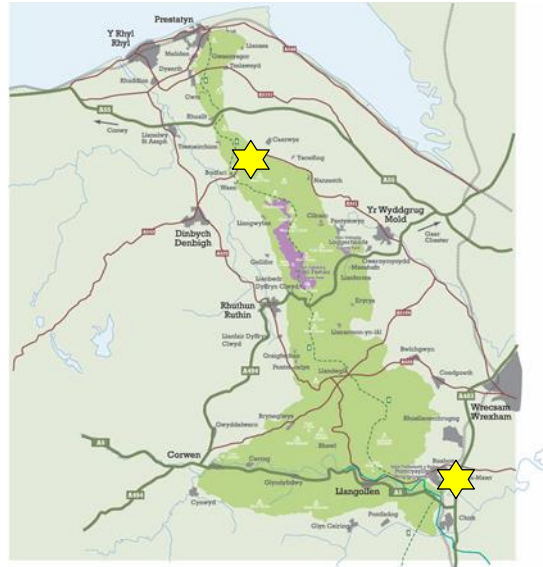
School workshops - Using NatureSpy workshop material and the footage generated by the camera traps the NatureSpy Education Officer visited local schools to carry out free workshops. The following schools were engaged as part of the Deescovery project

<b>Flintshire</b>	<b>Denbighshire</b>	<b>Wrexham</b>
Ysgol Y Foel, Cilacin, Mold	Ysgol Tremeirchion	Ysgol Llanarman Dyffryn Ceirog
Nannerch Primary School, Nannerch	Bodfari CP school	Ysgol Cynddelw, Glynceirog,
Nercwys CW V.A. primary school	Ysgol Bryn Clwyd,	Pontifadey CP school
		Froncysyllte CP school

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Management Plan</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 X school workshops</li> <li>• Interpretative leaflets produced.</li> <li>• Thousands of wildlife records</li> <li>• Creation of a species distribution map</li> <li>• wildlife videos from the camera traps</li> <li>• 2 public talks at Loggerheads</li> <li>• 6-10 local volunteers trained</li> <li>• 1 x press release</li> <li>• 2 x radio interviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PolHW4 – Ensure that the natural benefits and services of the landscapes are properly understood and valued.</li> <li>• RVO1 – Continue to monitor the extend of key indicator species such as otter and water vole in order to gauge habitat condition</li> <li>• RVO4 – Raise awareness amongst the general public and landowners/managers of the importance of the river valleys for biodiversity.</li> <li>• PolCP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings</li> <li>• PCO3 – Foster a sense of place and local pride to secure social well-being</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	
<p>The AONB have a greater understanding of the local species in the area. The project has increased the amount of wildlife education in local schools and involved local people and enabled younger generations to learn new skills relatable to sustainability and wildlife education. It has also encouraged social inclusion and the use of local green spaces.</p>	
<b>County Split</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	

## CRDV15 – Actif Woods

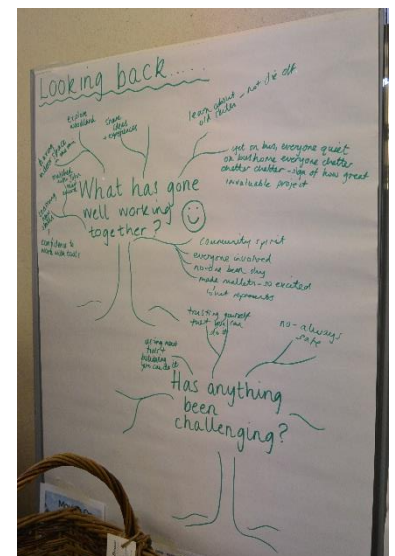
<b>Applicant</b>	–	Small Woods Association
<b>SDF</b>	–	£4,000 (27% of total £14,800)
<b>Match funding</b>	–	Natural Resources Wales Cash £10,000 Time in-kind £800



Actif Woods Wales have been working within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB since Sept 2014.

The project’s main aim was to improve health and wellbeing by getting people active in woodlands. The sustainable development fund aided

1. Continued support for Alzheimer’s Society and Macmillan Cancer groups through partner organisation and volunteer training, combined with the support of the Actif Woods Mentor, to help the group become sustainable.
2. Continued support of the Woodland Gym for Seniors group, which has increased the cost to attend and will continue to promote this to the local communities with the aim being that cost will be equal to the leader fee, again to make this sustainable.
3. A walking pack of all the local woodland walks, with relevant risk assessments has been created, this now needs formatting and sharing with health support agencies to allow others to benefit from the knowledge gained.
4. Continued support for activities at the Woodland Skills centre Bodfari



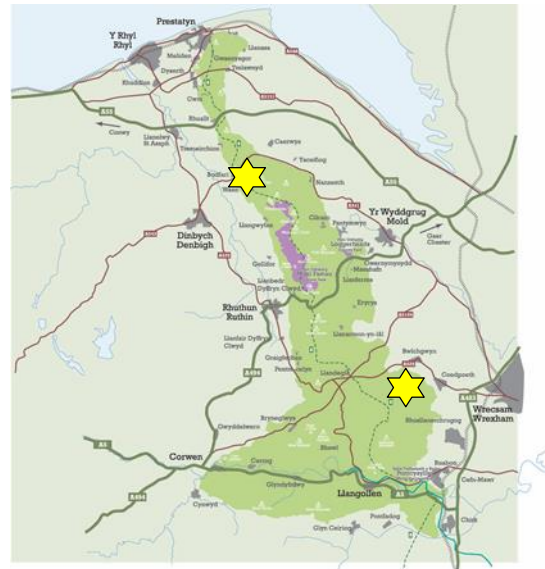
Funding was provided for on the ground delivery of woodland activities for people, who would not otherwise access these. Funds will be required for short term salaries of the project coordinator and activity leaders, equipment and tools for activities, transport, refreshments and further training opportunities to build the capacity of leaders and partner organisations.

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Management Plan</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 37 x open walk events</li> <li>• 37 woodland gym sessions</li> <li>• 7 Flintshire sessions</li> <li>• 3 x leaders trained by Woodland Skills Centre</li> <li>• 306 hours – volunteers leading walks</li> <li>• 60 + walkers</li> </ul> <p>Funding has contributed towards;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x national jobs</li> <li>• 2 x local jobs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PoISQ1 – Conserve and enhance the Special Qualities and distinctive character of the AONBs landscape and associated features and historical built form.</li> <li>• LCQ07 – Develop Partnerships that will help to stimulate awareness of and interest in in the rich cultural dimension to communities in the AONB.</li> <li>• PolHW4 – Ensure that the natural benefits and services of the landscape are properly understood and valued.</li> <li>• PolART1 – 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</li> <li>• ODP04 – Raise awareness of the acknowledged health and well-being benefits provided by the AONB and develop initiatives promoting physical activities particularly walking and cycling.</li> <li>• ODP05 – Understand and work towards removing physical and psychological barriers to access enable all sectors of society to participate in and benefit from outdoor access and recreational opportunities.</li> <li>• PCO3 – Foster a sense of place and local pride to secure local well-being.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	
<p>People have improved physical, mental and social well-being. Local organisations and activity leaders have increased skills and capacity to run woodland activities for people. Organisations will be aware of the benefits of and opportunities for health and wellbeing activities in woodlands. Local woodland will be better accessed and improved</p>	
<b>County Split</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20% Denbighshire</li> <li>• 40% Flintshire</li> <li>• 40% Wrexham</li> </ul>	

## CRDV16 – Woodland Skills Centre

<b>Applicant</b>	–	Warren Woods Ltd
<b>SDF</b>	–	£4,000 (11% of total £37,000)
<b>Match funding</b>	–	WS £20,000 / Private donation £4,000 / NRW £5,000 / Volunteer time input £4,000

The Woodland Skills is a community interest company based in Bodfari providing outdoor education learning. Due to the growth in demand for the programmes they offer, an additional meeting room was required to deal with the occasions when they have more than one group attending that need separate spaces for safeguarding reasons.



The new building is in the same design as the Centre built in 2013 but just over half its size. It has timber frame, timber cladding, sheep's wool insulation, lime plaster. All the timber was sourced from local woodlands and all the other materials sourced from local suppliers. The building is heated by a wood burner with electricity from the PV roof on the existing building. It is anticipated that the new building will be EPC Band A, as is the existing building.

The building was constructed over a series of courses for people interested in sustainable buildings and also involved all the centre user groups, including;

- Community Support (adults with multiple complex difficulties) – 11,
- home education groups – 3-8,
- special needs pupils 6-8,
- pupil inclusion – 2-4, r
- Regular volunteers – 4-6.

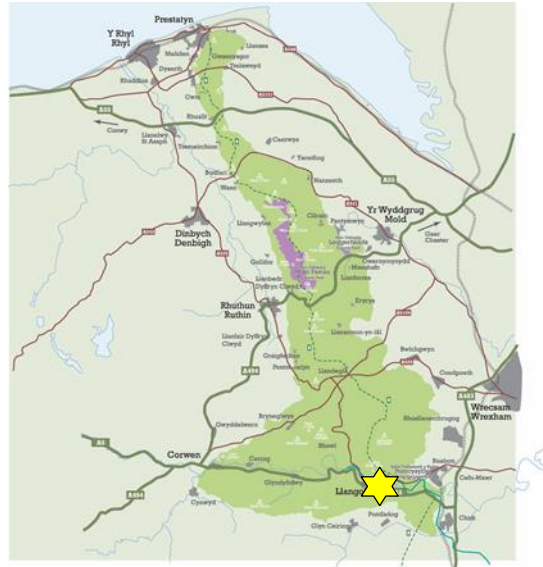




Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x formal training days</li> <li>• 1 x Awareness days</li> <li>• 50 + x People engaged</li> <li>• 10 x Volunteer opportunities</li> <li>• 3 x Contractors engaged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PolART1 – To promote the sustainable use and enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the AONB in a way that contributes to local prosperity and social inclusiveness</li> <li>• PCO3 – Foster a sense of place and local pride to secure social well-being</li> <li>• ODP04 – Raise awareness of the acknowledged health and well-being benefits provided by the AONB and develop initiatives promoting physical activities particularly walking and cycling.</li> <li>• ODP05 – Understand and work towards removing physical and psychological barriers to access enable all sectors of society to participate in and benefit from outdoor access and recreational opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	
<p>Educational groups, social care groups and health groups are benefiting from the additional space.</p>	
<b>County Split</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% Denbighshire</li> </ul>	

**CRDV 17 & 28 – Good Grub Club**

**Applicant** – Good Grub Club  
**SDF** – £5,000 (% of total £14,370)  
**Match funding** – £9,370 made up of Denbighshire County Council and RDP LEADER funds



The AONB has been working with the food and hospitality sector in the Dee Valley to establish a new business group aimed at promoting local produce. The group have brought together a wide range of local producers, suppliers and retailers in order to promote the area as leading in high quality local produce and in May launched the Llangollen and Dee Valley Good Grub Club at plas Newydd with an initial membership of over 10 businesses.

SDF Funding supported the engagement of a co-ordinator to help the group develop a brand for the Good Grub Club and produced a leaflet and a website.

They have also organised 3 training sessions for businesses, including 2 *Welsh Menu Master Classes* with Nerys Hughes and a *Getting the Most out of Your Food Festival Session*. This was following a survey of businesses to establish the key training and development needs of the group.

In just the first 12months the membership of the group has grown to over 20 businesses drawn from across the hospitality, retail and producing sectors.

The group have also had initial discussions with a number of farmers in the Dee valley to explore the possibility of locally branded lamb and other products.

The group have also established strong links with the Clwydian Range Food Trail with a view to developing joint AONB wide projects.

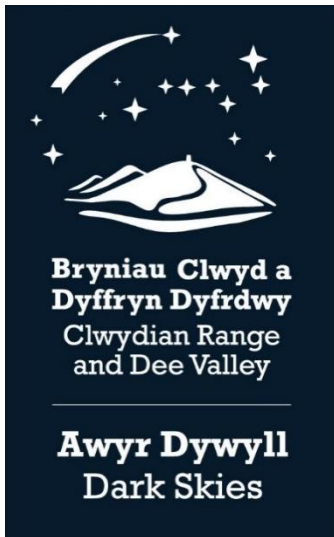
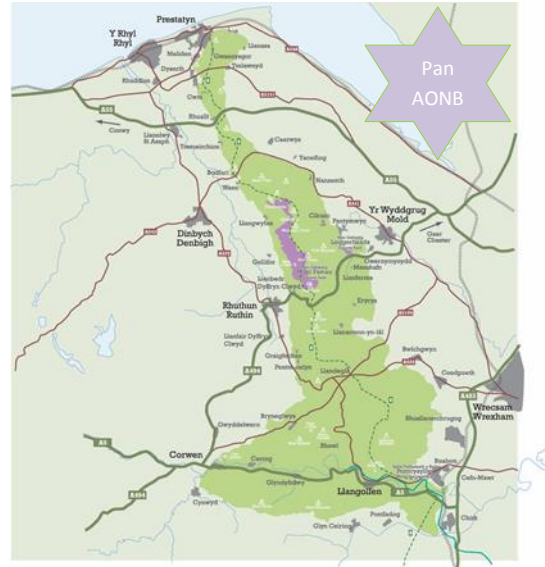


<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Management Plan</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 x Training days</li> <li>• 3 x Awareness raising sessions</li> <li>• 100 x People engaged</li> <li>• Branding and design work</li> <li>• 2 x local contractor engaged</li> <li>• 2 x Meet the Producer events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PolART1 – 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</li> <li>• PolCP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings</li> <li>• PCO3 – Foster a sense of place and local pride to secure social well-being</li> <li>• HMRO4 - Associate high quality food production with ecosystem management.</li> </ul>
<p data-bbox="193 483 751 517"><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved quality of local food products and service/hospitality related to local food</li> <li>• Developed supply chain for local food products</li> <li>• Increased the visibility of regional food to the public</li> </ul>	
<p data-bbox="193 779 751 813"><b>County Split</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% Denbighshire</li> </ul>	



## CRDV 18 – Dark Skies

<b>Applicant</b>	–	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
<b>SDF</b>	–	£3,160 (31% of total £10,160)
<b>Match funding</b>	–	£7,000 RDP LEADER funding



The aim of the project was to raise awareness of the importance of dark skies across a range of environmental and social factors and

to make an assessment of the quality of the night time skies across the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB.

The project engaged BRO and Dark Sky Wales to undertake a feasibility study to;

- Make an assessment of the quality of the night sky within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley using the IDA Guidelines
- Provide advice and guidance to communities and businesses in lighting schemes that will help to preserve the quality of the night sky whilst providing for lighting needs.
- Develop an Action Plan that will help to move the AONB towards Dark Sky designation.
- Work with AONB staff and volunteers to measure dark sky quality across the AONB.
- Engage communities and agencies to raise awareness of the importance of dark skies
- 7 events engaged communities and agencies to raise awareness of the importance of dark skies



↑ Andy Worthington, AONB Chair opening the Dark sky stakeholder event at Llangollen Pavilion in May 2017



↑ Allan Trow from Dark Sky Wales promoting the project live on BBC Radio Wales

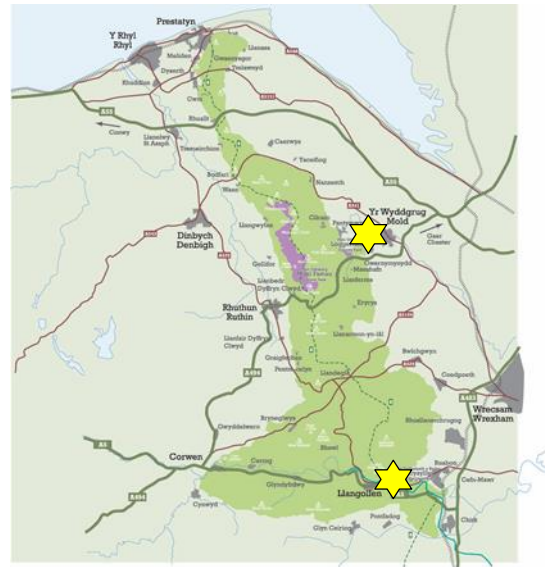


← Photographs taken from our Meteorites and Night event on Caer Drewyn Hillfort in Corwen which attracted over 50 people ↑

Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200+ people engaged</li> <li>• 1 x volunteering opportunities</li> <li>• 7 x awareness raising days</li> <li>• 1 x feasibility study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PolART1 – 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</li> <li>• PolCP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings</li> <li>• PCO3 – Foster a sense of place and local pride to secure social well-being</li> <li>• LQCO4 - Protect the tranquillity of the AONB and take steps where possible to reduce noise and light pollution.</li> </ul>
Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area’s nocturnal wildlife will benefit</li> <li>• The quality of the area’s environment will improve</li> <li>• North East Wales will have a new natural attraction for visitors to the area at quiet periods of the year</li> <li>• Potentially the economy may be improved</li> <li>• The dark sky of the AONB will be protected and enhanced for future generations</li> </ul>	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80% Denbighshire</li> <li>• 10% Flintshire</li> <li>• 10% Wrexham</li> </ul>	

## CRDV19 - 25 – Countryside Grant Scheme

- Applicant** – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
- SDF** – £4,524.75
- Match funding** – £3,000 Cash match funding from landowners



The Countryside Grant Scheme is run annually and is available to farmers for boundary restoration and conservation schemes, providing 50% funding up to a maximum of £1,000 for individual projects. The project is delivered in conjunction with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) who carry out farm visits and advise on schemes, as well as undertaking finished project inspections on behalf of the AONB. FWAG are paid consultancy fees for this work.

In 2016/17 there have been 4 schemes undertaken – two in the Dee Valley and two in the Clwydian Range.

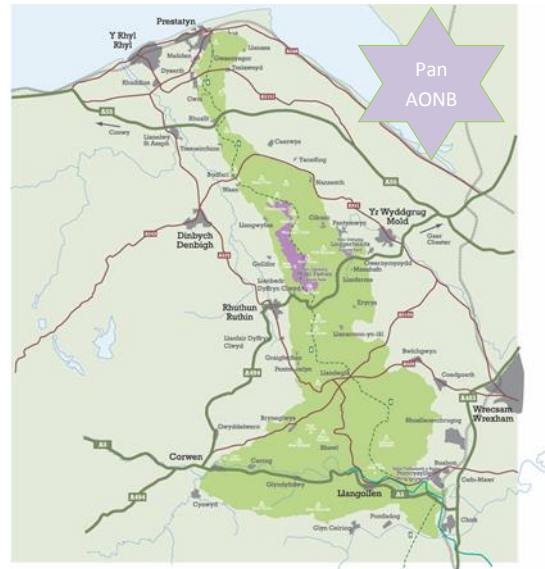
The scheme ranged from hedgerow restoration, small woodland planting and drystone walling.



Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 schemes supported</li> <li>2 x local contractor engaged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BO1 - Using SDF and other funds develop a Countryside Grant Scheme to support projects which will maintain and enhance the most important boundaries in the AONB as well as other Special Features.</li> </ul>
Outcomes	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	

## CRDV 26 – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Outreach Project

<b>Applicant</b>	–	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
<b>SDF</b>	–	£10,000 (50% of total £20,000)
<b>Match funding</b>	–	Denbighshire County Council Cash £10,000



The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley provides a wonderful resource for people of all ability to get active within the great outdoors. The aim of this project was to extend that benefit, already realised by many, to people with particular health or social need.

The project programme included three main areas of work that complemented the current Let's Walk programme:

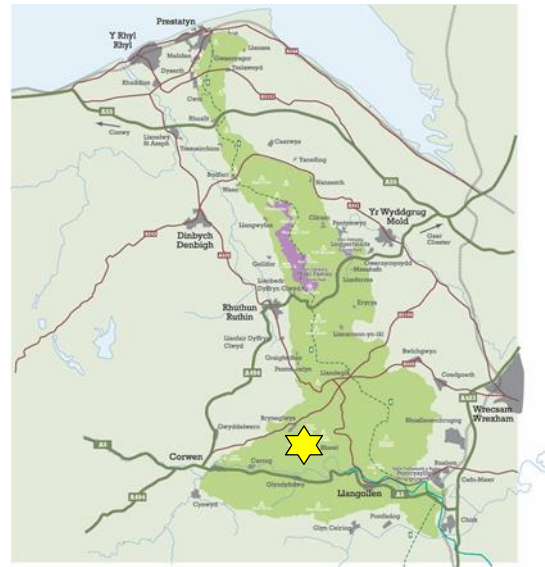
- 1) Outreach Visits  
Outreach events to bring people to experience the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley from hard to reach groups, these included: Visually impaired, Disabled Access Groups, NEWICS (North East Wales Carers Information Service ) and Pushy Mothers.
- 2) Training  
Leader training events within the AONB. Volunteer Walk Leader are the back bone of the programme – with over 30 already trained and leading events. This projected trained a further 10 volunteers to become walk leaders.
- 3) Promoting walking / Nordic walking and the AONB in Schools  
The project trained 6 people to deliver Nordic Walking activities in schools, followed by school visits.



<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Management Plan</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x job created/supported</li> <li>• 1 X training event</li> <li>• 10 x school awareness raising events</li> <li>• 10 x Outreach Visits to the AONB working with care groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PolART1 – 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</li> <li>• PolCP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings</li> <li>• PCO3 – Foster a sense of place and local pride to secure social well-being</li> <li>• IVC05 –Target information relating to the Countryside Code, behaviour and the impact of visitors on the conservation status of key sites.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater engagement with social care and health groups in outdoor activity.</li> <li>• Increased number of volunteers delivering an increased number of sessions.</li> <li>• Engagement with Schools in addressing health issues in young people.</li> </ul>	
<b>County Split</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% Denbighshire</li> <li>• 50% Wrexham</li> </ul>	

## CRDV 27 – Reconnecting Llantysilio Mountain

<b>Applicant</b>	–	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
<b>SDF</b>	–	£2,000 (25% of total £8,000)
<b>Match funding</b>	–	RSPB £5,000, Denbighshire CC £1,000



A range of partners have come together on Llantysilio Mountain to address the marked decline upland breeding birds. The AONB have been working with the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, RSPB, NRW and the farming community to employ a range of targeted measures specifically aimed at vulnerable populations of curlew and black grouse.

Suveys carried out in 2015 recorded 2 pairs of curlew. Black grouse number dropped from 19 leking males to 11 in 2016.

Throughout the breeding season of 2017 a trial was conducted in the control of carrion crows across the Llantysilio Mountain working with local farmers and graziers. This was aimed at improving the mortality rate of black grouse, curlew and lapwing chicks.

In addition a programme of heather burning and cutting has taken place in areas identified as key areas for black grouse and curlew. In all 30 Ha of cutting has taken place and .25ha of burning. Burning was carried out with graziers and students from Llysfasi College as a training event.

A 2017 survey recorded a total of 15 black grouse up from 11 in 2016. 5 pairs of curlew were also recorded.



The project was successful in bringing the farming community together with conservation agencies to co-ordinate management with mutual benefits. Six farmers engaged with the project along with the

RSPB, GWCT, NRW and the AONB. It has laid the foundation for future management across Llantysilio Mountain and demonstrated the some of the shared goals around stock and habitat management.

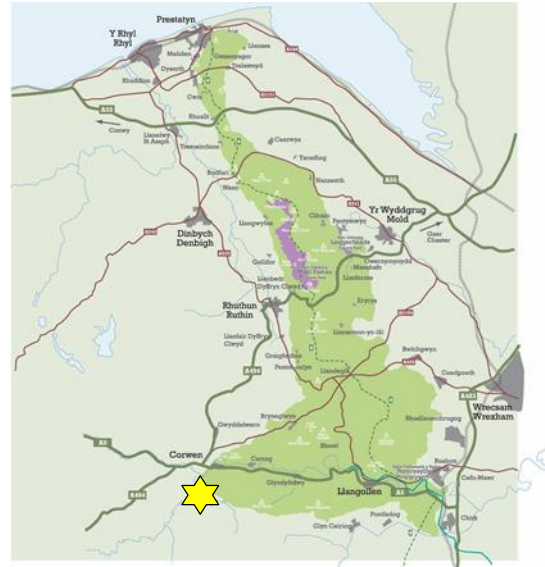
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Management Plan</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 Ha of Management</li> <li>• 6 x Graziers engaged</li> <li>• 1 x Training sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMRO3 – Continue to monitor black grouse and other upland bird species as an indicator of habitat condition</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMRO5 - Support and encourage sustainable grouse moors management where it has positive environmental and economic impacts</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better long term management of Llantysilio Mountain</li> <li>• Closer working relationship of Conservation agencies with Agricultural communities</li> </ul>	
<b>County Split</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% Denbighshire</li> </ul>	

## CRDV 29 – Rural Skills Training Project

<b>Applicant</b>	–	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
<b>SDF</b>	–	£2,000 (10% of total £20,000)
<b>Match funding</b>	–	£18,000 made up of RDP LEADER funding and NRW

This project will take place over three years.

The aim of this project is to provide an introduction to and hands on training in basic rural skills and project management at three selected sites within the AONB.



One of the sites, Pen y Pigyn in Corwen offered a variety of training opportunities ranging from amenity/recreation provision to full forestry management.

Skills development was available in on the job training, working alongside professionals, in the rural skills of dry-stone walling, hedgerow creation/regeneration, woodland pathway creation/maintenance and a range of forestry management skills.

In year one the project has given an opportunity for young people currently not in education, employment or training (NEET) and for volunteers to build up skills and work towards being job ready and for some, an opportunity to improve general health and wellbeing.

The project has also improved biodiversity and wildlife habitat as well as opened up woodland access generally. Not only has this meet local tourism needs in the area it has also benefited local communities, re-connecting people with their local woodlands.





Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 x volunteering opportunities created</li> <li>• 5 x training/awareness raising sessions</li> <li>• 15 x number of people trained / gaining a qualification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCO3 – Foster a sense of place and local pride to secure social well-being</li> <li>• BO1 - Using SDF and other funds develop a Countryside Grant Scheme to support projects which will maintain and enhance the most important boundaries in the AONB as well as other Special Features.</li> </ul>
Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People trained in traditional skills.</li> <li>• Landscape enhancement within the south of the AONB.</li> </ul>	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% Denbighshire</li> </ul>	

