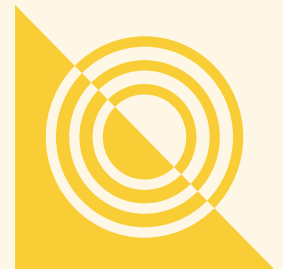
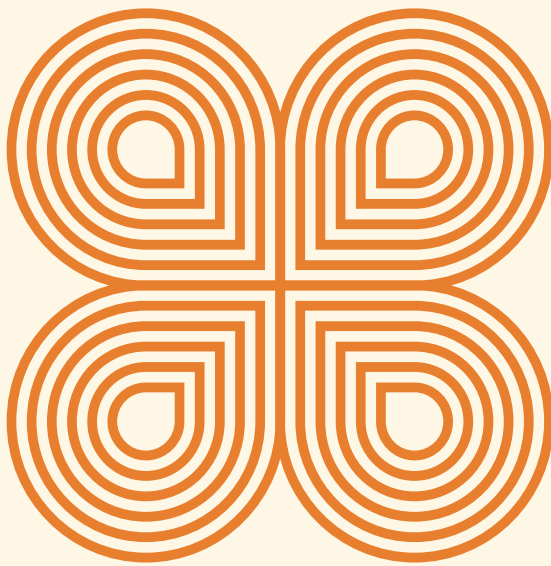
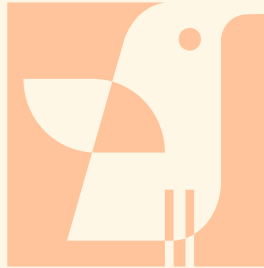




**GWYNEDD
NATURE
PARTNERSHIP**



NATURE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

JUNE 2026

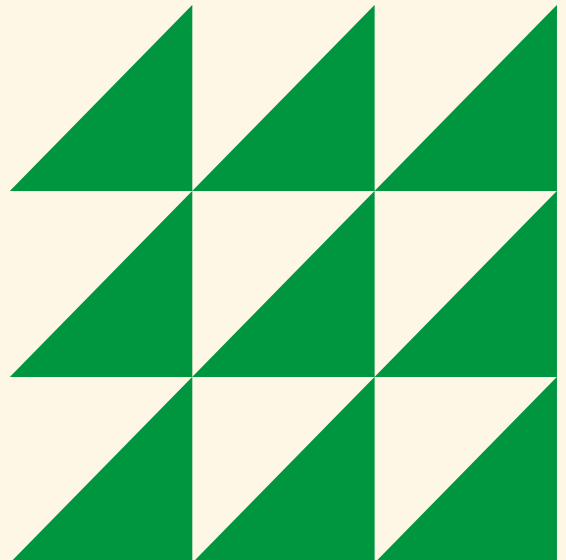


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TERMINOLOGY

GWYNEDD NATURE PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership that leads on environmental work in Gwynedd (Cyngor Gwynedd provide secretariat for the partnership).

NATURE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN (NRAP)

Plan to encourage dialogue and identify opportunities that can be delivered to improve biodiversity and ecosystems.

RESILIENCE

Refers to an ecosystem's stability and capability of tolerating disturbance and restoring itself.

DECCA

Method to measure ecosystem resilience. Diversity, Extent, Condition, Connectivity, Adaptability

FOREWORD

The Nature and Environmental crisis is something we hear about constantly. Examples of more extreme weather... the hot, dry summers and the mild, wet winters that we are experiencing more regularly now show that our world is slowly warming, and slowly impacting on our way of life.

The exceptional natural beauty of the area in which we live can enrich our lives both physically and mentally. At the same time, we need to realise that we all have a duty to protect and value the special environment of Gwynedd and to try to halt and reverse the decline that is taking place around us.

It is a pleasure to see that a large number of agencies have come together to develop this plan, which recognises different ways of improving and restoring the natural world in Gwynedd by prioritising biodiversity when making decisions relating to the economy, the environment and the community across the county.

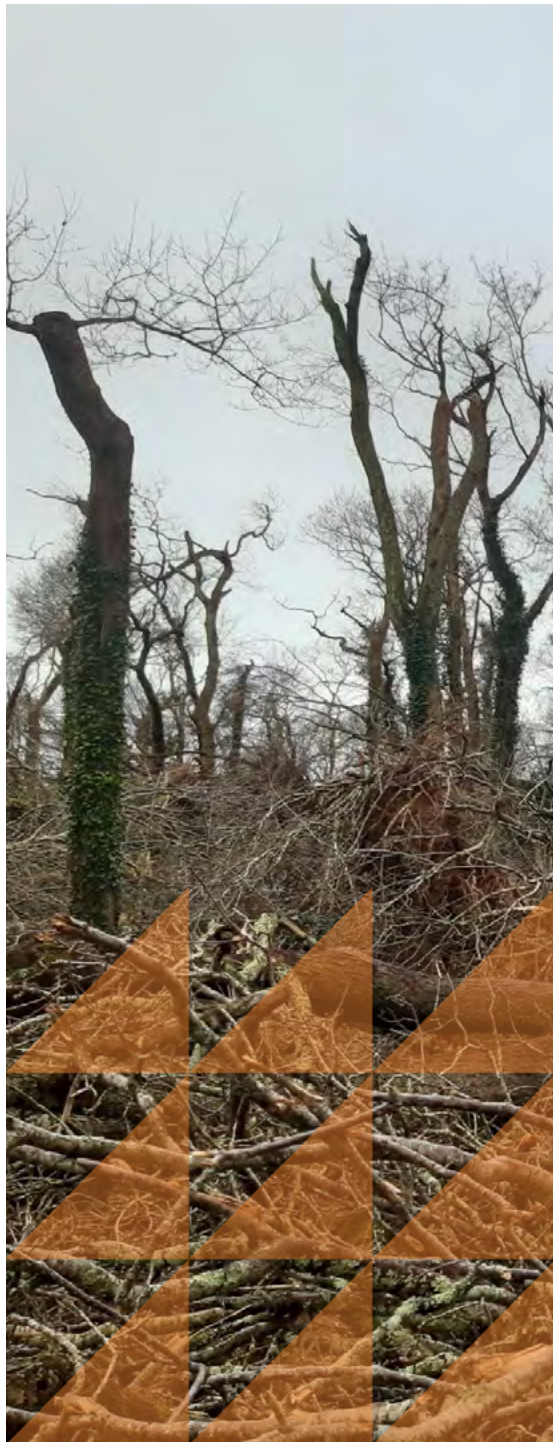
As individuals, we need to work at a local level to protect the habitat of “our square mile”, but also be willing to work collaboratively with groups and organisations operating across Gwynedd’s communities and landscapes to make a real difference. By committing to these values, we will be able to nurture and establish the necessary resilience across the county to respond to the environmental and natural challenges we face.

**Councillor Craig ap Iago – Environment
Portfolio Holder, Gwynedd Council**

This Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) is for Gwynedd as defined by the unitary authority’s boundary. It includes Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a designated place of special beauty and one of only five in the whole of Wales. We’ll refer to this area as the ‘Llŷn AONB’ from this point onwards.



WE ARE IN A NATURE EMERGENCY



In recognition of the ecological crisis, the Senedd declared a National Nature Emergency in 2021 and Cyngor Gwynedd very quickly followed in declaring that the biodiversity and habitats of Gwynedd too was facing the same challenges.

The Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales published in 2015 and refreshed in 2020 is the national biodiversity strategy which aims to address the recognised biodiversity crisis on a national level where it sets out six key objectives and five overarching themes of action to direct nature recovery action.

To address the nature emergency in Gwynedd, the Gwynedd Local Nature Partnership have produced a Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) to specifically address the nature emergency here in Gwynedd.

It sets out local priorities in the form of ‘action themes’ (aligned with the six objectives of the NRAP for Wales) to address the decline of nature and achieve nature recovery in Gwynedd. Partners will use these actions and themes to guide their future work within Gwynedd, and their progress will be recorded annually in conjunction with Cofnod - the Local Environmental Records Centre for North Wales

This document will act as a mechanism to guide and inspire everyone in Gwynedd in reversing previous biodiversity trends, whether you work in nature conservation or not.

WHAT IS THE GWYNEDD NATURE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN?



Our Nature Recovery Action Plan, which we’ll refer to as NRAP from here onwards, is a compiled strategy and plan towards restoring nature in Gwynedd. Our NRAP acknowledges:

- the valued contributions, feedback and responses made by various stakeholders.
- National and Regional policies and plans along with local data on habitats, species and ecosystem resilience in Gwynedd.
- The NRAP outlined in this document should be looked upon as a collaborative tool to provide for, and work with local communities, statutory bodies and other organisations, to help increase dialogue to shape and deliver action for biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Regional knowledge and recognition of priorities set out in NRW North-West Wales Area Statement / Marine Statement and is incorporated into the work of the Nature Partnership and its project outcomes. The themes from the NRW North West Wales Area Statement supports the actions outlined in this document and forms the basis of positive actions moving forward.
- National Governance e.g Well Being and Future Generation (Wales Act) 2015, Environment Act Wales 2016 and Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Act 2026.

GWYNEDD NATURE PARTNERSHIP

The Gwynedd Nature Partnership was established in 2000 as a group of representatives from relevant public authorities, voluntary organisations, third sector organisations, landowners and individuals who are involved in nature conservation in Gwynedd.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership includes statutory and voluntary bodies, educational establishments, charities, farming unions, and individuals who are passionate about the environment in Gwynedd.

WHERE DOES THE NRAP COVER?

Gwynedd is a land of many breathtaking scenery, from its highest peaks to its largest lakes, steeped in heritage and culture and a wonderful place to live. Located in the northwestern corner of mainland Wales, it's home to diverse and unique natural habitats.

The area contains significant designated landscapes, including an AONB and a National Park. This NRAP covers the area of Gwynedd **outside** of Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri and includes the Llŷn AONB. It also extends out to sea, to include important areas for marine and coastal wildlife that Cyngor Gwynedd is jointly responsible for managing.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

This NRAP is a working document for anybody who has an interest in recovering nature in Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB. It can be used and referred to by anyone interested in protecting and improving the natural environment. This document aims to bring a more collaborative and strategic methodology in conserving, enhancing and protecting our landscape, by drawing on the skills and knowledge of partners and stakeholders, ensuring that everyone involved has the opportunity in contributing to a bigger, healthier and better connected Gwynedd landscape.

The NRAP aims to continue engaging with the wide range of partner organisations represented in Gwynedd Nature Partnership, from individual residents and community groups to county and community councils, voluntary organisations, and businesses operating in Gwynedd to inspire projects and guide conservation efforts to achieve positive environmental and wellbeing outcomes.



WHY DO WE NEED A NATURE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN?



Based on a collaborative approach, this NRAP is our local / regional response to the global call for action on nature recovery.

This NRAP for Gwynedd and Llŷn AONB is a statutory document that replaces ‘Natur Gwynedd’ - the original Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Gwynedd. It has also been developed in conjunction and to complement the Management Plan that is already in place for the Llŷn AONB.

The partnership who has worked on creating NRAP has ensured it aligns with Cyngor Gwynedd’s plans and Welsh Government legislation, policies, and commitments to national and international targets.

It consolidates the desired outcomes for nature recovery in policy and legislation and outlines the actions that can be taken to achieve these goals in Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB.

Relevant technical information on legislation, policy, and plans can be found in part 4 of the NRAP.

NATURE IS DECLINING

The period between 1750 and 1900 was one of great change in the United Kingdom. Huge technological advances impacted on all aspects of daily life also resulting in a dramatic change in our landscapes. Due to these earlier losses some of our most valued landscapes and habitats became more associated with traditional agricultural and land management practises, for example traditional hay meadows and wildflower rich grasslands. In the 20th century further losses of these important habitats continued due to changes in those traditional practises, habitat fragmentation and an increase in urbanisation. They all have contributed to accelerating rates in the decline of nature.

Factors such as resource harvesting, major urbanisation projects, pollution and modern large-scale agricultural practises have all contributed to a global decline in nature. Unsustainable practises at sea such as overfishing and pollution have resulted in similar declines in habitat and species.

The same is true within Gwynedd where key pressures on our landscape such as invasive non-native species, pests and disease, changes in land use, exploitation of resources and pollution have resulted in a decline in nature. On a local and global level, climate change is also having a widespread and increasingly disruptive effect on both land and sea ecosystems.

For more information on the state of nature in Wales, see the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) for Wales 2020



HOW DOES THE PLAN WORK?



THERE ARE 4 PARTS TO THIS NRAP

PART 1 IS ALL ABOUT 'SETTING THE SCENE'

It provides a useful overview of the current situation in Gwynedd and explains the importance of taking action for nature. This is where you will find the framework for the nature recovery action plan.

PART 2 COVERS 'EIN MILLTIR SGWÂR' ('OUR SQUARE MILE')

Both challenges and supports all of us on what we can do to help nature recover – this section provides ideas and guidance for the residents of Gwynedd who wish to help nature in their "milltir sgwâr". It brings resources together in one convenient place to make it easy for you as individuals, groups or organisations.

PART 3 PROVIDES DETAILS ON THE AGREED 'ACTION PLAN' ITSELF

Outlines local actions and priorities agreed upon by the 'Local Nature Partnership' in Gwynedd, known as 'Gwynedd Nature Partnership' or 'GNP', to achieve nature recovery.

It goes on to address and support the objectives of the 'Nature Recovery Action Plan' for Wales by identifying key work themes and considering the challenges and opportunities in meeting them. Critically, it reflects and builds upon past and current projects and actions taken by stakeholders throughout Gwynedd to inform future work of the partnership. Lastly, it includes inspiring case studies of past and ongoing community projects across Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB to support our continuous learning from valuable past experiences.

PART 4 INCLUDES SEVERAL USEFUL APPENDICES

This is where you'll find references, technical information on legislation and policy, as well as the priority species and habitats list for Gwynedd taken from the previous 'Natur Gwynedd' local biodiversity action plan.

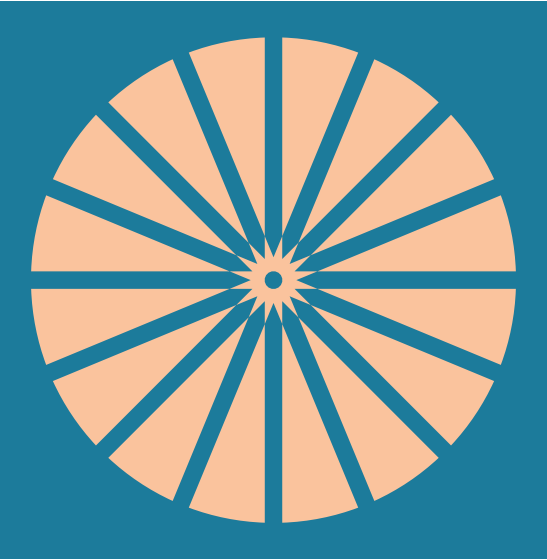
PART 1

SETTING THE SCENE

This part outlines why a NRAP is needed for Gwynedd and Llŷn AONB, and how it's crucial to take action to help nature now. It provides the framework used to create the action plan presented in part 3.

You will also find the proposed definition of “nature” used to create the NRAP, and explains its importance and recognises where we can find it, and summarises the key pressures faced by nature and its principal components.

In this part you will learn what is the core ambition of the action plan, as it outlines the mechanisms which will be implemented to achieve it in Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB and acknowledges the setting of the NRAP in relation to previous biodiversity action plans and the management plan for the Llŷn AONB.



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY 'NATURE'?

The Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) takes a broad view of nature.

Nature refers to the inherent characteristics of the physical and living environments around us in Gwynedd. It encompasses all living things from microbes and fungi to plants and animals, and also includes physical environments such as seas, rivers, mountains, weather, and seasons.

In this definition, ‘nature’ excludes humans and human-influenced concepts, focusing on life, environments, and systems that are not directly controlled or created by human activity.

Human activity can indirectly affect key components of nature such as biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

Extensive evidence on the identified pressures on nature in Wales is reported in the ‘State of Natural Resources Report’ (SoNaRR) for Wales, compiled by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), a Welsh Government sponsored body tasked with protecting and enhancing the environment. Key pressures identified in Gwynedd are summarised in a later section of this document.

It is important to note that despite addressing these issues, the overall outlook Gwynedd & Llŷn AONB’S NRAP remains positive. The focus is on the actions that can be taken to work positively for nature, identifying areas for targeted conservation efforts that will collectively improve the state of nature.



BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEMS AND OUR WELL-BEING

Our quality of life is connected to nature - our well-being as humans relies on resilient biodiversity flourishing and healthy ecosystems functioning well.

Biodiversity, short for 'biological diversity' is the foundation of healthy and well-functioning ecosystems which, in turn, create supportive environments for life to thrive. Biodiversity encompasses the variety of life on Earth, reflecting the diversity and abundance of living organisms, from microscopic bacteria to towering ancient oak trees and everything in between.

On a micro scale, biodiversity defines the genetic diversity in individuals. It also acknowledges species diversity, and on the largest end of the scale it recognises the differences between whole biomes and describes the variety of life across continents.

'Ecosystems' expands on the concept of biodiversity by considering the connections and energy transfers between living organisms, as well as the influence of the physical environment, including climate, water quality, and nutrient availability. Ecosystems encompass the intricate relationships that sustain life and in turn ensures the functioning of natural systems.

Many ecosystems provide valuable services that benefit us as people. They supply essential resources such as food, drink and building materials, regulate our environment by producing clean air and fresh water, and hold cultural, amenity, and educational values.

These services contribute to the overall well-being of us as people and communities.

A woodland is a common example of a type of natural ecosystem that can be found in Gwynedd. The visual below highlights the goods and benefits we as people gain from woodlands. The term we give to these collectively are **'Ecosystem Services'**.

BIODIVERSITY

'Biodiversity' encompasses the variety of life on Earth, reflecting the diversity and abundance of living organisms, from microscopic bacteria to towering ancient oak trees and everything in between.

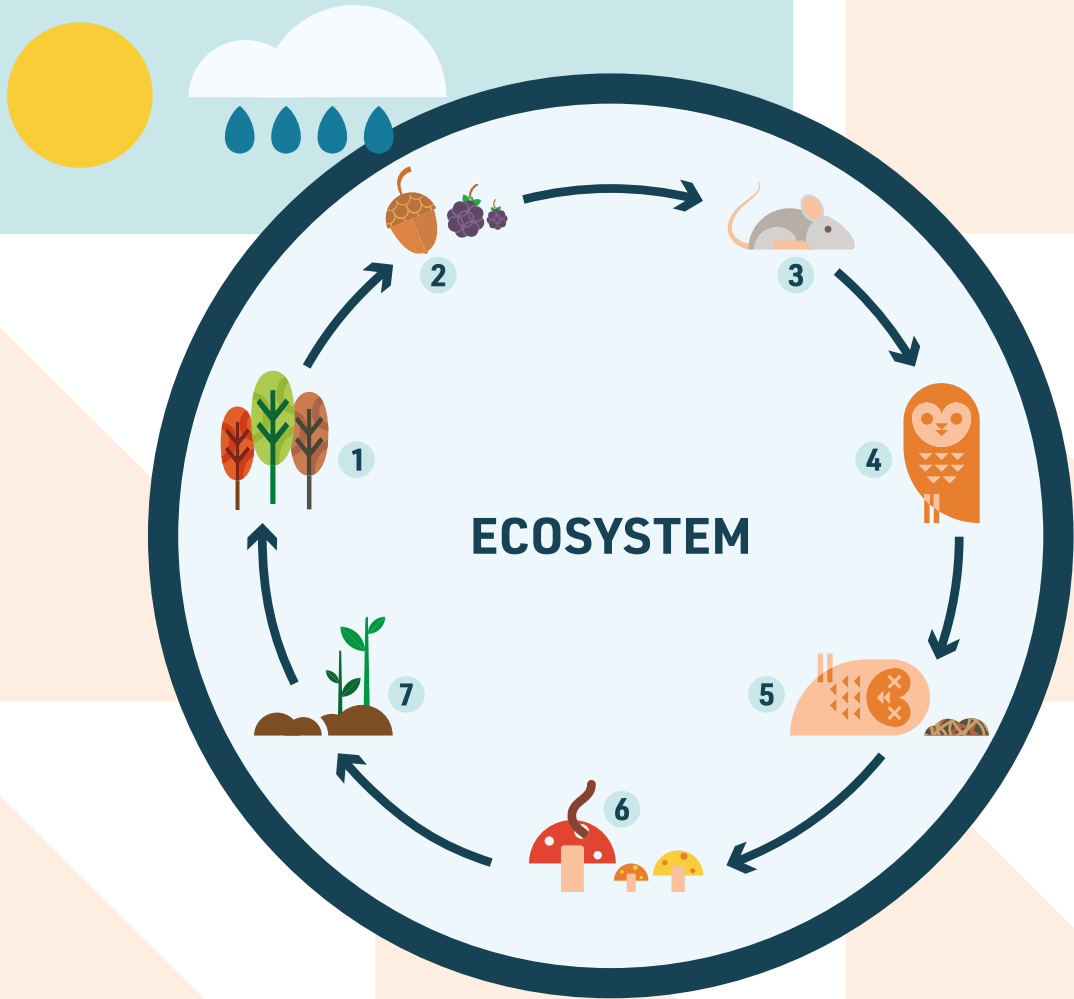
On small scales, biodiversity defines the genetic variability in individuals. On the largest, it addresses the differences between whole biomes and describes the variety of life across continents.



ECOSYSTEMS

'Ecosystems' expand the concept of biodiversity by considering the connections and energy transfers between living organisms, as well as the influence of the physical environment, including climate, water quality, and nutrient availability.

Ecosystems encompass the intricate relationships that sustain life and ensure the functioning of natural systems.



- 1

Plants grow using energy from sunlight, nutrients in the soil, and water from the rain.
- 2

Insects such as caterpillars get energy and nutrients by eating the plants' leaves.
- 3

Small mammals such as mice get energy and nutrients by eating fruits and nuts.
- 4

Predators such as owls get energy and nutrients by eating mice.
- 5

Animals die and produce organic waste.
- 6

Fungi, bacteria, and other microorganisms decompose the organic waste.
- 7

Inorganic nutrients that are released into the soil go on to support growth of plants.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Many ecosystems provide valuable services that benefit humans. They supply essential resources such as food and building materials, regulate our environment by producing clean air and fresh water, and hold cultural, amenity, and educational values. These services contribute to the overall well-being of individuals and communities.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICE	WOODLAND GOODS AND BENEFITS
PRODUCTION Wood Fruit & Nuts Game Animals	
REGULATION Clean Water Carbon Capture Noise Reduction Flood Protection	
CULTURAL Amenities Recreation Education Art & Photography	
SUPPORT Nutrients Water Cycling Soil Formation Carbon Cycling	

ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE AND DISTURBANCE

Ecosystem resilience is the ability of an ecosystem to cope with disturbance and then bounce back to a stable, productive state where it can continue to facilitate a healthy and supportive environment for life to thrive - including people's well-being.

Biodiversity plays a crucial role in ecosystem resilience. The greater the variety and abundance of species, the more organisms there are to fulfil vital functions in an ecosystem. The GNP recognises the importance of maintaining and enhancing resilient and flourishing ecosystems within our landscape along with their contributions to habitat connectivity and scale as well as the stability of abiotic (non-living) conditions.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 lists the features that contribute to ecosystem resilience. It relies on an ecosystem's capacity to adapt, resist, and recover from disturbances. This ability is influenced by factors such as diversity, the scale and extent of the ecosystem, its condition, adaptability and its connectivity to similar systems.

DECCA

DIVERSITY | EXTENT | CONDITION | CONNECTIVITY | ADAPTABILITY

Resilience relies on an ecosystem's capacity to adapt, resist, and recover from disturbances. This ability is influenced by factors such as biodiversity, the size and condition of the ecosystem, and its connectivity to similar systems.



DIVERSITY



EXTENT



CONNECTIVITY



CONDITION

THE IMPACT OF OUR ACTIVITIES

Human activities can reduce ecosystem resilience through disturbance. In this context, disturbance could be by reducing connectivity, condition, scale, or extent of ecosystems through adapting or clearing land for human development such as modern farming methods, recreational activities and construction.

Disturbances like these can lead to changes to chemical and physical conditions within existing ecosystems such as nutrient run-off, resulting over time in habitat and environment loss. Subsequently over a long period, these negative actions on our current ecosystems can and will contribute to factors connected to wider environmental concerns, such as climate change.

More direct biodiversity decline can be caused through hunting and harvesting species, and through management control or elimination via modern monoculture farming practises and use of pesticides.

Biodiversity decline can also be indirect. As biodiversity is an intrinsic part of an ecosystem, the forms of ecosystem disturbance mentioned so far can also contribute to biodiversity decline.

Human activities have already diminished and continue to test the resilience of ecosystems throughout Gwynedd. If ecosystem resilience is excessively reduced ecosystems may struggle to adapt, resist, and recover from further human and natural disturbances. Ecosystems with low resilience are at risk of collapsing into less productive states, compromising their ability to provide essential ecosystem services we all need to thrive.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has developed a framework for evaluating ecosystem resilience based on five attributes and properties specified in the Environment (Wales) Act. This is referred to as DECCA: Diversity, Extent, Condition, Connectivity and Adaptability of ecosystem resilience.



UNDERSTANDING ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE

To understand the concept of ecosystem resilience, let's consider the way we live our lives.

Imagine biodiversity is represented by workers on a house-building project, which symbolises an ecosystem. Each worker has a distinct role to fulfil on the site, with different skills and trades such as the architect, bricklayer, machine operators... The fewer workers there are on site, and the fewer types of tradespeople available, the more challenging it becomes to complete the project.

If too many workers are removed from the project, the entire job may be put on hold or never be finished. Similar problems occur within ecosystems that can no longer function when significant biodiversity loss occurs.

For the workers to effectively perform their jobs, they require connectivity infrastructure to travel from their homes to the project site, such as roads and footpaths. This can be compared to nature networks like wildflower verges, hedgerows, and streams connecting ecosystems together.

They also need comfortable living conditions that are spacious enough, maintain stable temperatures without extreme heat or cold, and provided with clean water and food. These examples mirror the other factors of ecosystem resilience such as scale and extent, and the stability and standard of conditions within them.

If these factors are compromised (such as roads being permanently closed or people falling ill from unclean water), the workers may be unable to reach the project site and carry out their work. Likewise, ecosystems struggle to function when excessive disturbances occur to the aspects of ecosystem resilience.





IDENTIFYING PRESSURES ON GWYNEDD'S BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Ecosystems in Gwynedd, in Wales, and around the world are facing significant pressures that can push them towards less productive states. Ecosystems underpin our well-being and support happy, healthy lives.

In June 2021 this was recognised by the Senedd in Cardiff, with it declaring a Nature Emergency due to the rapidly declining state of nature in Wales.

In this section of the NRAP, some notable pressures on ecosystems in Gwynedd are identified, which impact resilience and biodiversity. Understanding and addressing these pressures are crucial for conserving and restoring the biodiversity and ecological resilience of Gwynedd's ecosystems, and for identifying what actions need to be taken and prioritised.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Human activity during and since the industrial revolution in the mid-18th century has led to an increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Higher concentrations of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide contribute to increasing average global temperatures and intensifying the variability and severity of weather across the world.

Consequently, ecosystems in Gwynedd face greater disturbance from the direct and indirect effects of climate change such as elevated carbon dioxide levels, wildfires, sea level rise, new diseases and pest stresses, and more frequent drought conditions and flash flooding.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

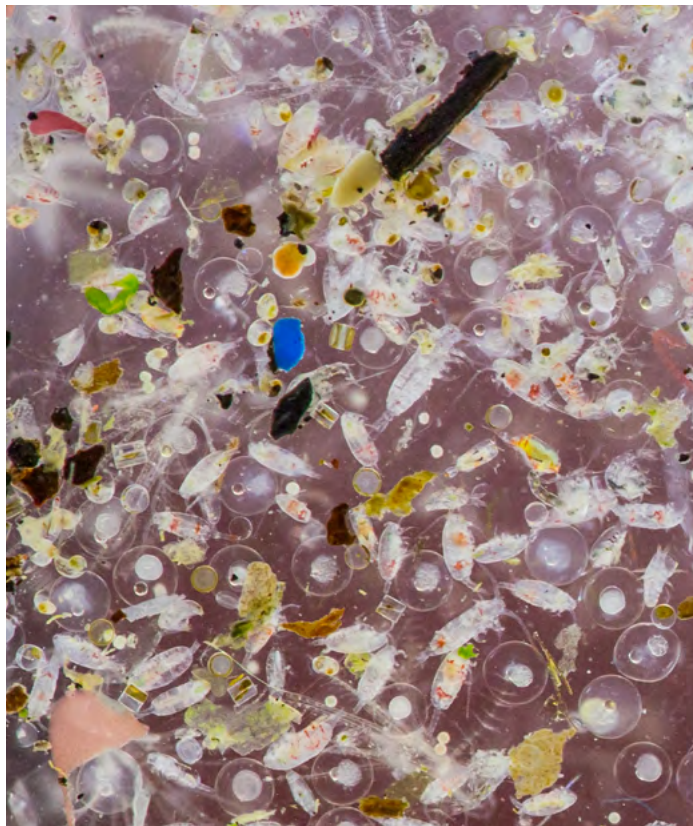
If not carefully considered with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, various forms of existing land use practice and ongoing new development including housing, commercial and industrial development, quarrying, road and utility infrastructure, agriculture, and recreational development, will lead to a decline in the value of nature by causing a direct impact on the key components of ecosystem resilience - diversity, extent, condition, adaptability and connectivity.

NUTRIFICATION

Nutrient rich run-off and sewage discharges can impact water courses in Gwynedd through eutrophication, where elevated levels of nutrients in waterways, including nitrogen and phosphorus, leads to an altered balance of aquatic plant species, algal blooms, reduced oxygen levels, and decreased biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

This can also happen on land, as nitrogen accumulates in soils from transport and industry.

The presence of excessive nitrogen negatively affects the growth of many wildflowers, lichens, and fungi that thrive in relatively nutrient-poor soils. Consequently, nitrogen-loving plants like nettles and brambles colonise these environments and dominate the space available, reducing the growth of other wildflowers.



VARIOUS TYPES OF POLLUTION

Noise and light pollution from more urbanised areas can alter the behaviour of certain animals. Bats for example can be driven away from areas with excessive light.

Studies have also shown that certain types of streetlights can disrupt insect populations, reducing ecosystem connectivity and scale.

The accumulation of plastic waste along the shoreline has also become a significant problem in Gwynedd, particularly in productive and diverse marine ecosystems such as the **'Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau'** Special Area of Conservation. This designated area extends from Nefyn on the north coast of Pen Llŷn, and includes parts of the seashore and the waters and seabed around Llŷn, and along the Meirionydd coast to Clarach in Ceredigion.

Plastic and microplastics can directly reduce biodiversity by causing harm to aquatic and marine life through entering the food chain or causing entanglement.



TOURISM

GNP recognises that tourism plays a vital role in Gwynedd's economy as one of its largest industries in terms of employment and financial contribution. However, it can put extreme seasonal pressure on local services and infrastructure, often driving the demand for further development.

High tourism or recreational activity levels in nature-sensitive areas can directly impact ecosystem extent and connectivity and indirectly contribute to air, noise, light, and plastic pollution.

Additional pressures to consider include litter and dog fouling, water sports disturbing marine mammals, traffic leading to pollution, and footpath / riverbank erosion.



INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Invasive non-native species, also referred to as **"INNS"**, are species introduced to Britain by humans and are reputed to directly reduce biodiversity from preying on or outcompeting a wide array of native species, spreading disease, and/or interfering with the genetic integrity of native species.

Examples of INNS in Gwynedd include well-known plants such as Himalayan balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Rhododendron ponticum. The fungus Hymenoscyphus fraxineus has caused the devastating 'Ash dieback' or 'Chalara' dieback disease, which has resulted in the infestation and consequent felling of many thousands of our native ash trees across Gwynedd.



ASH DIEBACK

The impact of Ash dieback on ash tree populations in Gwynedd is considered severe enough for it to be listed as causing key pressure on the area's biodiversity and ecosystems.

Chalara ash dieback originated in Asia. After its introduction to Europe approximately 30 years ago, it has disrupted British Ash tree populations by killing or weakening otherwise healthy trees.

As ash populations in Gwynedd succumb to the disease many trees have been and will continue to be felled or removed, mainly due to public safety concerns. Consequently, this situation has directly impacted habitat connectivity within existing woodlands, and also along our highways and roadside verges and more urbanised areas within the county.

There is, however, a possible silver lining. Deadwood habitat provides significant benefits to many priority and protected species in Gwynedd, such as bats, birds, and insects. If it is safe to do so, implementing managed decline and retaining mature and veteran ash trees affected by dieback can contribute to creating stronger ecosystem resilience and more biodiversity.

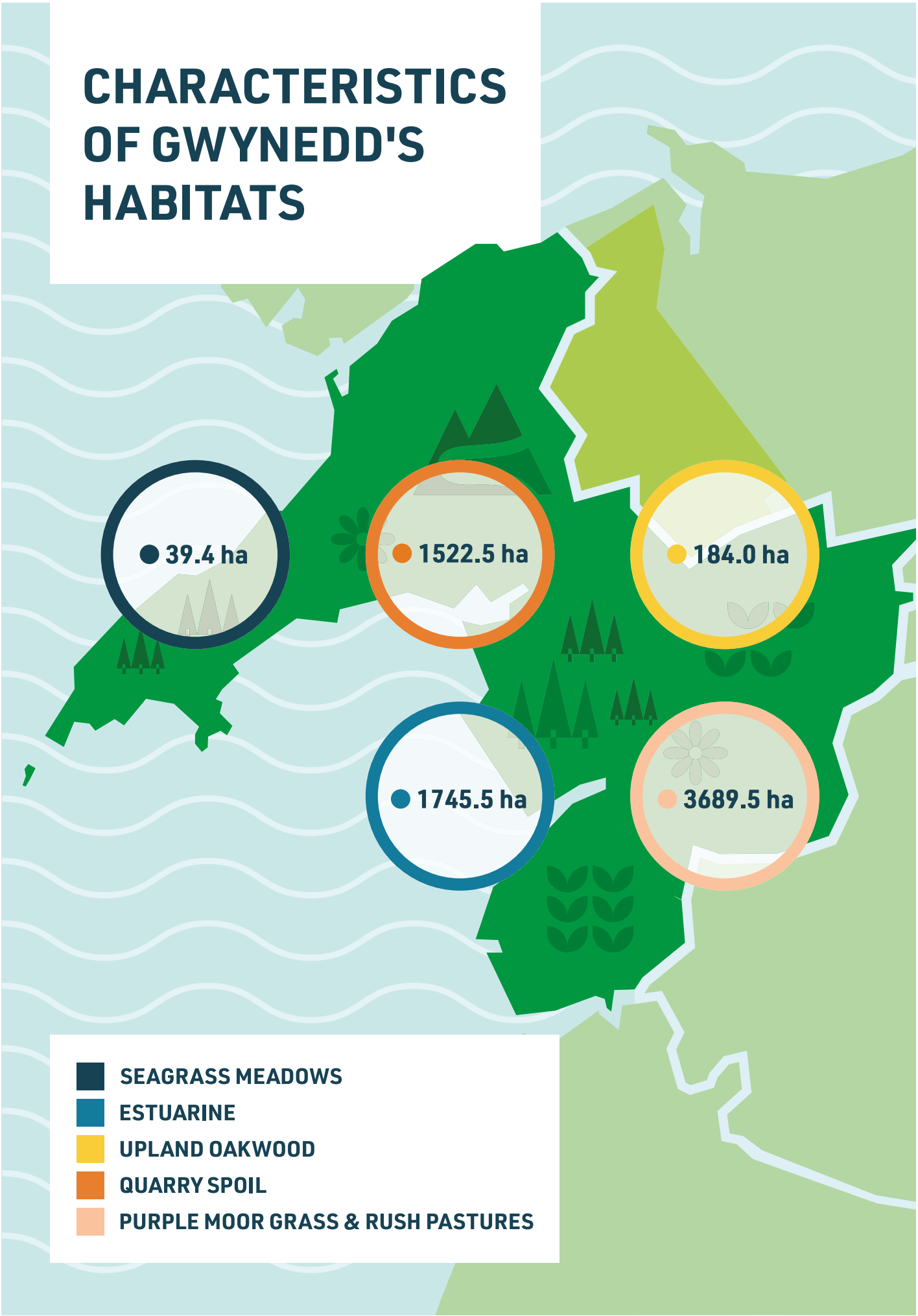
NATURE IN GWYNEDD AND THE LLŶN AONB

Nature is everywhere, from wildflowers growing between paving stones in the centre of Gwynedd's market towns, to internationally important protected coastline for rare wading birds.

All elements contribute to biodiversity and the development of robust ecological networks across the region.

WHAT DO WE HAVE?

Gwynedd and Llŷn AONB is home to many different habitat types. The infographic map shows the main types that can be found and their location and distribution.



FOCUS ON GWYNEDD

Gwynedd boasts a rich diversity of wildlife and habitats.

Its stunning coastlines feature mudflats, maritime cliffs, and slopes. The county can also boast dramatic uplands, magnificent mountain ranges, and green valleys adorned with remnant ancient 'Celtic rainforest' woodlands and wetland fens.

The extensive slate quarries, mostly disused by today, provide habitats for various species, including rare lichens, reptiles, spiders, and butterflies. Additionally, lowland acid grasslands and heath create unique upland fringe landscapes, known as 'ffridd' which are characteristic of Gwynedd.

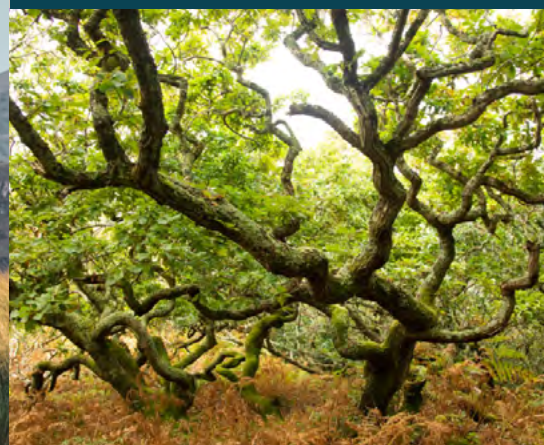
The graphic overleaf highlights a selection of habitats and species characteristic of Gwynedd.



CHARACTERISTIC HABITATS OF GWYNEDD



UPLAND OAKWOOD



Upland Oakwoods are characterised by the predominance of oaks, generally sessile oak *Quercus petraea* and grade into upland mixed woods on more base-rich soils or flushed acidic soils and to wet woodland with alder *Alnus glutinosa* on wetter soils in valley bottoms.

Gwynedd is regarded as holding some of the greatest concentrations of upland oak woodlands in the UK. It is uncertain whether this rare habitat is declining in Gwynedd, although it is likely that in recent years any decline has been halted because of the implementation of management to conserve and expand this habitat, mainly through past and present agri-environment schemes.

MOORLAND



Known locally as rhos, this purple moor-grass and rush pasture can be found at a range of altitudes, but it is within the lowlands of Gwynedd where these pastures are of particular importance for biodiversity. Many pockets of this kind of habitat appear to remain throughout Gwynedd, with the concentration of larger areas of the habitat found in parts of Arfon, particularly at the foot of the uplands such as Cors Gyfelog National Nature Reserve and central and eastern Llyn that includes Cors Geirch National Nature Reserve.

ESTUARINE



Sedimentary, intertidal habitats created by deposition in low energy coastal environments are notable habitats around the coastline of Gwynedd. Significant areas of mudflats include Treath Lafan at Bangor Flats, Y Foryd in Caernarfon, Pwllheli harbour and the estuaries of the Mawddach, Glaslyn and Dwyryd, along with significant areas within the Menai Strait.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES OF GWYNEDD

LESSER HORSESHOE BAT



One of only two horseshoe bat species in the UK, the lesser horseshoe bat is one of our smallest bats. Unlike other bat species, they have lost the ability to crawl well, resulting in their need to be able to fly directly into their roosts. The Glynllifon Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is designated primarily for its population of lesser horseshoe bats, both as maternity and hibernation site. The upland oak woodlands of Gwynedd also include most of the lesser horseshoe bat known maternity roosts in Gwynedd. By retaining the structure and integrity of our old buildings and barns, encouraging insect rich feeding habitats especially linear features such as hedgerows, Gwynedd can continue to be one of the last strongholds of this little plumb sized bats in Wales.

MARSH FRITILLARY



Wales provides one of the last European strongholds for the marsh fritillary butterfly and are a primary reason for the selection of the Corsydd Eifionydd SAC which supports the most significant populations of this endangered butterfly in North Wales. Loss of suitable habitat as a result of improvements in pasture, land drainage and changes in stock grazing practises, especially where cattle or mixed grazing systems have been replaced by sheep have led to a significant decline in this butterfly's numbers as they are dependent on a range of unimproved areas of grassland and rhosydd.

ARTIC CHARR



A relict species from the last glacial period, Llyn Padarn in Llanberis is one of only five lakes within Gwynedd and Eryri that are known to support Arctic Char. Llyn Padarn is one of only three remaining natural locations in Wales for this species. Llyn Padarn is a SSSI and lies within the Padarn Country Park which is managed by Cyngor Gwynedd. Continued awareness raising amongst anglers and other recreational users of the lake along with regular monitoring of the water quality in relation to eutrophication will hopefully safeguard this unique Gwynedd species for future generations.

FOCUS ON LLŶN AONB

In 1957 a significant part of the Llŷn Peninsula was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This recognised landscape covering 15,500 hectares of land includes 22 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Most of the AONB coastline is also within the Pen Llŷn and Sarnau Special Area of Conservation. It is also known for its diverse coastline, prominent headlands of heathland habitats, narrow lanes and distinctive traditional field boundaries known locally as “cloddiau”. Coastal grasslands and heathlands are defining elements of the Llŷn landscape, with extensive areas of coastal heathland that are uncommon in Wales.

These sites are crucial for several species, including the chough, the rarest species of breeding crow in Britain. The grasslands and heathlands intertwine with coastal cliffs and disused quarries, providing essential resources for feeding and breeding chough.

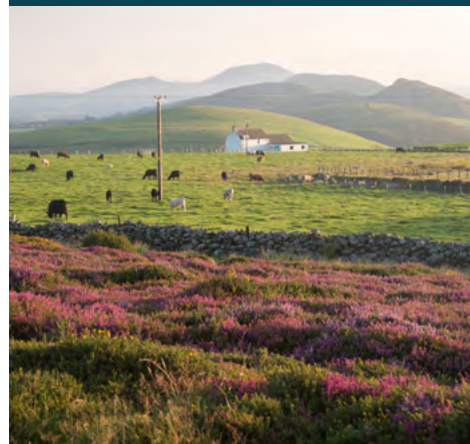
The graphic highlights a selection of habitats and species characteristic of Llŷn AONB.



CHARACTERISTIC HABITATS OF LLŶN AONB

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES OF LLŶN AONB

CLODDIAU



a recognised type of boundary particularly characteristic of the Llŷn AONB. Cloddiau are raised earth banks, usually stone faced, with possibly a hedge planted on top. They are unusual in their orientation of stones within the stone facing, which are usually placed with their largest side running vertically. They are therefore of significant land importance and ecological value and frequently support a range of bankside and hedgerow flora, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals. Once again, Agri-environmental schemes have helped to encourage favourable management and enhancement of existing cloddiau and establish new cloddiau in Gwynedd.

MARITIME CLIFFS



Gwynedd (including the Eryri National Park) has over 100km of coastline with maritime cliff and slope habitat. Significant stretches of hard rock cliffs are noted to dominate the coastline with major exposure of soft cliffs comprising of boulder clay and other superficial deposits. Much of the Llŷn AONB coast and sea cliff vegetation is of national importance, where heathland found on acidic soils are particularly important for priority invertebrate species such as the Large Mason Bee (*Osmia xanthomelana*).

SEAGRASS MEADOWS



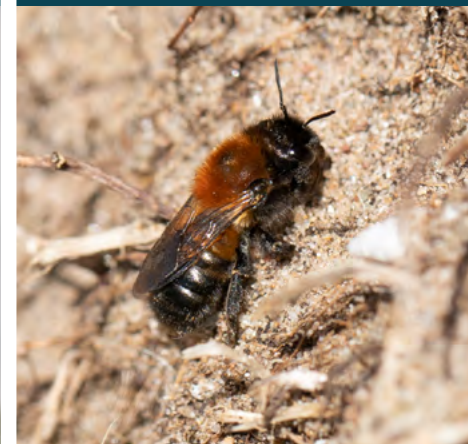
Off the coast of Porthdinllaen near Nefyn the seagrass bed covers an area the size of 46 football pitches and is one of the most important and densest seagrass beds in north west Wales. Due to its sheltered location from north-easterly winds, Porthdinllaen is in the perfect place for seagrass to grow. Seeds are collected from this donor site and relocated in various other locations within the Pen Llŷn and Sarnau SAC with local communities playing an important role in the seagrass meadow restoration.

CHOUGH



The coastline and mountains of Gwynedd have been a haven for this bird. The inland breeding population is scattered throughout the mountains and have utilised the many quarries and associated buildings and disused mine workings that are to be found there. The coastal population, particularly around the Llŷn AONB have again benefited for recent Agri-environmental schemes where improvements in foraging and grazing practises have encouraged a tight sward height and an increase in dung invertebrates through grazing.

LARGE MASON BEE



The large mason bee remains one of our rarest species. In the UK, it is currently found only in two locations within the Llŷn AONB. Its habitat is found around eroded cliffs of softer rocks such as clay and glacial deposits amongst landslips and semi-natural and unimproved grassland where its food plant bird foot trefoil occurs. A suitable habitat will also have a supply of freshwater from seepages which is needed for this special bee to construct its cells for breeding. With the probability of severe winter weather expected to increase, habitat of this very rare bee is now under threat from increased erosion and sudden landslips caused by run off from heavy rain.

PEN LLŶN A'R SARNAU SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

The Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is one of the largest marine designations in the UK with a wealth of marine habitats. It supports a wide range of species and ecosystems, some of which are unique to the coast of Gwynedd and Wales.

A designated officer hosted by Cyngor Gwynedd, and key partner of the Gwynedd Local Nature Partnership, works to protect and enhance this offshore reserve.

The significant work undertaken on the designation is recognised by this NRAP and the plan outlined in part 3 will support and enhance the on-going efforts in 'Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau' SAC.

Let us take a quick dive to the underwater world of 'Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau' SAC – switch on your imagination and let go for a journey!

Within a short distance you could pass by rocky shores covered in limpets, hermit crabs and gobies before swimming over a sandy seabed alive with flatfish, dragonet fish and sea mice. You could peek into dark sea caves, with walls carpeted in anemones and baked bean sea squirts. You might even see a conger eel peeping out, or a grey seal having a rest!

You could decide to venture through the deep open water to find 10m long basking sharks sieving plankton with their huge mouths, and dolphins and porpoises leaping above the waves.

Further on, bubbling reefs make the water fizz with gas bubbles, whilst on the rocky Sarnau reefs you may gaze at baby bass and mullet in the creeks and channels of the coastal estuaries.

It's because of all the varied and unusual underwater landscapes, the different types of seabed habitats, and the amazing animals and plants that live here, 'Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau' is protected as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

More information about 'Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau' SAC can be found on-line at

www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk



WHERE AND WHAT SHOULD WE PRIORITISE?

With nature found in numerous locations and forms, it is challenging to identify specific areas to focus conservation efforts.

Specific species and habitats considered ‘priority’ components of biodiversity in Wales are defined in Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 - with added revisions in Environment Act 2026.

Gwynedd accounts for a high percentage of protected areas for nature in Wales. These include Sites of Special Scientific Interest or SSSIs, ‘Special Areas of Conservation’ or SACs, Special Protected Areas ‘or SPAs, National Nature Reserves or NNRs, ‘Ramsar Sites’ which are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar convention, as well as ‘Local Nature Reserves’ or LNRs.

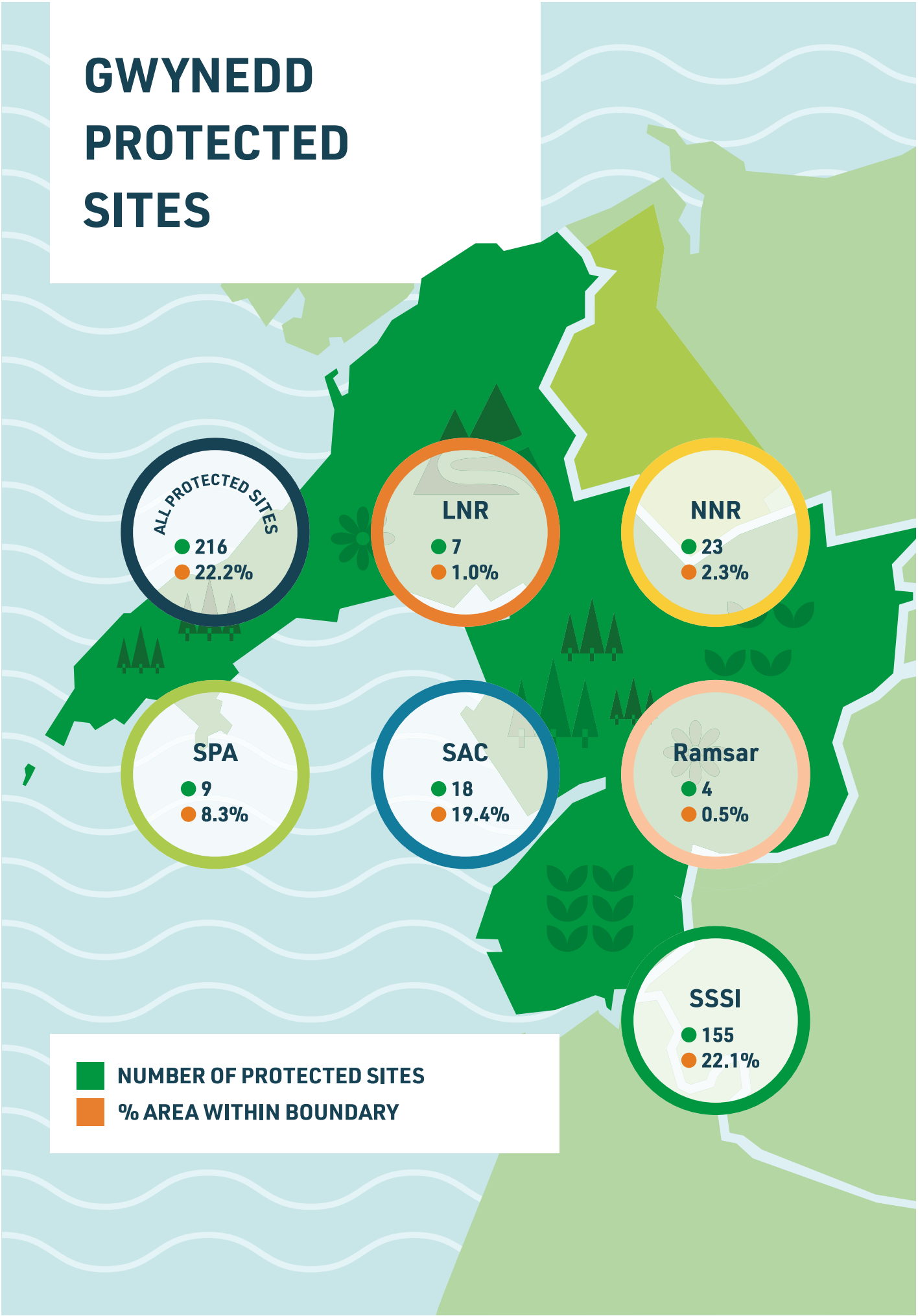
As part of the Welsh Government’s commitment to UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 and 15 - life below water and life on land - the target has been set to effectively protect 30% of our land and sea for nature by 2030.

Protected areas are biodiversity hotspots, and the NRAP’s efforts will be most effective when considering these areas and enhancing ecosystem resilience within and around them.

This is why the actions identified in this NRAP will predominantly focus on these protected areas of Gwynedd and Llŷn AONB.

DESIGNATIONS

- LNR** - Local Nature Reserve
- NNR** - National Nature Reserve
- SPA** - Special Protection Area
- SAC** - Special Area of Conservation
- RAMSAR** - Wetland of International Importance
- SSSI** - Site of Special Scientific Interest



OUR AMBITION – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NATURE TO RECOVER IN GWYNEDD AND LLŶN AONB



Despite the challenges facing biodiversity and ecosystems, there are opportunities to enhance the state of nature in Gwynedd and the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The primary goal of this plan is to **“IMPROVE THE STATE OF NATURE IN GWYNEDD AND THE LLŶN AONB BY DEVELOPING RESILIENT ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS WHICH ARE MORE BIODIVERSE, LARGER, BETTER CONNECTED, AND IN A BETTER PHYSICAL CONDITION.”**

The key vehicles that will enable and empower various partners and stakeholders to take action to achieve this ambition is ‘Gwynedd Nature Partnership’, or ‘GNP’ for short, which is the local nature partnership for Gwynedd, and the Llŷn AONB’s ‘Joint Advisory Committee’ or ‘JAC’ for short.



GWYNEDD NATURE PARTNERSHIP

‘GRASPING THE OPPORTUNITY TOGETHER’

Gwynedd Nature Partnership was established under the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, titled ‘Natur Gwynedd’ in the early 2000s.

GNP brings together stakeholders from environmental groups, businesses, communities, and public bodies to collaborate on projects that promote nature’s health and well-being in Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB. It is coordinated by a designated officer in the Biodiversity Unit at Cyngor Gwynedd.

Through partnerships with organisations from different sectors, the desired outcomes noted in this NRAP can be more easily achieved by pooling resources and knowledge. Collaboration will also increase and enhance awareness of the action plan.

GNP stakeholders and partners and the Llŷn AONB Advisory Committee contributed to the development of this NRAP, through informing of the targeted actions that are to be prioritised, which are elaborated in part 3 of this document.



BUILDING ON PREVIOUS WORK TO MOVE FORWARD

Having identified the previous relevant work undertaken in Gwynedd and Llŷn AONB, our NRAP aims to build on foundations already put in place.

This NRAP for Gwynedd that includes the Llŷn AONB will embrace, enhance and evolve existing interventions and identify new ways to further support nature that will align with local, national and international strategic priorities.

NATUR GWYNEDD

This NRAP replaces the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Gwynedd, named 'Natur Gwynedd', which was launched in 2000.

'Natur Gwynedd' comprised of action plans for individual habitats and species. These plans were initially driven by the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity, also referred to as 'CBD', which aimed to conserve biodiversity, promote sustainable use of its components, and ensure equitable sharing of genetic resource benefits.

The Natur Gwynedd document, its wide-ranging content and action plans are still very much relevant today. It remains a valuable source of information for specific species and habitats covered by projects driven by this NRAP.

This new Nature Recovery Action Plan for Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB builds on these past efforts but incorporates new and more relevant actions based on current circumstances and legislation, including international, national, and local priorities.

THE LLŷN AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

The management plan for the Llŷn AONB includes an action programme that outlines necessary tasks and methodologies. This NRAP will complement these aims, particularly those related to wildlife and habitats, and will bring new partners to contribute to their delivery.

As a live document that will be regularly reviewed, this NRAP will respond to changing circumstances, enabling the inclusion of additional actions in response to new policies, legislation, funding opportunities, or emerging threats and challenges within the AONB.

DEVELOPING AND USING THIS NRAP

The Biodiversity Service of Cyngor Gwynedd undertook the preparation of this NRAP in consultation with Gwynedd Nature Partnership. Discussions between the council and GNP helped identify the key priorities for nature recovery action, as outlined further in part 3.

This NRAP will be managed as a dynamic document. It will undergo continual review, allowing for the addition or removal of actions in response to updates in local species and habitat information, advice, resource availability, policy changes, legislation, and funding.

A full and comprehensive review of this NRAP will be conducted ten years after its publication.

To monitor progress, GNP and the Llŷn AONB JAC will compile and publish an annual update and list of projects and activities contributing to the delivery of the NRAP in Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB.

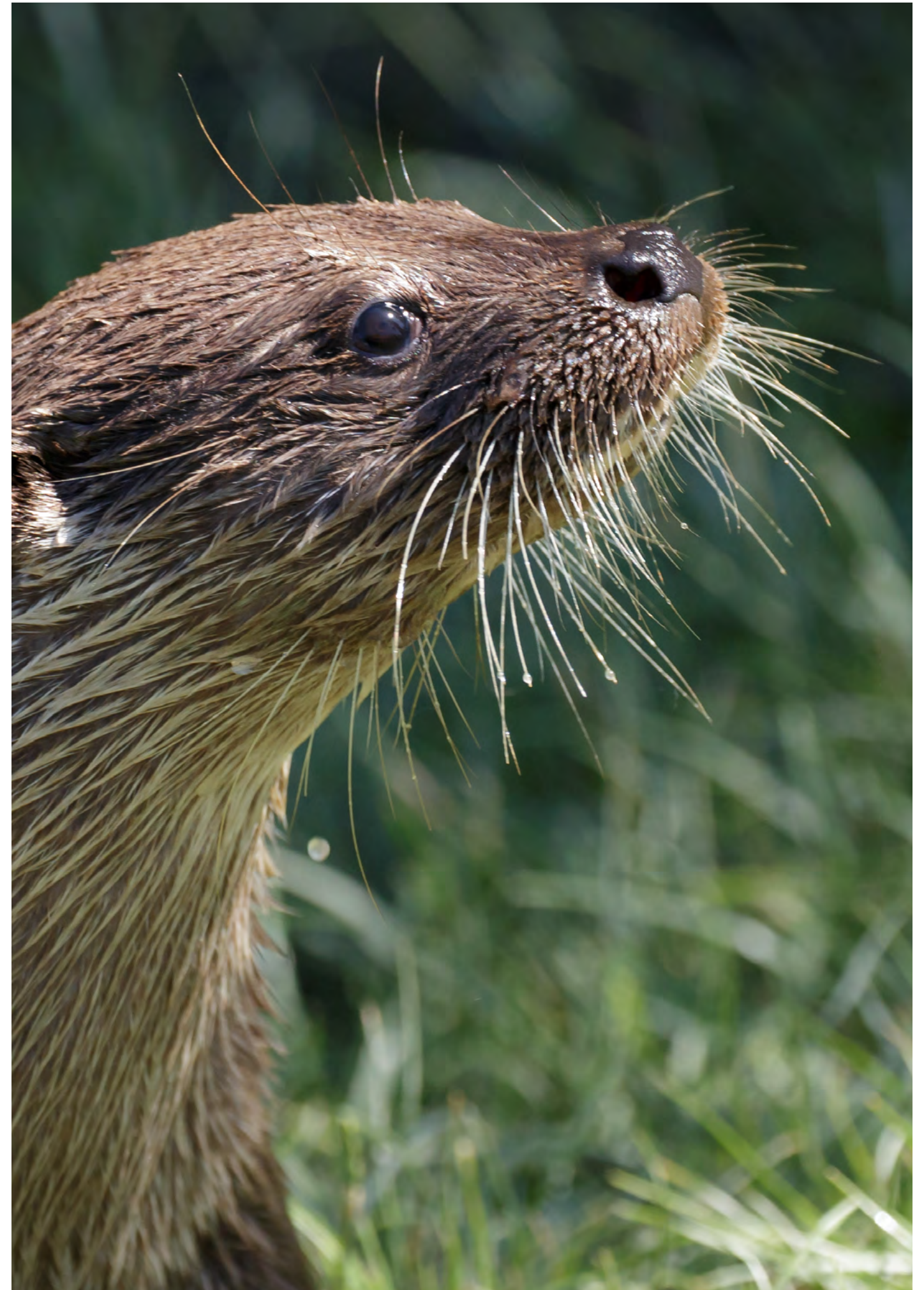
These annual updates will be published and made available on the following online platforms:

[Cyngor Gwynedd website](#)

[Gwynedd Nature Partnership Facebook page](#)

[Wales Biodiversity Partnership website](#)

[WCVA \('Wales Council for Voluntary Action'\) website](#)





PART 2 'EIN MILLTIR SGWÂR'



Titled **'Ein milltir sgwâr'** (which is Welsh for "our square mile"), part 2 of this NRAP both challenges and supports all of us on what we can do to help nature recover.

It provides ideas and guidance for those wanting to help nature in their "milltir sgwâr" in Gwynedd. It brings resources together in one convenient place to make it easier for you as individuals, groups, and organisations.



WHAT CAN I DO FOR NATURE?

The phrase "ein milltir sgwâr" carries meaning beyond literal definition. When we refer to 'ein milltir sgwâr' we are describing our local area and the sense of belonging in that environment, the familiar surroundings that hold both physical and emotional significance, and our "cynefin" - the place where we feel at home.

It helps us to understand the deep connection we have to our natural world, how it supports us, and how we can support it.

Here, we bring together resources in one convenient place for your ease of use, whether you are an interested individual, part of a group or a member of an organisation that wants to help nature recovery in Gwynedd.

We are all able to support nature recovery in some way, either around our own garden, at work, or through a local community group or charity. One person or community taking action to help nature, often inspires others around them to do the same.

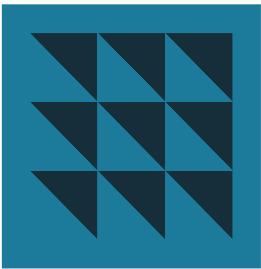
Over the next few pages, we will explore how you can help nature recover through discovering, recording, protecting, creating, and sharing.



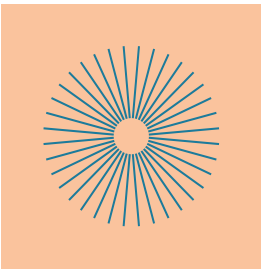
DISCOVER



RECORD



PROTECT



CREATE



SHARE



DISCOVERING NATURE IN GWYNEDD

When we value nature, the drive to enhance and protect it grows. The best way to value nature is to firstly enjoy it. Time in nature, away from the stresses of everyday life can have positive implications for health and well-being.

This section showcases the places we can 'discover' nature, from visiting local nature reserves, sourcing educational resources, and using active travel routes available in Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB.



DISCOVER SOMEWHERE SPECIAL ON YOUR DOORSTEP

There is a wealth of sites in Gwynedd that are designated for wildlife and for encouraging people to connect with nature... and they might be closer than you think!

Gwynedd has a wide network of public rights of way that often lead away from our communities to possible greener areas and maybe open access land further afield. GNP encourages everyone to be familiar with their local rights of way network and to have an appreciation of 'nature on your doorstep'.

A useful tool to assist you with discovering nature that is close to you is to use the following link below

<https://aderyn.lercwales.org.uk>

Simply type in your postcode and discover the records of species that have been viewed and recorded right on your doorstep!

DISCOVER YOUR NATURE RESERVES

Nature reserves are often regarded as the most straightforward places to discover nature having facilities such as accessible footpaths and interpretation resources. The Cyngor Gwynedd along with other organisations such as Natural Resources Wales, North Wales Wildlife Trust along with other bodies manage and maintain several locations within Gwynedd

Here is a list of online resources to point you on your way to discover and explore the nature reserves of Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB

GWYNEDD COUNCIL NATURE RESERVES

<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Leisure-parks-and-events/Parks-and-green-spaces/Local-Nature-Reserves.aspx>

GWYNEDD COUNCIL WOODLAND RESERVES

<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Leisure-parks-and-events/Parks-and-green-spaces/Woodlands.aspx>

RESERVES MANAGED BY RSPB NORTH WALES

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves>

RESERVES MANAGED BY NORTH WALES WILDLIFE TRUST (NWWT)

<https://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/nature-reserves>

WOODLANDS MANAGED BY COED CADW, THE 'WOODLAND TRUST' IN WALES

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods>

PEN LLŶN A'R SARNAU SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

<https://www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk>



DISCOVERING NATURE IN GWYNEDD

DISCOVER NATURE BY ACTIVE TRAVEL

There is an abundance of active travel options in Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB.

From the old mountain trails and passes around Yr Eifl and Ffestiniog, to the network of lowland recreational routes such as Lôn Las Ogwen, Menai, and Eifion for cycling, walking, and wheeling.

The ‘Lôn Las’ network passes through a multitude of contrasting landscapes from Bethesda through to Bangor and then along the Menai Strait to Caernarfon and further on into Meirionydd.

Not only is active travel good for our health, but it is also a fantastic way to explore nature.

By opting not to travel by car when commuting, we can also reduce our emissions, helping to reduce local pollution and responding to the climate change crisis too.

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ‘LÔN LAS’ CYCLING NETWORK IN GWYNEDD

<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Leisure-parks-and-events/Parks-and-greenspaces/Recreational-Routes.aspx>

Here is a further list of active travel options in Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB.



DISCOVER ACTIVE TRAVEL RESOURCES BY CYNGOR GWYNEDD

DOWNLOADABLE MAPS
<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Parking-roads-and-travel/Active-travel.aspx>

INFORMATION AND MAPS ON LLŷN CIRCULAR CYCLE ROUTES
<https://www.ahne-llyn-aonb.org/Content/Upload/Llyn-Circular-Cycle-Routes.pdf>

GENERAL INFORMATION TO HELP YOU CYCLE MORE
<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/about-us/our-workin-wales/>

INFORMATION ON CIRCULAR WALKS ON THE LLŷN THAT INCORPORATES THE ‘WALES COAST PATH’
<https://www.ahne-llyn-aonb.org/Circular-Walks>

OFFICIAL WEBSITE FOR THE ‘WALES COAST PATH’
<https://www.walescoastpath.gov.uk/?lang=en&>

INFORMATION ON RECREATIONAL ROUTES IN GWYNEDD
<https://www.visitsnowdonia.info/gwyneddrecreational-routes>

DISCOVER EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

There are an abundance offering of educational recourses being offered on-line to assist those who are in delivery of education or for those who may have a more specialist area of expertise.

Here are just a few of educational resources that will help you learn more during your nature discovery.

GWYNEDD AND THE LLŷN AONB
<https://www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk/education-pack>

WOODLAND EDUCATION
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/your-school/resources/>

<https://www.trees.org.uk/Help-and-Advice>

EDUCATION IN WALES
<https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/education-and-skills/looking-for-learning-resources>

<https://forestschoollassociation.org/what-is-forest-school>

<https://www.field-studies-council.org/resources>

<https://www.llennatur.cymru>

RESOURCES FOR PROFESSIONAL ECOLOGISTS AND CONSERVATION WORKERS
www.conservationevidence.com



RECORDING NATURE

If you are regularly out in nature, you may want to begin or you may even have started, recording what wildlife you see.

Species records are critically important to protect and enhance nature. When we know what we have, we have a better idea of what we can do to help.

Professional ecologists, reserve managers, nature charities, developers, local planning authorities, and Government organisations such as Natural Resources Wales (NRW) all use species records to inform decision-making processes. Records help to build a picture of the state of nature in an area and enables us to set management objectives, provision biodiversity enhancement, and provide an opportunity to monitor and review previous and current conservation effort.

Recording is just as important as delivering on the ground conservation work, as it ensures that any action undertaken for the benefit of nature is effective and successful.

All records are important, even records of birds in your garden, and you do not need to be an expert naturalist to record wildlife!



COFNOD OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRE

‘Cofnod’ is one of four Local Environmental Records Centres (LERCs) in North Wales and forms part of the first national network of LERCs anywhere in the UK.

The name, which means “a record” in Welsh, was chosen to reflect the importance of observing and recording wildlife, with the creation of a record being the starting point for all the environmental data held.

The task of LERCs is to bring together all these individual records into a centralised database, allowing us all to have better knowledge of the environment in which we live.

HOW CAN YOU START RECORDING?

Submitting species records is easy!

However, you will need to decide from the options below how you’d like to do this. The method you choose may depend on the number and variety of species records you plan to take, and the frequency with which you wish to submit them.

If you are unsure which method to use or need further advice on submitting records, click on this weblink.

<https://www.cofnod.org.uk/recording>

The information provided will guide you on how to get involved in species recording in Gwynedd, or just get in touch with ‘Cofnod’ directly via www.cofnod.org.uk

Cofnod will be able to direct you to one of three options on how to record your findings.

OPTION 1 USE ‘COFNOD’ ORS

Cofnod’s Online Recording System (ORS) is ideal for anyone who records wildlife but would prefer not to store the records on their own computer. Register once by clicking on the following weblink and get access to plenty of useful features to make recording easier and more satisfying.

<https://cofnod-ors.lerc.online>

OPTION 2 DOWNLOAD THE LERC WALES APP

The LERC Wales app allows you to take your online recording experience into the field with your smart phone or tablet. To submit records using the LERC Wales app you will need to create and register your account.

Click on this link to get started.
<https://www.lercwales.org.uk/app.php>

OPTION 3 SEND DATA TO A LOCAL EXPERT

This online search facility helps you find the contact details of local species experts.

<https://www.cofnod.org.uk/recording>

OPTION 4 EMAIL ‘COFNOD’ WITH YOUR RECORDS

Whether it is a single species record, a spreadsheet or whole database, you can email ‘Cofnod’ your records and they’ll make sure it gets uploaded to the system.

Their e-mail is - record@cofnod.org.uk



RECORD

RECORDING NATURE ANCIENT TREE INVENTORY

Ancient trees are extraordinary. Some of them have lived for thousands of years, linking us with our history and culture. They have astonishing ecological value too, supporting thousands of species.

When it comes to these special trees, the UK is immensely important. We have a phenomenal number of ancient and veteran trees compared with the rest of Europe - from the oldest churchyard yews to majestic lone oaks standing in a field.

You can help record ancient and other veteran trees by literally putting them on the map by clicking on this online resource.

<https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Getting support from people like you to record the oldest and most characterful trees helps us to identify ancient tree hot spots, monitor current threats and future losses, and importantly plan how best to conserve these special trees for the future.



PROTECT

Volunteering with a local environmental organisation is a wonderful way to help nature whilst also providing numerous personal benefits such as improved well-being, physical and mental health, and career progression.

The list below contains a directory of local organisations which offer volunteering opportunities in Gwynedd from relaxed species recording and monitoring days to more strenuous mountain litter picks!

If your organisation can provide volunteering opportunities for individuals or groups, please let the GNP know!

Have a glance through the list below to see how you can actively participate in protecting nature.

VOLUNTEERING DIRECTORY

VOLUNTEER WITH NORTH WALES WILDLIFE TRUST
<https://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/takeaction/volunteer/conservation-volunteering>

VOLUNTEER WITH SNOWDONIA SOCIETY
<https://www.snowdonia-society.org.uk/volunteer/>

VOLUNTEER WITH NATIONAL TRUST
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wales/volunteering#volunteering-in-north-wales>

VOLUNTEER WITH COED CADW, THE 'WOODLAND TRUST' IN WALES
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/volunteer-with-us>

VOLUNTEER WITH RSPB
https://volunteer.rspb.org.uk/opportunities#display=grid&s=date_advertised&o=desc

VOLUNTEER WITH COFNOD
<https://www.cofnod.org.uk/Calendar>

VOLUNTEER WITH THE LLŶN AONB
<https://www.ahne-llyn-aonb.org/Friends-of-the-AONB>





CREATE

Whether you live in a house with a garden or an inner-town flat, there are numerous things you can do to help nature at your home. Below, you will see links for two useful online resources offering ideas and guidance for 'easy wins for nature' such as building a bird box, creating a wildflower area, or planting a tree.

THINKING OF PLANTING A TREE?

Check out this webpage to make sure you've considered everything you need for successful young tree establishment.

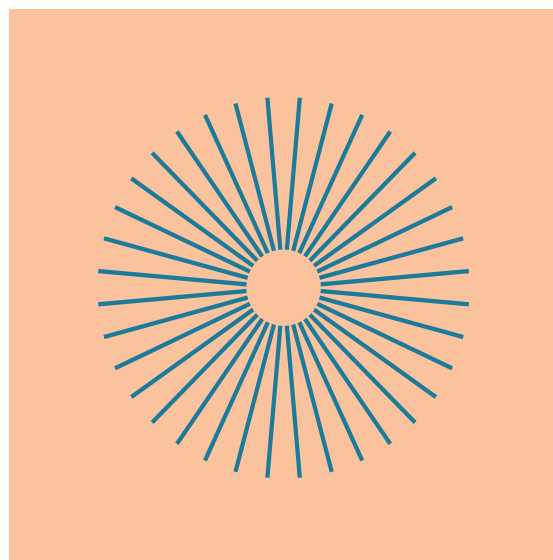
<https://www.trees.org.uk/Trees.org.uk/media/Treesorg.uk/Documents/Tree%20Aftercare/YoungTreeEstablishmentGuide-web.pdf>

WANT TO ENCOURAGE BIRDS INTO YOUR GARDEN?

See the RSPB's guidance page to help look after local birds:
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/helping-birds-and-wildlife>

OR WHAT ABOUT CREATING A WILDFLOWER MEADOW?

It will attract an abundance of insects to your garden....visit the Bumble Bee Conservation website for more information.
<https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/how-i-created-a-mini-meadow-in-my-garden>



SHARE

When one person or a community takes action to help nature, others around them are often inspired to do the same, but only when we share our excellent work!

From large organisations down to individuals, we are all able to help nature recovery in some way, from visiting nature reserves, putting up a bird box, or sending records of what you have seen.

If you or your organisation has done something to help nature, let us know! Share your experiences on social media or send us an email with the details – the Gwynedd Nature Partnership coordinator may also be able to support you with guidance or funding, so please get in touch to share.

OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IS:

partneriaethnatur@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

You can also contact us on the following popular social media platforms:

FACEBOOK

[@Partneriaeth-Natur-Gwynedd-Nature-Partnership](#)

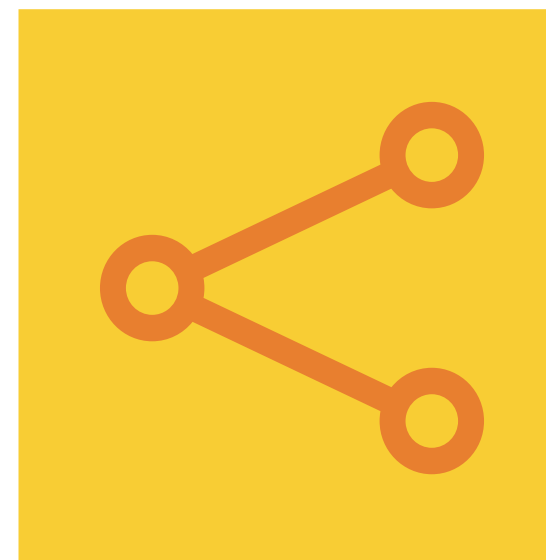
X

[@naturgwynedd1](#)

INSTAGRAM

[@partneriaeth_natur_gwynedd](#)

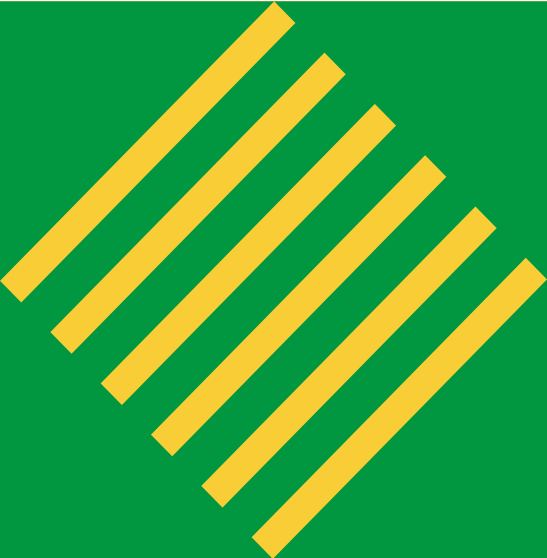
If you have further general queries or specific questions you would like to ask, please get in touch with the partnership using the e-mail address above.





PART 3

**ACTION PLAN
FOR GWYNEDD
NATURE
PARTNERSHIP**



Part 3 of our Nature Recovery Action Plan identifies the priority areas for action to support nature recovery within the county of Gwynedd that includes the Llŷn AONB.

These actions will reflect and display how we can address the objectives, both Welsh Nature Recovery Plan, and the opportunities identified and prioritised within Gwynedd by the Northwest Area Statement (Natural Resources Wales).

Working within both national and regional guidelines, our action plan for nature recovery in Gwynedd aims to promote actions and projects that will combine promoting and supporting existing habitats within the landscape and seek new opportunities to deliver nature recovery on a wider scale e.g through landscape habitat connectivity. These combined actions and priorities have been agreed by the Local Nature Partnership in Gwynedd and will provide an effective assessment tool on prioritising our objectives moving forward.

NATURE RECOVERY IN GWYNEDD WITHIN A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK.

The actions stated over the next few pages supports the objectives of the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales by identifying key work themes and considering the challenges and opportunities in meeting them.

Importantly, it also reflects and builds upon past and current projects and actions taken by stakeholders throughout Gwynedd highlighting the work of the Partnership in delivering both regional and national actions ‘on our doorstep’.

To understand the context of the plan outlined in Gwynedd’s NRAP we need to be aware of the objectives and actions laid out in the equivalent plan for Wales. Both plans will complement and support each other to ensure nature benefits from the resources invested, whilst at the same time ensuring that Gwynedd’s action plan responds to specific local needs.

THE NATURE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN FOR WALES

The Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales was launched by the Welsh Government's Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board in 2015, members of which represent both land and sea managers, Natural Resources Wales, the environmental third sector (neither public nor private organisations), local authorities, national parks, the Wales Biodiversity Partnership, and Welsh Government. It is a plan for everyone in Wales and aims to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss in Wales by:

- putting nature at the heart of decision-making.
- increasing the resilience of the natural environment.
- taking specific action for habitats and species.

The NRAP for Wales sets out how Wales will deliver on its commitments to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) strategic plan for biodiversity and the associated biodiversity targets and sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Wales.

The NRAP for Wales identifies actions that can be delivered in the short-term, and considers longer-term recommendations such as those identified in the 'Biodiversity Deep Dive' hosted by the Welsh Government in 2022 that focused on delivery of the United Nation's CBD through protecting 30% of the land and 30% of the sea by 2030.

The actions published in the NRAP for Wales will be kept under regular review and a set of indicators will be developed to measure the progress of the NRAP against stated objectives.

The NRAP for Wales links to and complements 'The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015' and the 'Environment Act (Wales) 2026', two important pieces of legislation that public bodies such as local authorities, town and community councils and health boards must abide by.

Objectives have been identified in the NRAP for Wales to address the issues that are driving the national decline in biodiversity. The plan goes on to list the support interventions that are required to aid nature's recovery.

The Gwynedd Nature Recovery Action Plan, that includes Llŷn AONB, provides a mechanism by which these national objective and actions can be delivered within the communities and the varied habitats and landscapes of Gwynedd.



AIMS OF THE NATURE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN FOR WALES

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE STRATEGIC AIMS OF THE NRAP FOR WALES:

1. Protect, restore and effectively manage ecosystems to build their resilience.
2. Safeguard species and create space for species to flourish.
3. Tackle key pressures on species, habitats and ecosystems.
4. Establish effective governance and capacity to deliver.
5. Embed biodiversity through engagement and awareness raising to support effective decision making at every level.
6. Improve our evidence and monitoring.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATURE RECOVERY IN GWYNEDD, INCLUDING THE LLŷN AONB

When preparing the NRAP for Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB, it was important to recognise and identify the actions that are reasonable for the Local Nature Partnership to deliver and align with both the Gwynedd Climate Action Plan and Section 6 targets set out in the Environment Act (2026).

Simultaneously, this NRAP attempts to identify and recognise the challenges and opportunities that exist for biodiversity within the County, and how best to respond to ensure nature recovers.

By also recognising the meaningful activities and projects undertaken or currently active by individuals, groups and organisations, this NRAP for Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB acknowledges how these interventions and actions contribute towards delivering local and national NRAP objectives now, and into the future.

We must also consider the long-term implications of our actions and how positive interventions can bring sustainable long-term benefits to link people to their local environment through:

- Encouraging better collaboration and communication between new and existing stakeholders, be that individuals, community groups and public, private or third sector agencies.
- Implementing positive environmental outcomes that will be sustained beyond the initial interventions and activities,
- Enabling better, more joined up landscapes and communities that will contribute to help shape a more nature positive Gwynedd and Llŷn AONB.
- Sharing information about our work will raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and nature with new audiences
- Showcase how the Section 6 duties of the Environment Act are addressed in Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB.



OUR RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES IN NATURE RECOVERY IN GWYNEDD

It is important to consider how our actions can deliver landscape scale benefits bringing positive environmental outcomes for landowners, farmers, communities, and individuals who live and work in Gwynedd.

By working in collaboration with stakeholders and partners we can deliver more for nature with fewer resources. For example, adapting our ways of working can maximise biodiversity gains and create valuable green spaces within our rural and urban communities.

Over the past two years the Gwynedd Nature Partnership has delivered several projects that have directly addressed the issues that are driving the national decline in biodiversity in accordance with national guidelines that are set out within Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales.

CASE STUDY 1



PEN LLŶN A'R SARNAU
SAC – RESTORATION AND
PROTECTION OF SEAGRASS

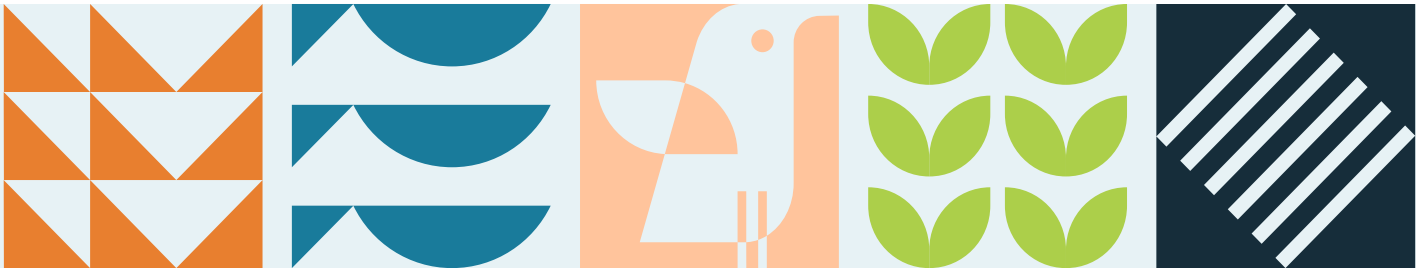
Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau (PLAS) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) extends from Nefyn on the north coast of Pen Llŷn to about a mile north of Aberystwyth. The site is jointly managed by the Relevant Authorities Group, coordinated by the SAC Officer.

There are several key elements to site management including:

- **securing sufficient funds and resources.**
- **active partnership working.**
- **effective community and site user engagement.**
- **providing management and delivery of projects.**
- **successful monitoring evaluation practices.**

The UK has lost up to 92% of its seagrass meadows and this contributes to the unfavourable condition of some of PLAS' conservation features.

There are currently two large scale projects, both funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, looking to restore and protect the seagrass of PLAS and further afield.



SEAGRASS OCEAN RESCUE

Firstly, the 'Seagrass Ocean Rescue' project aims to restore seagrass across Pen Llŷn and Anglesey through planting seagrass seeds across an area measuring 10 ha. Secondly, the 'Natur am Byth' (NaB) project is a pan Wales project looking to restore 67 endangered or threatened species. The marine element of NaB includes seagrass with the aim of protecting the existing population by reducing the impact of moorings.

Re-connecting people with nature is an important aspect of both projects. This will not only help secure the long-term success of the projects but will also contribute positively to the health and well-being of those involved.

There are opportunities for local communities and site users to volunteer including collecting and planting seagrass, monitoring, collecting seagrass fragments as well as archiving tasks.

Education is also a key element of activities. By using the 'Tir a Môr' education pack that were developed in partnership in a previous project, the SAC Officer has been able to provide schools with a wealth of information and resources.



CASE STUDY 2

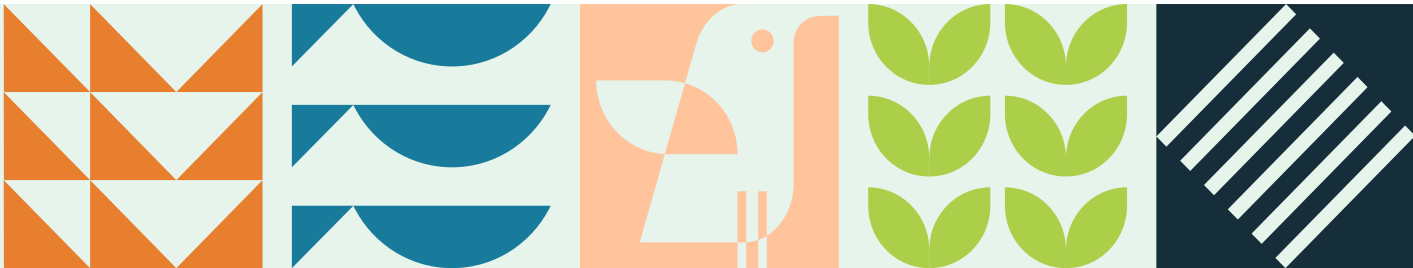


BODAWEN
PLAYING FIELD,
PORTHMADOG

An inquiry was received from Porthmadog Town Council to conduct an ‘experimental’ work programme on 2.3ha of public land on the outskirts of Porthmadog. The aim of the programme was to ensure that the current public use was maintained, but also to develop around 2ha of the site as a habitat for wildlife, and especially plants that would attract pollinators.

Historically, the Bodawen playing field was maintained through a formal agreement between Porthmadog Town Council and the municipal department of Cyngor Gwynedd. This meant that the entire site was mowed around six to eight times between March and September, but only 0.3 hectares had regular public use, as families visited the playground that was on the site.

Funding through the Gwynedd Nature Partnership allowed the Town Council to set about trying to establish a habitat for pollinators and native flowers on the land that was not used by the public. The main aim of the project was to maintain the playing area as it was with the regular cutting regime, and to manage the remaining 2 hectares for the benefit of biodiversity through establishing a system of ‘cutting and collecting’ the crop at the end of the growing season.



THE WORK CARRIED OUT
INCLUDED:

- **Establishing the new habitat – a contractor was commissioned to cut and collect the entire field, scrape and scarify 2ha of the land to get rid of the old grass growth and then add indigenous seeds from a local source which would add to the variety of species on the site.**
- **Maintaining and ensuring that the 0.3ha playground continued to be used as a site for community recreation whilst at the same time leaving green space to grow and flourish during the growing season.**
- **Erecting interpretation on the site to inform the public of the aims and objectives of the project encouraging them to walk through the grassy meadow on the dedicated paths cut through the site.**

In addition, over 200 indigenous trees were planted on the site in collaboration with local primary schools and at the end of the growing season, the field is harvested in a traditional manner, with the cut material baled and removed from the site.

By implementing very subtle, but positive changes to how this public green space was managed ‘for nature’ the Town Council did not receive any negative feedback from the public to the new ground maintenance programme. This project shows how a new habitat can be established and maintained for all concerned in an urban area and next to one of the busiest main roads in Gwynedd.

The Gwynedd Nature Partnership anticipate that the Bodawen playing field will continue to be maintained for the benefit of nature and recreation in the future, with a traditional meadow bringing biodiversity right up to the boundary of the main A487 road.



CASE STUDY 3



FRIENDS OF THE LLŶN AONB

The Llŷn AONB volunteer group, was established back in 2021 and was named 'Friends of the AONB'. It gives the opportunity for volunteers to assist with practical work in the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Each year, volunteers put in many hours of their time by cutting vegetation, maintaining and reopening paths and beach cleans.

The activities are usually held on Fridays under the guidance of the AONB officers working together with local volunteers to maintain and improve the unique features and habitats of the AONB.

One of the main activity delivered by the group is path maintenance, working alongside Gwynedd's Rights of Way officers. A recent activity undertaken by the Friends has also been one of their biggest challenges, namely, to re-establish a footpath between Gyrn Goch and Trefor on the North coast of the AONB.

The path had been closed for over 10 years and was no longer possible to walk it due to the growth of thick vegetation. The path closure had forced walkers to divert elsewhere and in doing so, had created two or more 'new routes' resulting in the erosion of a significant piece of valuable costal habitat and negatively effecting the local biodiversity.



This path was important for several reasons - it led walkers to open access land, and the path is also part of the Llŷn Pilgrims Trail footpath connecting Bangor to Aberdaron and then onwards to Ynys Enlli. Ultimately, the long-term aim is that this path can be integrated into the Wales Coast Path route, as it offers much better vistas than those on the current Coastal Path route, which runs along the busy main road.

'Friends of the AONB' have reopened or improved many paths in Llŷn since the group was created. In doing so, both local communities and the visiting public have better access to the AONB and appreciate the contrasting landscape and unique habitats that this part of Gwynedd offers.

Another activity that the volunteers regularly undertake is clearing the beaches from Llŷn of litter and in particular hard plastic. Porth Neigwl is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Marine Conservation Area but also a notorious beach for the accumulation of plastic during winter storms.



With the support of the Local Authority's Maritime Unit, the 'Friends of the AONB' have accumulated many days, volunteering their time collecting litter. Without the effort of these valued volunteers, it is quite possible that plastic and other residual waste material would be washed up on our shores and circulating in our seas for decades to come... and in doing so endangering the diverse but fragile maritime habitat of the Llŷn AONB and the Pen Llŷn and Sarnau SAC

Volunteering with the 'Friends of the AONB' is another way for people to experience and value our habitats and countryside and enjoy the benefits of being outdoors while learning new skills and making new friends at the same time.



CASE STUDY 4



DOLYDD LLŶN

‘Dolydd Llŷn’ began in 2018 as an informal network of landowners who wanted to manage their land for wildlife. The emphasis has been on areas of grassland with no minimum size. These relatively small areas of habitat can assist and provide stepping stones for wildlife throughout the landscape.

The focus of ‘Dolydd Llŷn’ activities has been the provision of land management advice by connecting those individuals and organisations who want to understand more and share knowledge about meadows and wildlife.

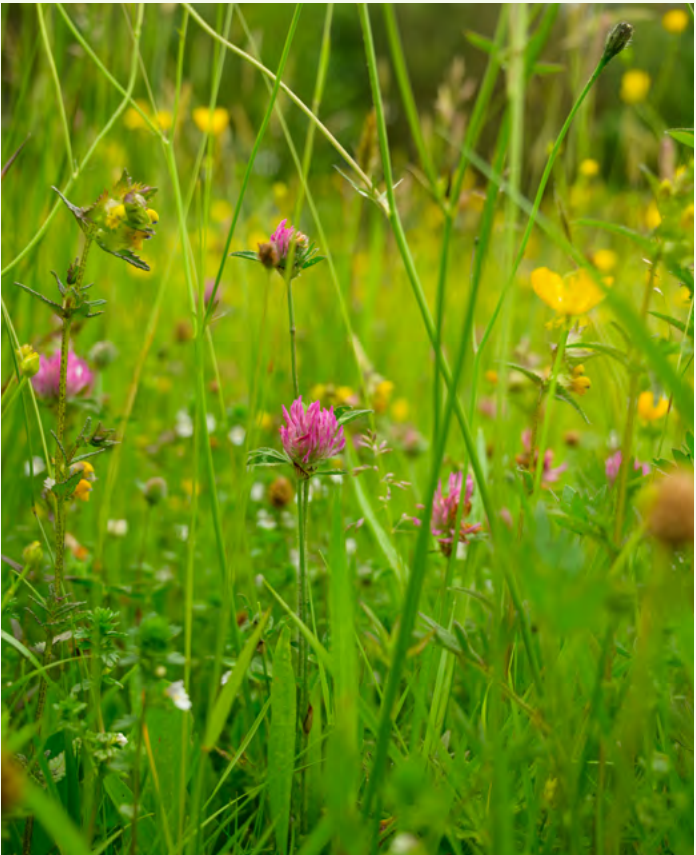


Caeau Tan y Bwlch is a site that is owned by the wildflower conservation charity Plantlife, located on a hillside above Clynog Fawr and is managed by North Wales Wildlife Trust. It is the nearest ‘Coronation Meadow’ for most landowners on the Llŷn. The title ‘Coronation Meadow’ is given to outstanding examples of remaining meadows across Great Britain and are used as donor meadows to supply seed for recipient meadows.

Caeau Tan y Bwlch has been used in recent years to provide seed for other projects such as the trunk road restoration scheme in north Wales. Through the ‘Dolydd Llŷn’ network, other sources of species rich seed have been identified. These ‘donor sites’ provide both green hay and brush harvested seed to meet the requirements of grassland restoration projects locally.

As more landowners have connected with the ‘Dolydd Llŷn’ network, more potential donor sites have been identified, increasing the resource for local natural seeding provision. This has effectively created a local natural seed network. In the future, GNP would also consider this existing network to provide recourses for the sourcing of native trees.

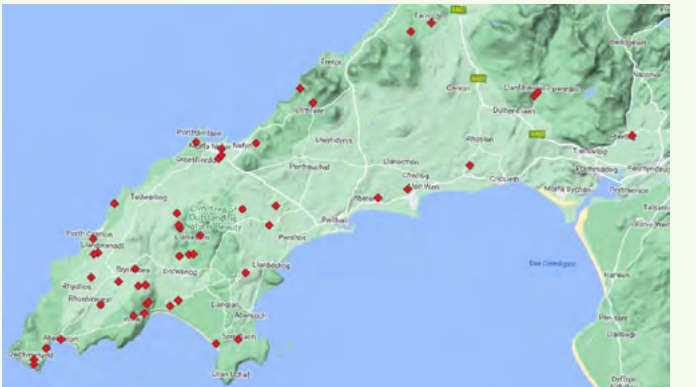
Interest withing Gwynedd in restoring species rich grassland is gaining momentum, ranging from private landowners who own single or multiple fields, the local authority who manage



road verges and other public green space, churchyard management, creating new environmental habitat within the curtilage of our schools or just interested individuals who want to have mini wildflower meadows in their gardens.

The Dolydd Llŷn programme has aslo worked in conjunction with local landowners too to develop farm scale projects such as the continued implementation of the “payment for outcome” trials on farms on the Llŷn.

The map below highlights the locations of donor and recipient meadows facilitated and supported through the ‘Dolydd Llŷn’ network.





OUR STAKEHOLDERS AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

The membership of the Gwynedd Local Nature Partnership must reflect and encourage the widest possible audience to engage in the outputs noted in both the NRAP for Wales and Gwynedd. The Gwynedd NRAP will endure to empower and support all stakeholders to play an active and central role in countering the threats posed by climate change and the nature emergency within our communities.

Much of this important work has already been carried out by valued volunteers and we rely on their goodwill, commitment and involvement in the development and maintenance of environmental projects. However, there appears to be an increased expectation of what can be delivered on the ground by volunteers. Supporting volunteers properly, providing for their varied needs (often through nongovernmental organisations and charities) and the level of experience required will be carefully considered, ensuring that the communities of Gwynedd can continue to play an active role in this important work and emphasising the links between healthy, resilient ecosystems and human well-being.

Furthermore, this can motivate efforts to address biodiversity loss with future biodiversity frameworks being more transformational and co-operative.

RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES

It is important to consider how all our actions can deliver landscape scale benefits that can bring positive environmental outcomes for landowners, farmers, communities and individuals who live and work in Gwynedd.

By working in collaboration with stakeholders and members we can deliver more for nature with fewer resources. Adapting our ways of working can maximise biodiversity gains and create valuable green spaces in our rural and urban communities.

THE GWYNEDD NRAP WILL:

- Promote effective communication, recognising the challenges of communicating biodiversity and nature issues to a range of people and the time and skills that this requires.
- Develop clear communication plans that use traditional and digital media platforms to ensure that we reach all members of the community, making the environment relevant to everybody.
- Recognise that GNP stakeholders and members need to be able to access all relevant biodiversity data and evidence to use on local projects. There is a lot of information out there, but it needs to be collated together at an appropriate scale to be made available to all.
- Promote the objectives of this plan, knowing that it will require a coordinated effort by all concerned to identify, develop, deliver, and monitor projects in the short, medium, and long term. For example, maintaining and expanding existing habitats and wildlife corridors in our communities will require a commitment from all involved, taking responsibility for their “milltir sgwâr” to attempt to reverse the decline in biodiversity and tackle the climate and nature emergency on a local, regional and national level.
- Promote the linking of local activities to landscape scale projects, bringing people and communities together to accelerate the learning and delivery of outputs and develop a better understanding of the relationship that needs to exist between healthy, resilient ecosystems and human well-being.

RESPONDING TO OPPORTUNITIES



A previous and historical focus on protected sites has perhaps allowed significant losses of biodiversity outside the network of designated sites. The network of protected sites outside the national network of habitats must be considered as integral to the future success of any nature recovery within Gwynedd.

Partners within ‘Gwynedd Nature Partnership’ (GNP) and other stakeholders can contribute to this via the management of their own, often non-designated sites, and through engagement with network groups such as the ‘Dolydd Llŷn’ meadows group.

The Gwynedd Nature Partnership will strive to work in partnership with landowners and farmers to create both new and improve existing connective networks and habitats. Working in partnership with both the agricultural unions in Wales, farmers and landowners, agriculture has the biggest potential to create resilient networks within the Gwynedd landscape. However, this will only become viable with clear guidance through national policies and incentivisation through new agri-environment schemes that respond to current challenges.

Some GNP partners manage large areas of land and/or have wider functions. The partnership will provide opportunities for partners to work together to share experience and expertise especially where the public have access to private land by means of the extensive right of way network within Gwynedd.

We can also look to develop stronger working relationships with new partners such as Dŵr Cymru, North Wales Trunk Roads Agency and Network Rail to encourage better co-production opportunities between the statutory organisations and local stakeholders.

Partnership members will need to continue to contribute evidence to highlight the benefits of active habitat management, such as highlighting how effective peat bog conservation can help mitigate climate change, store water and help the associated habitats and species.

By working together, partners will identify various ‘nature-based solutions’ which offer multiple benefits such as providing a local flood defence and building ecosystem resilience simultaneously.

We will explore as a partnership what these ‘nature-based solutions’ could be in a Gwynedd and Llŷn AONB context, so we can understand and learn more about the opportunities they may present. These could be delivered by working on the following:

- Specific species, habitats or working on a landscape scale.
- Effective management of the coastal belt can bring benefits to the terrestrial and marine environment.
- Developing better habitat connectivity along the Wales Coast Path can bring benefits to nature, farming and tourism, with health and wellbeing benefits for all.
- Recognising the opportunities to replicate and share best practice with other coastal regions throughout Wales.
- Careful coordinated management of the uplands that maintain and improve valuable habitats such as peat bogs, heathlands and ffridd that can deliver multiple environmental and biodiversity benefits.
- Communities and landowners to co-produce to deliver projects with an emphasis on brining direct environmental and economic benefits in matters such as mitigating flooding and carbon storage within river catchments.

Within the Llŷn AONB there will be a focus on improving the condition of some of the most important features and habitats of the area, including:

- The maintenance of traditional ‘clawdd’ boundaries.
- Eradication of invasive species.
- Improvements to common land and hay meadows.
- Offering training and guided walks to encourage people to develop new skills and gain a deeper understanding of this unique landscape.

The work will be promoted through the ‘Llygad Llŷn’ newsletter and social media channels.

Gwynedd Nature Partnership is therefore well positioned to look at developing large scale resilient ecological networks, linking up protected sites with other sites/habitats within our landscape, whilst simultaneously influencing action, setting priorities, sharing information and developing projects with stakeholders to deliver objectives laid out in this NRAP.

Our local plan, because of the way it is structured, will be able to support decision at a regional level making and therefore will be much more responsive to new information or change in legislation, policy or new research data.

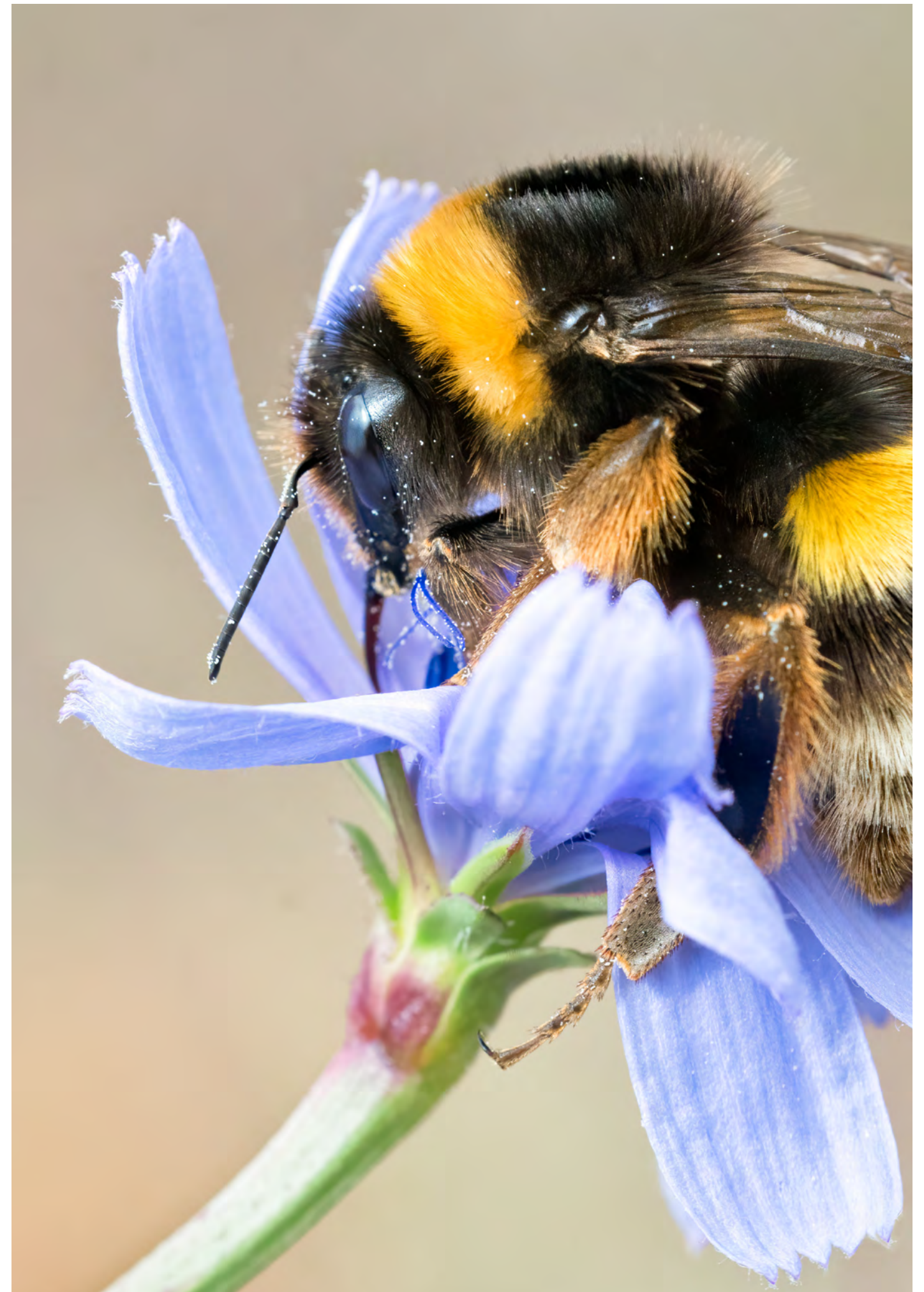
TAKING ACTION TO SUPPORT NATURE RECOVERY IN GWYNEDD – OUR LOCAL AIMS

The Gwynedd Nature Partnership is aware of the six national Nature Recovery Action Plan aims. The following statements are based on outcomes from a partnership workshop and subsequent consultation and will be used and adapted when necessary to inform nature recovery action locally.

It is anticipated that these statements can and will be modified and adapted to conform with current and future environmental legislation and circumstances.

It should be noted that the following statements refer to the functions of the Partnership as a whole and that the individual public bodies within the partnership have a duty under Section 6 of the 'Environment (Wales) Act 2016/2026' to consider their impact on biodiversity which should guide them when they deliver all their statutory functions.

The following objectives will be used to develop action locally.





AIM 1

PROTECT, RESTORE AND EFFECTIVELY MANAGE ECOSYSTEMS TO BUILD THEIR RESILIENCE

Biodiverse ecosystems that are resilient to human-induced pressures provide the services that underpin our health and prosperity.

In Gwynedd, much of our landscape has changed over time leaving the environment and habitats that remain somewhat compromised in their ability and resilience to adapt to climate change, pollution and other human pressures.

By taking action to protect these important remaining habitats, restore degraded areas and improve habitat connectivity, GNP will aim to halt biodiversity loss and ensure that our valued ecosystems continue to support our biodiversity and well-being.



AIM 2

SAFEGUARD SPECIES AND CREATE SPACE FOR SPECIES TO FLOURISH

For many GNP partners, safeguarding species and habitats is of principal importance and improving their management is a fundamental part of their purposes. For other organisations these objectives may also be carried out through their statutory responsibilities.

The Partnership considers that these objectives could be achieved when there is clear knowledge of what the priorities for species and habitat action are in Gwynedd. It's essential that good-quality information is used to identify priority areas for action and their role in building resilient ecological networks both locally and on a landscape scale, linking urban and rural areas, to deliver benefits to the environment and the people of Gwynedd.

For more information on the status of habitat conservation and species management in Gwynedd, partners should refer to the NRW Area Statements for North West Wales for further in-depth information and advice.



AIM 3

TACKLE KEY PRESSURES ON SPECIES, HABITATS AND ECOSYSTEMS

Many of the partners in GNP have sought/or continue to seek opportunities to increase ecosystem resilience within Gwynedd's natural environment through their work, either via direct management, creation of projects or identifying opportunities via survey work, data collection, raising awareness and decision making.

The Partnership considers that this objective could be better achieved in Gwynedd and Llŷn AONB, by ensuring that there is a true and confirmed understanding amongst landowners and decision-makers of how resilient ecosystems can be developed, maintained, enhanced, and extended. To date, the Partnership has delivered projects with a focus on resilient and connected habitats in rural and urban areas. These include the Wern Mynach Local Nature Reserve project in Barmouth where volunteers have been involved in looking at promoting pollinator and species friendly management of urban grassland, and the Derw Ogwen project that focused on recording ancient trees and enhancing a historic nature friendly woodland corridor through the industrial landscape of Dyffryn Ogwen.

The partnership will strive to raise awareness of all projects and encourage the residents of Gwynedd to utilise these natural resources for their own health and wellbeing.



AIM 4

ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AND CAPACITY TO DELIVER

GNP believe that the key pressures on species and habitats within our varied landscape are now much better understood and are valued by a far wider audience than maybe previously thought.

These key drivers of change in Gwynedd include building developments, certain land management practices, climate change, pollution, invasive non-native species and tourism. All partners are dealing with these issues in some way through their work, whether it be impacts on specific habitats or habitats they manage, monitor and record.

GNP believes that this objective can be achieved in Gwynedd by fostering more collaboration between partners and contractors and adopt 'nature-based solutions' to tackle the climate and nature crises.



REPORTING OUR PROGRESS

To monitor progress, GNP and the Llŷn AONB Team will compile and publish an annual update and list of projects and activities contributing to the delivery of the NRAP in Gwynedd and the Llŷn AONB.

These annual updates will be published and made available on the following online platforms:

[Cyngor Gwynedd website](#)

[Gwynedd Nature Partnership Facebook page](#)

[Wales Biodiversity Partnership website](#)

[WCVA \(Wales Council for Voluntary Action\) website](#)

AIM 5

EMBED BIODIVERSITY THROUGH ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS RAISING TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE DECISION MAKING AT EVERY LEVEL

The partnership will strive to deliver a NRAP for Gwynedd that reflects the area's distinctiveness and maximises the opportunities identified in the Wales Nature Recovery Action Plan and north-west Wales Area Plan.

Working with statutory bodies and other relevant authorities, the GNP membership will be able to embed biodiversity priorities within local communities and develop natural capital within groups and organisations that develop and deliver environmental outcomes.

Raising awareness and showcasing environmental good practice delivered by community groups will instill confidence and promote a local approach to help tackle global problems.

AIM 6

IMPROVE OUR EVIDENCE AND MONITORING

PNG is a 'knowledge network' and 'nature hub', with extensive know-how, broad experience, connections, capacity, continuity, and common purpose. It is in a strong position to work with individuals or small organisations delivering local projects, or to inform and participate in large-scale partnership projects within a wider geographical area.

All partner organisations will be encouraged to liaise and collaborate with the LERC (COFNOD) to collate evidence, monitor species and habitats, and share key performance indicators that will be utilised to gather data on outputs and outcomes of projects delivered by the Partnership, which may subsequently be fed into national databases.

