

Action Plan Scope:

This Action Plan covers cloddiau, a type of boundary particularly characteristic of the Llŷn Peninsula. Cloddiau are raised earth banks, usually stone faced, with possibly a hedge planted on top. They are unusual in the orientation of stones within the stone facing, which are usually placed with their longest side running vertically. They are therefore of significant local importance and ecological value, and frequently support a range of bankside and hedgerow flora, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals. In some cases cloddiau may incorporate the UK BAP priority habitat Ancient and / or species rich hedgerows¹.

1. CURRENT STATUS

1.1 Legislation and priority status

International	None
UK and Wales	None but: Hedgerow Regulations 1997 may apply to some cloddiau Where cloddiau incorporate Ancient and / or Species Rich Hedgerows: UK BAP priority Welsh S74 list ^a
Gwynedd	None

1.2 Status in Wales and beyond

Cloddiau are found in Pembrokeshire, N.W. Wales, Anglesey and the Cambrian Coast.

1.3 Status in Gwynedd^b

Cloddiau are particularly characteristic of the Llŷn Peninsula.

2. FACTORS AFFECTING THIS HABITAT IN GWYNEDD

- Lack of appropriate maintenance / management e.g. severe trimming / cutting of vegetation, and / or cutting at the wrong time of year, especially during the nesting period.
- Complete removal to create bigger fields suited to increased stock numbers or to accommodate large farm machinery.
- Boundaries such as cloddiau and dry stone walls, even those which have a hedge planted on top, are not necessarily protected by the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 in the same way as hedgerows, making them vulnerable to removal.
- Loss of traditional skills to maintain the clawdd such as periodic laying of the hedge and using an infill e.g. turf or soil, in between the stones.
- Damage by increased livestock numbers through grazing and erosion of their earth banks.

^a Welsh Assembly Government, *Going Wild in Wales - List of Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biological Diversity*. Crown Copyright 2003.

^b Within this document the term "Gwynedd" refers to areas outside the Snowdonia National Park area, except where specified otherwise

3. ASSOCIATED GWYNEDD SAPS / HAPS

Arable field margins, Lowland heathland, Lowland dry acid grassland, Lowland meadows and pasture, Hedgerows, Transport corridors

Bats, Lesser horseshoe bat, Barn owl, Chough, Farmland birds, Adder, Newts, Bluebell

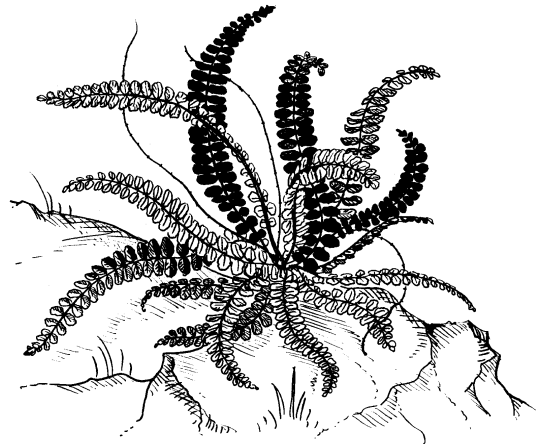
4. CURRENT ACTION IN GWYNEDD

4.1 Site and habitat protection

- The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 may afford some protection to prevent hedgerow removal.

4.2 Management and programmes of action

- Agri-environment schemes such as the Llŷn Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) in conjunction with the Hedgerow Renovation Scheme, Tir Cymen and now Tir Gofal, have helped to encourage favourable management and enhancement of existing cloddiau and establish new cloddiau in Gwynedd.
- Gwynedd Council, Countryside Council for Wales and the Snowdonia National Park have produced a leaflet on the appropriate management of roadside verges, and a leaflet is pending on management of hedgerows, which will include cloddiau.
- Some sites have already been identified as potential Wildlife Sites.
- Specifications on the construction of cloddiau have been produced by Gwynedd Council and are available to their Highways Department.



4.3 Survey, research and monitoring

- None known

5. ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES

1. To maintain existing species-rich cloddiau in Gwynedd and secure appropriate long term management.
2. To set "best practice" for managing our roadside cloddiau appropriately.

6. PROPOSED ACTIONS

Code	Action	Partner(s) ^c
Policy and legislation		
1	Use planning conditions to ensure developments in sensitive locations are compatible with conservation of cloddiau. TARGET: Ongoing	GC , Relevant partners
2	Ensure that all cloddiau which meet the relevant criteria are designated as Wildlife Sites TARGET/TIMESCALE: Start process of designation by 2005	GC , CCW, NWWT
Species / habitat management and protection		
3	Promote and support grant schemes including Tir Gofal and Llyn ESA to secure favourable management and / or restoration of cloddiau, taking into account the needs of associated LBAP species and habitats TARGET/TIMESCALE: To be set, Ongoing	FWAG Cymru , CCW, CLA, DEPC, FUW, GC , NFU Cymru, NT
4	Seek funding for land management by developing a biodiversity grant scheme, which would include grants for appropriate management, restoration and / or creation of cloddiau TARGET/TIMESCALE: By 2005	GC , Relevant partners
Advisory		
	None identified.	
Survey, research and monitoring		
5	Collate information on locations of cloddiau in Gwynedd through a programme inventory of available data and survey work, and target key sites for management and restoration TARGET/TIMESCALE: By 2006	GC , CCW, CEH, DEPC, FWAG Cymru , NT, NWWT, Plantlife, RSPB Cymru, UWB
Communications and publicity		
6	Raise public awareness of the importance of boundary features such as cloddiau as a landscape feature, traditional methods of their construction and maintenance, and how inappropriate management such as cutting hedges between March-August can adversely affect nesting birds, through attending local agricultural shows and events, creating local publicity, and in producing / distributing educational / advisory material. TARGET/TIMESCALE: By 2005	GC , CCW, FWAG Cymru , NT, NWWT, Plantlife, RSPB Cymru
7	Produce a leaflet on traditional ways of constructing cloddiau TARGET/TIMESCALE: By 2006	GC , CCW, CLA, DEPC, FWAG Cymru , FUW, NFU Cymru, NT, NWWT, RSPB Cymru

^c Lead partner for this action is indicated by bold typeface, see section 7.2 for explanation of abbreviations

