



Action Tables

SECTION SIX

ACTION TABLES

BIODIVERSITY

Limestone Grassland and Pavement ACTION	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
To secure a section 15 Management Agreement for Prestatyn Hillside and Loggerheads Country Park with CCW		(
Determine the extent of Limestone Grassland and pavement under active management programmes by 2006		(
To gain Local Nature Reserve Status for Prestatyn Hillside		(
Monitor the extent of calcareous grassland within the AONB every five years through review of phase 1 Habitat Surveys.	((((((
Broadleaved woodland ACTION						
To ensure that all County owned broadleaved woodlands are in Woodland Grant scheme.		(
To secure a Locational Supplement within the Woodland Grant Scheme from FC for farm woodland within the AONB to address funding balance.		(
Monitor the areas of woodland brought into the FC WGS and the new Native Woodland Plans every five years.		((
Sample monitor Woodland Grant Scheme across the Clwydian Range to ensure the biodiversity objectives are being met.			(
Agree a management programme for Bishops wood with Prestatyn Environment Association by 2005.		(
Confirm action plan with the Woodland Trust for their woodland holdings within the AONB by 2004.	(
River Valleys ACTION						
Carry out one riparian habitat management project on the River Allyn or River Wheeler every year through Tir Gofal, SDF or Countryside Enhancement Grant Scheme.	((((((
Carry out annual monitoring of otter and water vole populations on the River Allyn and Wheeler every year.	((((((
Construct an otter holt at Loggerheads Country Park in order to raise the profile of the importance of river habitats with the public.		(
Heather Moorland ACTION						
Submit an application to HLF for the Heather and Hillforts project.		(
Through the Heather and Hillforts project determine current agriculture practices in the uplands.			(
Through Heather & Hillforts Project determine the current extent of heather moorland under active management programmes by 2006.			(

BIODIVERSITY

Heather Moorland ACTION	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Work with Llysfasi Agricultural College to provide training courses in Countryside Skills as part of their National Diploma course.			((
To carry out one hectare of heather management and forest edge management at Moel Famau Country Park.	((((((
Target SDF funds to encourage graziers to carry out heather management at Moel y Parc and Penycloddiau.		(((
Monitor Black Grouse population and other upland birds every year at Moel Famau, Penycloddiau and Moel y Parc.	((((((
To gain a Tir Gofal Agreement on Moel Famau and Moel y Parc by 2006.			(

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Hillforts, Scheduled Ancient Monuments ACTION	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Utilize Heather & Hillforts Heritage Lottery Fund (2004-8) application process to implement survey work, erosion repairwork and interpretative strategies for the hillforts of the Clwydian Range.	((((((
Formalise 6 monthly exchange of Sites and Monuments Record information.	((((((
Establish contact with owners of the Historic Parkland within the Clwydian Range, a minimum of 1 project each year. Source possible aid carry out improvement work such as specimen tree planting	((((((
Investigate opportunities for grant aid to help with Parks and Gardens restoration projects by 2008.					(
Develop a management plan for the hillforts in the Clwydian Range through the Heather and Hillforts by 2008.					(
Small Historic Feature within the Landscape ACTION						
Establish a database format for recording these features.	(
Gather data from communities.				(
Conduct CPD session for Local Planning and Highways Authority professionals.			(
Establish Community Champions				(
Boundaries ACTION						
Gather information on the current condition of boundaries throughout the AONB.				(
Target Countryside Grants scheme and SDF to facilitate boundary improvement.	((((((
Liaise with Tir Gofal officers to help grant aid to areas/boundaries identified as in need of care and conservation as information from boundary survey emerges.	((((((
Work with Llysfasi Agricultural College to provide training courses in Countryside Skills as part of their National Diploma course.		((
Continue to offer training days for Denbighshire and Flintshire Countryside volunteers for hedge laying and dry stone wall construction.	((((((

ACCESS AND RECREATION

Country Parks ACTION	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Initiate access improvement project between Loggerheads and Moel Famau through rights of way upgrade and information provision.		(
Produce an integrated management plan for Loggerheads, Moel Famau and Moel Famau Forest in conjunction with Forest Enterprise and other partners.			(
Complete one erosion control project at each site per year	((((((
Provide funding through SDF to develop the Clwydian Range and Loggerheads Link bus services to reduce traffic congestion.		(((
Provide on site information relating to RSPB Black Grouse Code of Conduct at Moel Famau at sensitive periods through the life of the plan.	((((((
Provide on Site information relating to woodland management works at Loggerheads Country Park.		((
Re-establish Sheep Worrying Campaign at lambing time by 2005 and target Moel Famau Country Park.	((((((
Offa's Dyke National Trail ACTION						
Develop an ongoing programme of furniture renewal, replacing five stiles and five finger posts every year	((((((
Carry out an assessment of erosion along the length of the trail and produce an action plan for remedial work. Carry out one project every year.	((((((
Maintain at least three electronic people counters on the trail and review ever two years.	(((
Carry out visitor questionnaires at key locations every two years.	(((
Carry out on project every year that will improve the right of way network linking the trail with settlements, businesses and other places of interest.	((((((
The Rights of Way Network ACTION						
Ensure that all rights of way within Countryside Service owned sites and Forestry Commission plantations are open.		(
Ensure that all Right of Way within County owned farms are open.			(
Carry out Rights of Way improvement to paths linking Moel Famau, Loggerhead, Moel Findeg and the Alyn Valley and promote this area as a focal point for family walks.			(
Extend the ridetheclwyds.com mountain bike project in order to carry out improvements on the ground to ensure a high standard of way marking and erosion control			(
Establish representation of the Flintshire and Denbighshire Local Access Forums on the Joint Advisory Committee	(
Carry out one Rights of Way improvement project in the AONB every year aimed at improving accessibility to popular areas.	((((((



CULTURE AND PEOPLE

The Built Environment ACTION	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
To have design guidelines for new buildings, extensions and boundary treatments in the AONB.					(
To develop, in conjunction with the planning authority, supplementary planning guidelines to encourage appropriate development within the AONB.			(
For the JAC and Officers to be consulted on all planning applications and schemes that affect the AONB and for the Planning Authorities to adopt at least 75% of their recommendations.	((((((
To have conservation appraisals for all 11 of the village Conservation Areas.					(
To create 2 self-guided trails per year around villages with Conservation Areas which will celebrate the architecture and history of the village, and also provide a "Walking the Way to Health" opportunity.	((((((
Run one professional development day for Flintshire and Denbighshire Planners, developers and designers.		(((
Carry out an audit of the vernacular buildings across the AONB		(((
Sustainable Communities & Cultural Diversity ACTION						
Support one business project per year through SDF	((((((
Promote the use of locally sourced produce wherever possible.	((((((
Continue to annually update the database of businesses within the AONB	((((((
Establish a Small Towns and Villages Enterprise Initiative in the AONB in order to support existing and new business groups within the AONB			(
Carry out and audit of existing facilities and assess demand for additional facilities, considering accessibility and community development				(
Provide a public transport link to all villages within the AONB 7 days per week					(
To engage with schools in the AONB through 1 AONB SDF funded project per annum	((((((
To have an artist in residence each financial year to celebrate the landscape of the AONB	((((((
To have community art projects every 3 years			((
To provide financial support to a youth/youth club event each year e.g. 2003 Young Farmers Rally	((((((
To raise the profile of the AONB at 4 annual local events each year, through an AONB service presence.	((((((
To carry out community mapping to find out about the cultural mix of the communities within the AONB and to incorporate this into the Unitary Development Plans				(
To organise community reminiscence days to engage with communities and draw upon their wealth of knowledge about the area.		((
Develop partnership with the Welsh Language Board to promote and celebrate the Welsh language and culture.			(

The Consultation Process

To ensure that the management plan is relevant to the people who live in and use the AONB, there has been widespread consultation throughout the management planning process. The Joint Advisory Committee developed a draft list of Special Features for the Clwydian Range. The purpose of wider consultation was to challenge this list to ensure that the final selection reflected the opinions of all stakeholders.

i. Community meetings

Four open community meetings were held in Gwaenysgor, Tremeirchion, Cilcain and Eryrys. Participants were asked for their views on what they considered to be the special features of the AONB. Hillforts, woodlands, limestone and landscape were strong themes and from this a comprehensive list was drawn up for further consultation.

Participants were also asked to express their main concerns relating to those things they had already identified as important to them and what they would like to see in the future. Written comments were also invited.

ii. AONB Management Plan Seminar

This was held on 5th November, 2003 at the Royal Pavilion, Llangollen. The seminar was a key part of the consultative process, bringing together over 60 key stakeholders, representing the diverse range of interest groups involved with the AONB. Participants ranged from landowners and graziers, user groups such as the Ramblers Association and the local caving club, local residents and partners such as the Forestry Commission, Cadwyn Clwyd, Wales Tourist Board and the Countryside Council for Wales.

It gave opportunities for participants to give their organisation's or interest group's perspective on the future management of the AONB. Their participation will help ensure that the Management Plan creates a tangible link between existing and future policies of all relevant organisations.

The introductory session set the AONB in context and explained the need for and the structure of the new management plan. Participants were then divided into smaller focus groups to encourage wide ranging discussion.

The morning focused on the draft vision for the AONB and debate about the selection of special features for inclusion in the plan. Following discussion, delegates were asked to write their vision for the future of the Clwydian Range (see table below).

During the afternoon the participants were once again divided into groups but there was a different mix within groups from the morning session to ensure as wide an exchange of ideas as possible. Each group was given a group of related special features within the sectors of Biodiversity; History; Access; Culture and people – and asked to consider the main pressures on each feature and to suggest management responses that could alleviate these pressures.

The opinions of the focus groups were later analysed and have been used to amend the AONB Vision and list of special features for inclusion in the management plan. The comments received have also helped to set measurable objectives for the management of these special features within the plan.

iii. Table – Consultation on 'The Vision for the AONB'

Delegates were asked to write their vision for the future of the Clwydian Range. In response the elements featured most strongly are illustrated in the table opposite.

	Number of times featured in delegates vision statements
Views	12
Access and good PRow network	12
Peacefulness	6
Welsh language	7
Thriving communities, pubs, shops etc.	10
Biodiversity	11
Availability of Information	7
Archaeology	6





In addition a fear of negative elements was also expressed.

	Number of times featured
Fear of development	8
Fear of too many people	9

iv. Additional public consultation

Survey work

Surveys carried out on 29th September at Bwlch Pen Barras in conjunction with the Offa’s Dyke Path Officer, also served to canvas visitor opinion about this central area of the AONB. 60 surveys were carried out covering 230 people. There was an extremely high level of satisfaction amongst visitors, with over 80% stating they were very happy with their experience and the rest ‘happy’. When asked to state the best thing they had seen or experienced that day 75% said the views. This reflects the findings of the AONB seminar, which highlighted the importance of views in the stakeholder’s visions for the AONB.

Additional informal surveying of local people took place during summer weekends outside village post offices at Cilcain, Bodfari and Llanarmon. The data generated shows that there is a high awareness of the AONB designation amongst people in these communities (over 95% were aware they lived in an AONB) with many people commenting how much they valued the natural beauty of the countryside around them. The Countryside Service have been particularly active in these with all three communities having successfully applied for SDF funds for project work. Other communities are less active and are perhaps less aware of the AONB designation. Many visitors also while placing a high value on the landscape of the area are perhaps not aware of its designaton.

v. Involving schoolchildren

Year 5 & 6 pupils at Ysgol y Foel, Cilcain, have worked with AONB staff developing an environmental area in their school grounds. During a classroom session comparing different landscapes they were asked to define what was special about the Clwydian Range AONB. They brainstormed as a class and the following list was generated:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Mountains | Buzzards, kestrels, owls |
| Open views | Tree creepers and other woodland birds |
| Historic remains – Jubilee Tower and Celtic hill forts | Limestone - caves, gorges, walls and buildings |
| Forests (conifer) | Quarries |
| Rivers and streams | Farming – big fields, lots of sheep, cattle |
| Reservoirs | Towns and villages |
| Heather | Paths & walkers |
| Bracken | Two languages – Welsh and English |
| Woodland (Deciduous) | |
| Badgers and Foxes | |



Appendix 2 - Other Relevant Plans

'Woodlands for Wales'

– National Assembly for Wales Strategy for Trees and Woodlands

The strategy sets out programmes for action against five strategic objectives.

1. Woodlands for people

- To use woodlands as a social and cultural asset for some of our most disadvantaged communities
- To maximise the use of woodlands for learning.
- To provide opportunities for communities to have their say in the management of woods close to where they live.

2. A new emphasis for woodland management

- To promote best practice in woodland management
- To move to a greater use of continuous-cover systems
- To find appropriate sites for new trees and woodland.

3. Wales as a location for world-class forest industries

- To provide Welsh forest industries with effective business support.
- To develop the wood supply chain, product development and marketing.
- To provide supports for farm woodlands and the wider rural economy
- To foster the development of renewable energy based on wood.

4. A diverse and healthy environment

- To conserve and enhance the biodiversity of our woodlands
- To conserve and enhance the landscapes of Wales
- To better integrate woodlands with other countryside management

5. Tourism, recreation and health

- To use woodlands to help create a high-quality visitor experience The partnership is currently working on an all user trail in Coed Nercwys, improved trail network within Coed Moel Famau, including an Animal Puzzle Trail for families and schools.
- To promote health through access to woodlands for all communities A circular walk up Moel Famau, partly using forest tracks is one of the first calorie counted walks promoted by F C.

Wales Tourist Board strategy 'Best Foot Forward' – a Walking Tourism Strategy for Wales 2002-2010.

Relevant extracts:

The core elements of the product that make Wales such a strong walking destination are:

- The quality, variety, and extent of its country and coastal scenery;
- Its widespread rights of way networks;
- The rich culture and heritage of Wales that can be discovered on foot:
- The established local, national, and regional walks and trails that can be found throughout Wales.

These core elements of the product are supported by:

- A wide range of walking guidebooks and walks leaflets;
- The welcome provided to walkers by many accommodation operators across the country;
- An increasing number of walking festivals staged throughout Wales;
- The availability of guided walks at many destinations throughout the year;
- A small, but increasing number of public transport services specifically tailored and promoted to walking visitors;
- A range of sources of information on local walking opportunities.





Appendix 3

The Joint Advisory Committee

List of members:

- Denbighshire County Council – 6 members
- Flintshire County Council – 4 members
- Flintshire Association of Community Councils – 1 member
- Denbighshire Association of Community Councils – 1 member
- County Landowners Association (CLA) – 1 member
- Farmers Union of Wales (FUW) – 1 member
- National Farmers Union (NFU) – 1 member
- Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW) – 1 member
- North Wales Wildlife Trust – 1 member
- Ramblers Association – 1 member
- Confederation of British Industry – 1 member
- Borderlands Tourism – 1 member
- Civic Society – 1 Member

The chair and the vice-chair are elected on a biennial basis from members of the local authorities.

The purpose of the JAC is:

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

- I. To advise on the preparation, implementation and review of an AONB Management Strategy.
- II. To provide a forum for discussion and to advise or make representation on matters that affect the AONB, including Unitary Development Plans, development proposals and other initiatives.
- III. To promote and manage the quiet informal enjoyment of the Clwydian Range AONB providing this is compatible with landscape conservation.
- IV. To have regard to social and economic development issues and their landscape implications within the AONB.
- V. To raise the local and national profile of the AONB, and to increase awareness and understanding of the need to conserve, enhance and manage the landscape.