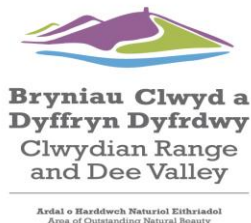


Public Document Pack



Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy AHNE
Park Gwledig Loggerheads, Yr Wyddgrug, Sir Ddinbych CH7 5LH

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
Loggerheads Country Park, Nr. Mold, Denbighshire CH7 5LH

Ffon | Tel: 01352 810614 | Ffacs | Fax: 01352 810644
E-bost | E-mail: clwydianrangeanddeevalley@denbighshire.gov.uk
Gwefan: www.ahnebryniauclwydadyffryndyfrdwy.org.uk/
Web: www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/

 [www.facebook.com/Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB](https://www.facebook.com/ClwydianRange&DeeValleyAONB)
 [@Clwyd_De_AONB](https://twitter.com/Clwyd_De_AONB)

To: Members of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee
Date: Friday, 18 June 2021
Direct Dial: 01824 712589
Email: democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee, Friday, 25 June 2021 at 10.00 am Virtually Via Zoom.**

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

AGENDA

1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

To appoint a Chair of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee for the ensuing year.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

To appoint a Vice Chair of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee for the ensuing year.

4 MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19TH MARCH 2021 (Pages 5 - 8)

To consider the minutes of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held on 19th March 2021 (copy attached).

5 DRAFT MINUTES OF AONB PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 21ST MAY 2021
(Pages 9 - 12)

To note the minutes of the meeting held 21st May 2021 (copy attached)

6 JOINT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT (STANDING ITEM) ANNUAL RETURN (Pages 13 - 32)

Standing Item report (copy attached) presented by Steve Gadd – Head of Finance and Property and Paula O’Hanlon - Senior Finance and Assurance Officer.

7 DARK SKIES SUPPLEMENTRY PLANNING GUIDENCE (Pages 33 - 82)

To consider a report (copy attached) by David Shiel, Senior Countryside Officer.

8 AONB SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 83 - 128)

For information only.

9 ANNUAL PLANNING REPORT (Pages 129 - 146)

To consider a report by Howard Sutcliffe, AONB Officer (copy attached)

10 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 147 - 152)

To consider a revised forward work programme (copy attached) by Howard Sutcliffe, AONB Officer

11 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Friday 5th November 2021

Friday 18th March 2022

Friday 24th June 2022

Friday 4th November 2022

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Glyn Banks
Derek Butler
Bobby Feeley (DCC)

Hugh Jones
David Kelly
Tony Thomas (DCC)

COPIES TO:

All Councillors for information
Press and Libraries
Town and Community Councils

This page is intentionally left blank

CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held in Video Conference on Friday, 19 March 2021 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Bobby Feeley and Tony Thomas (Chair) (Denbighshire County Council)
Councillors Carolyn Thomas and Derek Butler (Flintshire County Council) and
Councillor David Kelly (Wrexham County Borough Council).

ALSO PRESENT

Steve Gadd (Head of Finance and Property DCC), Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer DCC), Howard Sutcliffe (AONB Officer DCC), David Shiel (Assistant AONB Officer DCC), Karen Weaver (AONB Co-ordinator DCC), Paula O'Hanlan (Senior Finance Officer DCC), Huw Rees (Countryside & Heritage Services Manager DCC), Beth Dann (Bangor University), Ceri Lloyd (AONB SDF Officer), Steve Price (Democratic Services Manager), Rachel Jones (AONB Team Leader North), Rhodri Tomos-Jones (Host) and Sharon Walker (Committee Administrator)

Mike Skuse, Rachel Jones, Andrew Worthington OBE, Helen Mrowiec, Allan Forrest, and Chris Smith

Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies (DCC) attended as an Observer

1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Apologies were received from Councillor Hugh Jones, Wrexham County Borough Council and
Alan Price, Partnership Officer North East, NRW.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2020

The minutes of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held on 11 September 2021 were submitted. They were agreed as accurate and there were no matters arising.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held on 11 September 2020 be approved.

3 DRAFT MINUTES OF AONB PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2021

The draft notes of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership on 19 February 2021 were provided for information.

***RESOLVED** that the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership draft notes be noted.*

4 JOINT COMMITTEE FINANCES UPDATE

The Head of Finance and Property, Steve Gadd, introduced the report (previously circulated).

The report provided a summary of the AONB's projected revenue outturn for 2020/21 detailed in Appendix 1. The projected outturn position showed a contribution from the reserve in total of £11,705, of which £2,614 was to support the revenue budget, the remaining £9,091 was to fund a part time temporary member of staff through a WG grant (funds received).

The Head of Finance and Property was asked if there had been any success in applying for covid grants to remain compliant regarding covid guidance for visitors to popular tourist attractions. Issues were raised as to when lockdown was eased, car parks would not have capacity for the number of visitors. This was a countywide problem and work was required with both the Highways Department and North Wales Police.

The Head of Finance and Property confirmed there would be covid funding for the next six months and a monthly expenditure claim was required to be completed. Each Local Authority recognised this would be a pressure going forward.

***RESOLVED** that the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee notes the latest forecast financial outturn for 2020/21 (Appendix 1) and the progress against the agreed budget strategy*

5 FIELD UPDATE:

(a) Wenffrwd Pocket Park and Moel Famau Project.

The AONB Senior Countryside Officer, David Shiel, introduced a verbal report regarding the Wenffrwd Pocket Park and Moel Famau Project.

During lockdown, the decision was made to close Loggerheads, Moel Famau and Llantysilio Green. Signage was placed on the A494 to inform visitors the parks were closed. Due to snow over Christmas a further decision was taken to close the approach roads to stop visitors. For this, work took place with DCC, NRW and North Wales Police. Work also took place with the Communications Team to ensure the message of the closure of the Parks was publicised but people still attempted to visit the Parks during this period of time.

Funding had been secured from the Welsh Government and part of the funding had been utilised to carry out a traffic flow report of Forestry Road leading to the main Moel Famau car parks. A key recommendation had been to introduce parking restrictions. Discussions were currently underway as to whether implement double yellow lines or clear way.

There was also a proposal to provide on-street parking leading up to the gates which were locked at night so visitors could still visit in the evenings.

Work was also being undertaken with Highways Department to re-design a layby outside the car park.

Funding had been secured to increase the capacity of the car parks to create an additional 50-60 spaces. Also the pay and display machines were to be replaced with machines that accept cards and work would take place to improve the footpaths.

(b) SMS and Visitor Pressure during Covid.

Rachel Jones (AONB Team Leader North), guided members through a presentation.

The Team Leader explained to members that care was taken as to which animal would be introduced on sites. Animals were also moved around sites but before moving them to a site they were given a few days on the site so they could adapt. Community involvement was also extremely important.

(c) Picturesque Landscape to be deferred to the next meeting.

(d) Moorland Project.

The Moorland Officer, Graham Berry, was unable to attend the meeting and the AONB Senior Countryside Officer, David Shiel, introduced the verbal report in his absence.

The Moorland Officer, had been appointed in November 2020 and working on a three-year project.

The Senior Countryside Officer gave a Project overview.

Concern was raised regarding car racing at the back of Llandegla Mountain as some vehicles had potential to cause fire. It was confirmed that the Moorland Officer would be looking into this issue.

RESOLVED that the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee notes the updates received.

6 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The AONB Officer presented the AONB JC forward work programme (previously circulated).

It was confirmed funding was awaited from NRW plus there would be a grant of £100k from Welsh Government.

AONB Management Plan to go to the June Committee.

It was stated that the Forum was currently suspended until September 2021.

Next years allocation of £225k from the Welsh Government had been earmarked for a number of projects.

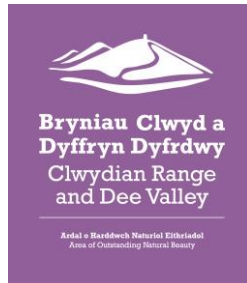
Revenue funds for climate change had been allocated and a Climate Change and Catchment Officer would be appointed.

It was requested that presentations be circulated to members prior to the meeting and it was agreed presentations would be included with the publication of the Agenda pack.

RESOLVED that the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee notes the forward work programme.

7 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Friday 25th June	2021
Friday 5th November	2021
Friday 18th March	2022
Friday 24th June	2022
Friday 4th November	2022



Agenda Item 5

Meeting of the
AONB Partnership
Friday 21st May 2021
at 10:00 online Teams Meeting

AONB Partnership Members

In Attendance

AONB Partnership Members

Councillor Tony Thomas Chair of Joint Committee	DCC
Councillor Christine Marston	DCC
Councillor Martyn Holland	DCC
Councillor Sonia Benbow-Jones	WCBC
Councillor Paul Cunningham Vice Chair of the Partnership	FCC
Councillor Owen Thomas	FCC

Chair of the Partnership
Andrew Worthington OBE

Representing Rural Interest
Christine Evans, Roger Cragg

Representing Landscape Interest
Michael Skuse

Representing Urban Interest
Rajan Madhok,

Representing the Natural Environment
Les Starling, David Davies

Representing Land Management
Sandy Archdale, Huw Morgan,

Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB

Howard Sutcliffe	AONB Officer
David Shiel	AONB Area Manager
Karen Weaver	AONB Coordinator
Rhun Jones	AONB Senior Ranger (South)
Graham Berry	Moorland Field Officer
Paul Evans	Plas Newydd Site Manager
Tony Hughes	AONB Planning Officer

Representing Our Picturesque Landscape (OPL)
Kate Thomson OPL Partnership Officer

Representing Denbighshire County Council
Huw Rees Head of Countryside &
Heritage Services

Representing Natural Resources Wales
Alun Price



Apologies for absence were submitted from: Allan Forrest, Councillor Hugh Jones, Del Roberts-Jones, Rachel Jones, Tony King, Ceri Lloyd, Councillor Colin Legg, Ian Papworth, John Roberts, Councillor Graham Timms, and Tom Woodall

1. Welcome

The Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed two new member's Councillor Rondo Roberts (Wrexham County Borough Council) and Councillor Graham Timms (Denbighshire County Council).

2. Notes of the previous meeting held on February 19th

Membership of the Partnership

Dewi Davies had submitted his resignation of membership of the partnership. Dewi had been Chair of the Business and Tourism Working Group, the Chair and the AONB Officer had thanked Dewi for his contribution over the years to the Partnership. Four people had recently applied to join the Partnership however, there was currently no capacity for further members.

Dark Sky Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)

The Planning Officer explained that the three Local Authorities had agreed to the guidance and an eight week public consultation period would commence shortly.

Big Covert - large scale tree felling at the Big Covert, Llanarmon yn Ial

Councillor Martyn Holland said that he was not aware of any further developments to date.

2a. Notes of the previous meeting - Our Picturesque Landscape Project (OPL)

OPL Partnership Officer, Kate Thomson completed a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted some of the projects being completed including:

The Glyn Valley Tramway Wharf wall restoration, new benches that were made from a felled elm tree at Plas Newydd, Artists in Residence and the Picturesque bus.

Discussion was held and it was raised how the project was being publicised, it was explained that the project was mainly promoted via press releases, Facebook and social media (posts being minimum fortnightly). The project also contributed to local news letters along with Denbighshire County Council's online newsletter County Voice.

Dinas Bran Event

The Partnership Officer explained that the event that was due to be held last year was cancelled due to Covid restrictions. Plans had been convened for this year for a camera obscura to be sited on Dinas Bran however, the company providing the mobile obscura had cancelled the event. The Team were now working in partnership with Andrew Gale to consider holding a scaled down version of the event using smaller camera obscuras with communities and schools. It was hoped that the larger scale event would be held next year.

Councillor Sonia Benbow-Jones asked for further information on the project that could be included in a local newsletter that she contributes to.

In summing up, the Chair said that OPL Team was a small team and were completing some fantastic work, and thanked them for all for their hard work.

3. Llantysilio Mountain Restoration Update

Moorland Field Officer, Graham Berry completed a power point presentation explaining some of the work that had been completed to date.

It was raised how engagement with landowners was being held, the Moorland Officer explained that he was working in partnership with the Search and Rescue Team, and that engagement was planned to be held with local landowners. Responsible recreation and how appropriate behavior could be addressed was currently being considered.

The use of disposable BBQ's was raised, and whether they should be banned within the AONB in order to gain better control, especially with the climate becoming warmer. It was explained that

responsible access was currently being considered as part of the review of the CROW ACT. It was raised that enforcement was also an issue.

A member proposed for designated areas for portable BBQ's to be sited within the AONB this would ensure that BBQ's were in the correct location and a safe place for them to be disposed of which could be controlled. It was explained that the AONB would consider this option if there were appropriate areas to do so.

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of responsible behavior of some visitors, it was agreed that there was an increase of visitors to the key sites of the AONB, and consideration was being given on how to address target specific issues, litter, dog waste, dogs on leads etc. The AONB was also working in partnership with other AONBs and Nations Parks who were all experiencing similar issues. Funding had been obtained to increase the number of Ranger's at weekends and it was hoped that this would assist with some of the problems.

The Moorland Officer invited members who had an interest in moorland management to contact him and he would discuss further.

4. **Wenffrwd Pocket Park**

AONB Area Manager, David Shiel completed a power point presentation explaining, that the former landfill site was one objective of the OPL project. Thirty seven car parking spaces had been created, along with wider road side verges, and trails had been created around the site. The Park opened on April 16th and was very well received. Phase one was now complete, phase two would include a trail from the health centre to the park, and this would be progressed within the next few months.

Linking to the canal

Surveys were currently being completed to consider linking the canal path to the World Heritage Site (WHS).

Discussion was held, and it was raised that the old railway line from Trevor to Llangollen, was also being considered. The AONB Area Manager, David Shiel said that he was delighted that the people of the Dee Valley were making use of the site. The Chair said Wenffrwd was a fantastic project and a tremendous recreation opportunity for the people of the Dee Valley and congratulated all involved.

Action

A site visit was convened for Wednesday 30th June meeting 11 am - 1 pm

All welcome. Current Welsh Government Covid guidelines would be adhered to.

5. **Update from the AONB Officer**

Welsh Government - Special Landscape, Special Spaces

AONB Officer, Howard Sutcliffe said that the annual revenue funding that the AONB received from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) had been reduced by 6 - 8 % however, capital funding had recently become available.

Potential projects for capital funding included: fixed point photography, Rights of Way networks, green infrastructure within the Dee Valley, landscaping of the wastewater treatment works at the World Heritage Site (WHS).

Local Access Forum (LAF)

Consideration was currently being given to an all North East Wales Local Access Forum.

Minister for Climate Change

The AONB Officer had received notification that all AONB's had moved into the Minister for Climate Change portfolio.

Heritage, Culture and Communities Working Group

The AONB Officer explained that the group had met twice. Excavation work had been completed at Chirk Castel via Ian Grant (Cadw).

The Offa's Dyke Monument – near Chirk

The monument had been damaged and consideration was being given on how to rectify the damage.

Tomen y Faerdre

A geophysics survey had been completed and Ian Grant would now complete a report of the results.

Prestatyn Rotor Radar Station

The former Royal Airforce radar site that was last in use in the 1960's was currently used by Prestatyn Rifle and Pistol target shooting club. The buildings were still intact and unique, especially given their military history. Ownership had recently changed to the shooting club and there were some concerns regarding the protection of the buildings. Cadw are investigating the site.

Action

AONB Annual Forum

The AONB Officer informed that **Heritage, Culture and Communities** would be the theme for this year's Forum. The Forum would be held on Thursday 23rd September at 7 pm the location would be decided nearer the date.

The Chair said the value of the working groups feeding back to the Partnership was valued and it was hoped that this would happen at the next meeting.

6. **Progress of the Management Plan Review**

AONB Area Manager, David Shiel completed a PowerPoint presentation.

Discussion was held regarding the future of sheep farming and grazing due to some of the elements of Brexit and competitive farming from abroad, it was explained that the AONB was supportive of all of the farmers within the AONB and the continuation of sheep farming and grazing.

Councillor Martyn Holland thanked David and the team for all of their work on the Moel Famau car park project.

7. **AONB Projects Update**

To receive an update from:

Plas Newydd

Site Manager, Paul Evans said that the team were preparing the sites and house to welcome visitors back, and would open next weekend. The Tea Rooms could now open indoors, and groups were starting to meet up again at the site.

Michael Ball and S4C and Bargain Hunt, had recently filmed at Plas, and the Welsh programme Cynefin would be filmed there shortly. Discussion was held and it was explained that no income was received for filming at the site and all of the arrangements for filming were made via Denbighshire County Council. Parking issues at the site were also discussed and it was explained that a long-term solution was being considered.

Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)

The Sustainable Development Officer was unable to attend the meeting but provided an update on the fund which was circulated to members.

AONB South

Caer Drewyn

Senior Ranger for the South, Rhun Jones explained that Ellie and Ros had worked hard clearing gorse to allow for a greater extent of acid grassland and to encourage a greater floristic diversity.

Dinas Bran

Work was being completed on a Management plan for the section of land that had been obtained by the AONB. Local volunteers are monitoring reptile numbers in coordination with Ranger, Ellie. There was a healthy population of slow worms at the site.

Llantysilio Green

Twelve tonnes of top soil had been delivered in March and wild flower seeds had been planted, working in partnership with North Wales Wildlife Trust.

Offa's Dyke Path (ODP)

Eight hundred metres of ODP path was being repaired with sleepers being replaced, the work would start around mid-August and be completed by the end of the year. Additional funding was being considered for restoring some badly damaged bog areas of the path.

North of the AONB

Senior Ranger for the North, Rachel Jones was unable to attend today's meeting due to annual leave. It was raised that a presentation on the work / projects of the north of the AONB would be welcomed.

Action

The north AONB team to be asked to complete a presentation at the next meeting.

8. Any Other Business

Regional Senedd Member for North Wales

The Chair asked for a message of congratulations to be sent to Councillor Carolyn Thomas on her recently appointment as Regional Senedd Member for North Wales.

Action

The AONB Officer would contact Cllr Thomas.

Bridge at Cefn Bychan woods

The Chair raised concerns regarding a bridge over the Alyn in Cefn Bychan woods Pantymwyn that was in need of urgent repair

Action

Cllr Owen Thomas to raise with Flintshire County Council

9. Future Meeting Dates

AONB Joint Committee Meeting	Friday 25th June 2021	10:00	Venue to be decided
AONB Annual Forum	Thursday 23rd September 2021	19:00	Venue to be decided
AONB Partnership Meeting	Friday 15th October 2021	10:00	Venue to be decided
AONB Joint Committee Meeting	Friday 5th November 2021	10:00	Venue to be decided

This page is intentionally left blank



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

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**JOINT COMMITTEE
of the
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

Held on: 25th June 2021

Lead Member / Officer: Steve Gadd

Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon

Title: Joint Committee Outturn and Accounts 2020/21 & Draft budget 2021/22

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the AONB's revenue budget outturn position as at 31st March 2021 alongside the draft budget for 2021/22.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the AONB's financial position as at 31st March 2021 and to seek approval of the budget for 2021/22.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members are asked to note the financial outturn for 2020/21 (Appendix 1) and the Reserve Balances as at 31st March 2021 (Appendix 4). Members are asked to formally approve the 2021/22 draft budget (appendix 2) and review and sign the Annual Return for 2020/21 (Appendix 3).

4. Report details.

The report provides a summary of the AONB's revenue outturn for 2020/21 detailed in Appendix 1. The final outturn position shows an overall underspend of £9,431 which has been placed into the revenue Reserve.

The report also provides a copy of the Annual Return for smaller local government bodies in Wales for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Appendix 3) for consideration and approval. The return has been audited by Denbighshire Internal Audit.

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

Effective management of the AONB's revenue budgets will help the delivery of the agreed management plan priorities for the current year and underpins activity in all areas, particularly our relationships with funding partners and our joint priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no direct costs associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

N/A

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The financial position is a standing item at each meeting of the Joint Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

This report outlines the financial position for the AONB for 2020/21 & 2021/22.

The approval and signing of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Appendix 3) is a statutory requirement prior to Audit Wales carrying out an audit of the accounts.

The draft budget for 2021/22 assumes that there will be no change to the contributions from either FCC or WCBC. The level of grant from NRW remains consistent with 2020/21.

As at the 31st March 2021 the balance in the AONB Reserve (appendix 4) stood at £653,659. Of this, £596,818 is earmarked for specific projects which will progress during the 2021/22 financial year. The balance of £56,841 is available to support the 2021/22 revenue budget (£25,690 required) and any future funding pressures.

The agreed budget for 2021/22 will ensure the financial stability for the JC over the next 12 months.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The proposed budget is dependent on income from NRW, Welsh Government and the three Local Authorities. Any changes to these income levels will pose a risk to the future delivery of projects and our ability to deliver against the priorities in the AONB Management Plan.

11. Power to make the Decision

Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

This page is intentionally left blank

(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

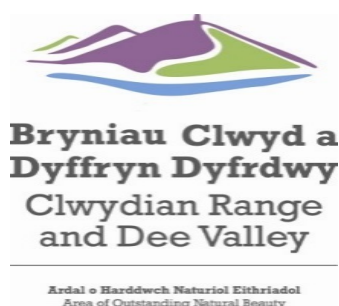
CORE - REVENUE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AT 31st March 2021

	Budget 2020/21	Outturn 2020/21
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	186,499	197,898
Training & Conference	1,000	0
Subscriptions	3,000	3,071
Insurance	668	649
Total Employee costs	191,167	201,618
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>		
Vehicle Hire	1,000	0
Mileage	4,250	1,142
Use of Public Transport	200	0
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	5,450	1,142
<u>Other</u>		
Protective Clothing	2,000	2,317
Management Plan/Prof fees	2,500	2,500
Audit Fees	1,134	1,134
IT costs	3,747	2,824
Telephones	500	644
Total Other Expenses	9,881	9,419
<u>Projects</u>		
Grants	95,000	95,739
Total Project costs	95,000	95,739
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	301,498	307,919
INCOME		
NRW CRDV Grant	-107,000	-107,000
SDF Mgmt fee	-5,000	-5,000
SDF Grant	-100,000	-95,000
LA Funding	-80,168	-80,863
Contributions from Reserve	-9,330	-9,091
TOTAL INCOME	-301,498	-296,954
Total Net Expenditure	0	10,965

(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

AREA - REVENUE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AT 31st March 2021

	Budget 2020/21	Outturn 2020/21
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	172,392	151,572
Insurance	630	563
Total Employee costs	173,022	152,135
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>		
Fuel	3,700	2,873
Fleet	17,000	21,405
Travel	2,000	125
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	22,700	24,403
<u>Other</u>		
Protective Equipment/Clothing	0	178
Site Management	5,000	4,205
IT / Communication costs	2,100	3,225
Telephones	700	630
Projects/Activity expenditure	4,000	649
Total Other Expenses	11,800	8,886
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	207,522	185,423
INCOME		
NRW Forestry Partnership	-19,500	-19,500
LA funding	-183,022	-186,319
Contributions from Reserve	-5,000	0
TOTAL INCOME	-207,522	-205,819
Total Net Expenditure	0	-20,396



(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

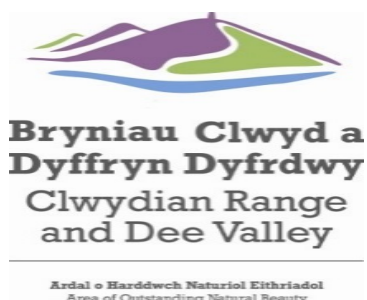
CORE - DRAFT BUDGET 2021/22

	Budget 2020/21	Outturn 2020/21	Draft budget 21/22
	£	£	£
EXPENDITURE			
<u>Employees</u>			
Salaries	186,499	197,899	191,515
Training & Conference	1,000	0	1,000
Subscriptions	3,000	3,071	3,126
Insurance	668	649	670
Total Employee costs	191,167	201,619	196,311
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>			
Vehicle Hire	1,000	0	0
Mileage	4,250	1,142	2,500
Use of Public Transport	200	0	0
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	5,450	1,142	2,500
<u>Other</u>			
Protective Clothing	2,000	2,317	2,500
Management Plan/Prof fees	2,500	2,500	2,500
Audit Fees	1,134	1,134	1,134
IT costs	3,747	2,824	2,900
Telephones	500	644	700
Total Other Expenses	9,881	9,419	9,734
<u>Projects</u>			
Grants	95,000	95,739	95,000
Total Project costs	95,000	95,739	95,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	301,498	307,919	303,545
INCOME			
NRW CRDV Grant	-107,000	-107,000	-107,000
SDF Mgmt fee	-5,000	-5,000	-5,000
SDF Grant	-100,000	-95,000	-95,000
LA Funding	-80,168	-80,863	-80,170
Contributions from Reserve	-9,330	-9,091	-16,375
TOTAL INCOME	-301,498	-296,954	-303,545
Total Net Expenditure	0	10,965	0

(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

AREA - DRAFT BUDGET 2021/22

	Budget 2020/21	Outturn 2020/21	Draft budget 21/22
	£	£	£
EXPENDITURE			
<u>Employees</u>			
Salaries	172,392	151,572	179,585
Insurance	630	563	628
Total Employee costs	173,022	152,135	180,213
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>			
Fuel	3,700	2,873	3,700
Fleet	17,000	21,405	19,000
Travel	2,000	125	250
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	22,700	24,403	22,950
<u>Other</u>			
Protective Equipment/Clothing	0	178	0
Site Management	5,000	4,205	5,000
IT / Communication costs	2,100	3,225	3,300
Telephones	700	630	450
Projects/Activity expenditure	4,000	649	4,000
Total Other Expenses	11,800	8,886	12,750
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	207,522	185,423	215,913
INCOME			
NRW Forestry Partnership	-19,500	-19,500	-19,500
LA funding	-183,022	-186,319	-187,098
Contributions from Reserve	-5,000	0	-9,315
TOTAL INCOME	-207,522	-205,819	-215,913
Total Net Expenditure	0	-20,396	0



Minor Joint Committees in Wales Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

LANGUAGE PREFERENCE

Please indicate how you would like us to communicate with you during the audit. Note that audit notices will be issued bilingually.

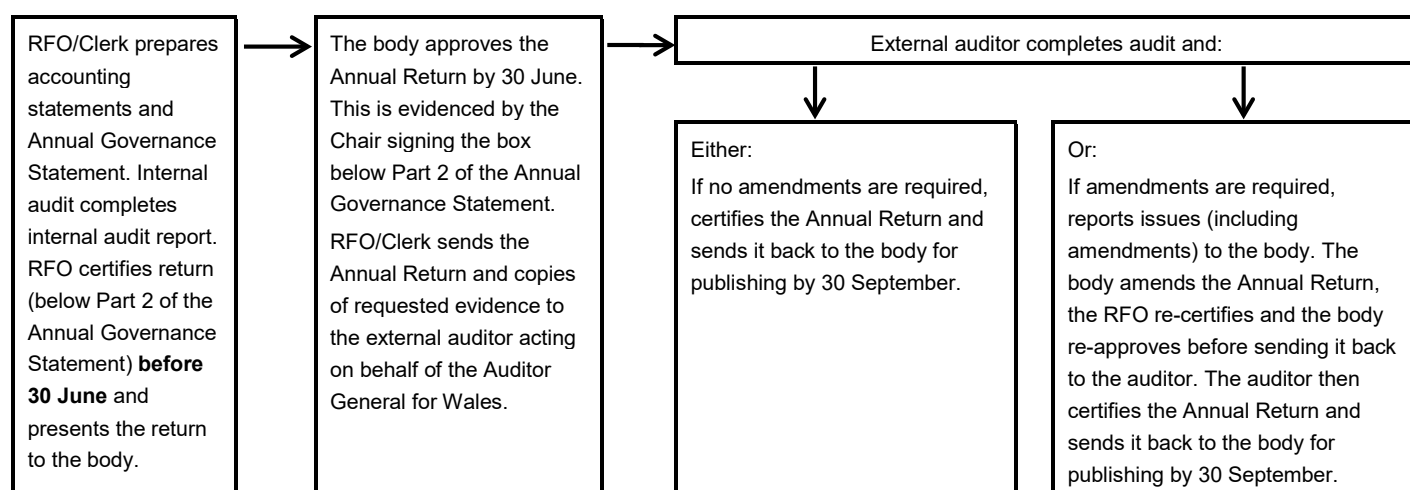
	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
ENGLISH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WELSH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BILINGUALLY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

THE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT PROCESS

Section 12 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 requires local government bodies in Wales (including joint committees) to make up their accounts each year to 31 March and to have those accounts audited by the Auditor General for Wales. Regulation 14 of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 states that smaller local government bodies i.e. those with annual income and expenditure below £2.5 million must prepare their accounts in accordance with proper practices.

For minor joint committees with income and expenditure below £2.5 million, proper practices are set out in the One Voice Wales/Society of Local Council Clerks publication, **Governance and accountability for local councils in Wales – A Practitioners’ Guide** (the Practitioners’ Guide). The Practitioners’ Guide requires that they prepare their accounts in the form of an Annual Return. This Annual Return meets the requirements of the Practitioners’ Guide.

The accounts and audit arrangements follow the process as set out below.



Please read the guidance on completing this Annual Return and **complete all sections highlighted pink**.

APPROVING THE ANNUAL RETURN

The Committee must approve the Annual Return BEFORE the accounts and supporting documents are made available for public inspection under section 30 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

If it is unable to complete the approval process by 30 June 2021 or publish the audited return by 30 September, the Committee must publish notices as required by the Regulations.

The Auditor General for Wales’ Audit Certificate and report is to be completed by the auditor acting on behalf of the Auditor General. It **MUST NOT** be completed by the Clerk/RFO, the Chair or the internal auditor.

Audited and certified returns are sent back to the body for publication and display of the accounting statements, Annual Governance Statement and the Auditor General for Wales’ certificate and report.

Accounting statements 2020-21 for:

Name of body: Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2020 (£)	31 March 2021 (£)	Please round all figures to nearest £. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances. All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.
Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments			
1. Balances brought forward	259,133	314,864	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	275,592	275,970	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	324,507	729,987	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	-356,577	-350,561	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg termination costs.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	-187,792	-316,599	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	314,863	653,659	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).
Statement of balances			
8. (+) Debtors	31,625	131,375	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	289,176	539,522	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	5,937	-17,238	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	314,864	653,659	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	0	0	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

Annual Governance Statement (Part 1)

We acknowledge as the members of the Committee, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
<p>1. We have put in place arrangements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective financial management during the year; and • the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12
<p>2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
<p>3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6
<p>4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23
<p>5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Committee and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
<p>6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8
<p>7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
<p>8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Additional disclosure notes*

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement

1.

2.

3.

* Include here any additional disclosures the Council considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statement and/or the annual governance statement.

Committee approval and certification

The Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

<p>Certification by the RFO</p> <p>I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return present fairly the financial position of the Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2021.</p>	<p>Approval by the Council/Board/Committee</p> <p>I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Committee under minute reference:</p>
<p>RFO signature:</p>	<p>Minute ref:</p>
<p>Name:</p>	<p>Chair of meeting signature:</p>
<p>Date:</p>	<p>Name:</p>
	<p>Date:</p>

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

I report in respect of my audit of the accounts under section 13 of the Act, whether any matters that come to my attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. My audit has been conducted in accordance with guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 of:

Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB

Auditor General's report

Audit opinion

[Except for the matters reported below]* On the basis of my review, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Committee's governance arrangements; and
- that the Committee does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Other matters arising and recommendations

I draw the Committee's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect my audit opinion but should be addressed by the body. / There are no further matters or recommendations that I wish to draw to the Committee's attention.*

External auditor's name:

External auditor's signature:

Date:

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

* Delete as appropriate.

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB

The Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2021.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Committee's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Review of the records confirmed effective record keeping throughout the year.
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Review of invoices and purchase orders confirmed VAT was appropriate accounts for when relevant. Supporting documents retained confirm compliance with financial regulations and there is an effective approval process in place.
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As noted in previous return there is no individual risk register for the AONB. However financial and reputational risk is included in the AONB legal agreement.
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Significant increase in reserves due to WG grants. The grants have been allocated to specific projects and are on target to be spent within the agreed timeframes.
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting documentation confirms prices were correct, recorded and VAT was correctly applied.
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expenditure through petty cash had supporting documentation to demonstrate VAT was correctly accounted for.
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Review of staff payslips confirmed appropriate NI & PAYE deductions were paid.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No material assets are owned by the AONB committee therefore no asset register required.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Records provided were reviewed and confirmed regular reconciliations were performed.
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Examination of the documentation confirmed that there was sufficient audit trail to demonstrate income and expenditure was recorded through the year including debtors and creditors.

For any risk areas identified by the Council/Board/Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:					
	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
11. Insert risk area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
12. Insert risk area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text
13. Insert risk area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert text

* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

** If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Committee are included in my detailed report to the Committee dated _____.] * Delete if no report prepared.

Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Committee's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the body during the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: SAMANTHA DAVIES
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: S J Davies
Date: 10/06//2021

Guidance notes on completing the Annual Return

1. You must apply proper practices when preparing this Annual Return. Proper practices are set out in the Practitioners' Guide.
2. Make sure that the Annual Return is fully completed ie, no empty red boxes. Please avoid making any amendments to the completed return. If this is unavoidable, cross out the incorrect entries, make sure the amendments are drawn to the attention of the body, properly initialled and an explanation for them is provided to the external auditor. **Please do not use correction fluid.** Annual returns that are incomplete or contain unapproved and/or unexplained amendments or correction fluid will be returned unaudited and may incur additional costs.
3. Use a second pair of eyes, perhaps the Chair or a member, to review your Annual Return for completeness before sending the original form to the auditor.
4. Make sure that your accounting statements add up, that the balance carried forward from the previous year (line 7 of 2020) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (line 1 of 2021). Explain any differences between the 2020 figures on this Annual Return and the amounts recorded in last year's Annual Return.
5. Explain fully any significant variances in the accounting statements. Do not just send in a copy of your detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include a detailed analysis to support your explanation and be specific about the values of individual elements making up the variances.
6. Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation you send to your auditor with the Annual Return covers **all** your bank accounts and cash balances. If there are no reconciling items, please state this and provide evidence of the bank balances. The auditor should also be able to agree your bank reconciliation to line 9 in the accounting statements. More help on bank reconciliations is available in the Practitioners' Guide.
7. **You must send to the external auditor, information to support the assertions made in the Annual Governance Statement.** Your auditor will tell you what information you need to provide. Please read the audit notice carefully to ensure you include all the information the auditor has asked for. You should send **copies** of the original records to the external auditor and not the original documents themselves.
8. Please do not send the auditor any information that you are not specifically asked for. Doing so is not helpful.
9. If the auditor has to review unsolicited information, repeat a request for information, receives an incomplete bank reconciliation or explanation of variances or receives original documents that must be returned, the auditor will incur additional costs for which they are entitled to charge additional fees.
10. **Please deal with all correspondence with the external auditor promptly.** This will help you to meet your statutory obligations and will minimise the cost of the audit.
11. **Please note that if completing the electronic form, you must print the form for it to be certified by the RFO and signed by the Chair before it is sent to the auditor.**

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean that you may not have met requirements		Done?	
Initial submission to the external auditor		Yes	No
Accounts	Do the papers to be sent to the external auditor include an explanation of significant variations from last year to this year?		
	Does the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2021 agree to Line 9?		
Approval	Has the RFO certified the accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement (Regulation 15 (1)) no later than 30 June 2021?		
	Has the body approved the accounting statements before 30 June 2021 and has Section 3 been signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting at which approval was given?		
All sections	Have all pink boxes in the accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement been completed and explanations provided where needed?		
	Has all the information requested by the external auditor been sent with this Annual Return? Please refer to your notice of audit and any additional schedules provided by your external auditor.		

If accounts are amended after receipt of the Auditor General's report on matters arising		Yes	No
Accounts	Have the amended accounting statements been approved and Section 3 re-signed and re-dated as evidence of the Committee's approval of the amendments before re-submission to the auditor?		

This page is intentionally left blank

AONB Reserve

	2020/21				
	Opening balance	Revenue budget	Project funding		Closing Balance
	01.04.20				31.03.21
	£	£	£	£	£
Opening balance	-314,864	-47,410		-267,454	
Revenue Underspend / overspend					
General		-9,431			-45,866
Matchfunding for Dee Valley Warden					-8,000
Projects					
Corwen projects					-1,425
Outreach Engagement					-3,327
EBD Asst Outdoor Provides					-1,950
EBD Pop Up Shop food Trail					2,400
Scottish Power Overhead lines - Llysfasi					-5,500
Flintshire AONB Badge					-711
Other/Misc income/sales etc			340	-375	-481
WG Grant					-6,758
Whitebeam project					-4,550
Tourism Growth Plan (TGP) / Dark Skies (DARK)			13,622	-15,152	6,198
Curlew Cymru			150		-519
Friends of the AONB (Michael Ross, benches and habitat mgmt)					-1,193
Farm Payment Scheme BPS					-2,082
Limestone Legacy funding				-2,737	-8,847
Loggerheads Shelter					-3,541
Community Garden SDF (COMM)			50	-5,500	-5,450
WG Grants					-242,296
17/18					
:: Collaboration with UNESCO WHS					-5,000
:: Dark Skies (line 39)					-10,000
:: Gateways A5 Trunk Road and A494 signage (GATE)			889		-23,111
:: WHS Clinker Path					-6,000
18/19					
1801 :- reduce non-recyclable packaging £10k			5,168		-4,832
1802 :- Llangollen - access for canoes £9k					-9,000
1803 :- Llantysilio - Moorland restoration £15k			1,380		-0
1804 :- Ysgol Y Foel - decarbonisation £50k			45,000		-5,000
1805 :- Ysgol Y Foel - eco learning facility £12k					-2,250
1806 :- 2019 - 2024 ANOB Plan £16k			12,542		-3,459
1807 :- AONB Officer - working with private sector £20k			9,091		-909
1808 :- Site conservation - 3 historical sites £15k			3,699		-11,301
2019/20					
1901 :- Tree Planting (3 sites)£15k			2,190		-12,810
1902 :- Threshold and Welcome signs for key AONB sites . £30k			6,160		-22,431
1903 :- Access Imp WHS, Horseshoe Falls £25k			19,983		-5,017
1904 :- Heathland Management through cutting and bailing of heather £15k			4,500		-7,575
1905 :- AONB Leaflet - design & printing £3k			3,340	-340	0
2020/21 Resilient National Parks & AONBs (RNPA):					
DBT1 :- Climate Change and Nature Recovery				-25,000	-25,000
DBT2 :- Plas Newydd Winter Opening				-10,000	-10,000
DBT3:- River Access for Canoeists				-10,000	-10,000
DBT4:- Assistant Ranger - Community Miles			1,098	-25,000	-23,902
DBT5:- Climate Change & AONB Management Plan			729	-7,500	-6,771
2020/21 SLSP					
2001:- Visitor Impacts Resilience project (MF)			36,859	-140,000	-103,141
2002:- Improving Dark Skies and local ecology (Lighting @ Loggs)				-40,000	-40,000
2020/21 Green Recovery: (GREC)					
2003:- Graig Fawr				-9,900	-9,900
2004:- Moel Findeg & Hen Ardd				-21,000	-21,000
2005:- Loggerheads and Alyn Valley			9,862	-39,000	-29,138
2006:- Wenffrwyd			488	-155,000	-154,512
		-9,431		-329,365	
Closing balance		-56,841	0	-596,818	-653,659

This page is intentionally left blank



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

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**JOINT COMMITTEE
of the
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

Held on: 25th June 2021

Lead Member / Officer: David Shiel / Tony Hughes

Report Author: David Shiel

Title: 'Planning for Dark Night Skies' - Supplementary Planning Guidance for lighting in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB – Consultation draft

1. What is the report about?

This report relates to draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for lighting in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which, if adopted, will be used in the determination of planning applications.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The adopted AONB Management Plan defines the Special Qualities which make the area a nationally protected landscape. One of the special qualities is tranquillity – which is defined as 'an atmosphere of calm and stillness; peace and quiet; and with dark night skies'. The SPG will help conserve this special quality by providing further guidance for developers and local planning authorities on lighting. In addition, the AONB Joint Committee and Partnership is seeking formal recognition of the area as a Dark Sky Community by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) and the SPG is an essential pre-requisite to such a designation.

The draft SPG for public consultation is attached to this report.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Joint Committee support the draft SPG 'Planning for Dark Night Skies - Supplementary Planning Guidance for lighting in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB' for public consultation.

4. Report details.

The document provides additional guidance on the lighting of development to ensure that it is designed and specified to conserve the AONB's dark sky and nocturnal wildlife.

The public consultation period would be a minimum of 8 weeks which it is anticipated will commence in June 2021. Given current Covid Regulations an online only consultation is currently proposed but if restrictions are eased a public drop-in session could be held at Loggerheads Country Park. It is anticipated that the results of the consultation will be reported back to the Planning Committee's of the 3 Authorities later this summer with a view to securing formal adoption of the document. If adopted, the SPG will be a material planning consideration when assessing planning applications.

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

One of the Special Qualities of the AONB is Tranquillity which is defined as an atmosphere of calm and stillness; peace and quiet; and with dark night skies'. If adopted the SPG on Dark Skies will project a significant safeguard for the quality of the skies across the AONB in relation to new developments.

It will also assist in conserving the special qualities of the AONB and enhance its appeal to visitors. There will also be a positive effect on the local economy by enhancing opportunities for astro-tourism during the off-peak autumn/winter months.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

Agreeing the SPG for consultation is not anticipated to create any additional costs. Other services will be affected when they are proposing external lighting schemes or associated development which should be designed and specified to be dark sky friendly. Please note that a dark sky friendly lighting design will not necessarily incur increased costs.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

The main conclusions are that the draft SPG will overall have positive impacts on the local economy, health and well-being and biodiversity. It will also contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The SPG will apply to the relevant area of all three authorities - Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. An Officer Working Group comprising planning officers from the three authorities together with representatives from the AONB and NRW was established to take forward and co-ordinate preparation of the draft SPG. Flintshire's Planning Strategy Group has approved the SPG for consultation and Wrexham have also agreed the document for public consultation. Denbighshire's Planning Strategy Group also recently endorsed the SPG for consultation

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

Failure to put in place an SPG to provide dark sky friendly lighting advice and guidance for developers in and around the AONB will undermine efforts to conserve and enhance tranquillity as one of the AONB's Special Qualities. In addition, such a failure would present a significant barrier to the AONB's aspiration to secure formal recognition of the area as a Dark Sky Community by the IDA.

11. Power to make the Decision

Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004).

This page is intentionally left blank



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

Awyr Dywyll
Dark Skies

Planning for Dark Night Skies

Supplementary Planning Guidance for lighting in the Clwydian
Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Draft for consultation

Planning for dark night skies

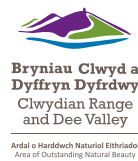
Supplementary Planning Guidance for lighting in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

CONTENTS

Glossary	iii
Executive summary	iv
1. Introduction	1
Purpose and scope of this supplementary planning guidance	1
The area of outstanding natural beauty	1
Policy context	1
Status of the guidance	2
Dark sky community designation	3
2. Dark sky and light pollution	5
What is light pollution?	5
Effects of light pollution	6
Light pollution in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley	7
3. Control of light pollution	8
4. Lighting design principles	10
5. Lighting assessment and design	11
Lighting assessment	11
Design advice	14
Luminaires – physical characteristics	18
Mitigation measures	19
Advice by type of development	20
Summary assessment and design check list	22
References	25

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: map and contact details for local planning authorities and the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley area of outstanding natural beauty	26
Appendix 2: relevant policies of the local planning authorities	28
Appendix 3: monitoring indicators	33
Appendix 4: sqm survey sites and data	34
Appendix 5: examples of dark sky friendly lighting	36
Figure 1: Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB	vi
Figure 2: Image of light pollution in the UK	6
Figure 3: Radiance observed from space 2016	7
Figure 4: Metrics for light	8
Figure 5: Kelvin colour temperature chart	9
Figure 6: Illustration of SQM readings in 2019	16
Figure 7: Map of administrative boundaries	27
Table 1: Characteristics and purpose of light bulbs	9
Table 2: Clwydian Range and Dee Valley general lighting principles	10
Table 3: Key aspects of a lighting assessment	12
Table 4: Environmental zones for exterior lighting	16
Table 5: Obtrusive light limitations for exterior lighting installations	16
Table 6: Recommended average lux illumination levels	16
Table 7: SQM survey sites and data	34



Acknowledgements

This document has been prepared on behalf of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham planning authorities and the AONB Joint Committee/Partnership by Craggatak Consulting, supported by a working group of officers from the three authorities, the AONB, the North Wales Dark Sky Initiative and Natural Resources Wales.

Mae'r ddogfen hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh

This draft version of the Guide will be subject to full public and stakeholder consultation. We will consider all representations made during this process in the formation of the final version ready for adoption by the respective

Glossary

Ambient light		The light that is already present before the introduction of any additional lighting.
Building Luminance		Light reflected from the surface of a building, often used to create a sense of place or highlight architectural features.
Candela	cd	A measure of luminous intensity, the intensity of light in each direction.
Colour temperature		Measured in Kelvins, the standard method for measuring the colour of light emitted from a lamp. It correlates to the effects of heating a piece of steel. Steel will glow a different colour depending on the temperature applied. It varies from a warm red, through yellow to amber then white and finally a cool blueish white.
Dark Sky Discovery Sites	DSDS	Local places that allow good access to observe the dark sky.
Glare		The uncomfortable brightness of a light source when viewed against a contrasting darker background.
Intrusive light		Light spilling beyond the intended task area.
Isolux		A line of equal illumination (it is like an Isobar, which is a line of equal barometric pressure found on a weather map, or to an Isotherm, which is a line of equal temperature found in nature or science).
Kelvin Scale	K	A measure of temperature, especially extreme temperatures. This includes the temperature of a light bulb filament.
Lumens	Lm	A measure of luminous flux, the total amount of light emitted in all directions by a light source.
Luminaire		A complete electric light unit.
Luminaires – asymmetric		Direct light in a certain path (e.g. Along a road or over a sports pitch) so they only light the task areas.
Luminaires – symmetrical		Direct light in a symmetrical pattern around the unit and are useful for lighting large areas to a high level of uniformity – such as decorative installations.
Luminous		Giving off light.
Lux	Lm/ m ²	A measure of illuminance, the total amount of light that falls on a surface; the higher the Lux value, the brighter a subject appears.
Maintained average illumination	EAV	The average level of light needed on a surface required to do a specific task.
Obtrusive Light		Unwanted light.
Radiance		The glowing light shining from something.
Sky Glow		The general diffuse sheen that is visible in the direction of large cities, airports, and industrial complexes.
Sky Quality Measurement	SQM	A measure of the luminance of the night sky, quantifying the skyglow in units of “magnitudes per square arc-second”. The larger the number, the darker the sky. A reading of 21.00 would indicate a very dark site, while a reading of 16.00 would indicate a light polluted sky.
Spectrum		The different wavelengths of energy produced by a light source (a ‘rainbow’ of colours from white light).

Executive Summary

There is a desire to let people experience the wonder of the night sky above the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The night sky is amazing to see, it is awesome. One way of delivering this is through the formal recognition of the area as a 'Dark Sky Community'. To win this status we must reduce light pollution. 'Planning for dark night skies' is Supplementary Planning Guidance for lighting in the AONB. The document presents:

- The purpose, scope, and status of the guidance;
- The policy context;
- An introduction to the AONB and Dark Sky Community designations;
- A definition of light pollution and its effects;
- The means of controlling light pollution;
- Lighting design principles;
- A method of assessing the need for lighting; and
- Lighting design advice.

Following adoption by the respective Local Planning Authorities, 'Planning for dark night skies' becomes a material planning consideration when those authorities are making planning decisions within the AONB and its setting.

Artificial light has done much to enhance peoples' use of the night-time environment but it can cause light pollution. Light pollution is the unnecessary brightening of the night sky and this leads to problems. It affects our health and well-being, our safety, and our heritage. It endangers wildlife that needs the dark, and the environment though the over-use of energy and the

generation of carbon. Light pollution arises from a lack of thought or attention in the design of development schemes and installation of lighting equipment.

Reducing light pollution delivers many benefits. All living things, including people, adjust their behaviour according to natural light. The cycle of night and day controls Nature's rhythms but in different ways for different things. It is a part of our nature to sleep at night, a dark night sky improves our mental state. We are often safer in natural light conditions, even at night, as impenetrable shadows accompany intense light, and we see less. And under natural conditions, we see our night-sky heritage. Nature benefits. Some wildlife needs the dark to survive, and we save the planet by using less energy and cutting our carbon footprint. We also strengthen our local economy by attracting more visitors; star-gazing is a growth tourism activity.

To control light pollution, all exterior light sources should be 'fully shielded'. That is, a screened light source with its light directed in such a way that there is no emission above the horizontal plane. Never install unshielded bulkhead lights; they waste light in all directions, shining only a small fraction of light to where it is needed. There may be permission for unshielded fittings with small light sources (less than 500 Lm) in special circumstances, but proper upward light control will always be the recommended approach. If the angle of a lighting unit is adjustable, direct it downwards. There should be no light escaping above the horizontal plane. Only light what needs lighting and not neighbouring property.

Switching controls can reduce energy costs and restrict light issues to those times when lighting is necessary (use light sensors, motion sensors, timers or dimmers). Whilst lighting systems typically generate a 'white' light, this includes a range of different tones from a dim orange glow to a blinding blue white. The Kelvin scale (K) measures this range of 'colour temperature'. Lower kelvin lights are cost and energy efficient, safer, better for human health and the natural environment, and contribute less to skyglow. For these reasons, lighting systems affecting the AONB should emit a colour temperature of no more than 3000K.

When designing a lighting scheme, it is important that the design process considers how a proposal will interact with the night-time environment, the likely night-time use, and how site layout planning and design minimises the need for exterior lighting.

Illumination should be appropriate to the surroundings and character of the whole area, not just the site.

Some lighting installations will require planning permission. 'Planning for dark night skies' will help in the selection of the best lighting and in the assessment of such proposals. If the lighting scheme requires planning permission then there must be a lighting plan and assessment. This will likely need the services of a qualified lighting design engineer. The lighting plan must show:

- Where the site is
- The need for the lighting
- The standards to be used



Caer Drewyn Hillfort, Corwen

- The position of all proposed lighting
- The installation details of all proposed lighting (angle, tilt, height)
- The technical specifications of the lighting
- A modelled illuminance plot of the proposal, detailing spill and average illuminance against lighting guidelines.
- Elevation plans showing lines of illumination from lights on walls
- The baseline conditions, including details of any existing lighting or any nearby lighting
- If the proposed lighting exceeds the limits described in 'Planning for dark night skies'

There is detailed design advice in 'Planning for dark night skies', this includes advice by development type. But many installations need no permission. We hope that everyone will see the benefits of retaining our dark night sky and choose to follow the **Good Lighting Code**:

Think before you light; the right amount of light, where needed, when needed.

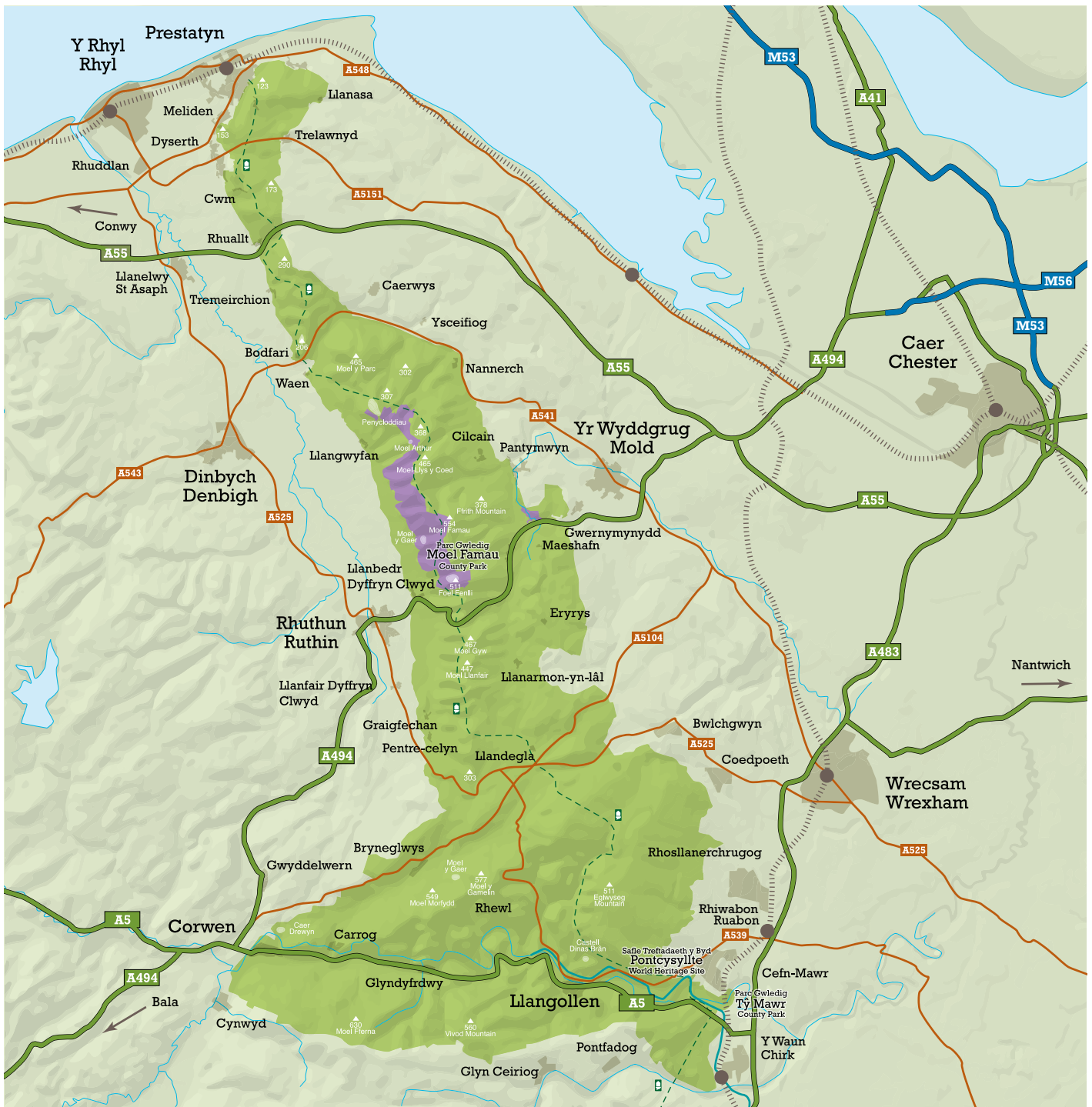
Before installing any external light fitting, answer these questions:

- Do you really need additional lighting?
- If yes –
- What is it you must illuminate?

- When must you illuminate it (can you use a time switch or motion sensor)?
- What is the dimmest light source you can use (is this below the level set out in the guidance)?
- What is the colour temperature of the light source (it should throw a soft white glow and be less than 3000 Kelvin)?
- How will you make sure that you do not illuminate anything else (orientation, shielding, tilt of the light)?
- How will you avoid any light spilling into the night-sky (angle fitting downward to a non-reflective surface)?

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

Figure 1



1. Introduction

“No sight is more provocative of awe than is the night sky”

Llewelyn Powys

Purpose and scope of this Supplementary Planning Guidance

1.1. The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers part of the counties of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. Each county has a principal council that is the local planning authority. These local planning authorities each have a Development Plan that is their policy base for planning decisions. The intention of ‘Planning for dark night skies’ (the Guidance) is to provide Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) in amplification of those Development Plan policies that seek to conserve and enhance the AONB and deliver distinctive and natural places.

1.2. This Guidance is for individuals proposing new development and for decision makers involved in the management of the AONB. It sets out guidance to lighting design for the protection of the dark night sky of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB. The Guidance enables developers and planners to design, submit and assess lighting schemes that are appropriate to the landscape, whether planning permission is a requirement or not.

1.3. There is no specific statement on what proposals may need planning permission as reliable advice is available elsewhere. Before considering any new development, it would be advisable to seek professional assistance from a planning agent or architect, to ascertain whether there is a need for planning permission or any other consents, such as works affecting public rights of way or highways. If there is a

requirement for planning permission, prospective applicants may wish to obtain further advice from their local planning authority by submitting a pre-application request for advice before embarking on a formal planning application. Further information is available from individual authorities. The contact details for planning departments and the AONB are set out in **Appendix 1**, together with a map showing the respective local authority areas within the AONB.

The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

1.4. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 states that the primary purpose of an AONB designation is to conserve and enhance its natural beauty. Planning authorities have a statutory duty to have regard to the AONB’s purpose. This duty applies in relation to all activities affecting the AONB, whether those activities lie within, or in the setting of, the designated area. The planning authorities should also have regard to the identified special qualities of the AONB. The AONB “must be afforded the highest status of protection from inappropriate development”, which is identical to the protection afforded to National Parks. National planning policies in Wales underpin the statutory designation of the AONB (Planning Policy Wales Edition 10, December 2018). Chapter 6 addresses AONBs. AONBs should be drivers of the sustainable use and management of natural resources in their areas. Planning authorities should have regard to their identified special qualities.

1.5. The initial designation of the Clwydian Range as an AONB was in 1985. In 2011, the Welsh Government extended the area to include the Dee Valley (Figure 1). Within the Dee Valley, there also lies a part of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct & Canal World Heritage Site (inscribed in 2009). A Joint Committee of the counties of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham oversees the management of the AONB. That committee produces a statutory AONB Management Plan on behalf of the three councils. This plan sets out the local authority’s policies for the AONB and the means of achieving them. It also defines the special qualities of the area, one of which is tranquillity. In the plan, tranquillity is associated with an atmosphere of calm and stillness; peace and quiet; and with dark night skies.

Policy context

1.6. The Guidance takes account of the most recent changes to the legislative and strategic planning context that have arisen at both national and local level. This includes the current version of Planning Policy Wales and supporting Technical Advice Notes (TANs) produced by the Welsh Government. It also builds on the AONB Management Plan (2014) but this plan is currently under review; the review will strengthen Dark Night Sky policies and objectives.

NATIONAL POLICY

1.7. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016¹ introduces the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SNMR) and sets out a framework to achieve this as part of decision-making. The objective of the SNMR is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits that they provide. The Environment Act also sets a legal target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050.

1.8. Planning Policy Wales (Edition 10, December 2018)² refers to light pollution in Chapter 6. It recognises the need to balance the adverse impacts of lighting on the environment, amenity and wildlife with the need to provide security and enable night-time recreational and sporting events to take place with the need to:

- protect the natural and historic environment including wildlife and features of the natural environment such as tranquillity;
- retain dark skies where appropriate;
- prevent glare and respect the amenity of neighbouring land uses; and
- reduce the carbon emissions associated with lighting.

It notes that dark sky reserves can contribute positively to an area in economic and environmental terms. The advice to planning authorities is to adopt policies for lighting, including the control of light pollution, in their development plans.

LOCAL POLICY

1.9. Development Plans set out the proposals of the local planning authority for future development and use of land in their area and which areas need to be protected for their environmental qualities. After adoption, the plan forms the basis of planning decisions that the local planning authority makes.



Bryn Alyn

1.10. The Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) recommends that Local Planning Authorities specify environmental zones for exterior lighting control within their Development Plans. It presents guidance for reducing obtrusive light (ILP 2020 Guidance Note 01). This guidance is set out in Section 5.

1.11. In addition, the AONB Management Plan provides a framework to inform and guide anyone who undertakes activities within the area.

Status of the Guidance

1.12. Following adoption by the respective Local Planning Authorities, 'Planning for dark night skies' becomes a material planning consideration when those authorities are making planning decisions within the AONB and its setting. It is Supplementary Planning Guidance to amplify the following Development Plan Policies:

Denbighshire LDP 2006-2021 (adopted 2013)

- Policy VOE2: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Area of Outstanding Beauty
- Policy VOE3: Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site
- Policy RD1: Sustainable development and good design

Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2018 – 2033 Draft Preferred Strategy May 2019 (not yet adopted)

- Draft Key Policy: Placemaking
- Draft Key Policy: Natural & Built Environment

Flintshire UDP 2000-2015 (adopted 2011)

- Policy L2: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Policy D2: Design
- Policy D4: Outdoor Lighting
- Policy EWP13: Nuisance

Flintshire LDP 2015-2030: Deposit Plan September 2019 (not yet adopted)

- Strategic Policy STR10: Tourism, Culture, and Leisure
- Strategic Policy STR13: Natural and Built Environment, Green Networks and Infrastructure
- Strategic Policy STR14: Climate Change and Environmental Protection
- Policy PC2: General Requirements for Development
- Policy PC3: Design
- Policy EN5: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Policy EN18: Pollution and Nuisance

Wrexham UDP 1996 – 2011 (adopted 2005)

- Policy EC5: Special Landscape Areas
- Policy CLF4: Playing Fields, Children's Play Areas and Open Space

1. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents/enacted>

2. <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-10.pdf>

Note paragraph 5.7: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Wrexham LDP 2013-2028 Deposit Plan April 2018 (not yet adopted)

- Policy SP15: Natural Environment
- Policy DM1: Development Management Considerations
- Policy NE4: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The text of these policies is set out in **Appendix 2**. Further information on planning policies and procedures of individual authorities are available on their websites.

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Management Plan (confirmed 2014³)

1.13. The AONB Management Plan defines ‘**Tranquillity**’ as one of the area’s special qualities. It states:

“tranquillity is associated with an atmosphere of calm and stillness; peace and quiet; and with dark night skies”

Objective LQCO4 seeks to conserve this quality: *“Protect the tranquillity of the AONB and take steps where possible to reduce noise and light pollution”*.

To view the AONB Management Plan go to: <http://www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/plans-and-strategies>

1.14. Designers, developers, landowners and relevant organisations **must have regard to ‘Planning for dark night skies’** when preparing their plans, proposals or strategies. Local authority planning officers will also assess development proposals against the principles outlined in this document together with other material planning considerations. Lighting is only one consideration in the assessment of planning applications. Applicants will need to demonstrate compliance with other policies in the LDPs and with national guidance and other material considerations when applying for planning permission.

1.15. The Councils will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Guidance through LDP monitoring and planning application feedback

questionnaires. The AONB Joint Committee sets out its monitoring indicators in **Appendix 3**.

Dark Sky Community designation

1.16. The Councils are seeking the formal recognition of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB as a ‘Dark Sky Community’ from the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). That Association defines a Dark Sky Community as:

“a town, city, municipality or other similar political entity that has shown exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of quality lighting policies, dark sky education and citizen support of the ideal of dark skies.”

Achieving this designation brings recognition of the efforts made by the community to protect the night sky and the nocturnal environment dependent on it.

1.17. This recognition requires:

- a suite of minimum standards for permanent lighting installations in the AONB;
 - community commitment to dark skies and quality lighting;
 - demonstrated success in light pollution control; and
 - a sky brightness measurement programme to monitor light pollution in the area.
- 1.18.** This SPG covers the following matters:
- Overview of the importance of conserving the dark night sky;
 - Lighting terminology and light pollution impacts;
 - What to consider in a lighting assessment;
 - Replacement of existing lighting installations; and

- Best practice for all lighting, domestic and non-domestic.

1.19. Reducing light pollution delivers many benefits. All living things, including people, adjust their behaviour according to natural light. The cycle of night and day controls Nature’s rhythms but in different ways for different things. It is a part of our nature to sleep at night, a dark night sky improves our mental state. We are often safer in natural light conditions, even at night, as impenetrable shadows accompany intense light, and we see less. And under natural conditions, we see our night-sky heritage. Nature benefits. Some wildlife needs the dark to survive, and we save the planet by using less energy and cutting our carbon footprint. We also strengthen our local economy by attracting more visitors; star-gazing is a growth tourism activity.

1.20. The Guidance does not seek to eliminate or ban lighting within Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB. The Councils recognise that there is a duty of care for developments to include lighting to meet health and safety requirements and other legitimate needs. However, maintaining the dark sky environment relies on good lighting design that is appropriate to the rural setting and that does not cause light pollution. Degrading the dark sky environment will damage the special qualities of the AONB. Also, the Councils will seek to prevent statutory nuisances where lighting forms part of a planning permission and may seek to regulate light as part of planning conditions and obligations.

1.21. All lighting installations in the AONB should apply best practice to reduce light pollution and impacts on the dark sky. To minimize the harmful effects of light pollution, follow the **Good Lighting Code:**

‘Think before you light; the right amount of light, where needed, when needed.’



Castell Dinas Brân

2. Dark Sky and light pollution

“There are two kinds of light – the glow that illuminates, and the glare that obscures”

James Thurber 1894–1961 *Lanterns and Lances*

What is light pollution?

2.1. All living things adjust their behaviour according to natural light. The invention of artificial light has done much to safeguard and enhance our night-time environment but, if not properly controlled, obtrusive light (known as light pollution) can present serious physiological and ecological problems. Light pollution arises from a lack of thought or attention in the design of development schemes and installation of lighting equipment.

2.2. There are three general types of light pollution:

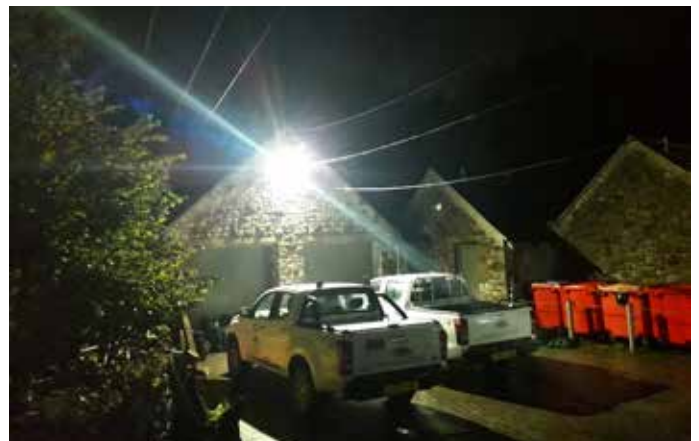
- **Sky glow** – This is the glow that is visible around urban areas resulting from the scattering of artificial light. Sky glow is light from reflected surfaces and badly directed light sources illuminating air molecules and other particles. A major effect of sky glow at night is to reduce contrast in the sky. This is the most pervasive form of light pollution and can affect areas many miles from the original light source. Light directed at the near horizontal is the most damaging as it travels furthest and lowest through the atmosphere; pointing lights downward avoids this.
- **Glare** – the uncomfortable brightness of a light source when viewed against a contrasting darker background. Glare forms a veil of luminance from poorly controlled and directed lighting that reduces contrast and visibility. To road users, glare can be highly dangerous. Lights in the rural, darker area of the AONB will be relatively higher in glare than in urban areas causing impacts on night time landscape tranquillity.
- **Nuisance / intrusion** – the spilling of light beyond the area or property being lit. Light nuisance can include intrusion into windows of neighbouring properties, but it can also cause issues to habitats and areas of high biodiversity interest.



Sky glow



Glare



Nuisance/intrusion

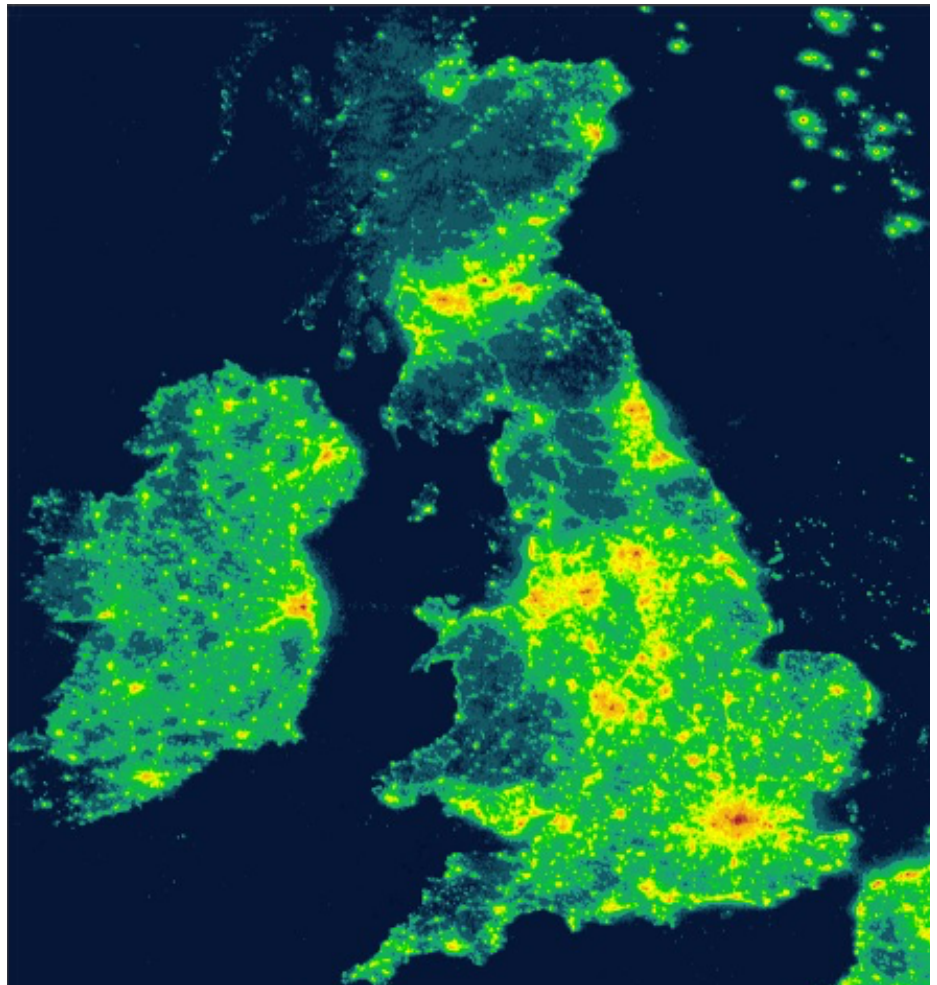
Effects of light pollution

2.3. Light pollution in the UK has increased significantly in recent years (up 24% between 1993 and 2000). Over 90% of UK population now live under a highly polluted sky. As light pollution increases, the opportunities to enjoy the night sky and its stars are declining.

2.4. Excessive or inappropriate lighting can harm our health and well-being; and harm the natural environment. For example:

- **Health** – Light pollution impacts on human sleep patterns with links to obesity, depression, diabetes, and cancer.
- **Tranquillity** – Obtrusive lighting can reduce the perception of tranquillity. This reduces the feeling of general well-being and self-reported levels of health.
- **Nature** – Plants and animals depend on Earth’s daily cycle of light and dark rhythm to govern life-sustaining behaviours such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep and protection from predators. Artificial light at night has negative and deadly effects on many creatures.
- **Climate** – Reducing light levels will save energy and reduce carbon emissions.
- **Economy** – Dark Sky status can support a tourist economy where the quality of the skies is an important part of the tourism offer. Reducing light levels can also save money.
- **Crime and safety** – There is no proven link between lighting levels and crime rates. Crime is a societal problem, not a lighting problem.

Figure 2: Image of light pollution in the UK



2.5. Light pollution has been demonstrated to disrupt human Circadian rhythm (‘body clocks’), with consequences including loss of attention, increased stress and fatigue. Recent studies have linked particularly blue-rich lighting with the supressing of melatonin production – the hormone that regulates the human sleep-wake cycle.

2.6. Tranquillity is not a characteristic of the environment itself but rather a ‘state of mind’; a perception by the observer. It is the quality of calm experienced in places with mainly natural features and

activities, free from disturbance from manufactured ones, such as obtrusive lighting and structures. General wellbeing and self-reported overall health are both significantly higher for people who frequently experience tranquil spaces. A recent study found that the well-being value of parks and green spaces is £34.2 billion per year in the UK and it saves the NHS around £111 million per year, primarily due to the reduced number of GP visits. It also found that general wellbeing and self-reported overall health are both significantly higher for those who frequently use parks and green spaces.⁴

2.7. Artificial light can be very disruptive to body clocks of many animal species; but it can also act as a barrier to migration, animal movement and



ecosystem integrity. Artificial light can alter a species' phenology. For example, lighting affecting the wetland breeding habitat of frogs and toads can disrupt their nocturnal croaking – an important part of their breeding activity – with consequences for reproduction success and population size. Movement by vegetation or wildlife can trigger poorly positioned lights.

2.8. Poor design and/or installation will allow light spill into adjacent areas or the sky where there is no need or use; this is a waste of energy and a loss of efficiency. Whilst new LED systems are reliable and cheap to power, only their effective design and installation will allow their peak operation and efficiency.

2.9. Dark skies are becoming an important aspect for tourism, through landscapes offering unblemished views of the night sky. After its designation as a Dark Sky Park, the tourism authority in Northumberland reported many of the hotels in and close to it witnessed increases in business with visitors especially from urban areas, wishing to see and experience the wonders of the night sky; 2017 figures estimated that dark skies tourism in Northumberland was worth over £25m to the county, supporting around 450 jobs.

2.10. People cite the reduction of outdoor lighting as being responsible for increased crime, anti-social behaviour, and reduced road safety. However, whilst outdoor lighting at night is often meant to enhance safety and security, its overuse and/or poor management can in fact have the opposite effect, impacting adversely upon visibility. Thus, glare from bright, unshielded lights reduces safety by constricting pupils, so impacting on the ability to see and making it more difficult to adjust to low-light conditions. Bright lights can create contrasting dark spots for intruders to hide within, unseen from the outside. Lights can help criminals see what they are doing, and help them

to see an escape route in what would otherwise be unfamiliar surroundings. Lighting can mean that intruders do not need to use a torch that would otherwise advertise their presence. A recent study⁵ in 62 English and Welsh local authorities found that streetlights do not prevent accidents or crime, but do cost a lot of money. Domestic security lighting can have the opposite effect to that desired.

“Where there is much light the shade is deepest” Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe, Goetz Von Berlichingen

2.11. Tackling light pollution can reduce or avoid the above effects; in addition, sympathetic and energy-efficient lighting can satisfy community needs at lower cost and reduce carbon emissions.

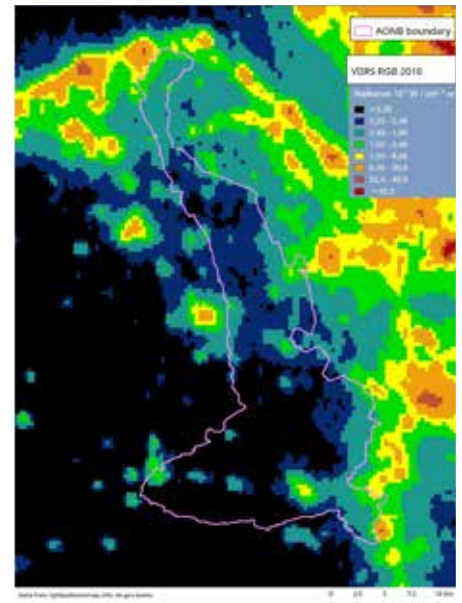
Light pollution in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley

2.12. The assessment of the quality of the night skies in the AONB uses two complementary studies. There is a desktop examination of light pollution using existing satellite and other data (**Figure 3**). To support the desktop analysis, there is a network of 49 survey points across the AONB. Selection of these points was through a grid system to provide a good representation across the area (listed in **Appendix 4**).

2.13. The dark night sky quality at the majority of the AONB locations monitored is of a very good standard. There are areas of higher light pollution that correspond to the more populated areas with the more rural locations showing better dark sky quality. There is a high incidence of light pollution in the centre of Llangollen, and from holiday parks. Highways lighting is also noticeable. The light spillage from the towns of Mold and Wrexham, as well as Deeside, Chester and Merseyside, affects the quality of the night sky on the eastern edges of the AONB. There are similar impacts in the north from the

coastal towns. These have a significant effect upon tranquillity, particularly at night, spilling light into the sky to the north and east of the AONB.

Figure 3: Radiance observed from space 2016



3. Control of light pollution

There are several characteristics of light that describe and assess lighting installations.

3.1. The following metrics describe light quantities and limits (see Figure 4) and include:

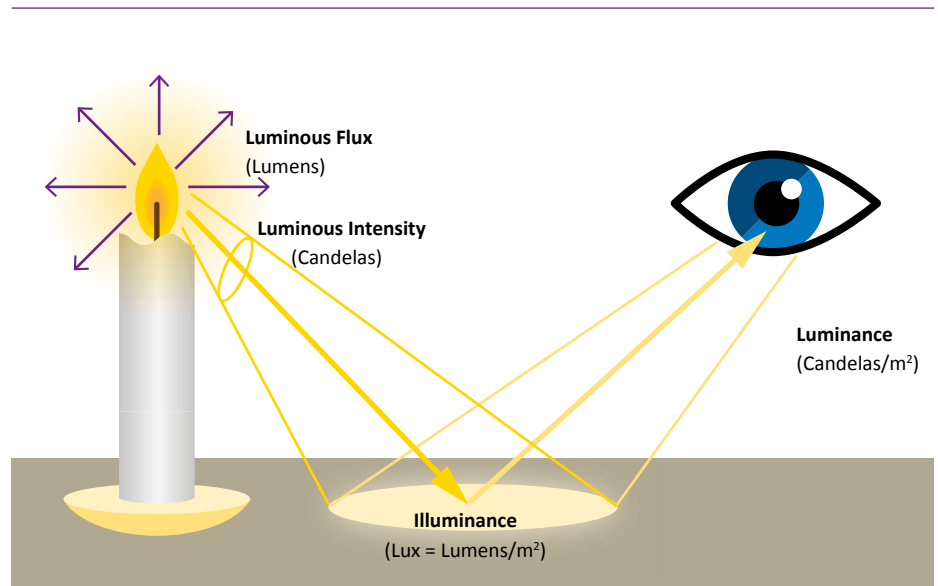
- **Lumens (Lm)** – a measure of luminous flux, the total amount of light emitted in all directions by a light source.
- **Candela (cd)** – a measure of luminous intensity, the intensity of light in each direction.
- **Lux (Lm/m²)** – a measure of illuminance, the total amount of light that falls on a surface; the higher the Lux value, the brighter a subject appears.

3.2. In the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, any exterior light source of 500Lm (or greater) output will be ‘fully shielded’. That is - a screened light source with its light directed in such a way that there is no emission above the horizontal plane passing through its lowest light-emitting part. There may be permission for unshielded fittings with small light sources (less than 500 Lm) in special circumstances, but proper upward light control will always be the recommended approach.

3.1. The following metrics describe light quantities and limits (see Figure 4) and include:

- **Lumens (Lm)** – a measure of luminous flux, the total amount of light emitted in all directions by a light source.
- **Candela (cd)** – a measure of luminous intensity, the intensity of light in each direction.
- **Lux (Lm/m²)** – a measure of illuminance, the total amount of light that falls on a surface; the higher the Lux value, the brighter a subject appears.

Figure 4: Metrics of light



3.3. Outside lights that have the bulb tucked out of sight into the lamp casing, but have a glass bowl beneath, are NOT fully shielded; the light is refracted upwards from the curvature of the glass. Never install unshielded bulkhead lights, of any output; they waste light in all directions, shining only a small fraction of light to where it is needed.

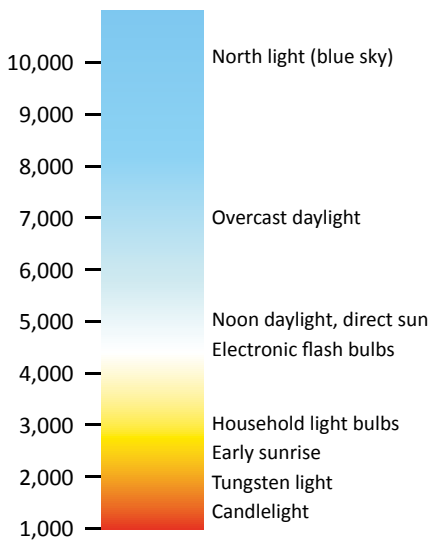
3.4. If the angle of a lighting unit is adjustable, direct it downwards. There should be no light escaping above the horizontal plane. Only light what needs lighting and no neighbouring property.

3.5. Switching controls can reduce energy costs and restrict light issues to those times when lighting is necessary. Integrate switching controls into lighting projects, incorporating at least one of the following:

- Passive Infra-red (PIR) switching with integrated daylight sensing. These systems activate lights for a set time by detecting the presence of a person/animal after dark. (Note: check that light units with an integrated PIR sensor allow the light to be angled downwards, and the PIR sensor to angled independently in the direction it needs to work.

A separate light unit and PIR sensor may be better.)

- Timer controls to switch off lights until needed.
- Where low-level lighting is necessary use dimmer controls.

Figure 5: Kelvin colour temperature chart

3.6. Modern LED technology provides for reliable and energy efficient lighting systems. Whilst lighting systems typically generate a ‘white’ light, this includes a range of different tones that manufacturers describe using phrases such as ‘warm white’ or ‘cool white’. The Kelvin scale (K) measures this range of ‘colour temperature’ (see Figure 5 and Table 1).

3.7. High kelvin lighting includes more light in the blue part of the range. This can create a harsh glare, making it difficult to see clearly at night; it may also suppress melatonin production, leading to disrupted sleep and other health risks. High kelvin external lighting can also affect nocturnal wildlife and their habitats, particularly bats.

Lower kelvin lights are cost and energy efficient, safer, better for human health and the natural environment, and contribute less to skyglow.

3.8. For these reasons, lighting systems affecting the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB should emit a colour temperature of no more than 3000K.

Table 1: Characteristics and purpose of light bulbs

Kelvin (K)	Description	Use
< 2000K	a dim glow of light like that of candlelight	Intimate lighting
2000K-3000K	a soft white glow, often yellow in appearance	Outdoor spaces
3100K-4500K	a bright amount of white light	Normal task lighting
4600K-6500K	a bright amount of blue-white light, like that of day-light	Detailed task lighting
6500K +	a bright bluish hue of light	Blinding lights



Bryn Alyn

4. Lighting Design Principles

Illumination should be appropriate to the surroundings and character of the whole area, not just the site.

4.1. It is important that the design process considers how a proposal will interact with the night-time environment, the likely night-time use, and how site layout planning and design minimises the need for exterior lighting. For example: areas of a development that need higher levels of task lighting such as storage yards, car parks, loading bays, yards outside of farm buildings etc., should be in less visually sensitive intrinsically dark locations, to avoid light being visible beyond the site. Locating these uses behind buildings or within internal courtyards for example might help. The location of lighting to avoid impact is therefore a factor that could influence the layout of buildings and external spaces. Understanding where the public viewpoints of the site are will help in making these decisions. Developers should refer to, and apply, other published professional guidance on the reduction of obtrusive light within projects (see references for links to guidance, especially the Institution of Lighting Professionals publications).

4.2. Table 2 identifies some general lighting principles for any lighting projects affecting the AONB.

Table 2: Clwydian Range and Dee Valley general lighting principles

New lighting should not degrade the night sky quality or night-time tranquillity of the AONB

- Direct light to the place of need, not in a direction that disturbs neighbours or wildlife
- Angle lights downward, no unnecessary light above or near the horizontal
- Lamps of 500 lumens or less are enough for most domestic purposes
- Installation of lamps above 500 lumens should always be in dark night sky friendly fixtures that prevent upward light
- Switch lights off when not needed, use proximity sensors and timed circuits
- Light to the appropriate illuminance, do not needlessly over-light
- Avoid bright white and cooler temperature LED's of over 3000 Kelvin
- Install fixtures at the lowest possible height to achieve lighting levels
- Extinguish or dim external lighting after 2300 hours (curfew time)

Within buildings:

- Use and shut curtains and blinds at night
- Limit the size of picture windows, or add louvers to reduce the extent of night time illumination, where these are visible from beyond the site
- In new builds and replacement buildings, recess and shield internal lighting within ceilings or walls in rooms with picture windows

Note: Lighting design should comply with the obtrusive light limitations set out in Table 5

5. Lighting assessment and design

Some lighting installations will require planning permission. This guide will help in the selection of the best lighting and in the assessment of such proposals.

5.1. Many installations need no permission. We hope that everyone will see the benefits of retaining our dark night sky and choose to follow the lighting design principles (Table 2) and design advice set out in paragraphs 5.4 to 5.3⁶.

Lighting assessment

5.2. For those developments where the Planning Authority requires a lighting plan, the design and assessment should aim to address the key points in Table 3. If the lighting scheme requires planning permission then there must be a lighting assessment. This will likely need the services of a qualified lighting design engineer. Pre-application discussions

are useful in helping applicants and agents identify what issues to cover and the information needed to support any application for planning permission. This can help minimise delays in processing the application.

5.3. The lighting plan must show:

- Where the site is
- The need for the lighting
- The standards to be used
- The position of all proposed lighting
- The installation details of all proposed lighting (angle, tilt, height)
- Technical specifications of the lighting including isolux, power, lumen

output, colour temperature

- A modelled illuminance plot of the proposal, detailing spill and average illuminance against lighting guidelines
- Elevation plans showing lines of illumination from lights on walls
- Baseline conditions, including details of any existing lighting, or any nearby lighting that is providing useful levels of ambient lighting
- If the proposed lighting exceeds the limits described in this document

The following table summarises the questions for a lighting plan to address. There is a paragraph reference to supporting information.



Jubilee Tower, Moel Famau Country Park

⁶ An Isolux is a line of equal illumination. It is like an Isobar, which is a line of equal barometric pressure found on a weather map, or to an Isotherm, which is a line of equal temperature found in nature or science.

Table 3: Key aspects of a lighting assessment

Whether submitting, designing or assessing applications, the key questions to address are those shown in **bold**.

Aspects	Description	Paragraph
Need		
1	Statement of client needs and parties' comments	Is the lighting needed? 5.4
Baseline conditions		
2	Existing lighting environment of the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the current lighting on site? • How is it used and what for? • Is the current lighting dark sky compliant? • Is there potential for improvement? 5.5 5.6
3	Survey of surrounding night environment	What is the surrounding lighting environment? Is the locality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely dark? (no lighting) • Intrinsically dark? (light sources are rare) (continued)
3	(continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrinsically dark with scattered light sources? (light sources are present but at scattered intervals) • Intrinsically dark with light clusters? (lighting within nucleated rural settlement, farms and rural enterprises, along roads, lighting of sports fields in open countryside)
4	Identification of critical viewpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there 'Dark Sky Discovery Sites' nearby? • Are there any 'Sky Quality Measurement' monitoring points nearby? • Are there any important habitat/wildlife sites nearby? • Is the site visible from any viewpoints, public routes or sites? 5.4 5.7 5.8
5	Determination of the obtrusive light limitations for lighting installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the maximum acceptable level of Sky Glow? • How much light can spill into a room? • What is the maximum acceptable intensity of each light source? • What is the maximum level of light intended to create a sense of place or to emphasise architectural structures acceptable on a building (building luminance)? What limitations to Obtrusive Light apply? 5.12 5.13
Design		
6	Lighting Design Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the general lighting objectives? • What are standards or policies of reference? • Is it an expected design for the task?
7	Task Illuminance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What guidance/standards were used to reference lux levels? • What levels of illuminance are to be used and why? Does the illuminance exceed the Dark Environment limits? 5.12 5.14

Aspects	Description	Paragraph	
Design			
8	Calculated Predictions	<p>A lighting design should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A site layout plan showing illuminance and uniformity levels across the site. • Where the intention is to illuminate buildings, elevation drawings showing illuminance and uniformity levels across the site. • A comparison between the maintained averages (EAv) calculation for task lighting areas and the guidance standards. <p>Are the predicted averages consistent with guidance standards?</p>	5.14
9	Obtrusive Light Calculation	<p>A design should show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How it meets the criteria as set out by the ILP protected or natural zones when installed (not as bought) <p>Do any luminaires exceed any of the ILP natural dark zone limits?</p>	5.4 5.12
10	Comparison with Baseline Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the assessment of the expected cumulative impact? <p>Does the design negatively affect the dark sky environment?</p>	5.6 5.17
11	Luminaire Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luminaire light distribution type • Lamp type and Wattage • Mounting Height • Orientation • Tilt • Lumens • Colour Temperature (CCT) • Spectrum <p>Does the colour temperature exceed 3000Kelvin?</p> <p>Does the tilt when installed exceed ILP guidance?</p>	5.18 5.19 5.20
12	Mitigation	<p>Are other controls in use to bring design into compliance? Such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curfews • Proximity sensors • Shielding • Baffles and louvres • Infra-red CCTV • Surfaces <p>Is it possible to make adjustments to prevent harm under astronomically dark conditions?</p>	5.6 5.21-5.26



Castell Dinas Brân

Design advice

LIGHTING NEED

5.4. From the outset it is important to justify the need for lighting – only consider that which is essential for the task. The Guidance recognises that there is a duty of care for lighting to meet health and safety requirements and other such legitimate needs. However, there is not a need for all lighting. Some is solely for decoration and this may not be appropriate in the AONB. Examples include architectural or ‘mood’ lighting, illuminated signage or access pathways. There must be proof that lighting proposed as a duty of care is essential - and not justified on a general perception that there is always a need for lighting.

EXISTING LIGHT LEVELS

5.5. Consider existing lighting levels when proposing new installations that illuminate areas. If existing street lighting, safety or security lighting already provides direct lighting on to a task area, then a lighting design must allow for this. Do not add new lighting if existing conditions already provide enough lighting.

OVERALL FOOTPRINT

5.6. Reduce the overall footprint of a lighting design by offsetting against existing lighting that has been poorly installed. The installation of older systems is less likely to be in line with dark sky standards, making an adjustment to comply with the standards is good. This may not need a complete replacement, but an adjustment to a fitting or installation of sensors. Reducing the light pollution of the existing stock may help in lowering the cumulative impact of the proposed lighting, which may present a design more favourably.

DARK SKY DISCOVERY SITES

5.7. Dark Sky Discovery Sites (DSDS) are local places that allow good access to observe the dark sky. DSDS are part of a growing UK network of sites and it is probable that the number in Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB will increase soon.

- Llangwyfan
- Moel Arthur
- Bwlch Penbarras
- Horseshoe Falls

SKY QUALITY MEASUREMENT MONITORING POINTS

5.8. The Sky Quality Measurement (SQM) Monitoring Points are easily accessible sites (often roadside). This is where we take SQM measurements as a way of monitoring the dark sky in the AONB. As key observation and meeting points, these need to be free of any direct sources of light pollution. Any lighting installations proposed close to these sites should aim to avoid any illumination towards or within them.

The current SQM points are set out in Appendix 4 but these may change over time. Contact the AONB Team for an UpToDate list, see Appendix 1 for contact details.

5.9. SQM is a measure of the luminance of the night sky, quantifying the skyglow in units of “magnitudes per square arc-second”. The larger the number, the darker the sky. A reading of 21.00 would indicate a very dark site, while a reading of 16.00 would indicate a light polluted sky.

BIODIVERSITY

5.10. Lighting plans should weigh up the impacts on biodiversity. The impact of artificial light on wildlife is a growing area of research. Evidence shows that light can be very disruptive to many different species, not just from a disruption to their circadian body clocks, but also as a barrier to

migration, movement and ecosystem integrity. Artificial light causes negative phenology adaptations in many species and disrupts the movement of species in an otherwise dark habitat. Whilst any lighting will have some impact on all species and habitats, there are some particular considerations:

BATS:

All bat species are susceptible to impacts from artificial light. There is legal protection for all bat species and it is illegal to kill, capture or disturb bats; obstruct access to bat roost; or to damage/destroy roosts. Lighting in the vicinity of a bat roost could be a disturbance. This includes large scale feature glazing, there is a concern that internal lighting spilling through these windows impacts on bat roosting and foraging. Development proposals should:

- Survey area for bat species/activity
- Not directly illuminate bat roosts
- Avoid illuminating foraging areas and routes
- Review and apply the detailed guidance published by The Institute of Lighting Professionals and the Bat Conservation Trust

BIRDS:

Exposure to artificial light can reduce sleep in birds, disrupting long-term Circadian Rhythm that determine the onset of breeding. Birds are also likely to be influenced by changes in insect behaviour due to artificial lights. Lighting proposals should avoid the direct illumination of important areas for nesting birds.

INVERTEBRATES:

Artificial light can disrupt feeding, breeding and movement that may reduce and fragment invertebrate populations. This disruption can significantly reduce plant pollination rates in lit areas. Lighting design should:

- Avoid illuminating water or reflective surfaces
- Avoid the direct illumination of ecologically sensitive areas
- Use lighting of no more than 3000K
- Review and apply the detailed guidance published by Institute of Lighting Professionals and the Invertebrate Conservation Trust

WILDLIFE SITES:

Artificial lighting may disturb all important wildlife sites.

Wildlife sites include areas of international importance (e.g. Special Areas of Conservation), national interest (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and local interest (e.g. County Wildlife Sites or Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation).

As the AONB includes a very high concentration of wildlife sites, lighting proposals should note the presence of any nearby sites and avoid their illumination.

Note: artificial light should not fall across existing or proposed bat or bird roosting boxes.

OBTRUSIVE LIGHT

5.11. Obtrusive Light, whether it keeps you awake through a bedroom window or impedes your view of the night sky, is a form of pollution and can be substantially reduced without detriment to the lighting task. The Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) presents guidance for reducing obtrusive light (ILP 2020 Guidance Note 01:20). It proposes five environmental zones for exterior lighting control within Development Plans (**Table 4**).

5.12. All development within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB with external lighting should ensure an **E1 dark lighting environment**. The aim is to reach an average SQM of 20 across

the AONB with night-sky viewpoints being 20.5+. These levels will also apply to developments outside of the AONB where their lighting proposals may impact on the sky quality of the AONB. These are recommended limits for the control of the main sources of light pollution – sky glow, glare and light spill. Data from three annual surveys (2017, 2019 and 2020⁷) suggests that the average SQM for the AONB is 20 (**Figure 6 & Appendix 4**).

5.13. **Table 5** sets out the limitations for exterior lighting in the AONB, as seen by a general observer.

MAXIMUM LUX – MAINTAINED AVERAGE ILLUMINATION

5.14. Lux is a measure of light on a surface and it can describe the level of light needed on a surface required to do a specific task. Tasks that need high levels of lighting (e.g. sports) will require greater lux levels than other areas where lower light levels are acceptable (e.g. pedestrian pathways). For nondomestic lighting, the calculation of lux is generally an average (the maintained illuminance (EAv) across a surface) as levels will vary significantly over a large task area. It is important to design a lighting scheme with the correct levels of light.

5.15. Obtaining the right level of lux can be a complex task and is likely to require a lighting engineer to model the design and calculate the average for the task area. A range of design aspects affect the lux level, such as: lamp height and direction; number of lamps; lumen output; and source intensity. Poor design and installation of task lighting may lead to areas being either over or under lit.

*“The sea-bird wheeling round it,
with the din of wings and winds and solitary cries,
Blinded and maddened by the light within,
Dashes himself against the glare, and dies”.*

Extract from *The Lighthouse* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 1849

This can impair its use as well as impact on dark skies. **Table 6** provides example lux levels, showing that non-domestic needs require substantially more lighting, which will have a greater impact in darker areas. Compilation of these levels is by the South Downs National Park (2018) and sourced from several guidance documents. In designing a lighting plan, denote the average level of lux (EAv) needed according to standard guidance that recommends levels of lighting for different tasks.

5.16. There are some useful guidance documents in the references. Where there is no specific guidance for a task, reference the most appropriate and similar activity. In some cases, the level of required lux will be so great that the inherent surface illuminance will pose a significant threat to the dark skies landscape - no matter how well the design meets all other criteria. Designs requiring an illuminance greater than 10 lux in most situations in the AONB will produce this threat.

KEY VIEWPOINTS

5.17. There are many key daytime viewpoints across and outside the AONB that serve both the daytime and night. Proposals should consider the impact on these viewpoints, particularly regarding the disruption of the continuity of the dark landscape. Large-scale developments are more likely to be outside the AONB. There is a need to consider their impact on dark skies and key viewpoints within the AONB.

Table 4: Environmental zones for exterior lighting

Zone		Lighting environment	Example
E0	Protected	Dark (SQM 20 ²⁵ 5+)	IDA dark sky place
E1	Natural	Dark (SQM 20-20 ²⁵ 5)	AONB
E2	Rural	Low district brightness (SQM ~15-20)	A village
E3	Suburban	Medium district brightness	Well inhabited settlements
E4	Urban	High district brightness	Town centres with high levels of night-time activity

After Institute of Lighting Professionals guidance notes for reducing obtrusive light 2020

Table 5: Obtrusive light limitations for exterior lighting installations

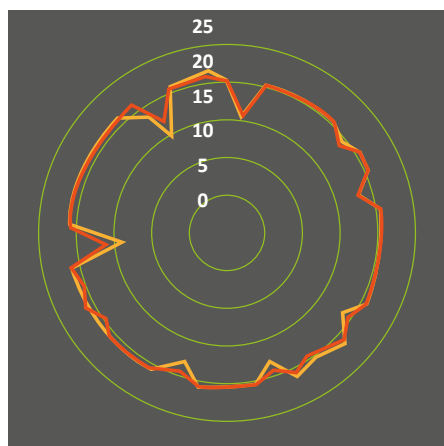
Zone	Sky Glow ULR [Max%]	Light Intrusion (into windows) E _{Av} [lux]		Luminaire Intensity I [candelas]		Building Luminance Pre-curfew
		Pre-curfew	Post-curfew	Pre-curfew	Post-curfew	Average L [cd/m ²]
E0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E1	0	2	0 (1*)	2500	0	0

KEY

ULR =	Upward Light Ratio of the installation is the maximum permitted percentage of luminaire flux that goes directly into the sky. Some lighting schemes will require the deliberate and careful use of upward light, e.g. ground recessed luminaires, ground mounted floodlights, festive lighting, to which these limits cannot apply. However, care should always be taken to minimise any upward waste light by the proper application of suitably directional luminaires and light controlling attachments.
E _{Av} =	Vertical Illuminance in Lux – measured flat on the glazing at the centre of the window. (* is ONLY for public road lighting installations)
I =	Light Intensity in Candelas (cd)
L =	Luminance in Candelas per square metre (cd/m ²)
Curfew =	the time after which stricter requirements (for the control of obtrusive light) will apply.

For further clarification, refer to the Construction Information Service Guide on the limitation of the effects of obtrusive light from outdoor lighting installations 2017

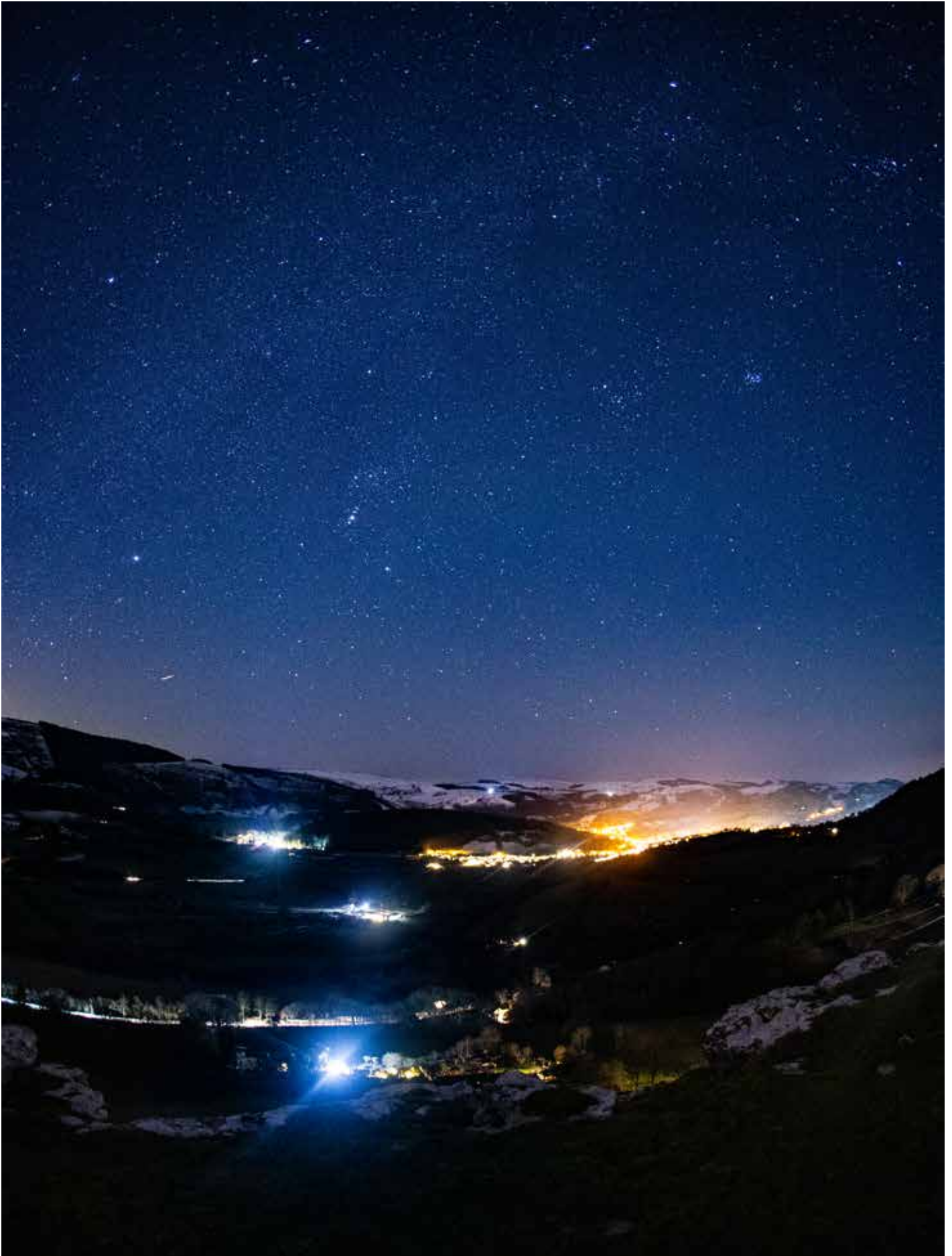
Figure 6: Illustration of SQM readings in 2017 and 2019



2019 2017

Table 6: Recommended average lux illumination levels

Minimum emergency lighting	0.2
Full moon	1
Domestic security lighting – rural	5
Safety and security –general working areas	10
Residential roads	10
AONB max. average illuminance	10
Car park –rural	15
Domestic security lighting – urban	20
Distributor roads	30
Building site	50
Motorway	50
Internal family living room	50
Football	75
Cricket	100
Hockey/Equestrian/Tennis	200
Internal general office/professional kitchen	500



Looking over Llangollen, Dee Valley

Luminaires – Physical Characteristics

SYMMETRICAL AND ASYMMETRICAL LUMINAIRES

5.18. Luminaires fall into two categories:

- Symmetrical luminaires direct light in a symmetrical pattern around the unit and are useful for lighting large areas to a high level of uniformity – such as decorative installations. The design of the enclosure and the choice of materials are critical in ensuring that the unit does not cause undue levels of obtrusive light. Styles that complement the aesthetic or historic character of the area are better than bulky and ‘functional’ lighting. However, their design should inhibit all upward light (e.g. there are LED versions of traditional ‘carriage style’ units that house the lamp under the lid).
- Asymmetric luminaires direct light in a certain path (e.g. along a road or over a sports pitch). Such units allow a design to minimise light spill in unwanted areas and provide high illuminance to specific wanted areas. Many standard security light units have an asymmetric design, so direct the light to the task areas only.

FULL CUT-OFF

5.19. Luminaires can have a variety of glass features that alter the path of light. Their classification is according to the amount of light that shines above the horizontal. They are:

- Non Cut-off: No limitation
- Semi Cut-off: 5% above the horizontal
- Cut-off: 2.5% light above the horizontal
- Full Cut-off: No light above the horizontal – zero upward light.

The recommendation for use throughout the AONB is for full cut-off fixtures, where the glass is flat to the horizontal. This must be the case where the light exceeds 500 lumens. (See **Appendix 5** for examples of Dark Sky Friendly Lighting units).

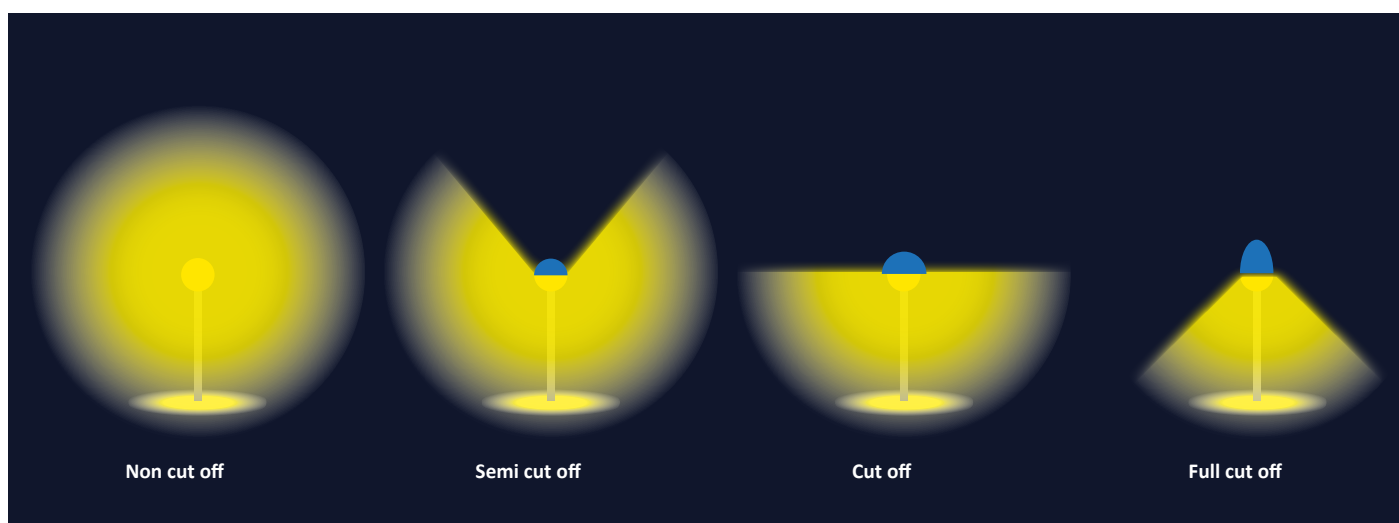
INSTALLATION HEIGHT

5.20. To achieve the same illuminance, light sources further away from the intended subject will require brighter lights with a greater intensity than those closer to the surface. Installations should be as close to ground level as practicably possible. For example, light footpaths with lower powered, low-level bollards or wall lights rather than overhead lighting.

SURFACES

5.21. Choices in surface type can impact upon the visibility of the installation and the amount of sky-glow (the light from reflected surfaces illuminating air molecules and other particles). Avoid the illumination of whiter or mirrored surfaces, including water. Darker colours, such as dark greens or asphalt greys and blacks will reduce reflectivity.

5.22. Note: Technological advances may present new alternatives to lighting. If ‘glow in the dark’ strips and pathways or luminous discs result in the removal of luminaires, they may be suitable. Any new technologies will still have to comply with the lighting specifications that minimise light pollution.





Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

Mitigation Measures

PROXIMITY AND TIMED CIRCUITS

5.23. Proximity PIR (Passive Infra-Red) sensors fitted to external lighting will minimise the time that a unit is on and so reduce light pollution. Use timed circuits to turn off lights after a certain time; timed circuits should be set to a maximum of 5 minutes after activation.

SHIELDING

5.24. Cowls, baffles or louvres fixed to a light source (or reflection) will act as a physical barrier to an observer. LED lighting systems tend to limit the need for this type of mitigation.

SECURITY LIGHTING VS CCTV

5.25. There is little evidence to suggest that security lighting will directly deter criminals, and a poorly designed system may make things easier for intruders. Developers could consider the installation of night vision CCTV or

wireless camera systems to avoid the need for security lighting.

STREET LIGHTING

5.26. There is no statutory requirement on local authorities to provide public lighting. Street lighting is not always necessary. Where there is to be a street lighting scheme, use the Dark Skies Community Appendix to the North Wales Lighting Design Guide and Specification to determine design parameters, as this will satisfy IDA requirements. Where possible (especially for minor or private estate residential roads), use low level bollards rather than tall, brighter columns. This will limit the total lumen output, possible glare scattering and reduce the surrounding impact.

CURFEW

5.27. To prevent waste and excessive areas of light pollution, consider curfews as significant lighting controls. In areas where some lighting is appropriate,

a programme of dimming lights can operate at periods where there is minimal use of the location. In the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, the general 'exterior light curfew' should be 2300 hours. However, where development may affect a night sky viewpoint, then the curfew should be earlier. All lighting schemes should include a curfew. The expectation is that new lighting development within the AONB will extinguish or reduce the quantity of lighting to benefit dark skies.

The best light to protect dark skies is a light that is not on!

INTERNAL LIGHTING - GLAZING

5.28. The spill of light through windows can create significant amounts of light pollution. Internal illuminance demands can greatly exceed most types of domestic rural lighting, so the impact on dark skies can be significant. In general, internal glazing will cause light to spill horizontally (and in the case of sky lights,

directly upward), which are the most damaging paths of light. Internal spill will have a similar impact to external lighting, particularly in interrupting and disrupting the continuity of the dark landscape.

Where local habitat is good for bats, there are some concerns about the impacts of the internal lighting spilling through large feature windows or glazed walls.

5.29. Keep glazing should to a minimum. Wherever possible, glazing should:

- not exceed 25% of the floor area (using Elemental Method Energy Efficiency as reference (building regulations));
- avoid large single areas (>50% glazing on a single elevation is becoming 'large') of glazing such as floor to eaves glazing/cart shed openings or single elevations; and
- not be on roofs without sufficient mitigation.

5.30. There are several technologies available to reduce the light pollution through glass:

- Inward facing glazing where nearby buildings or courtyards offer shielding.
- Low Transmittance 'tinted' Glass can reduce light transmission by up to 66%.
- Smart Glass uses an electrical current through the material to change its transparency.
- Electronically timed blinds/shutters/blackout blinds can cut out light spill, particularly where glazing design exceeds recommendations.

5.31. Where floor to eaves glazing cannot be avoided, eaves should overhang the glazing sufficiently to block all upward spillage of light.

TEMPORARY FLOODLIGHTING

5.32. Temporary installations of a duration of less than 28 days may not require planning permission. If temporary lighting is in use, it is important to follow the recommendations for lighting in this document. Portable floodlight systems are extremely bright to cater for a

range of purposes, but they are highly threatening to dark skies. Due to its design and general use, temporary lighting can create significant light pollution. Take care to ensure that the power and installation of the equipment is appropriate for the task and is not obtrusive to neighbours.

Note:

- Where temporary lighting is likely to be in use beyond 28 days or with consistent regularity over some years, then seek planning permission.
- Do not use temporary and portable floodlighting in dark areas.
- Do not use temporary and portable floodlighting for community facilities and sports fields. Agree a permanent design.

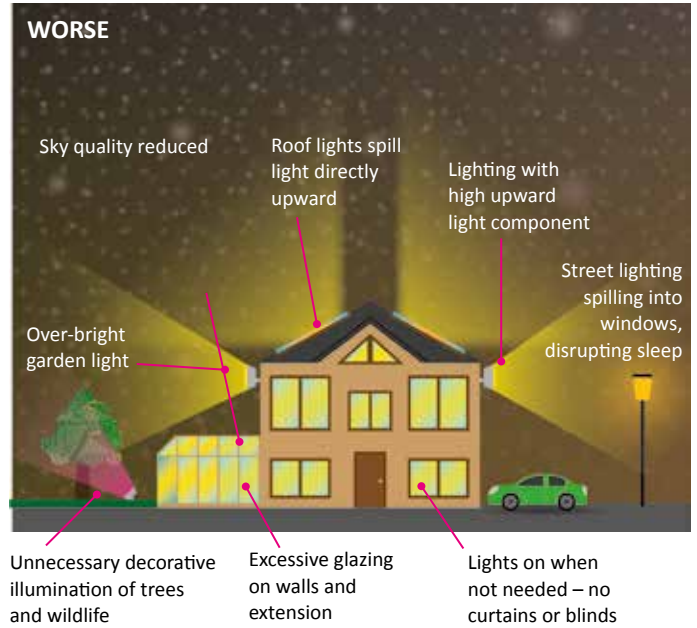
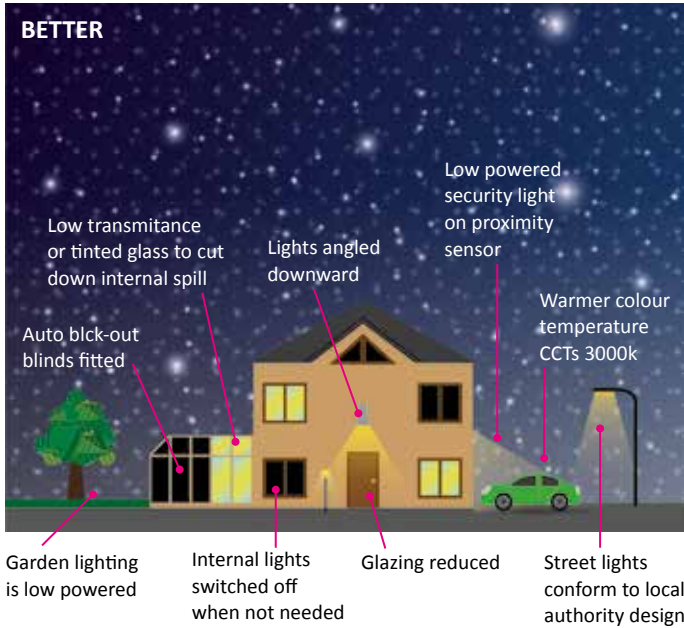


Advice by type of development

DOMESTIC

Key points: ✓ Use lights less than 1000 lumen ✓ Shield lights above 500 lumens ✓ Use proximity sensors or timers
 ✓ Angle lights downwards ✓ Use curtains and blinds

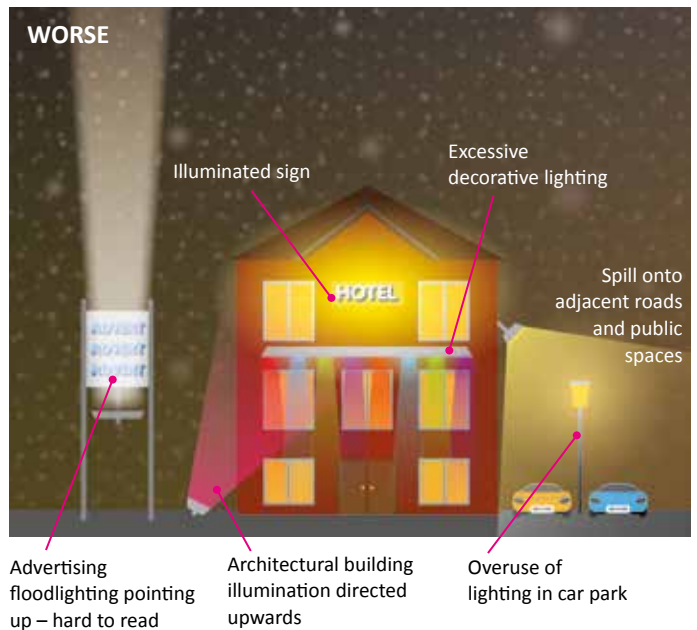
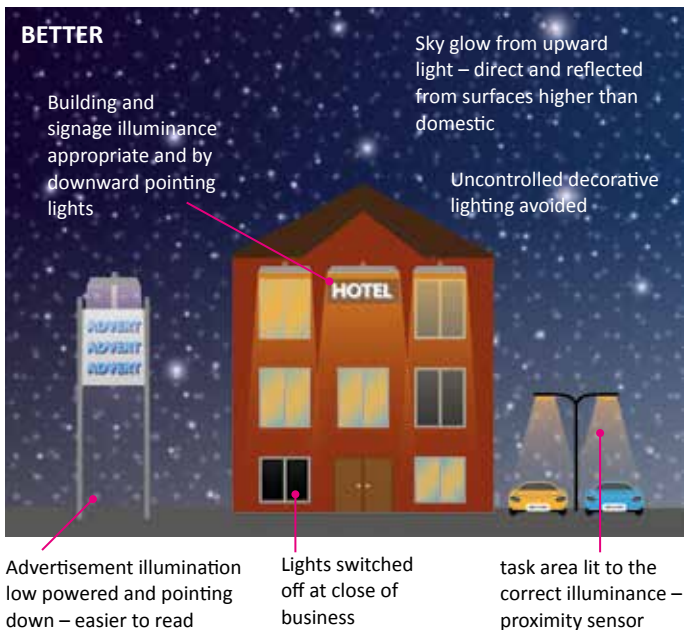
5.33. These principles apply to single dwellings and estates



COMMERCIAL

Key points: ✓ Shield lights above 500 lumens ✓ Use proximity sensors or timers ✓ Angle lights downwards
 ✓ Turn off at close of business ✓ Avoid uncontrolled decorative lighting

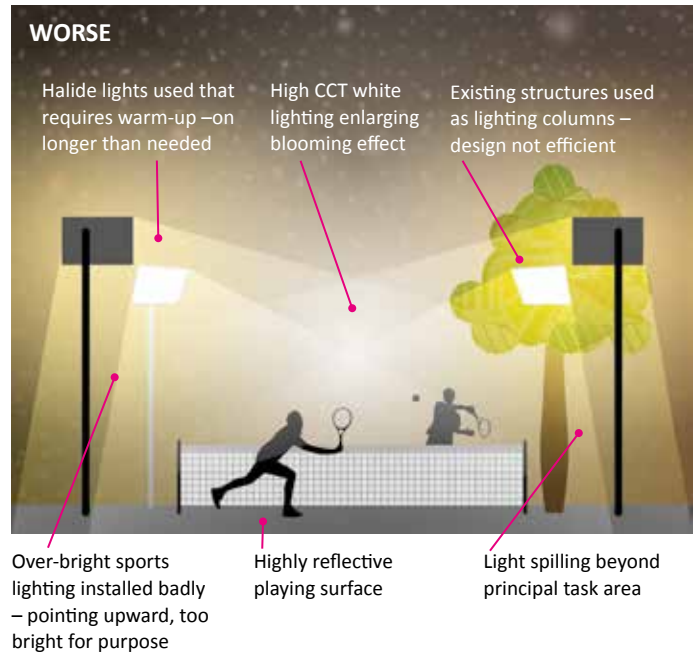
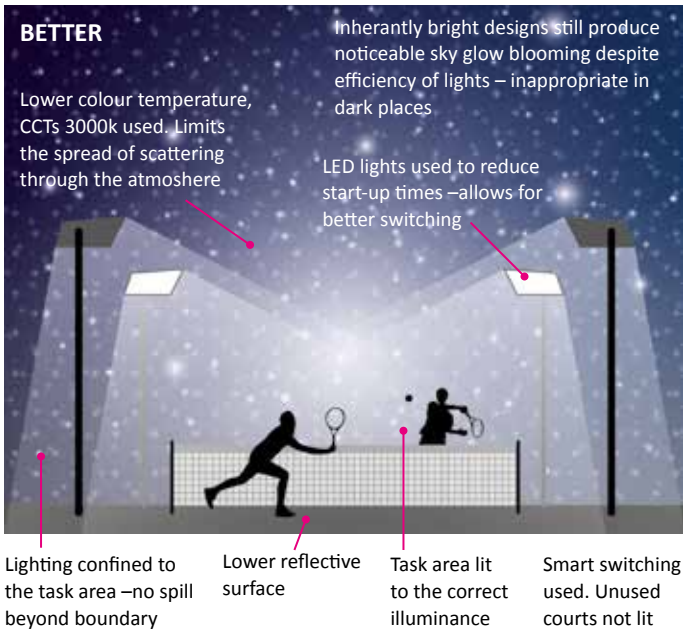
5.34. These principles apply to smaller retail/commercial properties and public houses



SPORT

Key points: ✓ Design scheme in accordance with standards ✓ Limit hours of use ✓ Situate closer to urban locations
 ✓ Use low reflective surfaces ✓ Use shielding

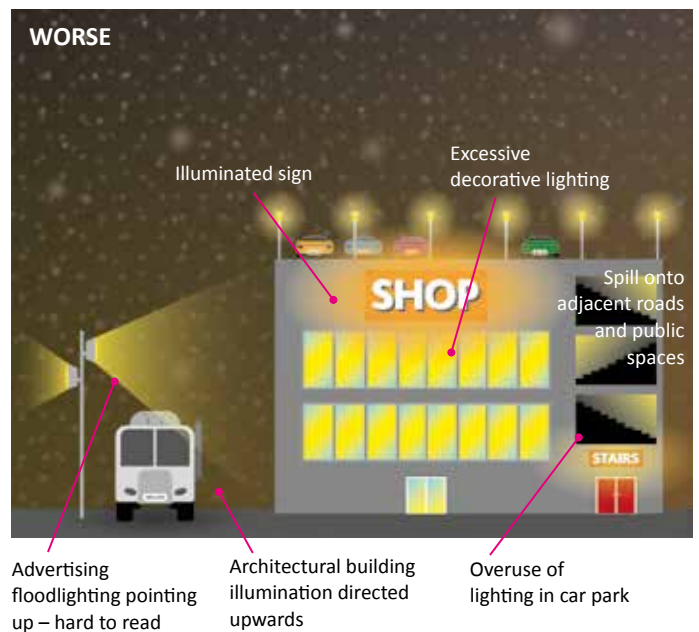
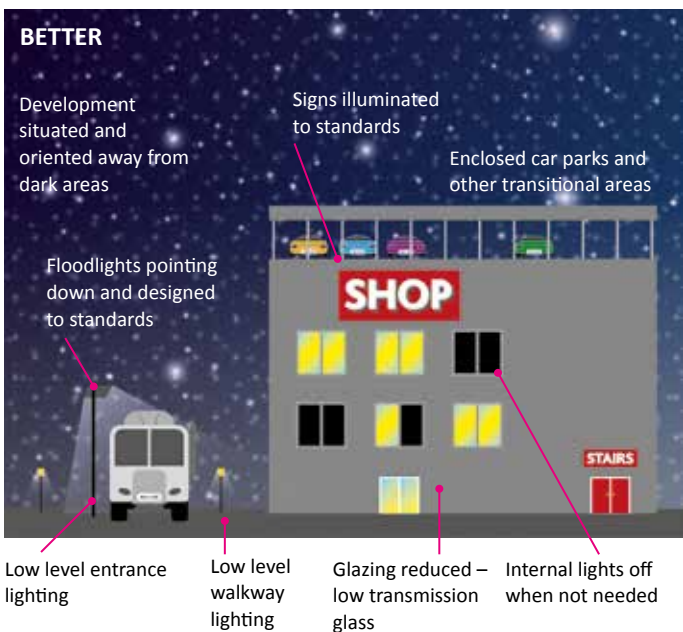
5.35. Lighting designs will be different between sports, but the principles apply throughout.



INDUSTRIAL

Key points: ✓ Design scheme in accordance with standards ✓ Turn off when not needed ✓ Angle lights downwards ✓ Situate further away from rural locations ✓ Avoid tall lighting columns in open areas

5.36. This applies to larger developments including offices, warehouses and retail centres



Summary assessment and design check list

5.37. We hope that everyone will see the benefits of retaining our dark night sky and choose to follow the **Good Lighting Code: *think before you light; the right amount of light, where needed, when needed.*** 'Planning for dark night skies' presents a comprehensive guide to the design and installation of light fittings in the AONB. We set out this simple checklist to help you understand the steps we would like you take before you change any lighting on your building or site.

5.38. Before installing any external light fitting, ask yourself these questions:

- What is the current lighting affecting the site?
- How is it used and what for?
- Is the current lighting causing sky-glow or glare?
- Can you improve it (see the guidance for new lighting)?
- What is the surrounding lighting environment (is it completely dark or nearly so)?

- Are there any dark sky viewing points nearby?
- Are there any important wildlife sites nearby?
- Is your site visible from public viewing points?

5.39. Having considered these questions, do you really need more lighting? If yes: new lighting should not degrade the night sky quality or night-time tranquillity of the AONB. You must carefully address these questions:

- What is it you must illuminate?
- When must you illuminate it (can you use a time switch or motion sensor)?
- What is the dimmest light source you can use (try to use lamps of 500 lumens or less)?
- What is the colour temperature of the light source (it should throw a soft white glow and be less than 3000 Kelvin)?
- How will you direct light to the place of need, not in a direction that disturbs neighbours or wildlife (orientation, shielding, tilt of the light)?

- How will you avoid any light spilling into the night-sky (angle fitting downward to a non-reflective surface)?
- Can you extinguish or dim external lighting after 2300 hours (curfew time)?
- Will the lighting scheme require planning permission (many do not but if in doubt, ask)?
- If it does require planning permission, will the Local Planning Authority require a formal lighting plan (if it does, you may need the help of a qualified lighting design engineer)?

5.40. Within buildings -

- Do use and shut curtains and blinds at night.
- Limit the size of picture windows, or add louvers to reduce the extent of night time illumination, where these are visible from beyond the site.
- In new builds and replacement buildings, recess and shield internal lighting within ceilings or walls in rooms with picture windows.



Perseids meteor shower

References

Illumination should be appropriate to the surroundings and character of the whole area, not just the site.

International Dark Sky Community Program Guidelines (2018) International Dark-Sky Association.
<https://www.darksky.org/our-work/conservation/idsp/communities/>

British Standards Institute. <https://shop.bsigroup.com/>

- BS5489-1: 2013 Code of practice for the design of road lighting – Part 1: Lighting of roads and public amenity areas
- BS EN 12193: 2018 Light and lighting - Sports lighting

Construction Information Service (CIE 2017): *Guide on the limitation of the effects of obtrusive light from outdoor lighting installations, 2nd edition* CIE 150:2017 ISBN: 978-3-902842-48-0
https://www.techstreet.com/cie/standards/cie-150-2017?product_id=1997388

Institute of Lighting Professionals - <https://www.theilp.org.uk/resources/free-resources/>

- Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP, 2020) *Guidance Note for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light GN01*
- Institute of Lighting Professionals and the Bat Conservation Trust (ILP, 2018) *Guidance Note for Bats and artificial lighting in the UKGN08*
- C Bruce-White and M Shardlow (2011) *A Review of the Impact of Artificial Light on Invertebrates*, The Invertebrate Conservation Trust

International Dark Sky Community Program Guidelines (2018) International Dark-Sky Association.
<https://www.darksky.org/our-work/conservation/idsp/communities/>

Northumberland National Park Authority (2017). *Good Practice Guide for Outside Lighting*.
<https://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/NNP-outside-lighting-guide.pdf>

South Downs National Park Authority (2018). *Dark Skies Technical Advice Note*.
<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/TLL-10-SDNPA-Dark-Skies-Technical-Advice-Note-2018.pdf>

Appendix 1

Map and contact details for Local Planning Authorities and the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Denbighshire County Council

Development Management

P.O. Box 62

Ruthin

LL15 9AZ

Email: planning@denbighshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01824 706727

Website: <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/resident/planning-and-building-regulations/planning/planning.aspx>

Flintshire County Council

County Hall

Mold

Flintshire

CH7 6NF

Email: planningdc@flintshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01352 703234

Website: <http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Planning/Home.aspx>

Wrexham County Borough Council

Environment and Planning

16 Lord Street

Wrexham

LL11 1LG

Email: planning@wrexham.gov.uk

Tel: 01978 298994

Website: <http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/planning>

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

Loggerheads Country Park NR. Mold

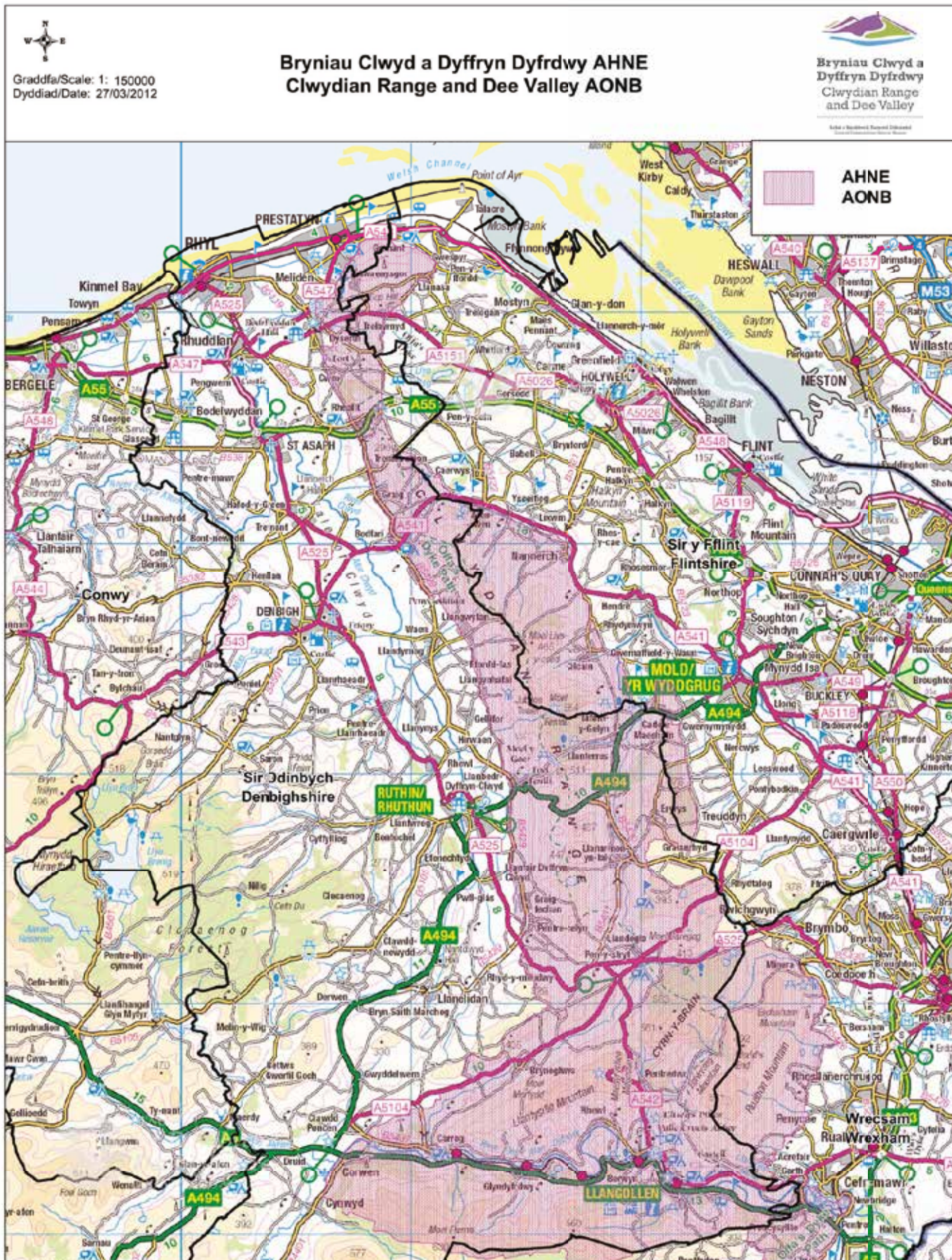
Denbighshire CH7 5LH

Email: clwydianrangeaonb@denbighshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01824 712757

Website: <http://www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/plans-and-strategies/>

Figure 7: Map of administrative boundaries



Appendix 2

Relevant policies of the local planning authorities

Extracts from Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021

Policy VOE 2: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Area of Outstanding Beauty

In determining development proposals within or affecting the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Area of Outstanding Beauty (AOB), development that would cause unacceptable harm to the character and appearance of the landscape and the reasons for designation will not be permitted.

Policy VOE 3: Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site

Development which would harm the attributes which justified the designation of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal as a World Heritage Site and the site's Outstanding Universal Value will not be permitted. The following are considered to be key material considerations:

- i. The authenticity and integrity of the attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site including views, and features of cultural, artistic, historical, social and natural environmental importance.
- ii. The setting of the World Heritage Site and attributes important to the Outstanding Universal Value of the site present within the Buffer Zone. Where there is a demonstrable need for essential non-residential visitor attraction facilities for the World Heritage Site which cannot be provided within the settlement limit, their location outside settlement limits will be permitted where there is no adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the site present within the Buffer Zone.

Where there is a demonstrable need for essential non-residential visitor attraction facilities for the World Heritage Site which cannot be provided within the settlement limit, their location outside settlement limits will be permitted where there is no adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value.

Policy RD1: Sustainable development and good design

Development proposals will be supported within development boundaries provided that all the following criteria are met:

- i. Respects the site and surroundings in terms of the siting, layout, scale, form, character, design, materials, aspect, micro-climate and intensity of use of land/buildings and spaces around and between buildings; and
- ii. Makes most efficient use of land by achieving densities of a minimum of 35 dwellings per hectare for residential development (unless there are local circumstances that dictate a lower density).
- iii. Protects and where possible enhances the local natural and historic environment; and
- iv. Does not unacceptably affect prominent public views into, out of, or across any settlement or area of open countryside; and
- v. Incorporates existing landscape or other features, takes account of site contours and changes in levels and prominent skylines; and
- vi. Does not unacceptably affect the amenity of local residents, other land and property users or characteristics of the locality by virtue of increased activity, disturbance, noise, dust, fumes, litter, drainage, light pollution etc., and provides satisfactory amenity standards itself; and
- vii. Provides safe and convenient access for disabled people, pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles and emergency vehicles together with adequate parking, services and manoeuvring space. Proposals should also consider impacts on the wider Rights of Way network surrounding the site; and
- viii. Does not have an unacceptable effect on the local highway network as a result of congestion, danger and nuisance arising from traffic generated and incorporates traffic management/calming measures where necessary and appropriate. A transport assessment and travel plan will be required where appropriate; and
- ix. Has regard to the adequacy of existing public facilities and services; and
- x. Does not prejudice land or buildings safeguarded for other uses, or impair the development and use of adjoining land; and

- xi. Satisfies physical or natural environmental considerations relating to land stability, drainage and liability to flooding, water supply and water abstraction from natural watercourse; and
- xii. Takes account of personal and community safety and security in the design and layout of development and public/private spaces and has regard to implications for crime and disorder; and
- xiii. Incorporates suitable landscaping measures, including where appropriate hard and soft landscaping treatment, the creation and/or protection of green and blue corridors, mature landscaping, and arrangements for subsequent maintenance. Landscaping should create a visually pleasant, sustainable and biodiversity rich environment that protects and enhances existing landscape features and also creates new features and areas of open space that reflect local character and sense of place; and
- xiv. Has regard to the generation, treatment and disposal of waste.

Extracts from Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2018 – 2033 Draft Preferred Strategy May 2019

Draft Key Policy: Placemaking

All proposals must support the delivery of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being, and demonstrate the following:

- Resource efficiency
- Promotion of health and well-being
- Maintenance and enhancement of the natural environment
- Equality of access
- Access to services and facilities
- Support and enhancement of the Welsh language
- Resilience to the impacts of climate change
- Promote decarbonisation and renewable energy technology
- High quality design that respects local character and distinctiveness.

Draft Key Policy: Natural & Built Environment

Denbighshire's natural and built environment will be protected from development that adversely affects their protected characteristics, features or their setting.

All proposals must contribute towards the preservation and, where possible, the enhancement of the natural and built environment.

Extract from Flintshire Unitary Development Plan 2000 - 2015

Policy L2: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Development within or affecting the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) will be permitted only where:

- a. it maintains and where appropriate enhances the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and preserves the natural tranquillity of the AONB; and
- b. it will be designed to a high standard using traditional materials and planting.

Major developments within the AONB will be the subject of rigorous examination and will not be permitted unless there is an overriding need in terms of proven national interest and there are no alternative sites.

Policy D2: Design

Development will be permitted only where:

- a. the proposed building and structures are of a good standard of design, form, scale and materials; and
- b. it protects the character and amenity of the locality and adds to the quality and distinctiveness of the local area.

Policy D4: Outdoor Lighting

Development will be permitted only where any associated lighting is restricted to the minimum which is necessary to:

- a. ensure public safety and security;
- b. facilitate enjoyment of the physical and visual fabric of the development and its surroundings; and
- c. prevent light pollution by the creation of excessive glare.

Policy EWP13: Nuisance

Development which is sensitive to noise, vibration, odour, dust or light pollution and which is proposed near to existing sources of nuisance, such as railways, roads, airfields or industrial activities, will be permitted only if the developer is able to demonstrate that sufficient measures will be taken to mitigate any potential adverse effects.

Proposals which are likely to cause an increase in noise, vibration, odour, dust or light pollution will be permitted only if the developer has demonstrated that there will be no detrimental impact on users outside the boundary of the site, who may be sensitive to such nuisance.

Flintshire LDP 2015-2030: Deposit Plan September 2019 (not yet adopted)

Strategic Policy STR 10: Tourism, Culture, and Leisure

The intrinsic attractiveness of Flintshire's natural and built

environment makes the County an attractive destination for sustainable tourism development. Development that capitalizes on these assets and creates a year round broad appeal will be supported.

Particular emphasis will be placed on:

- i. Supporting new and extended tourism development which is appropriate to its location and enhances the existing offer within Flintshire;
- ii. Support development that promotes accessibility to Flintshire's landscape, cultural and historic assets, including the Clwydian Range AONB, coastline, rights of way, cycling and active travel networks;
- iii. Promote and enhance the maintenance and diversification of a sustainable rural economy;
- iv. Conserving and enhancing Flintshire's natural, built and cultural heritage;
- v. Enabling a range and choice of tourism accommodation to meet a variety of needs from short visit to long stay.

Strategic Policy STR 13: Natural and Built Environment, Green Networks and Infrastructure

Environmental networks can, and do, have a variety of roles in protecting and enhancing biodiversity, defining the landscape setting of places, defining the transition from urban to countryside, and facilitating well-being through amenity, recreation and active leisure. The key is to balance these sometimes conflicting roles, achieving a sustainable balance.

Development will identify, respect, protect, enhance and connect Flintshire's environmental assets, to create a multifunctional network of natural and historic resources.

To achieve this all development will:

- i. Protect open countryside and the undeveloped coastline
- ii. Protect the open character and appearance of green wedges
- iii. Protect and enhance the quality and diversity of Flintshire's natural, built, and historic environmental networks;
- iv. Promote opportunities to enhance biodiversity;
- v. Maintain, enhance, and contribute to green infrastructure;
- vi. Create and protect green spaces and open space / play environments that encourage and support good health, well-being, and equality;
- vii. Contribute to local distinctiveness having regard to the quality of Flintshire's landscape, biodiversity, and heritage assets including the Dee Estuary and Clwydian Range AONB;

- viii. Not adversely affect the conservation status of Flintshire's natural, built and historic environments;
- ix. Make financial contributions where appropriate, to facilitate and maintain the favourable conservation status of key environmental assets;
- x. Support measures to minimise the consequences of climate change
- xi. Protecting playing fields and open space from development: and
- xii. Ensuring adequate new open space and playing fields are provided as part of new housing development.

Strategic Policy STR 14: Climate Change and Environmental Protection

The Council will seek to mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure appropriate environmental protection in the County through:

- i. Ensuring new development is sustainably located and designed so as to reduce the need for travel by private car;
- ii. Supporting the use and development of appropriate or suitable brownfield land;
- iii. Adopting a sustainable approach to water resource management including supply, surface water run-off and waste water treatment;
- iv. Directing development away from flood risk areas, assessing the implications of development in areas at risk of flooding and ensuring that new development does not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- v. Encouraging energy efficient development, environmentally acceptable renewable and zero / low carbon energy generation and combined heat and power and communal / district heating networks;
- vi. Ensuring that new development has regard to the protection of the environment in terms of air, noise and light pollution, unstable and contaminated land and former landfill sites;
- vii. Design of development to be adaptable and resilient to future effects of climate change.

Policy PC2: General Requirements for Development

All development should, where appropriate:

- a. harmonise with or enhance the character, local distinctiveness and appearance of the site, existing building(s) and surrounding landscape/townscape;
- b. not have a significant adverse impact on the safety and living conditions of nearby residents, other users of nearby

land/property, or the community in general, through increased activity, disturbance, noise, dust, vibration, hazard, or the adverse effects of pollution;

- c. take account of personal and community safety and security in its design and layout;
- d. maximise sustainable travel choice by having safe and convenient access by foot, cycle, public transport and vehicles;
- e. not have an unacceptable effect on the highway network or highway safety as a result of problems arising from traffic generation, inadequate and poorly located parking spaces, servicing and manoeuvring;
- f. not result in or be susceptible to problems related to foul and surface water drainage, land stability, contamination, flooding, or pollution of light, air and water, either on or off site.

Policy PC3: Design

All new development should, where appropriate:

- a. be of a high quality, distinctive and inclusive design which respects and enhances the site and its surroundings in terms of its siting, layout, scale, height, design, density, use of materials and landscaping, and creates a sense of place;
- b. retain existing landscape and nature conservation features and incorporate opportunities to enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity;
- c. ensure that new materials are appropriate, durable and sympathetic to the character and context of the site;
- d. protect and enhance the townscape, architectural, historic and cultural built environment;
- e. incorporate suitable provision of space about dwellings, amenity space, landscaping and planting;
- f. create attractive, accessible and safe and healthy places with natural surveillance, visibility and sensitive lighting;
- g. incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes to bring about multiple benefits as an integral part of the development.

Policy EN5: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, development will only be permitted where it conserves or enhances the natural beauty of the designated area and its setting. In assessing the likely impact of development proposals on the natural beauty of the AONB, cumulative impact will also be taken into consideration.

Development must:

- a. not have an adverse impact on the special character and qualities of the AONB; and
- b. contribute to the social, economic and cultural well-being of the local community; and be of a scale, form, density and use that is compatible with the character of the AONB and local area; and
- c. be of an appropriately high standard of design and use appropriate materials that are compatible with the character of the AONB.

Policy EN18: Pollution and Nuisance

New development which is sensitive to the effects of existing noise, vibration, odour, dust, light or other pollution or nuisance, will be permitted only if it can be demonstrated that appropriate measures can be taken to mitigate any potential adverse effects.

New development which would create an increased risk of noise, vibration, odour, dust, light or other pollution or hazard will only be permitted if:

- a. it would not unacceptably harm general amenity or living conditions; and
- b. it would not impose significant restrictions on the use or development of surrounding land.

If new external lighting is proposed, particularly in or near to the AONB, this should be considered as part of an overall landscaping scheme and kept to a minimum to avoid light pollution.

Extract from Wrexham Unitary Development Plan 1996 - 2011

Policy EC5: Special Landscape Areas

Within Special Landscape Areas, priority will be given to the conservation and enhancement of the landscape. Development, other than for agriculture, small-scale farm-based and other rural enterprises, and essential operational development by utility service providers, will be strictly controlled. Development will be required to conform to a high standard of design and landscaping, and special attention will be paid to minimising its visual impact both from nearby and distant viewpoints.

Policy CLF4: Playing Fields, Children's Play Areas and Open Space

The redevelopment of sports grounds, playing fields, children's play areas and informal open spaces and allotment gardens for uses other than sport and recreation will not be permitted unless:-

- a) redevelopment of only a small part of the site would allow the retention and enhancement of that existing facility; or
- b) the long term requirement for the facility has ceased and it would not lead to, or increase an existing shortfall of that facility in the immediate locality; or
- c) the loss can be replaced with an equivalent or greater provision in the immediate locality. Alternative sites should be within settlement limits or, in exceptional circumstances, adjacent to settlement limits provided that associated buildings, lighting, and parking facilities are not intrusive in the landscape and user accessibility is not reduced.

Note paragraph 5.7: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

'During the plan period the existing Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty may be extended to include sections of Ruabon Mountain, and the Berwyn Mountain Range, which includes much of the Ceiriog Valley, may be designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Council supports such a proposal. Such designation would recognise the national importance of that landscape and the need to protect, manage, and enhance it. Landscape conservation would be the primary consideration and development which detracts from the character and appearance of the landscape would be resisted. Any development permitted must be of the highest standard of design, and use materials appropriate to the locality'.

Wrexham LDP 2013-2028 Deposit Plan April 2018 (not yet adopted)**Strategic Policy SP15: Natural Environment**

Development will only be supported where it protects, conserves and enhances the natural environment including:

- Internationally protected Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, and Ramsar Sites,
- Nationally protected Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves;
- Protected Species and their habitat;
- The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty including recognising the importance it has in contributing to the Outstanding Universal Value

and setting of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site;

- Local Wildlife Sites including the strategic ecological network on Wrexham Industrial Estate and Regionally Important Geological Sites;
- Local Nature Reserves;
- Special Landscape Areas recognised for their outstanding local landscape character;
- natural landscape features such as trees, hedges and woodland and the green networks between them which contribute to the quality and diversity of the natural environment and play an important role in mitigating the impact of climate change;
- The quality of natural services including water, air and soils
- Developing and maintaining Green Infrastructure links; and
- Habitats and species of principal importance to Wales.

Policy DM1: Development Management Considerations

Developments proposals, where relevant, must:

- a) Accord with or enhance the character, local distinctiveness and appearance of the site, existing building(s) and surrounding landscape/ townscape in terms of its siting, layout, scale, height, design, density, use of materials and landscaping;
- b) Not have an unacceptable effect on the amenity of the occupiers of nearby properties/land by virtue of noise, disturbance and overlooking; and provides a satisfactory standard of amenity for the occupiers/users of the development itself;
- c) Safeguard the environment from the adverse effects of pollution of water, land, light or air, or land instability, arising from development;
- d) Take account of personal and community safety and security in its design and layout
- e) Be safely and conveniently accessible for all potential users/occupiers of the development on foot, bicycle, by public transport and by car;
- f) Not give rise to parking or highway safety problems on site or in the locality;
- g) Maximise sustainable travel choices first and then provides for car related needs;
- h) Contribute to low carbon communities through energy efficiency, be designed to minimise the use of non-renewable energy, water and the production of waste both during construction and when in use;

- i) Not increase the risk of flooding but makes adequate provision for sustainably dealing with foul and surface water drainage and not result in an unacceptable impact upon the water environment;
- j) Consider the needs of a diverse population including those with protected characteristics such as age or disability;
- k) On sites which have previously been developed, new development proposals should make use of existing suitable building materials wherever possible for appropriate uses in order to re-use recyclable materials and reduce the amount of imported materials; and
- l) Ensure that any risks arising from past coal mining, as indicated on the proposals map, can be adequately managed.

Policy NE4: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), development will only be supported where it conserves or enhances the natural beauty of the area and its setting. In assessing the likely impact of development proposals on the natural beauty of the AONB, cumulative impact will also be taken into consideration.

Development must:

- i. Not have an adverse impact on the special qualities of the AONB or the resources and ecosystem services on which the local economy and well-being of the area depends;
- ii. Contribute to the social, economic and cultural well-being of the local community;
- iii. Be of a scale, form, design, density and intensity of use that is compatible with the character of the AONB; and
- iv. Be designed to an appropriately high standard in order to integrate with the existing landscape and where feasible enhance the landscape quality. Development proposals that are outside, but closely interlinked with the AONB must not have an adverse impact on the natural beauty of the AONB.

Appendix 3

Monitoring indicators

Monitoring is essential to establish what is happening now, what may happen in the future and then compare these trends against existing policies and targets to determine what needs to be done. Monitoring helps to address questions like:

- are our policies achieving their objectives?
- have the policies had unintended consequences?
- are the assumptions and objectives behind policies still relevant?
- are we achieving our targets?

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Joint Committee will use the following indicators to monitor progress in achieving and maintaining 'Dark Sky Community' status:

- The average SQM across the whole AONB (target to be 20 magnitudes per square arc-second).
- The SQM at each designated night-sky viewpoint (target to be 20.5+ magnitudes per square arc-second).
- The number of survey point SQM readings of 16 or less magnitudes per square arc-second in any AONB-wide survey (target to be a maximum of 2).
- The number of planning permissions with dark-sky friendly approved lighting schemes or conditions.

The respective Local Councils may choose to adopt their own monitoring indicators.

Appendix 4

SQM survey sites and data

Table 7: SQM survey sites and data

Averaged survey readings ⁸ by magnitude per square arc sec ⁹							
Survey Point location		2017	Survey Point location		Grid Reference	2019	2020
1	Gronant	19.67	1	Gronant	0882 8334	20.2	0
2	Gwespyr	19.59	2	Llanasa	1059 8145	15.72	0
3	Llanasa	19.93	3	Gwaenysgor	0771 8083	20.32	0
4	Gwaenysgor	20.29	4	Gop Hill	0920 8021	20.47	0
5	Gop Hill	20.18	5	Bron Heulog	0869 7870	20.49	0
6	Bron Heulog Hill	20.32	6	Marian Ffrith	0773 7811	20.46	0
7	Marian Ffrith	20.25	7	Cwm	0711 7719	20.38	0
8	Cwm	20.22	8	Rhuallt	0744 7511	19.24	0
9	Rhuallt	20.24	9	Glan Llyn	0955 7631	20.64	0
10	Glan Y Llyn	20.37	10	Bryn Gwyn	0886 7508	20.60	0
11	Bryngwyn Mawr	20.51	11	Tremeirchion	0826 7307	18.34	0
12	Moel Meanefa	20.57	12	Bodfari	0909 7031	20.72	0
13	Tremeirchion	20.41	13	Afonwen	1219 7180	20.67	0
14	Bodfari	20.58	14	Nannerch	1672 6923	20.59	0
15	Afonwen	20.45	15	Bryn Golau	1569 6962	20.67	0
16	Nannerch	20.32	16	Coed Llangwyfan	1389 6686	20.81	0
17	Bryn Golau	20.87	17	Llangwyfan	1229 6587	20.71	0
18	Coed Llangwyfan	20.46	18	Hendrerwyd	1220 6340	19.65	19.56
19	Llangwyfan	20.42	19	Moel Famau	1373 6336	21.25	20.86
20	Llandyrnog	19.01	20	Gellifor	1250 6280	20.24	20.82
21	Hendrerwydd	18.50	21	Llanbedr	1426 5966	20.17	20.12
22	Moel Famau Country Park	20.63	22	Bwlch Ucha	16645825	20.95	20.83
23	Gellifor	20.50	23	Llanferres	1887 6053	19.15	19.91
24	Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd	18.73	24	Loggerheads	1971 6253	20.39	20.34

25	Bwlch Uchaf	20.61	25	Cilcain	1773 6519	20.39	20.43
26	Llanferres	17.48	26	Llangynhafal Track	1455 6414	20.82	20.28
27	Loggerheads	20.41	27	Penbarras	1618 6057	20.76	20.59
28	Cilcain	19.87	28	Llanarmon Church	1906 5618	19.22	20.46
29	Eryrys	20.10	29	Llandegla	1977 5181	20.23	0
30	Llanarmon yn Iâl	19.82	30	Pentrecelyn	1502 5347	20.76	20.9
31	Llandegla	20.49	31	Graigfechan	1458 5524	20.84	20.89
32	Pentre Celyn	20.08	32	Ty Mawr -	1629 4841	20.88	20.98
33	Graigfechan	20.12	33	Bryneglwys	1498 4759	20.45	20.86
34	Tŷ Mawr	20.18	34	Carrog	1051 4387	21.16	21.52
35	Bryneglwys	19.68	35	Corwen	0830 4410	20.86	21.26
36	Carrog	20.14	36	Glyndyfrdwy	1246 4310	21.24	21.19
37	Corwen	17.28	37	Llangollen	2152 4215	15.77	12.09
38	Glandyfrdwy	19.68	38	Llantysilio Car Park	1971 4331	20.87	20.19
39	Llangollen	13.76	39	Eglwyseg	2160 4610	20.63	20.81
40	Eglwyseg	20.03	40	Cyrn y Brain	2348 4951	20.59	20.63
41	Gwter Siani	19.98	41	Gwter Siani	2526 5013	20.54	20.44
42	New Brighton	19.77	42	New Bright	2715 5115	20.31	19.77
43	Horseshoe Pass	20.85	43	Horseshoe Pass	1922 4721	20.76	20.83
44	Tai'r ant	19.67	44	Berwyn Bends	1847 4332	21.05	20.65
45	Garth	19.62	45	Garth	2481 4311	20.48	20.84
46	Pontcysyllte	16.97	46	Froncysyllte	2717 4123	16.27	16.74
47	Froncysyllte	16.96	47	Pontcysyllte	2680 4208	20.55	20.98
			48	Tai Nant	2697 4641	20.68	20.58
			49	Eryrys	1998 5817	21.08	20.94
Average SQM		20				20	20

Appendix 5

Examples of Dark Sky Friendly Lighting

GOOD LIGHT FITTINGS

Choose compact LED downlights or fully shielded pendant style fixtures, preferably with sensors to switch off when not needed.

BAD LIGHT FITTINGS

Unshielded or poorly shielded floodlights that cannot be tilted sufficiently to shine below the horizontal. Avoid common 'Bulkhead' style fittings that scatter light in all directions. The Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) website is a useful source of information and advice on lighting and reducing obtrusive light.

LIGHTING SUPPLIERS

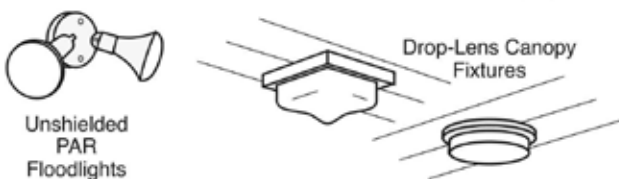
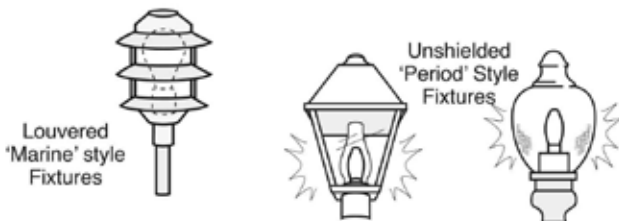
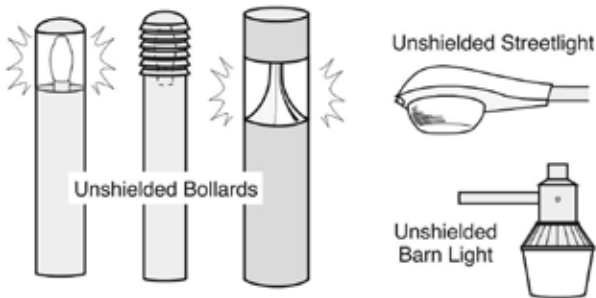
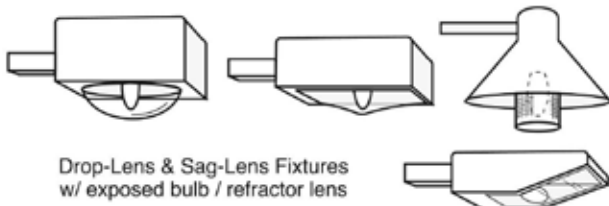
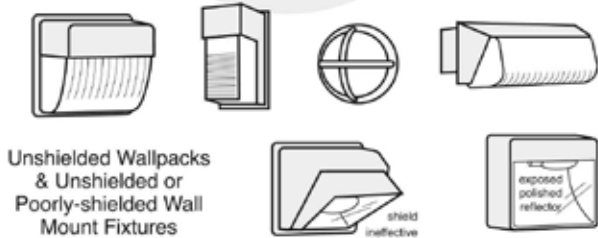
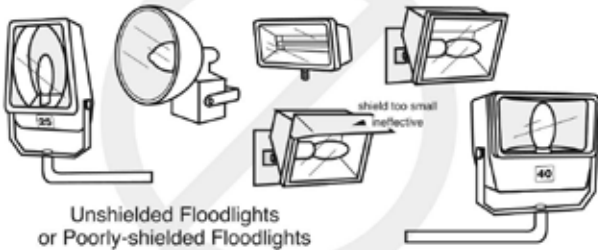
The list below is some of the wholesalers, distributors and retailers that currently supply dark sky friendly light fittings. The list is not exhaustive.

- B & Q
- City Electrical Factors (CEF) Ltd
- Collingwood Lighting Ltd
- Edmundson Electrical Ltd
- Firstlight Ltd
- Homebase
- Integral-LED Ltd
- Luceco Ltd
- Nordlux Lighting
- Philips Lighting plc
- Screwfix
- Searchlight Ltd
- Tamlite Lighting Ltd
- Thorn Lighting Ltd
- Toolstation
- Whitecroft Lighting Ltd
- YESSS Electrical Ltd

Examples of Acceptable & Unacceptable Lighting Fixtures

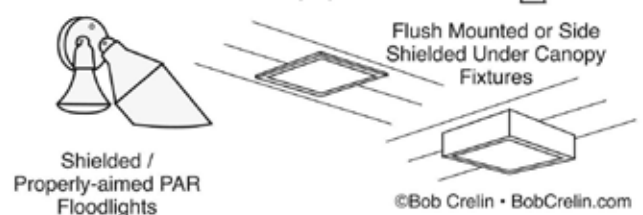
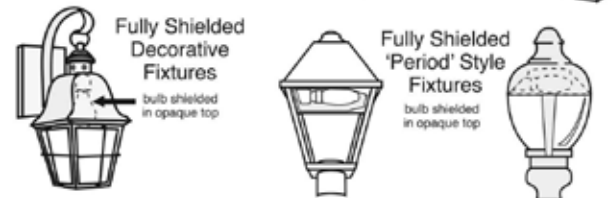
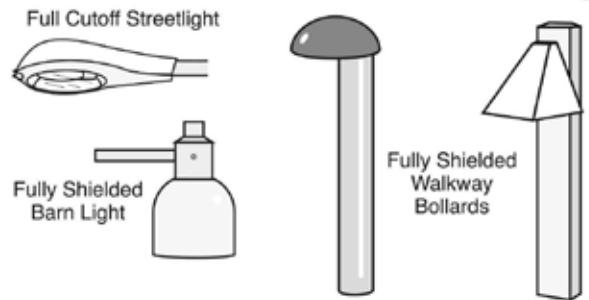
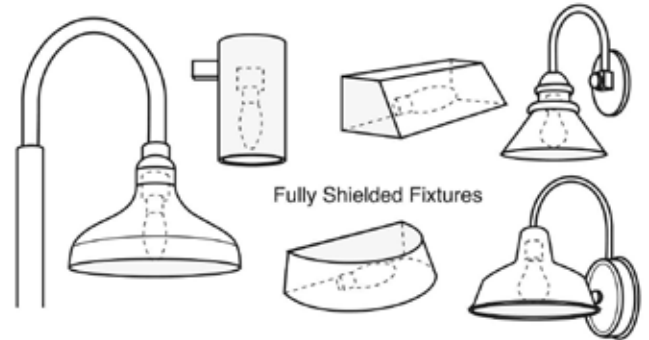
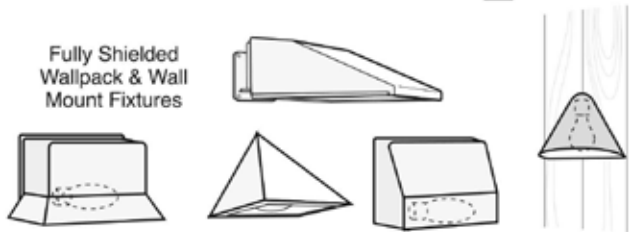
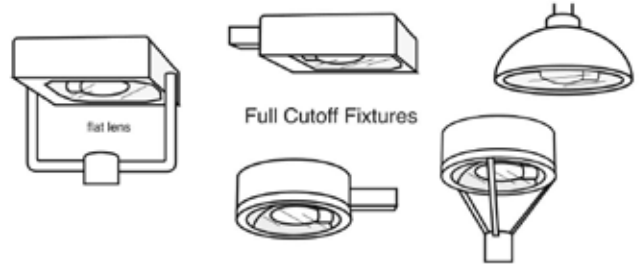
Unacceptable/Not Compliant

Fixtures that produce glare and light trespass



Acceptable/Compliant

Fixtures that shield the light source to minimize glare and light trespass and to facilitate better vision at night



©Bob Crelin • BobCrelin.com







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

Awyr Dywyll
Dark Skies

AONB Main Office:

Loggerheads Country Park
Ruthin Road
Nr Mold
CH7 5LH
Tel: 01824 712757
Email: loggerheads.countrypark@denbighshire.gov.uk

AONB South Office

Y Capel
Castle Street
Llangollen
LL20 8NU
Tel: 01824 712795

Email: clwydianrangeaonb@denbighshire.gov.uk

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

Sustainable Development Fund Annual Report 2020

Prepared for Joint Committee on Friday 25th June 2021

1. Introduction

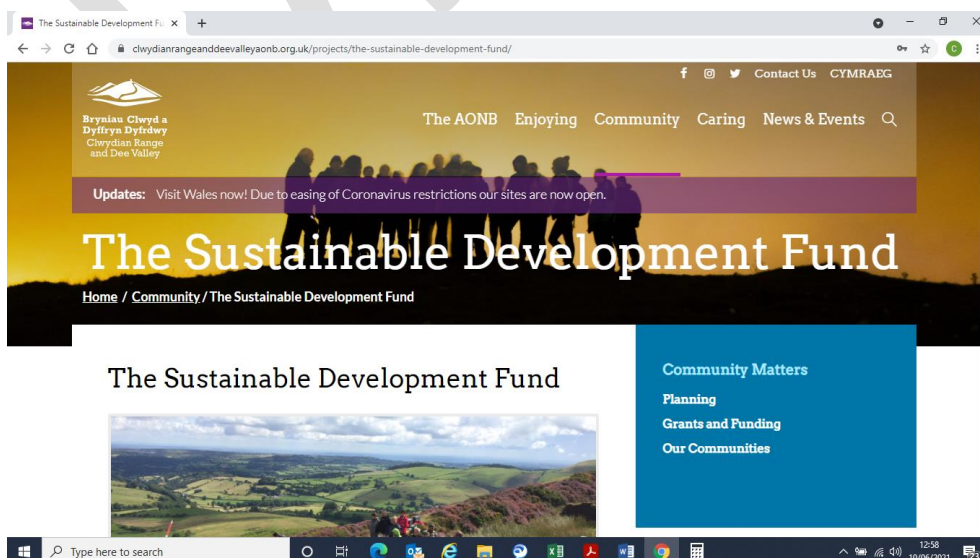
Welcome to the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB's Sustainable Development Fund Annual Report for 2020. This report covers the financial period of April 2020 to March 2021. During the years the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) supported 18 projects, 5 Countryside Grant Schemes and 1 Community Transport Schemes.

SDF contributed a total of £95,000.00 in project grants from an overall budget of £100,000 (The £5000 represents the 5% administration fee retained by the AONB). The total value of the SDF programme including cash match funding, volunteer time and in-kind contributions amounted to £209,474.38

The 2020 CRDV SDF Programme was mainly co-ordinated by the permanent Sustainable Development Officer Ceri Lloyd following return from her maternity leave on the 1st April 2020. Many projects had been developed by Paul Mitchell who was recruited on a Fixed Term Agreement.

2. Publicity

The CRDV AONB are fortunate to not need to heavily publicise the SDF as demand/need is always much greater than availability and the AONB do not want to disappoint prospective applicants. The fund is publicised on the AONB's website and that of Denbighshire County Council. Information is shared with local voluntary councils. The AONB is publish information on their social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Information is also made available to the AONB's Community Champions (representatives from each Town and Community Council in the AONB).



3. Assessment Panel

Due to the significant impacts of the Covid-19 corona virus pandemic it was not possible for the Sustainable Development Working Group Panel to meet as ordinary during 2020. This was of great disappointment to AONB staff and working group members who enjoy this face to face interaction. The first panel took place via e-mail correspondence which proved challenging for all. This did not allow for customary flow of debate and discussion however a consensus was reached. Members were requested to 'reply all' when responding to the consultation in order to stimulate discussion and ensure general awareness of expressed views and comments.

For the subsequent two meetings were held over online video conferencing facilities. Once all technical issues were resolved productive meetings were held and whilst this method would never be favoured to meeting in person the panel were much happier to be able to query and debate projects in a timely fashion.

Another disadvantage of meeting online is that we have historically tried to meet at locations which have received Sustainable Development Funds where the group are given a short introduction from a previous applicant who update the panel on the progress of their different ventures.

Three SDF Panel meetings were held to consider the 2020/21 programme:

- 24/4/20 –e-mail exchange
- 1/9/20 – online meeting
- 15/10/20 – online meeting

Panel members represented the CRDV AONB Joint Committee, the AONB Partnership, the AONB Management Service, and Natural Resources Wales. Members were:

Member	Representing	Public	Private	Voluntary
Alun Price	Natural Resources Wales	✓		
Andy Worthington	AONB Partnership			
Christine Evans	AONB Partnership			
Cllr Hugh Jones	AONB Joint Committee	✓		
Ian Papworth	AONB Partnership			
John Roberts	AONB Partnership			
Michael Skuse	AONB Partnership			
Cllr Paul Cunningham	AONB Joint Committee	✓		
Roger Cragg (Chair)	AONB Partnership			✓
Cllr Tony Thomas	AONB Joint Committee	✓		
Howard Sutcliffe	AONB Management Service	✓		
David Shiel	AONB Management Service	✓		
Ceri Lloyd	AONB Management Service	✓		

4. Application Process

As mentioned above applications for consideration were sent to panel members approximately two weeks ahead of the decision making date. The AONB Team provide a summary of each project application with an outline scoring linked to the Core and Other criteria set out by the Welsh Government in the SDF Guidance. The scoring is a guide only.

Contentious Applications;

Perfect Firewood REMARC

An information dissemination project aiming to improve knowledge and awareness in supply, storage, seasoning and burning of firewood in fires and wood burners. The scheme wanted to provide detailed advice on how to season and store firewood to improve energy efficiency and reduce emission of harmful pollutants (PM2.5) during burning. It also wanted to target producers and suppliers of firewood to improve quality and enhance economic value and farm incomes. The total cost of the project was £14,850 and an SDF contribution of £4,455 was sought.

Consensus confirmed this scheme did not represent value for money and was flawed in its concept and objectives. Panel members advised there were sufficient existing sources of information relating to storage and use of firewood including government guidance. It was also proposed that the established businesses within the AONB were compliant with good practice, guidelines and regulation, therefore negating the need for further information and guidance.

Further information on the scheme circulated to the Panel prompted discussion around potential future legislation or regulation in Wales and air quality/climate change priorities for Welsh Government. 3 Panel members indicated some level of support if the scheme was confirmed as a Welsh Government priority. 5 members maintained strongly argued opposition. 1 member was undecided.

Shape my Llangollen

An application to commission a Place Plan to sit alongside the Llangollen Community Plan, an initial vision document prepared by the Town Team. The Town were in the process of moving to the publication of an action plan just prior to the restrictions put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic. Covid-19 has not only hindered progress on the plan, in terms of public consultation, but has also brought a raft of other issues to the fore that will now influence and guide the plans for the town. The Town Team were therefore faced with not only progressing the work done to date, but also to look at aspects relating to the effects of the pandemic. The team, whilst having been keen to keep the process free from any external input, believed that assistance was required to help to validate the Draft Action Plan with the community and to be able to focus rapidly on the priorities needed to emerge from the pandemic whilst recognising the work that has been undertaken to date.

The Town Council have financially supported the work of the Town Team throughout the process but due to COVID19 the funds available to offer more support at this time are severely limited as the Town Council has lost significant levels of income. However, the need to develop a plan to support recovery post Covid-19 is a priority and therefore external funding was sought to allow the work on the Place Plan to continue and move forward to allow the identified recovery actions to be expedited.

SDF Panel members felt that supporting this application would set a precedent for any other community to apply to SDF for similar support which the panel could not endorse. From experience members were aware that every other town in and around the AONB is funding their own Place Plan and the research needed. There was also concern regarding ownership of the plan if external consultant would be engaged at this stage of the process.

1 Panel member declared an interest in the project as a local resident. 6 member voted against supported and 2 members were undecided.

5. Financial Summary

- The total SDF grant from Welsh Government was £100,000.00
- The total amount levered in as match funding was £130,255
- Cash levered in from the public sector was £117,511.00
- Cash levered in from the private sector was £3,102.00
- Levered in voluntary/contributions in-kind were worth £9,642.07
- Administration costs of 5% were claimed totalling £5,000.00

6. Breakdown of individual projects, to include;

Reference	Project Name	Applicant Organisation
CRDV20_01	Eat Stay Do	Clwydian Range Tourism Group
CRDV20_02	Sudd Afal 2	Sudd Afal Cwmni Buddiant Cymunedol
CRDV20_03	Corwen Community Garden	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
CRDV20_04	CPAT Chirk Castle	Clwyd Powys Archaeology Trust
CRDV20_05	Eco-Connectivity NWWT	North Wales Wildlife Trust
CRDV20_06	Active Woods Coed Lleol	Coed Lleol / Small Woods Association
CRDV20_07	Gwlangollen Yr 2	Gwlangollen
CRDV20_08	Dark Skies 2020	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
CRDV20_09	Gwaenysgor Wall Restoration	Gwaenysgor Conservation Group
CRDV20_10	Our Picturesque Landscape	Our Picturesque Landscape project team
CRDV20_11	Udfilod a Grug	Sean Harris
CRDV20_12	Sustainable Tourism Coordinator	Clwydian Range Tourism Group
CRDV20_13	Flintshare - Phase 3	Flintshare
CRDV20_14	Nature for Health 2020	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB / Denbighshire Countryside Service
CRDV20_15	Tafarn y Gelyn	Llanferres Playing Field & Recreation Association
CRDV20_16	Grow Llangollen CSA	Llangollen and Dee Valley Food and Drink
CRDV20_17	Trevor Hall	
CRDV20_18	Corwen Giant	

CRDV20_01 – Stay Eat Do

Applicant	–	Clwydian Range Tourism Group
SDF	–	£6,020 (29% of total £20,520)
Match funding	–	Rural Development Programme LEADER £14,500

This was the third and final year the Sustainable Development Fund provided funding towards this project.

The Feasibility Study which proceeded and bore this project advised the following three-phase approach:

Phase 1: Capacity building: to develop, as a group, a strategic understanding of the Clwydian Range Tourism Group's (CRTG) tourism proposition and appropriate markets;

Phase 2: Development of product clusters

Phase 3: Development of a combination of routes to market, including working with GoNorthWales (GNW) whilst also working with private sector operators to promote tailored group product and service offerings.

Further to these 3 phases, the Stay Eat Do project aimed to develop over the period, October 2018 to June 2021, a sustainable model for taking the STAY, EAT & DO concept beyond the duration of this pilot project.

- Attract overnight visitors to the area and encouraging them to stay longer and do more during their stay by integrating the 'Stay, Eat, Do' elements of their experience;
- Develop sustainable forms of linking and working together that maximise the potential for local economic benefit to the area and create an environment in which local businesses can develop and thrive;
- Create unique products that offer the visitor an enhanced experience through developing a stronger 'sense of place' as well as recreational activities, local experiences, Welsh culture and language and local food and drink.

Julie Masters was appointed in Nov 2018 to lead the project.

The project was greeted with enthusiasm and engagement in sectors of tourism businesses who were already good at engagement: Some of the lessons learned and gaps identified:-

- Quality businesses do not necessarily have the time to consider what the Itinerary market needs or what price it will pay - Close analysis of benefits accrued from linked travel and their existing business model is necessary.
- The issues around Package Travel Regulations and Linked Travel Arrangements need proper discussion - to avoid a "Test Case" through the courts.



- Tour Operators need a good supply chain to know what is available in the area - be happy with the quality and professionalism to add to their offer.
- Accommodation businesses love to see what others are doing but do not have the opportunity to have a look or a chat – therefore the “Curious Neighbours” initiated.
- Providers are busy with their businesses - they need an honest broker who will encourage engagement only when it could be of real benefit. Somewhere to discuss minor operational issues; or ask for contacts of people who may be helpful to them.
- As lockdown eases - from previous experience, quality accommodation will be over capacity but the management of cleaning/booking/digital operations - both social media and operational issues/social distancing rules/new catering regimes. - all of this has time resourcing issues and skilled staffing needs.
- Activity providers, in general, did not engage initially with the project, as many who are involved in the more obvious activities such as cycling, walking, adventure sports were already trading to their maximum capacity.
- There are businesses on the edges of “Tourism” i.e. Arts and Farming that could find other income streams from Tourism Experiences - they are difficult to engage.
- Businesses are not clear about which groups offer a benefit to them for their engagement as they have limited time and financial resource.

Promotional Activities

- Built on year 1 & 2 working with CRTG Newsletters (over 250 businesses circulated)
- Working with Business Wales and Visit Wales to show the work being done in Rural hinterlands
- Working with AONB with ITV on Offa’s Dyke programming
- Interviewed by ITV news identifying the problems that small businesses in the Pandemic



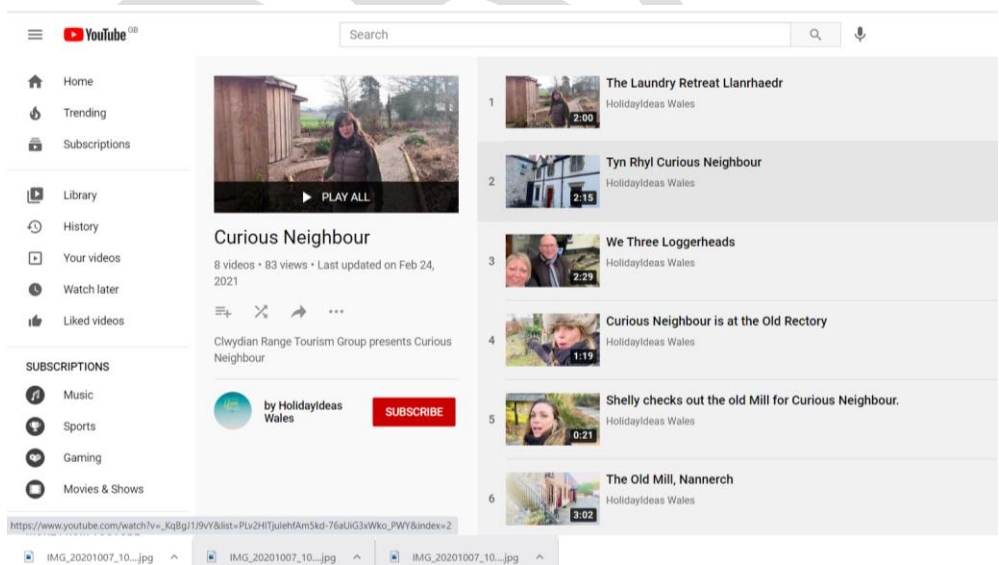
Business Clusters

Due to the difficulties arising from both COVID and the Package Travel regulations (making it a criminal offence for businesses to work together without Financial Failure insurance) - we encouraged support, preparation for non-lockdown and wider collaboration without formal packages being formed - with smaller Itineraries

- Zoom event - Ready for trading post pandemic (summer 2020) - support grouping
- Networking event - Ruthin Castle: collaborative working between Castle Spa and small accommodation /activity providers.
- Curious Neighbours - small group of providers learning IT skills and allowing others to benchmark their businesses against the established offering
- AirBnB x3 events - creating small itineraries from a diverse group of businesses to develop a greater visitor offering
- Supporting the development of further Itineraries through Adventure Tours UK - by helping recruit suitable tour guides for their bespoke tours (4 new business contacts made)

AirBnb Experiences - 5 businesses already on the platform (Way of mindfulness; Theatre Clwyd; Plas Newydd; Wernog Woods; Mynydd Sleddogs) Several more in the pipeline

Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotional Events x 5 • Bookable offers x 5+ • Businesses engaged in the project x 66 • Clusters developed x 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PoIART1 – To promote the sustainable use and enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the AONB in a way that contributes to local prosperity and social inclusiveness • IVCO1 – Ensure that visitors and the tourism industry understand the need for, and support the conservation and enhancement of, the special qualities of the AONB as key assets upon which tourism is based. • IVO7 – Assist tourism businesses to embrace the opportunities and responsibilities of being in a protected area • ODPO6 – Investigate ways to promote the Trail with local tourism businesses and to develop initiatives that will strengthen businesses links • PoICP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings
Outcomes	
<p>The project has experienced a number of challenges from its inception back in 2018 from travel package regulations to industry lockdown. The project has been a lifeline for many struggling businesses in the tourism sector and provided a source of comfort through networking activities.</p>	
County Split	
<p>Pan AONB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denbighshire • Flintshire • Wrexham 	



CRDV20_02 – SUDD

Applicant	–	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
SDF	–	£3,525 (75% of total £4,700)
Match funding	–	£500 Sudd Afal Cwmni Buddiant Cymunedol (11%) / £675 Time in-kind contribution (14%) / Apple donations

Starting in 2019, with the support of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Sudd Afal Cwmni Buddiant Cymunedol's project makes use of the abundance of fruit in the locality – mainly apples, that are usually left unpicked, ending up falling from the trees and rotting.

Following a similar pattern to other similar ventures, the unwanted/unused apples were collected (either by project lead Heledd Iago, or by the apple owners, and brought to a designated collection site(s)). These apples were pressed into apple juice and bottled, then pasteurised (pressing, bottling and pasteurisation at Dunham Massey, Altrincham) and labelled ready for sale. A local transport company was hired to transport the 3 load of apples to Altrincham, and to bring the bottled juice back to Gellifor. 877 750ml glass bottles were produced this year (2020). A further load of apples were left with Dunham Massey to be fermented into cider as a trial – the cider will be ready within a couple of months.



The pasteurised apple juice has a shelf life of 2 year, therefore ideal to sell in the local shops and markets in the lead up to Christmas and thereafter. Our apple juice was labelled and marketed to highlight and promote the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB. Our bottle labels use the AONB brand colour scheme and the range graphic. The juice is sold in local shops, including Clwyd Williams Family Butcher Llandyrnog, Chilly Cow Ice Cream Honesty Box Llanynys, Clyttr Egg Farm Gellifor, Naturally Ethical Ruthin, Ruthin Wholefoods, Siop y Pentre Llanrhaeadr, Siop y Parc Dinbych, Te yn y Grug Dinbych, Deli on the Hill Prestatyn and Swans Farm Shop Treuddyn. We wholesale to these outlets at £3.50, who sell the apple juice on for between £4.50-£5.50, leaving local businesses with a margin of between £1-2 on each bottle they sell. To date 460 bottles of the vintage 2020 juice has been sold.

We are now an established Community Interest Company, with a plan to gift a proportion of surplus profits directly back into the locality by means of wildlife, conservation and community-based/led projects. Our first window for applications to our project sponsorship fund closed on January 31st 2021. We received 2 applications, who, after consideration by our funding panel, were both awarded £150 each toward their projects. The first project is a community garden in Gellifor, where funds will go toward buying plants and equipment for the garden. The second project is by DrosiBikes CIC who promote sustainable transport and bike restorations, to run a bike workshop.

We are also proud to have signed the Ruthin Plastic Free pledge – and will do as much as possible to reduce, limit and stop using plastic in our work wherever possible.



Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100+ hours of volunteer time • 1 x Local contactor engaged • 50+ people engaged in the project • Frequent social media activity to promote the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PoHW4 – Ensure that the natural benefits and services of the landscapes are properly understood and valued. • HSAO3 – Increase the profile of the Historic Environment through effective and consistent interpretation and information. • PoICP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings. • BEO2 – Conserve and enhance the character and local distinctiveness of historic villages, buildings and gardens within the AONB.
Outcomes	
<p>By producing and selling local grown and pressed apple juice, this projects has achieved a more sustainable way of living in the countryside. It has used otherwise unwanted apples to produce a marketable product, sold it locally thereby increasing the local economy, and feeding back into the community and into conservation projects in the AONB with the project sponsorship fund.</p>	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denbighshire 	

CRDV20_03 – Corwen Community Garden

Applicant	–	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
SDF	–	£5,000 (91% of total £500)
Match funding	–	Dŵr Cymru £500 (9%)

Corwen Community Garden is located within the community orchard near the centre of town, and is a resource for all members of the community. The volunteer group meet each Wednesday, providing a social opportunity and making a contribution to the Health and Wellbeing of the participants. In between laughter, coffee and biscuits, fresh fruit and vegetables are grown – as well as wildlife-friendly plants.

The garden is run by a small and very dedicated group of volunteers with assistance from the AONB team. The fruit and vegetables grown have been much admired, and a lot of it is shared with local community, with donations to the Cysgod y Gaer care home and groups in the Canolfan Ni. Produce is also regularly put out for anyone to help themselves to.

Application for funding was to construct a new slanted roof onto the existing flat-roofed shed (a former shipping container), as well as an overhanging pergola, guttering and hardstanding was laid beneath the pergola as well as three new raised beds. These additions have extended the lifespan of the container as the current roof is starting to rust, provide shade and shelter from adverse weather that is accessible to all, and enabled the volunteers to harvest and collect rainwater, reducing the need to collect water from Llangollen Railway, which is quite physically demanding.



Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x accessible outdoor area for community garden • Volunteering opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PolHW4 – Ensure the natural benefits and services of the landscape are properly understood and valued. • PolCP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings. • BEO2 – Conserve and enhance the character and local distinctiveness of historic villages, buildings and gardens within the AONB.
Outcomes	
<p>The new structure has enabled the volunteers to harvest and collect rainwater, reducing the need to collect water from Llangollen Railway. This has benefited the volunteers by allowing more time for gardening, reducing this frequency of this physically demanding activity and has raised the spirits of the group enormously.</p>	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denbighshire 	

DRAFT

CRDV20_04 – CPAT Chirk Castle Excavations

Applicant	–	Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust
SDF	–	£5,000 (34% of total £14,825)
Match funding	–	£9, 852 (66%) Cadw Grant funding with contribution in kind from support staffing and site facilities by National Trust, Chirk Castle.

Following numerous cancellations owing to Covid-19 restrictions CPAT safely delivered the Chirk Castle community excavation project in November – December 2020. The archaeological investigation was conducted over a period of 17 days (9th -27thNov) with an additional 2 days (1-2nd Dec) for re-instatement.

In 2019-20 CPAT delivered a successful community excavation at Chirk Castle, which followed a project the previous year at Chirk Castle and Erddig. The project has successfully attracted funding from both Cadw and the National Trust, and produced a wide range of community wellbeing outcomes as well as exciting archaeological results which have attracted wide audiences. In previous years fieldwork at Chirk had focussed on Offa’s Dyke (to which in 2019 the AONB’s Sustainable Development Fund aided support towards scientific C.14 Radiocarbon dating and palaeoenvironmental analysis). The Chirk Castle 2020 Project focused on the medieval and post-medieval landscape around the castle, in particular on a building identified in the 2019 season. Again this created opportunity for collaboration with the AONB, National Trust and Cadw in delivering a substantial project with meaningful outcomes for volunteers and local communities.



In 2019 new opportunities were developed to explore the evolution of the later medieval landscape of Chirk Castle. Several trenches were opened exploring features which had been identified by aerial photography and geophysical survey. These contained substantial remains of former structures associated with the gardens and the castle. The Research Framework for

the Archaeology of Wales identified ‘the relationship of masonry castles to designed landscapes of parks, gardens, fishponds, warrens and forests’ as one of the key issues for this period.

The 2020/21 project continued exploring these later landscapes, and specifically the eighteenth-century buildings.

Buildings shown on eighteenth-century mapping. →



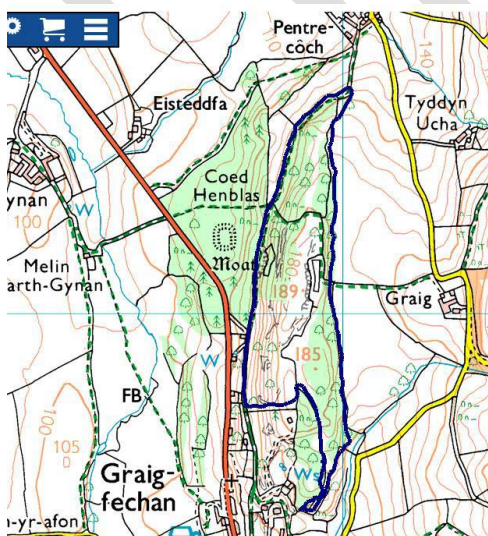
The proposed work programme focused on the excavation of the south-westerly building (referred to for the purposes of the project & media as the ‘Lost Building’). In 2019, limited trial excavation discovered traces of a building below the castle, located in the woodland. With a footprint as large as one of the existing towers it appeared that we had found the site of a considerable stone built structure the nature of which was presently unknown. Some of the artefacts recovered appeared to suggest the building may have been partly used as a foundry/smithy. The post-medieval buildings were not known to have survived in any form prior to the 2019 excavations, and the 2020/21 project was designed to further elucidate their form and state of preservation. The evolution of the designed post-medieval landscape has not been explored archaeologically, and this project provided an opportunity to increase understanding of this aspect of Chirk Castle’s history and interpretation, which will also have implications for other sites in Wales.

CRDV20_05 – Eco-connectivity Graigfechan

Applicant	–	North Wales Wildlife Trust
SDF	–	£7,000 (63% of total £11,184)
Match funding	–	Natural Resources Wales £2,484 (22%) Private Donors £1,200 (11%) Volunteer time in-kind £500 (4%)

This second year of the two year project sought to continue to support the communities of Llanfair DC, Graigfechan and Pwllglas in the management of local nature reserves and enhancing biodiversity in the wider landscape of the AONB. The overall aim was to create links between sites of significant biodiversity value by creating wildlife friendly corridors and also link local communities with each other through engagement with their local natural environment.

Photo from Graig Wyllt (Graigfechan) to Coed Cilygroeslwyd (Pwllglas)



The project has also been working with a local landowner on an area of land which the proposed extension to Graig Wyllt (including Graig Farm land)

Area: proposed extension: 7.93Ha
bringing the total area of Graig Wyllt to 15.01Ha.
2.6Km perimeter

This area which is also a well-used public footpath has been fenced off and gated with 160m hedgerow gapped up and fenced to exclude livestock and improve wildlife corridor from Garth Gynan Mill up to Coed Henblas woodland (neighbouring Graig Wyllt nature reserve. All within the AONB. The mill is known to host a Lesser Horseshoe bat roost, which have also been recorded at Graig Wyllt.



←↖↑The landowner is also reducing hedgerow management to a bi-annual cut to encourage movement through the landscape.

100m Hedgerow planted and fenced on 'Eisteddfa' land across the road from the previous picture (next door to Coed Henblas) providing further future corridor habitat. →



← Tree work and volunteers felling trees near footpaths at Graig Wyllt



← 100m Hedgerow planted and fenced on 'Eisteddfa' land across the road from the previous picture (next door to Coed Henblas) providing further future corridor habitat.

Old limekiln Bat survey by Enfys Ecology before repair work begins →



← New style erected on private land neighbouring Graig Wylt closing the walking loop from Graigfechan around the nature reserve and connecting back to the village through a permissive path and common land

Pant Ruth has played host to several Grŵp Gwyllt meetings on the first Saturday of the month during the two-year period of this project. Local young families gather to volunteer for conservation tasks and learn about nature.



The site has also been surveyed. Small self-sown trees and scrub has been cleared to increase light penetration to the woodland floor and rocky cliff faces adorned with ferns, liverworts and mosses. Bird boxes erected, new gate installed, new bench installed.

Other notable achievements include;

Gapping up' and planting new hedgerows	*Planting 100m hedging and fencing at 'Eisteddfa' *Planting 160m hedging and fencing at 'Garth Gynan Mill' public footpath route
Planting new trees on private land	Pen y Bryn Isa LL15 2HB. Planted with trees supplied through this project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birch 40 • Cherry (wild) 10 • Crab apple 10 • Elder – 20 • Field maple 10 • hawthorn 20 • oak (sessile) 40 • Small-leaved lime – 10 • Spindle – 10 • Whitebeam – 40 • Willow – 20 Total: 230 trees covering a 500m.sq area
Trail cameras installed at key locations to help monitor impact.	Cameras installed to monitor Otter Holt and old school site at Llanfair dc.

Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 320 hours of volunteer time • 15 volunteer/public events • 7 local contractors supported • 3 promotional items • 250 people engaged • 230 trees planted • Planting 100m hedging and fencing at 'Eisteddfa' • Planting 160m hedging and fencing at 'Garth Gynan Mill' public footpath route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PoISQ2 – Secure the equitable, sustainable use of the area's natural resources to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB. • LQC07 – Develop Partnerships that will help to stimulate awareness of an interest in the rich and cultural dimension to communities in the AONB. • PolHW1 – Secure natural systems and networks that provide more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people • PolHW4 – Ensure that the natural benefits and services of the landscape are properly understood and valued. • WVTO4 – Develop publically owned woodlands as models of best practice in broadleaf woodland management • RVO1 – Continue to monitor the extent of key indicator species such as otter and water vole in order to gauge habitat condition.
Outcomes	
The project has conserved and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB and surrounding area by improving, creating and managing favourable habitat to further enhance the beauty of the area and support the survival and potential spread of wildlife in general.	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denbighshire 	

CRDV20_06 – Active Woods Wales

Applicant	–	Coed Lleol
SDF	–	£14,612 (40% of total £36,530)
Match funding	–	£21,918 (60%) Healthy and Active Fund Natural

The Sustainable Development Fund supported Coed Lleol to support individuals to improve their health through regular woodland-based group activities involving physical activity and engagement with the natural environment; during the Covid-19 outbreak this was replaced with support to individuals to improve their mental wellbeing through connecting with nature through remote services, supporting people to access nature in their locality.

In March 2020 lockdown challenged Coed Lleol to rethink how they could deliver the woodland wellbeing programme differently. This led to the #Naturefix programme that included daily National Nature and Wellbeing Sessions on Zoom. These covered themes such as Foraging and Nutrition, Nature Watch, Family Nature Activities, Physical Activity Sessions, and Mindfulness. They also started weekly local Zoom sessions that enabled existing participants to continue engagement with the project and each other. For participants who were not online, a telephone befriending service was set up with a focus on nature and wellbeing. To support people online, at any time of the day or night, they also made several 'wellbeing and nature' YouTube videos, currently viewed by over 7,000 people.

Actif Woods Wrexham has run a popular weekly walking group for many years with upwards of 40 members. The referrals were originally from Macmillan Cancer Care and Alzheimers UK. This formed a key part of the social and physical wellbeing of the participants week – many of whom were retired, suffering from longer-term illnesses or were socially isolated. Lockdown was particularly challenging for this group, so



Actif Woods Wrexham responded with a series of weekly online Zoom sessions that focused on Nature and wellbeing and provide vital social opportunities for the participants. So far, Actif Woods Wrexham has run 40 weeks of sessions, attracting 15 regular participants, many of whom had not taken part in video conferencing before. This group has continued throughout the year with support from volunteers and the Project Officer discussing various nature-based topics including fungi, wildlife quizzes, nature poetry, traditional crafts and birdsong identification. This group has provided a valuable support network for a group who could be very isolated during a difficult year.

Also, Actif Woods Wrexham undertook weekly telephone befriending calls with 30 participants to provide personal contact and a social focus for those participants without the use of the internet or who were not digital natives these were delivered as 'Nature Chat' providing a link to discuss nature and encouraging participants to be mindful of the changing of the seasons, bird watching from the window and simple accessible activities to discover linked to the local area.

The project officer from Wrexham also led the National Mindfulness sessions that has currently run for 35 weeks and attracted 26 participants from all over Wales. These sessions were run by the Project Officer who has recently completed qualifications in mindfulness and is trained and experienced to share her knowledge.



Once lockdown eased the walking group was resumed with restricted numbers due to social distancing concerns. These have attracted 25 participants with an average attendance of 9-10 per walk. These walks have provided a sense of belonging and structure to a group of people as well as physical exercise and a reason to get out. The walks have been in a range of areas from Loggerheads, Chirk, Llanferres, Ty Mawr, Erddig, Bonc y Hafod and Maes y Pant where element of nature have been discussed as well as links and knowledge of the AONB. The group is fortunate in having a keen volunteer who leads on almost every walk, together with the support of the project officer.

Actif Woods Wrexham participants who received telephone befriending calls commented,

“It raised my spirits to receive friendly, supportive calls enquiring about my wellbeing. It was nice to know that someone cared. The telephone befriending has had a positive effect on my mental state. It has shown me how important it is to stay connected with nature and being part of Actif Woods gave me the confidence to continue walking during this time. I really appreciate the return of the walks, the company and the environment”

Outputs	Management Plan
<p>89 Volunteer hours recorded</p> <p>Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers trained in First Aid and Agored units developed <p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 befriended 43 zoom sessions 35 National zoom sessions <p>Social media activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 You tube videos 24 How2 guides 298 Facebook posts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PolSQ2 – Secure the equitable, sustainable use of the area’s natural resources to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB. LQC07 – Develop Partnerships that will help to stimulate awareness of an interest in the rich and cultural dimension to communities in the AONB. PolHW1 – Secure natural systems and networks that provide more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people PolHW4 – Ensure that the natural benefits and services of the landscape are properly understood and valued. WVTO4 – Develop publically owned woodlands as models of best practice in broadleaf woodland management RVO1 – Continue to monitor the extent of key indicator species such as otter and
Outcomes	
<p>This project has improved people’s health and wellbeing through social prescribing to regular activities in woodlands, which incorporates physical activity, nutrition and woodland skills. Training for activity leaders and partner organisations has</p>	

ensured high quality activities and long-term sustainability. This project focused on work in and around the AONB. It focussed on increasing participants understanding of, and interest in the AONB.

water vole in order to gauge habitat condition.

County Split

- Pan AONB

DRAFT

CRDV20_07 – Gwlangollen

Applicant	–	Gwlangollen
SDF	–	£2,500 (50% of total £5,000)
Match funding	–	Armoury Conservation Trust £2,500

Gwlangollen is a project aimed at encouraging local wool fleece producers and crafters to explore the potential of working in closer collaboration to secure production and provide economic benefits through a shortened supply chain. In 2018/19 the Sustainable Development Fund supported the project to continue and develop the weekly Maker Day outreach provision initiative.

This second year of funding has enabled the group to secure rental space for the project at the Lockup building in Llangollen. Thanks to the hard work of volunteers the workshop is now appropriately equipped, well stocked and ready to welcome producers wishing to rent the space and equipment on an hourly basis, or for crafters to book bespoke tutorials on a range of Heritage Skills (Covid dependent). They have produced:

- 3 free standing display units and scissors holder from recycled fence rails
- 2 wooden work tables.
- Hand-stitched leather cases for the sharp tools used for courses.
- Lucets, jigs, frames and looms of all sorts for loan or courses
- Wooden shelf unit for embroidery silks.
- A free standing step to enable short crafters to safely install the rollers on the felting machine (purchased by SDF in 2019)



Unfortunately, due to Covid less face to face activity has taken place in the workshop than the group originally anticipated. All the planned income generating opportunities - community events, courses and room rental had to be cancelled, which was hugely disappointing. Anticipated income from retail has been severely eroded due to the prolonged closure of unessential high street retail outlets.

Despite these challenges the group have undertaken some impressive developments as detailed below;

Community sheep dressing

In Dec 2019, Gwlangollen was approached by a member of the Methodist Church concerned about the lack of mid-week social interaction experienced by some of the congregation. They therefore decided to hold a community sheep dressing in Jan 2020. People were invited in 2-4s to discrete knitting sessions in a variety of town centre venues – church coffee morning, library, the workshop and local tea shop. Coffee, cake, wool and needles were provided for people to create 25cm knitted squares. Two volunteers welded the life size metal frame to support the work. The squares were stitched to a recycled woollen blanket. The March lockdown 2020 prevented participants continuing face to face. It was very heartening however to see the majority continuing at home, then returning their completed squares. The local response to the post on Llanblogger was very positive.



Rural Futures

Gwlangollen signed a formal partnership agreement with Pentredŵr Community to help take Hwb Pentredŵr forward. Gwlangollen has committed to working 1 day a week at the Community Centre. This involves facilitating Maker Days on Fridays, line managing the Hwb Pentredŵr project co-ordinator and reporting to the Hwb steering group made up of 3 Pentredŵr committee members. The project will begin from the date the project co-ordinator is in post. This will bring Gwlangollen £5000 per year for the next 2 years.

Gwlangollen Wool Recycling

The project has set up 4 collection points – the workshop, Plas Newydd, Pentredŵr and a high street retailer. Items we welcome include unused knitting wool, knitted garments for unpicking and any unwanted equipment associated with wool-based crafts. The donated yarn will be used for community activities designed to engage with socially isolated people living in the Llangollen/ Dee Valley area. The equipment will be loaned out. Discussions are currently underway with the Pengwern Community Dev Officer, Ymestyn (befriending org) and South Denbighshire Community Partnership.

Wool Clip

An informal group of local hill farmers working with Gwlangollen to investigate the possibility of setting up a processing plant, to manufacture agri/horticultural products using locally produced fleece. The table below are ideas currently being tested by interested individuals or organisations

Felted fleece	Woven fleece
“Vegan” rugs (no skin or slaughter involved) Whole fleece felted mats and seat pads.	Bespoke sound suppressant/acoustic panels for large multi-use rooms and home recording spaces

Planter and hanging basket liners to save sphagnum moss	Slug mats to put round home grown vegetables
Capillary watering/feed systems for poly-tunnels	Mud mats to protect heavy use gateways from degeneration by tyres and hooves, unmade walk ways between garden beds, small off road parking spaces
Cat caves /dog beds	Weed suppressant covers for autumn dug garden beds
Bespoke insulation for difficult spaces – shed conversions, outdoor studio space, tiny houses, camping pods, shepherds’ huts.	Bio-degradable tree protectors to deter rabbits and sheep from chewing young trees
In addition, ideas around mixing natural fleece with resin to produce counter tops and furniture and household items have been considered. Could the process be used with 3D printing or injection moulding?	

This has been a substantial body of work, and is now ready for a formal feasibility study which the group are seeking funding for.



The group are now also a registered Community Interest Company with a bank account which will make a considerable difference to our credibility when it comes to future grant aid applications.

Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200+ volunteer hours • 1 x part time job created • 43 people engaged • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PolSQ4 – Protect and promote traditional cultural distinctiveness within the AONB including the Welsh language. • LQCO6 – Investigate and increase our understanding of the cultural heritage of communities in the AONB. • POLCP2 – Retain and improve essential services and facilities for local people •
Outcomes	
<p>The project has made great strides in working with producers to explore the wider uses of locally produced, low grade fleece in the AONB.</p>	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denbighshire 	

DRAFT

CRDV20_08 – Dark Skies

Applicant	–	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB / Prosiect NOS
SDF	–	£5,000 (25% of total £20,000)
Match funding	–	£15,000 NOS Partnership designated landscapes partners

The Dark Skies NOS Partnership formed in 2018 which includes the designated landscapes of North Wales including the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Anglesey AONB, Llŷn AONB and Snowdonia National Park Authority. The partnership, led by SNPA had been working on a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for continuation and development of the project activities however due to the Covid-19 pandemic all applications we put on hold therefore the partnership agreed to source alternative funding.

In particular funding was provided for the following;

Dark Sky Partnership Officer, Dani Robertson – The officers post is pivotal to the success of the North Wales Protected Landscapes partnership. The Officer ensures a coordinated approach across the region and partnership working also results in better value for money in procurement of items and services. The officer is also tasked with sourcing additional funding for project activities going forward.

The AONB's application to the IDA for Dark Sky Community Status has been delayed due to Covid-19 however the IDA have indicated that they would welcome an application in 2021. During the year Dani Robertson has facilitated online meetings between the AONB's and the IDA in preparation for application.



To adapt to new ways of working and the limitations Covid-19 posed to the project the Dark Skies Officer has been busy pulling together a programme of online engagement events which including topics such as;

- Telescopes for beginners
- Astronomy activities for children
- Star stories from Wales and beyond
- Archaeoastronomy – a brief history

To name a few. A total of 20 online events were held which attracted 669 attendees.

The Dark Sky Officer has assist the AONB team to look to act on removing light pollution, in particular at sites under local authority ownership such as Loggerheads Country Park. These will be used as 'flagship' examples of good lighting. Professional lighting Engineer company Cundall have been engaged to produce a guidance document and capital works have been identified and will be installed in summer 2021.

This year the project has also invested in a mobile observatory in the form of a Volkswagen T6 4WD Van. It contains a large amount of equipment including 4 telescopes, 10 pairs of astro binoculars and everything needed to run a wide range of varied events. The van will be used to travel to communities across North Wales to deliver events and raise awareness of Dark Skies. It is envisaged that the first events will take place in Autumn 2021.



Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 X Job supported • 20 x online engagement events • 669 people engaged • 1 x Community guidance document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PolHW4 – Ensure the natural benefits and services of the landscape are properly understood and valued. • HSAO3 – Increase the profile of the Historic Environment through effective and consistent interpretation and information. • PolCP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings. • BEO2 – Conserve and enhance the character and local distinctiveness of historic villages, buildings and gardens within the AONB.
<p>Outcomes</p>	
<p>The project has been successful in sourcing additional Welsh Government funding.</p>	
<p>County Split</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pan AONB 	

CRDV20_09 – Gwaenysgor Well Restoration

Applicant – Gwaenysgor Conservation Group
SDF – £3,760 (68% of total £5,556)
Match funding – £500 Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor Community Council, £180 Gwaenysgor Conversation Group, £1116 volunteer time.

The Sustainable Development Fund provided funding for the commission and manufacture of a replica of the original village water pump and site it adjacent to the restored well on Well Lane, Gwaenysgor. The pump is not functional due to water quality issues however the fabrication of the new pump is authentic and corresponds to the original. The design and fabrication also comply with the Gwaenysgor Conservation Area Plan.

[Awaiting photo of pump in situ from applicants]

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 the group were unable to produce the accompanying interpretation panel to accompany the pump in 2020. It was the intention of the group to involve various groups from the local community such as the art group and school children to input into the content of the information panel. Once Covid restrictions are relaxed and the community feel that it is safe to get together a panel will be produced to interpret the pump.

Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replica historic feature returned to site of original. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PolHE1 - To conserve and enhance features and sites of archaeological, cultural or historic importance within the AONB. • PolHE2 - Increase our understanding of all aspects of the Historic Environment of the AONB. • HSA03 - Increase the profile of the Historic Environment through effective and consistent interpretation and information.
<p>Outcomes</p>	
<p>Small historic feature safeguarded for the future.</p>	
<p>County Split</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flintshire 	

The benches have been interpretively carved with quotes from the ladies’ memoirs. The benches were installed by AONB Rangers who also provided a training opportunity for some of the AONB’s relief Rangers.



Clinker Path Repairs and Improvements

The Clinker path was installed in 2018/19, unfortunately due to severe weather and flooding the area has experienced some damage. Groundworks repairs and preparations have taken place for seating and interpretative materials.

Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved paths Training and upskilling opportunities Bench installation Interpretation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PolSQ2 – Secure the equitable, sustainable use of the area’s natural resources to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB. PolHW1 – Secure natural systems and networks that provide more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people PolHW4 – Ensure that the natural benefits and services of the landscape are properly understood and valued.
Outcomes	
<p>By connecting people with the landscape, with nature and with each other we will be promoting social well-being of local communities. The project has also interpreted the history of the AONB and provided training and upskilling opportunities.</p>	
County Split	
Pan AONB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denbighshire Wrexham 	

CRDV20_11 – Udfilod a Grug/Hyaenas & Heather

Applicant	–	Sean Harris
SDF	–	£3,000 (30% of total £10,000)
Match funding	–	£7,150 Arts Council of Wales Stabilisation Fund, £2,850HM Govt. self-employed grant

The original proposal for this project was to hold a week-long experimental residency of animation based artworks telling stories of the land and our constantly shifting relationship with it, past, present and future. Using unique materials and presentation techniques, the proposal was to use Loggerheads Country Park as the landscape setting to develop and evolve performances based on artwork, music and story-telling.

The outcomes of this project altered significantly as a consequence of the Coronavirus pandemic – in that the original activity proposed was non-functional within the context of COVID-related restrictions. However, in seeking to adapt to the circumstances in collaboration with AONB staff (who agreed that it was important to learn what *could* be done) the applicant arrived at an alternative configuration in the shape of a unique interactive animation-based app for handheld devices. It comprises a series of looping interactive animations, each with an accompanying narrative in English and Welsh that is available both as audio recording and written text. More information is available on an accompanying website which also provides a feedback facility so that the app can be evolved over time in response to user response.

The app *Udfil (Hyaena) – Gilbert Pidcock’s Ghost Menagerie* is available on the App Store for free and conveys a multi-tiered experience which will appeal to all ages and act as ‘portal’ to the landscape of the Clwydians. It is founded on contemporary scientific research relating to climate change and biodiversity loss, anthropogenic and otherwise.

Its intent is to create an enhanced connection with the landscape at Loggerheads Country Park, thereby aiding the formation of memory of the landscape and a sense of place. It does this by referring to lost or forgotten species whose remains have been found in multiple caves in the Clwydian Range. These are interactively ‘re-animated’ within the app and act as stimulus for playful and multi-sensory exploration of the landscape itself.





<p>Outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x application for electronic devices • 130 hours of volunteer time in-kind • 1 local supplier commissioned • Marketing and promotional materials produced 	<p>Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PolART1 - To promote the sustainable use and enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the AONB in a way that contributes to local prosperity and social inclusiveness. • PolART3 - Ensure that all visitors and residents are able to experience and enjoy the benefits of the special qualities of the AONB within environmental limits.
<p>Outcomes</p> <p>This 'walking artwork' addresses the narratives of climate change, time and scientific truth contained within the original proposal yet is more flexible, more accessible, further reaching and significantly more enduring.</p>	
<p>County Split</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denbighshire • Flintshire 	

CRDV20_12 – Stay Eat Do

Applicant	–	Clwydian Range Tourism Group
SDF	–	£3,744 (55% of total £6,757.07)
Match funding	–	Clwydian Range Tourism Group Time In-Kind contribution from Board £3,013.07 (45% of total)

At a time of isolation and closure of tourism related businesses it has been essential that there is a central point of information, support and advice for small businesses in the AONB. This project provided the Clwydian Range Tourism Group (CRTG) with the funds to lengthen the contract of administration and marketing support to enable positive information and support to be available. CRTG and other businesses have been supported and updated throughout each stage of the pandemic.

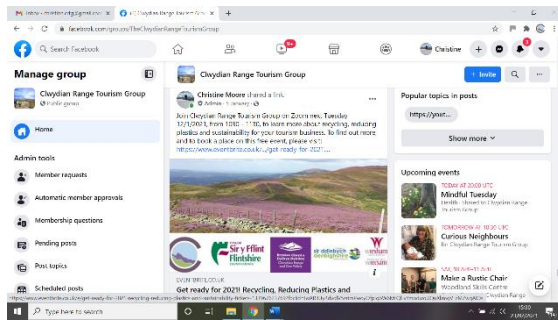
In particular, the Coordinating role has assisted the group to achieve the following;

- Covid-19 page on CRTG Website – this is updated regularly and informs members of current regulations and funding available.
- Consultation with members via three surveys gaining information on how the first lockdown impacted on their tourism business, and also when preparing to reopen in the summer. This information was shared with tourism partners including the three county councils and Visit Wales. The latest survey conducted in February 2021 was used as the basis for an online forum to businesses taking place on Tuesday 30th March 2021.
- Online forums and training via Zoom on the theme of Sustainability and engaged with Keep Wales Tidy, the AONB, reSource Denbighshire and Plastics Free Mold and Ruthin. The event was so well received that the group are developing a sustainability resource page on their website.
- Social media engagement on the Visit Clwydian Range Facebook page to promote sustainable tourism and projects.
 - Facebook: The Clwydian Range Tourism group page has 643 members, a 38% increase in members between 1/4/20 and 22/2/21.
 - Facebook: Visit Clwydian Range page (public facing) has 927 likes.
 - Twitter: 1122 followers (8/3/21)
 - Instagram: 1019 followers (8/3/21)
- Developed relationships with the wider tourism community in North East Wales. The group distribute updates from the Welsh Government, the three county councils, Visit Wales and Business Wales to members via newsletters, Facebook and



the Covid-19 page on their website. The wider tourism community are invited to online forums and were pleased to see that non-members and tourism ambassadors joining the forums.

This has been an opportunity to really highlight this area and how we should all be conserving it and how we can add to this enhancement



Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 324 volunteer hours recorded • 1 x Job Created • 4 x online forums • Numerous marketing and promotional activities • 144 people engaged in the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PolART1 – To promote the sustainable use and enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the AONB in a way that contributes to local prosperity and social inclusiveness • IVCO1 – Ensure that visitors and the tourism industry understand the need for, and support the conservation and enhancement of, the special qualities of the AONB as key assets upon which tourism is based. • IVO7 – Assist tourism businesses to embrace the opportunities and responsibilities of being in a protected area • ODPO6 – Investigate ways to promote the Trail with local tourism businesses and to develop initiatives that will strengthen businesses links • PolCP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings
<p>Outcomes</p> <p>The project has supported tourism and hospitality businesses in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley via dissemination of information to SME's but further to this they have also offered ideas and opportunities for businesses to prepare for the opening of the countryside again. CRTG's social media platforms have promoted the AONB within the limitations of lockdown rules and regulations, and maintained a lively and positive message about this beautiful area.</p>	
<p>County Split</p> <p>Pan AONB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denbighshire • Flintshire • Wrexham 	

CRDV20_13 – Flintshare Phase 3

Applicant – Flintshare
SDF – £3,818.41 (67% of total £5,686.41)
Match funding – Flintshire Community Chest £534/ Flintshare funds £428 / Donations for refreshments £30 / Volunteer time £876

FlintShare is a local community group dedicated to growing fresh fruit and vegetables primarily for the benefit of its members but also for the wider community in and around the AONB. They believe that organically and sustainably grown local food should be affordable for all. They aim to educate and reconnect people with how food is produced, sustainable food production and eating seasonally.

Funding from the Sustainable Development Fund has assisted the group to;

- Fence in growing areas to prevent damage from rabbits and badgers and the occasional sheep. A local contractor was employed and local suppliers were used. Volunteers also helped carrying materials from the lane down to the site and assisted the contractor throughout.
- Purchase of butterfly netting and timber to build brassica cages to reduce damage from caterpillars.
- Cutting of willow beds to provide willow for weaving to encourage fresh growth. The project had intended to hold a workshops for the young people and a public event however this has not been possible due to Covid.



Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital improvements to community project • 2 x Volunteering opportunities • 1 x local contractor and 2 x local suppliers supported • Promotional materials produced • 20 people engaged in the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PolSQ3 – Secure the equitable, sustainable use of the area’s natural resources to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB • PolHW1 – Secure natural and networks that provide more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people • PolCP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings • PolART1 – To promote the sustainable use and enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the AONB in a way that contributes to local prosperity and social inclusiveness.
<p>Outcomes</p> <p>The project has reconnected people with how food is produced, and teach them about sustainable food production and eating seasonally. It has also demonstrated that land within the AONB is good enough to produce great veg as well as meat.</p>	
<p>County Split</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flintshire 	

DRAFT

DRAFT

CRDV20_15 – Tafarn y Gelyn Pond

Applicant	–	Llanferres Playing Field & Recreation Association
SDF	–	£4,928 (74% of total £6,654)
Match funding	–	Volunteer time £862 / Dŵr Cymru £250, Private donation £50, Crowd Funding £564

Tafarn y Gelyn Pond (OS: 618189) was originally restored & developed in 2003 in response to an opportunity offered by the diversion of the A494 out of Tafarn y Gelyn. At that time, the community came together under the management of the Llanferres Playing Field & Recreation Association with the aim of enhancing the appearance of an unused & neglected space, increasing biodiversity & creating an educational & informal recreation space.



17 years on, this application for Sustainable Development Funding was for major improvements to the tired site including;

- Replacement of damaged hard standing area to reinstate accessible higher level access area to pond.
- Upgrading of steps to viewing platform with new oak sleepers, safe treads and attachment to existing handrail
- New Welsh Oak benches



Through the support offered by the AONB team and the link to Amphibian and Reptile Conservation the group have identified the issues surrounding the loss of water in the pond and have been successful in obtaining funding for phase 2 which will replace the pond liner, modify the water depths, modify the viewing platform and provide educational opportunities. This has added much value to the project and will secure the future of the pond.



Wildflower planting has not as yet been undertaken because the applicants are now going to commence a phase 2 project to replace the liner and the planting will need to be done once the work to the liner is complete. The AONB continue to be engaged in the project and will update the panel of progress made.



Outputs	Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital works to wildlife site • 38 people engaged • 1 volunteer/public event • Promotional materials produced • 47 volunteer hours recorded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PoISQ3 – Secure the equitable, sustainable use of the area’s natural resources to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB • PoIHW1 – Secure natural and networks that provide more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people • PoICP3 – Ensure that local businesses and communities feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings • PoIART1 – To promote the sustainable use and enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the AONB in a way that contributes to local prosperity and social inclusiveness
Outcomes	
<p>The project has secured the long-term success of this site as an educational & informal public space. The project has also further increased the biodiversity of the site</p>	
County Split	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denbighshire 	

DRAFT

CRDV_17 Trevor Hall Research

Applicant	–	Pamela Williams
SDF	–	£900 (82% of total £1,100)
Match funding	–	Volunteer time £200

In early 2020 local historian Pamela Williams completed a comprehensive study of the history and cultural heritage of Trevor Hall, Llangollen. SDF support was secured to publish the study and make it more widely available through local libraries and possibly bookshops.

A low-key launch event was scheduled for March 2020 but the restrictions resulting from Covid-19 incurred a delay. The study will be launched once circumstances allow.

CRDV20_18 Corwen Giant

Applicant	–	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
SDF	–	£411.90 (67% of total £611.90)
Match funding	–	Volunteer time £200

The community of Corwen woke Drewyn the giant on Saturday 23rd March 2019, a once in a lifetime opportunity to witness the phenomena of a Giant moving through the landscape. On his journey he made gifts for his sweetheart and dropped personal belongings all around the town for residents and visitors to see. The project had hoped to hold a series of events during 2020 to tell the story of Drewyn to new audiences through storytelling, guided walks and giant community days however, due to Covid these events were not realised and the project was significantly reduced in size. A trail map was produced so that the local community and visitors to the town could undertake a self-led walk of Corwen and Coed Pen-y-Pigyn.

CANFOD CAWR CORWEN
DISCOVER CORWEN'S GIANT

DEFFRODD Y CAWR DREWYN
Deffrodd y Cawr Drewyn ar 23 Mawrth 2019 a chwasodd i Gorwen, gan osodi llwybr o olion traed anferth. Yna syrthodd i gwrddu â ei ynddod Corwenna, ond yn parhau ei dath gollyngodd nifer o wrthyrciau sy'n dangos clybiau am Drewyn a chweri eraill yn Nhyryn Dyfrdwy.

THE GIANT DREWYN WOKE
The Giant Drewyn woke on the 23rd March 2019 and walked into Corwen, leaving a trail of massive footprints. He then fell asleep again in bed Corwenna but during his journey he dropped several objects that reveal clues about Drewyn and other giants in the Dee Valley.

DEFFRODD Y CAWR DREWYN
Fie ddaeth i Gorwen i chwilio am ei gerdd y Pen-y-Pigyn, ond mae'n ymddangos na ddaeth i'w ynddod - pwy bynnag yw hi fe fydd yn haid iddi aed i'w ynddod yn ddaed era, ond mae'n ymddangos eu bod yn cynllunio arbur gyda'i gilydd.

THE GIANT DREWYN WOKE
He came into Corwen in search of his sweetheart the Pen-y-Pigyn, but it seems he didn't find her. Whoever she is she'll have to wait until he wakes again, but it looks like they are planning an adventure together.

DEFFRODD Y CAWR DREWYN
Yn ymherch roddi wedi sbelladu'r Fardder, Cawr Drewyn, lawchobi Corwen fel artheg i'w gerdd fel rhywle iddi gwrddu ei gwrthod. Mae'n ynddod ei fardderu yn ynddod y dath hon yn ddarogoch, ond mae'n chwilio i'w canfod. Mae'n rhy fawr i'w weld os ydych yn sefyll yn y cae lle mae'n newn yn corwa, ond os ydych yn ddywdd ei wrthyrciau coill i'r fan lle mae'n rhyddu ei ffig Pen-y-Pigyn fe allwch weld Drewyn a'r olion traed a wraeth a'r ei dath.

THE GIANT DREWYN WOKE
Previously he built the hillfort, Cawr Drewyn, above Corwen as a gift for his sweetheart as somewhere to keep her cattle. What his intentions are during this journey are a mystery, but there are clues to be found. He's too big to see if you stand in the field where he's now sleeping, but if you follow a trail of his lost possessions, to the viewpoint at the top of Pen-y-Pigyn you'll be able to see Drewyn and the footprints he made on his journey in the meadow below.

DEFFRODD Y CAWR DREWYN
Mae'r gwrthod a gollyngodd Drewyn yn ffordd o glwbiau am y cawr a'i ymddogion a'i ymddogion ond ni i'w hysgu i'w ynddod beith yw prif pwr un-gallwch rannu eich llunau i'w sgrinio ynghyd â beith ddywdd y gwrthyrciau wedi'ny yn.

THE GIANT DREWYN WOKE
The objects Drewyn has dropped give lots of clues about the giant and his neighbours, but nobody knows for sure what they all mean - you can share your pictures and clues about what the objects tell us at:

str ddiwydiol deiniog
Cyfeith Naturol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales
@WakingCorwensGiant

COUNTRYSIDE GRANTS SCHEME

Scheme administered by FWAG on behalf of the AONB

SDF Contribution (incl. admin fees)	£5,560.69
Match Funding Private Landowner contribution	£3,750.00

2020 saw five grants issued to landowners in the AONB to undertake boundary restoration work and pond creation/restoration.





OUTPUTS	MANAGEMENT PLAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30m of hedge laying • 63m post and rail and planting • 23m² of drystone wall. • 1 x pond construction • 1 x pond restoration • Partnership working with private landowners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BO2 – Using SDF and other funds to develop schemes that will maintain and enhance the most important boundaries in the AONB as well as other special features. • PoISQ2 – Secure the equitable, sustainable use of the area’s natural resources to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB.
COUNTY ACTIVITY	OUTCOMES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denbighshire(x1) • Flintshire (x4) 	Conservation of key landscape features in the AONB securing natural beauty.

7. Level of Support

We have already received confirmation of commitment from the Welsh Government to provide £100,000.00 towards year 21 of the Sustainable Development Fund which is greatly received as the fund continues to be oversubscribed in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB.

Ceri Lloyd

Swyddog Datblygiad Cynaliadwy | Sustainable Development Officer

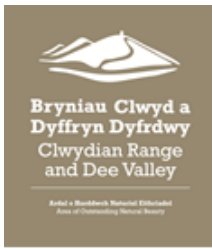
Ffôn / Tel: 01824 712721

www.ahnebryniauclwydadyffryndyfrdwy.org.uk

www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk



This page is intentionally left blank



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE AONB:

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Background

1. The built environment is one of the special qualities of the AONB and contributes to the character and appearance of the area. There is pressure for new development in and around the AONB as an attractive place to live, work and visit, but particular care is required to ensure that new development fits well in the landscape. An important role of the Joint Committee and Partnership is to advise on development proposals and policies affecting the AONB.

Consultations

2. The overall number of consultations referred to the AONB in 2020-21 was 301. This is an increase in activity compared to last year (274), which is unexpected given that 2020-21 has been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. There was a decline in activity during the first half of the year, but during the second half of the year there was a significant upturn in consultations.
3. The majority of consultations (217 in number, 72% of the total) were planning or related applications for development referred by the three local planning authorities (LPA's). The majority of these were from Denbighshire (81%) followed by Flintshire (19%). Two planning consultations were referred by Wrexham. Formal and informal requests for pre and post-application advice continue to increase (71 in number), which reflects a substantial increase on last year (46) and now account for a significant 24% of all consultations. Policy related matters (6 in number) accounted for 3% of all consultations, which is a reduction in activity over previous years. This may be a response to the Covid-19 pandemic as public bodies shifted their attention to pandemic related work. Planning appeals (5) made up the remaining consultations.
4. A summary of all planning consultations to which the AONB responded during the year are attached as Appendices covering the two half-yearly periods. These show details of the proposal, a summary of the AONB's comments, the LPA's decision where this has been made and an assessment of their response to the AONB's comments.
5. The largest category of proposals continues to be for householder development (35%) followed by new housing (23%), including conversions. The proportion of tourism related development proposals is consistent (18%) and remains the third largest category of development, followed by agriculture (10%), commercial/retail and industrial proposals (4%)

and energy/utility developments (3%). The remaining consultations comprised access works, mineral proposals, community/educational developments and Listed Building applications.

6. The majority of decided planning applications (81%) were granted permission, which is comparable with the approval rate in previous years. Only 8% of applications were refused but there was an upturn in the proportion of applications withdrawn by the applicant prior to determination (11%).
7. The AONB raised no objection to the majority of applications, but often suggested design changes, alternative materials or additional landscaping or lighting conditions to help conserve and enhance the character and appearance of the AONB. There were 21 formal objections lodged to development proposals, and significant concerns were raised in respect of 14 further applications, which is comparable to last year's position. In many cases development proposals are amended to reflect the AONB's views and result in a better development outcome.

Local Planning Authority Response to AONB Comments

8. Analysis of LPA responses to substantive comments made by the AONB on decided planning applications (see pie-chart overleaf) shows that the majority of comments (79%) made by the AONB were accepted in full or in part. Only 21% of comments were not accepted or acted upon by the LPA's. Although this performance is slightly down on the previous year when 81% of comments were accepted in full or in part, it is encouraging to note that there was an increase in the proportion of comments accepted in full from 51% last year to 56% in the current year.
9. Of the 19 determined planning applications where the AONB's comments were not accepted by the LPA's, 18 applications were determined by Denbighshire and 1 by Flintshire. There were no cases in Wrexham where the AONB's comments had not been accepted in full or in part. Taking into account the overall number of decisions made by each authority, the percentage of cases where the AONB's comments were not accepted or acted upon was 23% in Denbighshire and 9% in Flintshire. Comparable figures for Denbighshire over the previous three years were 25% in 2017-18, 20% in 2018-19 and 18% in 2019-20. The equivalent data for the proportion of decided applications in Flintshire where the AONB's comments were not accepted was 36% in 2017-18, 16% in 2018-19 and 12% in 2019-20.
10. For the most part, comments made by the AONB which were not accepted related to design, materials, lighting and landscaping, and to suggestions for enhancement as part of a development project.

LPA Consideration of AONB Comments 2020-21



■ Fully Accepted (56%)

■ Part Accepted (23%)

■ Not Accepted (21%)

Planning Appeals

11. Five planning appeals were referred to the AONB during the year. All were decided and dismissed by the inspectorate. The majority of the appeals related to applications for new housing within the AONB at Carrog, Llanbedr DC, Llandynan and Eryrys. The AONB had objected to or raised significant concerns in respect of all these applications which were taken into account by the inspectorate.

Unauthorised Development

12. During the year, 31 potential cases of unauthorised development affecting the AONB were referred to the LPA enforcement teams for investigation. This is a notable increase over the 25 reported cases last year. It is disappointing that some developers and landowners appear to have used the cover of the pandemic to carry out works without the benefit of planning permission when LPA enforcement officers were hampered by lockdown and travel restrictions. The majority (22cases) were in Denbighshire, 8 in Flintshire and 1 in Wrexham. A significant proportion of these cases were concerned with engineering operations, earth moving and access works, but there were also cases of change of use, external storage, holiday chalets/yurts, new kennels, extensions and alterations, works to trees, deviation from approved plans or a failure to comply with conditions. In addition, an unauthorised traveller encampment was established just outside the AONB at Nant y Ffrith near Llandegla. Enforcement matters are often complex and take some time for the planning authorities to investigate and resolve. Many cases are still outstanding.

Policy/Strategic Consultations

13. The number of policy and strategic consultations referred to the AONB in 2020-21 was 6, which is a considerable reduction in activity over previous years. During the year, policy work by public bodies was significantly hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic as many were forced to shift their attention to responding to the public health crisis. However, the AONB did respond to Welsh Government consultations on *Noise, Air Quality and Soundscape: Review of TAN 11* and the *Litter and Fly Tipping Prevention Plan for Wales*. In addition, representations were submitted to the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) *Dark Skies Policy Consultation*.

Landscape Character and Built Environment Working Group

14. The AONB Partnership Landscape Character and Built Environment Working Group leads on planning and development matters affecting the AONB. The group normally meets on three or four occasions during the year but during 2020-21 the group only met once as progress faltered as a result of the pandemic. This was an online meeting which, in addition to the usual review of planning and development consultations, considered and endorsed the draft AONB Dark Sky Supplementary Planning Guidance Note (SPG) *Planning for Dark Night Skies* for public consultation. The group also considered current planning compliance and enforcement matters and expressed concern about the increase in unauthorised development which had apparently taken place across the AONB during lockdown. Two further AONB Management Plan related initiatives which are at an early stage were supported by the working group. These are intended to make a positive and practical contribution to conserving and enhancing the character and appearance of the AONB and include a proposed review of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) and a new highways design guide to be prepared in partnership with the local highway authorities.



SUMMARY OF AONB PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

APRIL 2020 – SEPTEMBER 2020

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
061109	Queensway, Pantymwyn, CH7 5EP	Rear single storey extension	No objection	Granted 14/05/20	N/A
16/2020/0239	Ty Capel (former Llwynedd Chapel) Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd LL15 1UT	Variation of condition to allow for retention and improvement of existing access	No objection subject to views of Highway Authority and extension of stone boundary walls		
43/2020/0242	Former Plas Deva Caravan Park Meliden LL19 8NR	Variation of condition of application 43/2019/0730 to amend site layout	No observations	Granted 30/09/20	N/A
10/2020/0109	Ty Newydd Bryneglwys Corwen, LL21 9NE	Conversion and extension of outbuilding to form dwelling (Amended plans)	No objection in principal subject to design changes and lighting	Withdrawn 08/09/20	N/A
061007	Rosemount, Gwernymynydd, CH7 5LG	Proposed construction of 2no. affordable dwellings and 1no. private dwelling	Object: Contrary to policy	Refused 24/08/20	
43/2020/0217	Tanrallt Cottage Meliden LL19 8PT	Erection of summerhouse	No objection in principal subject to design changes and lighting condition	Withdrawn 11/05/20	N/A
27/2019/0761	Abbey Grange Hotel Llangollen, LL20 8DD	Change of use of land to a camping/caravan site and associated works (Amended plans)	Support some amendments but still require LVIA and lighting details.	Refused 11/09/20	
42/2019/0157	Land at (part garden of) Mount House Dyserth LL18 6BY	Erection of 1 dwelling, detached garage and new vehicular access (Amended plans)	No objection. Support amended lighting scheme.	Granted 30/06/20	N/A
25/2020/0162	Pant Y Maen Windfarm, Nantglyn Denbigh	Variation of conditions to allow for an increase in height for 7 wind turbines from 102M to tip to a maximum of 125M	Object. Unacceptable impact on key views from AONB	Refused 18/08/20	N/A
43/2020/0276	Former Plas Deva Caravan Park Meliden LL19 8NR	Details of lighting submitted in respect of permission 43/2019/0730	No objection	Granted 30/09/20	N/A
18/2020/0293	Land adjacent to Maes Llan Llandyrnog LL16 4HF	Variation of condition of planning permission 18/2016/0400 to allow for alterations to site layout	No observations	Granted 11/06/20	N/A
3247619 (DNS Application)	Elwy Solar Park, St Asaph	Proposed Elwy Solar Park EIA Scoping Consultation	Suggest additional LVIA viewpoints in AONB		
05/2020/0246	Penrhyn Glyndyfrdwy LL21 9HN	Erection of a garden room	No objection subject to materials, landscaping and lighting.	Granted 30/06/20	
03/2020/0230	Pengwern Hall Llangollen, LL20 8AW	Alterations to existing residential property and associated works	No objection subject to Conservation Officers views	Granted 08/09/20	N/A
061153	Y Berth, Pen Y Fron Road, Pantymwyn, CH7 5EF	Demolition of conservatory, new rear extension and conversion of garage	No observations	Granted 02/10/20	N/A
09/2020/0254	Bwlch Isaf, Bodfari LL16 4HS	Demolition of existing and erection of replacement dwelling	No objection, suggest minor design changes and lighting condition	Granted 15/07/20	
10/2020/0109	Ty Newydd Bryneglwys LL21 9NE	Conversion and extension of outbuilding to form dwelling (Amended plans)	No objection subject to lighting condition	Withdrawn 08/09/20	N/A
20/2020/0207	The Cottage Fron Isaf Pentreceelyn LL15 2HR	Erection of an agricultural building for livestock and machinery.	No objection in principle; suggest re siting, materials and lighting condition	Granted 14/08/20	
45/2018/1215	Land at Rhyl South East between Bro Deg and Dyserth Road	Erection of 105 dwellings and associated works (Amended plans)	No objection; landscaping recommendations accepted		

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
03/2020/0306	Swn Y Ddyfrdwy Berwyn, Llangollen, LL20 8AL	Proposed single storey extension	No objection subject to lighting condition	Granted 23/07/20	
03/2020/0183	Land adjoining Waterloo House Llangollen LL20 8AD	Variation of condition (code no. 03/2014/1434) to allow further time for approval of reserved matters	No objection	Granted 15/09/20	N/A
42/2020/0209	Craig Y Castell Lodge Dyserth LL18 6DE	Erection of first floor extension to dwelling	No objection in principle subject to design changes	Withdrawn 09/06/20	N/A
47/2020/0216	Brynlithrig Bach Cottage Rhualt LL17 0TP	Use of glamping pod for holiday accommodation	No objection subject to materials and lighting	Granted 15/07/20	
21/2020/0295	13 Cae Derwen Llanferres CH7 5SX	Erection of a two storey and single storey extension to dwelling	No objection	Granted 23/06/20	N/A
41/2020/0308	Land south-west of Ty Draw Farm Bodfari LL16 4DP	Details of landscaping submitted in accord with condition 4 of planning permission 41/2019/0671	No objection subject to additional landscaping	Granted 10/07/20	
15/2020/0255	Y Beudy Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4TB	Erection of a car port, stables and manege together with associated hardstanding, track, fencing, flood lights and access	Object. Unacceptable impact on AONB	Withdrawn 12/06/20	N/A
05/2020/0324	Bryn Bach Glyndyfrdwy LL21 9HN	Demolition of existing single storey extension and erection of new 2 storey extension	No objection subject to design changes and lighting condition	Granted 12/06/20	
061242	Muirhead, Pantymwyn, CH7 5EN	Alteration and extension to existing dwelling, including lifting the roof	Request additional information to assess scale of development	Granted 22/10/20	
061313	12 Erw Wen, Trelawnyd, LL18 6DH	Erection of single storey extension to side of dwelling	No objection	Granted 29/06/20	N/A
10/2020/0304	Playing Field, Bryneglwys LL21 9LL	Lawful Development Certificate for existing use to reinstate play equipment	No objection	Granted 03/07/20	N/A
21/2020/0292	Erw Las Eryrys CH7 4DD	Sub-division of existing dwelling to form 2 semi-detached dwellings	Concerns re principle and precedent	Refused 16/09/20	
061270	Erw Deg, Pantymwyn, CH7 5EW	Erection of domestic garage and store	Concerns re need for new garage/store	Refused 02/10/20	
42/2020/0209	Craig Y Castell Lodge, Dyserth LL18 6DE	Erection of first floor extension to dwelling (Additional information)	No observations	Withdrawn 09/06/20	N/A
03/2020/0357	Bryn Goleu, Geufron Llangollen, LL20 8DY	Alterations to garage to form a holiday unit and associated works	No objection subject to design changes, lighting and holiday use conditions	Granted 25/09/20	
03/2020/0379	Ty Brethyn Llangollen, LL20 7BS	Installation of a ground mounted solar panel array	No objection subject to reinstatement of the land	Granted 21/07/20	
061351	16 Rhodfa Cilcain, Mold, CH7 1GR	Proposed rear extension and garage conversion	No observations	Granted 29/09/20	N/A
061232	8 Llys Fammau, Pantymwyn, CH7 5EZ	Erection of a dayroom to rear of existing property with a glazed link	No objection	Granted 29/06/20	N/A
47/2020/0286	Clwyd Agricultural Ltd, Terfyn Farm, Cwm LL18 6HT	Variation of permission 47/2013/1401 to allow a further 5 years for commencement	No objection	Granted 21/07/20	N/A
17/2020/0373	Bryn Hyfryd Llandegla LL11 3AN	Proposed extensions to side and front of dwelling and conversion of garage	No objection subject to materials and lighting conditions	Granted 11/08/20	
061165	Wood Bank, Gwernymynydd, CH7 5LQ	Divide off part of existing garden and build a detached house	No objection subject to retention of existing hedges, trees and walls	Refused 03/09/20	N/A
061330	Maes Mynan Hall & Convalescent Home, Afonwen, CH7 5UB	Change of windows, doors, erection of porches and lean to covered leisure area	No objection subject to lighting condition	Withdrawn	N/A
47/2020/0408	St Beuno's College Tremeirchion LL17 0AS	Alterations to east range to create new meeting space, chapel entrance and alterations to improve access and other facilities.	No objection subject to lighting details	Granted 10/08/20	
20/2020/0396	Garth Y Fron Pentrecelyn LL15 2HR	Erection of extensions to side and rear of dwelling and associated works	No objection subject to lighting details	Granted 08/07/20	
22/2020/0354	Cart House Siglen Ucha Llangynhafal LL16 4LP	Erection of ground floor extension and alterations to existing	No objection subject to materials and lighting details	Granted 29/06/20	

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
		property			
18/2020/0430	Land adjacent to Maes Llan Llandyrnog LL16 4HF	Variation of condition of permission 18/2016/0400 to allow two extra years for approval of details	No objection	Granted 30/07/20	N/A
18/2020/0381	Bryn Celyn Llandyrnog LL16 4NA	Change of use of land by siting of 2 holiday pods and associated works	No objection subject to siting, materials landscaping, lighting and holiday use conditions	Granted 07/09/20	
25/2020/0162	Pant Y Maen Windfarm, Nantglyn Denbigh	Variation of conditions to allow for an increase in height for 7 wind turbines from 102M to tip to a maximum of 125M (Additional information)	Maintain Objection. Unacceptable impact on key views from AONB	Refused 18/08/20	N/A
03/2019/0955	Pengwern Hall Pengwern Llangollen LL20 8AW	Removal of walls, erection of internal pillars to form veranda, formation of second floor. Replacement windows, landscaping and associated works (Listed Building Application)	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 07/09/20	N/A
41/2020/0453	Tan y Fallen Bodfari LL16 4DS	Erection of two storey pitched roof extension at side of dwelling	No objection	Granted 10/08/20	N/A
17/2019/0698	Tyddyn Graig Llandegla LL11 3BG	Continuation of use of land and retention of building in connection with dog kennel use (retrospective application)	Object – deplore retrospection, inappropriate scale and design; suggest alternative scheme.		
47/2020/0464	Land south to Burwen, Rhualt LL17 0TE	Variation of Condition of planning permission 47/2018/1066 to allow grey tiles in lieu of slates	Favour retention of natural slate as roofing material	Granted 14/08/20	
21/2020/0368	Silverwood House Gwernymynydd CH7 5LE	Erection of a detached two-storey building containing triple garage with home office, gym and games room above	No objection in principle but concerns about the scale of development. Suggest redesign and lighting condition	Granted 11/08/20	
09/2020/0461	Maes Sied, Bodfari LL16 4HU	Erection of camping pods and associated sauna pod, alterations to existing access and formation of internal access road	No objection in principle but concerns about siting. Suggest alternative siting, holiday use and lighting conditions	Granted 20/10/20	
21/2020/0514	Fron Hen Llanferres CH7 5SH	Proposed erection of single-storey extension	No objection, suggest design changes and lighting condition	Granted 04/09/20	
03/2020/0347	Hollytops, Llangollen, LL20 7BW	Erection of extensions and alterations to existing dwelling	No objection, suggest materials and lighting condition	Granted 04/09/20	
03/2020/0357	Bryn Goleu, Geufron, Llangollen, LL20 8DY	Alterations to garage to form a holiday unit (Amended plans)	No objection subject to design changes, lighting and holiday use conditions	Granted 25/09/20	N/A
07/2020/0523	Blaen Y Glyn Cynwyd, Corwen LL21 0ND	Variation of condition of permission 07/2015/1102 to allow more time for commencement of extensions to dwelling	No objection	Withdrawn 16/09/20	N/A
061496	Maes Alyn, Cilcain, CH7 5PG	Approval of reserved matters for new dwelling (outline approval 059568)	No objection subject to materials, landscaping and protection of trees	Granted 18/09/20	
03/2020/0505	18 Castle Street Llangollen, LL20 8NU	Change of use of ground and first floors to a fish and chip restaurant	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views and further details	Refused 15/09/20	
03/2019/1075	Car Park, Llangollen Pavilion, Llangollen LL20 8SS	Erection of 7 dwellings, creation of accesses, and associated works	Concerns re design and scale of development and loss of trees and hedges.	Withdrawn 25/09/20	N/A
03/2020/0548	Outbuilding at Bryn Oerog, Trevor LL20 7TA	Conversion of outbuilding to form holiday let accommodation unit	No objection subject to County Ecologist views, lighting and holiday use conditions	Granted 11/09/20	
15/2020/0410	North Hills Farm Graianrhyd CH7 4QS	Details of landscaping in accordance with permission code no. 15/2019/0250	No objection, suggest additional hedge planting	Granted 24/08/20	
27/2020/0376	Land at Rock Farm Eglwyseg LL20 8EH	Construction of a sheltered slurry lagoon and associated works	No objection subject to materials and landscaping		

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
20/2020/0575	Caer Wyn, Graigfechan LL15 2HB	Erection of a single storey side extension to replace existing garage	No objection subject to lighting condition	Granted 11/09/20	
05/2020/0455	Ty Lawr Glyndyfrdwy LL21 9HP	Demolition of existing extensions, erection of rear extension, porch and associated works	No objection subject to materials, landscaping and lighting condition	Granted 29/09/20	
22/2020/0537	Wern Fawr Llangynhafal Ruthin, LL15 1RT	Conversion of coach house as ancillary accommodation for existing dwelling and new driveway	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views and lighting condition	Granted 01/03/21 (Driveway only)	N/A
03/2020/0406	The Old Vicarage Nursing Home Llangollen, LL20 8HF	Erection of three two-storey terraced dwellings and associated works	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views, materials and lighting	Withdrawn 07/09/20	N/A
27/2020/0497	Land at Bedw Isa Rhewl Llangollen, LL20 7YT	Siting of timber holiday cabin and treatment plant (resubmission)	Object - inappropriate development in open countryside	Refused 06/10/20	
18/2020/0607	Fron Fanadl Llandyrnog LL16 4HR	Erection of an attached car port	No objection	Granted 23/09/20	N/A
21/2019/1032	The Paddock Llanferres CH7 5SH	Erection of extension to existing domestic ancillary building and new access track (partly retrospective)	Concerns re principle of development, suggest re consideration as a rural enterprise dwelling	Withdrawn 06/09/20	N/A
42/2020/0596	Trecastell Barn Dyserth LL18 6BS	Erection of timber building for storage of classic cars within existing barn	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 28/09/20	N/A
18/2020/0381	Bryn Celyn Llandyrnog LL16 4NA	Change of use of land to storage of building materials (B8) and siting of 2 holiday pods (Amended proposals)	No objection in principle but concerns re siting of pods and storage of building materials	Granted 07/09/20	N/A
10/2020/0582	Rhos Lydan Bryneglwys LL21 9NP	Erection of a dry manure cattle store	No objection subject to materials and lighting conditions	Granted 25/09/20	
03/2020/0472	Pengwern Hall Llangollen, LL20 8AW	Construction of a slurry lagoon and associated works	No objection subject to landscaping and fence details	Granted 10/02/21	
061315	Bryn Rhodyn, Cilcain, CH7 5HR	Holiday Accommodation - Lodges and associated Reception Building	No objection in principle but concerns about overdevelopment, landscaping and lighting	Withdrawn 23/02/21	N/A
21/2020/0683	6 Bryn Eithin Llanferres CH7 5SJ	Demolition of conservatory and erection of extension	No objection subject to lighting condition	Granted 03/11/20	
061521	Tan Y Fron, Llanasa, CH8 9NE	Conversion of existing garage to annex accommodation	No objection subject to ancillary use condition	Granted 14/12/20	
15/2020/0434	Cabin Adj to Ffynnon Y Berth, Llanferres, CH7 5TA	Lawful Development Certificate for existing use of land for a static caravan	Concerns about adverse landscape impact	Granted 26/10/20	
20/2020/0584	Land Adjacent to Bwlch Y Llyn Pentre Coch LL15 2YJ	Details of dwelling and landscaping - outline permission 20/2019/0884	Suggest materials, landscaping and lighting details	Granted 02/10/20	
17/2020/0648	Y Graig, Llandegla LL11 3BG	Alterations and extension to dwelling	No objection subject to materials and lighting	Granted 20/10/20	
21/2020/0643	St Davids, Cadole CH7 5LL	Erection of timber building for use as home office	No objection subject to landscaping and lighting	Granted 05/10/20	
15/2020/0668	Tawelfan, Eryrys CH7 4DD	Proposed extensions and internal alterations	No objection subject to render details and lighting	Granted 21/10/20	
10/2020/0642	Land at Brooklyn Bryneglwys Corwen, LL21 9LG	Variation of Conditions of outline planning permission 10/2017/0330 to allow extension of time	No objection		N/A
07/2020/0672	Outbuilding at Cwm Uchaf Cynwyd Corwen, LL21 0NE	Conversion of outbuilding to a holiday let, erection of a car port	No objection subject to lighting details and reduced glazing	Granted 28/10/20	
Total Number of Applications: 84					

Policy and Strategic Consultation Responses: April 2020 - September 2020

WG Consultation – Noise, Air Quality and Soundscape: Review of TAN 11

All Party Parliamentary Group Dark Skies Policy Consultation

Notes:

- (1.) Denbighshire planning application code numbers are shown as **12/3456/7891**, Flintshire as **12345** and Wrexham as **P/1234/5678**. Details of applications can be viewed on the Planning Portal for the relevant authority. See links below:

<http://planning.denbighshire.gov.uk/Planning/lg/GFPlanningWelcome.page>

http://planning.wrexham.gov.uk/Planning/lg/plansearch.page?org.apache.shale.dialog.DIALOG_NAME=gfplanningsearch&Param=lg.Planning

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Planning/Databases/Planning-Applications.aspx>

- (2.) LPA response to AONB comments colour coded as follows: **green** for fully accepted, **orange** for part accepted and **red** for not accepted.
- (3.) Local Planning Authority (LPA) position updated **2 June 2021**
- (4.) Copies of full AONB comments on specific applications available on request.

This page is intentionally left blank



SUMMARY OF AONB PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

OCTOBER 2020 – MARCH 2021

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
20/2020/0655	Ffolt, Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd LL15 2ER	Demolition of garage and erection of new garage, store and garden room	No objection subject to lighting condition	Granted 28/10/20	
15/2020/0656	Llys Awel Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QE	Erection of single storey rear extension and conversion of garage	No objection subject to lighting condition	Granted 06/11/20	
05/2020/0716	1 Trevalyn Cottage Carrog LL21 9BA	Erection of side and rear extension	No objection subject to design amendments and lighting condition	Granted 18/11/20	
061744	Bryn Llwyn Farm, Gwaenysgor, LL18 6EP	Erection of two-storey extension to side of dwelling	No objection subject to materials and lighting condition	Granted 23/11/20	
20/2020/0552	Fron Bach Graigfechan LL15 2EY	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement dwelling,	No objection subject to landscaping and amended lighting details	Granted 13/10/20	
03/2019/0548	Land Adjacent to Dee Cottage Llangollen, LL20 8SA	Erection of two blocks of flats comprising 21 units and associated works (Amended plans)	No objection in principle but concerns re scale of development and landscaping		
16/2020/0646	Pen Ysgubor Llanbedr D C LL15 1YF	Erection of an oak framed outbuilding	No objection subject to timber finish and lighting	Granted 20/11/20	
05/2020/0494	Ty Brith, Carrog Corwen, LL21 9BH	First floor extension and formation of balcony and associated works	No objection but suggest roof re-design, materials and lighting condition	Granted 25/11/20	
43/2019/0685	Tan Y Bryn, Tan Yr Allt, Meliden LL19 8PT	Demolition of rear extensions, erection of two storey extension, roof alterations and additional parking (retrospective application) (Amended plans)	Deplore retrospection. Maintain objection ; out of character with the locality	Granted 26/05/21	
15/2020/0543	Castell Eryrys CH7 4DA	Erection of agricultural building and extension to existing agricultural building	No objection subject to materials, landscaping, lighting and no impact on footpath	Granted 13/11/20	
15/2020/0753	1 Plas Cottages Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QL	Demolition of detached garage and erection of a detached ancillary building	No objection subject to colour and lighting condition	Granted 24/11/20	
10/2020/0768	Ty Newydd Bryneglwys LL21 9NE	Conversion and extension of outbuilding to dwelling	No objection subject to amended floor plans and lighting condition	Granted 29/04/21	
061843	Plas Yw, Cilcain, CH7 5QS	Proposed conversion of outbuilding for holiday lets	No objection subject to materials, lighting and holiday use conditions	Granted 04/02/21	
16/2020/0783	Dyffryn Aur Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd LL15 1US	Demolition of existing garage and erection of single storey extensions	No objection subject to colour and lighting condition	Granted 26/11/20	
20/2020/0767	Land adjoining Ty Famau, Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd LL15 2SH	Variation of condition of permission 20/2018/0518 -amended plans for two holiday units	No objection subject to materials and lighting condition	Granted 18/12/20	
061917	Wheeler Cottage, Nannerch, CH7 5RD	Erection of single storey extension	No objection subject to lighting condition	Granted 08/03/21	
061804	The Bungalow, Gwernaffield, CH7 5ES	Replacement Dwelling	No objection subject to mitigation of lighting and lighting condition	Granted 17/12/20	
15/2020/0612	Land at Allt Gymbyd Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QU	Construction of a slurry lagoon and access track (retrospective application)	Deplore retrospection; concerns re impact which can be mitigated by landscaping		
47/2020/0593	Former Rhyd Rugby Club, Rhuddlan	Development of holiday park including the conversion of	No objection subject to additional landscaping and lighting plan		

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
	LL18 5RS	existing clubhouse, erection of new clubhouse and bunkhouse buildings, 42 chalet units, parking, landscaping and associated works			
061832	School House, Gronant, CH8 9LU	Siting of 3no. glamping pods and associated parking	No objection subject to colour, landscaping, lighting and holiday use conditions	Granted 22/01/21	
20/2020/0741	Llanbenwch Caravan Park, Llanfair DC LL15 2SH	Erection of a reception, shop and cafe building and associated works	No objection subject to lighting condition	Granted 10/12/20	
03/2020/0920	25 Bridge Street Llangollen, LL20 8PF	Change of use of existing dwelling/retail unit to a holiday let	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views and lighting condition	Granted 11/03/21	
03/2020/0802	Outbuildings at Tower Farm Llangollen, LL20 8TE	Conversion and alterations to form 6 holiday units and associated works	No objection subject to materials, lighting and landscaping conditions	Withdrawn 17/12/20	N/A
03/2020/0857	15 Tyn Y Celyn Drive Llangollen, LL20 7PN	Erection of two storey extension to side and rear of dwelling	No objection subject to lighting condition		
061974	Pen Uchaf Farm, Caerwys, CH7 5BH	Retention of residential dwelling as built and completion of dwelling	No objection subject to retention of original character, lighting and landscaping conditions	Refused 31/03/21	N/A
20/2020/0767	Land adjoining Ty Famau, Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd LL15 2SH	Variation of condition of permission 20/2018/0518 - amended plans for two holiday units (Amended plans)	No objection to materials, further lighting details required and additional landscaping.	Granted 18/12/20	N/A
16/2020/0810	Land adjacent to Rhesgoed Farm Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd LL15 1YE	Erection of an agricultural building for the storage of hay and fodder (resubmission)	Object. Harmful impact on the open character and appearance of the landscape	Granted 16/12/20	
22/2020/0896	Bryn Bedw Llangynhafal LL15 1RU	Construction of a manege	No objection subject to colour, landscaping and no lighting	Granted 21/01/21	
17/2020/0319	12 Tai Newyddion Llandegla LL11 3BH	Restoration and extension of existing dwelling and change of use of land to domestic curtilage.	No objection subject to materials and lighting condition	Granted 06/05/21	
09/2020/0908	Llwyn Gyfyng, Ty Draw Farm Bodfari LL16 4DR	Proposed rear extension and internal alterations	No objection subject to lighting condition	Granted 05/01/21	
47/2020/0949	The Old Smithy Tremeirchion St. Asaph, LL17 0UN	Proposed single storey linked extension and replacement windows	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 06/04/21	N/A
27/2020/0927	Hendy Llantysilio Llangollen, LL20 8DE	Installation of 2 new dormer windows to replace existing roof lights	No objection	Granted 13/01/21	N/A
03/2020/0909	Land at (Part garden of) 15 Maes Bache Llangollen, LL20 8AQ	Erection of dwelling, construction of new access and associated works	Object. Harmful impact on rural character of locality	Granted 06/04/21	
03/2020/0918	Glas Aber, Geraint Llangollen, LL20 8AA	Erection of 3 no. holiday pods and associated works	Object. Harmful impact on rural character of locality		
24/2020/0671	Cae Newydd Llanynys LL16 4PA	Change of use of agricultural land for the construction of carts and keeping of horses	No observations. Some distance outside AONB	Granted 16/12/20	N/A
062000	Tyn Twll, Nercwys, CH7 4BW	Extensions to house and Garage to incorporate first floor Home office	Object to current proposals - excessive scale. Suggest reduced scheme.	Refused 21/12/20	
061777	Ffrith Farm, Cilcain, Mold, CH7 5PG	2no. self-catering tourist accommodation units and installation of septic tank	No objection subject to landscaping, lighting and holiday use conditions		
03/2020/0959	45 Castle Street Llangollen LL20 8RU	Alterations to the shopfront and removal of internal dividing wall	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views. Further details of colours and signage required.	Granted 26/01/21	
03/2020/0856	2 Royal View Llangollen LL20 8TH	Erection of a single storey extension to dwelling	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 12/02/21	N/A
03/2020/0802	Outbuildings at Tower Farm Llangollen, LL20 8TE	Conversion and alterations to form 6 holiday units (Amended plans)	Support amendments	Withdrawn 17/12/20	N/A
18/2020/0733	Plas Ashpool Llandyrnog LL16 4HP	Conversion of outbuilding to form a holiday let and associated works	No objection subject to lighting details		
21/2020/0942	Aberduna Farm	Demolition of existing extensions,	No objection subject to		

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
	Gwernymynydd CH7 5LE	erection of new extensions and detached garage	landscaping and lighting details		
15/2020/0991	Tyddyn Tlodion Llandegla LL11 3AT	Erection of a porch extension	No objection subject to materials	Granted 03/02/21	
27/2020/0376	Land at Rock Farm Eglwyseg LL20 8EH	Construction of a sheltered slurry lagoon (amended plans)	Support landscaping scheme		N/A
20/2020/0887	Fron Fawr Graigfechan LL15 2HB	Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling	Object. Excessive scale; suggest redesign	Granted 24/02/21	
15/2020/0916	Fron Deg Eryrys Mold, CH7 4DD	Erection of an agricultural storage/sheep shed	No objection subject to landscaping and lighting	Granted 07/01/21	
42/2020/0923	Land at Former Quarry off High Street, Dyserth, Rhyl	Erection of a dwelling, detached garage, annexe lodge and associated works	No objection subject to lighting condition		
43/2020/0567	Craig Yn Sholyn Ffordd Bryniau Prestatyn, LL19 8RD	Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling, and associated works	No objection subject to lighting condition	Granted 18/01/21	
27/2020/0869	Pendinas, Llandegla LL11 3AA	Proposed two storey pitched roof extension	Concerns re scale of proposals	Withdrawn 09/02/21	N/A
062263	Penallt, Cilcain, CH7 5NN	Proposed Detached Garage	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views and lighting	Withdrawn 25/02/21	N/A
062131	Casgliad Cerrig, Cilcain, CH7 5HR	Proposed doors to rear elevation	No objection	Granted 05/01/21	N/A
062252	Alyn Boarding Kennels, Pantymwyn, CH7 5EP	Conversion of existing building to holiday accommodation and first floor for residential use	No objection subject to lighting condition	Granted 17/03/21	
062180	Tan Y Fron, Llanasa Road, Gronant, LL19 9TL	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling	No objection subject to lighting, landscaping and removal of permitted development rights		
20/2020/0958	Pendyffryn, Pentre Coch LL15 2YD	Siting of building for the storage of equipment, machinery and tools	No objection in principle but suggest alternative siting and lighting condition		
41/2020/1030	Hafod Tan yr Eglwys Bodfari LL16 4DA	Erection of rear lean-to extension	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 12/02/21	N/A
41/2020/1031	Hafod Tan yr Eglwys Bodfari LL16 4DA	Erection of rear lean-to extension (Listed Building Application)	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 12/03/21	N/A
03/2020/1034	16 Willow Street Llangollen, LL20 8HH	Erection of extension to side of dwelling	No objection		N/A
10/2020/0768	Ty Newydd Bryneglwys LL21 9NE	Conversion and extension of outbuilding to dwelling (Amended plans)	Note amendments; no further observations	Granted 29/04/21	N/A
43/2020/0982	South Winds, Hillside, Prestatyn, LL18 6BY	Erection of first floor balcony extension to dwelling	No observations subject to lighting condition	Granted 28/01/21	
03/2018/1141	Tyn Y Wern Hotel Llangollen, LL20 7PH	Demolition of existing hotel and erection of 16 dwellings (Amended plans)	Maintain Objection to current proposals; suggest alternative scheme	Refused 12/05/21	N/A
03/2020/0909	Land at (Part garden of) 15 Maes Bache Llangollen, LL20 8AQ	Erection of dwelling and construction of new access (Additional information)	Maintain Objection	Granted 06/04/21	N/A
22/2020/0896	Bryn Bedw Llangynhafal LL15 1RU	Construction of a manege (Amended plans)	Support amendments	Granted 21/01/21	N/A
18/2020/1050	Land opposite Bryntirion Cottage Bodfari LL16 4HU	Construction of a new vehicular access	No objection; suggest minor design changes and landscaping	Granted 10/03/21	
15/2020/1009	Millrace Cottage Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QY	Erection of two storey extension to rear of dwelling	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views, materials and lighting	Granted 24/03/21	
15/2020/0803	Fron Deg Eryrys CH7 4DD	Demolition of existing farmhouse/outbuildings, erection of replacement dwelling	No objection subject to landscaping and lighting conditions		
10/2020/1007	Land and Barn at Deio Uchaf, Bryneglwys LL21 9NP	Details of external lighting to manege (condition 9 of planning permission 10/2019/0443)	Object. Harmful impact on AONB dark sky.		
42/2020/0619	Land off Meliden Road, Dyserth	Erection of 34 no. dwellings and associated works (Phase 2)	No observations on principle but concerns re landscaping. Lighting plan required.	Granted 15/03/21	
15/2020/0612	Land at Allt Gybyd	Construction of a slurry lagoon	Amended landscaping scheme		N/A

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
	Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QU	and access track (Retrospective application) (Amended plans)	acceptable subject to management plan		
062110	Hendre Quarry, Rhydymwyn, CH7 5QL	The phased extraction of 28.38m tonnes of limestone from existing permitted area, eastern extension to quarry and comprehensive phased restoration scheme.	No objection subject to continuous restoration, additional landscaping and lighting conditions.		
21/2020/1018	Silverwood House Gwernymynydd CH7 5LE	Amendment to proposed garage (application code no. 21/2020/0368)	Favour retention of natural local stone wall facings	Granted 24/02/21	
03/2020/0972	Land adjoining Waterloo Cottages Llangollen	Erection of 2 dwellings, access, parking and associated works	No objection in principle but concerns re design. Additional information requested.	Withdrawn 01/03/21	N/A
17/2021/0004	Bodidris Hall Llandegla LL11 3AL	Variation of planning permission code no. 17/2014/0980 to provide bat habitat mitigation	No objection subject to Ecologist and Conservation Officer views		N/A
17/2021/0024	Bryn Hyfryd Llandegla LL11 3AN	Erection of extensions to front and side of dwelling with balcony over.	No objection subject to lighting condition.	Granted 11/03/21	
03/2020/0920	25 Bridge Street Llangollen LL20 8PF	Change of use of existing dwelling/retail unit to holiday let (Amended plans)	No objection	Granted 11/03/21	N/A
062307	Cartrefle, Loggerheads Road, Cilcain, CH7 5PG	Erection of side, rear and front extensions to dwelling raising roof ridge height	No objection subject to materials, lighting and landscaping		
21/2021/0045	Cefn Cregog Maeshafn CH7 5LR	Erection of single storey side extensions	No objection subject to lighting condition	Granted 08/03/21	
03/2021/0053	Land at Llandyn Hall Farm, Llangollen LL20 7UH	Amendment to proposed caravan site amenity building	No objection	Granted 26/02/21	N/A
062363	Fron House, Nanerch, CH7 5RW	Demolition of porch and replacement with two storey porch	No objection subject to materials and lighting condition		
05/2021/0002	Tyn Y Ceubren Glyndyfrdwy LL21 9HN	Erection of garage with games room over	No objection subject to materials and lighting condition	Withdrawn 08/03/21	N/A
47/2021/0035	Pen Uchaf Tremeirchion LL17 0US	Change of use of land for the siting of 5 Shepherd huts for holiday use, parking and associated works	No objection in principle but concerns re siting; suggest alternative site, reinstatement and lighting conditions	Refused 29/04/21	
03/2021/0071	Maytree, Llangollen, LL20 7BW	Erection of single storey side extension	No objection subject to materials	Granted 23/03/21	
062280	Ty Bryn Goleu, Nanerch, CH7 5RN	Change of Use of Land and erection of a stable block, with manege	No objection subject to landscaping, materials, further details and lighting		
P/2020/0669	Pant y Garn, Penycae, WREXHAM, LL14 1UH	Outline application for access and layout of new kennels building, parking and landscaping	No objection subject to landscaping, design and lighting conditions	Granted 05/03/21	
062286	Erw Deg, Pantymwyn, CH7 5EW	Change of Use of Holiday Cottage to Annex	Object. Contrary to policy; concerns re precedent		
21/2021/0052	Burley Hill Quarry Pant Du Road Eryrys	EIA Scoping Opinion - Extension of time for working of quarry	Support proposed LVIA; request photomontages and consideration of impact on dark skies.	Opinion Issued 19/03/21	
43/2020/0941	Craig Yn Sholyn Bryniau Prestatyn, LL19 8RD	Erection of implement store, of access track and associated works	No objection in principle but Object to design and scale. Suggest redesign.	Granted 15/04/21	
10/2020/1007	Land and Barn at Deio Uchaf, Bryneglwys LL21 9NP	Details of external lighting to manege (condition 9 of planning permission 10/2019/0443) (Amended plans)	Maintain Objection. Harmful impact on AONB dark sky.		N/A
22/2020/0537	Wern Fawr Llangynhafal LL15 1RT	Construction of new driveway within the domestic curtilage (Amended proposals)	No objection	Granted 01/02/21	N/A
03/2021/0083	Land Off Vicarage Road, Llangollen	Variation of planning application 03/2016/0300 to amend to house types and layout	No observations	Granted 28/04/21	N/A
17/2021/0074	Coed Llandegla Visitor Centre LL11 3AA	Siting of office building to be used in conjunction with existing use of site	No objection subject to materials and lighting condition	Granted 24/03/21	

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
062286	Erw Deg, Pantymwyn, CH7 5EW	In Retrospect - Change of Use of Holiday Cottage to Annex (Amended description)	Maintain objection . Deplore retrospective nature of application		N/A
062440	1 Is Y Mynydd, Cilcain, CH7 5PN	Formation of 6m x 4.4m tarmac driveway	No objection	Granted 15/03/21	N/A
062441	3 Is Y Mynydd, Cilcain, CH7 5PN	Formation of 6m x 4.2m tarmac driveway	No objection	Granted 15/03/21	N/A
062443	9 Is Y Mynydd, Cilcain, CH7 5PN	Formation of 5m x 3.5m tarmac driveway	No objection	Granted 15/03/21	N/A
062445	11 Is Y Mynydd, Cilcain, CH7 5PN	Formation of 6.5m x 3m tarmac driveway	No objection	Granted 15/03/21	N/A
062446	13 Is Y Mynydd, Cilcain, CH7 5PN	Formation of 5m x 4m tarmac driveway	No objection	Granted 15/03/21	N/A
062448	15 Is Y Mynydd, Cilcain, CH7 5PN	Formation of 5m x 4m tarmac driveway	No objection	Granted 15/03/21	N/A
10/2021/0091	Land and Barn at Deio Uchaf Bryneglwys LL21 9NP	Variation of planning permission 10/2019/0443 to allow amendments to the approved scheme	No observations. Deplore retrospective nature of application		N/A
10/2020/0768	Ty Newydd Bryneglwys LL21 9NE	Conversion and extension of outbuilding to dwelling (Amended plans)	Note amendments; no further observations	Granted 29/04/21	N/A
47/2021/0103	Brynlithrig Bach Cottage Rhualt LL17 0TP	Details of external lighting submitted in accordance with planning permission 47/2020/0216	Suggest fully shielded lighting units and sensors/timers.	Granted 29/03/21	
20/2020/0887	Fron Fawr Graigfechan, LL15 2HB	Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling (Amended plans)	Maintain objection . Excessive scale of development	Granted 24/02/21	N/A
17/2020/0547	Outbuilding at Tegla House, Llandegla LL11 3AB	Conversion of detached garage to form 1 dwelling, including extensions and associated works	Object . Concerns re subverting the planning system and appearance of development		
09/2021/0090	Maes Sied Bodfari LL16 4HU	Amendments to proposed landscaping for application code no. 09/2020/0461	No objection	Granted 05/03/21	N/A
062489	Norland, Pantymwyn, CH7 5EW	Proposed single storey side extension and removal of existing garage	No objection subject to materials and lighting condition	Granted 19/03/21	
47/2021/0029	Glyn Isaf Tremerchion LL17 0US	Erection of first floor extension to dwelling and associated works	No objection	Granted 09/04/21	N/A
16/2021/0118	The Chantry Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd LL15 1SY	Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of garden room extension	No objection subject to materials	Granted 13/04/21	
03/2020/1051	Land at (Part garden of) The Grange Llangollen LL20 8AP	Erection of 1 no. detached dwelling and associated works	No objection subject to lighting condition		
20/2021/0085	Hiridir, Pentrecelyn LL15 2HF	Erection of extensions and re-modelling of dwelling, construction of garage and associated works	No objection subject to landscaping and lighting conditions		
10/2020/0768	Ty Newydd Bryneglwys LL21 9NE	Conversion and extension of outbuilding to dwelling (Lighting plan)	No objection	Granted 29/04/21	N/A
42/2021/0073	Land at (part garden of) Mount House Dyserth LL18 6BY	Erection of dwelling, garage and vehicular access (Amended Scheme)	No objection subject to landscaping and lighting conditions		
15/2020/1019	Pen Y Ffrith Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QX	Retrospective application for alterations of existing fishing ponds, removal of trees and erection of 7 "Angler Shelters"	Deplore retrospection and tree felling. No objection in principle subject to landscaping, materials, tree protection and lighting		
03/2021/0185	Irvan, Maesmawr Road, Llangollen, LL20 7PG	Erection of dormer roof extension to rear of dwelling	No objection subject to materials	Granted 30/04/21	
05/2021/0034	Allt Y Celyn, Carrog LL21 9LD	Construction of a manege for personal use	No objection subject to retention of trees, personal use and no lighting	Granted 27/04/21	
20/2021/0206	Maes Derwen Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd LL15 2UW	Variation of planning permission 20/2016/0719 to increase size of extension	No objection	Granted 08/04/21	N/A
27/2021/0056	Land at Tan Y Castell Llangollen	Change of use of land for the siting of 2 Yurts for holiday	No objection subject to lighting and reinstatement of the land		

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
	LL20 8EG	accommodation and associated works	should the use cease		
05/2020/0805	Pentre Trewyn Corwen, LL21 9HU	Change of use of land by the siting of 4 pods for holiday accommodation, and associated works	No objection subject to retention of trees, landscaping, lighting and reinstatement of the land		
061841	Plas Ucha, Cilcain, CH7 5NE	Erection of car port and gym with office over	No objection; suggest reduction in height and lighting condition		
15/2021/0216	Bryn Robo, Llanarmon-Yn-Ial, CH7 4TB	Erection of side and front extension	No objection subject to lighting	Granted 07/05/21	
07/2021/0077	Cernyw Llandrillo Corwen LL21 0TE	Erection of first floor extension	No objection		N/A
15/2021/0207	Bryn Garth Llanarmon-Yn-Ial CH7 4QN	Erection of shed to the rear of the dwelling	No objection	Granted 04/05/21	N/A
Total Number of Applications: 120					

Notes:

- (1.) Denbighshire planning application code numbers are shown as **12/3456/7891**, Flintshire as **12345** and Wrexham as **P/1234/5678**. Details of applications can be viewed on the Planning Portal for the relevant authority. See links below:

<http://planning.denbighshire.gov.uk/Planning/lg/GFPlanningWelcome.page>

http://planning.wrexham.gov.uk/Planning/lg/plansearch.page?org.apache.shale.dialog.DIALOG_NAME=gfplanningsearch&Param=lg.Planning

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Planning/Databases/Planning-Applications.aspx>

- (2.) LPA response to AONB comments colour coded as follows: **green** for fully accepted, **orange** for part accepted and **red** for not accepted.
- (3.) Local Planning Authority (LPA) position updated **02 June 2021**
- (4.) Copies of full AONB comments on specific applications available on request.



Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy Clwydian Range and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Forward Work Programme June 2021 Update				
Project Existing	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or Problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost -ve or +ve (£ Cost) or neutral (Through existing and external budgets)
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
Finance				
Finance and Funding	Annual return 25.6.21	2021-22		Neutral
NRW Core AONB Funding	Still await new round of funding. (Provisional Confirmation letter received) New offer awaited	2021-22		+ve
SDF Fund	WG continue fund at £100k	2021-22		+ve
Strategic Plans 2017-20				
AONB Management Plan	Ojectives being collated internally.	2021-24		Neutral
Outreach and Volunteers strategy	1x Volunteer Programme TBC.	Regular volunteers started groups of 12		Neutral
AONB Tourism Plan	Brief being written (CL)	2021-22 WG SLSP		Neutral
AONB Joint Committee				
Joint Committee Meetings	1x JC Meeting completed.	2021-22		Neutral
LA Legal Agreement	All agreed and sealed by LAs for next 5 years	2019-2024		Neutral
AONB Forum	Planned for November. Historic to lead	2021-22		Neutral
AONB Meet Local Members/Town and Community Councillors/AONB Champions	Met virtually in April 2021	2020-21		Neutral

Forward Work Programme June 2021 Update Continued

Project Existing	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost –ve or +ve or neutral
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
AONB Partnership				
Full AONB Partnership Meetings	1x AONB Partnership Meetings.	2021-22		Neutral
AONB Award	Awarded to Cilcain School and Loggerheads Art Group	TBC July 2021		Neutral
Partnership Working Groups:				
Landscape Character and Built Environment	Working on AONB Management Plan	2021-22 1xMeet		+ve
Land Management and the Natural Environment	Working on AONB Management Plan	Not met		+ve
Heritage, Culture and Communities	Working on AONB Management Plan	2021-22 2x Meet		+ve
Tourism	Working on AONB Management Plan	Not Met		+ve
Recreation and Health	Working on AONB Management Plan	Not Met		+ve

Forward Work Programme June 2021 Update Continued

Project Existing	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost -ve or +ve or neutral
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
AONB Special Projects				
Welsh Government Funding 1	Visitor Mgt Moel Famau Lighting Loggs £180k	2021 June		+ve
Welsh Government Funding 2	Climate Change Canoe Access Community Miles Intelligence Extending Season £75k	2021 June		+ve
Welsh Government GI Funding Recovery 3	WG GI Approved Projects: Wenffrd, Loggerheads, Moel Findeg, Hen Ardd and Graig Fawr £185,900	2021 June		+ve
Welsh Government Capital Funding 2021-22	<i>WG allocated £225k</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric Gaitor • Tourism Strategy • Wenffrd Improvements • GI Llangollen • ROW Project 	2021-22		+ve
Our Picturesque Landscape Project	On track	2018-23		+ve
Grazing Animals Project	On track	2020-22		Neutral
Climate Change	Job advertised 2 year project	2021-22		Neutral
ERAMP Monitoring Project	All Wales WG Monitoring Landscape Project, started meeting.	2021 Meeting May		+ve

Forward Work Programme June 2021 Update Continued

Project Existing	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost –ve or +ve or neutral
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
Section 85 Organisations				
SP Network Lines	The Shelf back on track. New schemes in consideration- Llangar, Plas Newydd and Llangollen Water Tower	2021-22		Neutral
Dark Skies SPG	All 3 Las agreed Dark Skies SPG. Now going to consultation	2021		
National Grid VIP and Landscape Enhancement Initiative	AONB Officer is rep for 39 AONBs on National Board. 2x LEI Schemes Morwinion Valley and Minera Corwen EOI approved	2021-23		Neutral
WG Future Landscapes Wales	Regular Monthly Meets 1x Lead Officer's 1x Team	2021-22		Neutral
Pontcysyllte Sewage Works	Appraisal Document drawn up. Meeting scheduled July	2021-22		Neutral
Severn Trent	Meeting June	2021-22		Neutral
Highways Guidance for LAs	Consultant appointed Meet July	2021-22		