



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group

At: St Madoc Centre, Llanmadoc, Gower, SA3 1DE

On: Monday, 26 March 2018

Time: 7.00 pm

Chair: Councillor Paul Lloyd

Membership:

Councillors: M C Child, J P Curtice, P R Hood-Williams, L James and A H Stevens

Roger Button, Rod Cooper, Stephen Crocker, Stephen Heard, Sue Hill, Gordon Howe, Michael Lewis, Hamish Osborn, Barbara Parry, Paul Tucker, Deborah Vine and Rebecca Wright

Co-opted Member: Keith Marsh

Agenda

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| 1 | Apologies for Absence. | |
| 2 | Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.
www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests | |
| 3 | Minutes.
To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting(s). | 1 - 5 |
| 4 | Matters Arising from the Minutes. | |
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10 Dates of Future Meetings 2018-2019.

7 p.m. on: -

- 25 June 2018
- 24 September 2018
- 3 December 2018
- 25 March 2019

Next Meeting: Monday, 25 June 2018 at 7.00 pm

Huw Evans

Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
19 March 2018

Contact: Democratic Services: - 636923

Directions to St Madoc CYC

St Madoc is about a half hour drive from Junction 47 of the M4. The suggested route below is the simplest, but not the most scenic.

- Take M4 Junction 47 - head toward Swansea
- At the next roundabout take the right exit signed the Gower A484.
- At the next roundabout continue straight – still the A484
- At the next roundabout turn first left onto the B4296 - you will pass a Harvester restaurant. Here the road goes under the low railway bridge. (11ft.)
- As soon as you go under the bridge, get into right lane and turn right at the traffic lights on to the (B4295).
- Keep going on this road for several miles. Pass through the village of Penclawdd.
- Eventually you will pass an Esso garage on your left in the village of Llanrhidian.

Drive past the School on your right and the Greyhound pub on the left. Just past the pub take the right turning. This road is a little narrow!

- After a few minutes you will arrive in the village of Llanmadoc. Pass The Britannia Inn on your right and drive up the hill passing the red telephone box on your left. You will see a prominent white Swiss style house in front of you.

Take the road that runs between this house and the ancient village Church building. Do not turn right and go down the hill to Cwm Ivy.

- Half a mile on and you will see an entrance to Whitford Bay Caravan Park on the right hand side. St Madoc CYC is just to the right of their entrance.





City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group**

St Madoc Centre - St Madoc Centre, Llanmadoc, Swansea

Monday, 11 December 2017 at 7.00 pm

Present: Stephen Heard (Vice Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

M C Child
P Lloyd

Councillor(s)

P R Hood-Williams

Councillor(s)

L James

Co-opted Member(s)

Roger Button
Rod Cooper
Stephen Crocker

Co-opted Member(s)

Sue Hill
Gordon Howe
Hamish Osborn

Co-opted Member(s)

Barbara Parry
Deborah Vine

Officer(s)

Chris Lindley
Paul Meller
Jeremy Parkhouse
Mike Scott

Gower AONB Team Leader
Strategic Planning and Natural Environment Manager
Democratic Services Officer
Gower AONB Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): J P Curtice and A H Stevens

Independent Member(s): Keith Marsh and Paul Tucker

25 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

26 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Gower AONB Partnership meeting held on 25 September 2017 be accepted as a correct record.

27 Matters Arising from the Minutes.

Minute No.24 – Membership of the Steering Group

It was proposed that Keith Marsh, Bishopston Community Council be co-opted onto the Steering Group for the duration of discussions on Future Landscapes Wales.

Resolved that Keith Marsh is co-opted onto the Steering Group for the duration of discussions on Future Landscapes Wales.

28 Future Landscapes Wales - Governance Principles Report.

The Gower AONB Team Leader provided an update regarding the governance principles for designated landscapes.

He outlined that since the Steering Group meeting, it had become apparent that the Wye Valley AONB were also preparing to undertake the same exercise. The Working Group had therefore agreed to work collaboratively with Wye Valley AONB on a joint exercise.

It was added that the Working Group would undertake this exercise in the New Year and would report back to the next scheduled meeting in March 2018.

Howard Sutcliffe, Clwydian Range AONB had also offered to assist the process and share his experiences of the same procedure.

Resolved that the contents of the report be noted.

29 Gower Landscape Partnership - Update Report.

The Gower AONB Team Leader reported that the Gower Landscape Partnership (GLP) Board last met on 16 October 2017 and the Finance report / update provided at that meeting was provided for information.

It was added that the GLP Board meeting was held on 7 December 2017 and included a workshop on the legacy of the GLP programme. GLP Board members provided feedback regarding the workshop. The following was discussed: -

- The legacy of the GLP and how it will be looked at in the future;
- The end of Heritage Lottery Fund funded programme;
- GLP is a good example of real partnership working;
- Examining alternative sources of funding for the future;
- The future role of the GLP, its remit and how it could possibly fund projects;
- The future role of the Steering Group in relation to the GLP and whether the GLP becomes a permanent group / sub-group of the Steering Group.

The Gower AONB Team Leader stated that the proposals would be informed by the FLW governance principles, and that the proposals for the future governance of the AONB Partnership were likely to include GLP.

Resolved that: -

- 1) The contents of the report be noted;
- 2) The Gower AONB Team Leader clarifies the governance principles with the Welsh Government and reports back to the next meeting.

30 Swansea Public Service Board - Draft Local Well-Being Plan Consultation.

The Gower AONB Team Leader reported consultation on the Draft Well-being Plan 2018 by the Swansea Public Service Board as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

It was explained that in 2016, Swansea's Public Services Board (PSB) started a conversation about well-being in the local area. Their Assessment of Local Well-being (published in March 2017) informed that Swansea was a great place to live but that there was a need to work harder together to make sure everyone can live well, benefit from and be proud of Swansea.

Swansea's draft Local Well-being Plan was now out for consultation, using information from the Assessment and by listening to people, a draft Local Well-being Plan was drafted and which was designed to improve well-being in the local area. Views were being sought to make sure the right information was included in the plan and a series of events had been arranged.

The Group discussed the following: -

- The importance of well-being to society;
- How different organisations / departments within organisations and individuals respond to the consultation;
- Methods of responding to the consultation, including vocalise;
- The importance of responses being made especially regarding the natural environment, which is one of the four priorities of the PSB;
- The importance of taking part in the consultation process.

Resolved that the contents of the report be noted.

31 Light Pollution / Dark Skies.

The Gower AONB Team Leader reported that light pollution/dark skies had been discussed at recent Steering Group meetings and provided a summary / update to the current situation.

It was added that current available evidence was provided by pan-Wales studies based on satellite imagery and GIS data. The most recent of these studies was published for the Countryside Council for Wales in 2009, which was an update to a study undertaken in 1997. The current AONB Management Plan included Objective 17: Assess current levels of tranquillity, noise and light pollution, with an action to 'Develop and undertake baseline/monitoring approaches for tranquillity/dark sky.

In that context, Gower AONB Team Leader had recently met and had discussions with Welsh Government, Dark Skies Wales and Natural Resources Wales. It was outlined that empirical data was required as baseline data to inform any further work or development of Gower AONB as a dark sky area / designation. Swansea Council had asked Dark Sky Wales to undertake the required fieldwork and reporting. The Gower AONB Team Leader would issue the report for discussion at the next Steering Group meeting.

The following were discussed: -

- Involving Swansea Astronomical Society in discussions;
- Comparing with other areas of Wales and the possibility of business opportunities related to dark skies;
- Concern regarding not being able to control lighting, the positive impact of environmentally friendly street lighting and the negative effect of some lighting e.g. the golf range at Machynys, Llanelli;
- The different levels of dark sky classification, the need to formulate a plan and encouraging people to appreciate dark skies.

Resolved that the contents of the report be noted.

32 Sustainable Development Fund Report.

The Gower AONB Officer presented the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) report.

It was reported that the Welsh Government had confirmed the SDF budget for 2018/19 as £55,000. There were currently 14 projects with SDF funding for 2017/18, with another application in progress. A further application was also anticipated for 2017/18.

The Committed Funds figure included the CCS Management Fee of £5,500 (10%).

Total Funds available	£ 55,000.00
Committed Funds	£ 41,810.00
Uncommitted Funds	£ 13,190.00
Applications under consideration	£ 1,000.00
Other Applications anticipated	£ 12,000.00

In addition, most of the funds for 2018/19 were already committed.

The Gower AONB Team Leader stated that the National Assembly for Wales were very happy with the manner in which the Fund had been managed in Swansea and would like other bodies to follow a similar example. It was added that the National Assembly for Wales had undertaken a site visit to the Authority a few months ago and were very impressed with the local projects supported by SDF funding.

Resolved that the contents of the report be noted.

33 National Association for AONB's - Feedback from Chairs meeting on 23 November 2017. (Verbal)

Councillor P Lloyd, Chair of the Steering Group provided a verbal report on the National AONB's Chairs meeting that took place in London in October 2017. He stated that the meeting built upon the themes discussed at the Conference, particularly Brexit, legislation effecting the historic environment and UK designated landscapes.

He provided details of the speakers and the topics they highlighted. These included the situation post-Brexit, particularly how DEFRA would provide support.

The Group discussed the issues raised in the report and highlighted the importance of farming to AONB's and National Parks.

Resolved that the contents of the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm

Chair

Statement on Designated Landscapes on 13 March 2018 - Hannah Blythyn AM, Minister for Environment

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 26 March 2018

Back in June 2017 this Assembly debated the role of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks when members spoke with passion about what these landscapes meant to them and their constituents. We agreed unanimously that our designated landscapes should play their part in the sustainable management of natural resources to protect nature and support vibrant rural communities.

During both that debate and preceding reviews the future protection of these areas under this Government has been called into question.

Today I confirm unequivocally that all the existing designated landscapes will be retained and their purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty will not be weakened.

I welcome the thorough and thought provoking reviews and reports of Professor Marsden and his panel and Lord Elis-Thomas and the Future Landscapes working group. I speak for both myself and my predecessors, as I place on record today my thanks to them and all stakeholders for their significant time and efforts.

Designated landscapes have been in a state of review since a draft policy statement was consulted on in 2013.

Today I want to begin answering some of the key questions on the Government's position and to give this Assembly the opportunity to gain a sense of my priorities. In the coming months I intend to publish a policy statement which will bring the review process to a close.

Withdrawal from the European Union brings considerable uncertainty, but with it comes the opportunity to improve our land management and the resilience of our landscapes. It changes the context for our designated landscapes and how we must now interpret the findings of these past reviews.

The Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs has set out the Welsh Government's principles for future land management support and there is an important role for both AONB Partnerships and National Park Authorities. They need to play their part in supporting farmers and other land managers to remain on the land as well as making a key contribution to the priorities within the national Natural Resources Policy.

If we are to address the environmental challenges we face, we must recognise that designated landscapes must do more to identify, safeguard and realise the benefits from the public goods they protect for all the people of Wales.

And when I say for all the people of Wales, I mean for all the people of Wales. I want to see a more diverse and wide ranging cross section of Welsh society feeling they have a stake in these nationally important landscapes and recognising the benefits we derive from them.

I have seen first hand how this can happen. The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB sits on the edge of my constituency and with Welsh Government funding they have supported the Actif Woods project. This partnership with the Alzheimer's Society and Macmillan has used woodland activities across Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham to improve the physical, mental and social well-being of vulnerable people who wouldn't otherwise have engaged with this landscape. This is only one example of the wide range of opportunities that can be realised and the importance of our environment's contribution to our health and prosperity as a nation.

All Parks and AONBs can and must do more to reach out beyond their traditional audience and realise their full potential.

It is in this context I have considered the proposals in Marsden and Future Landscapes. I have based my consideration on three principles.

First, any proposals must not undermine the standard of protection given to these valued landscapes and should provide for greater parity for AONBs with National Parks.

Second, any change should reduce the administrative burden on authorities and partnerships, letting them focus energy and resources on delivery.

Third, they should support continued development of effective collaboration.

The weight of comment triggered by the review has been on whether there should be a change to the statutory purposes of Wales' designated landscapes. This has led to a significant debate on the place of the Sandford Principle.

The Sandford Principle, which applies only in National Parks, gives primacy to the conservation of natural beauty in the event there is a conflict with the promotion of the enjoyment of the Park's special qualities. The debate has focussed on the continued relevance of this principle in the context of our legal framework within the Environment (Wales) Act and the principles for the sustainable management of natural resources.

There has been widespread support during the review for the Welsh ambition on the sustainable management of natural resources within the legislation which is recognised as a global exemplar. Leading from this is a recognition designated landscapes are well placed to take this agenda forward in their areas because of the diversity of natural resources found within their boundaries, their experience and expertise, and their extensive connections with communities of interest, including people who live and work within their boundaries..

However, no consensus has emerged on whether it is necessary to change the purposes of Parks or AONBs to achieve this.

While I do not discount the symbolism of a new economic purpose, I have seen insufficient evidence that the existing purposes are a barrier to practical delivery. For that reason, and given the uncertain context, I am not prepared to pursue a change of this nature at this time without broader support.

Therefore I intend to retain the existing purposes of National Parks, along with the “Sandford Principle”, and retain the existing purpose of AONB.

This doesn’t mean that there is not a need for Park Authorities or AONB partnerships to pursue activity which supports the social and economic resilience of communities in their areas. They should, and there is no barrier to them doing so with their existing purpose.

That said, there is a need to improve the connection between the existing purposes, including biodiversity conservation, and the framework within the Environment Act.

To achieve this, I am minded to introduce legislation at a future opportunity to require the Park Authorities and AONBs to apply the principles of the sustainable management of natural resources, in particular when preparing their statutory Management Plans.

I also wish to strengthen the status and scrutiny of the Management Plans, requiring the Plans to identify the special qualities.

I believe this approach will align the Parks and AONBs with our legislation here in Wales and the international obligations from which it is drawn, in a way which brings them fully on board with the contemporary understanding of ecosystems and landscapes whilst recognising the enduring value of their original purpose.

It will strengthen the importance of the special qualities in decision making across all activities in both National Parks and AONBs.

With a difficult financial settlement to manage, I am sympathetic to the argument put forward by the Park Authorities to reduce their administration costs and I intend to remove some of this burden insofar as is consistent with good governance. In addition I will support their efforts to maximise their revenue from appropriate commercial activity – our National Parks can do more to reach out without compromising their principles.

Parity for AONBs with National Parks broadly exists in terms of planning policy but is lacking when it comes to status, profile and resourcing. Both Marsden and Future Landscapes observed this. Whilst I acknowledge that flexibility of governance and partnerships in AONBs may be a strength, it is also a potential weakness in terms of the stewardship of these equally valuable landscapes. I intend to continue the discussion with AONBs on what can be done here.

My intention, in the next few months, is to set out the detail on improving delivery and accountability in ways consistent with Environment Act and the national Natural Resources Policy in Wales.

The process of review has ingrained a new way of working between Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and stakeholders where they now share a much greater understanding of the challenges and priorities which they can help to address by working together; particularly bringing their collective experience to bear to halting the decline in nature whilst recognising the need for economic resilience in our rural communities.

I am committed to ensuring Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks are valued for their natural beauty by our people, communities and country – and, that our designated landscapes deliver rich ecosystems, vibrant and resilient communities and opportunities for outdoor recreation for all of the people of Wales.

Hannah Blythyn AM, Minister for Environment

Dark Sky Wales
Allan Trow
28 December 2017

Gower AONB - Dark Sky Quality Survey



dark sky wales
dywyllwch awyr cymru

Dark Sky Wales Training Services were commissioned in December 2017 by Swansea Council to undertake a baseline study of dark sky quality within the Gower AONB. The study was undertaken during December 2018 on clear and moonless nights. The following report highlights the findings from the study and includes recommendations for progressing Dark Sky activities in the area.

Introduction

Light pollution through inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light makes it increasingly difficult to observe the night skies; indeed, over 90% of the UK population now lives under highly light-polluted skies. Dark skies contribute significantly to human health and wellbeing with increasing evidence showing that sleep is often disturbed by a lack of proper darkness at night with adverse impacts for health. Light pollution also impacts adversely on around 60% of wildlife, which is most active at night. In addition, sympathetic and energy-efficient lighting in communities can satisfy community needs at lower cost whilst importantly reducing carbon emissions. Dark skies are increasingly important for tourism through landscapes that offer unblemished views of the night sky.

To support this aim, the AONB commissioned Dark Sky Wales in December 2017 to:

- Work closely with AONB staff to identify 40 locations evenly spread across the area of interest.
- Undertake study during moonless nights to ensure accurate readings are achieved without any natural influences.
- Monitor weather conditions and attempt to undertake study on clear nights (some cloud cover can be worked around)
- Use a minimum of two IDA¹ standard SQM² readers at each location
- Take three readings from each machine to derive an average for the site.
- Use two GPS units to provide accurate coordinates for each location.
- Tabulate data and include;
 - Location
 - Weather conditions
 - Moon Phase
 - Time
 - Temp
- Naked Eye Limiting Magnitude (NELM) for ease of understanding.

About Gower AONB

Chosen for its classic coastline and outstanding natural environment, Gower was the first AONB to be designated. Except for the small, urbanised eastern corner, the entire Gower peninsula is an AONB. Complex geology gives a wide variety of scenery in a relatively small area.

¹ IDA - International Dark Skies Association.

² SQM - Sky Quality Meter



It ranges from the south coast's superb carboniferous limestone scenery at Worms Head and Oxwich Bay to the salt-marshes and dune systems in the north. Inland, the most prominent features are the large areas of common, dominated by sandstone heath ridges including the soaring sweep of Cefn Bryn. Secluded valleys have rich deciduous woodland and the traditional agricultural landscape is a patchwork of fields characterised by walls, stone-faced banks and hedgerows.

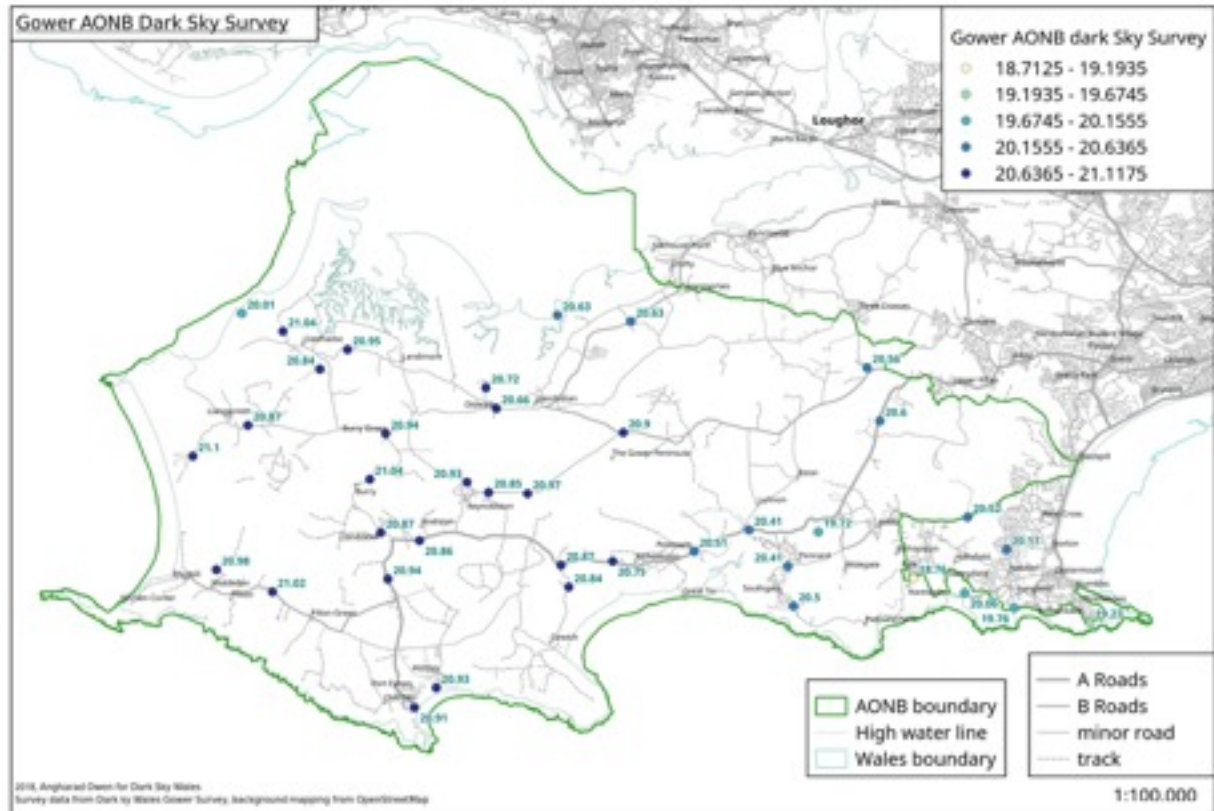
Gower's richly varied natural environment of heath, grassland, fresh and saltwater marsh, dunes and oak woodland, is internationally important. The AONB has five Special Areas of Conservation, three National Nature Reserves, two Local Nature Reserves and many Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Among the many fine natural habitats are the mud-flats and salt-marsh of the Burry Inlet (a Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area and Ramsar site) and the species-rich limestone grasslands of the south Gower coast. Gower has been settled since prehistoric times and has a high concentration of ancient sites. The western end of the Peninsula is listed in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales for its Neolithic and Bronze Age features and its surviving medieval open field system. Almost all the coast is in the protective ownership of City and Council of Swansea, the National Trust, Natural Resources Wales or the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales.

Gower is still traditionally farmed with small, mixed arable and livestock enterprises, many exercising ancient commons grazing rights. Many of the 10,000 population of Gower that are of working age commute to Swansea, the second largest city in Wales. The AONB lies entirely within the Swansea local authority boundary and added to retirement and holiday homes, this dormitory element has considerably altered the area's social balance.

Data Collection

Data collection was conducted in the most scientifically rigorous way possible during the duration of the study. 4 individual SQM readers were used at each location with 3 readings recorded from each machine with results averaged to provide a recordable result. These results

were again averaged to provide a definitive result for that location. Each location was recorded using a place name and appropriate coordinates. Temperature was also taken (using vehicles external thermometer) with weather conditions and moon phase recorded. A summary of the results is shown below and provides a good representation of the sky quality within the AONB.



Gower AONB - Dark Sky Survey								
Location	GPS	SQM 1	SQM 2	SQM 3	SQM 4	Average	NELM	Date
Mumbles Head	51.33.9 358.54	19.23	19.27	19.23	19.2	19.23	4.9	15/12/2017
Langland Bay	5134.05 4.00.51	19.77	19.79	19.72	19.77	19.76	5.3	15/12/2017
Caswell Bay	51.34.15 401.50	20.1	20.09	20.05	20.01	20.06	5.5	15/12/2017
Bishopston	51.34.25 402.51	18.74	18.95	18.89	18.45	18.76	4.6	15/12/2017
Kittle	51.34.57 4.04.45	19.78	19.84	19.44	19.81	19.72	5.3	15/12/2017
Pennard	51.34.48 4.01.2	19.92	20.32	20.18	20.23	20.16	5.6	15/12/2017

Gower AONB - Dark Sky Survey								
Southgate	51.34.31 4.05.20	20.39	20.45	20.37	20.45	20.42	5.8	15/12/2017
West Cliff	51.34.02 405.12	20.48	20.53	20.52	20.46	20.50	5.8	15/12/2017
Parkmill	51.34.57 4.06.07	20.47	20.35	20.46	20.37	20.41	5.8	15/12/2017
Penmaen	51.34.40 4.07.11	20.49	20.51	20.52	20.53	20.51	5.8	15/12/2017
Perriswood	51.34.31 4.08.47	20.72	20.79	20.77	20.73	20.75	6	15/12/2017
Penrice Castle	51.34.27 409.48	20.91	20.87	20.85	20.84	20.87	6	15/12/2017
Oxwich bay	51.34.11 4.09.38	20.85	20.84	20.82	20.83	20.84	6	15/12/2017
Knelston	51.34.42 4.12.36	20.94	20.93	20.79	20.77	20.86	6	15/12/2017
Scurlage	51.34.13 4.13.12	20.93	21	20.93	20.9	20.94	6.1	15/12/2017
Horton	51.32.54 4.12.11	20.98	20.91	20.98	20.85	20.93	6.1	15/12/2017
Port Eynon	51.32.39 4.12.36	20.91	20.89	20.9	20.92	20.91	6.1	15/12/2017
Middleton	51.34.11 4.16.26	21.11	21.13	21.14	21.09	21.12	6.2	15/12/2017
Rhossilli	51.34.16 4.16.35	21.02	20.91	21.01	21	20.99	6.1	15/12/2017
Pilton Green	51.34.01 4.15.28	21.04	21.01	21.04	21.01	21.03	6.3	15/12/2017
Llanddewi	51.34.47 4.13.22	20.85	20.87	20.86	20.88	20.87	6	15/12/2017
Burry	51.35.26 4.13.37	21.06	21.07	21.01	21.02	21.04	6.1	15/12/2017
Burry Green	51.36.00 4.13.20	20.92	20.95	20.94	20.96	20.94	6.1	15/12/2017
Llangennith	51.36.03 4.16.03	20.88	20.86	20.88	20.87	20.87	6	15/12/2017
Llangennith burrows	51.35.39 4.17.07	21.12	21.09	21.11	21.07	21.10	6.2	15/12/2017
Cefn Bryn Common	51.35.26 4.11.42	21.04	20.98	20.84	20.87	20.93	6.1	15/12/2017

Gower AONB - Dark Sky Survey								
Reynolston	51.35.19 4.11.16	21.01	21	20.93	20.94	20.85	6	15/12/2017
Old Walls	51.36.21 4.11.10	20.76	20.69	20.61	20.57	20.66	5.9	15/12/2017
Cheriton	51.37.01 4.14.08	20.98	20.95	20.92	20.95	20.95	6.1	15/12/2017
Llanmadoc	51.36.46 4.14.40	20.9	20.88	20.79	20.79	20.84	6	15/12/2017
Cwm ivy	51.37.13 4.15.25	21.02	20.98	21.08	21.06	21.04	6.1	15/12/2017
Llanrhidian	51.36.36 4.11..23	20.85	20.62	20.71	20.71	20.72	6	15/12/2017
Wernffwrđ	51.37.28 4.08.34	20.57	20.69	20.62	20.65	20.63	5.9	15/12/2017
Crofty	51.37.31 4.10.01	20.61	20.65	20.61	20.65	20.63	5.9	15/12/2017
Three crosses	51.37.48 4.17.04	20.18	20.11	19.84	19.91	20.01	5.5	15/12/2017
Fairwood Common	51.36.59 4.03.53	20.61	20.59	20.54	20.51	20.56	5.9	15/12/2017
Pengwern common	51.36.29 450.05	20.58	20.48	20.57	20.71	20.60	5.9	15/12/2017
Cillibion	51.36.06 4.08.39	20.92	20.89	20.91	20.89	20.90	6.1	15/12/2017
Arthurs stone	51.35.19 4.10.30	20.98	20.99	20.97	20.94	20.97	6.1	15/12/2017
Swansea Airport	51.36.20 4.03.36	20.57	20.57	20.58	20.66	20.60	5.9	15/12/2017
Clyne common	51.35.11 401.49	20.52	20.47	20.56	20.51	20.52	5.8	15/12/2017
Clyne Valley country park	51.36.07 3.59.49	18.87	18.63	18.82	18.53	18.71	4.5	15/12/2017

Light Pollution Map Info (www.lightpollutionmap.info) is a mapping application that displays VIIRS/DMSP/World Atlas overlays and the user measurements overlay over Microsoft Bing base layers (road and hybrid Bing maps). Its primary use is to show VIIRS data in a friendly manner, but it also includes some other interesting overlays that deal with light pollution like SQM/SQC and World Atlas. We used the available 2017 data for this study to validate our findings.

The VIIRS/World Atlas overlays clearly show the areas of higher light pollution located to the East and North of the AONB (outskirts of Swansea and encroachment from Llanelli area). The

Image 1: VIRIS³ 2017 Light Pollution Data



darkest locations identified by the study again correlate well with the VIRIS/World Atlas overlays with the Rhossili area recording some of the darkest readings. The readings for the entire AONB are very encouraging with the majority in excess of 20 on the logarithmic scale used by the SQM which relates to a NELM of 5.5 and above. This equates to a Bortle Scale⁴ reading of 5 with some areas within the AONB of 4. Visually the unaided eye can recognise celestial features such as the Milky Way, M31 (Andromeda galaxy) and can make out M33 reinforcing the Bortle classification.

The human eye can perceive stars down to a NELM of 6, with areas above 4/5 generally considered as good. Therefore, it appears that dark sky quality at the majority of the AONB locations monitored is of a good standard. As shown, there are areas of higher light pollution that correspond to the more populated areas with the more rural locations showing better dark sky quality, as indicated in the original satellite data.

The study also revealed a distinct lack of street lighting within the AONB with exceptions being larger villages located again mostly towards the east and north. Even here lighting has been sympathetically installed and are mainly of the newer fully shielded LED type with only occasionally unshielded sodium lighting being identified. Housing within the AONB also demonstrate an understanding of correct lighting with many homes displaying low voltage lighting with only the occasional home requiring remediation to conform to IDA recommendations. Some inappropriate use of lighting was identified coming from playing fields but again this can be explained away due to the use of this lighting during sporting events.

³ Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) is a satellite scanning radiometer which collects visible and infrared imagery and radiometric measurements of the land, atmosphere, cryosphere, and oceans

⁴ The Bortle scale is a nine-level numeric scale that measures the night sky's brightness of a particular location. It quantifies the astronomical observability of celestial objects and the interference caused by light pollution. An example can be found in the Appendix.

Unfortunately, there were instances of local authority run properties that did require attention such as public toilets near to the sea front at Port Eynon.

With altitude near to Arthur's Stone, orange halo's from Swansea and Llanelli areas could be seen on the horizon and would cause significant obstacles for those wanting to undertake astrophotography from that location. However, the SQM reading and visual observation demonstrated that the area was again providing a Bortle classification of 4 bordering on 5.

Overall the AONB has high quality dark skies and with the introduction of dark sky awareness education program the area could improve further.

Recommendations

The dark sky study has revealed the quality of the dark skies within the Gower AONB. To maintain and to hopefully improve upon this DSW recommend the following:

- Introduce an education program for;
 - General Public
 - Schools
 - AONB staff and volunteer groups
 - Swansea Council staff
- Conduct annual SQM studies to monitor light pollution levels.
- Enter into dialogue with representatives from Swansea Council to examine possible reductions in light pollution from the Mumbles/City area.
- Enter into dialogue with Camarthenshire County Council to examine the possible reduction in light pollution from Llanelli/Bury Port areas.
- Engage with business in the area to promote the use of dark skies during the shoulder months to increase economic prosperity in the area.

Dark Sky Status and Options

Currently, there are five International Dark-Sky Association designations

- International Dark Sky Communities
- International Dark Sky Parks
- International Dark Sky Reserves
- International Dark Sky Sanctuaries
- Dark Sky Developments of Distinction

Within the UK, a number of places are now recognised under these designations:

- **Snowdonia Dark Sky Reserve⁵**
- Exmoor Dark Sky Reserve
- **Brecon Beacons Dark Sky Reserve**
- Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park
- **Elan Valley Dark Sky Park**
- Northumberland Dark Sky Park
- Sark Dark Sky Island (Community)
- Coll Dark Sky Island (Community)
- Moffat Dark Sky Community

There is no indication that changes in designation categories were made at the first-ever international Dark Sky Park conference, which was held in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere, Scotland in September 2017.

Furthermore, there is a UK wide initiative for Dark Sky Discovery Sites that allow for quick registration of particular locations for observing the night sky. These are not internationally recognised but could be a quick way of establishing the dark sky quality of the AONB before any application is considered for IDA approval.

Dark Sky Status Proposal for the AONB

A key factor is the actual area of the AONB which, at 188 km², restricts the available status. Based on the desk-top mapping and the actual survey data obtained in this study, we believe that the two possible options for AONB designation are Dark Sky Community and Dark Sky Park designations since the land area and ownership requirements rule out other designations, certainly at this stage.

Designation as a Dark Sky Park, which is principally governed by the quality of the night and requires a brightness routinely darker than 20 magnitudes per square arc second cannot be ruled out in future. Further data will be required on the quality of the skies over coming years.

In July 2017, Bodmin Moor in Cornwall was officially designated an International Dark Sky Landscape. Cornwall Council's website indicates that the "Bodmin Moor International Dark Sky Designation covers the portion of the moor within the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty plus a two-mile buffer zone around it". As indicated above, there appears to be no official Dark Sky Landscape designation. Consequently, to ascertain whether this specific designation, as opposed to Community or Park, might be an available avenue for the Gower AONB, we sought clarification directly from the IDA with regard to the Dark Sky Landscape designation. Their response indicates Bodmin Moor in Cornwall is actually officially designated as a Dark Sky Park, but "in their application, (Cornwall) described themselves as a landscape so that is where that word is coming from." This indicates that the IDA is open to applicants

⁵ Bold indicates region within Wales.

proposing their own descriptions other than those officially designated although the actual process will be application for one of the official designations.

Dark Sky Status Recommendation

We propose at this stage that Dark Sky Community status is most likely and appropriate for the AONB. We believe the best option moving forward is to apply for Dark Sky Community status with a view to establishing long-term partnerships with adjoining areas to reduce encroaching light pollution. A long term view may be to work towards park status but a lot of work and time will be required to achieve this. The AONB may wish to approach the IDA to see if another description of its own is more appropriate than 'community'.

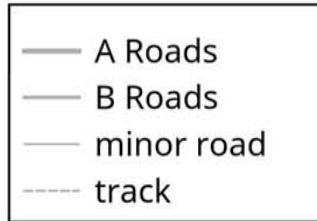
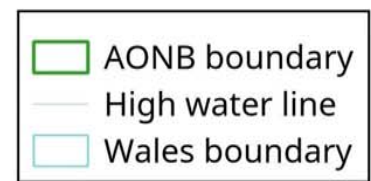
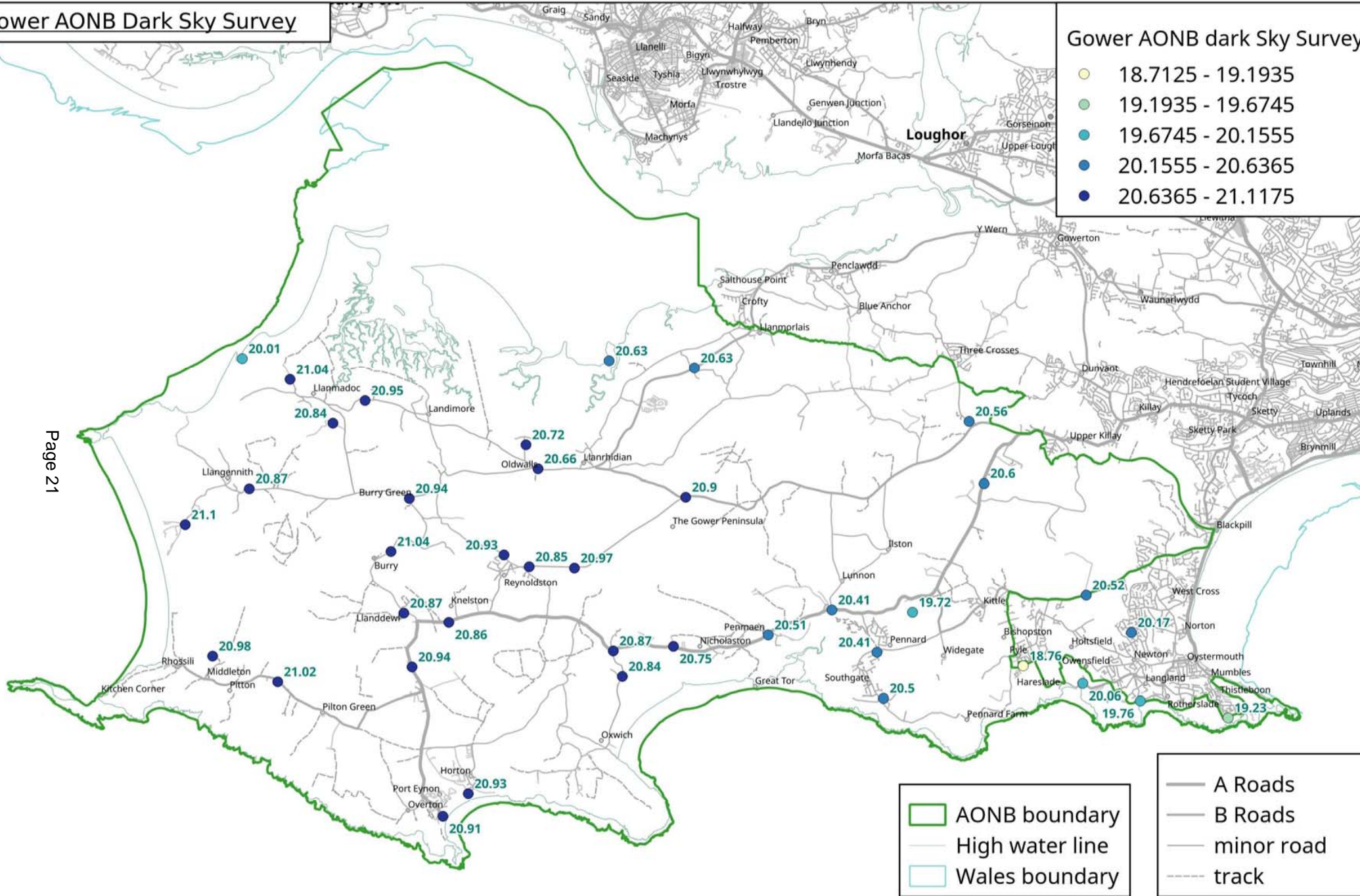
Appendix

Footnote 4 - Bortle Scale

Bortle Scale Number	Color on Map	Limiting Magnitude	Sky Type	Description
1		8	Excellent Dark Site	Airglow is very weak and near horizon Zodiacal Light is across the night sky Milky Way casts shadows
2		7.5	Dark Site	Airglow is weakly visible Zodiacal Light casts shadows Milky way is very detailed
3		7	Rural	Clouds are faintly lit at horizon Zodiacal light visible well above horizon Milky Way appears complex
4		6.5	Rural/ Suburban	Clouds are lit only at horizon Zodiacal Light is visible halfway above horizon Milky Way structure starts to show
5		6	Suburban	Clouds and ground are faintly lit Some Zodiacal Light Milky Way is slightly more visible overhead
6		5.5	Bright Suburban	The sky glows gray at horizon Constellations are visible Milky Way visible overhead
7		5	Suburban/ Urban	The sky has a gray/yellow glow Bright constellations are visible No Milky Way
8		4.5	City	The sky has an orangeish glow Brightest constellations are visible No Milky Way
9		4 at best	Inner-City	The sky has a bright glow Only bright stars are visible No Milky Way

Gower AONB dark Sky Survey

- 18.7125 - 19.1935
- 19.1935 - 19.6745
- 19.6745 - 20.1555
- 20.1555 - 20.6365
- 20.6365 - 21.175



1. Introduction

NRW has a statutory duty to conserve and enhance natural beauty¹ and a range of legal powers and duties in relation to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

AONBs are of equal status in planning terms² with National Parks and these areas are designated to conserve and enhance the outstanding natural beauty of their landscape character and quality. AONBs are landscapes of national importance and are internationally recognised by the IUCN - World Conservation Union as Category V Protected Areas - living, working landscapes as well as internationally important areas for landscape, natural and cultural heritage.

2. Management Plans

AONB authorities are required under statute³ to prepare and publish an AONB Management Plan for the AONB area or joint AONB Management Plan where the AONB covers more than one local authority. NRW is a statutory consultee⁴ on Management Plans. NRW also provide specific guidance on the Management Plan process to ensure that they meet legislative requirements, implement relevant national policy and deliver shared NRW and Government priorities.

New requirements under the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 mean that NRW must consider AONB Management Plans as part of the evidence base for Area Statements and the AONB Management Plans must also take account of the strategic evidence on the natural resources and their benefits, as well as the priorities, risks and opportunities as set out in the Area Statements.

The implementation of AONB Management Plans is an important tool for the delivery of NRW's new statutory purpose for the sustainable management of natural resources and (SMNR) Area Statements when they are published in 2019.

The AONB Management Plans are crucial documents that:

- Assess the state of the AONB providing valuable evidence on trends, data, issues and condition of natural resources across 5% of Wales;
- Guide on the ground management, resources and decision-making in these special areas;
- Set out policies to address the issues and challenges raised by the State of the AONB Report and (when published) by Area Statements;
- Are a live plan and provide an up to date evidence base, as they are legally required to be reviewed and updated every five years;
- Are integrated delivery plans for a wide range of partners active in the area, co-ordinated by the AONB Local Authorities;

¹ S1(2) Countryside Act, 1968.

² Planning Policy Wales, 5.3.6 Chapter 5 Conserving and Improving Natural Heritage and the Coast, Edition 9, 2016.

³ S89 Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000.

⁴ S90(1) Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000.

- Identify and co-ordinate what action is needed and who is best placed to lead;
- Ensure these special landscapes comply with IUCN Protected Area Management Guidelines to meet international standards⁵.

3. NRW Partnerships with AONBs

Due to a shared interest in an integrated approach and the delivery of multiple benefits, over the years NRW and our predecessor organisations have developed strong partnerships working with AONBs in relation to the following areas of our remit:

- Conservation and enhancement of landscape quality, character and distinctiveness
- Access, recreation and sustainable tourism
- Biodiversity enhancement and ecosystem resilience
- Land, water and woodland / forest management
- Developing sustainable agricultural practice
- Coastal and marine issues
- Climate change adaptation, mitigation and carbon management
- Health, well-being and community cohesion
- Sustainable development in rural communities
- Supporting language, culture and the historic environment

Therefore, NRW is establishing this National Partnership Programme to support AONB delivery through partnership funding to:

- Discharge our statutory duty in relation to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty;
- Support the integrated delivery of key NRW priorities across our functions, including SMNR;
- Facilitate the delivery of national policy at a local level;
- Ensure the delivery of the statutory AONB Management Plan;
- Through the AONBs' community engagement and work with land-managers, raise awareness and identify solutions in-relation to environment issues including well-being, climate change and natural resource management;
- Support the delivery of Public Service Boards (PSB) Well-being Objectives.
- Encourage the development of funding bids to other sources to fund major work programmes for the delivery of multiple benefits.

For the reasons outlined in this paper NRW has established an AONB National Programme to optimise this delivery mechanism and bring it in-line with our agreed approach to other strategic resources and management mechanisms that we have statutory responsibilities for such as National Trails. This approach will enable enhanced planning for the integrated delivery of shared priorities in-line with the SMNR principles.

⁵ Management Guidelines for IUCN Category V Protected Areas Protected Landscapes / Seascapes, Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No 9, Ed. Adrian Philips, 2002.

4. A National Partnership Programme

NRW recognises the value of the AONB Partnerships in helping to deliver our new purpose through a place-based approach and the important role that they have in the delivery of recent legislative requirements as part of the Planning, Well-being of Future Generations, Environment and Historic Environment Acts in Wales.

To realise the ambition set out in the Future Landscapes Wales Report (May 2017) that the 'designated landscapes should be the drivers of the sustainable management of natural resources in their areas...' ⁶, there is a consensus that the AONBs now need to work collectively together and collaboratively with NRW and other organisations.

By bringing NRW's funding into a National Partnership Programme will ensure:

- AONBs work more collaboratively to address complex issues;
- As key partners and early adopters they can help NRW test and deliver SMNR on the ground;
- Delivery against Public Service Board (PSB) Well-being objectives and contribution to Well-being of Future Generations National Indicators;
- Deliver the ambition of the Future Landscapes Wales Report (2017) ⁷ to support the AONBs to be key drivers for the sustainable management of natural resources in their areas, by applying the principles of the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR) and the five ways of working set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2016):

Principles of SMNR



⁶ Future Landscapes: Delivering for Wales, Welsh Government, NRW, Designated Landscapes et al, May 2017.

⁷ Future Landscapes: Delivering for Wales, Future Landscapes Wales Partnership May 2017
<http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/170508-future-landscapes-delivering-for-wales-en.pdf>

Five ways of working



Long Term

Prevention

Integration

Collaboration

Involvement

5. NRW's Priority Themes and Reporting Framework 2018-2021

NRW has set out priority themes and the Reporting Framework for the AONB Partnership Programme 2018-2021 to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, the including flora, fauna, geological and physiographical features of the designated area:

- Each project and delivery of the AONB management plan objectives, will fit under one or more of the themes from the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 or Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- In-line with advice from the Future Generations Commissioner's Office for public bodies, it is expected over the course of the Partnership Programme period that you will report against all the goals.
- If you have any gaps against the Well-being Goals you should set out the barriers that have prevented you in addressing these goals.

Using the three national priorities from Welsh Governments' Natural Resources Policy (2017)⁸ NRW expects activity to be focussed around:

- Delivering nature-based solutions
- Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency; and,
- Taking a place-based approach

There will also be local NRW priorities that will sit under the NRW strategic themes, which will be specific to your areas and will also relate to the delivery of your Management Plan actions.

From 2019 area priorities, will be provided by the Area Statements framework.

⁸ Natural Resources Policy, Welsh Government, 2017 <http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/170821-natural-resources-policy-en.PDF>

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty National Partnership Programme 2018-21 Guidance

Natural Resources	Integrated landscape management for landscape & natural resource outcomes
Biodiversity	<p>Support delivery the s6 biodiversity duty⁹ on local authorities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining and enhancing the resilience and connectivity of ecosystems to secure existing and future benefits. • Managing habitats at appropriate scale and bring into management schemes to move to favourable conservation status. • Using a place-based approach to deliver nature-based solutions (Natural Resource Policy, 2017). • Delivering integrated natural resource management for the priorities, risks, opportunities and benefits identified in NRW's Area Statements (when published). • Preparing for and supporting rural policy change as part of the Brexit process. • Monitor and manage for key species to support Nature Recovery Plan¹⁰.
Air, Water and Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity to support maintaining and enhancing air, water and soil quality. • Manage, advise and raise awareness on issues relating to air, water and soil quality and management. • Develop our understanding of the marine environment and seascapes.
Minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve or where appropriate support, landscape restoration or mitigation. • Manage for protection of rare species. • Advise or raise awareness of mineral landscapes.

⁹ S6 Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty on public authorities, Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

¹⁰ Nature Recovery Plan <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/conservationbiodiversity/?lang=en>

Geological features and processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance geological features and special qualities that contribute to a sense of place. • Manage, advise, monitor and raise awareness of geological features and processes.
Physiographical features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve, enhance and maintain physiographical features and special qualities that contribute to scenic quality and landscape character. • Manage, advise and raise awareness of landscape quality, physical character and distinctiveness of the landscape. • Research, develop understanding and raise awareness of physiographical landscape processes. • Monitor physiographical landscape change.
Climatic features and processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to Welsh Government carbon targets¹¹. • Support climate change adaptation and mitigation. • Develop understanding, raising awareness and work with businesses, communities and organisations to develop action in relation to climate change. • Where appropriate, increasing or testing renewable energy and resource efficiency (NRP).

¹¹ Infographic <http://gov.wales/docs/desh/multimedia/170124-environment-act-decarbonisation-infographic-en.pdf> & building a low carbon economy <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/building-low-carbon-economy-wales-setting-welsh-carbon-targets/>

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty National Partnership Programme 2018-21 Guidance

Well-being Goals

Landscape contribution to Well-being Indicators Examples

A prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change);

And which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

- Support sustainable development for living, working landscapes with vibrant communities (Indicator 14).
- Support sustainable tourism for 'brand Wales', including co-ordinating: action, training, information and providing infrastructure and managing sites. Promoting the special qualities of these nationally important landscapes to local communities and visitors (Indicator 11).
- Test innovation for payment for ecosystems services (PES), short supply chains (eg local produce) and circular economy (Indicator 42).
- Support and develop rural skills, apprenticeships and traditional crafts (Indicators 8 & 22).

A resilient Wales

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

- Test innovative approaches to develop healthy ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological landscape resilience (Indicators 44 & 45).
- Develop adaptive management and preventative action on climate change (Indicators 42 & 43).
- Bringing areas into favourable conservation status through management schemes and other mechanisms as part of preparing for rural policy change under Brexit (Indicators 43 & 44)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work long-term to build evidence base for the foundation of advice, decision-making monitoring and understanding change and potential landscape impacts (Indicator 44).
<p><u>A healthier Wales</u></p> <p>A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit health are understood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise opportunities to increase physical and mental well-being (Indicators 3 & 5). • Provide recreation and access opportunities and supporting infrastructure (Indicators 3 & 5). • Provide opportunities for people to experience tranquillity, spiritual refreshment and contact with nature for physical and mental well-being (Indicator 29). • Support active travel, public transport opportunities and land management measures to reduce nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) (Indicator 4).
<p><u>A more equal Wales</u></p> <p>A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for all sectors of society to experience and access the AONB, including participation in events, public engagement and governance opportunities (Indicators 23, 24 and 26). • Support place-based approach to conserve local distinctiveness and landscape character to engender sense of belonging to an area (Indicator 27).
<p><u>A Wales of cohesive communities</u></p> <p>Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities to increase satisfaction of local area as a place to live (Indicator 26). • Provide opportunities for participation in decision-making in the local area (Indicator 23). • Provide opportunities for volunteering for the benefit of communities, the environment and well-being (Indicator 28).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for participation in arts, cultural or heritage activities (Indicator 35).
<p><u>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</u></p> <p>A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, sport and recreation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance landscape character and historic environment to support local distinctiveness and culture (Indicators 35 & 40). • Conserve and enhance the historic environment (Indicator 40) • Support Welsh language and cultural heritage through providing opportunities for people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation (Indicators 35, 36 & 37).
<p><u>A globally responsible Wales</u></p> <p>A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to Carbon Targets, including supporting energy efficiency measures and recycling targets (Indicators 15, 41 & 42). • Providing evidence and data from State of the AONB Reporting and monitoring to help identify trends (Indicator 14). • Test innovative approaches and support appropriate renewable energy (Indicator 12 & 33 & NRP) • Raise awareness and engage public in sustainable development and environmental issues focusing on individual, community and nature-based solutions (Indicator 14 & 32). • Through education raise awareness of the special qualities of these internationally recognised landscapes and of environmental issues including climate change (Indicator 42).

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty National Partnership Programme 2018-21 Guidance

List of relevant National Indicators How to Measure a nation's progress? National indicators for Wales, Well-being of Future Generations Act

Indicator 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours.
Indicator 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels of nitrogen dioxide pollution in air (Public Health Wales identifies source as mainly from traffic).
Indicator 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of children who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours
Indicator 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of adults with qualifications at the different levels of the National Qualifications Framework.
Indicator 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of businesses which are innovation-active.
Indicator 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity (in MW) of renewable energy equipment installed.
Indicator 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of waste generated that is not recycled, per person.
Indicator 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of people satisfied with local area as a place to live.
Indicator 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area.
Indicator 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to access the facilities and services they need.
Indicator 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of people satisfied with local area as a place to live.
Indicator 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of people agreeing that they belong to the area, that people from different backgrounds get on well together; and that people treat each other with respect.
Indicator 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of people who volunteer.
Indicator 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mean mental well-being score.
Indicator 32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of properties (homes and businesses) at medium or high risk from flooding from rivers and the sea.
Indicator 33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of dwellings with adequate energy performance.
Indicator 35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of people attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least three times a year.
Indicator 36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of people who speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh.
Indicator 37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of people who speak Welsh.

Indicator 40	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of designated historic environmental assets that are in stable or improved conditions.
Indicator 42	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emissions of greenhouse gases attributed to the consumption of global goods and services in Wales.
Indicator 43	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Area of healthy ecosystems in Wales
Indicator 44	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Status of biological diversity

6. AONB National Partnership Programme Process

February	March	April	Spring	Summer	Autumn	February / March
2 Feb 2018 NRW open application process	2 March 2018 AONB submit application form to NRW GLO	1 April 2018 AONB Programme commences	AONB delivery	AONB delivery	NRW GLO & AONB half year review of progress update.	AONBs review outcomes & outputs & monitor AONB management Plan delivery.
AONB and NRW Grant Lead Officer (GLO) discuss key themes, priorities and outcomes for the programme & coming year	If necessary NRW & AONB discussions to finalise and agree Programme with key outputs and outcomes		From 2019 onwards AONB Annual Report of previous year to GLO			End of year review meeting NRW & AONB
AONB discuss proposed programme with JAC's, Partnerships and other key partners.	16 March 2018 NRW GLO complete CRONFA 21 March 2018 NRW Grants Team issue Offer Letter		GLO's share AONB Annual Reports with EPP			Repeat - AONB and NRW discuss key themes, priorities and outcomes for the programme & coming year
	Before 1 April 2018 AONBs confirm acceptance to Grant Offer Letter to NRW Grants					Repeat - AONB discuss proposed programme with JAC's, Partnerships and other key partners.

7. Reporting Framework

AONB National Partnership Programme – Annual Report

Annual Report covering grant partnership period to include:

Summary Overview

- Brief overview paragraph of landscape and special qualities of the area
- Headline statistics eg area of AONB, population, visitor numbers, conservation designations, key sites etc.
- Summary of governance arrangements for Joint Advisory Committee, Joint Committee and Partnerships.
- Summary of finance (amount of NRW funding, match funding by local authorities / other sources, amount levered in, links to other NRW funding such as wider countryside grants, National Trails, Wales Coast Path etc)
- Summary of key projects
- Headline statistics on AONB activity such as number of consultations commented on, advice on planning applications, engagement with PSBs etc.
- Summary of any headline data eg visitor numbers to AONB managed site, number of consultation responses to AONB management plan, public attendance of AONB event, volunteer days / numbers or young ranger events.
- Summary update on AONB management plan delivery and what stage in the process of reviewing and monitoring the Plan is at: eg Management Plan formally adopted previous year by local authorities and now in first year of monitoring.

For the detailed report on each project in the Partnership Programme please include any evidence photographs, statistics, press coverage and infographics to demonstrate the impact and effectiveness of delivery.

Each outcome or output should be reported on using the following framework

<p>NRW Priority Themes Natural Resources, Well-being Goals & AONB Management Plan Objective</p>	<p>Describe AONB Outputs & Outcomes, supported by evidence and statistics</p>	<p>Describe how the SMNR Principles & Five Ways of Working have been applied to achieve integrated delivery</p>
<p>Example:</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>A resilient Wales</p> <p>Management Plan Objective –</p> <p>Address invasive species in river corridor through supporting the local community to undertake survey and management.</p>	<p>AONB Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) River Corridor Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged 35 people from local community in this project, who have worked with the AONB to identify key areas to target in relation to INNS. • Provided 5 training days for leaders and volunteers including AONB Young Rangers and 4 local community groups. • Supported transport costs and equipment resulting in 222 hours of volunteer time and 10km of river free from INNS. • Community Groups have adopted different sections of 24km river and are undertaking an ongoing programme of monitoring and maintenance. • 10km previously overgrown public footpath now accessible and has re-opened links between two communities. • A further 15km of the river banks have been surveyed by the Young Rangers. • Liaison with 5 landowners who granted vehicular access and loaned some of the equipment to support the project. • Resulted in discussions by AONB with Water Company regarding upstream catchment management and discussions regarding other river corridors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised community awareness of issue through <i>public participation, engagement and involvement</i> of existing community groups. • Provided on-going, <i>long term</i> solution by training community groups to survey and address invasive species management, with advice and an <i>evidence-based</i> approach from AONB / NRW. • Through <i>involvement</i> brought different groups to work together and benefits for health and well-being to deliver these <i>multiple benefits</i>. • Community Group submitting small bid to SDF for future <i>prevention</i> maintenance and training of further volunteers for <i>long term</i> action and <i>adaptive management</i>. • AONB developed new partnership with water company and agreed to work together on other rivers to develop <i>preventative</i> action and <i>build resilience</i> in other riparian ecosystems. • Young Rangers survey of return of native flora to demonstrate the delivery of <i>multiple benefits</i>. <p>NB Words in italics are the SMNR principles and/or five ways of working</p>

NRW Priority Themes

**Natural Resources,
Well-being Goals &
AONB Management
Plan Objective**

**Describe AONB Outputs & Outcomes, supported by
evidence and statistics**

**Describe how the SMNR Principles & Five
Ways of Working have been applied to
achieve integrated delivery**



Report of the Gower AONB Officer

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 26 March 2018

Sustainable Development Fund – Financial Summary

Welsh Government have confirmed the SDF budget for 2017/18 as £55,000.

There are currently 18 projects with SDF funding for 2017/18, which has fully committed the funds for 2017/18.

The Committed Funds figure includes the CCS Management Fee of £5,500 (10%).

Total Funds available	£ 55,000.00
Committed Funds	£ 55,000.00
Uncommitted Funds	£ 0
Applications under consideration by the panel	£ 0
Applications under consideration as delegated issues	£ 0

SDF budget for 2018/19 and 2019/20 has been confirmed as £55,000, with an indication that the budget for 2020/21 will be the same.

The fund is heavily committed, with £26,590 (with another £22,000 anticipated) committed for 2018/19, and £27,650 (with a further £25,000 anticipated) for 2019/20

Mike Scott
12 March 2018



Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group - 26 March 2018

Report To Gower Landscape Partnership Board - 15 February 2018

Finances

Overall Expenditure:

Type	Approved (£)	Actual Spend (£)	Committed (£)	Remaining (£)
Cash:	1,776,949	1,381,697	1,758,349	£18,600
Volunteer match:	111,301	138,952	138,952	Target exceeded
In-kind:	75,480	61,437	61,437	14,043

Expenditure Per Programme –

Type	Approved (£)	Actual Spend (£)	Committed (£)	Remaining (£)
Programme A				
Cash:	327,907	186,865	325,468	2,439
Volunteer match:	14,900	18,100	18,100	Exceeded
In-kind:	480	8,102	8,102	Exceeded
Programme B				
Cash:	282,906	166,779	274,895	8,971
Volunteer match:	59,600	75,500	75,500	Exceeded
In-kind:	0	27,158	27,158	Exceeded
Programme C				
Cash:	331,274	247,193	328,402	2,872
Volunteer match:	11,928	22,400	22,400	Exceeded
In-kind:	0	344	344	Exceeded
Programme D				
Cash:	255,104	117,399	254,854	250
Volunteer match:	24,873	17,500	17,500	7,373
In-kind:	63,000	10,583	10,583	14,043
Programme E				
Cash:	578,798	508,382	574,730	4,068
Volunteer match:	0	6,450	6,450	Exceeded
In-kind:	12,000	15,000	15,000	Exceeded

Match:

Type	Target (£)	Secured (£)	Variance (£)	Notes
Cash	461,749	466,603	+ 4,854	No change since last report
In-kind	75,480	61,437	- 14,043	No change since last report
Volunteer time	111,301	138,952	~ +27,649	

Grants:

Our 5th NRW claim has been submitted, we are due to draw down the full 30k instalment. The final NRW claim will be submitted in the new financial year, 30k spend is needed to draw down 10k and we are scheduled to be on target as long as contractors submit their invoices when due. We are monitoring this.

Our 10th HLF claim (period October to December) is complete with a value of £141,954, expected grant from HLF is £95,109.

Outputs / Targets

Close monitoring of contracts is continuing and data is being inputted as and when resource is available. Unfortunately the EFT team has been down two members for the past month, which is impacting data entry. However, due to recent notification of continued sickness, we have now been able to allocate support in lieu and will prioritise checking of progress reports and data entry.

HLF Outputs and Targets

Red status Outputs – currently less than 50% achieved.

Maritime Cliff and Slope:

As per last report: Just 2.5ha of 100ha has been evidenced as achieved. This is due to a change of need during the delivery period. This has been raised with HLF and a revision will be submitted for their approval, probably a change of habitat – lowland heathland / acid grassland. This requires input from the commons projects, which has not yet been received.

Community and Youth Groups - worked with, and Youth Groups - beneficiaries:

As per last report: The recently awarded contract to YMCA will go some way to meeting the number of groups worked with. However, at this stage, it is anticipated that we will fall short of the target we have for number of beneficiaries. A dialogue has been started with HLF about this.

Training in Participation and Learning – no. courses and beneficiaries:

As per last report: Currently below 50% achieved, it is expected that the targets for the number of training courses and training days will be met / exceeded by the ongoing Gower Ambassadors project and also the YMCA Community Champions project that will see 40 young people trained up to then take a group of their peers out on to Gower. However, the target for the number of beneficiaries under this output may not be met.

Green Lanes Improved

As per last report: There remains budget left against this project but as yet no activities delivered. This is being picked up by the Working Group.

NRW Outputs and Targets:

Many of our targets have already been met or exceeded and are on plan to meet all others.

The master output tracker will be shared in the next Board meeting with a full verbal report.

Completed by SG, HG 15/02/18

Gower Landscape Partnership

Newsletter – Issue 3

MARCH

GOWER LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP END OF PROGRAMME CELEBRATION

The programme comes to an end in June and to celebrate the successful delivery of so many funded projects, a celebratory event and other smaller events will take place in June 2018. This will be an opportunity for the programme to showcase all of the wonderful projects delivered and meet with everyone involved. More information will follow in the next bulletin.

GOWER DICTIONARY – PUBLICATION

The final finishes to the Gower dictionary are underway, we are planning on publishing the book and producing an E-book. The programme will be sending a copy to all schools and colleges as well as all libraries. If you are interested in a copy please let us know.

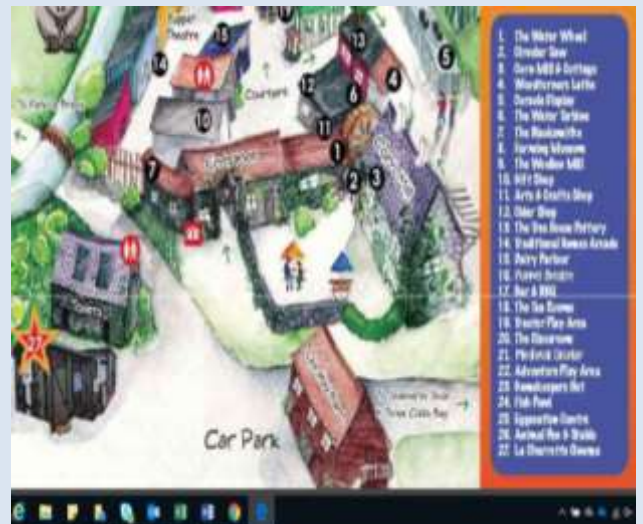
TREES PLANTING: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – LOTS OF DATES AVAILABLE



MANY hands make light work! We have literally thousands of trees to plant and need volunteers to help us plant the trees, creating

new and replacing old Hedgerows. Various dates coming up – however the first date will be a Training Day and takes place on Wednesday, 7th March near Rhossili however there are plenty of other dates! If you are interested, please contact us and we will send you further information.

GOWER HERITAGE CENTRE WALKING APP



The GHC Walking App will soon be available to be downloaded in Android and IOS. Available in 7 different languages, it will provide users with advice and guidance on the beacon sites within the Heritage Centre as well as information on the local area.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

25 new Gower oral history recordings have been completed as of 5th March 2018. A further six interviews are scheduled for the end of March 2018 and we're waiting to hear from 24 potential interviewees. Volunteers are currently working on the interview summaries

that will be deposited to the Archives on a gradual basis so they can be accessed by interested parties.

HEDGE PLANTING



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

There's still spaces left to come and give us a hand with our Hedge planting sessions - we definitely need more volunteers. Future dates include: 19, 21, 26 & 28th March. Possibly Saturday 17th and 24th March depending on demand.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST BOOK IN ADVANCE as we have maximum numbers per session. The sites will all be on Gower, 2 near Rhossili and Lunnon. Sessions will run 10am - 3pm approx. but start and end times flexible. Tools and gloves and instruction will be provided. All participants must arrive wearing clothing to suit the weather (to keep warm and dry) and a sturdy pair of boots / shoes with a good grip as the ground is likely to be uneven and possibly slippery. We'll provide a hot drink and biscuits too! We may also be able to offer some sessions to groups (of up to 8) but only by prior agreement; groups to be accompanied by a leader / supervisor and an agreed supervision

ratio. For more information, contact: helen.grey@swansea.gov.uk.

We can offer around 8 places on each date, and it will be first come first served. Also, please include your contact number and email so that we can send you full details once you have booked on. You can also call 07831 923244 for more info and to speak to Kate from Coeden Fach. Kate who will be running the sessions for us.

23RD MARCH

LAUNCH OF 'OUR GOWER' EXHIBITION IN SWANSEA GRAND THEATRE.

This was a GLP-funded schools project exploring different places and habitats of Gower.

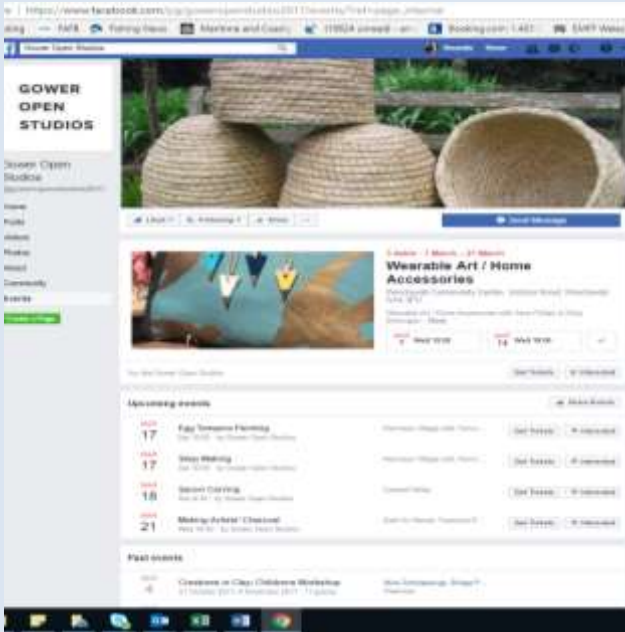
YEAR OF THE SEA – EXHIBITION & FILM PREMIER.

This is a film showing of David Marchant and Gower Unearthed film at his studio 'Buljam', Queens Rd, Mumbles 7-9pm.

COMING UP

GOWER OPEN STUDIOS

A series of workshops are being run in March from the GLP-funded Gower Open Studios – check out their Facebook page ‘Gower Open Studios@goweropenstudios2017’ for further information.



BIG BEACH CLEAN CHALLENGE EVENTS

Beat the plastics on our beaches in Wales.

Marine litter is a growing problem, we see all sorts of items washing up on our beaches, from cotton buds and mermaid tears to fishing nets and plastic bottles - keeping the coastline clean is a constant battle.



BEACH CLEAN DATES: -

- Whiteford – Monday 12 February, 12pm
- Rhossili – Saturday 3 March, 10am (as part of Spring Clean Cymru)
- Llangennith – Monday 19 March, 12pm
- Rhossili – Monday 9 April, 12pm
- Rams Grove – Monday 14 May, 12pm
- Overton/Port Eynon Point – Monday 11 June, 12pm
- Slade / Lucas Bay – Monday 9 July, 12pm
- Nicholaston – Monday 13 August, 12pm
- Tor Bay – Monday 10 September, 12pm
- Three Cliffs – Monday 8 October, 12pm
- Pennard Cliffs/Hunts Bay – 12 November, 12pm
- Pwll Du – Monday 10 December, 12pm

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/news/beat-the-plastics-on-our-beaches-in-wales>

24 MARCH:

PENCLAWDD RAILWAY STATION RESTORED

Please come and be part of celebrating Penclawdd’s fantastic industrial past together with the famous Penclawdd Brass Band. Anyone who has memories of the trains running through the village will be particularly welcome, come and share your memories!

