



**Dinas a Sir Abertawe**

**Hysbysiad o Gyfarfod**

Fe'ch gwahoddir i gyfarfod

## **Grŵp Partneriaeth AoHNE Gŵyr**

**Lleoliad:** Down To Earth - Down To Earth, Little Bryngwyn, Cefn Bryn, SA3 1ED

**Dyddiad:** Dydd Llun, 25 Mawrth 2019

**Amser:** 7.00 pm

**Cadeirydd:** Y Cynghorydd Paul Lloyd

**Aelodaeth:**

Cynghorwyr: M C Child, J P Curtice, P R Hood-Williams, L James a/ac A H Stevens  
Aelodau o'r Grŵp Llywio: R Button, R Cooper, S Crocker, S Heard, S Hill, G Howe, M Lewis, H Osborn, B Parry, D P Tucker a/ac D Vine  
Aelodau Cyfetholedig(wyr): K E Marsh

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### **Agenda**

**Rhif y Dudalen.**

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|-----------|--|----------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.</b>   |                |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol.</b><br><a href="http://www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeliadauBuddiannau">www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeliadauBuddiannau</a> |                |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Cofnodion.</b><br>Cymeradwyo a llofnodi, fel cofnod cywir, gofnodion y cyfarfod(ydd) blaenorol.   | <b>1 - 5</b>   |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Materion yn codi o'r cofnodion.</b>   |                |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Cynllun Rheoli AoHNE.</b>   | <b>6 - 20</b>  |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Cynllun Datblygu Cynaliadwy.</b>  | <b>21</b>      |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Y Diweddaraf am y Prosiect Awyr Dywyll.</b>   | <b>22 - 23</b> |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Cynllun Datblygu Lleol. (Ilafar)</b>  |                |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Partneriaeth Tirwedd Gwyr - Adroddiad Crynhoi Terfynol. (er gwybodaeth/i'w drafod)</b>  | <b>24 - 39</b> |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Fforwm Blynyddol AoHNE - 24 Mehefin 2019.</b>   |                |

**Cyfarfod nesaf:** Dydd Llun, 24 Mehefin 2019 ar 7.00 pm

*Huw Evans*

**Huw Evans**

**Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd**

**18 Mawrth 2019**

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**Cyswllt: Gwasanaethau Democrataidd: - 636923**

# Agenda Item 3



City and County of Swansea

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

Small Hall, Pennard Parish Hall

Monday, 3 December 2018 at 7.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor P Lloyd (Chair) Presided

### **Councillors**

J P Curtice

L James

A H Stevens

### **Steering Group Members**

R Button

R Cooper

S Crocker

S Heard

S Hill

G Howe

M Lewis

H Osborn

B Parry

D Vine

### **Co-opted Member(s)**

K E Marsh

### **Officer(s)**

Chris Lindley

Gower AONB Team Leader

Paul Meller

Strategic Planning and Natural Environment Manager

Jeremy Parkhouse

Democratic Services Officer

Mike Scott

Gower AONB Officer

### **Apologies for Absence**

Councillors: M C Child and P R Hood-Williams

Steering Group Members: D P Tucker

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## **20 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.

## **21 Minutes.**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Gower AONB Steering Group meeting held on 24 September 2018, be accepted as a correct record.

## **22 Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

- **Sustainable Development Fund Report**

Rod Cooper queried if the list of Sustainable Development Fund projects that had been funded was available. It was explained that a report would be provided following the end of the current financial year.

**Resolved** that an annual report be provided following the end of every financial year.

## **23 Presentation - Port Eynon / Horton Feasibility Study - Bro Partnership.**

Rob Owen, Bro Partnership, provided a presentation regarding the Port Eynon / Horton Feasibility Study. Details included -

- Consultation Process;
- Main Recommendations as follows:
  - Improve the management of Port Eynon Car Park;
  - Improve traffic management;
  - Improve the toilets (short & long term options);
  - Change road layout, improve parking for disabled and include heritage feature and drop-off point;
  - Replace and improve litter bins / collections;
  - Reduce to one dog zone in the summer and add more dog waste bins;
  - Improve boat launching provision / service and improve storage provision for boats / equipment;
  - Improve disabled access to the beach;
  - Remove unnecessary signs on the seafront / improve lifeguard signs / better signage for coastal path / improve surfaces of paths;
  - Landscape the area in front of the shops at Port Eynon;
  - Improve management of the dunes, including access and enforcement;
  - Build a new centre at Port Eynon which offers provisions that do not compete with existing businesses;
  - Promote bus service and improve bus stop and information;
  - Improve car parking for YHA and improve pedestrian access;
  - Improve access to and management of the Salthouse;
  - Better co-ordination and management of large events, e.g. triathlon;
  - Develop a clear brand and marketing for Port Eynon, based upon maritime history, beach and water sports;
  - Improve car parking, signs and surfacing at Horton;
  - Improve / replace toilet block at Horton;
  - Improve interpretation of RNLI Station at Horton / possibly move the shop to new centre at Port Eynon;
  - Improve pedestrian access from car park to beach at Horton / maintain and improve boardwalk in places;
  - Possibly offer a licence for a vendor to operate from the car park at Horton;
  - Ensure the track between Port Eynon and Horton is free of parked cars;

- Introduce a phased approach to include short, mid and long term options;
- Possible services that could be provided at a new centre in Port Eynon.

The Steering Group asked a number of questions regarding the presentation, which were responded to accordingly. Discussions centred around the following: -

- The poor image portrayed by the storage containers in Port Eynon car park;
- Poor phone signal / broadband services in the area;
- The poor bus service provision to Port Eynon and Horton;
- The lack of information provided regarding the consultation, the lack of consultation to the areas surrounding Port Eynon, the lack of response received from Port Eynon Community Council, the two consultation events organised and the limited brief given by the Council;
- The geographical position of Port Eynon / Horton making it difficult to access;
- Lack of communication between Council departments;
- The potential size / cost of a new centre on the site of the current toilets;
- Parking issues on the road to the YHA;
- Restricted access for larger vehicles entering Port Eynon;
- The Community Council / Ward Councillor assisting to help improve the area;
- Recognising the similar studies had been completed in the past;
- Setting up a Working Group / forwarding comments to the Gower AONB Team Leader in order to provide a response by 14 December 2018.

The Chair thanked Rob Owen for providing the presentation.

**Resolved** that: -

- 1) The presentation be circulated to the Steering Group;
- 2) Comments regarding the Feasibility Study be forwarded to the Gower AONB Team Leader in order for a response to be sent to Rob Owen for consideration in his study report.

## **24 AONB Management Plan.**

Chris Lindley, Gower AONB Team Leader provided an outline of the context, process and requirements of the review of the AONB Management Plan.

Details of the review process and recommended review priorities / issues were outlined.

It was added that the Action Plan in the current Management Plan covered a period up to 2018. An updated version for 2018-21 has been agreed by Swansea Council with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) as the delivery basis for its AONB Partnership grant-aid programme. As a first step, it was recommended that the Action Plan be updated and reviewed to include an extension to cover the remainder of the existing plan period (up to 2022) and agreed through the Partnership. It was also recommended that a 'Management Plan Update' becomes a standing agenda item for the Steering Group.

**Resolved** that: -

- 1) The Action Plan be reviewed and updated to include an extension to cover the remainder of the existing plan period (up to 2022) and agreed through the Partnership;
- 2) 'Management Plan Update' be a standing agenda item for the Steering Group.

**25 Dark Sky Community Award Application - Progress Update. (Verbal)**

Chris Lindley, Gower AONB Team Leader provided an update report on the first meeting organised by Dark Sky Wales at Reynoldston Hall on 14 November 2018. He stated that 27 people attended, including businesses and local interest groups, who received an introduction to Dark Skies, designation and a number of issues relating to light pollution.

It was added that public engagement events would be organised in the New Year.

**Resolved** that the contents of the report be noted.

**26 Gower AONB Boundary Issues - Council Position.**

Chris Lindley, Gower AONB Team Leader, presented a report which provided the position of the Council regarding Gower AONB boundary issues, in the context of the Mumbles Pier Development.

It was outlined that the report provided the full context and explanation of why the Council considered that the 'Order and Order Map' to be the legal boundary of Gower AONB. It was the Order that formed the statutory basis for the designation of Gower as an AONB; the Order Map is and should be regarded as, an integral part of the Order.

It was added that the Order and Order Map were confirmed by the signature and seal of the relevant Minister and dated 10 December 1956, with the modifications shown in red ink on the Order and the excluded areas shown crosshatched black on the Order Map. The position of the Council is therefore that the Order came into effect on this date and that consequently the Order and Order Map show the definitive boundary of the Gower AONB.

Any other map produced subsequently should only be regarded as interpretations of the boundary and so were not definitive; which included the 1957 copies produced by the Ordnance Survey.

The Strategic Planning and Natural Environment Manager commented that the impact effect of the Mumbles Pier development upon the AONB was important, regardless of whether the site was in or outside of the boundary.

The Group discussed the report and maps provided.

**Resolved** that the contents of the report be noted.

## 27 Sustainable Development Fund.

Mike Scott, Gower AONB Officer, presented a Sustainable Development Fund Update Report.

It was outlined that Welsh Government had confirmed the SDF budget for 2018/19 as £55,000, with the same for 2019/20. There were currently 10 projects approved with SDF funding for 2018/19, with a further 3 applications under consideration and 3 further applications anticipated.

It was added that the Committed Funds figure included the CCS Management Fee of £5,500 (10%) and the fund was heavily committed, both for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

The following was outlined: -

Total Funds available	£ 55,000.00
Committed Funds	£ 41,200
Uncommitted Funds	£ 13,300
Applications under consideration by the panel	£ 10,500

**Resolved** that the contents of the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

**Chair**

# Agenda Item 5



## **Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader**

**Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 25 March 2019**

### **Gower AONB Management Plan**

At the last Steering Group meeting, Chris Lindley, Gower AONB Team Leader provided an outline of the context, process and requirements of the review of the AONB Management Plan. Details of the review process and recommended review priorities / issues were outlined. It was added that the Action Plan in the current Management Plan covered a period up to 2018. An updated version for 2018-21 has been agreed by Swansea Council with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) as the delivery basis for its AONB Partnership grant-aid programme. As a first step, it was recommended that the Action Plan be updated and reviewed to include an extension to cover the remainder of the existing plan period (up to 2022) and agreed through the Partnership.

The following pages provide a commentary/review of progress to-date against the actions/ objectives in the Action Plan; they also recommend a set of actions that cover the remainder of the current plan period (up to 2022).

**Chris Lindley**

**Gower AONB Team Leader**

**18 March 2019**



## CHAPTER 6 THE ACTION PLAN

2014 Objectives	Actions to achieve objective 2014-2018	Lead Partners and CCS Teams	Progress against objectives/actions (March 2019)	Actions to achieve objective 2019-2022
<b>Theme 1: Awareness Raising and Understanding</b>				
<b>Objective 1: Raise the public profile of the AONB special qualities and its environmental, social and economic value</b>	Update and implement the AONB Communications Plan	AONB Team	<p>NOT PROGRESSED</p> <p>Communications Plan not progressed. However actions/activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AONB team web pages on Council website updated</li> <li>• GLP website and social media channels to be integral to AONB comms now HLF-funded programme ended</li> <li>• Gower AONB Newsletter</li> <li>• Welsh Protected landscapes calendar</li> </ul>	Update AONB communications plan in the context of GLP legacy etc
<b>Objective 2: Increase public access to, appreciation of and involvement with all the special qualities of the AONB, but particularly:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Geology</li> <li>• Landscape</li> <li>• Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>	Develop and implement a programme of training and volunteering opportunities and tasks	AONB Team, Gower Landscape Partnership (GLP), Nature Conservation Team, GGAT, National Trust	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>Range of training and volunteering events delivered through GLP and partners</p> <p>Swansea Wildlife Volunteers project – NRW funded</p> <p>SEWBREC app training</p> <p>Volunteer tasks undertaken on LNRs and SINC on Gower</p> <p>Friends of Bishops Wood LNR</p> <p>Good evidence of demand for further training and volunteering opportunities</p>	Ongoing Volunteer coordinator post provides further opportunities
	Develop and implement a programme of intellectual access, walks, talks and events projects	AONB Team, Gower Landscape Partnership, Nature Conservation Team, GGAT, National Trust, Wildlife Trust for SW Wales	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>Wide-range of activities events delivered principally through GLP and partners</p> <p>Sculpture by the Sea and Seashore Safari events supporting the BLUE FLAG beach awards</p> <p>Interpretation panels installed at several sites on Gower</p> <p>Environmental Event programme ongoing for 2019</p> <p>Good evidence of demand for further programme of activities.</p>	Ongoing, supported principally through NRW and other grant-aid programmes
<b>Objective 3: Maintain public debate and involvement in AONB issues and management</b>	Enable the Gower AONB Partnership to operate under its Terms of Reference (ToR)	AONB Team, Democratic Services	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>Partnership, Steering Group and sub-groups continue to operate under the ToR</p>	Ongoing.

2014 Objectives	Actions to achieve objective 2014-2018	Lead Partners and CCS Teams	Progress against objectives/actions (March 2019)	Actions to achieve objective 2019-2022
<b>Theme 2: Biodiversity</b>				
<b>Objective 4: Ensure that the Local Development Plan policies and Development Control decisions conserve and enhance the biodiversity features of the AONB</b>	Refresh the LDP biodiversity evidence base; review and adopt LDP policy protecting the biodiversity features and designations of the AONB	Nature Conservation Team, LDP Team, Planning Control	ACHIEVED Swansea Council adopted the LDP on 28 February 2019. LDP includes Ecosystem and Resilience policies for the protection of the AONB, biodiversity and designated sites.  Swansea Council priorities now include maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity	Finalise and adopt Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for the LDP for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Green Infrastructure</li> </ul> Monitor LDP policy effects
	Complete the re-evaluation of SINCs within the AONB	Nature Conservation Team	ONGOING Management Statements prepared for all AONB SINCS in Council ownership and those SINCS that have had works funded through GLP. Aderyn reports prepared for all Council-owned SINCS –full habitats and species records.	Ongoing
	Complete review of Local Biodiversity Action Plans for key habitats and species of the AONB	Nature Conservation Team	ONGOING Being taken forward through the Local Nature Recovery Action Plan.	Local Nature Recovery Action Plan
<b>Objective 5: Identify and address management issues and priorities for biodiversity features of the AONB, to achieve Favourable Conservation Status (for sites, habitats and species) and improve ecological connectivity</b>	Report on condition of SSSI biological features and identify management issues and priorities across the AONB	Natural Resources Wales, Nature Conservation Team and AONB Team, National Trust	ONGOING Management statements prepared for all Council-owned SSSIs	Carry forward
	Report on condition of SINCs and LNRs in the AONB and identify management issues and priorities across the AONB	Nature Conservation Team, AONB Team	ONGOING	Carry forward
	Complete a climate change vulnerability assessment for key habitats and species of the AONB	AONB Team, Nature Conservation Team, National Trust	NOT PROGRESSED Have mapped ecological connectivity	Carry forward
	Undertake an Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) risk assessment for the AONB -to identify risks and prioritise control actions on INNS that threaten the special qualities of the AONB	AONB Team, Nature Conservation Team, National Trust	ONGOING Some survey and monitoring of species undertaken, along with some control measures e.g. buckthorn at Llangennith Dunes, Knotweed at Parkmill	Carry forward
	Implementation of the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Site (CBEEMS) Management Scheme	Nature Conservation Team, CBEEMS relevant authorities	ONGOING Swansea Council hosting the Relevant Authority Group (RAG) and meetings. Implementation through RAG authorities	Ongoing
	Undertake practical biodiversity management, working with landowners, managers, groups, volunteers and others	Nature Conservation Team, AONB Team, National Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Wildlife Trust for SW Wales, Gower Landscape Partnership	ONGOING Range of management projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hay meadow project (GLP/National Trust)</li> <li>LNR Management and SINCS project with private landowners</li> <li>Commons project</li> <li>Nitten Field</li> </ul>	Ongoing

2014 Objectives	Actions to achieve objective 2014-2018	Lead Partners and CCS Teams	Progress against objectives/actions (March 2019)	Actions to achieve objective 2019-2022
<b>Theme 3: Geology</b>				
<b>Objective 6: Ensure that Local Development Plan policies and Development Control decisions conserve and enhance the geological features of the AONB</b>	Develop and review RIGS evidence base - including selection criteria, candidate sites - and identify RIGS across the AONB	Nature Conservation Team, AONB Team, LDP Team	UPDATE Swansea Council adopted the LDP on 28 February 2019.	Monitor LDP policy effects
	Review and adoption of LDP policy to conserve and enhance geological features of the AONB	Nature Conservation Team, AONB Team, LDP team, Planning Control	LDP policy ER10 protects the features of geological/ geomorphological SSSI and Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) Site visit/condition reports completed for 15x RIGS within the AONB (7 by SE Wales RIGs Group, 8 by British Geological Survey)	
<b>Objective 7: Identify and address management issues and priorities for geological features across the AONB, ensuring that features are visible and available for study</b>	Report on condition of SSSI geological features and identify management issues and priorities across the AONB	Natural Resources Wales, AONB Team, National Trust	NO UPDATE –	Carried forward
	Complete a climate change vulnerability assessment for key geological features	NRW, AONB Team, Nature Conservation Team	ONGOING Outline risks to key geological features (Karst landscape features/SSSI&RIGS/rock strata/exposures/coastal geology & landscape features) identified	Review and complete
	Undertake practical management of geological features with landowners, managers, groups, volunteers and others	Nature Conservation Team, AONB Team, National Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Wildlife Trust for SW Wales, Gower Landscape Partnership	No priority practical action identified by assessments during the current period	Review management requirements in light of other actions (above)

2014 Objectives	Actions to achieve objective 2014-2018	Lead Partners and CCS Teams	Progress against objectives/actions (March 2019)	Actions to achieve objective 2019-2022
<b>Theme 4: Landscape and Seascape</b>				
<b>Objective 8: Ensure that spatial planning policies and Development Control decisions conserve and enhance the landscape, seascape and key views in and out of the AONB</b>	Provide a robust evidence base that supports emerging LDP policies protecting the landscape and seascape of the AONB	AONB Team, LDP Team, Planning Control	ACHIEVED Gower AONB Landscape Character Assessment report published 2013. Subsequent detailed assessment of landscape capacity in relation to caravan and camping sites published 2014 Both reports used in evidence base for the LDP	No further actions
	Review and update of LANDMAP data for the AONB	LDP Team, Natural Resources Wales, AONB Team	ACHIEVED Historic landscape aspect updated by NRW and archaeological trusts in 2016 Updated LANDMAP data informed the NRW State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) in 2016	No further actions
	Review and adoption of LDP policy to conserve and enhance the landscape and seascape of the AONB	AONB Team, LDP Team	UPDATE Swansea Council adopted the LDP on 28 February 2019.  Policy ER4 sets the specific LDP policy to safeguard the AONB, with policy ER7 (Undeveloped Coast) also of direct relevance	Monitor LDP policy effect  Refresh of Gower AONB Design Guide and adoption as SPG  Development of Caravan and Camping site design guide
	Engage in the development of Marine Plan for Wales	LDP Team, AONB Team, Nature Conservation Team	ONGOING Adoption of Marine Plan for Wales expected Summer 2019	Review priorities/actions in the light of published Marine Plan and Marine Area Statement
	Undertake a detailed assessment of the AONB seascape	Natural Resources Wales, AONB Team	ACHIEVED Completed and awaiting Welsh translation before full publication	Utilise and adopt as planning policy evidence and Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)
<b>Objective 9: Review and address landscape management issues and priorities for key landscape features and views across the AONB</b>	Review, prioritise and implement management guidelines proposed for each Landscape Character Area through a Landscape Action Plan.	AONB Team	UPDATE Review of LCAs management guidelines undertaken	Share, prioritise and implement management guidelines
	Complete a climate change vulnerability assessment for key landscape/seascape features and views	AONB Team, National Trust	NOT PROGRESSED	Carried forward
	Undertake practical management of landscape features and key views with landowners, managers, groups, volunteers and others	Nature Conservation Team, AONB Team, National Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Wildlife Trust for SW Wales, Gower Landscape Partnership	ONGOING Range of practical projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Trust reinstatement of hedge banks at Rhossili</li> <li>GLP Mewslade Wall restoration</li> <li>NRW/AONB funded Hedgerow Hub project</li> </ul>	Support and implement ongoing projects, including Gower Hedgerow Hub, Volunteers project
<b>Objective 10: Extend the recording and monitoring of the AONB landscape, seascape and key views</b>	Develop and implement a landscape character and photographic monitoring programme to record and assess landscape change	AONB Team, Natural Resources Wales	NOT PROGRESSED	Carried forward

2014 Objectives	Actions to achieve objective 2014-2018	Lead Partners and CCS Teams	Progress against objectives/actions (March 2019)	Actions to achieve objective 2019-2022
Theme 5: Cultural Heritage				
<b>Objective 11: Ensure that Local Development Plan policies and Development Control decisions conserve and enhance the archaeological and built heritage features of the AONB</b>	Provide a robust evidence base that supports emerging LDP policies protecting the cultural heritage of the AONB	AONB Team, LDP Team, Design and Conservation Team, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT)	ACHIEVED Swansea Council adopted the LDP on 28 February 2019.	Monitor LDP policy effects
	Review and adoption of LDP policy to conserve and enhance the cultural heritage features of the AONB	AONB Team, LDP Team, Design and Conservation Team, Planning Control	LDP policies HC1 and HC2 cover the preservation and enhancement of the historic & cultural environment, buildings & features	
<b>Objective 12: Review and address the key management issues and priorities for the archaeological and built heritage of the AONB</b>	Review, prioritise and implement management guidelines proposed for Cultural Heritage - Listed Buildings at Risk Register, Conservation Areas appraisals and plans, Historic landscape appraisals, Scheduled Ancient Monument management plans, historic landscapes, parks and gardens	AONB Team, Design and Conservation Team, National Trust, GGAT, Cadw, Gower Landscape Partnership	NOT PROGRESSED	Carried forward
	Complete a climate change vulnerability assessment for archaeology and built heritage	AONB Team, LDP Team, Design and Conservation Team, Historic Environment Group, GGAT	UPDATE – Outline risks to features of predicted climate change effects identified	Review and complete
	Undertake practical management of archaeological and built heritage with landowners, managers, groups, volunteers and others	AONB Team, National Trust, GGAT, Cadw, Gower Landscape Partnership	Range of practical projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pill House Pigsty</li> <li>• Redley Cliff hill fort clearance</li> <li>• NT reinstatement of hedge banks Rhossili</li> <li>• Drystone wall restoration at the Vile</li> </ul>	Ongoing

2014 Objectives	Actions to achieve objective 2014-2018	Lead Partners and CCS Teams	Progress against objectives/actions (March 2019)	Actions to achieve objective 2019-2022
Theme 6: Natural Resources				
<b>Objective 13: Continue to screen and monitor air and water quality across the AONB</b>	Complete LAQM annual screening/monitoring requirements	Environmental Protection Team, Natural Resources Wales	No air quality issues identified for AONB from screening/monitoring: <a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/2831/Air-quality">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/2831/Air-quality</a>	Ongoing - complete LAQM annual screening/monitoring requirements
	Complete Bathing Water Directive monitoring requirements		Information, monitoring and actions reported on waterwatchwales website: <a href="http://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/">http://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/</a>	Ongoing, subject to changes in environmental reporting policy/legislation
	Complete Water Framework Directive monitoring and assessment requirements			
<b>Objective 14: Progress toward Good Ecological Status for waterbodies in the AONB</b>	Implement measures identified in the Western Wales River Basin Management Plan relevant to the AONB	Natural Resources Wales, AONB Team, Nature Conservation Team, Swansea Environment Forum		Implement priority actions in the current RBMP: Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries Burry Pill River Clyne
<b>Objective 15: Develop a better understanding of soil conservation issues in the AONB</b>	Review of soil and land quality data across the AONB; identification of priority issues for AONB management	AONB Team, Nature Conservation Team, Natural Resources Wales	NOT PROGRESSED	Carried forward
<b>Objective 16: Develop an understanding of the ecosystem services provided by the AONB</b>	Undertake an ecosystems services mapping exercise in the AONB	AONB Team, Nature Conservation Team, Natural Resources Wales, Swansea Environment Forum	NOT PROGRESSED	Carried forward

2014 Objectives	Actions to achieve objective 2014-2018	Lead Partners and CCS Teams	Progress against objectives/actions (March 2019)	Actions to achieve objective 2019-2022
<b>Theme 7: Tranquillity</b>				
<b>Objective 17: Assess current levels of tranquillity, noise and light pollution</b>	Develop and undertake baseline/monitoring approaches for tranquillity/dark sky	AONB Team, Natural Resources Wales	ONGOING First Gower AONB Sky Quality assessment complete Swansea Council, Gower Society and Dark Sky Wales preparing an application to International DarkSky (IDA) for Dark Sky Community Award	Complete IDA application Implement Lighting Management Plan and other measures required to comply with Award Annual monitoring/reporting to IDA
<b>Objective 18: Ensure that Local Development Plan policy and development control decisions protect tranquillity and the night sky of the AONB</b>	Review/monitor implementation of lighting/design guide SPG in project design and Development Control	AONB Team, LDP Team, Planning Control	UPDATE Lighting design guide being reviewed as part of IDA application above	Complete review/update Adopt as SPG to the LDP
	Provide a robust evidence base to inform emerging LDP policies protecting the tranquillity and night skies of the AONB		ACHIEVED See below	No further actions
	Review and adoption of LDP policy to conserve and enhance tranquillity and night sky of the AONB		ACHIEVED Swansea Council adopted the LDP on 28 February 2019.  LDP policies RP1 & RP2 control light pollution from proposed development. Development within the AONB will be considered against the Gower AONB Lighting SPG	Adopt revised lighting guide as SPG

2014 Objectives	Actions to achieve objective 2014-2018	Lead Partners and CCS Teams	Progress against objectives/actions (March 2019)	Actions to achieve objective 2019-2022
<b>Theme 8: Recreation Resources</b>				
<b>Objective 19: To improve the current standard and level of maintenance of public rights of way so that 95% are open, usable and clearly signposted.</b>	Continued implementation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)	Countryside Access Team, NRW	UPDATE	Refresh ROWIP
	Undertake practical maintenance and improvements to the AONB RoW network with landowners/managers, groups, volunteers and others	Countryside Access Team, NRW	ROWIP plan period now expired. Range of improvements projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Gower Way (Gower Society)</li> <li>New boardwalk at Horton/Port Eynon</li> <li>bridleway bridge and other improvements at Parkmill</li> <li>Works on Swansea Council estate at Pwll du and Bishop's Wood</li> </ul>	Implement ROWIP priority improvements in the AONB  Restore public access along Coast Path at Cwm Ivy
<b>Objective 20: To improve access opportunities around the Wales Coast Path and the Gower Way</b>	Identify, prioritise and promote circular routes around the Wales Coast Path and the Gower Way	Countryside Access Team, NRW, Gower Society	ONGOING Range of leaflets produced e.g. Mumbles Way leaflet  GLP - walking app and trails 17 trails - ThisisGower	Ongoing
<b>Objective 21: Ensure that Access Land is available and publicised for use by communities and visitors</b>	Complete review and publication of access land maps under the CRow Act 2000	Natural Resources Wales, Countryside Access Team, AONB Team, National Trust	ACHIEVED  All Access Land data available for viewing/download at:  <a href="http://lle.gov.wales/home">http://lle.gov.wales/home</a>	No further action
	Report on the revised extent and distribution of access land in the AONB		NOT PROGRESSED  To be updated in next State of the AONB report	To be updated in next State of the AONB report
<b>Objective 22: Develop a clear understanding of the recreation activities in the AONB and around the coast</b>	Analyse and report on recreation activities and identify priority issues for planning and management	AONB Team, Countryside Access Team, Tourism Team, Business Partnership Unit, National Trust	NOT PROGRESSED  Swansea Council engaging in update to the 'Wales Activity Mapping' project:  <a href="http://www.walesactivitymapping.org.uk/">http://www.walesactivitymapping.org.uk/</a>	Swansea Council engaging in update to the 'Wales Activity Mapping' project in 2019:  <a href="http://www.walesactivitymapping.org.uk/">http://www.walesactivitymapping.org.uk/</a>
<b>Objective 23: Maintain high quality status and profile of Gower beaches and associated facilities</b>	Annual applications for appropriate beach awards	Business Partnership Unit	OBJECTIVE MAINTAINED  Four Blue Flag beach awards maintained 2014-2018	Ongoing
	Preparation and implementation of coordinated beach management plans	Business Partnership Unit, AONB Team, Tourism Team, National Trust, Beach owners and managers	ACTION ACHIEVED Preparation of management plans in 2015 Setting up of Swansea Council Beach management group Feasibility study on Port Eynon & Horton beach/area	Follow up/actions recommended in plans/reports



2014 Objectives	Actions to achieve objective 2014-2018	Lead Partners and CCS Teams	Progress against objectives/actions (March 2019)	Actions to achieve objective 2019-2022
<b>Theme 9: Primary Industries</b>				
<b>Objective 24: Increase the area of the AONB under sustainable land management</b>	Engage in the consultation/development of Wales Rural Development Plan 2014-2020 Axis 2 - Glastir	Welsh Government, AONB Team, Nature Conservation Team, Natural Resources Wales	ACTION ACHIEVED RDP Plan in place – Glastir land data now available for viewing/download at: <a href="http://lle.gov.wales/home">http://lle.gov.wales/home</a>	Engage and participate in development activities to support sustainable land management in the AONB post-Brexit
	Identify and take opportunities to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB through Glastir with applicants, agreement holders and project officers		NOT PROGRESSED	
	Collaborative work on sustainable land management practices, including strategic wildfire protection and prevention initiatives	Swansea Land Management Group Welsh Government, AONB Team, Nature Conservation Team, National Trust Natural Resources Wales	AONB and GLP have supported several ongoing initiatives including fire and grazing management on commons	
<b>Objective 25: Support appropriate and sustainable farm and rural diversification and enterprise through the LDP and RDP.</b>	Engage in the consultation/development of Wales Rural Development Plan 2014-20 Axes 3 and 4	AONB Team, Economic Development Team, Rural Development Partnership	ONGOING	Continued implementation through to 2020 Engage and participate in development activities to support rural enterprise post-Brexit
	Develop and implement project plan for the Swansea RDP 2014-20		ONGOING	Continued implementation through to 2020 Engage and participate in development activities to support rural enterprise post-Brexit
<b>Objective 26: Develop coordinated support for the balanced and sustainable growth of the local fishing industry</b>	Implementation of the Swansea Bay Fisheries Local Development Strategy	Swansea Bay Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG), Economic Development Team, SACRAG	PROJECT ACHIEVED Swansea Bay FLAG 2014-2020 being administered through Swansea Council: <a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/sbflag">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/sbflag</a>	Continued implementation through to 2020

2014 Objectives	Actions to achieve objective 2014-2018	Lead Partners and CCS Teams	Progress against objectives/actions (March 2019)	Actions to achieve objective 2019-2022
Theme 10: Tourism				
<b>Objective 27: Support the development of a sustainable tourism industry on Gower</b>	Implementation of the Swansea Bay Destination Management Plan	Destination Management Plan Delivery Groups	UPDATE Number of projects delivered through the DMP 2013-16 Current DMP 2017-20 is about enabling better approaches to development and marketing of the area, involving as many stakeholders (public and private sector) as possible	Implementation through DMP delivery groups and Swansea RDP and implement priority projects through the Delivery Groups
	Finalise the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and implement relevant recommendations and actions	AONB Team and other partners identified by the Action Plan	UPDATE Draft Sustainable Tourism Strategy published by Swansea RDP in 2014. The current RDP Local Action Group is referring to the Sustainable Tourism Strategy as the evidence base for supporting strategic priorities and projects for tourism in the rural wards of Swansea.	Continue delivery implementation through the RDP through to 2020

2014 Objectives	Actions to achieve objective 2014-2018	Lead Partners and CCS Teams	Progress against objectives/actions (March 2019)	Actions to achieve objective 2019-2022
Theme 11: Transport				
<b>Objective 28: Ensure that the public have the information they need to use sustainable and active travel networks and services</b>	Promote the use and awareness of sustainable and active travel networks and services e.g. walking by bus leaflets, digital media	Baytrans, Swansea Rural Development Partnership, AONB Team	UPDATE Tourism Swansea Bay leading on 'Digital Marketing for Sustainable Transport in Rural Swansea' supported through the Swansea RDP	Implement Swansea RDP project through to 2020
<b>Objective 29: Improve the provision of sustainable and active travel networks and services across the AONB</b>	Identify and implement priority schemes for safe walking and cycling in the AONB	Countryside Access Team, AONB Team, Highways Team, Community Councils, Swansea RDP	UPDATE Sustainable Rural Transport Strategy has been developed through the Swansea RDP	Implement priority schemes identified by the Swansea RDP
	Sustain and improve the Gower Explorer bus service	Baytrans, Countryside Access Team, CCS Transport	ACTION SUSTAINED Gower Sunday Explorer funding through the Swansea RDP. However, no long term future for Sunday service identified	Implement Gower Sunday Explorer project through to 2020
	Optimise access points to popular walks –especially the Coast Path – for bus users	Baytrans, Rural Development Partnership, service operator	NO UPDATE	Carry Forward
<b>Objective 30: Develop a better understanding of car parking provision, issues and improvement priorities across the AONB</b>	Undertake a review of car parking provision, issues and improvement priorities	Highways Team, AONB Team, Tourism Team, National Trust, car park owners and operators	NOT PROGRESSED	Carry Forward
<b>Objective 31: Maintain good practice highway improvements across the AONB</b>	Continued implementation of the Highway Design Guide	Highways Team, AONB Team	ONGOING	Ongoing

2014 Objectives	Actions to achieve objective 2014-2018	Lead Partners and CCS Teams	Progress against objectives/actions (March 2019)	Actions to achieve objective 2019-2022
<b>Theme 12: Utilities and Communications</b>				
<b>Objective 32: Improve mobile and broadband coverage in the AONB without adversely affecting the special qualities</b>	Work with Mobile Infrastructure Project (MIP) - Arqiva and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport	Arqiva, AONB Team, Planning Control	<p>UPDATE</p> <p>MIP project ended 2016. Welsh Government published a Mobile Action Plan for Wales (MAP) in October 2017:  <a href="http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171003-mobile-action-plan-for-wales-en.pdf">http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171003-mobile-action-plan-for-wales-en.pdf</a></p> <p>Assembly Mobile Action Plan update report in Jan 2019 here:  <a href="http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld12069/cr-ld12069-e.pdf">http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld12069/cr-ld12069-e.pdf</a></p> <p>OFCOM coverage maps available on their mobile coverage app:  <a href="https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/media/media-releases/2015/mobile-coverage-checker-launch">https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/media/media-releases/2015/mobile-coverage-checker-launch</a></p>	Engage with actions in MAP around revisions to Planning Policy Wales and TAN19 on mobile network infrastructure development
	Work with broadband improvement projects in the AONB - e.g. Superfast Cymru	AONB Team and project delivery teams	<p>UPDATE</p> <p>Superfast Cymru ended Dec 2017.</p> <p>Welsh Govt/ Openreach providing access to fast broadband to almost 16,000 premises by March 2021, utilising just over £13m of Welsh Government and EU funding. These premises are in North Wales and the South West and the Valleys.</p> <p>OFCOM broadband coverage maps available on their app:  <a href="https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/media/media-releases/2015/mobile-coverage-checker-launch">https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/media/media-releases/2015/mobile-coverage-checker-launch</a></p>	Ongoing
<b>Objective 33: Reduce the landscape and visual effects of the power supply network on Gower</b>	Develop and implement landscape improvement schemes through the Western Power Undergrounding Initiative	Western Power Distribution, AONB Team	<p>UPDATE</p> <p>Regular scheduled meetings with WPD under this initiative. Last undergrounding project on Gower was Cefn Bryn (2013).</p>	Identify, develop and implement schemes
<b>Objective 34: Have a clear understanding of utility/communications investment and infrastructure priorities that may affect the AONB</b>	Research and report on utility company investment plans - sewerage, water supply, gas, electric, telecomms	AONB Team	<p>AONB team reviewed (Dec 2017) business plans/ priorities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dwr Cymru - Welsh Water</li> <li>• Wales and West Utilities</li> <li>• Western Power Distribution</li> <li>• Ofcom</li> <li>• Welsh Government</li> </ul>	Ongoing

2014 Objectives	Actions to achieve objective 2014-2018	Lead Partners and CCS Teams	Progress against objectives/actions (March 2019)	Actions to achieve objective 2019-2022
<b>Theme 13: Development and Offshore Activities</b>				
<b>Objective 35: Ensure that spatial planning policies and development control conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB</b>	Engage with policy development and planning control in and around the AONB, including: CCS and Carmarthenshire LDPs, Marine planning, major infrastructure developments	AONB Partnership, AONB Team, LDP Team, Planning Control, Welsh Government, Carmarthenshire County Council, Nature Conservation Team	Ongoing	Ongoing
<b>Objective 36: Improve the quality of the built environment in the AONB</b>	Continue with implementation of the AONB Design Guide and Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)	AONB Team, LDP Team, Planning Control	Implementation continued.	Review and Update of AONB Design Guide; adoption as SPG
	Develop additional guidance for other development issues affecting the landscape character of the AONB, e.g. renewable energy, caravan/camping, car parking	AONB Team, LDP Team, Planning Control	NOT PROGRESSED	Development and preparation of a specific design guide for camping and caravan sites.
<b>Objective 37: Ensure developments outside the AONB consider potential adverse effects on the AONB special qualities</b>	Monitor and respond to development planning processes and projects outside of the AONB	AONB Team, LDP Team, Planning Control, Nature Conservation Team	Ongoing	Ongoing

2014 Objectives	Actions to achieve objective 2014-2018	Lead Partners and CCS Teams	Progress against objectives/actions (March 2019)	Actions to achieve objective 2019-2022
Theme 14: Housing, Community Facilities and Services				
<b>Objective 38: Ensure that LDP policy addresses the affordable housing needs of local communities</b>	Provide a robust evidence base on affordable housing to inform the emerging LDP policies	LDP Team	OBJECTIVE ACHIEVED	Monitor as per LDP Monitoring Framework
	Development and adoption of LDP policy that considers the need for affordable housing in local communities			
<b>Objective 39: Identify and respond to trends in the range and extent of community facilities in the AONB</b>	Updates and analysis of ward profiles for AONB wards	LDP Team, AONB Team, Research and Information Team	Ward profiles regularly updated for all Swansea wards. Last update in January 2019: <a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/wardprofiles">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/wardprofiles</a>	Ongoing



## Report of the Gower AONB Officer

**Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 25 March 2019**

### **Sustainable Development Fund – Financial Summary**

Welsh Government have confirmed the SDF budget for 2018/19 as £55,000, with the same for 2019/20.

The fund is now heavily committed, both for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

- **2018/19**

Total Funds available	£ 55,000.00
Committed Funds	£ 55,000
Uncommitted Funds	£ 0
Applications under consideration by the panel	£ 0

For the current year here were 16 projects approved with SDF funding for 2018/19, achieving full spend of the SDF budget.

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

- **2019/20**

£37,160 committed, with 4 applications worth £17,840 anticipated

- **2020/21**

£28,000 committed, with 3 applications worth £27,000 anticipated

**Mike Scott**  
**15 March 2019**



## Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader

**Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 25 March 2019**

### **Dark Sky Project Update**

Since the last AONB Steering Group meeting, the following activities have been undertaken to progress our application to become an internationally-recognised Dark Sky Community:

- Public engagement events –
  - 21 January, St Madocs Christian Youth Camp, Llanmadoc. 160 bookings, c.50 attendees.
  - 7 February, Purple Badger, Llanrhidian. 65 bookings, 28 attendees, with Gower Ambassadors also in attendance. Site owners attended and have indicated they would be happy to help promote/host another event.
- Business Engagement Event 6 Feb, Purple Badger – postponed due to ill-health, now rescheduled for 1 May 2019.
- Lighting Management Plan (LMP) – Dark Sky Wales (DSW) analysed Swansea Council public street lighting data. DSW is drafting the LMP as integral to the Gower IDA application.
- Communications – sent letters out to Tourism Swansea Bay, the National Trust and all Community Councils (that are within/partly within the AONB) requesting their support for the designation. Organisations have also been asked to consider putting forward areas of land in their control as Dark Sky Discovery Sites (DSDS).
- Sky Quality Monitoring – AT repeated the monitoring at the beginning of Feb. Results to be recorded and incorporated into the LMP.

Gower AONB Team has purchased 4 Sky Quality Meters (SQM) units for future annual monitoring survey. Gower Ambassadors and other volunteers will be attending a training course 27 March to enable them to undertake the annual monitoring.



The Project Steering Group (comprising reps from Swansea Council, Gower Society and Dark Sky Wales) will meet shortly to discuss/approve the draft application. The formal application will now be submitted to the International DarkSky Association (IDA) at the end of May 2019.

**Chris Lindley**

**Gower AONB Team Leader**

**18 March 2019**

# Saving Gower For All It's Worth

## Creative Report

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Agenda Item 9



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# Introduction

This Creative Report was commissioned by the GLP and outlines some key facts and figures relating to their project 'Saving Gower for All it's Worth'

The Gower Landscape Partnership (GLP) was established to bid for Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) monies to conserve, protect and inform a wider range of audiences about the landscape and culture of Gower, the first area to be designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The GLP hoped to achieve the following outcomes:

- The unique landscape, heritage and culture of Gower is conserved, protected and valued, while a wide range of audiences are informed and engaged
- The Partnership and its constituent organisations are more aware, enabled and empowered to work together to protect and promote Gower
- These impacts are a legacy of the project and are sustained into the future

To achieve this, the project 'Saving Gower for All it's Worth' was developed which aimed to:

- Conserve and record information about the Industrial Heritage
- Protect and enhance biodiversity
- Safeguard the natural history heritage and traditional management of the south Gower coast; re-establish coastal walls to enable grazing; help people understand landscape and climate change and how it will affect Gower
- Re-establish customs and skills, and build the capacity of people to protect, conserve, manage, understand and inform on Gower's special qualities
- Re-establish and reinforce links to the land through celebration, participation and interpretation
- Enable participation in a range of heritage activities

# Timeline of GLP

[Click the dates for more information](#)

**2011** – GLP AWARDED FUNDING TO DEVELOP PROJECT

**2016** – REVISION TO DELIVERY PLAN

**2013** – GLP AWARDED FUNDING TO  
BEGIN DELIVERING THEIR PROJECT  
HAVING GOWER FOR ALL IT'S WORTH

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**2014** – PROJECTS BEGIN

**2015** – EUROPEAN EXTERNAL FUNDING TEAM JOINS THE PROJECT

BEGINNING OF INTENSIVE DELIVERY

**2017-2018** – MAJORITY OF PROJECTS DELIVERED

**2018** – PROJECT COMES TO A CLOSE

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## 2011 – GLP Awarded Funding to Develop Project

In July 2011, the GLP was awarded funding of £194,051 to develop a Landscape Conservation Action Plan called '**Saving Gower for All its Worth**'.

## 2013 – GLP Awarded Funding to Deliver the Project

In June 2013, the Partnership was awarded funding to deliver the project, including funding provided by Gower Society. The project was also awarded funding from HLF, the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013, Natural Resources Wales and the City & County of Swansea among other organisations.

## 2014 – Projects Begin

The GLP begins delivering activities across Gower and the surrounding area such as planting arable bird crop at the Vile to help protect local wildlife.

## 2015 – European External Funding Team Joins the Project

A change of delivery structure and resulted in the European External Funding Team joining the project, bringing with them financial and process expertise that was available to the GLP management.

## 2016 – Revision to Delivery Plan

Throughout 2016 the project team reviewed the original project delivery plan and targets to ensure the GLP achieved its aims

Activities also continued to promote Gower. Public awareness of the history of Gower was raised by a conference in November 2016 attended by more than 100 people.

## 2017 -2018 – Majority of Projects Delivered

More projects were delivered from January 2017 to May 2018 (178) than in the 28 months prior to this (September 2014 to December 2016 – 107 projects). High numbers of activities were delivered in the months August to November 2017 (84) and January to March 2018 (47).

## 2018 – Project comes to a close

The project stops delivering activities but has left a legacy relating to the environment, the heritage of and access to Gower

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# Conserving or Restoring Natural and Built Heritage

## Conservation

50 ha of lowland calcareous grassland has been maintained

396 ha of coastal sand dunes have been maintained

25.5 ha of maritime cliff and slope has been restored

37.35 ha of lowland meadow has been restored

61.7 ha of lowland calcareous grassland has been improved through activities such as installing fencing to allowing grazing and treating sites for bracken

The legacy of these works will be maintained by a number of bodies, most notably the National Trust, the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, the GLP and Swansea Council.

As part of the project, Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) have also been identified, assessed and reported on to improve future protection and conservation. This information will be shared publicly via the GLP website.

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# Case Study: Hay Meadows

In Rhossili the National Trust owns a medieval field system, and over the past few years have been looking at changing the way they farm from tenanting out the fields to managing the area through high nature value farming. As part of this change towards high nature value farming, they needed to transform their existing grass fields into flower rich hay meadows.

Modern agricultural methods mean that farmers have added a lot of nutrients and artificial chemicals to the soil, which results in lush grass, but decreases the variety of species of flowers that grow. The pollen yielded from these flowers is vital for sustaining insects such as bees, which are crucial to biodiversity and the wildlife network.

In the UK, hay meadows have declined by 97%, however thanks to an investment of c. £12,000 from the Gower Landscape Partnership, the National Trust were able to invest in high quality grass and wildflower seed to create 20ha of hay meadows which are expected to be fully in bloom by May 2018.

*"We're right next to a national nature reserve that has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation, this means we had to be very careful about what seed we sow. Without the GLP investment we just wouldn't have been able to do this project."*

As part of this project, the National Trust has done a lot of groundworks including using topsoil to put back hedge banks that had been removed over the years as farming machinery has got bigger. As the fields were a medieval strip system, returning the land to smaller fields was seen as being key to the culture and the importance of the landscape from a historical perspective.

During the early months of 2018, the project has also looked at replanting hedges on these banks which are also beneficial to wildlife. The GLP has provided funding to purchase the hedgerow trees and paid for two-thirds of the fencing to ensure the trees were protected. At the time of interview, the National Trust was keen to get a couple of groups out from the YMCA to assist with the tree planting process. The National Trust also has a large existing team of volunteers who have taken part in all aspects of this project from hedge laying to seed sowing and, thanks to a capital investment from both the GLP and Sustainable Development Fund, will be able to take part in the haymaking process as opposed to this being done by agricultural contractors.

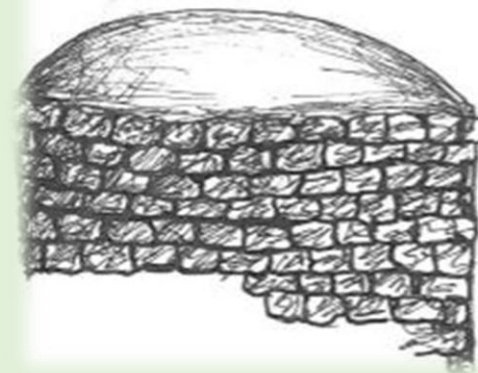
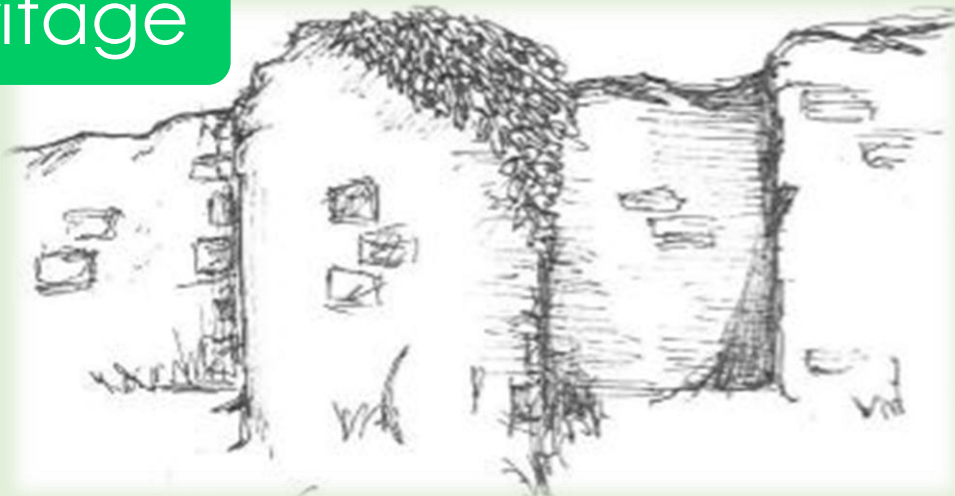
The investment from the GLP has helped to raise the profile of the National Trust, which they believe has brought in additional volunteers and also ensured that the work available is much more interesting. Although many of these volunteers may visit Gower it was felt that working with the National Trust allowed them to access *"the other 90% of Gower - they are able to see parts of Gower you wouldn't be able to see easily or wouldn't think to get to."*

The National Trust intend that the work done as part of this project will become 'the norm' in terms of how they operate; *"it's not a project, it's our way forward."* Once the meadows are in bloom the Trust intend to open some new footpaths through the field to allow as many people as possible to experience them. The venture is seen as a *"tremendous investment in the biodiversity of the region."*



# Built Heritage

15 Undesignated  
Historic Feature  
restored/repared



1 Scheduled Monument  
interpreted



2 Undesignated Historic  
Feature interpreted

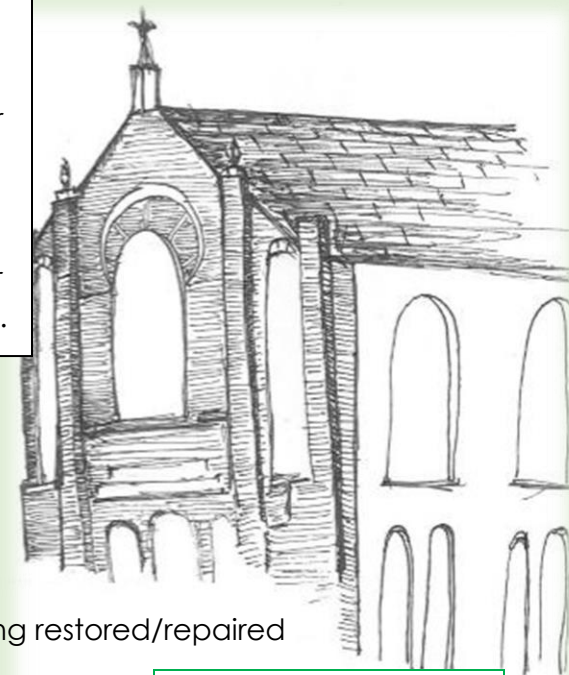
By providing interpretation panels across Gower, the project has helped to both enhance the visitor experience and strengthen the relationship between the site and those who live around it.

2 Undesignated Historic  
Feature recorded

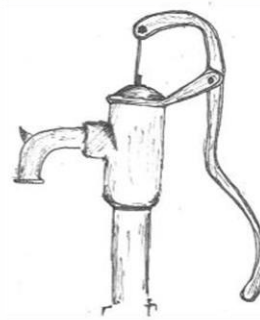
Restorations and repair work have helped to maintain features that are seen as key elements of local communities to ensure their sustainability for the future.

Generating records of heritage sites / features helps to assess their significance and lays the groundwork for potential future schemes.

2 Listed Buildings recorded



3 Listed Building restored/repared



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# Case Study: Hermon Chapel

As part of the Saving Gower for All its Worth, the Gower Landscape Partnership were keen to look at engaging people who lived outside of the AONB in areas such as Penclawdd which nonetheless have close ties with more rural areas of Gower.

Initially there was some delay in identifying a suitable project to take forward but in spring 2017 the local community council selected restoring Hermon Chapel as a project they wished to take forward and work got underway.

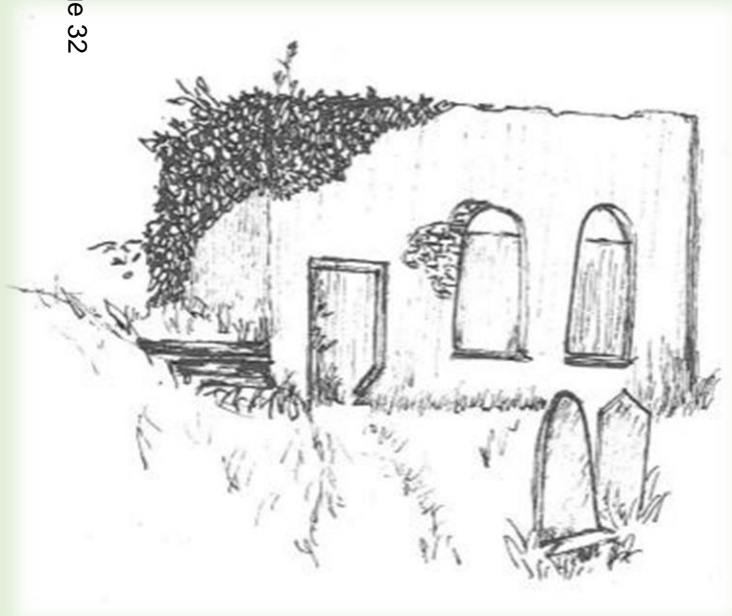
Hermon Chapel is an important structure to the local community and is a significant feature of the landscape that has long ceased to be an active chapel and has fallen into decay. The community council has responsibility for a graveyard up there and wanted to take on responsibility for maintaining the chapel as it is part of the history of the community. However, the chapel needed to be put into a safe and stable position before the community council could take it on. It was felt that this project fitted in nicely with the aims of the Gower Landscape Partnership.

Once work began and contractors were able to examine the structure, they discovered a number of additional issues with the chapel that also needed to be rectified to ensure the building was safe. These works would put the project over budget, and as the decision to commit funding to the stabilisation of Hermon Chapel was taken relatively late on in the project, there were not additional funds available from the GLP to cover the costs.

The GLP liaised with the community council and the Baptist Church (who currently own Hermon Chapel) in order to assist them with securing additional funding. The work has enabled the community council to take over responsibility for the chapel from the Baptists, safeguarding it for the future. However, the need for the GLP's support highlighted an important issue, namely that smaller organisations do not always possess the capacity to take on such work.

In hindsight, it was felt that it would have been better to go out to the community at an earlier stage in the overall project, and that the extent to which communities would need support and guidance to develop projects in their community was underestimated.

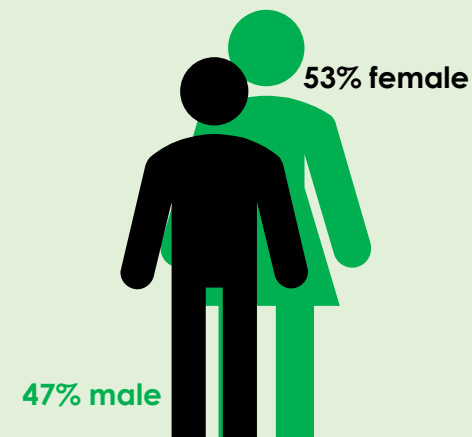
For projects of a larger scale, such as this one, it is important to have organisations with resources to carry out the consultation process and project manage but the GLP was not in a position to do that. Although concentrating on delivering projects in this manner may have resulted in a streamlined project, it is important to remember that one of the attractions of the project for HLF was the scope of Saving Gower for all its Worth, and the opportunity to have a significant impact on communities in Gower.



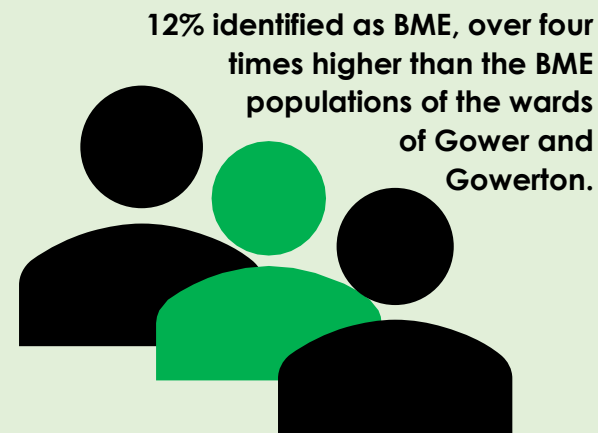
# Participation in Activities

Looking at the feedback forms completed by participants who took part in a range of activities as part of the project, they contain a record of 6,795 participants who took part in 340 activities with an average of 20 participants per activity.

The project also worked with 192 groups including local schools, Communities First and the YMCA, and activities ran from September 2014 to May 2018.



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# Activities

"I know the walks have worked well in bringing people in from hard to reach areas. The Taste of Gower has 60-80 attending walks who wouldn't have come otherwise. Confidence and encouragement to do this, know where to go and have experienced it - that's been another important factor."

**5**  
75% rated their activities as 5/5  
**4**  
123

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## Activities with the highest number of participants

617 participants visited the Gower Heritage centre

505 took part in Sculpture by the Sea

297 took part in History Talks

170 took part in Taste of Gower

150 took part in Christmas Event

132 took part in Arts Workshops

132 took part in Down to Earth

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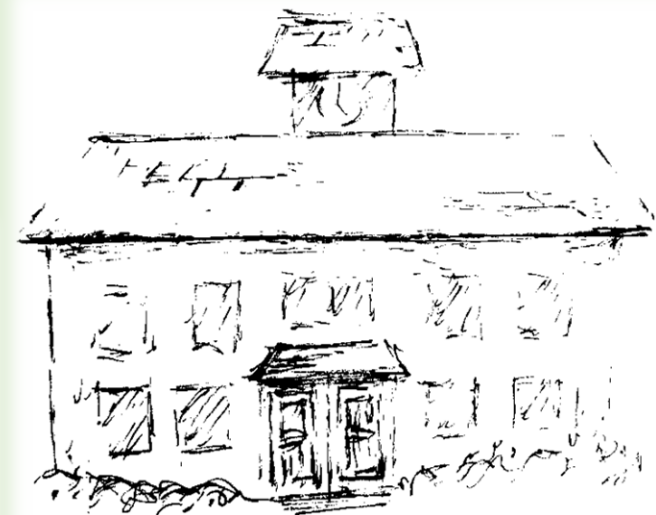
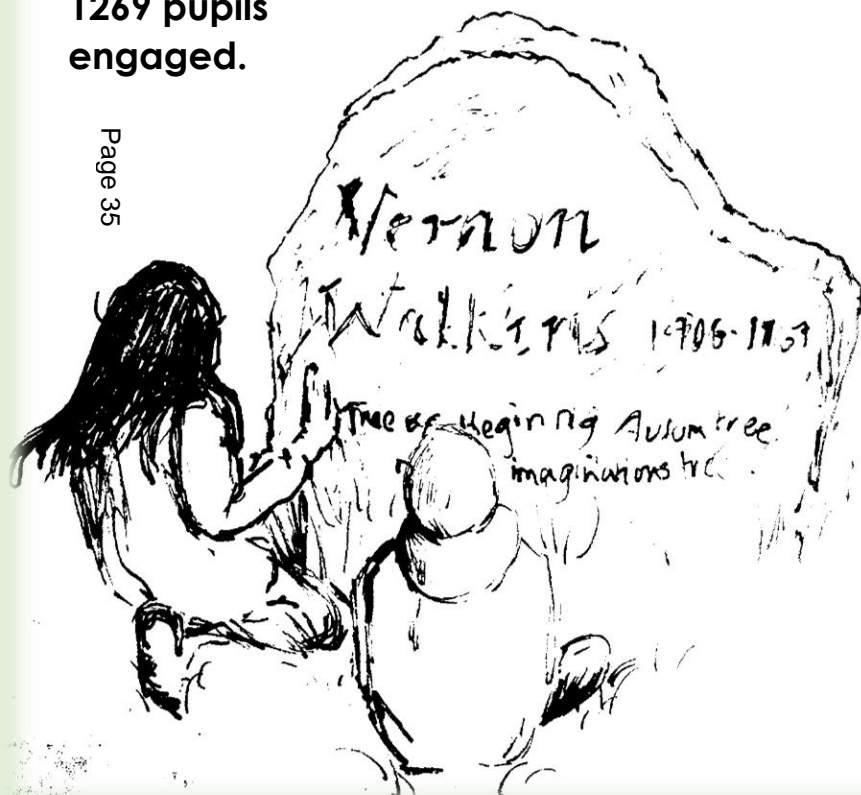


## Participation and learning

**51 community groups worked with and  
2111 people engaged.**

**27 primary schools and  
1269 pupils  
engaged.**

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**12 secondary schools and 882  
pupils engaged.**

**63 family learning activities and 1614 people benefiting.**

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As part of the legacy for ensuring future participation, there are plans in place to continue a number of activities.

For example, activities undertaken relating to the legend of Mari Lwyd included an annual parade which, as a final activity under GLP, has been moved to a new home at the Gower Heritage Centre where it is planned to continue to include Mari Lwyd as part of the Wassail festival.

Swansea Council is also preparing a further schools education programme through National Resources Wales grant-aid. The range of activities and organised programmes celebrating the unique qualities of Gower, in which a *“huge range of groups and communities engaged,”* have resulted in a YMCA Active Inclusion project which will be taken forward.

## Skills and Training

- 51 farmers and landowners were engaged and provided with advice and support including training courses in skills such as hedgerow maintenance.
- 568 people trained in a range of skills relating to conservation, maintenance and cultural traditions.

As part of the project, the GLP has managed to engage with 51 farmers (31 more than their original target) and landowners to provide advice and support including training courses in skills such as hedgerow maintenance. This work has meant that this cohort are in a position to actively play a role in ensuring the legacy of this project.



### As a result of GLP training...

*"It's been very good for getting perspectives on farming and rural issues. Also understanding the problems facing the commons. I work with landowners and grazers. The legislation, regulations and problems that have been highlighted today will really help me to understand what problems are affecting them. The benefits are that I have people I can turn to for help and advice or put my farmers in touch with. Diolch yn Fawr" (Feedback data, 2018).*

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## Conclusion

Looking to the future, the GLP has secured a clear legacy.

A number of key outputs will be maintained by partners. These are both physical and human outputs, from the walls built, hedges maintained, and culture preserved.

The Partnership itself, while having to address membership issues and ensure responsibility for its administration, is likely to continue into the future. As a body of like-minded organisations, committed to the preservation and sustainability of Gower's environment, culture and heritage, the Partnership is well situated to deliver a range of activities and services to support Gower into the future.

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