



The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site

Annual Report 2023 – 2024

Prepared by Llechi Cymru



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The Slate Landscape of
Northwest Wales
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2021

Foreword

Lord Dafydd Wigley

Chair, Llechi Cymru Partnership Board



Ensuring Prosperity from our Slate

I am well aware that there is an expectation amongst the residents of Gwynedd to see developments emerge from the World Heritage status awarded by UNESCO to our slate landscape in Northwest Wales. Naturally, Gwynedd communities are desperate to see benefits flow into the County.

It took over 10 years to secure the designation and developing projects to take advantage of the designation also takes time. This is mainly because there is no funding linked to the UNESCO World Heritage status. It was therefore not possible to seek funding before being awarded the new status in 2021.

Only after securing the status were Cyngor Gwynedd able to actively fund new developments, this was done in collaboration with community organisations and business partners - within the County - as well as national organisations. Only from having the necessary resources in place could the strategy begin to bear fruit.

Cyngor Gwynedd secured £18m from UK Government through the Llewyrch o'r Llechi scheme, which is now being invested in three slate areas, the Ogwen Hub, the Dinorwig Hub and the Ffestiniog Hub, as well as seeing investment in the six main towns in the slate areas.

The exciting redevelopment of the National Slate Museum is part of the Llewyrch o'r Llechi scheme and has also secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Welsh Government – securing an additional investment of £10m into the slate landscape.

This investment does not include projects from partners who are also taking advantage of the designation to benefit the area – such as the Ffestiniog Railway, Talylyn Railway, Penrhyn Castle and the Snowdonia Slate Trail.

The National Slate Museum will be closed for two years to complete the essential work. As a result of the investment, we will have a worthy venue - fitting of the slate industry - that will act as a focus to interpret the industry and its history. This will be key to presenting the history of the slate communities to the people of Wales – and in particular to the young people of our country. It will also help attract international visitors to Gwynedd.

The refurbished Slate Museum will serve the entire area of the six UNESCO-designated component parts and encourage people to follow the story across our area spreading benefit to our communities and businesses.

It will therefore be another three years before we see the significant benefits of World Heritage status coming to our communities – and that is as all these exciting capital projects are completed. At that point, it should lead to opportunities for the private and voluntary sectors in Gwynedd to take advantage of this status; this will certainly be a challenge – but the opportunity exists and it opens the door for the residents of these communities to take advantage of it.

Meanwhile, the small team within Cyngor Gwynedd will work with businesses, communities and social enterprises within the six communities recognised by UNESCO, together with the National Park, Bangor University, international tourism promotion agencies, and the Welsh and UK Governments, to promote all economic, cultural, social, educational and community opportunities associated with the slate industry, thereby bringing new opportunities to the inhabitants of these areas.

To support this collaboration and co-creation, Cyngor Gwynedd has successfully secured funding through the National Lottery Heritage Fund and World Heritage Site (WHS) partners to enable the implementation the £2m LleCHI LleNI scheme, which runs for a period of five years. The project aims to foster enthusiasm and pride from the designation, as well as create educational, creative, volunteering, and conservation and skills opportunities for communities across the area.

The investment will also lead to activities across our communities to celebrate our role in roofing the world and to recognise all the stories involved in our history.

We have cause to celebrate here in the Gwynedd area. What we are delivering draws the attention of partners across the British Isles and the world. During the last year we twice presented to UNESCO on the good practice that goes on here in terms of our work and we should be proud of what is being achieved on our behalf.

To reinforce our aspiration to give everyone a voice, we have adapted our Partnership structure during the year and look forward to seeing the new structure operational from January 2025 onwards when there will be a voice for all on our Partnership Board and within its sub-groups including communities, businesses, landowners and strategic partners. We must continue to be flexible and agile as a Partnership if we are to continue to succeed and deliver.

I would therefore like to thank Cyngor Gwynedd for their work in leading the Llechi Cymru team. The core team has increased in terms of staffing resources; this has helped secure the new resources brought to us. I would particularly like to thank the small team, within the Department for Economy and Community - namely Roland Evans, Hannah Joyce, Lucy

Thomas, Dan Amor, Tom Simone, and more recently Ffion Gwyn and Bet Huws - for their tireless work, and to Sioned Williams, head of Department and Councillor Nia Jeffreys, portfolio holder for Economy and Community for their commitment and enthusiasm.

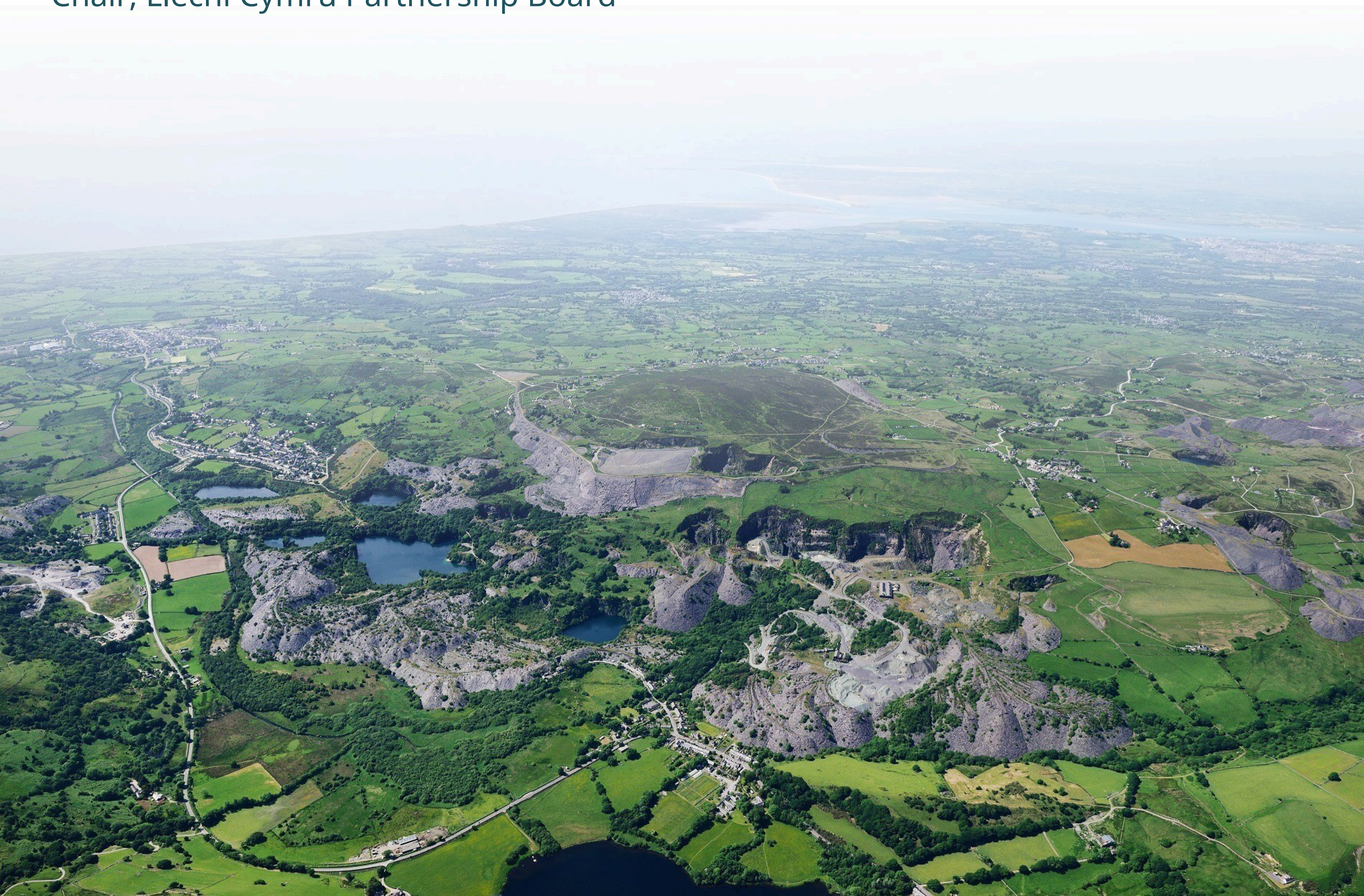
This is truly a cross-sector team and we would not be able to achieve our aims without remarkable collaboration with our strategic partners in Cadw (Welsh Government), The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Eryri National Park, Heneb, Bangor University, Amgueddfa Cymru and the National Trust, as well as our community and private sector partners – thank you all so much for your unwavering contributions and support.

Forward we go, together, therefore, to realise the vision of acknowledging and preserving our past and also to create new opportunities to revitalise our communities socially, culturally and economically to ensure prosperity from slate for our future!



Lord Dafydd Wigley

Chair, Llechi Cymru Partnership Board



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1. Background

It is now three years since the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales was awarded World Heritage Site status. We received the designation based on a statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales represents an exceptional example of an industrial cultural landscape that was profoundly shaped by large-scale slate quarrying and underground mining and by the working and transport of slate for national and international markets. The industry, particularly in the period from 1780 to 1940, dominated the world production of roofing slates, opened up new slate quarries and mines across the world through cultural transfer of technology and skills, and transformed both the environment and the way of life of those who lived and worked in the mountains of Eryri.

The above statement is at the heart of all our work, and steers the Partnership Board's decisions on development, investment, conservation and priorities.

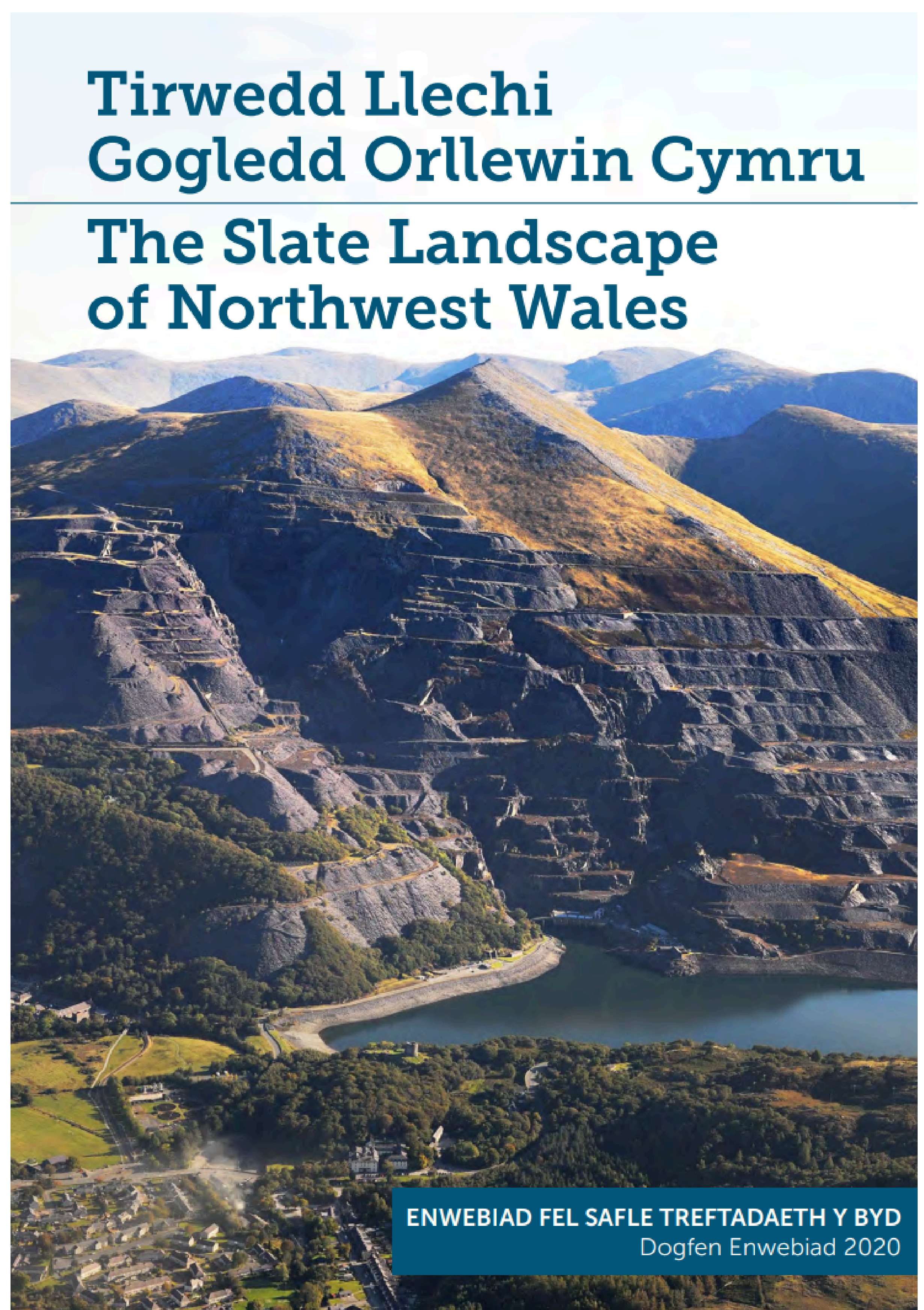
Vision

Our aim is to look after and celebrate the heritage of this compelling landscape. But this is also a living landscape - people live and work here. Our vision is to build on this prestigious status in order to protect our history and heritage, whilst promoting and improving the region for the benefit of local communities and businesses:

Protect, conserve, improve and convey the area's important features to reinforce the cultural uniqueness and strengthen the Welsh language, and become an important catalyst for economic regeneration and social inclusion

Click [here](#) to see the Nomination Document.

Click [here](#) to see the compendium of UNESCO World Heritage Convention Policies.



**Tirwedd Llechi
Gogledd Orllewin Cymru**
**The Slate Landscape
of Northwest Wales**

ENWEBIAD FEL SAFLE TREFTADAETH Y BYD
Dogfen Enwebiad 2020

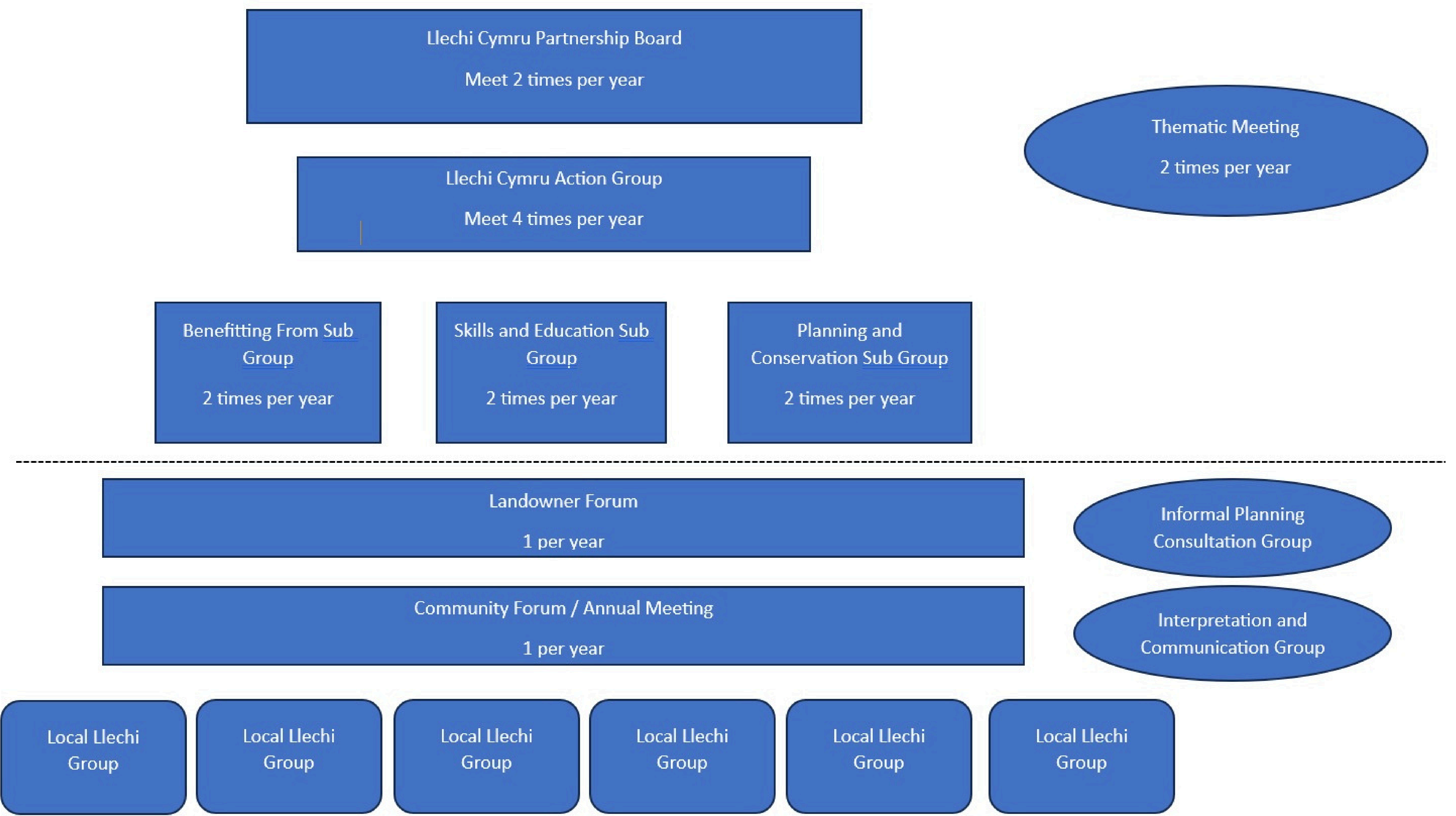
2. Governance and Management

Each WHS is managed by an accountable body, which in this instance is Cyngor Gwynedd, or more specifically the Llechi Cymru (Wales Slate) team. The team at Cyngor Gwynedd are responsible for the day to day running of the site at an operational level with partners across the landscape providing site-specific operational management and support for their sites.

The WHS Partnership Board is responsible for running the site at a strategic level.

We have adapted our Partnership structure during the past year, the new structure will be implemented from January 2025 onwards. This revision is intended to reinforce our aspiration to give everyone a voice within the WHS by ensuring communities, businesses, landowners and strategic partners are represented on our Partnership Board and within our sub-groups.

Llechi Cymru Governance Structure 2025 onwards



Click [here](#) to see the minutes of Partnership Board meetings.

For more information about the WHS management structure, and a current list of Partnership Board members, click [here](#).

The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales WHS Management Plan

The WHS Management Plan runs from 2020 to 2030, taking effect after inscription in 2021. A stand-alone, living document, the Management Plan sets out how the WHS is managed, cared for, developed and enjoyed. A corresponding Action Plan details how initiatives and strategies are implemented, whilst also serving as a monitoring tool. The Management Plan can be viewed [here](#).



Tirwedd Llechi Gogledd Orllewin Cymru

The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales

ENWEBIAD SAFLE TREFTADAETH Y BYD

Cynllun Rheoli
2020–2030

Meet the Llechi Cymru team



Roland Evans

Assistant Head, Economy and Community



Hannah Joyce

Slate Regeneration Programmes Manager



Dan Amor

Northwest Wales
World Heritage Coordinator



Tom Simone

Llewyrch o'r Llechi Project Manager

LleCHI LleNI Officers



Lucy Thomas
Project Manager



Bet Huws
Interpretation and Community
Engagement Officer



Ffion Gwyn
Learning and Skills
Development Officer

3. Caring for The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales



The WHS Conservation and Planning subgroup meets on a quarterly basis, discussing, developing and implementing appropriate conservation and protection measures. Group representation includes local planning authorities (Cyngor Gwynedd and Eryri National Park) and Cadw.

The physical legacy of the historic slate landscape must be preserved for future generations. This is also a living landscape, contributing to today's economic wellbeing. It is not the intention that the World Heritage designation will prevent change, but rather support and manage positive change.

Management actions are led by the approach presented in **Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales** (Cadw 2011).

Here are some examples of how conservation is being managed in the WHS.

Informal Feedback on Proposed Developments in the World Heritage Site

Developers are offered the opportunity to receive informal feedback on proposed developments in or near the WHS before entering the formal planning process. The sessions are voluntary, and to date positive feedback has been received from those who have attended. The sessions are an effective way to draw together representatives from planning, conservation, economic development and community consultation backgrounds to offer professional feedback in the context of the WHS. A variety of organisations from both the private and public sectors take advantage of these sessions. During 2023-24 we held 7 informal feedback sessions, with 5 of those applications progressing to the formal planning process.

For more information on the informal advice process, click [here](#).

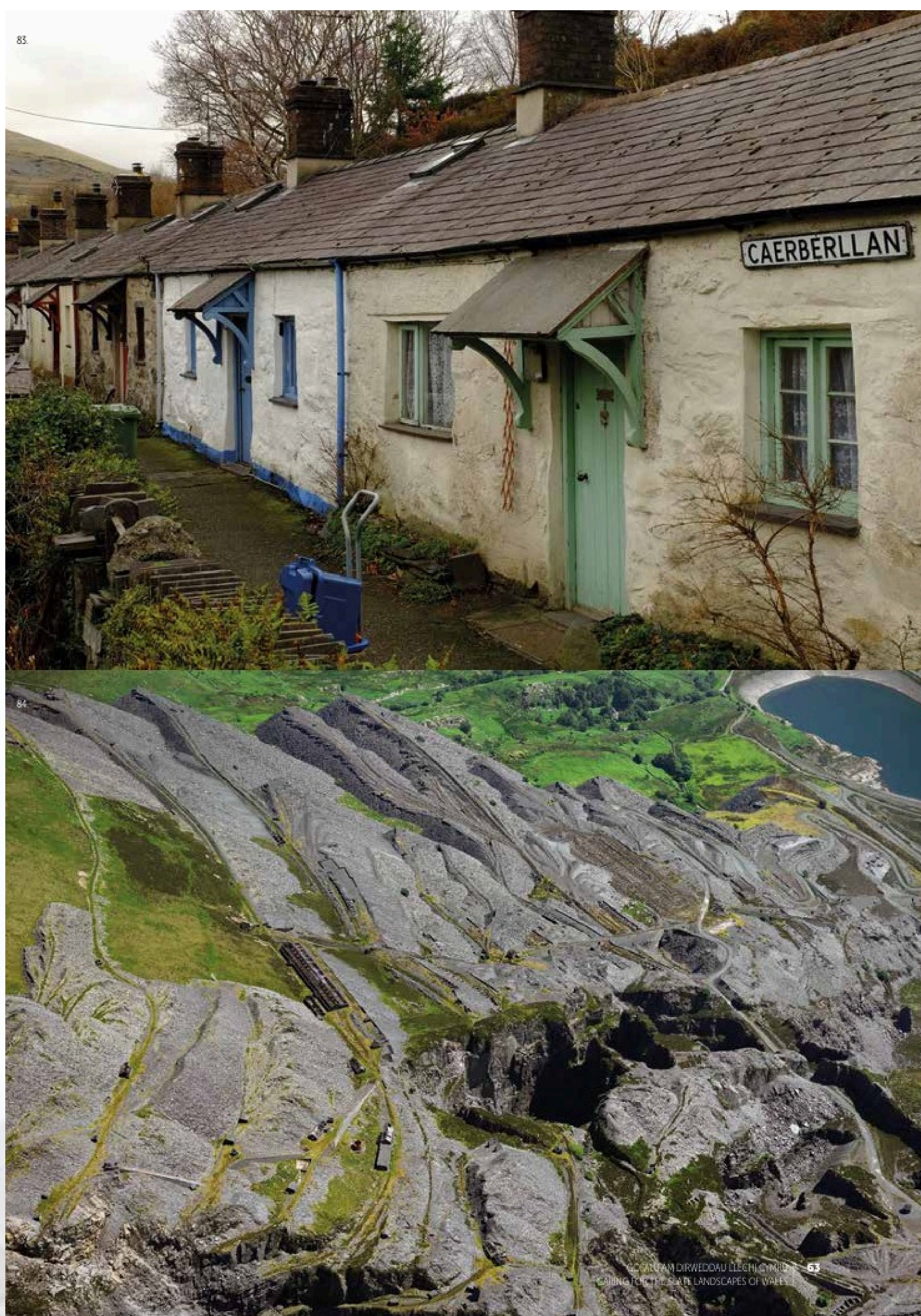
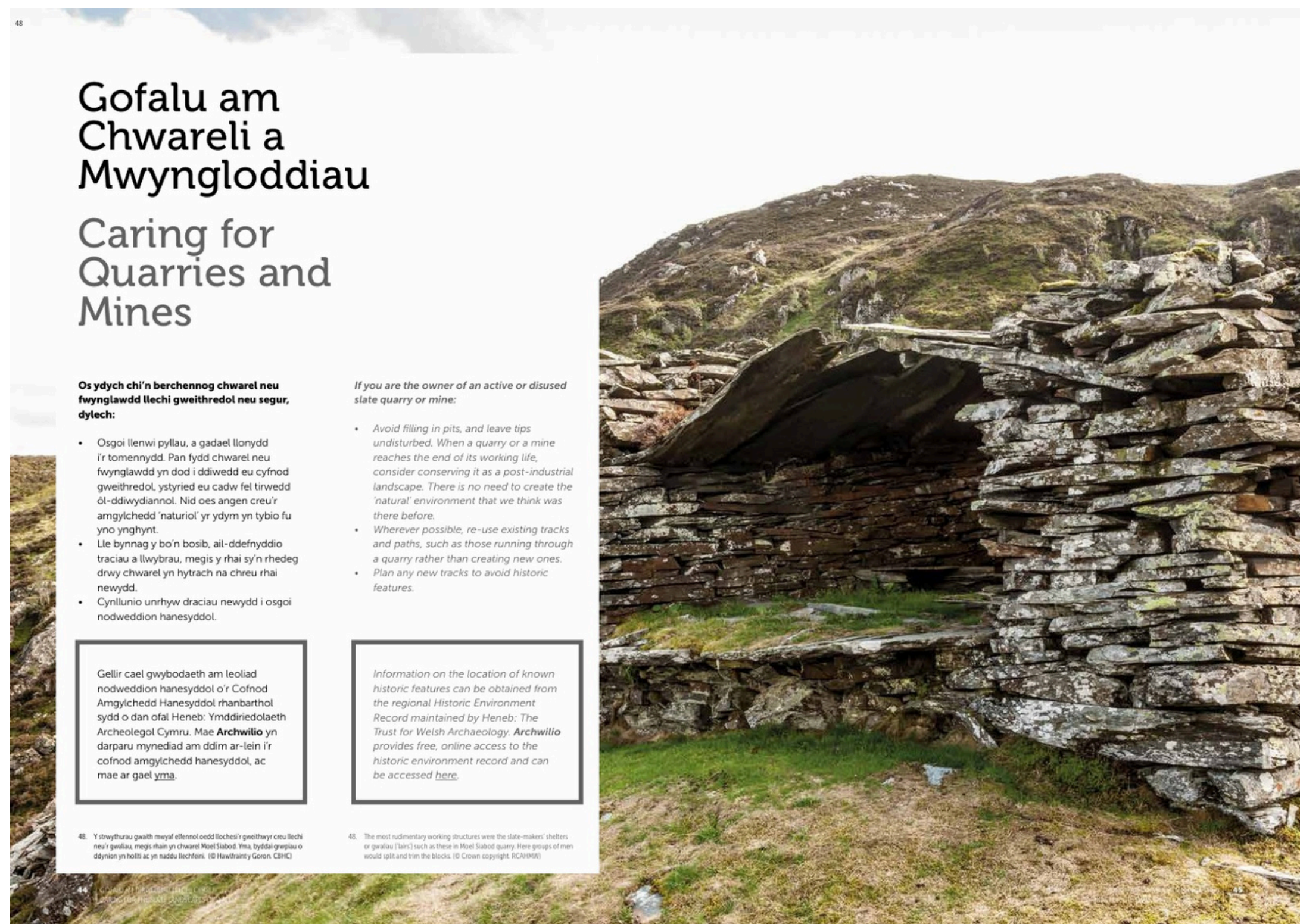
Gwynedd Slate Communities: Care and Conservation

If you are interested in the unique nature of the towns, villages and communities that form part of the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales, this is a booklet that is worth reading. Aimed at property owners, it outlines the rich heritage of our slate communities and offers practical advice on preserving and restoring the character of our buildings in order to conserve the important historic character of our slate communities. It provides a brief overview of planning policies and processes, and information on where to find further guidance. To view the guide, click [here](#).



Caring for The Slate Landscapes of Wales

A new, beautifully illustrated booklet, 'Caring for The Slate Landscapes of Wales', is also now available. This sets out a brief history of the slate industry, describes what makes slate landscapes special, and offers guidance on how to look after these important places. It is written for all of us who live and work in these landscapes, or who come as visitors. To view the online version, [click here](#). The booklet also serves as a companion piece for [Slate Communities of Gwynedd: Care & Conservation](#) (see above).

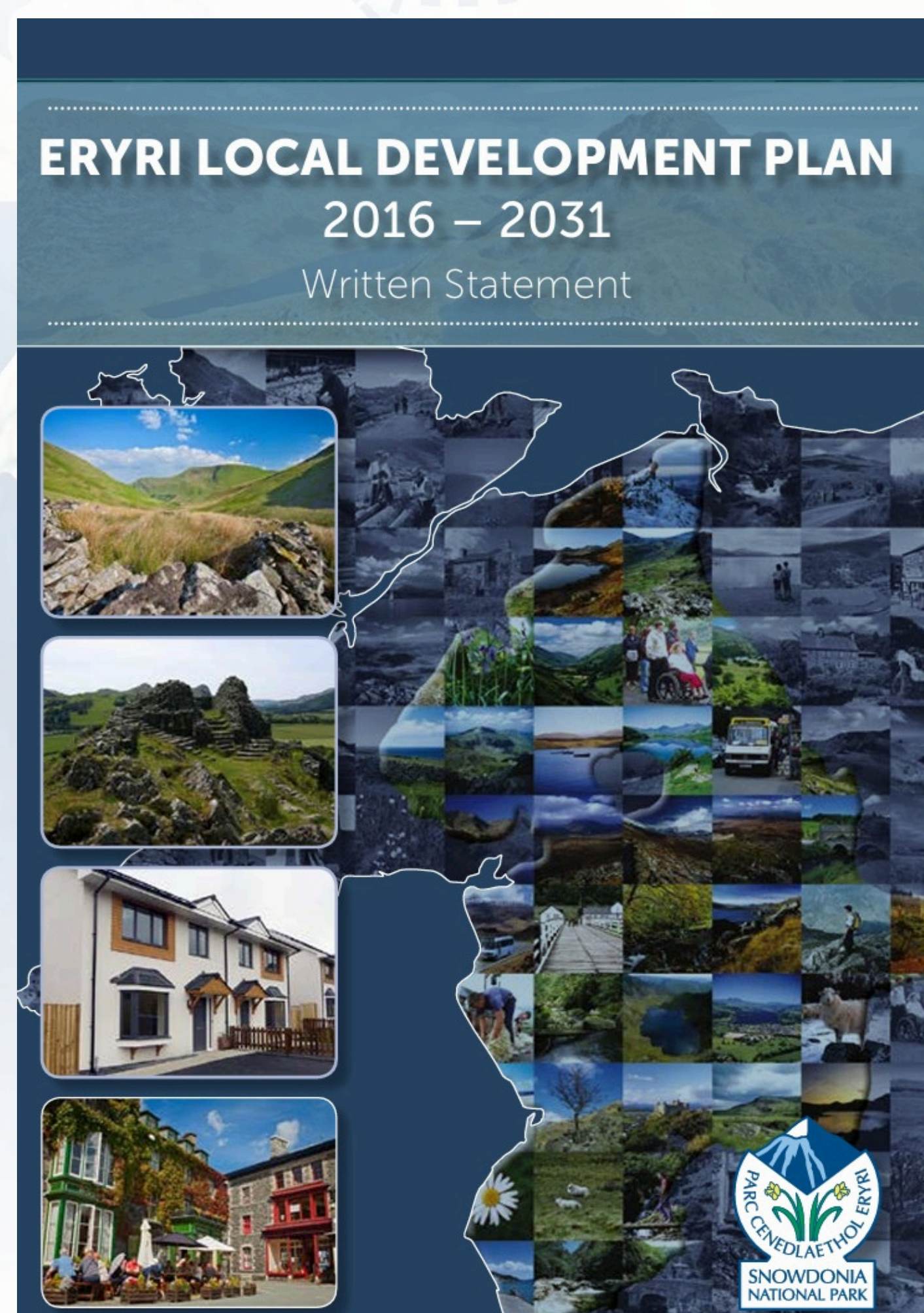
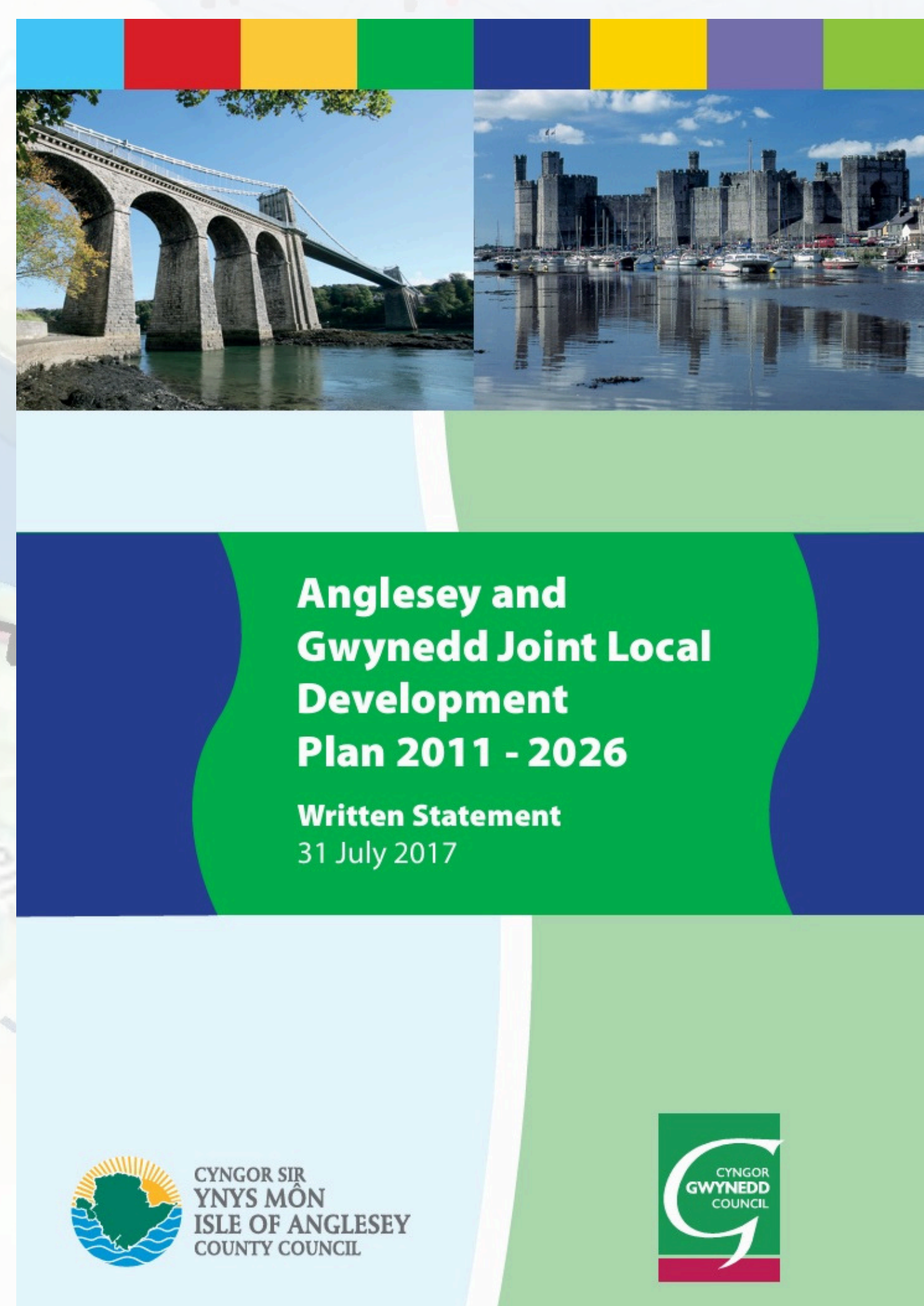


Planning

Two Planning Authorities oversee developments in the context of the WHS, namely Gwynedd Council Planning Authority and Eryri National Park Planning Authority. The legal requirement is that decisions on planning applications are made in accordance with the Local Development Plan that has been adopted. The local development plans adopted for the two Planning Authorities are:

- **Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan 2011 - 2026** and:
- **Eryri Local Development Plan 2016 – 2031**

Both of the above schemes include planning policies specifically relating to developments within the WHS or affecting the WHS setting and/or significant views in or out of World Heritage Sites, and both refer to the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales, which, at the time, had not been designated as a WHS by UNESCO as the application process for inscription was still ongoing.



In order to provide more detailed guidance to potential applicants, Councillors and planning officers, a document, **The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site Supplementary Planning Guidance** has been prepared by both planning authorities. The guideline was subject to informal consultation which included input from members of the WHS Landowners Forum, prior to a formal public consultation, following which the guidance was adopted by both authorities in 2022.

Since formal inscription in July 2021, both Authorities are required take into account World Heritage status when considering applications within and/or near the WHS, whilst also taking into account relevant planning policies and the aforementioned Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Although inscription means formal designation as a WHS by UNESCO, the slate landscape and its important features are already afforded protection via National Park status and the Register of Historic Landscapes.

Decisions on Planning Applications since Inscription

Since inscription the majority of planning applications submitted within and/or near the WHS area have been in Gwynedd Council's planning authority area, reflecting the more urbanised nature of this area as opposed to that of the National Park. See overview of the number of applications during the period and corresponding decisions.

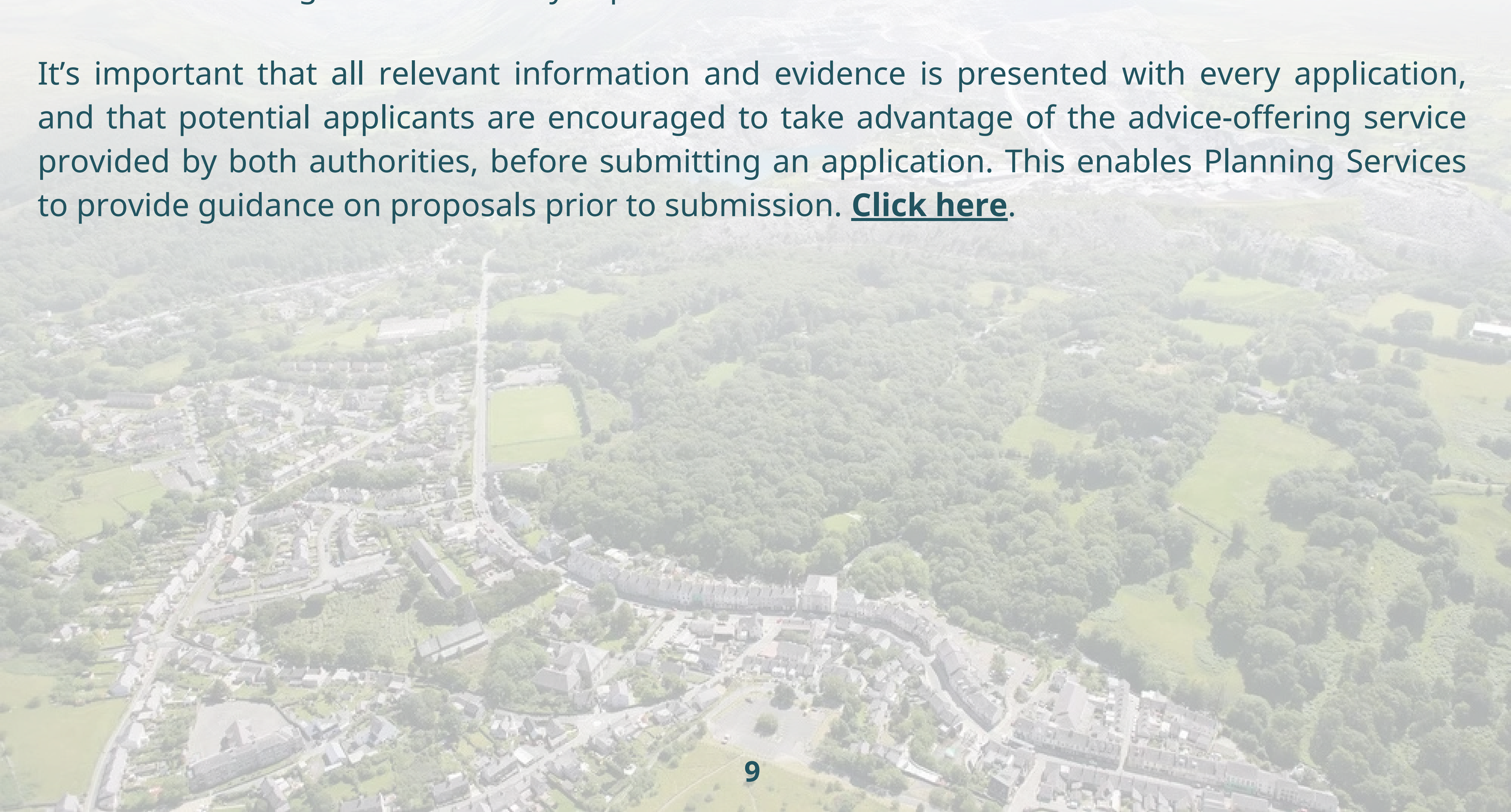
Out of the 88 rejected applications, only 3 applications included reasons for rejection referring to the WHS. However, it needs to be stressed that the WHS was neither the only nor main reason for rejecting those applications. The applications were rejected for reasons relating to design, visual impact and other planning reasons - even without WHS designation the 3 applications would have been refused in any case.

Total Applications	661
Granted	573
Refused	88
Refused (reference to WHS)	3

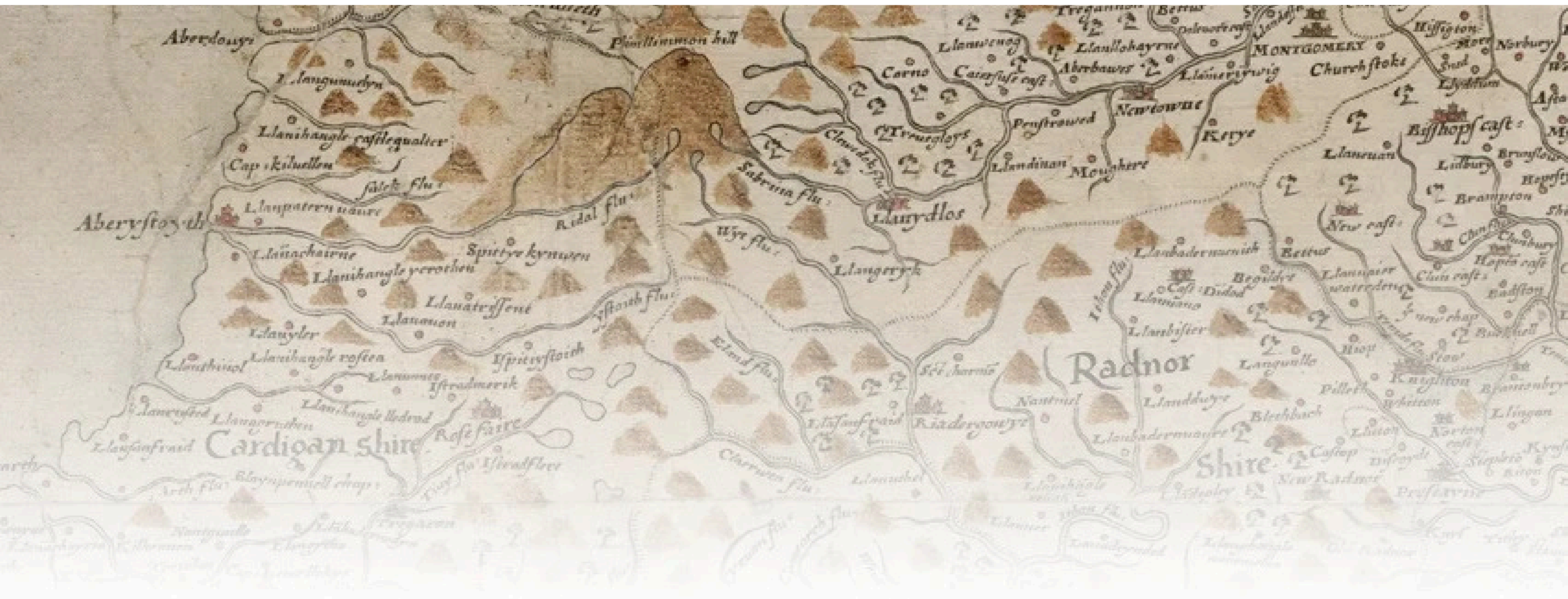
What difference has inscription as a World Heritage Site had on planning decisions?

The evidence in terms of decisions on planning applications since inscription tends to show that, so far, WHS status has had no significant impact on decision making regarding planning applications, and that this is likely due to existing protection - in terms of landscape and environment designations - already in place in the area.

It's important that all relevant information and evidence is presented with every application, and that potential applicants are encouraged to take advantage of the advice-offering service provided by both authorities, before submitting an application. This enables Planning Services to provide guidance on proposals prior to submission. [Click here](#).



The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)



The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are continuing with their important work in recording the historic place names of Wales. **The List of Historic Place Names of Wales** contains over a quarter of a million historic place names collected from various sources.

The list is compiled and maintained by the RCAHMW on behalf of the Welsh Ministers following the inclusion of a provision for a statutory list of historic place names in the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. An ongoing programme of work includes - working in collaboration with Eryri National Park - provision of sessions where members of the public are invited to contribute placenames. The Llechi Cymru team were in attendance at one such event in Dolbenmaen during summer 2024.

The RCAHMW have also been working with the British Mountaineering Council on the naming of areas, climbs and features at Dinorwig Quarry: [click here](#).

Diwrnod Galw i Mewn i Gymuned

Dolbenmaen

Community Drop In Event

Sesiwn galw mewn anffurfiol ar gyfer trigolion a chyfeillion cymuned Dolbenmaen i gasglu enwau tirweddol lleol a thrafod prosiect 5 mlynedd LleCHI LleNI Safle Treftadaeth y Byd Llechi Cymru a chynlluniau ail ddatblygu yr Amgueddfa Lechi Cymru, Llanberis.

An informal drop in session for residents and friends of the Dolbenmaen community to collect local landscape names and discuss the Llechi Cymru World Heritage Site LleCHI LleNI project and plans for the redevelopment of the National Slate Museum, Llanberis.

Canolfan Golan

3/10/2024

1-7pm

10

Conservation Works, Penrhyn Quarry Hospital

Through the Llewyrch o'r Llechi scheme, funded by the UK Government, emergency conservation work has been undertaken at Penrhyn Quarry Hospital (Dyffryn Ogwen).

Recently, the condition of the hospital has deteriorated, with failing masonry and growing vegetation. In early 2024, Highlife was commissioned to undertake emergency conservation work to protect the monument. A short film of the work can be viewed here: [**Penrhyn Quarry Hospital**](#).

Following this emergency work, we have commissioned Recclesia to carry out further work to protect the monument. The project is in partnership between Cyngor Gwynedd, Welsh Slate (as part of the Breedon group) and Cadw.



© Highlife Rope Access



Images: © Highlife Rope Access

The next phase of work will begin in November 2024, and is expected to last around seven months, focusing on preventing further deterioration and making the site more stable and safer for visitors. It will include:

- Stabilising and consolidating the deteriorating condition of standing walls by addressing structural defects
- Stabilising and consolidating the masonry and mortar pointing
- Introducing stone copings and flaunching to wall heads to reduce water ingress into the core of walls
- Conserving remaining architectural and historic elements
- Managing vegetation growth

Ensuring the structure is safe will also allow for ongoing maintenance in the future.

Open days will be arranged during the period of work to allow members of the public to see firsthand what is happening at Penrhyn Quarry Hospital. The project will not affect access to Lôn Las Ogwen.

Community Conservation, Tanysgafell Cemetery

As part of the development phase of the LleCHI LleNI project, a number of events and activities were piloted. In January 2024 sessions were held to clear vegetation and record information at Tanysgafell Cemetery, near Bethesda, working with Heneb: Gwynedd Archaeology. The gravestone recording element brought to light information on the whole community, from quarrymen and their wives and children, to those others who made up the quarrying community.



© Heneb: Archaeoleg Gwynedd

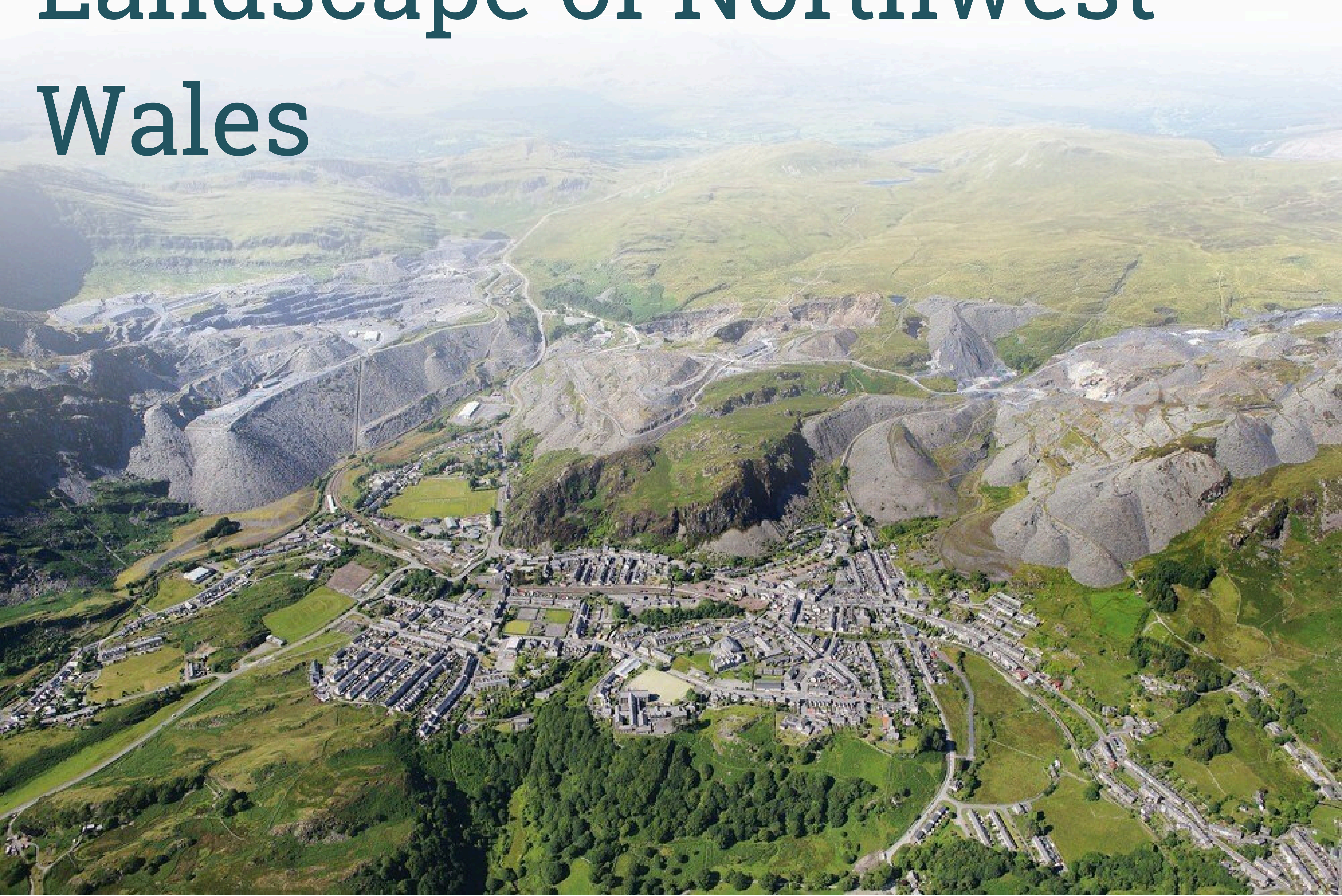


To ensure the project was open to as wide a range of attendees as possible, additional activities in the community included guided walks organised by a local historian and a genealogy session. The project captured the area’s imagination and spaces for the pilot event were filled within 24 hours of being advertised. The project also received wide press coverage, including an item on Aled Hughes' BBC Radio Cymru programme. The project will be extended across the WHS as part of the LleCHI LleNI scheme, moving to Bro Ffestiniog in 2024-25.



Delweddau: © Heneb: Archaeoleg Gwynedd

4. Sustainable Development in the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales



The WHS's vision prioritises supporting a sustainable, evolving landscape which supports economic development and the creation of vibrant communities, and support for the Welsh language.

The Benefitting from the WHS subgroup works in partnership with public, private, voluntary and third sector organisations, seeking to ensure WHS designation benefits our slate landscape communities.

Cyngor Gwynedd has secured over £30m of investment through grants for the area, and via partnerships that run significant schemes in the slate landscape, for the benefit of our communities.

Llewyrch o'r Llechi Scheme

In 2022, Cyngor Gwynedd secured significant UK Government funding for regeneration schemes using culture as a catalyst in the slate valleys. Over £18m was secured through a UK Government grant, with over £10m committed through match funding.

I am delighted to see that the World Heritage designation is now bearing fruit, resulting in significant capital investments across our slate communities. The improvements we will see over the coming months and years go to the heart of our communities and are projects which will promote pride in our heritage and history, for the benefit of our towns and villages into the future.

The revenue funding through the LleCHI LleNI scheme will complement this work, ensuring that all our communities within the slate landscape in Gwynedd have the opportunity to remember, recognise and celebrate our story and take pride in our language, culture and what our outstanding slate areas contributed to Gwynedd and to the world.



[Counsellor Nia Jeffreys, Deputy Leader of Cyngor Gwynedd and Cabinet Member for Economy and Community]

Only one in four applications to the Shared Prosperity Fund submitted by UK Local Authorities were successful. One of the strengths of the Llewyrch o'r Llechi application was the way it built on the priorities set out in the WHS Management Plan and the partnership approach to regeneration between Cyngor Gwynedd and delivery partners.

Hwb Ogwen

Neuadd Ogwen

Soundproofing and upgrades to the hall have been completed, with a new lighting system being installed in early 2025. Neuadd Ogwen will then be ready to relaunch itself as one of the area's finest cultural venues and welcome a range of exciting artists to Dyffryn Ogwen.



Yr Hen Bost

Partneriaeth Ogwen has appointed contractors to undertake this exciting regeneration scheme, including upgrades and extensions to the former Spar building on Bethesda High Street. Work will commence in January 2025. The program will provide a community hub, heritage centre, business units, café/restaurant, bike hire provision and creative space.



Improving Connectivity

Work has been completed on bridge and path upgrades near Porth Penrhyn, and work will start on Lôn Las Ogwen and Pont Sarnau in the coming months. The plan is designed to improve links between Bethesda and the slate landscape, to encourage a better understanding of this landscape and to improve leisure and wellbeing opportunities.



Hwb Dinorwig

Redevelopment of the Slate Museum

Plans to redevelop the National Slate Museum into the main hub of the WHS are underway. This includes undertaking significant conservation work, the creation of new education and exhibition spaces, improving access to the site (including a lift to the Pattern Loft), new interpretation, remodelling the café and shop spaces, and the creation of a new playground. One of the main aims of the development is to maintain the unique nature of the museum and ensure those elements which people consider important are preserved.

The Gilfach Ddu site has been closed for a period of 20 months in order to undertake the redevelopment. During this time the museum will have a temporary presence at the Dinorwig Quarry Hospital, Penrhyn Castle and Cei Llechi (Caernarfon). The museum will continue its important provision for communities during this exciting time.



Parc Padarn Improvements

A number of schemes are underway at Parc Padarn. This includes the re-purposing of historic buildings around the site, such as the Fire Queen Shed – enabling the return of the Engine to its original home - and transforming Hafod Owen into an interpretation and volunteering space. Conservation work is already underway on the A1 Incline and there are exciting plans for a new toilet and amenities block. There will also be interpretation and signposting work.



Hwb Ffestiniog

Aelwyd yr Urdd

The scheme to upgrade Aelwyd yr Urdd in Blaenau Ffestin for the proprtyiog is nearing completion, with improvements providing a high-quality youth and community centre for residents. This includes energy innovations to secure Passivhaus status for the property, ensuring the long-term viability of the building for Antur Stiniog.



Images: © Eiddo Antur Stiniog

Siop Ephraim and Chaffi Bolton

Work will start in the new year to return these two historic shops to use after many years of standing empty. Antur Stiniog will convert both properties into business and residential units, whilst also combining the ground floor of both building to provide a creative space.



© Eiddo Antur Stiniog

Llwybr Llechwedd

Work to create a footpath and cycle path to facilitate access between Blaenau Ffestiniog and Llechwedd Quarry is underway, it is anticipated that the scheme will be completed in early 2025. The plan was developed as one of the area's active travel priorities.



Town Centre Improvements

As part of the wider Llewyrch o'r Llechi scheme, plans for town centre improvement are being delivered in six of the main slate towns (Bethesda, Llanberis, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Penygroes, Tywyn and Porthmadog).

Public Art

We are proud to be collaborating with talented local artists in creating unique artworks for our slate towns. Projects were developed in partnership with local communities in order to convey the unique character of these areas, offering an opportunity to enhance an understanding of, and celebrate local identity.

The artworks will be installed during the coming months.



Small Infrastructure Improvements

You will notice improvements to the main destinations of the slate valleys over the coming months, as a series of small infrastructure improvements are undertaken. These include work to resurface footpaths and roads, replace bins and benches and the installation of slate strips into pavements, engraved with local sayings, names and poetry.

Signage

Work is underway to design and implement new signage schemes in our slate towns, the first phase involves the upgrading and updating of signposts. The new signage will be in keeping with interpretation panels to ensure consistency and recognition of the WHS brand across the slate landscape.

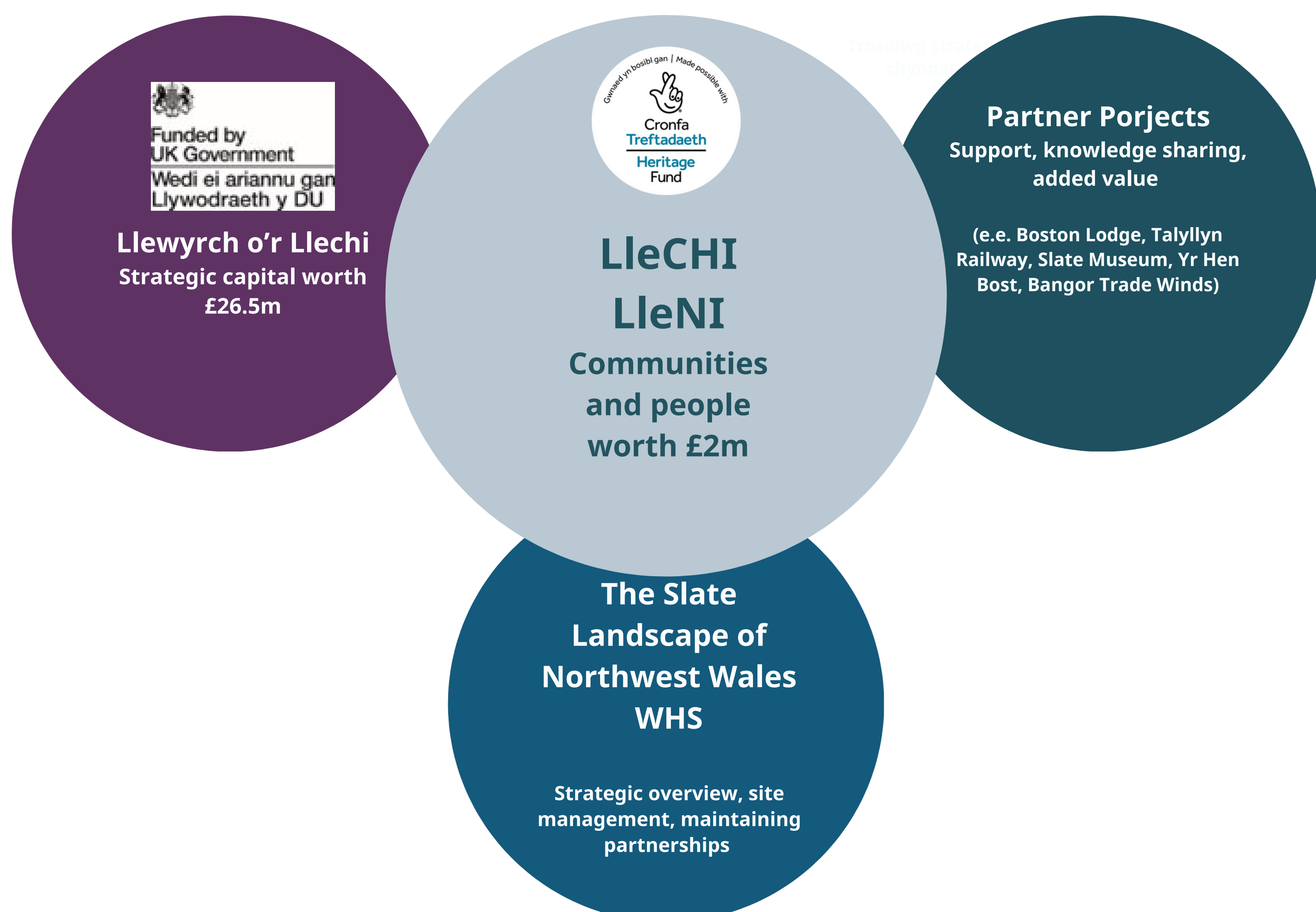




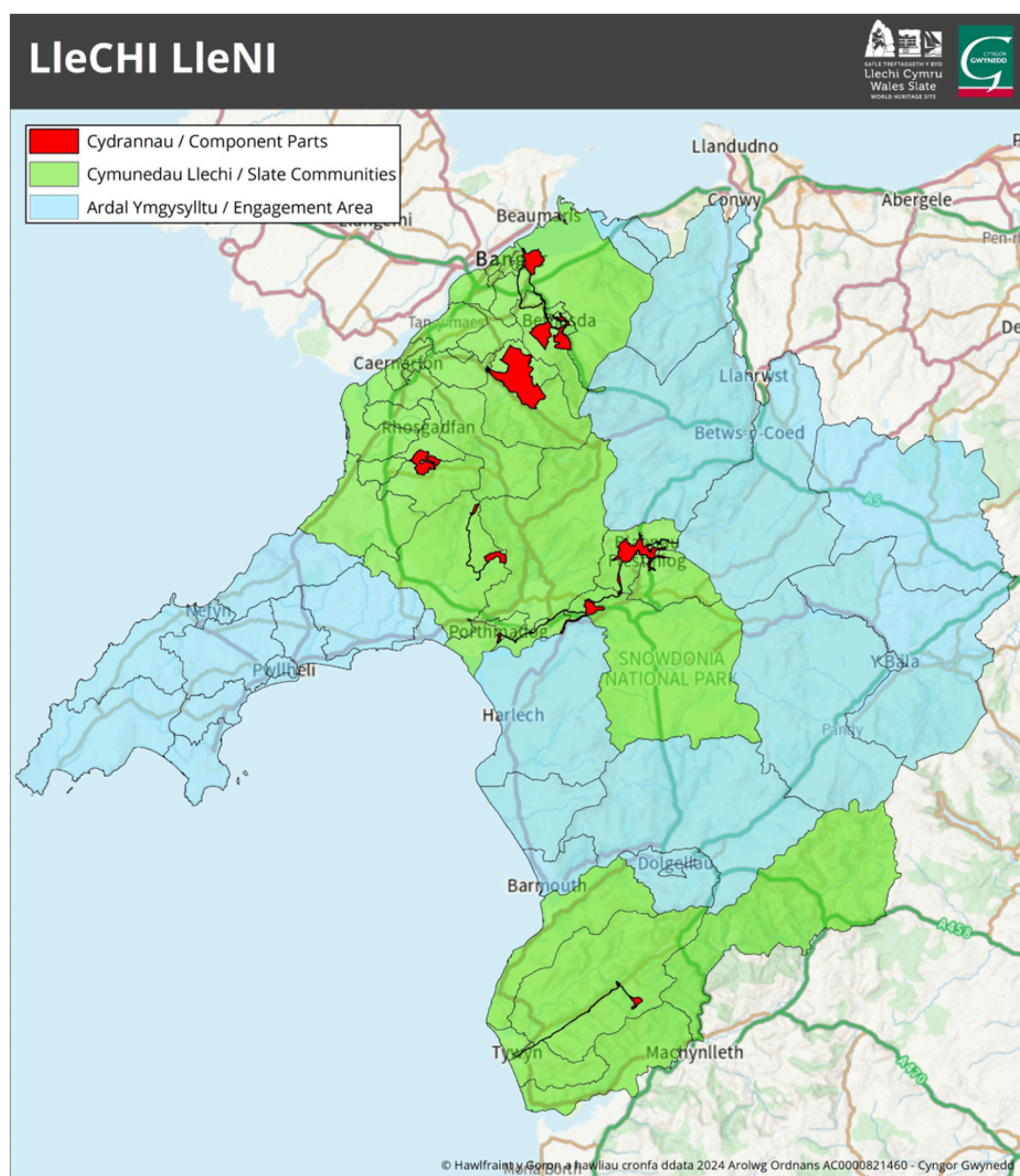
5. LleCHI LleNI: Our World Heritage Site, Our Pride, Our Future (National Heritage Lottery Fund project)

In July we received the excellent news that our application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund had been successful. LleCHI LleNI is a project worth £2m over five years (2024-2029). It is a vital part of a wider strategic effort by the WHS to ensure the widest range possible of people feel connected to the slate landscape, a strategic effort which endeavours to use UNESCO status as a stimulus for economic and social regeneration, aiming to empower communities across Gwynedd.

People-centred, LleCHI LleNI aims to provide engagement for all, instilling a strong sense of locality and pride in the slate landscape, improving wellbeing, providing opportunities, developing skills and boosting the local economy. We see it as the golden strand connecting all our efforts.



The project officially started in September 2024. A project team has been appointed including a Project Manager (Lucy Thomas), Interpretation and Community Engagement Officer (Bet Huws) and Learning and Skills Development Officer (Ffion Gwyn). All three are looking forward to working with a wide range of partners across the slate landscape. The first events as part of the project will take place in November 2024 including a lecture in Mynydd Llandygai and a walk in Deiniolen.



Who is the project for?

The LleCHI LleNI project will focus primarily on residents of all ages in the WHS communities but will also reach out across Gwynedd and engage with visitors to the slate landscape to promote sustainable, community-focused tourism. A number of target groups have been identified within our communities to ensure that a wide range of people are able to participate.

What activities will be part of LleCHI LleNI?

- Grants for community groups to develop their own slate projects to encourage wellbeing, skills development and pride in heritage
- Community forum: a community voice in the management of the WHS
- Interpretive work that tells the story of slate through the perspective of diverse communities
- Getting outdoors: guided walks and wellbeing activities
- Family drop-in sessions
- Protecting the WHS – heritage preservation activities and conservation sessions in the community
- Arts and cultural activities celebrating our slate heritage
- Activities to promote and improve biodiversity
- Performances – including drama, music and spoken word
- Oral history
- School workshops, outdoor excursions and online activities
- Young Slate Ambassadors – opportunities and skills development for 13-18 year olds
- Resources and activities for Welsh learners
- Traditional skills – formal accredited training and informal sessions
- Habitat and Community course - ambassadors supporting sustainable community tourism
- Business training - to help staff to convey information to customers and visitors
- Research – including exploring hidden or under-represented history
- Digital resources to help people access and connect to the landscape remotely
- Themed itineraries to promote eco-travel and sustainable community tourism
- Sharing of safety information and messages
- Volunteering opportunities

Business Events

The Llechi Cymru team, working in conjunction with Cyngor Gwynedd Business Support team have been organising a series of business breakfasts in different component parts across the World Heritage Site. The spring 2023 event, held in Zipworld, Bethesda, was fully booked. Sessions focus on how World Heritage status is benefitting local businesses.



Training

We have developed specific training to support staff working with the public across various organisations and businesses in Gwynedd to convey information and answer questions about the WHS. Our most recent event was at Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog.



...Useful to learn more about the designation and how this will be of benefit to Gwynedd and Eryri.

[attendee]

The Welsh Language

At least 65% of the population in the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales speaks Welsh (with a higher proportion in some areas). Welsh was the main language of the quarries, and the villages and towns that developed in the quarrying areas were - and continue to be - mainly Welsh-speaking communities. The growth of these towns and villages was a means of strengthening the language.

The language is central to our management of the WHS. Llechi Cymru activities and events are provided through the medium of Welsh (and bilingually where needed). All interpretation work in the WHS is bilingual.

One tier of our LleCHI LleNI project will be specifically aimed at Welsh learners: five years' worth of support, resources and activities.

One objective of the Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan 2035 is to measure the impact of tourism from a linguistic perspective.

We have Menter Iaith Gwynedd representation on our 'Benefitting from the WHS' subgroup.

See page 10 for information on the RCAHMW's work on recording Welsh placenames.



Gwynedd and Eryri 2035 Plan

In the past year we launched the Gwynedd and Eryri 2035 Plan, the area's strategic plan for realising a sustainable visitor economy.

The Gwynedd and Eryri Partnership 2035 has been established, which includes a Strategic Board, new Tourism Sector group as well as a number of subgroups in order to ensure ownership of the visitor economy for communities, businesses and the public sector. The partnership has developed a 2024-35 Action Plan which will respond to the area's opportunities and concerns; priorities for the future have also been discussed.

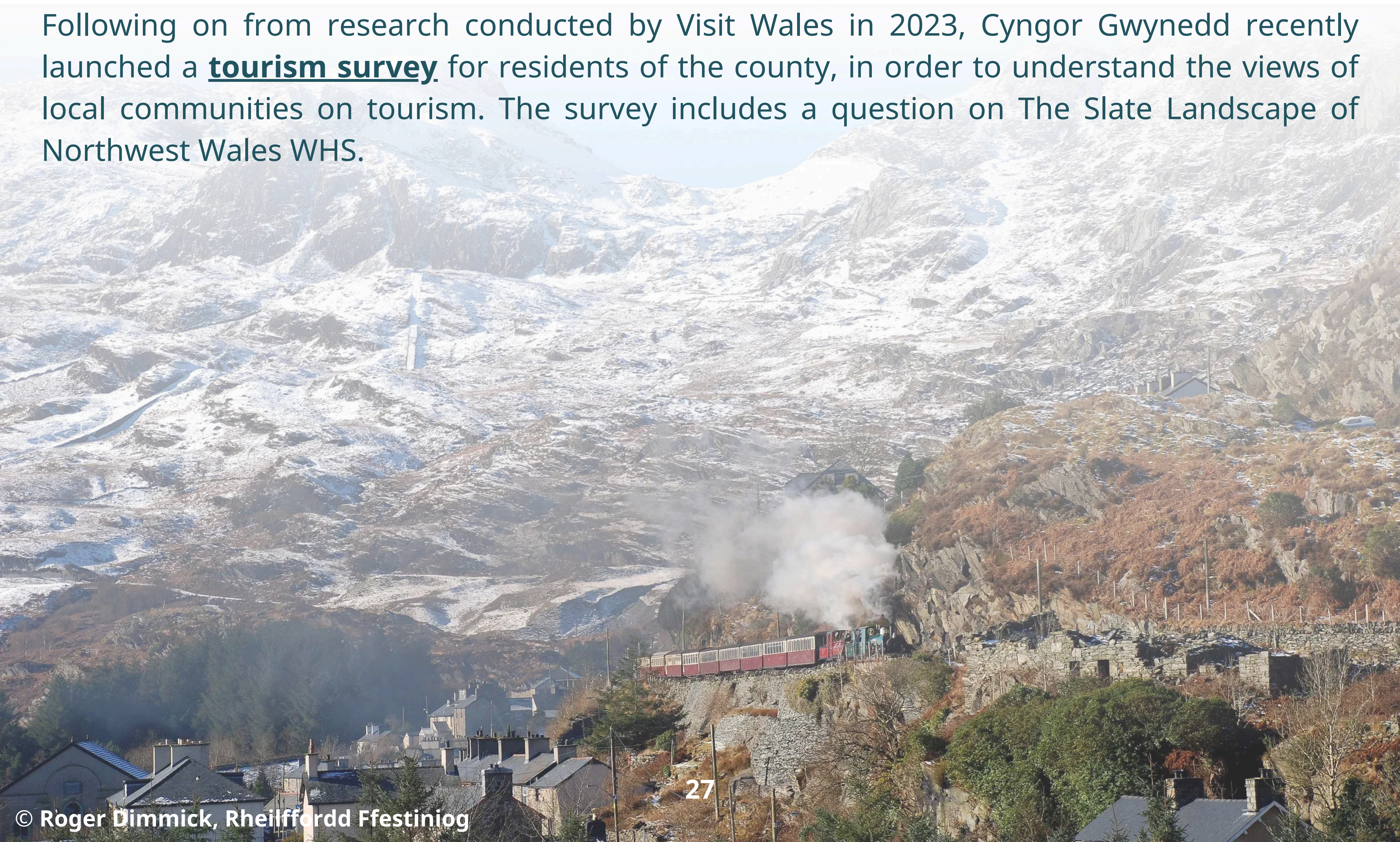
The Partnership elected two vice chairs – one from the community sector (Einir Young, Eco Amgueddfa Llŷn) and one from the business sector (Michael Bewick, JW Greaves & Sons) to ensure a balanced voice for all and fair representation in this Partnership.

Tourism is an important economic driver in Gwynedd and across much of the WHS. In terms of the visitor economy, developing the relationship between Llechi Cymru Partnerships and Gwynedd and Eryri 2035 will be crucial in order to take advantage of research and infrastructure investments, target overseas markets and to respond to local issues within our communities and destinations.

For more information on the Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy 2035, [click here](#).

Tourism Survey - Gwynedd Residents

Following on from research conducted by Visit Wales in 2023, Cyngor Gwynedd recently launched a **tourism survey** for residents of the county, in order to understand the views of local communities on tourism. The survey includes a question on The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales WHS.

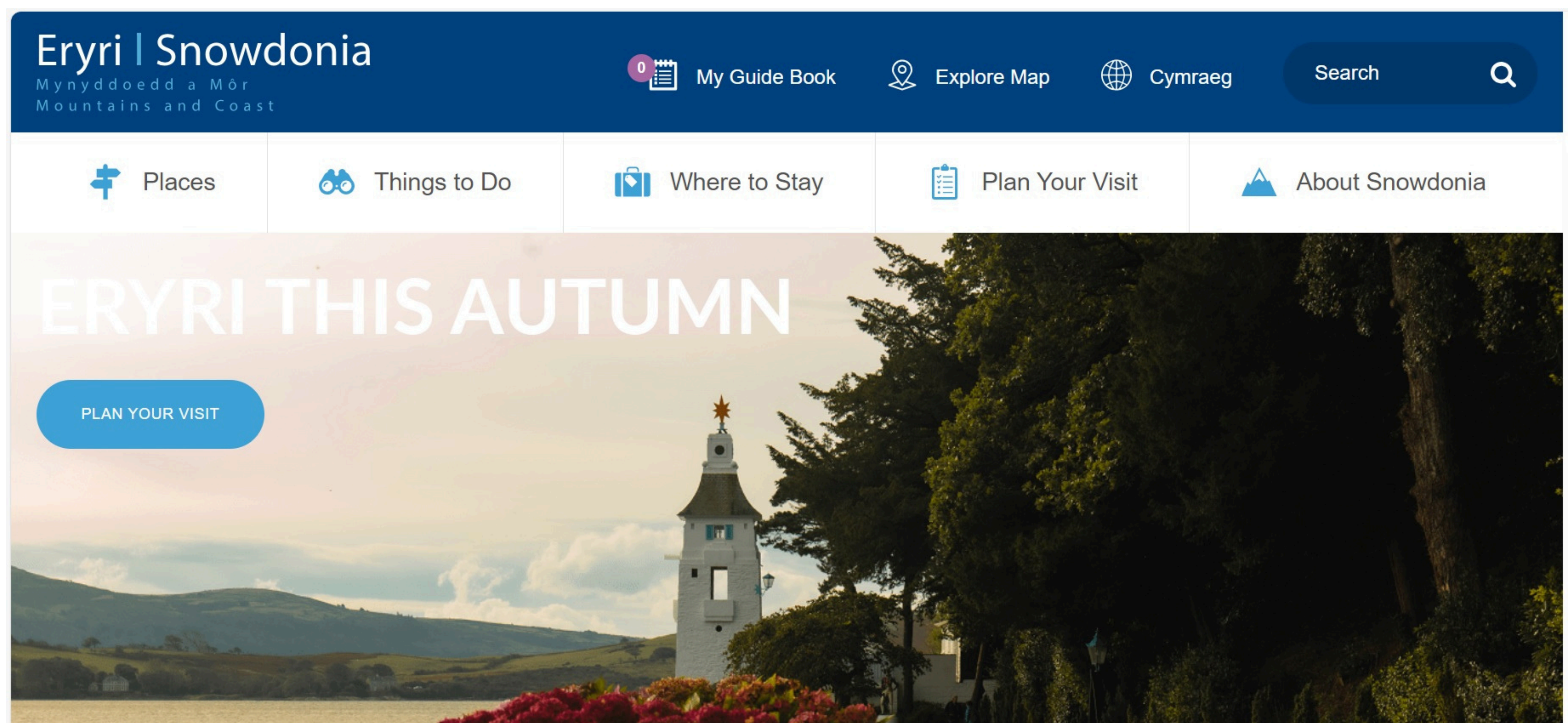


6. Enjoying The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales

One objective of our management plan is to ensure the WHS can be enjoyed, experienced and understood - by Gwynedd residents and visitors alike.

Eryri Mynyddoedd a Môr (Snowdonia Mountains and Coast)

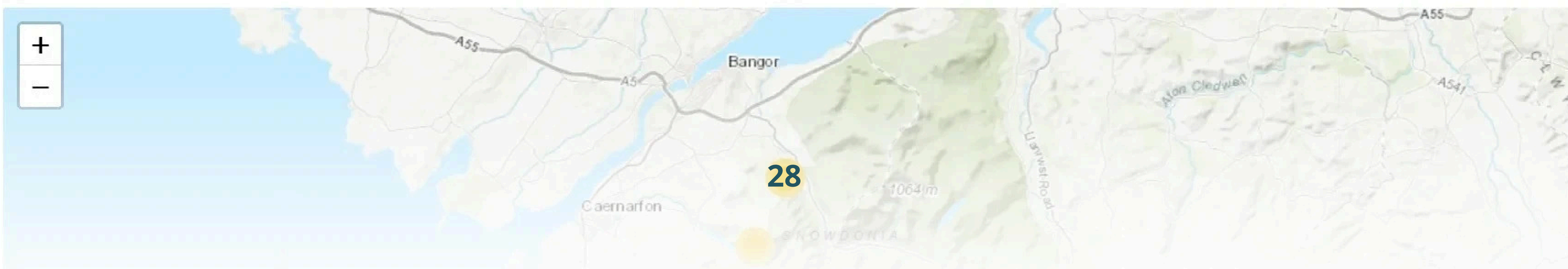
The [Eryri Mynyddoedd a Môr \(Snowdonia Mountains and Coast\) website](#) is a good starting point for those wishing to explore Eryri, and includes ideas on what to do and see in the WHS.



Slate Areas

Our own [Llechi Cymru website](#) also has a whole host of options on what to do and see in the WHS. The '[Slate Areas](#)' tab includes access information on walks, features and attractions in each component part. The 'Exploring the Area' menu, under the '[Resources](#)' tab lists a number of detailed itineraries, including information on [The Snowdonia Slate Trail](#), an 83 mile walk which '...takes you back to a time when Snowdonia was the centre of the slate industry'.

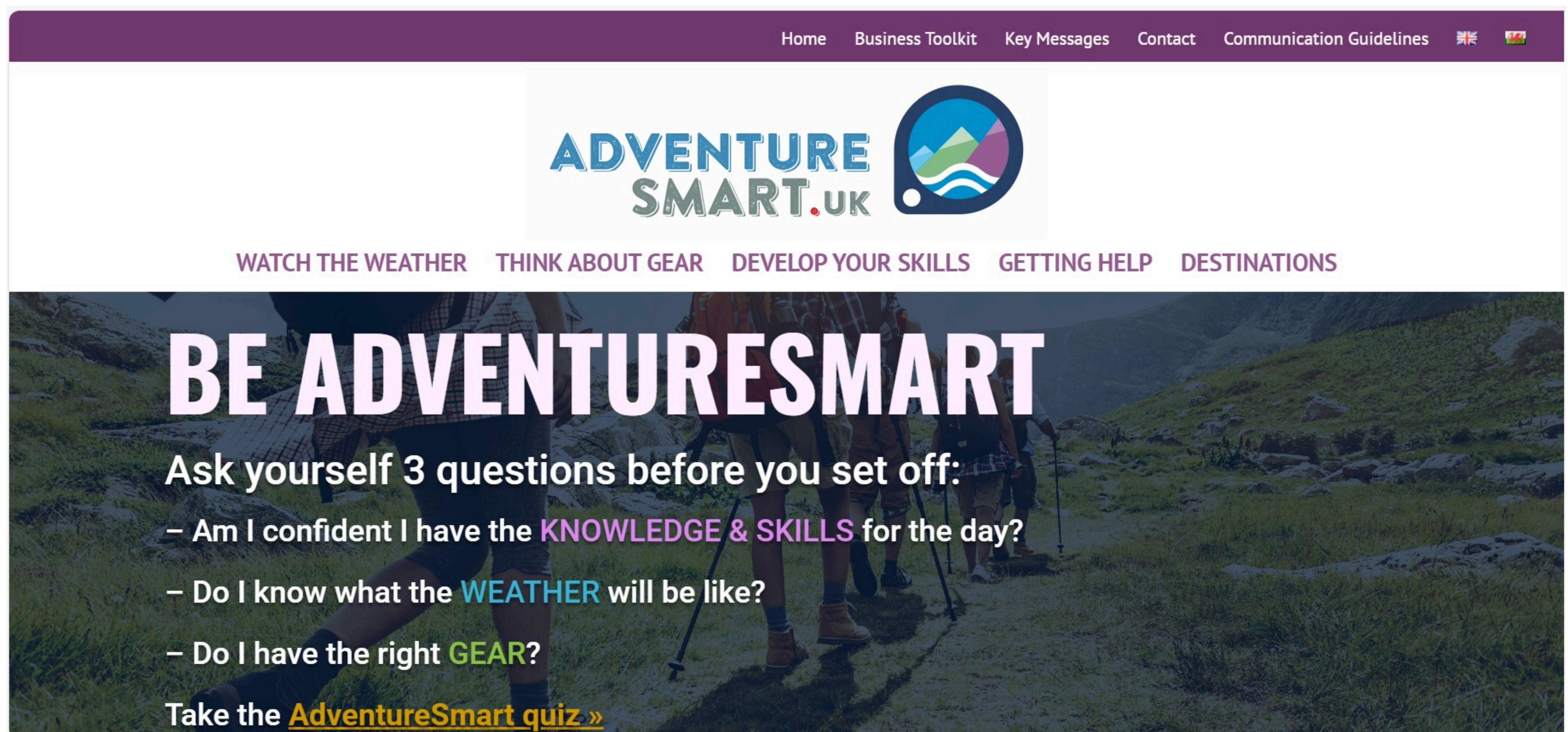
SLATE AREAS



Responsible Enjoyment of the Slate Landscape

A key aspect of our interpretation strategy is to encourage the responsible enjoyment of the WHS. This is a living landscape, and we ask those who come here to respect local communities and the wishes of landowners, and to respect our special historic landscape. Visitor infrastructure varies between each component part, this should be considered when planning your visit.

We also ask people to enjoy this landscape in a safe manner. Not all parts of the WHS are accessible to the public, some areas are dangerous. Some parts are upland areas exposed to the weather – it's important people consider these factors when planning their visit. There's more information on how to enjoy visiting safely [here](#).

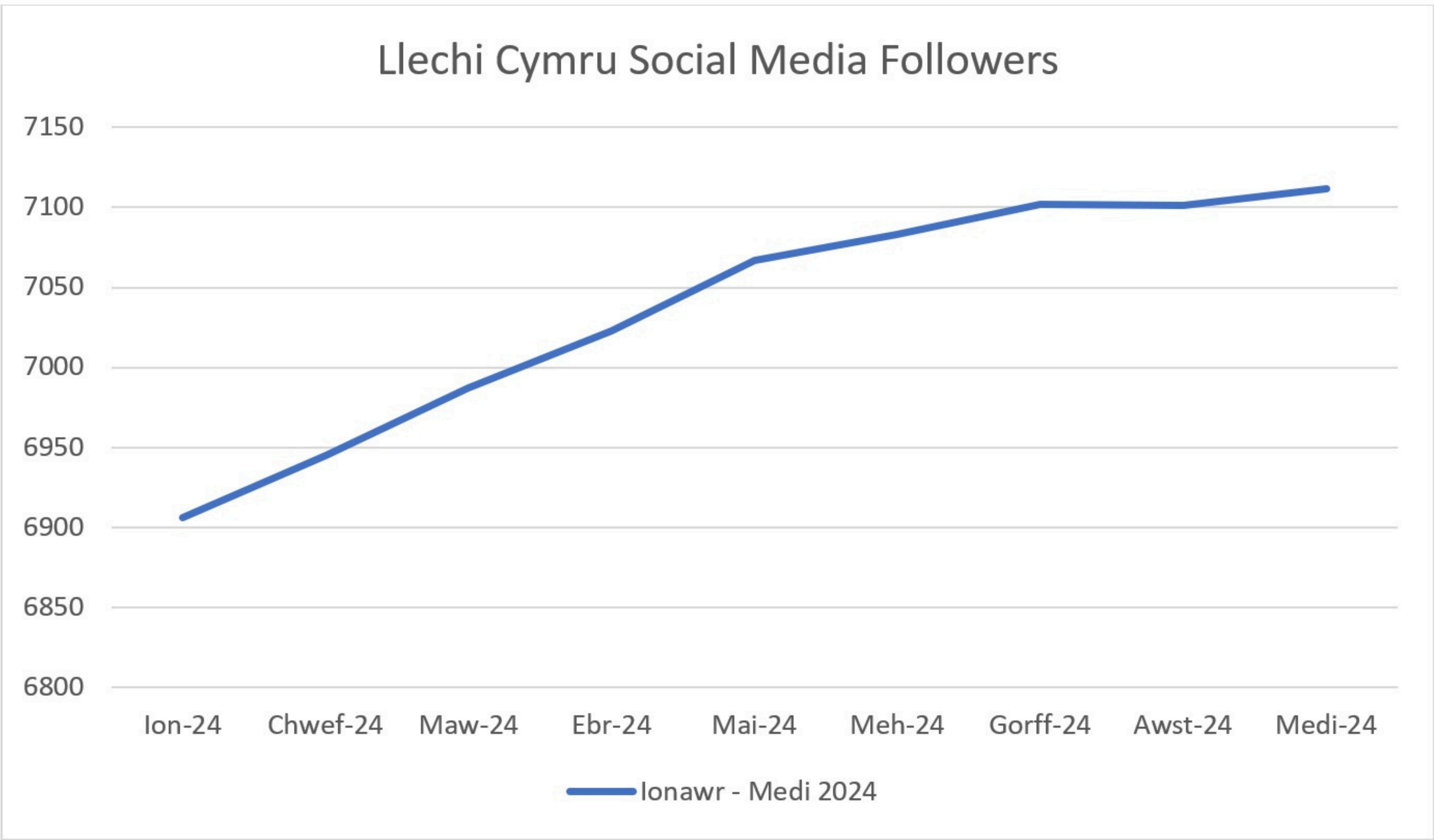


The screenshot shows the top section of the AdventureSmart UK website. The header is a dark purple bar with white navigation links: Home, Business Toolkit, Key Messages, Contact, and Communication Guidelines. Below the header is a white banner featuring the AdventureSmart UK logo, which consists of the text 'ADVENTURE SMART.UK' and a circular icon with a stylized mountain and waves. Underneath the logo is a row of purple navigation links: WATCH THE WEATHER, THINK ABOUT GEAR, DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS, GETTING HELP, and DESTINATIONS. The main banner below this features a background image of hikers on a mountain trail. Overlaid on this image is the text 'BE ADVENTURESMART' in large white letters, followed by 'Ask yourself 3 questions before you set off:' and a list of three questions: 'Am I confident I have the KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS for the day?', 'Do I know what the WEATHER will be like?', and 'Do I have the right GEAR?'. At the bottom of the banner is a link to 'Take the AdventureSmart quiz »'.



Social Media

Our social media following continues to grow and remains an effective means of information sharing. Content includes coverage of local businesses and social enterprises, news and events, project updates, safety messaging and general interest posts focussing on the historic landscape.





Llechicymru



 91

 4

 8



 Liked by  and others

Llechicymru Llechen addurnedig, Sling / Decorated slate, Sling... more

[View all comments](#)



Llechicymru
National Slate Museum



 69

 3

 4



 Liked by  and others

Llechicymru Arddangosfa **#HAENAU** / **#LAYERS** exhibition ~ gan/by... more

[View all comments](#)

A Snapshot of Events



March 2024
Business Breakfast, Zipworld



April 2024
Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Quarrymen's Union
National Slate Museum and Craig yr Undeb (Union Rock)

Ble i gael mwy o wybodaeth
Where to get more information

Cynnwys

1.	Cefndir	1.
2.	Llywodraethu a Rheoli	3.
3.	Gofalu am Dirwedd Llechi Gogledd Orllewin Cymru	6.
4.	Datblygu Cynaliadwy yn Nhirwedd Llechi Gogledd Orllewin Cymru	11.
5.	Mwynhau Tirwedd Llechi Gogledd Orllewin Cymru	16.
6.	Dysgu am Dirwedd Llechi Gogledd Orllewin Cymru	19.
7.	LleCHI LleNI: Ein Safle Treftadaeth y Byd, Ein Balchder, Ein Dyfodol (prosiect Cronfa Treftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol)	22.
8.	Gwybodaeth Bellach	26.

Cadw
National Trust
Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol Cymru
BANGOR UNIVERSITY
Ceredigion Council
Ymddiriedolaeth Archeolegol Gwynedd

Y Gronfa Ffyniant Bro (Llewyrch o'r Llechi)

Mae'r pecyn cymorth o'r cyllid Ffyniant Bro yn ein cynorthwyo i adeiladu ar y statws Treftadaeth y Byd.

Bydd gan lawer o deuluoedd lleol hynafol oedd yn gweithio naill ai'n chwaraeli Eryri neu ddwyddionau cysylltiedig, ac mae gennym le i ymfalchio yn y ffialth y bydd eu gwaddol iaith Gymraeg, dosbarth gweithiol, yn cael ei ddiogelu, ei hyrwyddo a'i ddiathlu, diolch i'r statws Treftadaeth y Byd UNESCO, o'n bod yn gallu defnyddio'r dymodlad fel ysgogydd i ddenu cyllid megis y Gronfa Ffyniant Bro.

[Cynghorydd Nia Jeffreys, Arweinydd Cyngor Gwynedd a'r Aelod Cabinet dros yr Economi a Chymunedau]

Dim ond un ym mhob pedwar cais i'r Gronfa Ffyniant Bro a gyflwynwyd gan Awdurdodau Lleol y DU fu'n llwyddiannus. Un o gryfderau'r cais Llewyrch o'r Llechi oedd y modd yr oedd yn adeiladu ar y blaenoriaethau a nodwyd yn y Cynllun Rheoli STyB a'r dull partneriaeth tuag at adfywio rhwng Cyngor Gwynedd a'r partneriaid cyllawnll.



Maer Mynyddiaw
Mae'r
gyda
treftadaeth
chyfrit
Mae'n
Cronfa T
mwyha
Yn dilyn reolaethau
cymunedol ymstrwyddwr
datblygu'r
Dyma rai o'r

Hwb Ogwen (Cydran 1)

munedau)

Awdurdodau
nodd yr oedd
neriaeth tuag

Gwneid yn bobol gan | Made possible with

Cronfa
Treftadaeth
Heritage
Fund

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd a'r bartneriaid STYb wedi cydnabod phwyysgwydd manteisio i'r eithaf ar lywyddiant prosiect LleChi CŵylG. Fel rhan o'r cynllun newydd, mae phwyllsais ar ddatblygu swyddogaeth cymunedau wrth reoli a datblygu'r STYb.

Mae grwpiau nad ydynt yn draddodiadol yn ymgysylltu â threfnadaeth yn cael eu targedu, gyda phwyllsais ar ddatblygu sgiliau a chreu cyfleoedd gwerfodoli a chyfogaeth yn y sector trefnadaeth. Mae bwriad hefyd i gryfhau rhydwethiliau a rhannu perchnogaeth leol a chryfoldeb am y STYb.

Mae nifer o'r themâu o'r amcanion a amlinellwyd yn yr adroddiad hwn yn ganolog i brosiect Cronfa Treftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol (er enghraifft, cadwraeth, twristiaeth gynaliadwy, mwynha'u'r STYb, dehongli ac addysg).

Yn dilyn rhwyd gytfa lwyddiannus y calis CŵylG, rydym wedi bod yn ymuno gweithgareddau, cynnal ymweith ac ymgysylltu gydag amrywiaeth o randdeiliaid ar draws y STYb wrth i wedd datblygu'r prosiect barhau.

Dyma rai o'r digwyddiadau a'r gweithgareddau rydym wedi gweithio amynt:

22

SAF
LU
V



SAFLE TREFTADAETH Y BYD
Llechi Cymru
Wales Slate
 WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Training course for businesses, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog



‘Rhannu’r Hen Fynyddoedd’ (Sharing the Old Mountains)
In association with Eryri National Park), Gŵyl Arall, Caernarfon



September 2024

'Exceptional Cultural Landscapes: World Heritage Designation'
The Society for Folklife Studies, Galeri, Caernarfon



October 2024

Drop-in day, Golan Centre, Dolbenmaen



June 2024
Llechi Cymru Talyllyn Railway trip



7. Learning about The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales

A key objective is to ensure the WHS is a focus for shared learning and research, in order to foster an understanding and appreciation of this landscape's values and attributes.

Bangor University



MODULE HPH-4034: WORLD HERITAGE

Bangor University is a WHS Partnership Board member. Two undergraduate BA programmes include content on the two World Heritage Sites of Northwest Wales, as does the MA in Global Heritage. Cyngor Gwynedd and Cadw staff contribute to annual lecture programmes.

Sarn Wyth-dŵr bridge, Dyffryn Nantlle

Dorothea Pumped Hydro and Bangor University are working together in a long-term ongoing partnership to bring forward the heritage component of Project Dorothea. In September 2023 the team conducted work at the Grade II listed Sarn Wyth-dŵr as part of this heritage endeavour. The work of Bangor University staff and students in collaboration with Heneb led to a reinterpretation of the bridge. Originally the bridge was thought to date from the 19th century but investigations by Project Dorothea team found that the bridge pre-dated the quarry and formed part of the road across the Llyfni river before it's diversion.

The project involved vegetation clearance at the site in order to allow a condition survey, and allowed the production of a 3D model of the newly accessible parts of the structure.

This was an excellent opportunity for students to gain crucial archaeological field work experience and was successful in engaging the Nantlle community with the heritage and longer-term history of the quarry site.

Education and Learning Group

As part of our revised governance structure, we're currently in the process of setting up an Education and Learning group. This will include representation from across the education sector. A live scoping document has been produced detailing current educational provision relating to the WHS, including information on services provided by Gwynedd Archive Service, The National Slate Museum, Eryri National Park, Heritage Railways, The Snowdonia Slate Trail, social enterprises and our own educational remit as Llechi Cymru.

Working with Schools

In 2023 the Llechi Cymru team undertook engagement work with secondary schools in the WHS. We sought input from young people on how to run our forthcoming Young Slate Ambassadors project, which forms part of the LleCHI LleNI National Heritage Lottery Fund project.


Young people provided valuable input on the kind of activities they'd like to participate in whilst learning about the historic landscape.



Cadw have been working on a slate landscape educational resource pack for primary schools.

The Snowdonia Slate Trail are producing a series of resources enabling primary school learners and teachers to use open-source digital platforms to learn about the slate landscape. Scalability of approach means these resources could be rolled out to other target age groups and audiences in the future.


A slate landscape-related activity, ‘How has the landscape in Eryri been shaped by Slate?’ is now available on [Tirlun](#).





Outdoor learning through
Wales' landscapes

[HOME](#) [EXPLORE](#) [ABOUT ACTIVITIES](#) [ACTIVITIES](#) [USEFUL LINKS](#) [CYMRAEG](#)

HOW HAS THE LANDSCAPE IN ERYRI BEEN SHAPED BY SLATE?

 Eryri National Park

Expressive Arts; Health and Well-being; Humanities; Languages, Literacy and Communication; Science and Technology



Gwynedd Ambassador and Eryri Ambassador Courses

The Gwynedd Ambassador and Eryri Ambassador courses offer on-line training opportunities where participants learn about what makes Gwynedd and Eryri such unique and important places.

The programmes include a UNESCO World Heritage Sites module.



Gwynedd Ambassador course: [click here](#).



Eryri Ambassador course: [click here](#).

8. Further Information

For more information on what we've got planned go to www.llechi.cymru or contact llechi@gwynedd.llyw.cymru.

Social Media (click):



LLEWYRCH O'R LLECHI

Programme of improvements
underway, value of £30m across
the Slate Landscape



Llechi Cymru identified as an example of
best practice in community engagement
and co-creation by UNESCO

300+

of secondary aged
pupils been part of
consultation
sessions regarding
the new Young
Slate Ambassadors
programme

Secured support from the National Lottery
Heritage Fund for the **LleCHI LleNI** for a
period of 5 years



4 PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETINGS



Llechi Cymru Team



Appointed 5 new roles

£21m

Total of direct grants
awarded to Cyngor
Gwynedd secured
since inscription

8

 Conservation
Area Reviews

Business
Breakfasts



Number of
individuals /
organisations on
WHS sub groups
200+

19

Number of tools on
Llechi Cymru website

including itineraries, planning information
and resources for businesses

Training
sessions for
customer
facing staff



The National Slate
Museum has closed
for major
redevelopment



REVIEW OF WHS
MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

7

 Informal feedback
sessions for
developments
within / adjacent to
the WHS

Bangor University MA course still running





SAFLE TREFTADAETH Y BYD

Llechi Cymru Wales Slate

WORLD HERITAGE SITE



unesco

The Slate Landscape of
Northwest Wales
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2021