Llechi Cymru update: click here

The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site Partnership Board

Meeting notes: 25/09/2026

Apologies: Ashley Batten (Cadw), Gareth Jones (Cyngor Gwynedd), Naomi Jones (ENPA), Jonathan Cawley (ENPA)

Present: Roland Evans (Chair, Cyngor Gwynedd), Kate Roberts (Cadw), Michael Bewick (JW Greaves), Phil Bushby (Museum Wales), Ceri Williams (Castell Penrhyn), Cyng Elwyn Evans (Llanfihangel y Pennant Community Council), Dafydd Roberts (Partneriaeth Ogwen / Dyffryn Ogwen), Dafydd Gwyn (Govannon), Hannah Joyce (Cyngor Gwynedd), Lucy Thomas (Cyngor Gwynedd), Nia Haf Lewis (Cyngor Gwynedd), Bethan Jones (Cyngor Gwynedd), Sian Rees (ICOMOS), Dan Amor (Cyngor Gwynedd)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies RE

- Apologies were noted and all were welcomed

2. Minutes of the previous meeting, matters arising RE

- All actions have been followed up
- No response from Dŵr Cymru (representation, governance structure)
- Former quarrying landscapes workshop, summer campaign on destination marketing in the WHS and community representation at Partnership Board were covered later during meeting
- As agreed during the last meeting, Llechi Cymru initiated a summer campaign, promoting various activities and 'things to do' etc., in the slate landscape, in lieu of the temporarily closed National Slate Museum. The campaign consisted of social media elements and the creation of four online articles, targeting various audiences, hosted on the Eryri Mynyddoedd a Môr (Visit Snowdonia) website

3. Risk register DA, HJ

- Main risks relating to the WHS Conservation and Planning subgroup were outlined (some items on the conservation section need rewording)
- DA summarised progress on heritage crime (raised during the last Board meeting):
- A new group now meets regularly (landowners, Cadw, Cyngor Gwynedd, North Wales Police). Attempting to address incidents, Llanberis area. Mitigation includes assessing current CCTV provision and proposed increased police patrols
- Breedon have expressed an interest in joining the heritage crime group
- We discussed recent incidents (Maenofferen, Bethesda)
- There is currently greater risk of heritage crime at the National slate Museum (perimeter walls have been taken down temporarily as part of redevelopment project)
- LleCHI LleNI project has produced heritage crime related school resources and has been conducting heritage crime related school sessions
- **Action DA: continue to organise heritage crime group meetings and re-circulate information on reporting procedure to partners and stakeholders**
- Risks related to the WHS Benefitting subgroup remit:
- Landowner perception that the WHS has a negative effect on development:
- It was agreed there is probably less concern about this now, but it was acknowledged there may be a broader challenge in terms of planning services (response times, capacity)
- Perception that the WHS has increased the number of visitors in sensitive areas:

- WHS social media content attempts to mitigate this. For example, we never promote sensitive areas of component parts. We've had stakeholder reports that there is currently less public concern regarding parking problems in Talysarn (access to Dorothea). Early indications from recent research suggests most 'off piste' visitors at Dinorwig Quarry aren't aware the quarry is part of a WHS and are visiting because they've seen the site featured on Instagram
- It was agreed that risk should be discussed near the beginning of future meetings, where we will summarise main risks - as we did today - rather than go through the entire document
- Education subgroup meets next week

4. Horizon scanning HJ

- We recently completed our midterm management plan review, we're halfway through the LleCHI LleNI project; there's a new government. It's timely, then, that we look to the future and asses our strategic objectives
- Conservation and Benefitting groups also discussed horizon scanning during their respective meetings
- We could conduct a horizon scanning exercise via a thematic session (or more than one if needed), bringing together representation from across our governance structure under the five management plan themes
- An independent facilitator could be contracted, enabling Llechi Cymru officers to contribute more fulsomely to the session
- Such a session (or sessions) should focus on ascertaining what our strategic objectives are, before moving on to assess how our shorter terms objectives and projects fit into these
- Session should also look at how our objectives fit into wider Cyngor Gwynedd strategic objectives
- We would discuss how WHS objectives align with the new government's Culture, Heritage and Sport strategy and Well-being of future Generations Act
- All agreed the above suggestions constitute the best approach

5. Management structure KR, HJ, RE

- Cadw representation on WHS Partnership Board - all agreed to the following arrangements:
- AW is now chair of WHS Conservation and Planning group, and as subgroup chairs sit on the Partnership Board he will also represent the Conservation and Planning group at board level
- KR has stepped down from her role as chair of the Conservation and Planning group, but will continue to sit on Partnership Board, representing Cadw in her new capacity as Chief Executive
- RE and MB thanked KR for her dedication during her time as chair of the Conservation and Planning subgroup
- Community representation on WHS Partnership Board – we've invited feedback on current arrangements from those representing their communities at Board level, of which not all attend Partnership Board meetings
- We could directly follow up with those who haven't responded but it should be pointed out we are in contact with many of these community representatives on a weekly basis at an operational level
- HJ thanked those who did respond (who also happened to be present in this meeting)
- Everyone agreed to extending the period of Board membership to three years
- **Action HJ: arrange briefing session on the role of those representing their communities at Board level, DR and EE agreed to take part**
- We'll look at the function of community representation when a component part covers more than one community or area etc.

6. WHS update KR, MB

WHS Conservation and Planning subgroup, KR

- KR feels the group is in a good place as she departs as chair
- The group is an important means of updating everyone on conservation related workstreams in pertaining to the WHS
- The group has begun to discuss future priorities
- We're working on an application for Cadw grant aid for several assets in the slate landscape. Initial condition appraisals could lead to a larger programme of works
- **Action AB: update DR on the above application in terms of Dyffryn Ogwen proposals / assets**
- We're working towards producing guidance on the management of former quarrying landscapes

WHS Benefitting subgroup, MB

- Recent meeting of the group was productive, although there could be greater private sector representation
- MB summarised the positive progress of some stakeholders (Project Dorethea, Breedon, Snowdonia Slate Trail)
- We revisited the earlier discussion on risk (see item 3)
- We again discussed the importance of horizon scanning in order to prioritise strategic objectives
- MB summarised the itinerary for the forthcoming Visti Britain day on the Ffestiniog Highland Railway (a valuable opportunity to highlight some of our WHS success stories since inscription)
- In response to a query regarding the lack of visible archaeological remains at Bryn yr Eglwys Quarry, LT explained that the LleCHI LleNI project is looking into the possibility of digital interpretation at the site and has been in discussion with Natural Resources Wales

7. Funding update HJ, LT

Llewyrch o'r Llechi, HJ

- Funding update doc was circulated prior to the meeting and has been circulated again with these notes
- **Action HJ: circulate Llewyrch o'r Llechi independent evaluation once document is made public**
- PB provided an update on the National Slate Museum redevelopment:
- Some challenges but on the whole the project is progressing well
- New shop and welcome area, learning space, temporary exhibition area, event space and new space
- for slate splitting and dressing demonstrations are all taking shape
- There's been a good deal of conservation-related work on site
- Currently looking at spring 2028 for reopening
- Pleasing progress with the Museum on the Move programme
- Members were invited to book a hard hat tour of the site and / or to view the collections in their current altered context at the temporary storage space in Llandygai

LleCHI LleNI

- Funding update doc was circulated prior to the meeting and has been circulated again with these notes
- EW thanked the project for helping bring the wagon public artwork CP 6
- Signs will soon be installed indicating towns and villages are part of the WHS

8. Any other business all

- Plas Tan y Bwlch (ENPA): application for development phase has been submitted to NLHF, response expected by December. Thanks to Llechi Cymru and Cyngor Gwynedd for the support
- Llechi Cymru annual event: 22/10/26, Plas Tan y Bwlch. Click here for further information and to book a place. Members were asked to contact us if interested in hosting a stall at the event
- Keeper's crossing cabin, Tregarth (in relation to DR's enquiry): Cadw have written to the landowner
- Discussions are continuing with CG highways department regarding the Dorethea car park. Project Dorothea are also involved
- Old Penrhyn Quarry Hospital event will take place at Neuadd Ogwen on 29/09/26
- Tourism Levy: additional time has been granted for analysis of the overwhelming number of responses
- Cyngor Gwynedd Diwylliant programme: still in development but will in time link to WHS and associated projects

9. Date of next meeting

- TBC