

**Apologies:**

Phil Bushby (Amgueddfa Cymru), Jonathan Cawley (ENPA), Gareth Jones (Cyngor Gwynedd), Dafydd Gwyn (Govannon), Sian Rees (ICOMOS)

**Present:**

Lord Dafydd Wigley (Chair), Sioned Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Cyng Medwyn Hughes (Cyngor Gwynedd), Kate Roberts (Cadw), Michael Bewick (JW Greaves), Elen Roberts (Amgueddfa Lechi), Naomi Jones (ENPA), Ceri Williams (Castell Penrhyn), Cyng Elwyn Evans (Llanfihangel y Pennant Community Council), Cyng Stephen Churchman (Dolbenmaen Community Council), Dafydd Roberts (Partneriaeth Ogwen / Dyffryn Ogwen), Gwenan Hine (Bangor University), Sara Perera-Hammond (Pontcysyllte Aqueduct & Canal World Heritage Site), Roland Evans (Cyngor Gwynedd), Hannah Joyce (Cyngor Gwynedd), Dan Amor (Cyngor Gwynedd)

<p><b>1. Welcome, introductions and apologies (DW)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apologies were noted and DW welcomed all, including SP-H</li> <li>• DW congratulated KR on her new role (CEO, Cadw), KR outlined new role Cadw remain committed to WHS</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising (DW)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All action points attended to, no comments</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. Management plan review (HJ)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years into 10-year management plan and we are conducting a midpoint review (formal update in year 9)</li> <li>• Addendums and corrections rather than rewrite</li> <li>• There is a process whereby UNESCO can let sites know if they believe changes to management plans are necessary. Other Wales and UK World Heritage sites are also currently conducting similar reviews</li> <li>• Officers to review chapters pertaining to management plan themes which will then be presented to subgroups for approval, then shown to implementation group and finally partnership board for signoff</li> <li>• A brief executive summary being considered as an option for rest of management plan</li> <li>• Also adapting corresponding action plan</li> <li>• Present method for inputting into process is via management structure rather than third parties</li> <li>• Regarding possible proposed changes - if this was something not already pertaining to an action then this could be discussed in terms of current methodology</li> <li>• It is envisaged that current schedule for revision is achievable</li> </ul>	

<p><b>4. Risk management arrangements (HJ)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intention is to develop risk register alongside management plan</li> <li>• Separate risk registers for smaller projects</li> <li>• Subgroups and implementation groups can escalate risks to board level</li> <li>• Risk scoring system explained</li> <li>• Board approved methodology for risk strategy and management plan review</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Management structure (RE)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do partners feel about management structure? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perhaps to early to say but thematic sessions and greater community representation are welcome</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Merits of landowner forum discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Valuable during run-up to inscription</li> <li>- Most matters now dealt with via other groups / other parts of management structure</li> <li>- Could be retained in case needed during future, but perhaps does not need to be listed as part of current structure. <b>Action: DA to ask RE regarding this</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• It was asked whether housing association are represented within management structure; answer: representatives are invited to participate</li> <li>• Better links with cynefin groups were suggested. Should we involve Dŵr Cymru (in relation to Cwm Cwmystradllyn? <b>Action: DA to ask RE / NJ regarding this</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: DA</b></p> <p><b>Action: DA</b></p>
<p><b>6. WHS update</b></p> <p>Conservation sub-group: KR (Chair)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KR summarised the most recent Conservation and Planning sub-group meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ongoing revisions to theme 2 of management plan (and corresponding part of action plan) as part of management plan review</li> <li>- Update on distribution of community guides</li> <li>- Preparations for a workshop addressing the management of relict quarrying landscapes. This is our next 'big question'</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Proposals for Y Foty tipping area briefly discussed in relation to the above point</li> <li>• Possible extension of WHS boundary discussed in relation to Aberllefenni. This would be something to address come the 10-year review of the management plan (20230)</li> </ul> <p>Benefitting sub-group: MB (Chair)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MB summarised the most recent Benefitting sub-group meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New members were welcomed to the group</li> <li>- Discussion on our commitment to the National Slate Museum's new interpretation strategy</li> <li>- Discussion on visitor numbers and how to spread visits around the WHS in a sustainable manner</li> <li>- Zipworld presentation: discussed possibility of a workshop for those involved in developments within the WHS; how Zipworld view themselves as custodians of the historic landscape</li> <li>- Project Dorothea update, including management of historic sites and partnership work with Bangor University. An update was given on the pumped hydro scheme</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussed content of thematic session (7th November – Markets and Marketing)</li> <li>• Question regarding partners seeing themselves as ‘custodians of the landscape’ in the context of, e.g., filling in, or greening over of historic tipping areas – is that contradictory? Vegetation clearance is accounted for in management plan and is implemented at some sites. Natural Resources Wales project using horses as part of logging process at one site was cited</li> <li>• Positive discussion on Aelwyd yr Urdd progress</li> <li>• Update on Maenofferen project – funding acquired towards emergency works and heritage officer for the town</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Funding update</b></p> <p>Llewyrch o’r Llechi projects (HJ)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All parts of the project are either complete or contracts are at operational stage Timetable has been extended, looking to complete all projects during 2027</li> </ul> <p><b>Hwb Dinorwig</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (ER summarises the Amgueddfa Lechi redevelopment – see later)</li> <li>• Parc Padarn welcome block almost complete, phase 1 of car park remodelling complete, Fire Queen and Hafod Owen tenders due to come in start of October. Boardwalk installed. Discussion with community regarding benches, artwork and physical exercise equipment</li> </ul> <p><b>Hwb Ogwen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work at Neuadd Ogwen complete. Yr Hen Bost project is in progress, including engagement work for community artwork in front of building. Work Lôn Las Ogwen continues, some elements are complete. Tours of Old Penrhyn Quarry hospital were very well received in the community (thanks to Partneriaeth Ogwen for helping organise these)</li> </ul> <p><b>Hwb Ffestiniog</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work at Yr Aelwyd complete, official opening this week. Church Street project to begin soon. Multi-use Games Area has been completed in the town. Path connecting Llechwedd and town complete as is public artwork</li> </ul> <p><b>Conservation projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yr Hen Ysbyty quarry hospital (Dyffryn Ogwen) guided tours were very well attended. Discussion underway regarding possibility of setting up a trust or ‘friends of’ group to take responsibility for the site</li> <li>• Contributing to conservation work at Maenofferen Mill</li> <li>• Intention to run a conservation project at Cwmorthin in 2026</li> </ul> <p><b>General</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working towards a circuit of public artworks. In the process of installing signage in our main communities to direct walkers</li> </ul> <p>LleCHI LleNI projects (HJ)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project is a year old</li> <li>• 48 events, 1,957 people have taken part including 1,188 children / young people</li> <li>• Various events and activities including creative workshops, activities for children / young people, walks and talks</li> <li>• 21 community groups supported through our grants scheme</li> </ul>	

- Contract with Llandrillo Menai Group to deliver conservation retrofitting courses, discussing provision of more informal traditional skills courses with ENPA
- Recruitment for Young Ambassadors programme has begun
- WHS course for businesses (24th November)

**ER also provided an update on the Amgueddfa Lechi redevelopment**

- Successful with Lottery application
- Main contractor MPH now on site, enabling works until October
- Shop has been taken down, café is being taken down at present
- Three 'Museum on the Road' locations whilst museum is closed, have also been working with LleCHI LleNI on pop-up sessions
- Museum on the Road includes quarry workers at Castell Penrhyn. Also, spaces at Cei Llechi and Ysbyty Chwarel
- Collections have been moved to Llandygai, those which can't be moved are protected / boxed at the museum, hoarding is up, telling the story of the redevelopment work
- Visits to the museum to see the development work will be arranged in the coming months
- Various workshops for museum staff, e.g. developing visitor experience for the new shop, Amgueddfa Cymru brand workshops
- Interpretation workshops in accordance with interpretation needs of the WHS, as well as Llechi Cymru thematic sessions (gateway and network sessions)
- 'On the Road' with LleCHI LleNI, also at the Eisteddfod, Wrexham Museum, Gŵyl Arall, Talyllyn, Ras yr Wyddfa, Bethesda etc.
- Acquisition of minibus - for staff use but also to improve visitor access at Museum on the Road locations
- 'Sugar-coated' film as part of Perspectives project, Castell Penrhyn
- Sessions at Llandygai
- Session at Gŵyl y Glaw, Blaenau Ffestiniog.
- At the museum - developing space for temporary exhibitions – from the collection but also art exhibitions etc.
- Space between caban and splitting room – for more permanent exhibit, and to tell the story of the WHS and its communities
- Foundry – new stairs, lift: improved access to upper floor / temporary space / pattern room.
- Now considering how we get collections back into museum and how to show as much of the collections as possible
- Play area - exciting development, unique – will tell the story of the slate industry through play
- A challenge ensuring the zip wire can still operate
- Have appointed a wordsmith (saer geiriau)
- Further posts – conservation (patterns), and a marketing post
- Lottery committee visiting soon, will include a visit to Boston Lodge
- Importance of the Museum as hub and gateway for the wider WHS was noted, in terms of directing people to other areas of the slate landscape
- **Additional**  
Projection for future visitor numbers was discussed
- The Chair noted the effectiveness of these different stakeholders and partners coming together fulfil these projects

<p><b>8. WHS Coordinator update (DA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All were reminded of our forthcoming annual event ('Celebrating the Slate Landscape' - Neuadd Ogwen, Bethesda, 23 October 2025)</li> <li>• Annual report is progressing and will be circulated when completed</li> <li>• Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal WHS (present during today's meeting) were thanked for hosting Llechi Cymru officers for a recent site visit and meeting. The importance of maintaining working relationships with other Wales WHSs was noted</li> <li>• Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal WHS thanked us for letting them attend today's meeting and for sharing best practice on our management plan review</li> </ul>	
<p><b>9. Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HJ updated the group on Llechi Cymru social media trends (reach and engagement is growing). As well as the Llewyrch o'r Llechi project, there is a package of SPF support across the wider WHS which also receives social media promotion</li> <li>• It was noted that recent 'one off' Llechi Cymru events in component part 4 were well received in the community, a sustained increase in visitor numbers would not however, be benefiting of the infrastructure in this area – please can we bear this in mind amidst our promotion of the WHS as a visitor destination</li> <li>• In response to the above it was noted we actively avoid promoting such areas and will continue to engage with communities on these matters. These matters were also raised at a recent Sustainable Tourism Partnership meeting</li> <li>• Amgueddfa Lechi has a forthcoming important Heritage Lottery Fund visit, where there will be the opportunity to discuss partnerships</li> <li>• ENPA updated the group regarding Plas Tan-y-Bwlch and the plan to develop a considerable project at the site, including restoration of the buildings and garden, relocation of ENPA headquarters to the Plas and a comprehensive community programme. Project aims were developed following a period of intensive community consultation</li> <li>• Llechi Cymru have been working with Bangor University in preparation for two events at the forthcoming Bangor History Festival</li> <li>• The Chair thanked the University for their involvement in various Dorothea Pumped Hydro projects</li> <li>• We were asked not to forget component part 6 amidst our ambitions</li> </ul>	
<p><b>10. Date of next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 06 March 2025. <b>Action: DA to send invite</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: DA</b></p>