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# LANDMAP PILOT - SOUTHERN LLYN

## Landscape policy areas - historical aspect

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## PART A

### Supporting and background information

including methodology, general historical characterisation and suggested management guidelines

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### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Gwynedd Archaeological Trust's contribution to the LANDMAP pilot exercise looking at southern Llyn comprises two documents in addition to a set of maps. This document sets out the background methodology and a supporting historic landscape characterisation at a macro level, and contains a set of fairly detailed management prescriptions based on historic landscape themes. The accompanying document sets out the landscape policy areas (historical aspect) in the manner prescribed by CCW and the consultant.
- 1.2 Given the time constraints imposed on this exercise and the restricted data that is readily-available (see below, sections 7 and 8), an attempt has been made to define, describe and make initial management recommendations for landscape policy areas for Llyn based on historic landscape information and concerns.
- 1.3 A total of eighteen indicative historic landscape policy areas have been identified (see accompanying report). These have been established, and indicative borders drawn up, using the methodology employed in a recent project which looked at the Historic Characterisation of the Llyn ESA ADAS Landscape Types (GAT Report 261), as that was thought to be directly relevant to this exercise.
- 1.4 As the methodology very much follows that used for the ESA characterisation, attention is drawn to that report for background information: this document summarises and amplifies some of the main points raised by that exercise.
- 1.5 No further fieldwork has been carried out as part of this exercise to check the accuracy of the edges of the landscape policy areas, and the outer defining lines should be taken as indicative only.
- 1.6 References in the text such as G/H/I are to landscape policy areas described in the accompanying document.

### **2 Historical processes and background**

- 2.1 Llyn is a large peninsula extending south-west of the main mountain massif of Snowdonia. Topographically, it comprises a dissected plateau with outliers of harder rocks forming a number of isolated, but prominent, hills and ridges. The whole, however, has been very much modified by deposits of

material laid down at the end of the last Ice Age. Yr Eifl, the so-called Rivals, in the north-east part of the peninsula are the most prominent hills, reaching 564m above OD: these are followed by Carn Fadryn, in the centre of the peninsula, at 371m above OD, and Mynydd Rhiw, in the south-west, at 304m above OD, although there are several lower hills rising in between these summits. The gently undulating plateau surface is generally between 50m and 100m above OD, with occasional lower areas formed by shallow valley basins, coastal margins or narrow, deeply incised, hidden valleys. Bardsey Island lies off the south western tip of the peninsula across Bardsey Sound, and reaches 167m OD.

- 2.2 This extensive area, unlike many others in Wales, has a number of major monuments and large extents of relict archaeological features, reflecting various past land-uses at various times: however, its main unifying historic theme must be the development and change of agriculture (and concomitant settlement) which is reflected in the development of field and other patterns which are visible today. Thus it possesses a great wealth and diversity of smaller scale archaeological and historical landscape features which together form a cohesive and integrated whole, demonstrating the continuity of the exploitation of Llyn from prehistoric times onwards. There are archaeological sites ranging from the mesolithic period to the recent past, and it is an area of Wales where the effects of Roman, Norman and English conquests seem perhaps to have been felt less than elsewhere.
- 2.3 The historical processes and episodes which have affected the landscape of Llyn are various. They include enclosure for agriculture from the neolithic times onwards; the expansion of settlement and agriculture into the marginal uplands at different times and subsequent retreats 'downhill'; the practice of transhumance (involving seasonal migration between upland and lowland pastures); the marking-out of territories; the improvement of the land by various estates in the post-medieval period; the enclosure of land in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; the defence and invasion of territories; the need to travel, trade and communicate over both short (infield and outfield, between settlements) and long (trade routes, drovers' roads, turnpikes) distances; the development of ritual and ceremonial (including religious) beliefs and activities; the exploitation of natural resources by mining and quarrying; and the growth of the leisure industry and tourism.
- 2.4 Mesolithic sites have been found on some of the coastal headlands around Uwchmynydd and Trwyn Bychestyn in the west (G/H/1), probably relics of hunting settlements which exploited the coastal plains long since inundated by the sea. The exceptionally hard rock of Mynydd Rhiw provided raw material for the manufacture of polished stone axes in the neolithic period which were traded widely. The primitive quarries which have been identified were probably worked by the first farmers in the area who buried their dead in the cromlechs or chambered tombs such as those at Cefnamwlch and Rhiw (G/H/5). The higher outcrops are also the sites of bronze age burial cairns whose builders, as is becoming apparent from the result of aerial photography and excavation, also raised earthen barrows in areas where stone was less plentiful. Archaeological investigations have also revealed traces of a middle bronze age farmstead at Sarn Meyllteyrn, and confirmed the considerable potential for the discovery of more buried archaeological evidence of this type in areas which are now ploughed flat.
- 2.5 The best known and most impressive prehistoric monuments in the area are the magnificent iron age hillforts crowning the summits of Mynydd Ceiri (Tre'r Ceiri - G/H/17), Garn Boduan (G/H/15) and Garn Fadryn (G/H/10), with several other, smaller, but complementary, forts on other summits. The communities who provided the resources to build these hilltop citadels lived in farmsteads dispersed on the adjoining lowlands but, as in earlier periods, their remains have tended to survive above ground only in those marginal areas with a plentiful supply of stone, and where later agricultural clearances have not occurred. Aerial photography and excavation have, as has been stated, started to reveal hidden, buried remains of settlements belonging to this period in the area. The number and large size of the late prehistoric hillforts in Llyn certainly suggest that the landscape was being intensively exploited at this time (G/H/7).
- 2.6 Roman influence on the native traditions of the area is difficult to quantify but seems to have been relatively minor: although Roman finds have been discovered on a number of archaeological sites, there are no known Roman military sites or roads in the area. It has been suggested that as a consequence of this restricted influence, Celtic customs and religion may have persisted more strongly here than elsewhere, a fact which may in part account for the religious importance of Llyn and Bardsey during the ensuing early Christian period. As religious sites, Bardsey and Aberdaron have had a clear historical relationship with each other over many centuries. The ecclesiastical site on the island was traditionally founded by St

Cadfan, and by the 12th century it had a reputation for sanctity as the burial place of 'twenty thousand saints'. It was taken over by Augustinian canons and has since persisted as a place of pilgrimage. Aberdaron, on the mainland, was originally a *clas* church site dedicated to St. Hywyn, and the community is first mentioned in 1094, when the canons provided a boat for Gruffydd ap Cynan to escape. The topography of the site, which is located almost directly on the sea shore, is, unfortunately, badly eroded, but the position is typical of many early church sites in the Celtic countries.

- 2.7 These sites, however, are not the only pointers to the significance of the area in the early centuries AD. The two inscribed stones from Capel Anelog (G/H/3 - now in Aberdaron church) are amongst the most vocal records of this period in Wales. Other stones have come from Llannor, and at Llangian a 7th century AD date has recently been given to deposits below the church wall: in addition there are numerous dedications of churches to Celtic saints. The priory on St. Tudwal's island is another important site with a possible early foundation.
- 2.8 In the later medieval period, most of the area fell within the cantref of Llyn, divided into the commotes of Cymydmaen, Dinllaen and Cafflogion, with their commotal centres at Neigwl, Nefyn (G/H/14) and Pwllheli (G/H/12) respectively. The sites of most of the constituent townships have survived as loosely nucleated settlements or place-names into the present day, many of them recognisable by the occurrence of *uchaf* and *isaf* in farm place-names: many of the early churches now stand isolated (see note on G/H/10 in accompanying text). Much of the land in Llyn was held by the church and monasteries, notably Bardsey (at the very tip of Llyn), Clynnog Fawr (especially around Pistyll and Eder), Cymer (there was a grange of the monastery at Neigwl) and Bangor (around Penrhos).
- 2.9 It is probable the patchwork of small dispersed villages and settlements, lanes, fields, stone walls, banks and hedges which is so typical of the Llyn landscape must, to a great extent, date from this period, although there are classic areas of later, rectilinear, 19th-century Parliamentary Enclosures on common land, particularly in Rhoshirwaun, Bryncroes, Llaniestyn, Yr Eifl and Rhiw (see below), and some areas display evidence of field systems which date from the prehistoric period (G/H/17).
- 2.10 There are only two towns, Nefyn and Pwllheli, in the area (both formerly commotal centres in the medieval period), although other nucleated centres such as Llanengan and Abersoch (both the result of increasing tourism in the previous and this centuries) do exist. Nefyn (G/H/14) was the maerdref and administrative centre of the commote of Dinllaen, and developed into one of the principal towns of Gwynedd during the 13th and 14th centuries, supported by fishing and its role as a stopping place for pilgrims on the way to Bardsey. After the Edwardian conquest, it became a borough, but it was devastated during the Glyndwr rebellion in 1400, and never really recovered as a settlement until the 19th century. Pwllheli, on the opposite side of the peninsula (G/H/12), was the maerdref and administrative centre of the commote of Cafflogion and developed on similar lines to Nefyn, becoming a borough after the conquest but, unlike Nefyn, it recovered from the Glyndwr rebellion to develop further over the ensuing centuries. The original core of the town has largely been subsumed by the 19th century land reclamation and developments whose characteristics forms and styles dominate the present townscape. On the other hand, Neigwl (formerly the commotal centre of Cymydmaen) is not a nucleated settlement at all but a scatter of farms.
- 2.11 In around 1780, Pennant described Llyn thus: *The houses of the common people are very mean; made with clay, thatched and destitute of chimneys. Notwithstanding the laudable example of the gentry, the country is in an unimproved state, neglected for the sake of the herring fishery. The chief produce is oats, barley and black cattle. I was informed that above three thousand are annually sold out of these parts. Much oats, barley, butter and cheese are exported. The land is excellent for grazing, being watered by a thousand little rills. It is destitute of trees, except about the houses of the gentry ... I observed that the fields were covered with sheeps' samphire, which sheep and cattle eagerly feed on and grow very fat.*
- 2.12 In his report on the state of agriculture in Caernarfonshire, George Kay (1794) talks of the very small size of most of the farms, with few exceeding 60 acres of arable land, of which two-thirds was generally in pasture. He described farmhouses as in need of being *greatly amended. The farmers are not only in want of houses, sheds and farmyards, but even those they have are frequently detached from each other. Small miserable huts are built on different parts of the farms, each sufficient only to contain a cow or two.* (It is interesting to note the almost-complete lack of field barns and buildings outside the immediate of the farm in the present landscape.) There was no proper system of husbandry, and most cows spent the winter out of doors. Oats and barley were the principal crops, and wheat was only grown along the coast: although



much land was perceived as being in need of drainage, little if any was carried out. Kay remarks that much of Caernarfonshire was still unenclosed, but dry stone walls, earthen banks or (more recently) ditch and hedge (either of hawthorn alone or intermixed with furze) were the common boundary types. Enclosure was generally followed by a doubling in rent. Horses were used for ploughing, dairying and pig raising were minor parts of the economy: from the Porthdinllaen area, prodigious supplies of poultry and eggs went to Liverpool.

- 2.13 Kay's report was amplified by Davies (writing between 1799 - 1810). He compared Llyn (somewhat unfavourably) with Anglesey: gentlemen of moderate means conducted the affairs of their own estates, while those of larger estates were conducted by agents, the latter being distinguished by the surface of the soil, buildings, fences and so on (he particularly notes the estates of Nanhoron, as well as Glynllifon and Nannau which held considerable extents of land on Llyn at that time). He described the cottages of labourers as *disgraceful habitations of wretchedness. One smoky hearth, for it should not be styled a kitchen, and one damp litter-cell, for it cannot be called a bed-room.* Hyde Hall, who visited Llyn between 1809-11, comments frequently on the wretched condition of thatched cottages in Llyn.
- 2.14 At the end of the eighteenth century, most of the land was farmed by peasants renting from distant gentry and estates: the consolidation of farms by means of exchanging isolated quillets (strips of land reflecting the medieval pattern of open fields fossilised by later enclosure walls or hedges - see G/H/2 and 14) was still occurring, though most low-lying, privately-owned land was already enclosed. The commons were an important part of the agricultural regime, with people relying on them for summer grazing (mainly for sheep), fuel and building materials. Most peasant families were self-reliant and poor, there was a general lack of an organised market economy, road infrastructure and much of the land was unimproved, and the common land was used for sheep grazing, fuel and building materials. Agricultural practice was still basically medieval in approach and outlook: most land was tenanted, and as leases were rare people were reluctant to invest in improvements. It was said that the area was a hundred years behind southern England.
- 2.15 However, at the turn of the century, the larger landowners grouped together to obtain private acts to enclose the remaining Crown commons and wastes (probably the single most important factor in altering the landscape in recent times): some tenants with land adjoining commons also benefited from this, but others lost out. Rhoshirwaun (G/H/4) was among the first such Caernarfonshire enclosures, covering two or three thousand acres of marshy waste (Crown common); started in 1802, it was not finalised, due to problems in evicting squatters, until 1814. This was followed in 1808 by an act affecting Llanbedrog and Llangian (see G/H/8); in 1811 by an act covering 6,000 acres in Aberdaron, Rhiw (G/H/5), Llanfaelrhys and five other parishes; and in 1812 by an act affecting Nefyn (G/H/15), Pistyll, Carnguwch (G/H/18) and Llanaelhaearn. This was aimed at facilitating and improving the land by division, allotment, enclosure, ditching, fencing and ploughing; and some allotments were set out for stone pits for the maintenance of roads. Livestock were banned from the new enclosures for seven years to allow hedges to become established. A document concerning the Meillionydd estate (Bangor MS 2636, UCNW) indicates the variety and extent of stone walling constructed following enclosure, and also shows a (late) exchange of numerous quillets scattered across another landowner's land for a consolidated area of the newly-enclosed common.
- 2.16 The above areas still correspond with areas of small, regular, stone-walled fields with single-storey nineteenth-century dwellings. A map in the National Library shows the extent of ownership of land in the 1840s: whilst much of the land was divided among a relatively small number of large farms or estates, there are concentrations of smaller parcels of land (divided between a larger number of owners) on Mynydd Nefyn, in Nefyn, Morfa Nefyn, Garnfadryn, Mynytho, Llanengan, Bryncroes, Llangwnnaddl, Rhiw and Uwchmynydd. Interestingly, another map of farm holdings in the same area in 1947 clearly shows the concentration of a greater number of smaller holdings in the areas of Nefyn, Edern, Garnfadryn, north of Pen-y-groeslon, Rhiw, Mynytho, Llanengan, Machros and Uwchmynydd, a fact which can still be seen in the current field size, pattern and density. The lasting result of enclosure, apart from the impact on the landscape, was probably loss of amenity for the rural poor, rather than improvement in agriculture.
- 2.17 The extent of (past) ownership of different parts of the peninsula by large estates, as well as by the church earlier in the medieval period, has been a major contributory factor to the appearance of the present landscape. Those which owned the most land in Llyn during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries include Glynllifon (Lord Newborough), Cefnamwlch (Fynch - G/H/6), Madryn (Parry Jones), Nanhoron

(Edwards - G/H/7) and Vaynol (Assheton-Smith). A map of 1947 (from the National Library of Wales, but unprovenanced) shows the extent of estate land in the southern part of this area: Cefnamwlch owned most of the northern coastal belt from Edern down to Sarn Meyllteyrn, and from Nefyn south-east towards Pwllheli: Madryn owned a huge area of land north-east of Garn Fadryn: Nanhoron owned a large area based around the house, with outlying parcels in Rhiw, north-east of Aberdaron and south-west of the A497: Glynllifon owned a sweep of land around the northern end of Mynydd Rhiw as well as its southern tip, plus an area below Uwchmynydd: and Vaynol owned an area around Castellmarch, north of Llanbedrog (formerly the estate also held land around Rhiw).

- 2.18 For example, Pennant (Penrhyn Estate) planted some six hundred thousand trees between 1781 and 1797 to act as windbreaks on his property: he also improved the state of farmhouses and the nature of leases, compensating tenants for improvements made. Half a century later the estate gained control of the Meillionydd estate previously held by the Vaughans of Nannau. The Edwardses of Nanhoron were also at the forefront of agricultural and property improvements. The Glynllifon estate was known for its practice of consolidation and for disallowing the building of any cottages on its land: a survey of the Bodfean estate (held by Newborough), carried out in 1808, found the it to be in a state of considerable dilapidation, the buildings wretched and the lands neglected. The Vaynol estate introduced improvements such as building new roads, planting waste corners, straightening crooked hedges, draining wet lands and so on. Davies also describes the enclosing of land by fences and gates, and remarks on the distinctive style of building stone walls adopted by individual estates (Davies, 124). Wet soils and exposed situations required smaller enclosures, so that ditches acted as drains and hedges as shelters.
- 2.19 Hyde Hall (1811) remarks on improvements to roads (although the turnpike (see G/H/11) was already grassed-over due to insufficient passing traffic), with roads being constructed, despite the little commercial traffic on them, and walls being built, including the walling-off of paddocks for summer grazing for cattle, but little else. Most of the examples quoted were, not surprisingly, on the land of the larger estates.
- 2.20 Things had changed little by the 1840s: comparison of tithe maps with earlier estate maps shows that field boundaries remained much as before: there was little amalgamation. In one area which has been studied (the parishes of Rhiw and Llanfaelrhys - G/H/5), the field boundaries shown on the 1842 and 1844 tithe maps were still those which were largely in place at the end of W.W.II in 1947. Not only fields, but farm holdings appear to have remained fixed for over a century (see above, paragraph 2.6): the average size of a farm in the 1860s was said to be c. 150 acres, and corn- and barley-growing was much more widespread than it is now and occupied perhaps a third of available land. Change was slow in the backwater of Llyn, and perhaps only the arrival of the railway in Pwllheli in 1867 heralded changes to a more modern way of life.
- 2.21 There was remarkable religious energy in Llyn which is reflected impacted in the local architecture: the first Nonconformist chapel was built at Nanhoron in 1769, and the vigorous preaching and zeal of the new (Welsh) preachers, contrasting with the absent (English) indifference of the established church led to a rise in nonconformity amongst the people in Llyn which is still reflected in the number and grandeur of local chapels across the area. However, it is interesting to note that itinerant priests were a feature of the Llyn countryside up until the 1870s (see areas G/H/2 and 4). Another aspect of social life were local fairs: in this part of Llyn, there were in the mid-nineteenth century just four yearly fairs in Pwllheli (although this later increased to six).
- 2.22 Farms (the primary settlement type on Llyn) are generally nucleated, with farm buildings either built onto houses or in adjacent squares or clusters, and there is now a general absence of field barns and other detached farm buildings (apparently contrasting with earlier reports, e.g. Kay, see paragraph 2.11). Many of the larger farms contain one or more modern buildings, but there are examples of unspoilt houses and outbuildings. Although most building is in stone (brick is relatively unusual), the use of corrugated iron is widespread and this material is to be found in barns, sheds, garages and even houses. Water- and wind-mills are a fairly common feature of the Llyn landscape, in valley bottoms and on hill-tops. Terraces of houses are quite common in the 'industrial' areas from the nineteenth century, while the survival of cob-walled cottages (a vernacular building type which is rapidly disappearing) appears to be limited to the area of the Rhoshirwaun enclosure (G/H/4). There is no definitive work on the architectural traditions of Llyn. The arrival of the giant plastic storage bale means that is also becoming a landscape feature in its own right!

- 2.23 The area contains a wealth of designed historic landscapes (some of which are identified on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, currently being compiled by Cadw), mainly small parks with woodlands and gardens (frequently walled) of the 18th and 19th centuries, often taking advantage of the spectacular natural landscape: the most important are probably Cefnamwlch (G/H/6), Nanhoron (G/H/7), Plas yn Rhiw (G/H/5) and Boduan (G/H/11), but there are others.
- 2.24 During the 19th and 20th centuries, mineral extraction has taken place in the area, most notably granite from a series of prominent coastal quarries in the north (G/H/18), with processing and wharfage facilities and attendant workers' housing and whole settlements. Perhaps the most famous is the former quarrying village in Nant Gwrtheyrn which is now the National Welsh Language Centre, but in addition Benallt, on Mynydd Rhiw (G/H/5), was at one time the largest manganese mine in Britain, Llangian/Bryncroes was an important lead-mining centre and there were coastal granite quarries at Llanbedrog.
- 2.25 More recently, there was an RAF airfield at Penrhos (G/H/9), between Pwllheli and Llanbedrog, during World War II, with an accompanying bombing range on Hell's Mouth. The most recent additions to the character of the landscape are the numerous caravan parks (both transient and permanent) which spread across the landscape in summer, as the area turns to a new task of serving tourism.

### 3 Historic landscape themes

- 3.1 The historical dimension of landscape is concerned with the chronological structure of the landscape through time (where the emphasis is on change and continuity) and space (where the emphasis is on patterns at different scales, complexity and diversity). The evidence occurs in features or elements (such as field walls, routeways, relict archaeological sites, buried remains, buildings and earthworks, including scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas and so on), and the information held in these features and the relationships between them provide a record of the way in which the landscape has evolved over time. By recording, mapping and analysing the evidence in this way, the development of the landscape over time can be seen and described.
- 3.2 It is necessary to quantify the contribution that particular components of the cultural landscape (whether built features such as field walls, hillforts and farm buildings, or less tangible features such as patterns of field systems, settlements and past land-use) make to the area's landscape character. At the first stage, we must identify the evidence for history in the landscape. We can then proceed to determine what is critical to the appearance and character of the landscape.
- 3.3 For management purposes, when describing landscape 'heritage features' it may be useful to distinguish between relict and historic features: **relict** = defunct features (e.g. hut circles, standing stones) and **historic** = features which still retain some degree of practical use (e.g. house, field wall still in use as a boundary). (In the same way, we might find it useful to talk about relict landscapes within historic landscapes.)
- 3.4 The eye reacts to dominant elements and patterns in an area: it is probably true to say that, as Llyn is a predominantly agricultural landscape, the natural topography (hills, coast, valleys, plains), field boundaries and current land-cover are the most dominant characteristics in its landscape. Closer inspection reveals settlements, routeways, relict archaeology, industrial remains and ornamental and leisure uses to be important too. Visual terms used to describe such elements might include *conspicuous*, *evident* or even *missing*.
- 3.5 The historic importance of an area can be defined in terms of the distinctive characteristics of a period or theme (or combination thereof) which demonstrate the way in which the area shows organisation of space either during one particular period or a development through time; this can include a combination or pattern of features which, although they may individually lack distinction, nevertheless represent a significant and distinguishable landscape when viewed as an entity. This may be visible in the arrangement of fields or siting of settlements; in a pattern of land-use which represents traditional practices unique to a community; in the sheer density of related remains; or it may contain buildings distinctive in style, design or method of construction.
- 3.6 We can thus characterise an area of landscape in terms of which elements are visually dominant and historically significant, evaluate their contribution and describe their historical integrity and importance.



- 3.7 This study, and the identification of indicative landscape policy areas based on historical landscape aspects, followed the methodology employed in the Llyn ESA study mentioned above: thus it examined evidence for the development of the landscape from all periods from the mesolithic through to modern, and concentrated on the following themes - agriculture (boundary types, field size and patterns), settlement (type, dispersal and degree), relict archaeology (period, function, form), industry (type, location and extent) and communications (type and form), although other themes (including designed landscapes and military) were considered appropriate but less important.

#### **4 General historic character of Llyn**

- 4.1 For the most part, Llyn is a quilt of small-scale, intricate pasture fields sewn together by miles of *cloddiau*, walls and hedges, draped over a rolling, plunging, climbing skeleton of valleys and hills, coastline and plateaux. It is in the main an enclosed landscape, overshadowed in places by looming hills and giving out on to open cliff tops: small and irregular fields are mainly green pasture, with areas of yellow and brown arable splashed across them. Small pockets of woodland give height, variety and colour and add a sense of shelter, while areas of heather and grass moorland, many the result of poor past management, create areas of open, expansive uplands.
- 4.2 Routeways are principally winding, often deeply-incised lanes, with species-rich, deep hedgerows and verges, which twist and turn giving constantly-changing views (where views can be had) and perceptions. The twists and turns reflect earlier (and now often disappeared) landscape patterns of fields and settlements: sharp right-angles might follow a medieval pattern of strip fields, while curving routes might indicate an even earlier (prehistoric) curvilinear pattern of fields. Footpaths are particularly interesting in that many also follow patterns now lost. This is in contrast with more recent (turnpike, nineteenth century) roads which head, uncompromisingly, straight across the landscape to their destinations.
- 4.3 There is a pattern of dispersed settlement, with farm complexes lying alongside lanes or at the end of narrow tracks, apparently randomly scattered but many actually representing the remnants (perhaps in name only) of medieval townships. Several isolated churches also bear witness to the desertion of the medieval countryside. There are few nucleated (village) settlements, and many of these comprise disproportionate numbers of modern council houses.
- 4.4 Above the densely-packed fields rises a series of upland blocks which are often blanketed by large areas of upstanding, relict archaeological remains, mainly settlement- and agriculture-related and prehistoric and medieval in date. The importance of these to both the professional archaeologist and the enquiring visitor and student, perhaps more used to swathes of arable and buried remains, cannot be over-estimated. In between these and the agricultural heartland, there are girdles of small, regular, stone-walled fields which are the result of enclosure of the commons in the last century.
- 4.5 The earliest evidence for occupation is in the form of finds of flints (the result of tool manufacture) on headlands on both the north and south coasts: these sites notwithstanding, however, the area is historically remarkably poor in terms of material culture. In the last few years evidence has begun to emerge of former settlement in areas which were previously blank: detailed survey has begun to reveal the existence of sites surviving still as earthworks particularly in marginal areas and on hilltops, while there is a growing body of evidence, in the form of crop- and parch-marks, of settlement on the hillslopes and lower-lying ground which exist only as buried remains.
- 4.6 Farms form the basic settlement blocks of the area: these are usually family-owned, larger or smaller conglomerations of buildings in a single location; barns in the outfield areas are virtually unknown in the area. The variety in terrain is reflected in the agricultural land-uses: the moorland environments are poor, reserved for the rearing and fattening of sheep and a few cattle. Below these are temporary and permanent grasslands, while cereals and other fodder crops are restricted to the well-drained soils further west. The relatively small size of holdings throughout the area is reflected in the proportion of holdings that MAFF would regard as being worthy of only part-time operation.
- 4.7 The area is also characterised by its general lack of modern artefacts, especially once beyond the main centres of population and away from the formerly industrial north coast: there are the occasional housing

estate and farm buildings, a hidden quarry and a wood-mill, but no factory complexes, no semi-urban sprawls of shops or industrial estates. The one concession to the twentieth century are the (now all-too-characteristic) permanent and transient caravan parks. This adds to the feeling of remoteness and perhaps isolation (in space and time) from the modern industrial century.

- 4.8 There are few ancient or semi-ancient woodlands in the area, and those that exist are generally limited to the deep, incised valleys: there are no stretches of open water, although small rivers and streams are plentiful. Language and the institutions which support and rely on it are also key elements in the human landscape of Llyn which have tangible roots in the historic landscape.

## **5 Managing change**

### ***General***

- 5.1 The requirements of the historic environment should be set out alongside modern land-use requirements to produce a workable, effective management system and, more importantly a working, viable, landscape, which should provide ways and means for the various human activities in an area to be integrated with each other and with conservation, at the same time providing opportunities for study, research, education, interpretation and quiet enjoyment.
- 5.2 This should mean that sites and features of historic landscape interest are positively managed for their own sakes, rather than just left unimproved. It is important that the management of such features is integral to the management of the landscape as a whole, rather than an isolated, unrelated activity.
- 5.3 Positive management should be aimed at halting and, if necessary, reversing any trends that can be shown to be causing unacceptable damage to the historic landscape resource and then proceed to enhance appropriate historic landscape features. It is essential that such management is continuous, and contains provisions for monitoring and review.

### ***Threats to the historic landscape of Llyn***

- 5.4 Agricultural practices which are potentially most damaging to historic landscape features include land improvement, removal of boundaries, demolition of buildings, over-grazing leading to erosion, deeper ploughing, allowing regeneration of scrub and woodland, construction of new fencing and tracks and drainage. The recognition of cropmark sites largely depends on continuing arable cultivation, although encroachment on unploughed sites and the reduction of above- and below-ground remains are problems.
- 5.5 There is perceived to be an ongoing, incremental erosion of quality and variety on Llyn, with the loss of specific features leading to overall loss of character. The widespread use of post-and-wire fencing to fortify *cloddiau* (or simply replace them), the removal of some boundaries within a general intensification of agriculture, the expansion of agricultural improvement into upland areas, and the establishment of conifer plantations all aid the erosion of the distinctive sense of place. The ESA monitoring report (1992) stated that 53% of the field boundaries within the ESA are *cloddiau*. Many of these are in poor condition due to inappropriate management: once vegetation cover is removed, they are prone to erosion and collapse. Many have been cleared to allow modern machinery to operate more efficiently, while others act as 'quarries' for other operations.
- 5.6 Other forces for change include housing development, road improvements, improvements in infra-structure and services, minerals development, the pressures and problems that arise from recreation and tourism (which is encouraged as a part of farm diversification) also pose a long-term threat to the stability of many historic landscape features. Current management of highway verges and hedges is a cause for concern, and erosion at honey-pot sites (such as Tre'r Ceiri) is a particular problem.

### ***General management guidelines***

- 5.7 The following section provides general management guidance and best practice for particular types of historic landscape feature. Any work on a Scheduled Ancient Monument will require Scheduled Monument Consent from Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments; work on Listed Buildings will require the

granting of Listed Building Consent by the local planning authority. Failure to obtain the appropriate consent may render the land-owner liable to prosecution.

It is necessary, to enable viable management prescriptions to be drawn up, to reduce the historic landscape to its constituent elements. Not all the sites and features require the same detailed level of management: the majority of historic landscape features, including many relict sites of archaeological and historical interest, can probably be adequately dealt with under general umbrella management objectives and prescriptions. Such sites might include walls, *cloddiau*, standing stones, small cairns, possibly even earthwork enclosures. The general management objective might be something as simple as 'maintain as site of historic landscape interest', and the management prescription might read 'maintain existing grass cover, prevent erosion, ensure colonisation of scrub vegetation does not take place' *etc.*

- 5.8 For sites such as these, as well as for general day-to-day management of more complex sites, a series of guidelines has been drafted (below), adherence to which should ensure that most everyday actions will avoid accidentally damaging historic landscape elements. Most are common sense and should not involve extra expense or time spent in carrying out jobs. These have been laid out following the historic landscape themes outlined above.
- 5.9 Sites which are more complex and require detailed, positive, site-specific management are examined in GAT's report on the historic characterisation of the Llyn ESA (report no. 261), where site management categories A and B are relevant (report 261, pp 31-2)..

#### **5.12 Guidelines for historic landscape theme - agriculture**

##### Landscape element types

These include *cloddiau*, field walls, hedges, banks and agricultural buildings.

##### Management guidance

Maintain features in a stable condition. If required, stone walls, *cloddiau* or other boundaries should be rebuilt to retain their character: where possible, boundaries should be restored and not replaced by post and wire fences. Where the latter are inevitable, their line should follow the previous boundary; boundary lines should not be removed. No new boundaries should be constructed unless they follow the line of previous boundaries and are of the same type. Fields should not be amalgamated unless they fall within areas which are characterised by 'decayed' field patterns, where this may be acceptable.

Avoid the use of heavy machinery close to or across the features. Where this is unavoidable, utilise existing gaps and crossing points in the feature, rather than create new ones. If this is not possible, ensure minimum damage is caused by the construction of tracks and that a boundary is only crossed once: avoid areas where features join each other as this may destroy valuable archaeological information.

It is not necessary to remove healthy deciduous trees adjacent to boundaries provided that they are not causing root damage: they enhance the ecological value of the feature (and may actually be a part of the feature). Do not allow the removal of any stone or any material from the feature. Do not allow the tipping of any rubbish, spoil or any other debris, or storage of equipment, fuel, *etc.* on or adjacent to the site.

Buildings should be preserved wherever possible: at the least, further decay should be prevented. Halt any damaging processes such as root damage or erosion, by the removal of trees or scrub growing on walls or within the building/structure. Do not remove low vegetation (*e.g.* grass, mosses, lichen, ferns, *etc.*) which are binding the structure and preventing erosion: vegetation may be of significant wildlife interest. Ivy is particularly difficult and expert advice should be taken before this is tackled.

##### Ecological features of the historic environment

This type will include wetlands, former woodland, *etc.*

### *Management guidance*

Boggy areas may be important deposits of environmental remains such as pollen, the analysis of which makes it possible to investigate and understand the former environment. They may also preserve organic remains including wooden structures. It is important that they are not allowed to dry out.

If necessary, remove trees and scrub from waterlogged deposits, as such vegetation will dry out any organic remains which may be preserved. Avoid the use of any heavy machinery on or around such deposits; take care not to damage the edges of ponds. Do not damage the deposit by drainage works or any form of pollution. Do not divert existing or new drainage channels into waterlogged deposits as this may alter their chemical and physical composition. Waterlogged deposits should not be excavated to construct conservation ponds unless expert advice has been taken.

Where it is considered desirable to clean out silted ponds, environmental and archaeological advice should be taken. Any such work should ideally be monitored by an archaeologist: if not, and any archaeological finds are made, then they should be notified immediately and work should cease until advice has been received. Any organic finds *e.g.* wood, leather, *etc.* should be immediately immersed in clean water to prevent deterioration. Deciduous trees in the vicinity of ponds or waterlogged deposits may be left if they are not damaging the banks or causing drying of the deposits. Do not allow the tipping of any rubbish, spoil or any other debris on the site.

Ancient woodland may include areas of former coppice sometimes associated with charcoal burning mounds; wood banks and earthworks associated directly with woodland management may be preserved, and pollarded trees may exist. Such woodlands may also have preserved elements of the historic landscape pre-dating the wood. All work in woodland should be planned to ensure the survival of such features. Evaluate the historic landscape value of ancient woodland in liaison with appropriate archaeological advice. If appropriate, consider the viability of recommencing traditional management, or a modified form of the present management, to enhance the value of the site.

### **5.13 Guidelines for historic landscape theme - settlement**

#### Landscape element types

These include farmhouses, outbuildings including barns, sheds, pigsties, coach-houses *etc.* as well as mills, cottages and other buildings which form part of the settlement plan of an area, such as chapels, terraced housing, and shops.

#### *Management guidance*

With the exception of day-to-day maintenance, works connected with dwellings and other buildings will tend to fall within the ambit of planning legislation. A check should be made as to whether a particular building is listed before any works are undertaken. Any development which is subject to the planning process will be subject to strict archaeological procedures, using the guidelines laid down in PG (Wales) and the Welsh Office Circulars 60/96 and 61/96 (Planning and the Historic Environment and Archaeology and Planning).

Buildings and other structures should be maintained in good condition. All repairs and renovations should be carried out carefully and sympathetically. Expert advice should be sought where there are any doubts. Building materials (including roofing) should correspond to existing materials for that area: designs for new buildings should conform to local character.

There should be sympathetic approaches to the provision of any new, or renewal of existing, services (such as overhead wires) which should be in keeping with local historic landscape character. The impact of new services should be fully evaluated.



## 5.14 Guidelines for historic landscape theme - relict archaeology

### Relict landscape element types

This includes earthworks (e.g. house platforms, charcoal burning mounds, pillow mounds, barrows, enclosures, lynchets), stone-built sites (e.g. hillforts, hut circles, hut groups, long huts, relict field walls) as well as buried remains such as cropmark and parchmark sites, and findspots. It includes Scheduled Ancient Monuments which can be subject to separate management plans agreed with Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

### *Management guidance*

Maintain the site in a stable condition. Current practices which are not creating problems should be continued. Existing grass cover should be maintained, as grazing is normally a desirable means of conserving archaeological sites. However, it is important that grazing is maintained at a level which keeps undesirable vegetation under control but not to such an extent as to cause erosion. Artificial feed points and licking blocks should not be placed on identified historic landscape features (especially relict archaeological sites).

Halt any damaging processes such as root damage or erosion by the removal of trees or scrub growing on earthworks or stone-built features. It is not necessary to remove healthy deciduous trees in the vicinity of the site or feature provided that they are not causing root damage. Woody scrub growth should be cut or treated with herbicide without disturbing the ground surface, but do not remove remains of hedgerows or trees directly associated with the site or feature and its surroundings. Prevent regeneration on earthworks. No new tree planting should occur within 20m of known or possible sites of archaeological or historic landscape interest.

From time to time, fencing may be necessary to protect part of a site or feature while allowing grazing elsewhere, in which case care is required when positioning fence posts. If permanent fencing is erected, care should be taken that it does not cut across areas of archaeological significance. Existing erosion scars affecting sites of archaeological interest should be repaired and subsequently monitored and maintained, but this is a very complex and costly operation and should not be undertaken without expert advice. Rabbit populations (and those of other burrowing animals) should be kept under control.

No areas should be ploughed, cleared or otherwise improved without specific prior archaeological consultation, and any proposals for other changes in land-use should be referred for archaeological comment. Boggy and other wet areas should not be drained, and no new drainage should be carried out without prior archaeological consultation. No ditched feature should be infilled without prior archaeological consultation.

The layout of roads, tracks and footpaths should be designed to avoid crossing areas of archaeological significance. No heavy machinery should be moved across the area without prior archaeological consultation.

Archaeological sites should not be used as a source for stone, turf or other materials, neither should materials (including stone, topsoil, rubbish, farm waste, scrap, old machinery *etc.*) be stored or dumped in archaeologically sensitive areas.

Metal detecting can cause damage to the archaeological heritage by removing items from their archaeological context and disturbing sites. No metal detecting should be allowed on known archaeological sites, unless under qualified archaeological supervision. This is particularly worrying in areas where there is a potential wealth of archaeological metalwork in the ground. Metal detecting on a Scheduled Ancient Monument without the prior written permission of the Secretary of State is an offence. If in doubt, archaeological advice should be taken before granting permission to metal detectors. (A new Treasure Act is to be implemented in September, 1997, which may have implications for farmers who allow metal detectors on their land.)

Public access to vulnerable sites should not be improved as this may lead to erosion or deliberate damage. As the approach to some sites is often on steep slopes, consideration should be given to improvement to footpaths to prevent erosion.

If the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument any work, outside a management plan agreed with Cadw, will require Scheduled Monument Consent.

#### Cropmarks and parchmarks

These sites are usually only to be viewed from the air, although they can be observed from other well-located vantage points. They occur usually only under exceptional circumstances, when the growing crop or grass cover is under stress from too little moisture. Areas of previous ground disturbance (such as pits and ditches) or buried features (such as walls or hearths) will show generally as lighter or darker marks in the growing crop or grass.

#### *Management Guidance*

The recognition of buried archaeological remains in arable or improved pasture fields, the underlying landscape, relies on the continuation of arable cultivation. However, these sites will already be much reduced in their archaeological layers and much invaluable information will already have been lost: this rate of loss must be diminished and, if possible, discontinued.

Current ploughing depths should be retained, and deeper ploughing should not be allowed over known sites. Activities involving disturbance of the deeper subsoil (into which the archaeological remains are usually cut), such as mole-draining or pan-busting, should be avoided in areas known or thought to contain buried remains.

Areas thought likely to contain buried remains (such as hilltops, or level plateaux on slopes) should be targeted as a priority by archaeologists using appropriate methods of investigative survey (such as aerial photography or geophysical survey) to inform the future management of such areas.

#### Findspots

There are seldom any surface remains associated with sites of casual finds. Such artefacts are often found on the ground surface, or disturbed from topsoil, following ploughing or other ground disturbance and therefore present little or no opportunity for management. Significant scatters of finds may, however, indicate the presence of buried features.

#### *Management Guidance*

The sites of significant find scatters should be avoided by substantial ground-disturbing machinery, particularly if subsoil is likely to be disturbed. If disturbance is unavoidable then an archaeological watching brief should be carried out during the work to identify buried features. If in doubt, seek professional advice.

Appropriate archaeological survey and investigation should be targeted on such areas to identify the nature and extent of the buried archaeological resource in order to inform future management.

### **5.15 Guidelines for historic landscape theme - industry**

#### Landscape element types

This may include significant remains such as quarries, adits, shafts, tramways, ropeways, inclines and associated buildings and structures.

#### *Management guidance*

Maintain the site in a stable condition. Prevent regeneration of scrub, tree and undergrowth on walls and within buildings. Fence any dangerous structures (e.g. old mine shafts, deep holes/wells, teetering

structures) to keep away both livestock and visitors and, if appropriate, erect warning signs. If necessary seek archaeological advice on the desirability of consolidating the building/structure. Industrial remains are notoriously complex and difficult to deal with, and it is important that no remedial work is carried out without consultation and advice.

Do not allow the removal of stone or any material from the site, or the tipping of any rubbish, spoil or other debris on the site. However, where damage is unavoidable, for example if the structure has to be partially destroyed to make it safe, a full archaeological survey consisting of photography and measured drawing should be carried out beforehand. Advice must be sought on this.

### **5.16 Guidelines for historic landscape theme - communications**

#### Landscape element types

This includes roads, lanes, tracks (including farm tracks), green lanes and footpaths.

#### *Management guidance*

Maintain the site in a stable condition: the character of most routeways lies in the combination of built elements (usually side-walls or side-banks, and a metalled or cobbled surface) with natural elements (hedgerows, trees, flower-rich verges), often deeply incised into the landscape.

Where active management is required, any damaging processes (such as root damage causing imminent collapse of a section of walling) or increased erosion should be identified and the source of the problem dealt with. However, great care should be taken. If trees or gorse, for example, are part of the character of a routeway, any plants which are removed or die should be replaced. Indiscriminate spraying should not be carried out on roadside verges: trees and hedges should be cut back in the autumn, and should be treated sensitively (not sheared off to a level top).

Routeways must not be blocked: if necessary, gateways can be installed but wherever possible these should be in character with existing gateways (many estates or areas, for example, had distinctive styles of gates). New posts should not cause damage to existing structures. Do not allow the removal of any stone or any material from the site, or the tipping of any rubbish, spoil or any other debris on the site. New trackways should be avoided wherever possible, and any newly-constructed trackways should conform to the local historic character (this does not include farm vehicle routes across fields).

Whilst public access along trackways is obviously an intrinsic part of their character, the use of motor vehicles on green lanes should be restricted to tractors or other farm vehicles: vulnerable sites such as grassed trackways should be protected from erosion.

An important part of the historic character and local distinctiveness of the (public) roads is the signing, with many of the signs in Llyn being the 'old' black and white type, although the main roads have new signs: the former should be maintained wherever possible. Other street and road furniture (e.g. lampposts) should also retain their existing character when replaced. Most lanes are uncluttered and free from signs, although caravan parking signs and adverts for local produce are common. These have become a recognisable part of the character of the area and their individual distinctiveness should be retained. Another important characteristic of the area is that it retains its 'dark night quality', with little if any extraneous modern roadside lighting: this aspect of the landscape should certainly be maintained.

### **5.17 Other general guidelines**

Archaeological excavation is a skilled and expensive operation which should be left to those professionally qualified, and with the proper resources, to undertake it. All excavations should be carried out within the parameters of a long-term research framework. 'Amateur' excavations should be actively discouraged, but 'amateur' involvement in supervised excavations will continue to be encouraged.

If archaeological features or artefacts (such as pottery, flint or bone) are found, they should be left undisturbed if at all possible and reported at once to Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. Artefacts will always have a greater significance in context and in many cases will become meaningless if taken away.

If the artefact is found loose on the ground surface, however, and is likely to be removed anyway, it is probably safer to record its exact location and then hand it in to the Trust with full details of the circumstances surrounding its discovery. It will be returned if wanted, after it has been duly recorded.

Public access to vulnerable sites should not be improved as this may lead to erosion or deliberate damage. Where sites lie close to public roads and/or are publicly accessible (*e.g.* near car parks or picnic places) and are sufficiently robust to withstand visitor pressure, consideration could be given to the provision of interpretation boards, perhaps as part of the conservation plan. It is vital that specialist advice is taken before embarking on any such work.

## 6 Landmap policy areas

- 6.1 A total of eighteen primary policy areas have been identified on the basis of existing information - these are described in the accompanying document.
- 6.2 Other areas of potential historic landscape interest might include
  - Llangian, Llanengan, Aberdaron, Tudwiliog, Soch, Llaniestyn, Botwnnog, (Sarn) Meyllteyrn, Edern, Llannor (all nucleated settlements with medieval townships origins);
  - areas around the isolated churches of Pistyll, Capel Ceidio, Penllech, Llangwnnadi, Bryncroes, Bodferin, Llanfaelrhys, Llandegwning, Llandudwen, Bodean, Penrhos and Llanfihangel Bachellaeth;
  - Machroes (industrial settlement);
  - Abersoch and environs (20th century tourism landscape) and Llanbedrog (another tourist-generated settlement);
  - areas around archaeological sites such as Castell Odo.

However, the definition of these would require considerable additional work.

## 7 Conclusions

- 7.1 Insufficient primary field data has been collected, insufficient information from historical secondary sources has been collated, and insufficient analysis has been carried out for the areas outlined in this exercise to be other than provisional.
- 7.2 The level of information required for Landmap regarding the historic environment is not readily available. This particular project would not have been possible without the Trust's earlier work on the historic characterisation of the Llyn ESA already referred to and which was estimated to have taken between 6-8 weeks of work (and even then was not complete).
- 7.3 The level of technology (coloured pens and maps, and accompanying lists) used during this exercise was not helpful to the collection and analysis of data.
- 7.4 Landmap still does not actually state **what** data is required for the historic environment aspect, the **level** of data that is required, **how** that data is to be collected, **by whom**, and **how** it should best be presented.
- 7.5 There is no information on the level of management strategy envisaged by Landmap.



## 8 Recommendations

- 8.1 Landmap should specify what is required by way of historic environment data and level of management strategy.
- 8.2 Resources should be concentrated on collecting primary data (fieldwork, historical documentation, historic landscape characterisation, building analysis).
- 8.3 Particular gaps in the known data where resources could be targeted can be identified as -
- fieldwork to identify relict archaeological remains especially in marginal areas;
  - target resources for aerial reconnaissance and geophysical survey in areas of cultivation;
  - fieldwork to examine, date, and describe farm buildings in particular and other vernacular architecture traditions;
  - upgrading the Listed Buildings lists (in particular to include grid references);
  - examine historical ecology in more detail;
  - use of GIS is essential to collate and analyse data.

## 9 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 This report was compiled by David Thompson.

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## PART B

Landscape policy areas

in required format

# LANDMAP INFORMATION FOR SOUTHERN LLYN

## Landscape policy areas - historical aspect

G/H/1 Uwchmynydd (coastal)

Primary

### Description

- unenclosed, coastal cliff-edge strip with substantial relict archaeological remains, including prehistoric hut circles, associated field system remnants, cairns, and medieval settlement remains, as well as mesolithic flint scatters
- (reference GAT report, 261, p20)

### Justification

- probably the densest concentration of mesolithic flint scatters (the earliest evidence for human occupation of the area) in Llyn if not north-west Wales
- well-preserved relict (prehistoric and medieval) archaeological remains (increasingly rare in themselves) unusual outside upland areas and in coastal location
- considerable potential for further (academic) investigation and as educational resource

### Tolerance to change

- fragile and vulnerable resource, very susceptible to change

### Management strategy

- sensitive management essential if fragile resource is not to erode
- refer to management section on relict archaeology (paragraph 5.14) in accompanying document
- area largely owned by National Trust so discussion should start with them



G/H/2 Uwchmynydd (central)  
Primary

Description

- extensive area of medieval strip-fields (quilllets) fossilised below later field boundaries
- scattered settlement pattern of small, squat farms with nineteenth-century chapels
- (reference GAT report, 261, p20)

Justification

- largest known area of survival of this type of landscape in north-west Wales

Tolerance to change

- cloddiau are already beginning to be replaced by wire fencing leading to loss of integrity and character

Management strategy

- refer to management section on agriculture (paragraph 5.12) and communications (paragraph 5.16) in accompanying document
- ESA management guidelines would be appropriate here

G/H/3 Anelog  
Primary

Description

- continuation of area G/H/2
- extensive area of medieval strip-fields (quilleys) fossilised below later field boundaries
- early medieval monastic retreat of Anelog falls within area

Justification

- see area G/H/2

Tolerance to change

- see area G/H/2

Management strategy

- see area G/H/2

G/H/4 Rhoshirwaun  
Primary

Description

- the central part of this diverse area covers the area of the nineteenth-century Rhoshirwaun enclosure of waste, and has a distinctive pattern of small plots of land, many still occupied by single-storey dwellings and a scattering of nineteenth-century chapels add to the strong sense of place: buildings in the cob-walled tradition of Llyn are restricted to this area
- beyond this central area are remnant field patterns of earlier periods, most notably fossilised medieval strip fields towards the coast
- there is a distinct feeling of 'difference' here where, due to the flatness of the land the horizon is very near and the eye is held on roadside dwellings and straight, low cloddiau: this contrasts with the undulating, ever-changing perspectives presented by most of surrounding Llyn
- the straight lines of the roads, the relative density of roadside settlement and the lack of height in the surrounding landscape, give an almost-midwestern USA or Scottish highlands linear croft feel to the area

Justification

- this area has a very distinctive sense of place and period which is unlike the rest of Llyn

Tolerance to change

- the settlement pattern is one of the principal defining characteristics here, and infilling and improvement are a threat which probably need to be controlled

Management strategy

- the use of policies limiting infilling in the local plan, as well as advice in the development control process are required to limit adverse impacts on settlement
- refer to management section on settlement (paragraph 5.13) in accompanying document

G/H/5 Mynydd Rhiw  
Primary

Description

- the appearance of small, stone-walled fields announce our arrival in an upland area
- this area contains some of the finest yet subtle archaeological field monuments in north-west Wales: there is a whole palimpsest of earthworks and stone-built features which testify vocally to the long history of man's exploitation of Llyn, from neolithic burial chambers and axe factory, through later prehistoric defensive enclosures, a medieval landscape of settlements and fields, post-medieval dwellings to modern designed gardens and (unfortunately obtrusive) defensive works

Justification

- this is one of the finest palimpsests of historic sites and features in north-west Wales, where sites which are important in themselves can also be seen in their landscape contexts
- the potential of the area for explaining landscape evolution in visual terms is immense

Tolerance to change

- the area is marginal (which is why it has retained such a high number of relict archaeological sites) and is therefore vulnerable to slight changes in agricultural practices
- development is less of a threat here, but one which could not be tolerated

Management strategy

- much of the area is either owned by the National Trust or is land under ESA, both of which represent a structured way forward in ensuring preservation of this key landscape area
- refer to management section on agriculture (paragraph 5.12) and relict archaeology (paragraph 5.14) in accompanying document



G/H/6 Cefnamwlch  
Secondary (possibly)

#### Description

- house, park and garden of sixteenth to nineteenth centuries (although only the gatehouse of the earlier house remains: principal components are areas of woodland, planted as shelter belts and along approach driveways, and regular fields surrounding the house and walled and private gardens
- for more detailed reference see Cadw Register of Parks and Gardens (forthcoming)

#### Justification

- Cefnamwlch estate was one of the principal landowning estates of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries which were responsible for so many alterations to the landscape during that period, and whose grounds now impact considerably on the surrounding landscape

#### Tolerance to change

- as the land is within a single ownership, this depends on his plans and decisions

#### Management strategy

- by discussion with the owner

G/H/7 Nanhoron  
Secondary (possibly)

#### Description

- house, park and gardens of seventeenth to nineteenth centuries (again, earlier house now gone): principal components are areas of woodland and regular fields, as well as series of walled and kitchen gardens surrounding the house, with parkland stretching away southwards
- for more detailed reference see Cadw Register of Parks and Gardens (forthcoming)

#### Justification

- Nanhoron (Edwards) estate was one of the principal landowning estates of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries which were responsible for so many alterations to the landscape during that period, and whose grounds now impact considerably on the surrounding landscape

#### Tolerance to change

- as the land is within a single ownership, this depends on his plans and decisions

#### Management strategy

- by discussion with the owner

G/H/8 Mynytho  
Primary

Description

- an interesting landscape of late (nineteenth-century) enclosure of former waste and common, which is still clearly evident in the strong pattern of small, walled fields and scattered settlement
- however, underneath this recent layer of fields are preserved a considerable number of relict archaeological sites, largely of prehistoric date, including a number of defensive enclosures and burial sites, as well as areas which had already been enclosed (themselves possibly medieval in origin)
- the straight lines of the thoroughfares are characteristically post-enclosure, in contrast to the meandering routeways of earlier periods

Justification

- the area has a strong sense of period and character which is quite different to most of Llyn
- it is readily identifiable with a single period in Llyn history
- however, it also has an above-average survival of earlier sites and features and has considerable potential for studying the effects of late enclosure

Tolerance to change

- the area is being (relatively) heavily-developed, and a number of housing estates have grown up here over recent years: to some extent these are masked by the surrounding density and scale of landscape features, and perhaps fit in with the denser pattern of settlement, the rate of new housing (and concomitant services) should be watched

Management strategy

- limits on numbers of houses in the local plan as well as guidance and advice through the development control process would probably be the most effective way of retaining the historic character of this area
- in addition, the need to retain the field pattern must be reinforced in agricultural practices
- refer to management section on agriculture (paragraph 5.12) and settlement (paragraph 5.13) in accompanying document

G/H/9 Penrhos  
Secondary (possibly)

#### Description

- small landscape area of specific historic and cultural interest
- site of World War II RAF airfield, built in 1938 and used during war in conjunction with bombing range on Hells' Mouth
- now the site of a home for Polish people

#### Justification

- important as site of major event in cultural struggle Welsh language struggle, where Saunders Lewis was one of three men imprisoned for blowing up buildings
- still remembered by men who were stationed and flew from there

#### Tolerance to change

- most features of historic interest since removed, retains primarily symbolic importance

#### Management strategy

- little active management probably required beyond retaining as place of historic and cultural interest

G/H/10 Garn Fadryn  
Primary

Description

- area showing considerable depth of historical landscape interest, dominated by the stone-walled hillfort of Garn Fadryn, but also containing relict (contemporary) settlement sites still within their contemporary field systems on lower slopes to the east
- away to the west on the spur above Nant Llaniestyn are irregular, almost concentric-patterned fields which may date back in origin to the prehistoric period but are still in use
- the characteristic girdle of small, regular stone-walled fields (relating to enclosure during the early nineteenth century) with their small-scale scattered settlements, is in evidence on the southern slopes of the hill
- underlying the latter are areas of older enclosure, based around Hendre, possibly of medieval origin
- while on the northern slopes is Madryn, seat of Parry Jones and one of the principal estates on Llyn in the post-medieval period, above which is a fine example of a quadrant-pattern of large fields

Justification

- the area contains a wide range (depth) of evidence for landscape patterning from a series of historic period, from the prehistoric through to the recent
- the area is a major resource for academic landscape historians and educationalists who are interested in seeing or studying the effects of different periods of landscape organisation in a restricted area (if the area were to be extended to the east and west to include the nucleated settlement of Llaniestyn and the farms of Caerau, and even the isolated church of Llandudwen to the north, the different post-medieval settlement patterns originating from medieval townships, of nucleation on one hand and dispersal into scattered farms on the other, might also be included in this)

Tolerance to change

- agricultural improvement might potentially be the most significant factor affecting the survival of both relict archaeological sites and field patterns (the most significant historic landscape features here)

Management strategy

- any management strategy would therefore have to be agriculture-based, incorporating elements of both retention of features as well as enhancement and possibly interpretation
- refer to management section on agriculture (paragraph 5.12) and relict archaeology (paragraph 5.14) in accompanying document

G/H/11 Boduan parkland  
Primary

Description

- an area with a relatively homogenous historic character, of neat, medium-sized fields interspersed with planted woodland of the last century dominated by two turnpike roads cutting straight lines across the area
- the overwhelming visual impact is a regular pattern of field boundaries, set axially to the roads, within an ordered, planned, ornamental parkland setting
- there is surviving relict archaeology (scheduled motte and standing stones) in the eastern part of the area (where the recent landscaping has had less impact) which adds historical depth and demonstrates the former importance of the area in both prehistoric and medieval times, and the potential for further discoveries (cropmark sites are also known from the southern area)
- (reference, GAT report, 261, p15)

Justification

- it is a discrete area which retains considerable synchronic integrity, unlike the organic, evolving nature of much of the rest of Llyn

Tolerance to change

- the field pattern (being medium in size and relatively recent) is unlikely to become under threat, but the woodland (see below) will be problematic
- the relict archaeology lies within improved land and typically is more susceptible to agricultural improvements

Management strategy

- the woodland component is particularly important: it is all planted, little natural wood survives, which contains greater or lesser numbers of exotic species some now coming to the end of their lives
- there is demonstrable potential for buried archaeology which will require management of ploughing
- the roads are a major component (reference communications section of GAT report, 261, p29) which need to be managed
- the relict archaeology will need specific management to avoid damage from trees (motte) and agricultural activities (standing stones) (see paragraph 5.14 of accompanying document)



G/H/12 Pwllheli

Secondary (possibly) Primary (for archaeology)

#### Description

- the medieval borough of Pwllheli developed on similar lines to Nefyn on the opposite coast. Both were initially manorial boroughs which grew up on the demesne lands of the princes of Gwynedd, and the settlements were already well-established when Edward I began his policy of town foundation in North Wales. Pwllheli had emerged as the chief township in the commote of Cafflogion, and when the royal officials surveyed it in 1284 its commercial life was well established, with the holding of two annual fairs and an occasional, but not regular, market. Pwllheli was eventually granted full borough status by Edward the Black Prince in 1355
- as also with Nefyn, herring fishing was an important aspect of the town's economy; but there were only 21 householders, less than half the figure for Nefyn, and the settlement was generally on a smaller scale: the early settlement, with its associations with the sea and the fisheries of Cardigan Bay, developed close to the shoreline, but this has changed significantly since the Medieval period
- at the beginning of the fifteenth century there was an influx of new inhabitants and there are signs that the community was beginning to revive, although progress was slow, and it was not until the middle years of the following century that Pwllheli had regained any real urban character.
- by 1545, 21 inhabitants were of sufficient social standing to be brought within the scope of special taxation, and in 1566 the town was described as 'a port or haven.....wherein are 36 householdes or cotages'. The recovery continued for the remainder of the 16th century, and by the turn the population stood at over 300, with expansion both east and west of Y Gadlys and north along Kingshead Street. Recently, the commercial core of the town has moved westwards to the area of Maes Square
- some 500 m north of the town stands the farm of Henllys, which may well mark the site of the princely residence recorded by Edward I's officials: accounts refer to the repair of the hall and solar of the *llys*, and some structures were still apparent for Leland to observe in the 1530s

#### Justification

- Pwllheli was one of only two major towns in Llŷn in the medieval and post-medieval period: archaeologically it is a highly important site, but at present has received no serious archaeological attention

#### Tolerance to change

- as a growing, evolving town, the main threats come probably from development

#### Management strategy

- the most effective means of managing change of the historic dimension of Pwllheli is through the planning process, with policies in the local plan and advice through the development control process to allow archaeological investigation and recording to precede any potentially revealing developments

- a programme of archaeological investigation would be highly beneficial in trying to target resources at more productive areas

G/H/13 Yoke Farm  
Primary

Description

- a small area around Yoke farm which, unusually for lowland 'improved' Llyn, has good survival of relict archaeological sites (prehistoric and medieval settlements), with sufficient unimproved land to show something of the contemporary setting of these sites

Justification

- the survival of relict archaeological sites is rare in this type of setting

Tolerance to change

- resource comprises low, earthwork sites which are very fragile and vulnerable to changes in farming regime (although owners are sympathetic)

Management strategy

- basic level (provision of information to owners) already carried out: monitoring and need to maintain interest essential
- refer to management section on relict archaeology (paragraph 5.14) in accompanying document

G/H/14 Nefyn  
Primary

Description

- area based on the medieval commotal centre of Nefyn (one of the llysoedd of the peripatetic royal courts of independent Gwynedd) and on the nearby medieval township of Morfa: in a girdle immediately surrounding the present-day settlements are characteristic medieval strip-fields, fossilised below later boundaries
- the minor roads and footpaths are interesting in that they appear to reflect an early (medieval) pattern, apparently kinking around an existing lay-out of strip fields: the major roads are more recent and cut across this earlier pattern

Justification

- Nefyn is important historically as possibly the earliest 'urban' centre on Llyn, centred around the maerdref of the Welsh princes which existed here before the Edwardian invasion: it was a borough under Edward and was a thriving fishing and boat-building area thereafter
- the conjunction of the medieval field pattern in association with a maerdref and another township is unique in Llyn
- the area has considerable potential for the academic archaeologist and landscape historian, as well as an educational resource

Tolerance to change

- there is little of the medieval character left in the settlements
- the field pattern may at risk from changes in agricultural practices which might seek to remove boundaries and improve fields

Management strategy

- there is little if anything (the motte and church in Nefyn excepted) of the medieval period left to see in either Nefyn or Morfa, but archaeological investigation should precede any developments within the town to inform and educate
- it is important to retain the patterns of fields surrounding the settlements (see paragraph 5.12 of accompanying document)

G/H/15 Mynydd Nefyn  
Primary

Description

- reasonable survival of relict archaeological sites (prehistoric and medieval settlement), overshadowed by Garn Boduan hillfort, within partial contemporary landscape setting on fringes of upland and down into cultivated land
- well-preserved field pattern of small, regular fields representing enclosure of upland margins at the beginning of the last century (1812-21)
- industrial (quarrying) remains of previous century

Justification

- shows considerable historical depth with evidence in variety of forms (individual archaeological sites linked together, characteristic field patterns, industrial remains of one of few main industries on Llyn)
- considerable potential for further (academic) investigation and as educational resource
- increasingly unusual survival of relict archaeology within improved grassland areas
- small, regular field pattern typical of nineteenth-century enclosure of commons and characteristic of upland margins

Tolerance to change

- relict archaeological sites under pressure from agricultural improvement, with some loss of resource already noted
- pattern of small, regular 19th century fields under threat as many fields are no longer grazed or in agricultural use (too small to be practical for many purposes?)
- for same reason, liable for removal for land improvement
- industrial remains possibly under pressure from need to 'tidy up' the countryside and remove 'eyesores'

Management strategy

- refer to management section on agriculture (paragraph 5.12), relict archaeology (paragraph 5.14) and industrial remains (paragraph 5.15) in accompanying document
- if necessary this area could be split, for management purposes, into three smaller areas based on unimproved uplands, small field pattern and improved grassland

G/H/16 Coastal quarries  
Primary

Description

- the north coast, largely hidden behind the mountain ridge from the rest of Llyn, is punctuated by a series of stepped stone quarries, with their systems of working galleries, inclines, buildings and jetties and which, together with their settlements of Trefor and Nant Gwrtheyrn (see also Llithfaen below) form a huge quarrying landscape
- these quarries are, in places, inextricably tied in with the earlier relict historic landscapes described in G/H/17

Justification

Tolerance to change

- although Yr Eifl quarry is still working, its operations are limited and otherwise, the actual quarrying areas are derelict and decaying
- it is believed that some planning permissions are still extant for quarrying operations which, presumably, could be re-started
- Trefor is still a living community, but Nant Gwrtheyrn has been transformed into the Welsh Language Centre

Management strategy

- (it may be appropriate, for management purposes, to separate the actual quarries from the settlement areas although they are part of an integral historic landscape area)
- the management of the settlements are relatively straightforward and based on planning (development control) guidance and advice
- the management of the decaying quarries will be costly, time-consuming and need to be based on detailed survey, analysis and subsequent management of the existing features in the national context of stone-quarry remains (see paragraph 5.15 in accompanying document)



G/H/17 Tre'r Ceiri uplands  
Primary

Description

- the largest 'upland' area on Llyn, containing not only sites but a whole landscape of relict archaeological interest, centred on the huge stone-walled hillfort and including settlement sites (prehistoric and medieval), lynchets, cairns and so on

Justification

- the hillfort of Tre'r Ceiri is of national importance and is widely-known and much-visited: set in a (visible) contemporary landscape, its importance is increased further
- large relict archaeological landscape, rare not only locally but in Wales
- considerable resource for academic investigation and as educational tool
- (reference GAT report, 261, p 18)

Tolerance to change

- large areas such as this are particularly fragile and vulnerable
- a single act of ploughing or stone-removal can destroy thousands of years of history
- agricultural improvement, over-stocking, removal of boundaries and visitor erosion and perhaps the principal threats to this landscape

Management strategy

- refer to management section on relict archaeology (paragraph 5.14) in accompanying document

G/H/18 Llithfaen  
Primary

Description

- the quarry village of Llithfaen (with its recent co-operative 'tradition'), set on the margin between the uplands and improved agricultural land, over the ridge from the quarry workings themselves but within a fieldscape of early-nineteenth (contemporary?) small, regular fields resulting from enclosure of the upland margins
- at the southern end are relict remains of the medieval period, with earthwork settlement sites around the isolated church (possibly the remains of Carnguwch township)
- nearby, a circular field pattern may be prehistoric in origin (overlying an earlier site)

Justification

- Llithfaen is an integral part of the quarry-derived settlement pattern and social fabric of the northern Llyn coastal edge, in contrast to the agricultural heartland with which the Llyn is perhaps more usually associated
- it is part of the industrial landscape of the last century which played a crucial role in the development of north-west Wales
- the girdle of small, regular fields is characteristic of the marginal upland edges
- the isolated church with its (presumed) associated settlement nearby is of considerable academic interest and important to our understanding of the evolving medieval and post-medieval landscape of Llyn, the shift of settlement foci and the emergence of a pattern based on large farms

Tolerance to change

- the village itself is constantly evolving and changing, but still displays its industrial, nineteenth-century origins and retains its characteristics: these must not be lost
- the field pattern, comprising small, fields, is susceptible to agricultural improvements and modern requirements
- the relict archaeology is being eroded by ploughing and improvement

Management strategy

- refer to management sections on agriculture (paragraph 5.12), settlement (paragraph 5.13) and relict archaeology (paragraph 5.14) in accompanying document
- guidelines for development and building alterations should aim at retaining vernacular characteristics
- removal of field walls should be disallowed
- archaeological study of the church and its environs should be carried out to establish the potential

G/H/19 Remainder of area  
Primary (possibly)

Description

- for the most part, Llyn is a quilt of small-scale, intricate pasture fields sewn together by miles of *cloddiau*, walls and hedges, draped over a rolling, plunging, climbing skeleton of valleys and hills, coastline and plateaux. It is in the main an enclosed landscape, overlooked in places by open moorland and hills and giving out on to open cliff tops: small and irregular fields are mainly green pasture, with areas of yellow and brown arable splashed across them. Small pockets of woodland give height, variety and colour and add a sense of shelter.
- there is a pattern of dispersed settlement, with farm complexes lying alongside lanes or at the end of narrow tracks, apparently randomly scattered but many actually representing the remnants (perhaps in name only) of medieval townships. Farms form the basic settlement blocks of the area: they are usually family-owned, larger or smaller conglomerations of buildings in a single location; barns in the outfield areas are virtually unknown in the area. There are few nucleated (village) settlements, and many of these comprise disproportionate numbers of modern council houses. Several isolated churches also bear witness to the desertion of the medieval countryside.
- above the densely-packed fields rises a series of upland blocks which are often blanketed by large areas of upstanding, relict archaeological remains, mainly settlement- and agriculture-related and prehistoric and medieval in date. In between these and the agricultural heartland, there are girdles of small, regular, stone-walled fields which are the result of enclosure of the commons in the last century.
- in the last few years evidence has begun to emerge of former settlement in areas which were previously blank: detailed survey has begun to reveal the existence of sites surviving still as earthworks particularly in marginal areas and on hilltops, while there is a growing body of evidence, in the form of crop- and parch-marks, of settlement on the hillslopes and lower-lying ground which exist only as buried remains.
- routeways are principally winding, often deeply-incised lanes, with species-rich, deep hedgerows and verges, which twist and turn giving constantly-changing views (where views can be had) and perceptions. The twists and turns reflect earlier (and now often disappeared) landscape patterns of fields and settlements: sharp right-angles might follow a medieval pattern of strip fields, while curving routes might indicate an even earlier (prehistoric) curvilinear pattern of fields. Footpaths are particularly interesting in that many also follow patterns now lost. This is in contrast with more recent (turnpike, nineteenth century) roads which head, uncompromisingly, straight across the landscape to their destinations.
- the area is also characterised by its general lack of modern artefacts, especially once beyond the main centres of population and away from the formerly industrial north coast: there are the occasional housing estate and farm buildings, a hidden quarry and a wood-mill, but no factory complexes, no semi-urban sprawls of shops or industrial estates.
- (reference, GAT report, 261)

#### Justification

- the remainder of the Llyn landscape outside areas 1 - 18 can be assumed to be of 'primary' importance at least (although this must await allocation of adequate resources for detailed assessment), especially given its designation as a Historic Landscape in the forthcoming Cadw/CCW/ICOMOS Register. The following is a very broad generalised characterisation

#### Tolerance to change

- the field pattern and structure is under threat from agricultural intensification and improvement
- the settlement pattern might be under threat from unchecked development in the countryside, and individual buildings from unsympathetic repair, maintenance and improvement
- the relict archaeology is mainly under threat from lack of information (inadvertent damage) and agricultural improvement
- industrial remains are likely to be most at risk from natural decay (lack of positive management) and unsympathetic countryside 'improvements' and prettification
- routeways are from uninformed and unsympathetic highways management and road improvement schemes

#### Management strategy

- the ESA (or now its successor) has the potential to ensure proper management of the agricultural landscape and relict archaeological remains
- adequate policies in national, and more significantly local, plans along with development control and the issuing of guidelines for work can make a start on ensuring the characteristics of settlement are retained
- highways planning should be subject to similar strict control and guidelines
- above all, information, advice and support should be given to all landowners and other interested parties on how the essential character of Llyn can be defined, retained and even enhanced for the enjoyment of future generations

