
Historic landscape characterisation - Creuddyn & Arllechwedd

Historic landscape character management



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Our land is a living thing, not a grave of forgetfulness under our feet. Every hill has its history, every locality its romance, every part of the landscape wears its own particular glory.

O M Edwards

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APPENDICES

Appendix I – GIS-based *proformae* (bound separately)

1 Introduction and acknowledgements

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This project and report was intended as a contribution towards the overall historic landscape initiative currently being funded by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, Countryside Council for Wales and ICOMOS UK. Its principal aim is to provide information to aid the management of the historic landscape.
- 1.1.2 This project was made possible by grant aid from Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, which is gratefully acknowledged.
- 1.1.3 This report is intended to be read in conjunction with GAT Report no. 318, which describes and illustrates the individual character areas which form section 2 of this report, as well as providing a general historical background to the area. This document concentrates on management-related issues.

1.2 The study area

- 1.2.1 The Lower Conwy Valley (HLW(Gw)4), Creuddyn and Conwy (HLW(Gw)5) and north Arllechwedd (HLW(Gw)12) have been identified on the *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales* by Cadw, CCW and ICOMOS (Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, 1995, pp 82, 85 and 114). They contain important and well-preserved evidence of land-use and settlement from the prehistoric period onwards, which contribute significantly to the present character and appearance of the landscape, parts of which are designated AONB, Heritage Coast and Country Park.
- 1.2.2 The study area is situated in the county of Aberconwy, in the former county of Gwynedd and the historic county of Caernarfonshire, in North Wales. It includes the greater part of the Creuddyn peninsula, the western banks of the Conwy river as far south as Dolgarrog, and the uplands to the summit of the mountains Carnedd Llewelyn, Foel Grach and Garnedd Uchaf.
- 1.2.3 The study-area is defined to the north by the sea-coast and to the east by the Conwy river, tidal for seven miles inland,¹ but includes also the Creuddyn peninsula on the east bank of the mouth of the Conwy. Much of it is bleak upland area, which rises sharply from a narrow sea-coast strip along the sea-coast, and more gently from the low-lying fields along the west bank of the Conwy.
- 1.2.4 The major settlements in the study area are the towns of Llandudno, Conwy and Penmaenmawr. There are other significant settlements at Deganwy, Llandudno Junction, Dwygylchi and Llanfairfechan.

1.3 Acknowledgements

- 1.3.1 The authors are grateful to a number of people for their contributions to this project. Colleagues within and outside the Trust offered helpful advice throughout, especially those involved in the informal 'characterisation working party' comprising the WATs, Cadw and CCW. Kate Geary provided the maps, the GIS tables, and the SMR data, in a number of formats; and Margaret Mason proof-read the final draft report and made suggestions in discussions throughout. The work was carried out, and the report compiled, by David Gwyn and David Thompson.

¹ The Conwy river is tidal as far south as Trefriw; Nash Williams appears to have originated the erroneous statement that the Roman fort at Caerhun is situated at the tidal head, an error perpetuated by Della Hooke (1997, p. 81) and Icomos/Cadw *Register of Historic Landscapes*.

2 Evolving historic characterisation methodology

- 2.1 Historical landscape characteristics are the tangible evidence of the activities and habits of the people who occupied, developed, used and shaped the land to serve human needs in the past; they reflect the beliefs, attitudes, traditions and values of these people. They include the physical remains of all aspects of human activities and exploitation in the past (above and below ground, known and potential), and our understanding, interpretation and even perception of those remains. They may reflect a variety of activities occurring at one time, or evolving functions in different periods of time.
- 2.2 The Countryside Commission (in its document *Views from the Past*, 1996) states that as managers we should be concerned with the historic character of the present landscape, and not with the study of the past for its own sake. It places the idea of 'historic landscape character' at the centre of these ideas.
- 2.3 Characterisation is defined as *the process of identifying and defining the particular characteristics which make each area distinctive*, and is rapidly emerging as a sound basis for describing, understanding and managing the environment. It is the great depth of human activity which underpins much of that which we feel is important about locality and landscape, and helps give an area its local distinctiveness. Historic landscape characterisation sets out to establish the historic depth within the modern landscape by identifying its principal historic components.
- 2.4 The term 'historic character' is generally preferred to 'historic landscape', as it is now accepted that all landscape is historic in that it reflects, to a greater or lesser degree, the processes which have occurred in history and which have formed its present appearance.
- 2.5 At present there is no standard, accepted methodology for establishing the historical character of landscape, but recent work in Wales has suggested that a practical approach based on considering the evidence as a series of themes which may provide an answer. At a landscape level, what is significant in historical terms might include field boundary patterns (whether they are irregular or regular, their size, date *etc.*), settlement patterns (whether scattered or nucleated, date of origin *etc.*); the relict remains of earlier periods which are to be found in upland or marginal landscapes; the effect of 18th and 19th century estates on the landscape; the impact of industry, military installations and so on.
- 2.6 The dominant historic themes or patterns in a locality help define local historic character. The combination of these characteristics give an area its local distinctiveness, and it is the definition of areas of local distinctiveness which leads to character areas. The concept of 'character areas' differs somewhat from comparable current studies in England, such as the Cotswold AONB, which are based on Historic Landscape Types where *the predominant form of the present landscape [which] is identified principally by the existing patterns of enclosures within areas of landscape*.
- 2.7 The process of characterisation can be briefly summarised as -
- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------|
| (one or several) components | → | dominant patterns |
| (one or more) dominant patterns | → | coherent character |
| coherent character (with definable limits) | → | character area |
| (several) character areas | → | local landscape |
- 2.8 Characterisation is a practical tool intended to aid management in its broadest forms. In order to be of any practical use, this has to be translated into the management of 'landscape tangibles'. It is essential, therefore, that the process identifies key historic landscape characteristics which are features and/or patterns that can actually be managed, and that the success of this management can be measured for monitoring purposes.
- 2.9 The reports now emerging from characterisation work contain a number of elements. The description of each character area is split into three parts – (a) historical background, (b) key historic landscape characteristics and (c) conservation priorities – accompanied by a map of the area and an illustration.
- 2.10 Each study results in two reports. The first contains parts (a) (a straightforward description of the archaeological and historical development of the area) and (b) (the principal characteristics which make that area distinctive and which future management should therefore concentrate on) of the area descriptions, as well as a general historical introduction to the area and a select bibliography.

- 2.11 The second report is management base, and includes parts (b) and (c) of the area descriptions, and begins to define the scope for creative action within a number of initiatives (including *LANDMAP*, UDPs, Tir Gofal *etc.*) which can sustain or even enhance elements considered essential to the historic character of the areas identified. It also contains details on the evolving methodology, the GIS-related *proformae* and current themes, a glossary and a full and detailed bibliography which aims to serve as a starting point for any further work.

3 GIS-related *proformae*

3.1 The form

- 3.1.1 This section contains instructions on filling in the GIS-linked recording forms created as part of the project. The form consists mainly of 'tick boxes' compatible with a table to be created (for example) in MapInfo, and has now been standardised across Wales. It is intended to be linked to GIS tables used by *LANDMAP*, and the form contains a number of fields which are intended to cross-reference to any subsequent *LANDMAP* exercises.
- 3.1.2 The form is loosely divided into four parts – the first identifies the study area by name, number, project and location; the second is a list of historic landscape 'themes' which is intended to act both as a check-list and to ensure systematic recording of all character areas (which can be transferred to database) to a certain level (the current list of themes is included in section 3.1 below); the third lists other relevant and management information; while the fourth is intended as the principal link to *LANDMAP*.
- 3.1.3 The forms compiled during this study are included in appendix I which has been bound separately.

PROJECT NO

This simply records the individual project number each Trust assigns to the particular project (e.g. G1527).

AREA

This is the name of the area as used in the project: this will usually be based on a geographical, historical or cultural association.

HLCA NO.

The historic landscape character area number will be assigned according to the system outlined in previous discussions. It has been agreed that there should be a unique (Wales, rather than regional) reference number for each character area (especially as some will inevitably cross Trust boundaries) for ease of reference. This number doesn't need to contain any information in itself (e.g. county identifier), so the simple idea of numbering from 1 upwards has been adopted. Based on previous experience, it is unlikely that each Trust will end up with more than a thousand areas, so the following allocation of HLCA (historic landscape characterisation areas) reference numbers will be used

CPAT 1 – 999
DAT 1,000 – 1,999
GAT 2,000 – 2,999
GGAT 3,000 – 3,999

HLCA NAME

As above, a historic, cultural or simple geographic name is preferred (e.g. Creuddyn), otherwise a more general topographical description (e.g. rolling meadow) might be more appropriate.

LOCATION

A six figure central grid reference should be sufficient.

SUMMARY OF CHARACTER

This should be succinct, preferably fewer than c. twenty words (e.g. for Llandudno *Outstanding example of planned 19th century seaside resort*). This is intended as *aide-memoire* for writing the report.

THEMES

For each theme, all those descriptions which apply to the area should be ticked. Boxes should be ticked where significant evidence at a landscape scale exists within an area. The ticked boxes will form the basis of the free-text description in the report: this description should refer to as many of the ticked boxes as is thought appropriate, and supply supporting information. An up-to-date list of themes is included on the following pages.

BOUNDARIES

This should record briefly how the boundary of an area has been defined, and whether the boundary is definite or indicative only.

OTHER STATUS

This simply lists the existing designations which apply to the area.

MANAGEMENT/CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

This summarises the key historic landscape components which underlie (and are essential to) the character of the area and therefore need to be managed if the historic character of the area is to be maintained. This can be a summary of the relevant part of the main area entry in the report.

PRINCIPAL CURRENT LAND USES

This field summarises the broad principal land uses within the area in an attempt to try to identify which future management mechanisms (*e.g.* AWAES for agriculture, UDPs for residential/urban areas) might be relevant to managing the area.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Suggestions for what further work is either desirable or necessary both to carry the characterisation work forward, and to place the area within national/regional academic frameworks.

PRINCIPAL REFERENCES

Simply a list of which sources in the bibliography are most relevant to this area. (It is envisaged that the HLC projects will produce a cumulative bibliography, which could be stored on database.)

RECORDED BY / DATE

Name and date of compiler following standard practice.

ARCHAEOLOGY

RELICT

- Prehistoric settlement/fields
- Medieval settlement/fields
- Prehistoric ritual
- Post-medieval settlement/fields
- Turbary
- Other
- Scattered
- Not present/Unknown

INDUSTRIAL

- Quarrying
- Mining
- Manufacturing
- Mill
- Brewery
- Metal processing
- Other processing
- Craft/cottage
- Rural industry
- Other
- Not present/Unknown

BURIED

- Cropmark/parchmark
- Urban deposits
- Find scatters
- Palaeoenvironmental evidence
- Other
- Not present/Unknown

MILITARY

- Prehistoric
- Roman
- Early medieval
- Anglo-Norman
- Edwardian
- Welsh
- Tudor
- Civil War
- C19th
- WWI
- WWII
- Other
- Not present/Unknown

+ supporting information (date, historical associations, archaeological data *etc.*)

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

SETTLEMENT PATTERN

Loosely dispersed scatter
Dense scatter
Clustered
Ribbon
Nucleated – planned
Nucleated – organic
Business/commercial
Other
Not present/Unknown
Specify date (if relevant)

BUILDING TYPE

Farmhouse
Cottage
Terraced housing
Shops
Place of worship
Processing
Distinctive vernacular style (specify in character summary)
Other
Not present/Unknown

PRINCIPAL BUILDING MATERIAL

Stone – random
Stone – coursed
Clay/earth
Wood
Brick
Concrete
Other

PRINCIPAL ROOFING MATERIAL

Slate
Tile
Thatch
Stone tile
Concrete tile
Metal
Other

ORNAMENTAL / LEISURE

Deer park
Parkland/garden
Garden/park (C20)
Tourism
Sports facilities
Hunting estate
Other leisure

ECCLESIASTICAL

Cemetery (medieval)
Cemetery (modern)
Church (medieval)
Church (post medieval)
Monastic
Chapel (nonconformist)
Other

+ supporting information (date, historical associations,
archaeological data *etc.*)

INFRASTRUCTURE

COASTAL/MARITIME

- Sea defences
- Intertidal features
- Harbour/fishing
- Other
- Not present/Unknown

COMMUNICATION

- Footpaths
- Tracks
- Lanes-winding
- Lanes-straight
- Turnpike
- Major road
- Ports/docks
- Airfields
- Bridges
- Communications towers
- Public rail
- Industrial rail
- Other rail
- Canal
- Other
- Not present/Unknown

RESOURCES

- Power generation
- Power distribution
- Water supply
- Peat cutting
- Other
- Not present/Unknown

+ supporting information (date, historical associations, archaeological data *etc.*)

OTHER

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

Place-name
Artistic
Folklore/legend
Events
Literary
Persons
Other
Not present/Unknown

+ supporting information (date, historical associations,
archaeological data *etc.*)

3.2 Current themes in Historic Landscape Characterisation

SUBSISTENCE

AGRICULTURE (Field pattern)

- Unenclosed/open
- Evolved/irregular
- Regular (small)
- Regular (medium)
- Regular (large)
- Large enclosures
- Med. strips
- R+F
- Estate owned and improved
- Varied
- C20th post-war
- Other
- Not present/Unknown

AGRICULTURE (Field boundary)

- Dry-stone wall
- Stone-faced bank
- Stone-faced bank with hedge
- Hedge
- Distinctive hedgerow trees
- Earth bank
- Dyke
- Ditches
- Mortared walls
- Slate pillars
- Pale
- Sheepfolds
- Post+wire fence
- Other
- Not present/Unknown

FORESTRY

- Ancient woodland
- Other broadleaf woodland
- Plantation
- C20Forestry
- Scrub/unmanaged
- Coppice
- Charcoal burning
- Other
- Not present/Unknown

+ supporting information (date, historical associations, archaeological data *etc.*)

4 Managing historic character

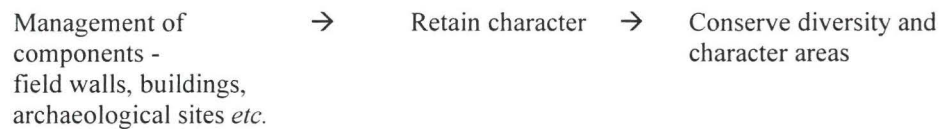
4.1 Rural land-use change

- 4.1.1 There have been many pressures on the rural environment and the countryside over the last 50 years as a result of changes in land use and shifting priorities for agriculture (the principal rural land use). Agricultural intensification and the maximisation of productivity were the priorities up until the mid-1980s, and as a consequence the character of rural landscapes changed dramatically during this period as hedgerows and trees were removed to create more efficient farming systems. Reclamation of the hills and marginal land led to the removal of significant upstanding archaeological sites and palimpsest landscapes.
- 4.1.2 Currently, due to agricultural over-production and a general greater awareness of and concern for the quality and protection of the rural environment, the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy provides a number of incentives to farmers and landowners to manage their land in an environmentally sensitive manner. The range of such agri-environment schemes (such as Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Tir Cymen) include provision for the conservation of certain habitats as well as for the protection and enhancement of stone walls and boundaries, although the protection of archaeological sites *strictu sensu* is less of a priority for the schemes. It is expected that this aspect of rural management will be enhanced by the new Tir Gofal scheme.
- 4.1.3 However, the present schemes do not cover the whole country (as the Tir Gofal scheme is intended to), and even where they do apply not all farmers take them up for various reasons, and so many important archaeological sites and landscape features continue to be lost. The challenge therefore is to identify historic landscape priorities for conservation, protection, enhancement or even restoration. The next step will be to ensure delivery of sound historical landscape management via a number of management initiatives and strategies.
- 4.1.4 Two of the principal advantages of an approach using character areas are that (a) it is able to identify and map both local distinctiveness and national importance; and (b) by identifying physical features which can be managed it can feed directly into land management and development planning strategies. It can assist in management plans by setting priorities for management and enhancement, highlighting intrinsic values, and encouraging links to multi-purpose management.
- 4.1.5 Characterisation is about management: if we are going to manage effectively, we must know what is there, what is important and what we want to do with it. Character areas can tell us what is distinctive (*i.e.* important both locally and nationally) about a particular area, and therefore what needs to be managed in order to retain that area's distinctiveness (character).

4.2 General considerations

- 4.2.1 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. If at the same time management can actually enhance the historic landscape, then that is even better. It is essential that such management is continuous, and contains provisions for monitoring and review.
- 4.2.2 One of the basic tenets underpinning management is that we should be aiming to continue (rather than halt) the past evolution of the landscape: to do this we must first identify what is important and significant in historic landscape terms. It is the overall historic character of the present landscape (as evidenced in important and significant groupings and patterns) which we should aim to retain, but in order to do this we must concentrate management actions at the level of individual components. We must identify, conserve and enhance the local and regional historic diversity of our landscapes.
- 4.2.3 Agri-environment and other rural initiatives offer the opportunity to integrate the needs of the historic environment with modern land-use requirements to produce a workable, effective management system. More importantly, they should result in 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.

- 4.2.4 This means that sites and features of historic landscape interest are positively managed for their own sake, rather than just left unimproved. It is important that the management of such features is integral to the management of the farm, or the scheme, as a whole, rather than an isolated, unrelated activity.
- 4.2.5 By working at the most basic level, management can be used to retain the general historic character of the area -



- 4.2.6 A management plan should specify conservation objectives for a site/area and how they will be monitored: it should identify points at which some response will be made if monitoring shows that a feature is changing: it should establish what activities/processes will be the subject of monitoring: it should establish what management of on-going activities is required; and identify the types of development or activities which might adversely affect the site.
- 4.2.7 Not all the sites and features which comprise the historic environment require the same detailed level of management: some sites can be adequately managed by the application of simple, general strategies, while more complex sites merit more detailed, site-specific, problem-led responses.

4.3 Mechanisms - general

- 4.3.1 It is envisaged that characterisation has many potential applications to management including -
- assisting in developing landscape conservation and enhancement projects, by identifying elements and patterns of the historic environment which are considered either typical of a local area (provide local distinctiveness) or are of particular importance (rare at a national level);
 - targeting resources within grant-aid by government and other organisations towards conserving elements and patterns of the historic environment in the same way;
 - developing policies for unitary development plans;
 - assisting in determining planning applications, especially large-scale developments such as roads, wind-farms, mineral extraction, large-scale landfill, waste disposal, reclamation, water schemes, major settlement and major industrial development;
 - aiding the management of land by farmers, and large corporate landowners such as industrial companies, water or electricity companies, the forestry industry and the National Trust;
 - providing baseline information for local areas against which future change can be monitored, for example as part of the new Tir Gofal scheme;
 - providing general information not already on the SMR which can be used to inform advice given as part of a number of rural initiatives such as Tir Gofal, Woodland Grant Schemes *etc.*;
 - providing advice in a rural framework to conservation agencies including Cadw, Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency, local authorities, national parks and others;
 - providing information to a number of wider initiatives, including contributing to our academic understanding of landscape, stimulating further research, raising public perception of the landscape, and the preparation of policy statements by public bodies.

4.4 Mechanisms - specific

- 4.4.1 ***Tir Gofal***, which has recently been launched, will be open to applications from farmers throughout Wales. Within the scheme, payments will be made to farmers for observing 'codes of good environmental practice', one of which is care and enhancement of the historic environment. As the

scheme is a 'whole farm' scheme, it will allow archaeological management strategies sensitive to the character of the landscape as a whole to be integrated with farming practices. Characterisation is useful for monitoring purposes, as it sets out the wider historic environment framework within which individual farm plans will sit. It can also help prioritise management within a broader landscape context.

4.4.2 **Unitary Development Plans** address 'land use' issues and are currently being compiled by unitary authorities in Gwynedd, Conwy and Ynys Mon. The former and latter will be taking into account previous and ongoing *LANDMAP* initiatives which involve a certain level of historic characterisation.

4.4.3 **Countryside strategies** are the responsibility of local authorities (together with others), which have a general duty under section 1 of the Countryside Act, 1981, to have regard to the desirability of conserving the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside in the exercise of their functions relating to land. Countryside strategies principally address management of the countryside in areas outside settlement limits, but they are also a mechanism, at least in part, of implementing development plan policies. In Wales, such strategies are supported by CCW.

Relevant to the area covered by this study, Conwy recently issued their five year programme, *A Countryside Strategy for Conwy*, which takes the Council forward to 2003 and will be supplemented by integrated action programmes which will identify priorities and prescribe projects to be undertaken. The strategy states (paragraph 2.1.5) that *the four issues of nature conservation/biodiversity, landscape, access and environmental education/interpretation will form the core of the Strategy*.

There are a number of sites within the area which are specifically managed for their nature conservation interest, including the RSPB reserve at Conwy, three woodlands managed by the Woodland Trust, four reserves managed by the North Wales Wildlife Trust and two Local nature Reserves managed by Conwy County Borough Council.

Local authorities have a number of powers which have implications for the management of the historic environment including the power to establish Country Parks (section 7 of the Countryside Act 1968); the ability to declare Local Nature Reserves (section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949); the ability to enter into access agreements with landowners (section 64 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949); the ability to buy derelict land (often of industrial archaeological interest) for reclamation purposes (section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949); the duty to make Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate (section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990); and the duty to apply The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 which controls the removal of certain important hedgerows (from section 97 of the Environment Act 1995). Other powers are treated separately below.

Many local authorities have a countryside warden service which would benefit from characterisation information.

4.4.4 **Local Agenda 21 programme** At Rio, governments committed themselves to setting up national targets for safeguarding and improving the environment. Local Agenda 21 and Local Biodiversity Action Plans provide the means of meeting these targets, and of promoting the principles of sustainable development, at a local level. Both initiatives are about embracing a conscientious vision of the long-term future by identifying what matters locally and paying serious attention to the global costs of maintaining local lifestyles.

This has implications for archaeology and the historic environment? At a local level, sense of place is a fundamental aspect of quality of life. The present day landscape underpins our sense of the place in which we live. Much of its character and distinctiveness is derived from the historic environment (archaeology and the built heritage in all its forms). The historic environment is of course both fragile and non-renewable. We have a responsibility to maintain it so that future generations can also appreciate and benefit from it in the same way that we do. However, the landscape is not static. Just as today's landscape is a product of the changing relationships between people and their environment through time, so it must be allowed to continue to change.

The point of sustainability is that it promotes change which meets the needs of the future whilst retaining the integrity of the historic environment. In order to do so decisions have to be made about the relative importance of different elements. Traditionally, evaluation has been based on individual sites, with particular examples being selected out for special protection (known as scheduling). However, it is the sum total of archaeological features not individual sites which give landscape its

grain and it is often the more ordinary features that create 'local distinctiveness'. In order to ensure that decisions about the future of the historic environment are made on a secure basis, sound information needs to be gathered. Historic landscape characterisation work of the kind being carried out by the Trusts provides historic environment audits, from which decisions of this kind can be made.

- 4.4.5 **Biodiversity Action Plans** The Trust has recently contributed to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for Ynys Môn which is currently under preparation. LBAPs are a means by which Local Government Authorities can implement the biodiversity recommendations established after the Rio Summit. They achieve this by building up local partnerships and taking account of both national and local biodiversity priorities to develop strategies for the conservation of species and habitats of local significance. As we are still at the early stages of our involvement, more information will be forthcoming at a later date, but it is already obvious that the type of general information coming from characterisation projects will be able to feed into such plans.

At a general level, archaeology is of relevance to LBAPs because it raises awareness of the historical origins of the contemporary environment. There are no purely 'natural' environments in Britain; the landscape is the product of millennia of human activity. Our knowledge of the changing relationship between people and their environment through history allows us to understand the land-use activities which have led to the creation of contemporary landscapes, and comment from an informed historical perspective on those practices which could be encouraged in order to protect and conserve particular landscapes and ecosystems.

- 4.4.6 **Access** is a key issue in the countryside, if we are to enjoy the landscape and all its inherent interests and in turn engender understanding and respect for the countryside and the way it works. In addition to the rights of way network, the government has recently announced proposals to provide greater access to open areas of the countryside and issued a Framework for Action. As many of the best-preserved and most fragile palimpsest archaeological sites and landscapes lie within these areas, this has potential implications for archaeological management.

Historic landscape characterisation can identify these areas (*i.e.* where there are well-preserved yet fragile archaeological remains) and thus highlight the potential management problems if the areas are 'opened up' to public access. It may even be that such areas could be excluded from unfettered access under new legislation, either permanently or on a temporary basis.

Characterisation also has the potential to inform leaflets, trails and other interpretative material.

- 4.4.7 **Leisure strategy** Conwy County Borough Council announced in their recent Countryside Strategy a forthcoming leisure strategy, but no further details are available at this time.
- 4.4.8 **Tourism** The Wales Tourist Board (WTB) has the strategic responsibility for encouraging people to visit Wales and for the provision of tourist facilities. In recent years tourism has become one of the most important growth sectors of the economy. Unitary authorities all have a tourism strategy of some description, and historic characterisation has a part to play in sustainable 'green tourism' in that it can help identify local distinctiveness which can be used both to attract visitors (by way of advertising), create atmosphere and to inform quality initiatives such as local walks, guides and other recreational activities. It can also direct visitors to areas with a robust historic environment, and away from those which are particularly fragile.
- 4.4.9 **Management agreements** In addition, local authorities have the ability (under section 39 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1998) to enter into management agreements with landowners. This is an area which could be explored further from the historic environment perspective, as such agreements could cover not only individual monuments but also historic landscape characteristics (such as boundary types).
- 4.4.10 **Other local authority programmes** Local authorities have programmes for economic development, highways maintenance, environmental education and coastal protection. These would all benefit from the information which is being compiled through the characterisation projects, and, in the other direction, the safeguarding of the historic environment would benefit from those drawing up these programmes having direct access to historic landscape characterisation data. In fact, information at this broad level would probably be more useful than detailed, site-specific SMR data.
- 4.4.11 **Forestry Commission** Information from characterisation projects will be invaluable in contributing to new national and regional indicative forestry strategies, indicating where new proposals for planting are

likely to be acceptable (or unacceptable) from an historic environment perspective. On a day to day basis, it can provide information at a landscape level which can inform proposals for new planting. It will be particularly useful when considering proposals under any of the challenge schemes.

- 4.4.12 **Environment Agency** is responsible for producing Local Environment Action Plans (LEAPs) and Catchment Management Plans (CMPs). The historic environment does not have a high profile in either of these, and both could therefore benefit from information which characterisation can provide.
- 4.4.13 **Other bodies** Historic landscape characterisation information can be used to educate and inform a wide range of organisations and individuals including statutory agencies, voluntary bodies (RSPB, Woodland Trust, North Wales Wildlife Trust, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, National Trust) town councils, community councils, farming unions and others. It is our experience that often it is easier to explain the importance of, and inherent interest of, the historic environment by using historic characterisation, than by the more traditional means of individual archaeological sites and excavations.

Local distinctiveness and a sense of place, which are of undoubted interest to people, can all be conveyed by such means, and the potential importance of this aspect of characterisation cannot be emphasised too strongly.

5 Management of historic character areas

5.1 The study area has been divided into a number of separate historic character areas as follows:

2000	Great Orme (Pen y Gogarth).
2001	Llandudno.
2002	Little Orme/Mynydd Pant/Nant y Gamar.
2003	Morfa Rhianned.
2004	Deganwy/Llandudno.
2005	Creuddyn.
2006	Conwy.
2007	Conwy Morfa.
2008	Uplands.
2009	Penmaenmawr/Dwygylchi.
2010	Penmaenmawr Quarry.
2011	Llanfairfechan.
2012	Fieldscape around Gerlan.
2013	Bryn y Neuadd and lowland coastal plains.
2014	Rolling meadows, west of Afon Gonwy.
2015	Enclosed intermediary hillslopes, west of Conwy valley
2016	Flat valley bottom (drained areas).
2017	Dolgarrog.
2018	Coed Dolgarrog.
2019	Unenclosed mountain.
2020	Alltwyllt.
2021	Bryn Pydew.
2022	Penrhyn Bay.
2023	Unenclosed mountain (north)

5.2 Each area's management prescriptions have been divided into two sections – key historic landscape characteristics, and conservation priorities and management.

5.3 The map on the following page shows the location of the areas in relation to each other.

2000 Great Orme

Key historic landscape characteristics

bell pits, ridge and furrow, relict settlement remains, limestone walls, tramway

A limestone headland, exceptionally rich in relict archaeology but also a very popular tourist haunt, accessed by road, tramcar and cable-car. There is abundant surface evidence of mining from the Modern period, in particular the long sequence of rocker-base pits for the flatrods which connected the 'Tom and Jerry' engine to the mine. The Bronze Age Mines have recently been untopped as part of the visitor enhancement. The Great Orme Tram is a popular attraction which preserves much of its late-Victorian character.

The landscape is also rich in other forms of communications system, which include a lighthouse and the site of a telegraph station.

Conservation priorities and management

- The conservation and interpretation (see references to the Country Park) of the variety and quality of the relict archaeological remains must be a priority.
- In particular, the underground workings and associated surface sites need further investigation, and the medieval ridge and furrow is under particular threat.
- Archaeological work on the Orme should be co-ordinated.
- Much of this historic character area lies within the Country Park, which has a management plan (to which the Trust contributed) and a management committee (on which the Trust is represented). This should be kept under constant review.

Key historic landscape characteristics

Victorian architecture, planned layout, seaside resort

An outstanding example of a Victorian seaside resort, and also of a controlled townscape. Llandudno is remarkable for having retained its nineteenth century character, including decorative ironwork on the major hotels and hydro establishments and street furniture. A recent proposal for a lifeboat station on North Parade was rejected on aesthetic grounds.

Llandudno is particularly noted for the quality and consistency of its suburban architecture as it continues to develop and expand to the present day. Practically every style and development of housing is represented here, from Victorian railways workers' terracing, Arts & Crafts houses, 1920s and 1930s semi-detacheds and Art Deco right up to modern Barret and mock-Tudor developments.

Conservation priorities and management

- Preservation of the character of an outstanding example of a Victorian-early twentieth century seaside resort. The preservation of the infrastructure (e.g. chapels, cinemas) as well as open spaces within the town must be included in this.
- It is important to note that leisure fashions change, and therefore appropriate re-use (of buildings and space) is of considerable importance if the town is to retain its integrity and character.

Key historic landscape characteristics

vernacular buildings, different patterns of streets, open spaces, lime kilns, quarries

The area is characterised by a mixture of unenclosed land and by comparatively small-scale farming units, whose houses have in many cases become second homes. These are generally substantial vernacular dwellings, though many have been significantly altered by their recent owners. The former windmill, Hen Dwr, now a dwelling, is a prominent feature. The only public road access is a winding lane up the north-western part of the ridge. Field boundaries take a number of different forms, including stone walls, hedges and earthen banks.

Though the ridge divides two major urban conurbations, it is remarkably remote; the paths through the Little Orme limestone quarry are popular with Penrhyn Bay residents, but the higher parts of the ridge are comparatively little frequented.

Conservation priorities and management

- Conservation of the remote character of the area.
- Preservation of the vernacular character of dwellings, both in style and layout.

2003 Morfa Rhianedd

Key historic landscape characteristics

undeveloped, golf links

An undeveloped area, rich in legendary associations.

Conservation priorities and management

- Conservation of sand-dune erosion. (Conwy CBC appears to have sand dune protection in-hand.)
- Conservation as an undeveloped area.

2004 Deganwy/Llandudno Junction urban development

Key historic landscape characteristics

19th and 20th century houses, shops, chapels, transport routes

The area is characterised by suburban housing stock which dates almost entirely from the late nineteenth or twentieth centuries, and is constructed largely of brick. Roofing materials are a mixture of tiles and slates. A distinctive feature is the row of houses built by the Llanfairfechan architect North at SH 781 804, which makes distinctive use of rustic slates, some of them from the Tal y Fan quarry (2023). Here and there earlier houses or chapels built out of local limestone and roofed with more common commercially available slates are evident. The shops on the front at Deganwy incorporate an attractive cast-iron canopy over the pavement.

The area is also characterised by the transport routes which pass through it - the Telford road, the railway, the modern A55T, which passes under the Conwy in a tunnel, and the quays at Deganwy and by Conwy bridge. As well as the two bridges over the Conwy, there are a number of other items of transport infrastructure, such as the signalbox at Deganwy, the locomotive sheds at the Junction, and in various bridges. Llandudno Junction station is an unusual example for the area of a Victorian station-building with Modernist accretions, and the Modernist style is also evident in the extensive Hotpoint factory at SH 803 777, now disused.

Conservation priorities and management

- Preservation of the late Victorian-Edwardian character of better examples of architecture, particularly the H L North houses, the canopied shops at Deganwy and the Hotpoint factory. Appropriate shop fronts should be encouraged.
- Preservation of railway infrastructure (and sympathetic future development if appropriate) is important, and derelict land should be developed sympathetically.

2005 Creuddyn

Key historic landscape characteristics

parkland, gentry houses, substantial farmsteads, limestone walls

The area is dominated by Gloddaeth, formerly the seat of the Mostyns, now a boarding school, and the substantial farms associated with it. Though Gloddaeth is the only landed seat within the area, Bodysgallen, Penrhyn and Marl are all within a mile of it. The churches of Eglwys Rhos and Llangystennin are both ancient foundations.

A marked feature of the landscape is the stone-built watch-tower, believed to date from the seventeenth century, at Bryniau.

The only pre-twentieth century nucleated community is at Glanwydden, which consists of a public house and a cluster of houses around a cross-roads. The nearby windmill dates from 1704.

Conservation priorities and management

- Conservation of parkland and open spaces.
- Conservation and continued use of typical walling of locally-quarried limestone.

2006 Conwy

Key historic landscape characteristics

walled and planned medieval town, street pattern, extra-mural suburban housing

The town itself remains an outstanding example of a pre-Modern planned community, though no buildings remain from earlier than the fifteenth century other than the castle itself and the town walls. Aberconwy House and Plas Mawr are buildings of exceptional historic and architectural interest in their own right, but a number of other buildings from the sixteenth century survive, such as Hen Goleg, and others which have more modern exteriors. Conwy preserves the original grid-pattern of streets and forms a contrast with the nineteenth-century planned town of Llandudno. It preserves outstanding examples of historic transport facilities in the Telford and Stephenson bridges.

Conservation priorities and management

- Enhancement of quay area and river front.
- Enhancement of decayed early buildings in Church Street area.
- Retain imposing character of castle and walled town.
- Retain atmosphere of walled town.
- Preservation and enhancement of nineteenth century bridges, buildings and earlier architecture.
- Promote installation of sympathetic and appropriate shop-fronts.

2007 Conwy Morfa

Key historic landscape characteristics

sand dunes, golf course

A largely featureless area of encroachment from the sea.

Conservation priorities and management

- Conservation of sand dunes.
- Preservation of open character of the Morfa.

2008 Enclosed Uplands

Key historic landscape characteristics

relict archaeology, remote settings, large enclosures

An area of upland pasture, whose pattern of abandoned farmsteads and enclosures is largely the result of agricultural development from the fifteenth century onwards (although prehistoric origins are obvious in many places).

One of the principal features of the area is the wealth of upstanding archaeological remains (funerary monuments, settlements, enclosures, field systems and so on) from both the prehistoric and medieval (as well as the post-medieval) periods. These are particularly significant in two areas, around Maen y Bardd (in the north), and Pen y Gaer (along the eastern side).

The area also constitutes an industrial landscape, which has been quarried for slate, mined for iron sulphide and which has been served by an extensive network of railways. Few roads (certainly modern ones) serve the area.

Adaptation of natural rivers and lakes for water collection from the 1890s onwards has had a marked effect on the landscape.

Conservation priorities and management

- Conservation of remote character of area by discouraging the upgrading of roads to Hafod y Rhiw, Trasbwl and Siglen.
- Conservation of large areas of intact relict archaeology, including recording and interpretation, possibly as part of farm-based management schemes.
- Ensure that any further water-collection-related development is sympathetic.
- Preservation of the features of the industrial landscape (railways, quarries, early 20th century hydro-related).
- Farming developments should be monitored, as should further climbing huts.

Key historic landscape characteristics

quarry workers' settlement, resort development, pre-modern nucleated community, colonnaded walkways, use of Penmaenmawr granite

The town of Penmaenmawr is characterised by quarry workers' dwellings, which predominate in the western half of the town, and by holiday villas, boarding houses and hotels, which predominate in the eastern half. The east-west axes of the Telford post road, the Chester to Holyhead main line railway, and the modern A55 dominate the settlement, and the courses of the former quarry inclines, one of which is in re-use for a conveyor belt system to a sorting plant at the railway station, pass through the residential areas.

The town includes a wide variety of workers' housing, ranging from the very simple early buildings at New York, the Lancashire-style terraced housing at David Street and Erasmus Street, and the attractive range of buildings for staff employees at St David's Terrace. These, and their associated community infrastructure, reflect the paternalistic regime of the Darbshire family at the quarry.

The resort buildings are for the most part late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and are laid out following the lie of the land. The broad but winding street from the railway station to the main shopping area on the post road is especially prominent, but other streets in this part of the settlement are narrow as well as winding. The main street is noted for its covered walkways, supported by cast-iron pillars, in imitation of Llandudno.

The dominant building material for both the quarry and the resort dwellings is Penmaenmawr granite, though there is considerable use of glazed Rhiwabon brick for decorative work. Slate is the dominant roofing material, but there is some use of tile.

The smaller nucleated community at Dwygyfylchi to the east is made up partly of villa style architecture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century and a modern housing estate, interspersed with older agricultural buildings and a cluster of nineteenth century dwellings at the foot of the road over the Sychnant pass to Conwy. The substantial Regency dwelling Pendyffryn survives as an office complex and a social centre for the caravan park established on its demesne. A golf-course has been laid out north of the Old Conwy Road.

Conservation priorities and management

- Preservation of character of existing resort and quarry settlements at Penmaenmawr. Both patterns of layout (terracing) and use of local materials are important.
- Appropriate conservation policies in the forthcoming Conwy UDP will be instrumental in preserving the character of this settlement-based area.

2010 Penmaenmawr Quarry

Key historic landscape characteristics

inclines, stepped workings, crushing plant, clock

The quarry site is distinguished by a number of features which can be clearly identified from the road and from the town. These include the substantial clock-face mounted on one of the storage bins in the eastern quarry, the remains of the major crushing plant introduced in the latter years of the nineteenth century, and the impressive series of inclines. A number of items of historic machinery survive in the quarry. The eastern quarry was landscaped in the 1980s.

Conservation priorities and management

- Appropriate conservation of the industrial landscape of a major stone-quarry site.

Key historic landscape characteristics

planned resort town, esplanade and shops, Arts and Crafts style

Llanfairfechan is similar to Llandudno as a planned estate townscape which incorporates an earlier nucleus which retains a separate character and identity. It is dominated by its main axes, which run south-west to north east. These are the post-road (the former A55), the modern by-pass to the north and the main line railway. The road which runs from the post-road here to the beach is lined by attractive, though down-at-heel, shop buildings, Arts-and-Crafts influenced, and by substantial nineteenth century dwellings with large gardens, leading to a typical Welsh esplanade development consisting of a row of boarding houses, a cafe on the beach, and a model yacht pond. The turreted stone building here, 'Moranedd', with its patterned slate roof, is an attractive feature. The substantial three-aisle Anglican church by the post-road is a prominent landmark.

Pentre Uchaf is the focus of the pre-Platt community, being made up largely of earlier nineteenth century buildings, including agricultural or small-scale craft buildings in and amongst later dwellings. The bridge here bears the date 1819 on the plaque. Towards the south-west of Pentre Uchaf at SH 683 743 is twentieth century social housing, and to the east at SH 684 749 is a looped development by Herbert Luck North (1871-1941), an outstanding locally-based Arts-and-Crafts architect, laid out entirely with his distinctive, whitewashed houses, making use of Arfon slate slabs for boundary fencing and the distinctive brown-green Tal y Fan Quarry slates as roofing material. Other examples are to be found elsewhere in Pentre Uchaf.

Other buildings make extensive use of Penmaenmawr stone. A distinctive feature is the use of yellow brick cornerstones in conformation with Penmaenmawr stone.

Conservation priorities and management

- Conservation of the character of a planned nineteenth century resort development.
- Preservation of the 'Arts and Crafts' character of the community, in particular of the H L North buildings.

2012 Fieldscape around Gerlan

Key historic landscape characteristics

irregular fields, enclosed spaces, North buildings, large farmsteads, tracks and paths

A small, cohesive area of distinct character on a hillside above Llanfairfechan, consisting of a pattern of small, irregular fields (many of prehistoric 'curvilinear' shape), with substantial 18th-19th century farmsteads, and a punctuation of 20th century buildings by the architect H L North.

A single, winding trackway loops around the area, off which lead the tracks to the scattered farms and a network of footpaths.

Prehistoric settlements undoubtedly survive in field corners, and the area needs detailed survey.

Conservation priorities

- Conservation of enclosed irregularity of field patterns.
- Any development on North buildings and farmsteads to be carried out sympathetically.
- Single road not to be unduly upgraded.

2013 Bryn y Neuadd and lowland coastal plain

Key historic landscape characteristics

parkland, copses, slate fences, ornamental iron railings

The lower part of the landscape, between the main road and the coastline, is dominated by Bryn y Neuadd itself, where several of the demesne buildings and historic garden features survive, even though the house itself has been replaced by a functional office block. The nineteenth century gentry house of Madryn and the huge Neo-Norman Penrhyn castle are visible from here.

To the south of the main road, improved pasture predominates, and the area is visibly still a highly managed landscape which preserves the feel of a Victorian estate, such as the fenced copses in the fields. Field boundaries are made up either of locally quarried stone or fences of purple slate slab, probably from Penrhyn Quarry - not a vernacular feature in this immediate area and probably the result of a conscious decision by the Platt family, with their strong personal links to the Penrhyn estate. Dwellings include Llwyn Ysgolaig, perhaps for a senior estate worker, and to the south a row of workers' cottages, two-storey with dormer windows. A feature of the area is ornamental iron railings.

Conservation priorities

- Preservation of the character of a Victorian garden and estate *demesne*.
- Preservation of ordered estate landscape, in particular dwellings and distinctive field boundaries.

2014 Rolling meadows, west of Afon Conwy

Key historic landscape characteristics

degraded fields, scattered settlement, villages, routeways

Area of ancient settlement, encompassing both 'villages' and scattered dwellings (mainly farms, but including other types), as well as terraced housing, which is increasingly favoured by the better-off (symbolised by the preponderance of horses in the fields and out-of-character housing developments).

Field pattern largely disintegrated as fields have been amalgamated: preponderance of post-and-wire fences.

Many types of routeways, from footpaths to major road running north-south (replacing earlier routes across the mountains from the valley which can still be traced running east-west).

Conservation priorities

- The proximity of a very rural area to transport links and areas of higher employment could mean its character could come under threat from over- and unsympathetic development. (It is arguably the area within the current study area whose character is most at-risk).
- However, a marked feature of recent development appears to be an adaptive re-use of many buildings (including use of local materials, and continuation of existing patterns), and this should be encouraged.
- Hedges and wooded areas should be retained, as should the system of communication routes.

2015 Enclosed intermediary hillslopes, west side of Conwy valley

Key historic landscape characteristics

upstanding prehistoric and medieval settlement, field system and funerary remains, dry-stone wall fields, well-established routeways

The land here is all enclosed with, on the whole, small-scale patterns which have been created by the organic development of an agricultural landscape, based on grazing, which has evolved over millennia. Most of the boundaries are dry stone walls, although hedges are more common on lower slopes where there are also patches of woodland, and although many are now no longer stock-proof they are very characteristic of the area: in places, a relative chronology can be built up by careful observation. While some of the boundaries and larger patterns are relatively recent, others relate to farming practices which date back to the prehistoric period and are associated with relict settlements, many of which are scheduled ancient monuments. In general, the earlier sites and systems are better-preserved on the upper (flatter) slopes.

The area is chiefly important for the wealth of relict (mainly prehistoric, but with obvious overlying medieval) settlement sites, set within at least part of their contemporary agricultural landscape. Despite much of the area being scheduled, the potential for further discoveries is high given a programme of detailed flying and surveying. Unlike many other upland areas which display evidence for the organisation of the landscape in the post-medieval period, this area is relatively free of later 'encumbrances'.

Most of the area is an open and exposed landscape with relatively few and widely-scattered farmsteads. On the valley slopes the scattered pattern predominated again, although there are small nucleations (especially around Llanbedr-y-Cennin). Farms vary from squat, upland-type dwellings to grander, nineteenth-century constructions with a suite of modern outbuildings.

A number of former major routes run through the area (linking the Conwy Valley with the coastal plain prior to the building of the coast road in the late eighteenth century). The line of the Roman road from Caerhun can be followed in places; this was probably replaced by (if it didn't follow) the road from Roewen past Rhiw, which itself seems to have been replaced by the road to the south of this. Interestingly, the upper-most routeways in the area (now a road and a footpath) follow the edge of the 'older' enclosed land (pre-dating the great Caerhun enclosure of the mid-nineteenth century). Few of the footpaths seem to follow winding paths which they might be expected to, but cut across field patterns and earlier field systems. Deep lanes lead out from the main valley side to a stone-walled upland landscape, where the routeways, whilst retaining their character, are wider and more open.

Conservation priorities and management

- The principal importance of the area must lie in its wealth of well-preserved prehistoric and medieval archaeology, and these should be a management priority. The link between the upland *ffridd* and the permanently-settled lowlands is also important.
- The field patterning, much of it of considerable age and displaying development over time, requires particular attention.
- Proper management prescriptions in any potential Tir Gofal agreements covering farms in this area will be of paramount importance in retaining its character. Local authority countryside strategies will also be relevant.

2016 Flat valley bottom (drained areas)

Key historic landscape characteristics

meadows

A drained area of lowland meadow through which the rivers Dulyn and Ro flow, and into which the Afon Porth Llwyd empties through the Dolgarrog works canal.

Conservation priorities and management

- Conservation of meadowlands is essential.
- Monitoring of new works in connection with drainage or water-related proposals will be desirable.

2017 Dolgarrog - settlement and industrial sites

Key historic landscape characteristics

1920s ribbon development, distinctive house style

The village is an unusual Welsh example of an industrial ribbon development, and represents an only partially successful attempt to apply 'garden suburb' principles. Grants have recently been made available to clad the 1920s houses in brick.

Conservation priorities and management

- Preservation of the character of an Edwardian-1920s workers' settlement, and possible enhancement of 'garden suburb'.
- Encouragement of local feeling of pride of place.

2018 Coed Dolgarrog

Key historic landscape characteristics

ancient woodland, water management features, path

An east-facing slope, covered with broad-leaved woodland. A number of features connected with twentieth-century water-catchment survive, including leats, pipelines and the course of a service railway. The zigzag pathway through the southern part of the area from Pont Dolgarrog may be monastic in origin.

Conservation priorities and management

- Conservation of historic woodland.

2019 Unenclosed mountain

Key historic landscape characteristics

remoteness, sheepfolds, peat cutting, mineral extraction

A remote upland area of considerable unspoiled, natural beauty, dominated by the peaks of Pen Llithrig y Wrach, Carnedd Llewelyn, Foel Grach and Foel-fras. There is nevertheless prehistoric settlement in the high river valley, as well as evidence for post-medieval animal husbandry in the form of sheepfolds. The area was exploited in the 19th century for peat cutting (there are extensive remains of turbary on Y Gledrffordd) and mineral extraction.

Conservation priorities and management

- Preservation of remote, almost entirely ‘natural’ (human-free), character of area.
- Resist any ‘development’ there.

2020 Alltwyllt.

Key historic landscape characteristics

dual economy settlement, irregular fields, cottages

An area of irregular enclosures and cottage dwellings. This has been studied by a number of scholars as an example of a dual-economy settlement.

Conservation priorities and management

- Retain the characteristic enclosures, the field paths and the vernacular character of dwellings.

Key historic landscape characteristics

small, irregular nineteenth century enclosures and settlement, winding lanes, hillside quarries, Bodysgallen gardens.

Bryn Pydew is shown on the tithe map as a distinctive area of relatively small, irregular enclosures each with its individual house set around winding lanes within the heart of an area of common. This pattern underlies the current appearance of the landscape of this area, although all the surrounding land is now enclosed. The fields, which are now mainly down to pasture (horses rather than sheep), are characteristically bounded by hedges (some with trees), although there are some coursed limestone walls. There are areas of old woodland, especially on the north-western slopes.

The settlement pattern is chiefly nineteenth century cottages, with some nucleation around the central 'village green' where there is a chapel among the houses, although no shop or other 'services'. Modern in-filling has distorted the original pattern of scattered cottages, and altered much of the vernacular appearance of the area.

There are no known sites of relict archaeological interest in the area.

There are a number of quarries dotted along the sides of the limestone ridge, many overgrown but still significant features. Their historical significance lies in the fact that they provided stone for Telford's bridge across the Conwy.

The patterns of winding lanes and footpaths appears to follow that established by the mid-nineteenth century: there are no recent roads or realignments. There is a single World War II pillbox in the area, looking down the Conwy Valley.

The grade I registered park and garden of Bodysgallen (with exceptional terraced gardens, chiefly eighteenth and nineteenth century with an earlier core, remarked on by Pennant) falls within the area, as does the significant post-medieval house and land of Marl. The recently-erected obelisk on Bodysgallen land is a significant landscape marker.

Conservation priorities and management

- Bodysgallen park and garden is obviously a priority in management terms, and the recommendation is for continuous dialogue between the sympathetic owner and Cadw concerning sympathetic restoration and maintenance only.
- Otherwise, the area's principal historical components (pattern of scattered nineteenth century cottages, relatively intact, small fields, and winding, narrow lands and paths) should be maintained.
- Policies in the Conwy UDP to preserve the settlement pattern and building character will be significant as most of the perceived threats are from settlement infill.

Key historic landscape characteristics

vernacular settlement, suburban development

A landscape in which the Medieval phase associated with the surviving Penrhyn Old Hall and its associated chapel, has been obscured by two distinctive but inter-related areas of settlement, one representing the last phase of vernacular organic settlement (on the hill-top and –side), the other entirely suburban (at the base of the hill and spreading outwards).

Conservation priorities and management

- Preservation of settlement characters, both the modern, suburban (on the plain) and the older, organic settlement (on the hill-slope).

2023 Unenclosed mountains (north)

Key historic landscape characteristics

relict archaeology, communication routes

An area of unenclosed upland given over within the medieval and modern periods to a pastoral economy and to small-scale mineral extraction. It also constitutes an extremely rich relict archaeological landscape of prehistory.

Conservation priorities and management

- Preservation of uninhabited, undeveloped character of the area.

6 Glossary of keywords and expressions

6.1 Definitions

Character

the overall impression created by an area of landscape which is susceptible to being described

Characterisation

the process of identifying and defining the particular characteristics which make each area of landscape distinctive

Character area

where components form dominant patterns to allow the definition of an area which can be clearly described: historic character areas are either

a) areas which embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or theme, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction: or

b) areas which show organisation of space either during one particular period or through time. This may be visible in the arrangement of fields or siting of settlements; or a pattern of land-use which represents traditional practices unique to a community; or in the sheer density of remains relating to either a single theme/period or succession of periods/themes; or contain buildings etc distinctive in style, design or method of construction; or a transportation system reflecting an important innovation in engineering, etc:

Coherent character

where the components and patterns across an area of landscape are consistent, coherent character can be defined which can lead to character areas

Component

the most basic building blocks of the historic landscape, including walls, farms, cottages, archaeological monuments *etc.*, which, when combined, form dominant patterns.

Dominant patterns

patterns formed by components such as field walls which are visually dominant in an area: the spread of a single dominant pattern, or the co-incidence of two or more, leads to coherent character.

Element

another word for component (preferred)

Feature

another word for component (preferred)

Historic landscape

the physical remains in the current landscape of the evidence for past human exploitation of the environment over time

Relict

historic landscape components which are no longer 'in-use' are described as relict for management purposes.

6.2 Process of characterisation

This can be briefly summarised as -

(several) components → dominant patterns

(one or more) dominant patterns → coherent character

coherent character (with definable limits) → character area

(several) character areas → local landscape

6.3 Levels at work

<i>level</i>	<i>action</i>
landscape	strategic policies, overviews (<u>national</u>)
character areas	management policies - Landmap, UDPs, countryside strategies (<u>regional</u>)
(coherent character	stage of characterisation (general management guidelines))
patterns/groupings	characterisation is undertaken at this level (<u>local</u>)
components	define what's important/typical & manage landscape components (SAMs, ESA) (<u>site specific</u>)

6.4 Useful descriptive terms

presence

conspicuous, evident, missing

scale

open, exposed, enclosed, secluded, confined, small scale, medium scale, large scale

diversity

uniform, simple, diverse, complex

unity

unified, ordered, interrupted, fragmented, chaotic, rambling, structured, organic

other

palimpsest, aesthetic value, visual amenity, educational potential, sense of place, distinctive character, common character, historically complex, domesticated character, essentially wild

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D/M 4464 (allotments under enclosure act of 1843)

4627 (elevations of Queen's Hotel)

4706 (plan of Llandudno showing proposed new street plan)

Llandudno Town Hall

Urban District Council minute books, 1896 to 1940.

7.5 Projected/video

Alec Guinness, 1951, *The Card*

7.6 Archive sources

These are appended as a separate data-base on the following pages.

