

Llewyrch o'r Llechi, Shared Prosperity Fund, & LleChi2

Update

December '23

www.llechi.cymru
llechi@gwynedd.llyw.cymru
[Facebook.com/LlechiCymruWalesSlate](https://www.facebook.com/LlechiCymruWalesSlate)
[instagram.com/llechicymru](https://www.instagram.com/llechicymru)
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Making a difference for Gwynedd slate communities

Priority had been given to the Council's Plan 2023-2028 to ensure the prosperity of the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site and the resources required to achieve the World Heritage Site Action Plan.

So - what has been happening of late?

During 2023 we have succeeded in achieving a number of priorities across the management themes of the World Heritage Site

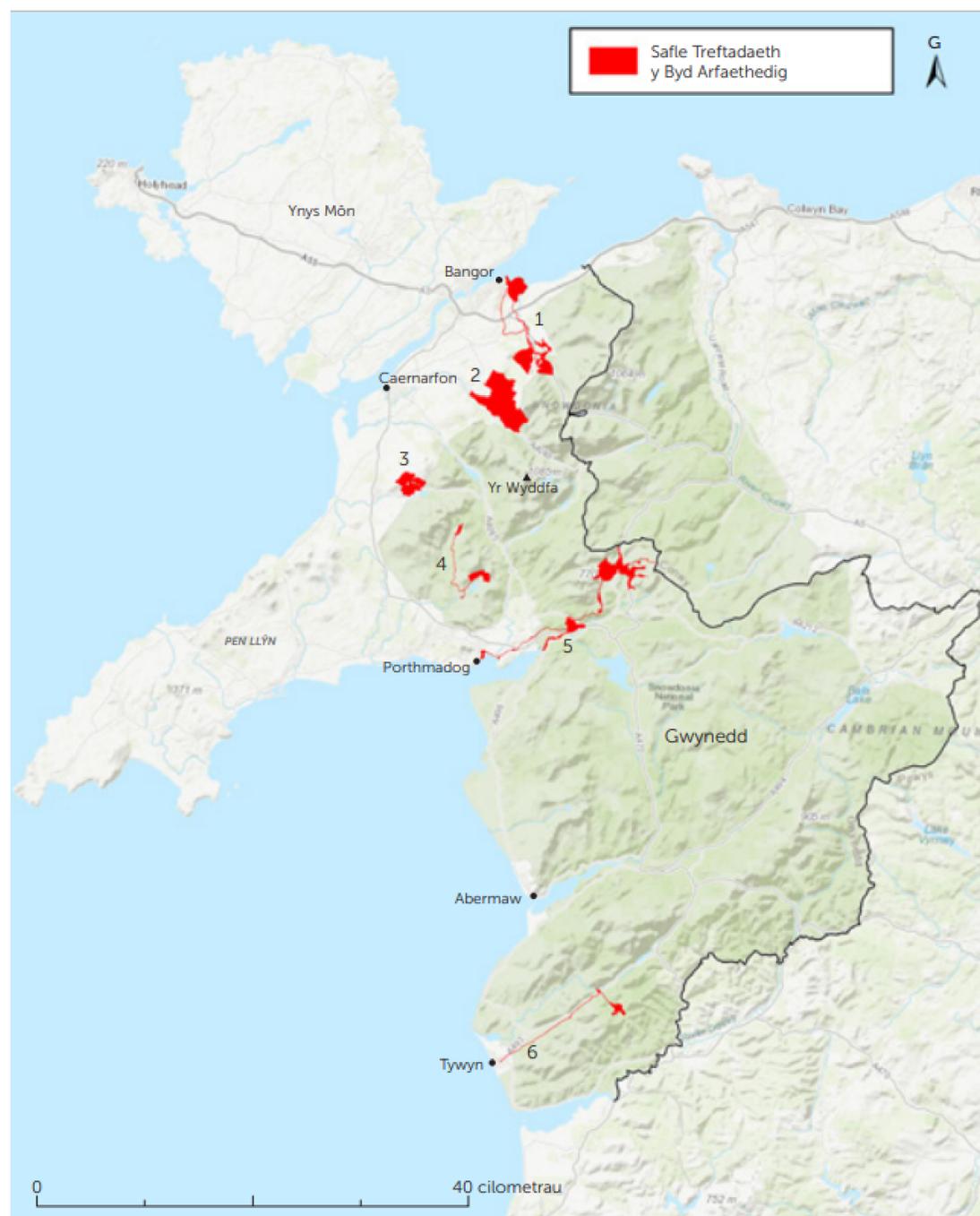
  <p>Cyfarfodydd Bwrdd Partneriaeth Partnership Board Meetings</p>	<p>Cydlunydd STYB WHS Coordinator ✓</p>	<p>Nifer o unigolion/busnesau/sefydliadau ar Is Grwpiau</p> <p>195 </p> <p>Number of individuals/ businesses/ organisations on Sub Groups</p>
<p>Dynodiadau Cadwraeth Conservation Designations</p> 	<p>Adolygiadau Ardaloedd Cadwraeth / Conservation Area Reviews</p> 	<p>Cwblhau Adolygiad Cyfnodol</p> <p>Complete Periodic Review</p> 
<p>TEITHLENNI STYB WHS ITINERARIES</p> 	<p> Strategaeth Rheoli Risg Risk Management Strategy</p>	<p> Cwrs MA Prifysgol Bangor Bangor University MA Course</p>
<p>Hyfforddiant i aelodau pwyllgorau cynllunio / Training for planning committee members ✓</p>	<p>Brantiau Grants </p> <p>£19,880,000</p>	<p>Nifer o declynnau STYB ar gael ar y wefan / Number of WHS tools available on website</p> <p>19</p>

Since the Council and its key partners secured the World Heritage Site designation for the Slate Landscape of North West Wales in 2021, a lot of work has been going on to take advantage of the designation for the benefit of our communities and businesses.

Three main projects are currently underway, contributing towards the vision of the World Heritage Site, namely to protect, preserve, improve and communicate the important properties of the area in order to reinforce cultural distinctiveness and strengthen the Welsh language, and become an important driver of economic regeneration and social inclusion.

The three projects are:

1. Llewyrch o'r Llechi, Levelling Up Fund
2. Town Center Improvements Programme, Shared Prosperity Fund
3. Cynllun Llechi Cymru: Our Designation, Our Pride, Our Future, National Lottery Heritage Fund



The World Heritage Site is located in Gwynedd, and covers six areas:

1. Penrhyn slate quarry, Bethesda and Dyffryn Ogwen to Abercegin (Port Penrhyn);
2. Dinorwig Quarry Slate Landscape;
3. Nantlle Valley Quarry Slate Landscape;
4. Gorseddau and Bwlch y Dau Elor Quarries, the Railways and Mill;
5. Ffestiniog and its quarries and mines, the "city of slate" and the Railway to Porthmadog;
6. Bryneglwys Slate Quarry, Abergynolwyn village and Talyllyn Railway

Llewyrch o'r Llechi programme - Levelling Up Fund, UK Government

- A programme to support the area's culture
- £18.6m - UK Government contribution awarded in January 2023
- £26m - the total cost of the project
- Leading Body - Gwynedd Council



Only 1 in 4 Levelling Up applications submitted by UK Local Authorities were successful!

Part of the strength of the Llewyrch o'r Llechi application was that it complemented the priorities of the World Heritage Site Management Plan, which sets out management steps and priorities for the protection, development and promotion of the World Heritage Site.

The aim is to use this global status as a springboard to regenerate slate communities and create high quality jobs for local people in their square mile. This will be done by developing and sharing the incredible story of our rich slate heritage with local people and visitors.

Llewyrch o'r Llechi includes three cultural Hubs with projects led by organizations rooted in those communities.

Projects had to be chosen that were mature and able to be delivered within the challenging LUF timetable, which stipulates completion by the end of March 2025.

Although only three postcode areas could be included in the UK Government's guidelines for the LUF, the Council is targeting resources and funding from other sources for the other 3 areas that are part of the World Heritage Site.

Llewyrch o'r Llechi Components

Hwb Dinorwig

Redevelopment of The Slate Museum

- Lead Partner: National Slate Museum
- Project Cost: £12.2m (£6.2m LUF)
- As the National Museum of Wales, it is the focal point of the Llewyrch o'r Lechi programme. The site is key in conveying the history and heritage of the slate areas as a whole, the World Heritage Site designation and also the role of the area at an international level.
- The project includes significant regeneration and conservation work for Gilfach Ddu which will begin in the summer of 2024.
- The project also includes a complete reinterpretation of the site to convey the World Heritage status and create a main Hub for directing people to other parts of the World Heritage Site and sharing the slate story with a wide audience.
- The work will also include the creation of new education and exhibition spaces.



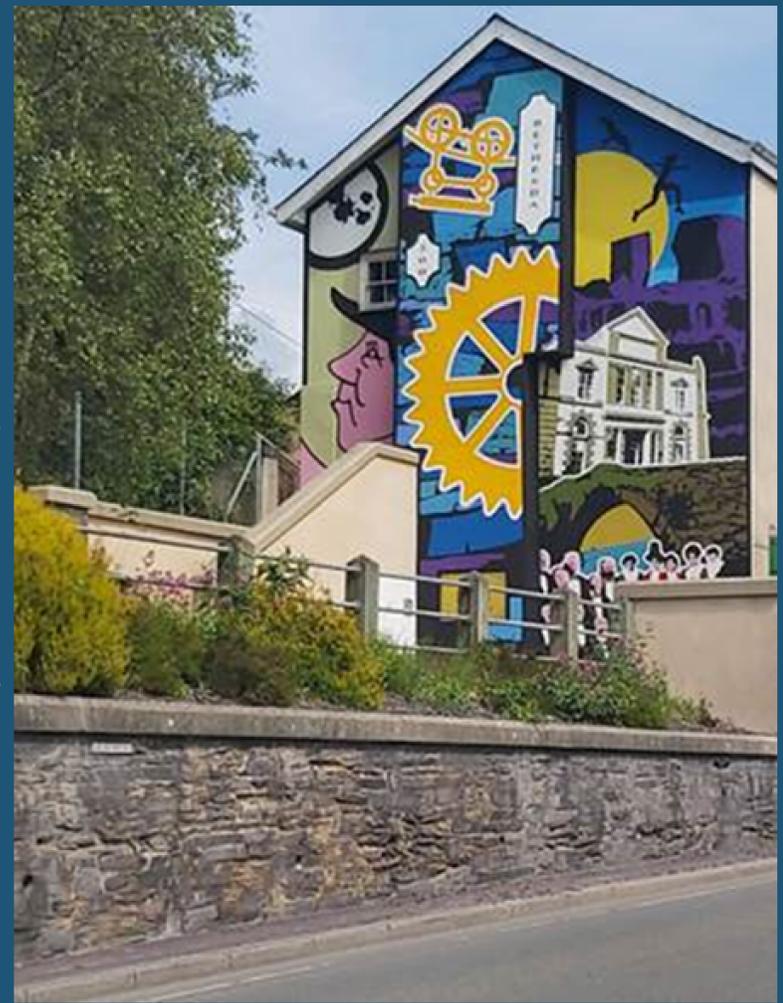
Parc Padarn

- Lead Partner: Cyngor Gwynedd
- Project Cost: £1.8m (£1.48m LUF)
- Parc Padarn is the Country Park around the Slate Museum, and is home to a number of buildings that are part of the area's slate history, as well as a number of businesses, attractions and other organisations.
- The area is known for its natural beauty, including an SSI that surrounds the upper end of Llyn Padarn.
- Conservation and regeneration work will take place in order to bring abandoned buildings back into use, and find alternative uses for other buildings, including creating a space for volunteers in Hafod Owen, and returning the Fire Queen engine back to Gilfach Ddu by restoring its original shed as her new home.
- There will be improvements to the routes to facilitate the connectivity between the Park, the Quarry and Dre Newydd Barracks, as well as improvements to the car park.
- A new children's playground will be created, using slate heritage as the inspiration for the design.
- Planning applications will be submitted shortly.

Hwb Ogwen

Hwb Ogwen - Yr Hen Bost

- Lead Partner: Partneriaeth Ogwen
- Project Cost: £1.6m (£1.4m LUF)
- The Hen Bost is a prominent building on Bethesda's high street which has stood empty for several years.
- Partneriaeth Ogwen is developing it into a heritage and community center which will include a cafe, heritage space, creative space and business units.
- This will revitalize the high street, and provide a resource for local people and visitors in the town centre.
- The scheme has received planning permission, and construction is expected to begin in March 2024.

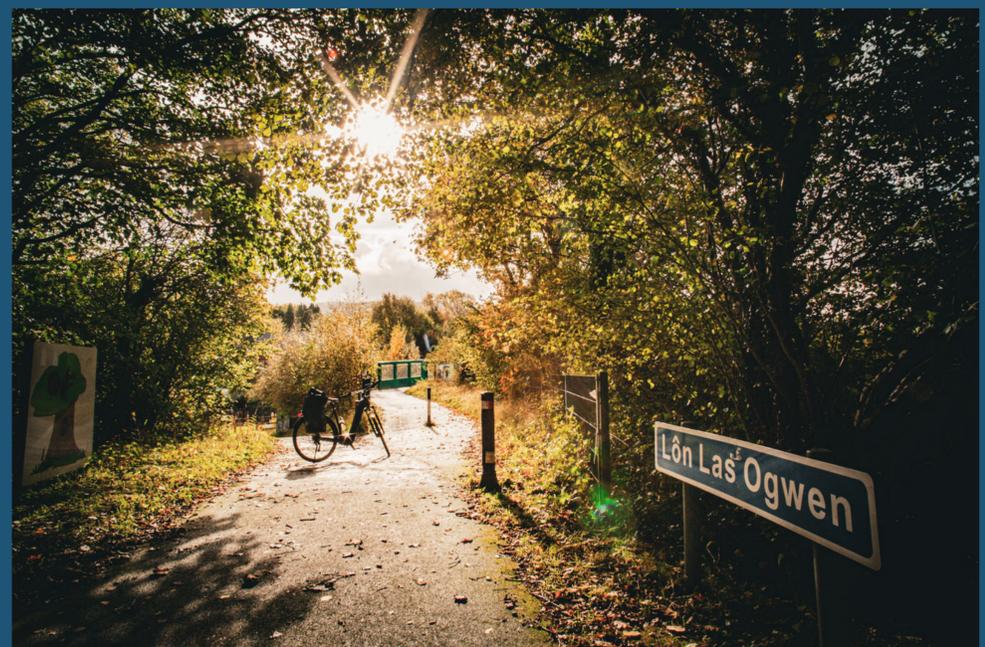


Neuadd Ogwen

- Lead Partner: Tabernacl (Bethesda) Cyf
- Project Cost: £342k (£308k LUF)
- Neuadd Ogwen is a creative venue in the heart of Bethesda, providing music and theater events that attract performers from all over the world, as well as supporting new local talent.
- Various expansion and improvement works have been carried out through previous projects
- This plan provides soundproofing equipment to the building which will enable the Neuadd to offer a full range of creative events.
- The work is almost complete, with a launch event planned for early 2024.

Route Connecting Bethesda to Penrhyn Quarry.

- Lead Partner: Cyngor Gwynedd
- Project Cost: £1.7m (£1.5m LUF)
- The Lon Las Ogwen is a popular cycle path that stretches from Porth Penrhyn in Bangor, up to Lake Ogwen in Eryri National Park.
- Work is progressing on various parts of the Lon Las Ogwen, including better connections from Bethesda High Street, and improved accessibility from the town to Penrhyn Quarry.



Hwb Ffestiniog

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- Lead Partner Antur Stiniog
- Project Cost: £1.25m (£1.1m LUF)
- Antur Stiniog is a social enterprise in Blaenau Ffestiniog, they are leading a project to restore and repurpose buildings that have deteriorated in the center of the town. These include Aelwyd yr Urdd, 23 Church St (Bolton Cafe), 22 Church St (Ephraim Shop), and Tŷ Abermawddach.
- The improvements will include the creation of a youth and community center in Aelwyd yr Urdd, and the creation of business, creative and residential space in the Church Street buildings. Tŷ Abermawddach will provide office space for local enterprises.
- Planning permission has been approved for Aelwyd yr Urdd and construction will begin in the new year.



Blaenau Ffestiniog and Chwael Llechwedd connecting route

- Lead Partner: Llywodraeth Cymru
- Project cost: £2.8m (£2.5m LUF)
- Construction work will begin on new cycle and walking paths to connect Blaenau Ffestiniog and Llechwedd Quarry in January

Activity across the 3 areas

- Lead partner: Cyngor Gwynedd

Community Public Art

- A community art offer will be given to the communities of Llanberis, Bethesda and Blaenau Ffestiniog.
- Lafan have been appointed to manage the work, and they will co-create the art with the local communities.
- The art will be in place by the end of 2024.

Monuments Conservation Plan

- Conservation work will take place on monuments within the three areas. Donald Insall Associates, has been appointed for this work.
- These work packages will be implemented throughout 2024.

Town Center Regeneration

- A further package of work will focus on physical improvements in the three towns including interpretation, small infrastructure and signage. The priorities will be agreed with local stakeholders.



Shared Prosperity Fund programme - UK Government

- Part of the Town Center Project regeneration works across Gwynedd
- £550,000 Total SPF investment in the Slate Valleys
- £1,969,598 Total Project Cost (Whole Gwynedd)

Gwynedd Council has led the application of the Shared Prosperity Fund for the regeneration of Gwynedd Town Centres. It is a diverse scheme across the county, with a specific allocation for the three main World Heritage Site towns that are not part of the Llewyrch o'r Llechi scheme above, namely, Penygroes, Porthmadog and Tywyn.

The intention of the WHS elements is to undertake similar activities to those identified in the Llewyrch o'r Llechi programme, namely the installation of public art in the three communities, and regeneration activity such as signage, interpretation and improvements to infrastructure.

Activity across the 3 areas

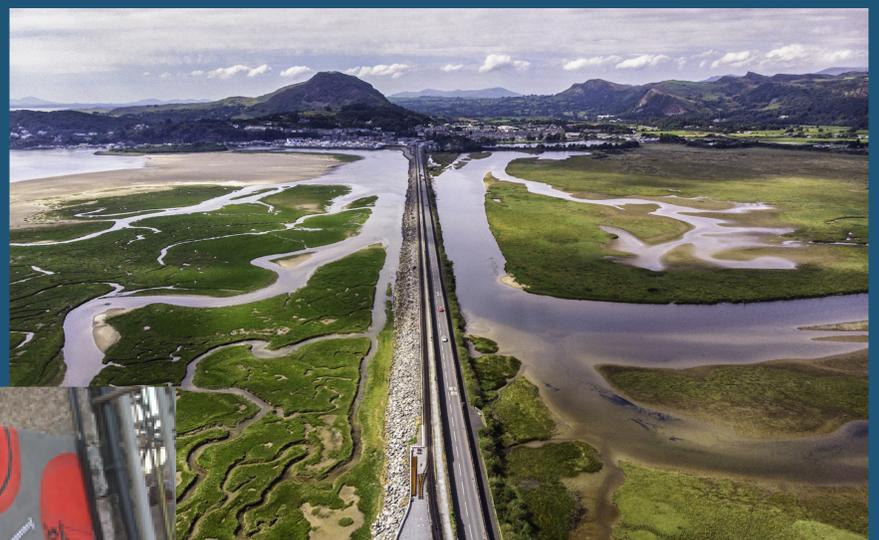
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LleCHI 2 Program - Welsh Slates: Our Designation, Our Pride, Our Future

- A 5-year plan to empower, upskill and improve Gwynedd residents' understanding of their rich heritage. A plan with local stakeholders, with local priorities, central to all activities.
- The Lottery scheme is being developed in two phases:
- **Development Phase**
an opportunity to carry out research and consultation to identify the local needs, target audiences and priorities to implement.
- **Budget:** £220,000 (Lottery contribution £180,000)
- **Delivery Phase**
- implement the priorities that have been identified.
- 5 year plan (2024 - 2029)
- Total operating costs: £1.9m (Lottery contribution £1.75m)
- Leading Body - Gwynedd Council

Following on from LleCHI, funded by the Lottery Heritage Fund, Gwynedd Council and WHS partners have recognized the importance of capitalising on its success and momentum. The original plan worked to raise awareness and support for the WHS designation, and the independent evaluation has confirmed that this has happened.

As part of the new plan, the emphasis is on increasing the role of communities in the management and development of the WHS.

Groups that do not traditionally engage with heritage will be targeted, placing emphasis on developing skills and creating volunteering and work opportunities in the heritage sector, as well as strengthening networks and transferring ownership and responsibility to communities.

The Lottery scheme is divided into two phases: the Development Phase and the Delivery Phase. At the moment, we are coming to the end of our Development Period where the emphasis has been on research, idea piloting activities and intense engagement to ensure that the operational plan addresses local needs. The Development Phase will end in February 2024 when we submit an application for the Delivery Phase to the Funding Panel. An application for approximately £1.75m will be submitted early in 2024, with the hope of receiving an award during Summer 2024. If successful, we hope to be able to employ three officers (Project Manager, Skills and Education Coordinator, Engagement and Volunteering) for a period of five years.

