





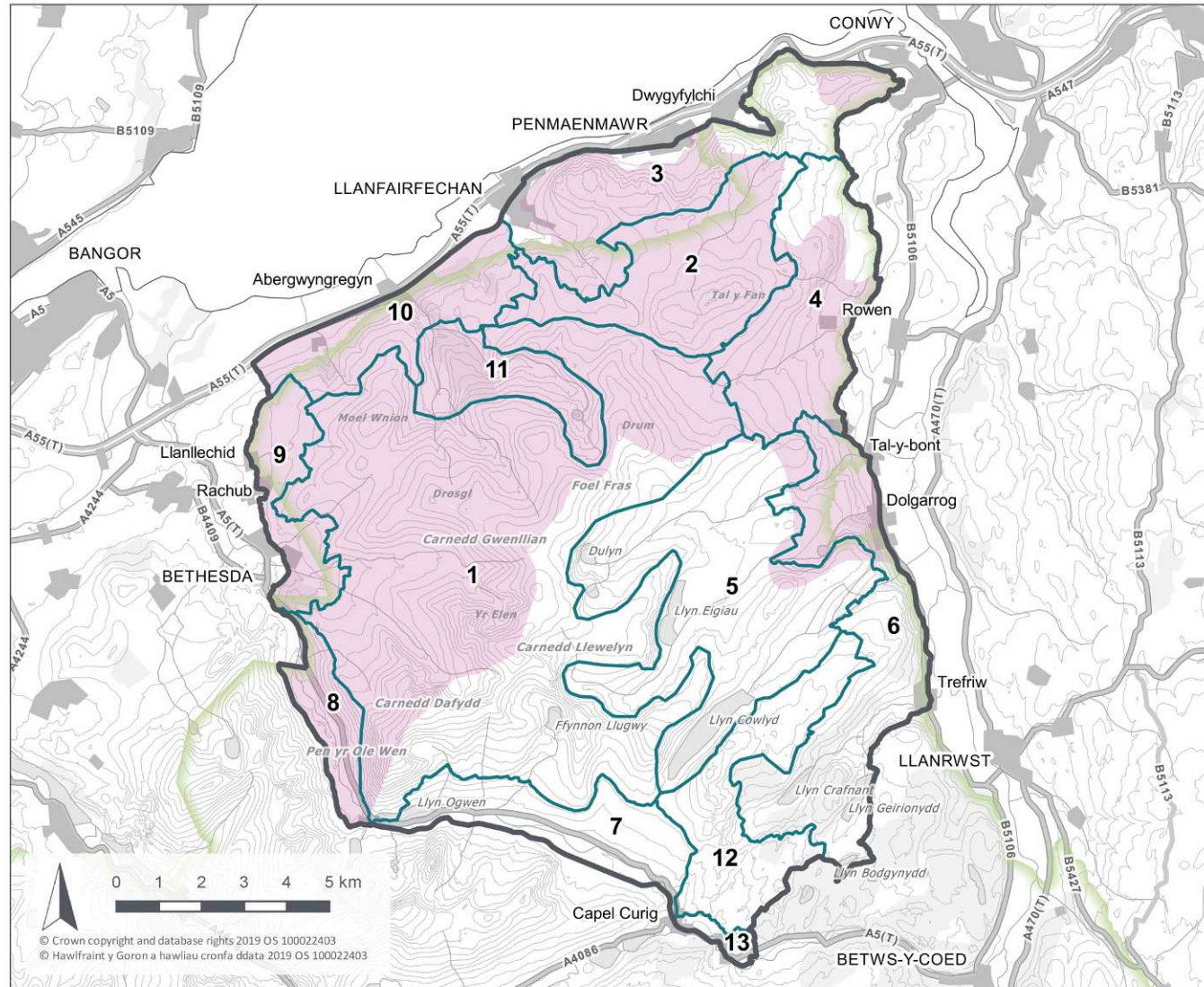
PARTNERIAETH TIRWEDD Y
CARNEDDAU
LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

Statement of Significance

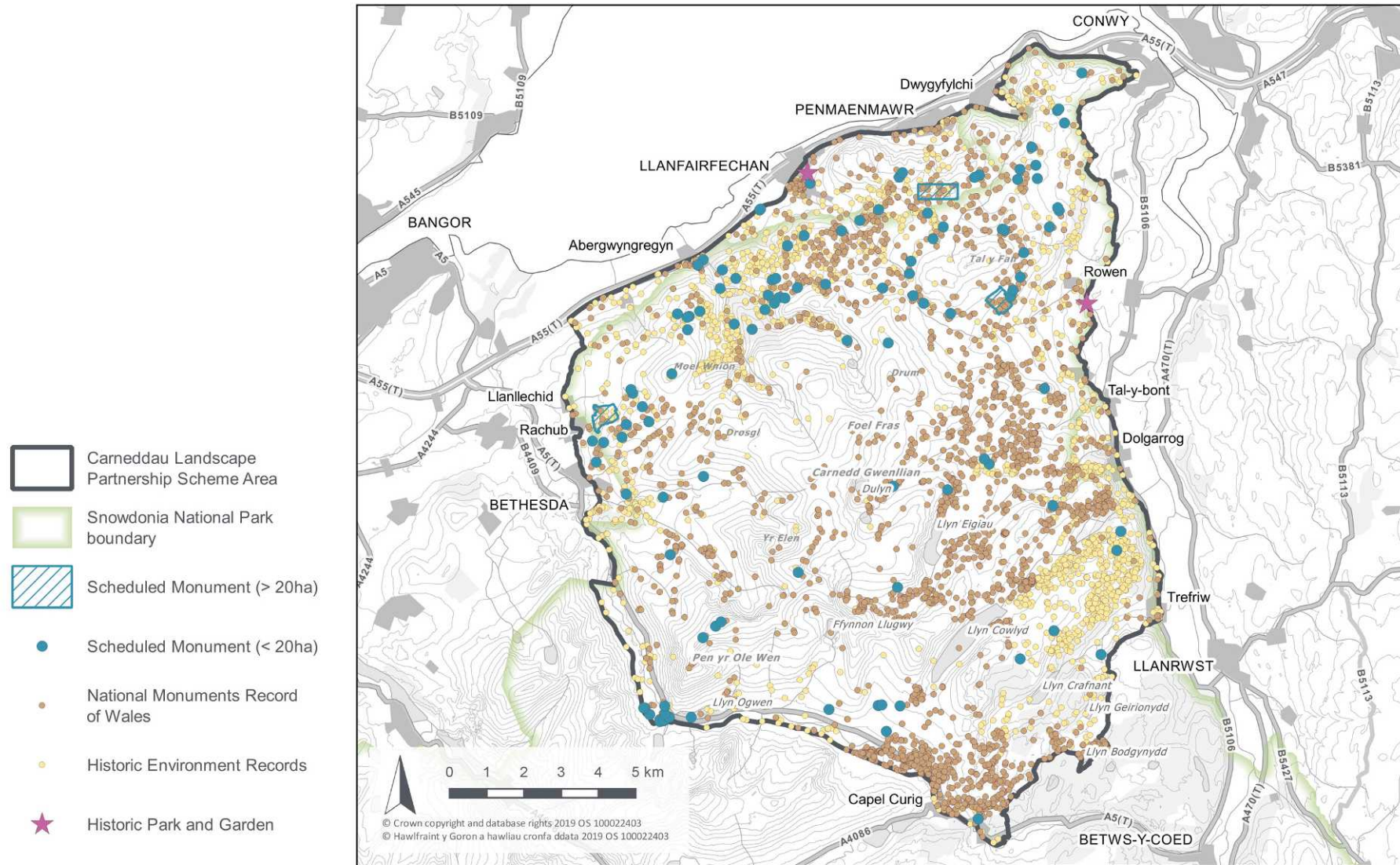
Historic Environment

Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest – Register of Historic Landscapes in Wales

- 1 Carneddau mountains
 - 2 Tal y Fan and Bwlch y Ddeufaen
 - 3 Llanfairfechan, Penmaenmawr and Conwy coastal hills
 - 4 Rowen farmed hillslopes
 - 5 Duly, Eigiau and Cowlyd upland valleys
 - 6 Conwy Valley wooded hillslopes
 - 7 Nant y Benglog
 - 8 Nant Ffrancon
 - 9 Bethesda and Llanllechid hillslopes and fields
 - 10 Wooded coastal hill slopes and Abergwyngregyn village
 - 11 Abergwyngregyn and Anafon valleys
 - 12 Creigiau Gleision, Crimpiau and Cefn Cyfarwydd open mountain land
 - 13 Capel Curig wooded hillslopes and fields
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-  Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme Area
 -  Snowdonia National Park boundary
 -  Landscape Character Area
 -  Registered Historic Landscape



Historic environment - scheduled and non-scheduled monuments





Statement of significance

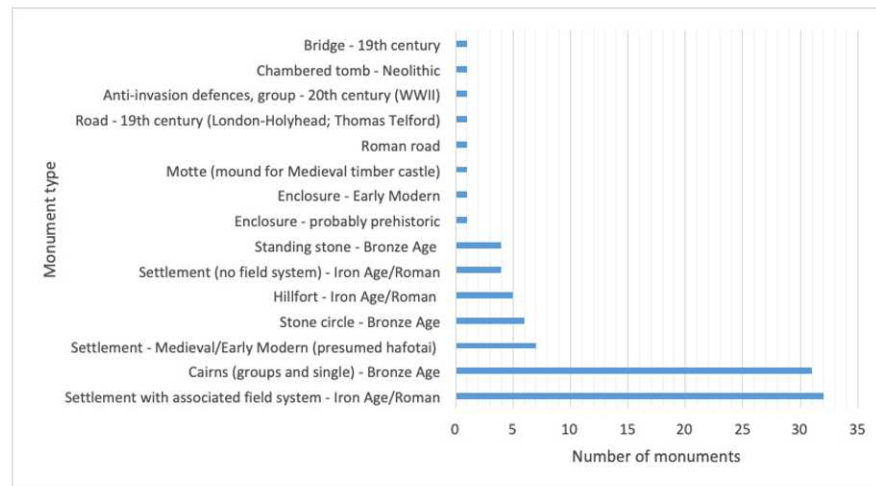
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Designations

Three landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in the Register of Historic Landscapes in Wales (compiled by Cadw, CCW (now NRW) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS UK)) overlaps with the Carneddau LPS: Lower Conwy Valley; North Arllechwedd and; Ogwen Valley.

There are 97 scheduled monuments in the Carneddau, representing a broad time span of human activity in the area and a range of different types of activity as shown in the bar chart.

Carneddau scheduled monuments by type (97 total)



The wider record

Whilst these sites represent the nationally significant archaeology of the area, the number of known features is far larger and more diverse. The regional Historic Environment Record (maintained by GAT) holds more than 3,500 records relating to the LPS area and the National Monument Record (maintained by the RCAHMW) includes approximately 3,000 records.

Key features of the historic environment

The interpretation and significance of the historic environment features of the Carneddau has been discussed in the 'Making of the landscape' section and landscape character area descriptions. Consultation during the development phase and preparation of the landscape character assessment has indicated that the following groups of features are most significant for the Carneddau LPS. Key or iconic sites are indicated for each group. They are presented in broadly chronological order.

Prehistoric and Roman

- Neolithic stone quarrying and axe making: Graiglwyd Penmaenmawr; Dinas and Garreg Fawr, Llanfairfechan.
- Neolithic chambered burial tomb: Maen y Bardd portal dolmen, Rowen.
- Early Bronze Age burial and ceremonial sites: peak and summit ridge cairns (e.g. Moel Faban, Moel Wnion, Drosogl, Carnedd Dafydd, Carnedd Llywelyn, Drum, Carnedd y Ddelw); stone circle monument complex (Meini Hirion/Cefn Coch, above Penmaenmawr); standing stones (e.g. in Tal y Fan area - Bwlch y Ddeufaen, Maen Penddu, Maen y Bardd).

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- Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation: burnt mounds (horseshoe-shape mounds, c.5-8m diameter and up to 2m high, of fire-cracked stone built up around trough; used for heating water to cook or as type of sauna; most common in northern Carneddau upland fringe beside streams); ancient trackways with probable late Neolithic/ Bronze Age origins (north Carneddau, Conwy Valley to north coast).
- Iron Age and Roman period occupation: hillforts (e.g. Caer Seion, Conwy; Pen y Gaer, Llanbedr y Cennin; Dinas, Llanfairfechan; Maes y Gaer, Abergwyngregyn); round house settlement and field systems (Maen y Bardd, Rowen; Garreg Fawr, Llanfairfechan; Ffridd Ddu and Cae'r Mynydd, Aber; Crymlyn, Corbri, Moel Faban, Cwm Ffrydlas, Cwm Caseg – Llanllechid; Glan Llugwy, Nant y Benglog; Pant y Griafolen, Cwm Dulyn).
- Roman road from Canovium to north coast (through Bwlch y Ddeufaen).

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Medieval

- Landscape of the Tywysogion, the rulers of Gwynedd. The Carneddau LPS area falls within the Cantref (equivalent to a Hundred) of Arllechwedd which had three Commotes (subdivisions), Arllechwedd Uchaf, Arllechwedd Isaf and Nant Conwy. There were llysoedd (royal courts) at Aber and Trefriw. Ffriddoedd, royal pastures, at Abergwyngregyn in the Aber and Anafon valleys and at Capel Curig.
- Monastic lands: gifts of land from the Tywysogion, particularly Llywelyn ap Iorweth, to the Cistercians of Aberconwy, including the Grange of Ardda (upland farm) and woodland at Dolgarrog. Site of Cistercian fulling mill on Afon Ddu near Dolgarrog.
- Settlements and churches: Many of the villages around the area have Medieval origins. Churches with medieval origins within the LPS area include Llangelynin old church (near Rowen), Llanbedr y Cennin and Trefriw.
- Agriculture: elements of the lowland fieldscape preserve Medieval patterns; ridge and furrow cultivation marks surviving in upland fringe.
- Livestock agriculture: the traditional hafod and hendre (summer pastures and winter base) transhumant movement of cattle and other livestock and people (part of the community) to upland grazing pastures was established by the early medieval period and continued to the 17th and 18th centuries. Remains include rectangular building foundations of seasonally occupied dwellings.



Llangelynin church, Rowen © Mike Raine

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Post-medieval

Agriculture and upland enclosure: different phases and types of enclosure are visible in the uplands, defined by standing and relict stone walls. 16th to 18th century enclosures are defined by wandering wall-lines in upland valley sides. Many of these were intakes of open mountain and common land, often illegal, and part of a wider 'land-grab' by local gentry. Vast areas of upland continued to be enclosed in the 18th and 19th century, sometimes supported by parliamentary Act. Letters of the Newborough Estate which owned large areas of upland in the Conwy Valley at this time refer to (understandable) popular unrest and anger against the enclosure of former common land and the removal and denial of people's access to resources that this represented and report that new walls were being pulled down during the night. The drystone walls of this period are more substantial and often run for great distances in straight lines, dividing up the land into regularly shaped. Many of them are still standing today and have become a distinctive aspect of the upland landscape. Despite enclosure, the Carneddau retained a large area of open common land.

Agriculture and cattle: some of the upland valleys had year-round farms in the Medieval period, some of which continued to be occupied. Beudai are a feature of Nant y

Benglog and are upland cow-barns within summer pastures, where the cattle would have been kept inside over winter and fed on hay made from upland meadows, rather than taken to the lowlands during the cold months. In other areas, traditional summer dwellings, hafotai, were developed into permanent farms in the 17th and 18th centuries (particularly in the upland valleys above the Conwy Valley escarpment. Those at higher locations are generally small-holdings or cottages and many of them would have relied additional employment (for example in quarrying or mining) to make ends meet. Life in these farms was a tough proposition. Most of them were abandoned by the end of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Agriculture and sheep farming: in the 18th and 19th sheep replaced cattle as the dominant livestock animal of the upland economy of the Carneddau. Sheep need more substantial boundaries than cattle to keep them in place, partly explaining the high enclosure walls of the period. On common land, flocks from different farms have their cynefinoedd (hefts), but these overlapped even with shepherded. There are many sheepfolds throughout the Carneddau of different shapes and sizes. Many of those on the common land are large and have many different sections or cells to them, usually accessed from a central holding pen, where sheep gathered from the common

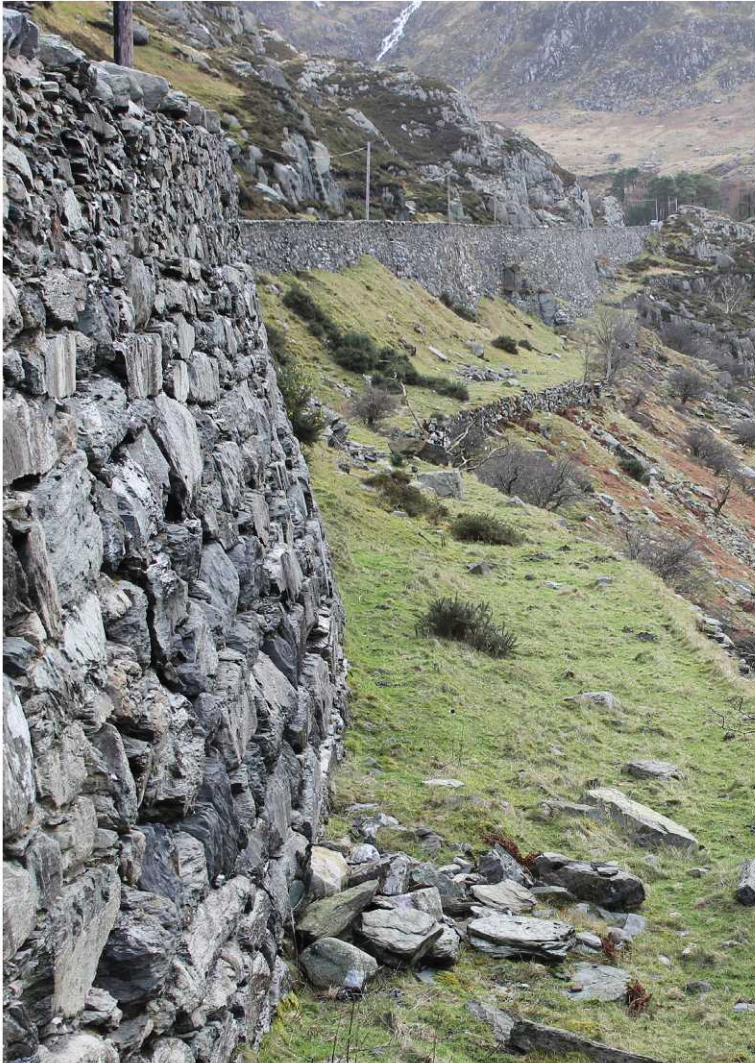
could be separated into different flocks by farm. These multicellular sheepfolds are a very distinctive feature of the Carneddau open mountain land.

Peat extraction: peat was harvested as a fuel in the Carneddau until the 19th century, but on the level of individual farm or household use rather than as a commodity. The remains of turbaries (peat cuttings), can be seen in some areas, for example in Nant y Benglog and on land north of Tal y Fan. There are two well-preserved 'peat houses' associated with the Tal y Fan turbaries where peat turves would have been dried and stored.

Industry: extractive industry has had an influence on the communities, settlements and landscape of the Carneddau, but with the exception of the diorite stone quarries at Penmaenmawr the major sites such as the slate quarries in Bethesda and metal mines in Gwydir Forest, all lie outside the LPS area. Minor metal-mines and slate quarries, generally trials or very small-scale sites, lie in a number of areas. There are two more substantial disused slate quarries above Llanllechid and Rachub and two in Cwm Eigiau.

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Turnpike road beneath Thomas Telford London-Holyhead road, Nant Ffrancon © SNPA

Communication: there are many early accounts of the poor condition of roads and tracks through the area, even along the main valleys. The mouth of the Afon Conwy and the craggy headlands of Penmaen Mawr and Penmaen-bach meant that standard routes from the Conwy Valley to the north coast went over the upland fringe of the Carneddau before the 18th and 19th centuries followed the prehistoric tracks and Roman road. Improvements in the late 18th and 19th centuries included: Lord Penrhyn's road from Ogwen Bank to Capel Curig, a turnpike road and Thomas Telford's London to Holyhead successively through Nant Ffrancon and Nant y Benglog from the 1790s to 1820s; John Sylvester engineered a road around the Penmaenmawr headlands in the 1770s, funded by the government, to improve travel between London and Ireland and this route was improved by Thomas Telford (along with a suspension bridge over the Afon Conwy) as a spur of the Holyhead London route in the 1820s. The north coast route was further improved by tunnels through the headlands in the 1930s and upgraded by the A55 dual carriage way in the late 20th century. The area's railways (network established

from the mid-19th century) lie outside the LPS area.

Water catchment and exploitation: commenced in the early 20th century and still in use, a system comprising leats and reservoirs connected by tunnels, involving dammed natural lakes at Ffynnon Llugwy (Nant y Benglog) and Cowlyd, Eigiau, Melynlyn and Dulyn in the Conwy Valley. The water was (and is) used for drinking water, hydro-electricity generation and until the 2007, aluminium manufacture in Dolgarrog.

The built environment of tourism: nineteenth century tourism including the Penrhyn Estate's Capel Curig Inn (later the Royal Inn, now Plas y Brenin National Mountain Sport Centre); mineral waters and spa at Trefriw with wharf (outside LPS area) for steamer trips along the Afon Conwy. Penmaenmawr and Llanfairfechan saw major development in the nineteenth and early 20th centuries as coastal and hill-walking resorts, although much of the related infrastructure lies beyond the LPS area. The Close, Llanfairfechan, built in the 1910s-20s is a fine example of Llanfairfechan based but nationally important architect H.L. North's Arts and Crafts style.



'Farmers on the Carneddau', by Kyffin Williams, c1980 © National Museum of Wales



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