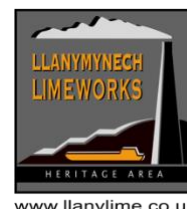


LLIMEYS & Shropshire Council Quarterly Meeting



Meeting Minutes

Date: 14 April 2026

Time: 10:00hrs

Venue: Stables Education Block, Llanymynech Limeworks

Members Present:

Ed Andrews (**EA**) – **Shropshire Council**

LIMEYS	Nature Group
Bob Cotter (BC)	Heather Dawson (HD)
Kevin Young (KY)	Nick Shenston (NS)
David Hurst (DH)	Geraldine Coles (GC)
	David Bowers (DB)

Apologies:

Nick Thursfield & Martyn Young – **LLIMEYS**

Minutes of the last meeting:

No formal minutes were taken at the meeting on 13th January 2026.

Agenda Items

1. Management Plan Discussion

It was decided at the beginning of the meeting that because the management plan would cover most of the items on the agenda that it should be discussed first.

The Management Plan was written by Shaun Burkey in 2021 and is now due for an update. Shropshire Council do not have the resources to carry out a full review and update of the plan. **EA** welcomed the input from **HD** and recognised the effort that is being put into the review.

HD proposed that the output from the review of the Management Plan would be an agreed Action Plan, which would then inform the update to the Management Plan. The two groups reviewing the plan are:

Llanymynech Heritage Area Nature Group and the LLIMEYS

Areas Discussed

1.1. Hoffmann Kiln

Currently the Hoffmann Kiln is fenced off after a structural engineer declared the site unsafe for visitors.

EA was shown images taken during the restoration of the kiln (2005 – 2008). The images show the work carried out to investigate and support the known bulge in the roof on the NW side of the kiln. The full report of the investigative

and remedial work carried out, resides with Shropshire Council and should be made available to any structural engineers currently engaged to assess the structure. **EA** was asked if it would be more appropriate to instigate monitoring of the roof in that area as it would appear that any movement is minimal.

Action: EA

EA stated that Property Services are Liaising with Historic England with a view to engaging an independent Structural Engineer. **KY** asked that representatives from the LLIMEYS be present at those surveys to assist with any questions that may arise.

Action EA

1.2. Hoffmann Chimney

Due to its unique status as the only chimney of its type still standing, **HD** asked if it was possible for a copy of the Steeplejack Survey to be made available to us to better understand the condition of the Chimney.

Action EA

1.3. Draw Kilns

The vegetation growth on the top and side walls of the draw kilns is a cause for concern. The top can be managed by the LLIMEYS, but the walls require working at height and can only be cleared using appropriate safety gear and precautions.

The use of organisations such as the Fire Service was discussed, but no decisions were made.

Action: This action remains open

1.4. Stables Education Block

The floor within the stables block is slowly being eroded by constant use and sweeping/cleaning, with some areas badly eroded. Cleaning/sweeping the floor creates clouds of lime dust and it is not known if this is a health hazard.

Sealing the floor has been investigated, but the lime floor needs to breathe, so this has been ruled out.

Action: This action remains open.

1.5. Tally House

The Tally House vandalism has been the subject of discussions for a number of years without any action taking place. It is currently fenced off due to safety concerns for the structure and there are no plans in place to restore it.

The LLIMEYS requested permission to carry out the needed work, with the aid of oversight from the Council. The timber to repair the support struts is available at Ellesmere and local tradespeople can be sourced for the brick structure.

Action EA

1.6. Tramways

To be added to the Management Plan as part of the review

1.7. Clearance of Vegetation

To be added to the Management Plan as part of the review

1.8. Bats

Previous surveys show that there are at least 5 species of bats in the area, but the last survey was done in 2005 and urgently requires an update.

Discussions about how it could be done and who should carry it out, bearing in mind funds are non-existent, concluded that we should approach local volunteer groups to see if they are able to do this for us. **HD** agreed to approach to local groups/individuals.

Action HD

1.9. Meadows

The meadows within the Heritage area cover 3.5 Hectares. The current plan plays down the quality of the meadows, though the recent flora and fauna surveys carried out show that the area has a vibrant diversity of life.

Hay cutting was carried out last year, with the farmer being pleased with the amount and quality of hay gathered. **EA** was asked if in future the hay cut could be earlier to ensure that the meadows are dry when the cutting takes place.

Action EA

HD stated that we should be aware of where the ants' nests are located so that the farmer avoids them when hay cutting. The ants are a source of food for the woodpeckers.

Action HD

The open drainage pit in the middle of the lower meadow requires the pipes to be reinstated and an inspection chamber to be fitted to allow any build-up of silt to be monitored and removed.

Action: This action remains open.

1.10. Gills' Pond

The management plan states that the pond should have *"at least 50% open water with diverse and appropriate fringe vegetation along with great crested newts present"*. Currently this is not the case. **EA** has arranged for a contractor to carry out the work of clearing the excess growth, but this cannot be carried out until November due to the presence of the Great Crested Newt, a protected species.

Action EA

1.11. Hedgerows

The management Plan states that all *"Hedgerows are managed on a three-year rotational cut and re layered every 10 years where necessary. Allow hedges to bush out but not to develop into mature trees"*. Currently this has never been done and the hedges in the Heritage Area are overgrown and encroaching on the meadows. **EA** stated that the Council has the equipment to do the work and would make arrangement for it to be carried out.

Action EA

GC stated that she owned the necessary equipment and volunteered to assist with the work. **EA** stated that he would investigate the possibility, but needed to know that the correct permissions/risk assessments were in place.

Action EA

The use of strimmer's was discussed and **EA** stated that a short strimmer training course could be conducted for those requiring it.

Action EA

1.12. Llwyn Goch Woods

Coppicing has not been carried out in the woods for some years and there are areas that are becoming overgrown limiting the growth of the flora. This includes areas where the brambles have been allowed to grow unchecked.

The management plan states, *"continue with low intensity coppicing to maintain age and light diversity. Maintain site infrastructure, such as paths, in a useable state. Retain approximately 7 cubic meters of deadwood, >15cm diameter, on the ground"*. The woods are approximately 1.47ha.

The amount of deadwood lying in the woods needs quantifying. *"The paper 'Deadwood in British forests: priorities and a strategy' S. J. Hodge and G. F. Peterken, 1998. Provides guidance. Their recommendation is a minimum average of 5m³ per hectare deadwood greater than 15 cm diameter over the whole woodland"*.

DH stated that he would be able to carry out the relevant measurements to quantify the deadwood.

Action DH

Action Plan

HD informed those present that once the review of the Management Plan was complete, the action plan would be circulated to everyone for agreement before sharing it with Shropshire Council.

Action HD

2. Further Discussions

2.1. Electric Bikes

It has been noted by the volunteers that the use of electric bicycles is increasing and causing a danger to walkers using the area. **EA** was asked to look into the possibility of banning the use of bicycles/motorbikes of any description within the Heritage Area.

Action EA

2.2. Demonstration Kiln

GC stated that visitors had mistaken the Demonstration Kiln for a Pizza Oven and asked if a sign could be put on the kiln to avoid any food contamination with the residual lime in the kiln.

Action: This action remains open

2.3. Entrance Track

The entrance track is currently in a poor state with potholes extending on either side for the first half of the track. Visitors regularly complain about the state of the track, particularly those with disabilities.

The management plan states that the “*maintenance of the track and car park is shared between Shropshire Council and the Canal and River Trust who financed the tarmacking of the car park in 2018. Shropshire Council financed track repairs in 2019*”.

Action EA

2.4. Small Tools

Shropshire Council are supplying some new tools for the volunteers to replace some of the older tools currently on the inventory. **EA** stated that a small tools course can be carried out for those volunteers' needing instruction.

Action EA

2.5. Birmingham University

Birmingham University carry out a Conservation of the Historic Environment course each year at the Llanymynech Limeworks. Historically the students complete a practical assessment using lime mortar and have pointed large sections of the limestone walls adjacent to the kilns. For the past 3 years they have been requesting **Scheduled Monument Consent** to enable the students to complete the practical side of the course, but this has not been forthcoming from Shropshire Council. The course has therefore been cut to one day for theory using the stables block, with the practical work being carried out elsewhere. This means a loss of revenue, not just for the hire of the stables block, but also to local businesses.

The volunteers also work with the course by giving a guided tour of the Heritage Area, including the lime quarries above the village. This tour generates income for the LLIMEYS and also stimulates interest from the students, many of whom return for repeat visits.

The volunteers request that Shropshire Council engage with Birmingham University and ensure that the Scheduled Monument Consent is in place by September 2026 at the latest.

Action EA

2.6. New Benches

HD has worked with Pant and Carreghofa Parish Council, who have donated 5 new composite benches to the Heritage Area. The benches are very heavy and require 4 people to lift them safely. In order to ensure that they do not topple over when in use, the volunteers have sourced ground anchors to secure them in place. The total cost of the anchors is £285.00. **EA** was asked if the rental share of £170.00 due to the Council could be put towards this cost. **EA** agreed to the volunteers' request.

Action BC

2.7. Tool Storage

EA noted that currently the tools used by the volunteers are stored in an area above the toilets, which is only accessible by a removable ladder. No risk assessment or training is in place for volunteers climbing the ladder and the danger of falling from the ladder causing injury is high.

EA proposed that a small lockable storage container placed beside the stables block, could be a solution, and would look into the possibility of obtaining one.

Action EA

2.8. Manual Handling Course

Several of the volunteers took part in the manual handling course on 7th March 2026 with Emma Cushing. Emma noted several actions as the course progressed, but no feedback has been received by the volunteers regarding the status of the actions.

Action EA

Date of Next Meeting: 14 July 2026, 10:00AM

The meeting closed at 12:15hrs