

SNOWDONIA SOCIETY

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The Snowdonia Society, established in 1968, is a charitable organisation, committed to ensuring that the beauty and diversity of the landscape, wildlife and culture of the Snowdonia National Park remains for future generations to enjoy. It has approximately 2,700 members and is based on the A5 trunk road at Tŷ Hyll, the famous Ugly House, between Capel Curig and Betws-y-Coed. The house is open to the public from Easter to September.

The Society depends on volunteers who carry out practical conservation work. Community members and visitors to the area alike can become members and get involved with activities such as targeting dumped rubbish – particularly fly-tipping – as well as rhododendron clearance, footpath restoration and many other valuable undertakings. Income is generated through membership subscription and grants and the Society is thus able to provide two full-time, two part-time and two seasonal jobs.

The Society has been part of many campaigns to protect Snowdonia from schemes which would have scarred the landscape, harmed its wildlife or eroded its special character: a new highway affecting broad-leaved woodland and meadows near Betws y Coed; an opencast quarry at Rhosydd; a bypass through oak woodland near Bethesda, and a bypass through beautiful countryside around Llanrwst.

Recently, it has been engaged in developing policy connected with the decommissioning of Trawsfynydd nuclear power station, the Snowdonia Green Key scheme and the plans for a new Snowdon summit building.

The Society holds a number of regular events each year that aim to maintain or enhance the landscape and wildlife of Snowdonia, and raise awareness of the value of the area for locals and visitors alike.

Desired help: More volunteers and greater local community involvement

Status of organisation: Registered Charity

Area: Snowdonia National Park