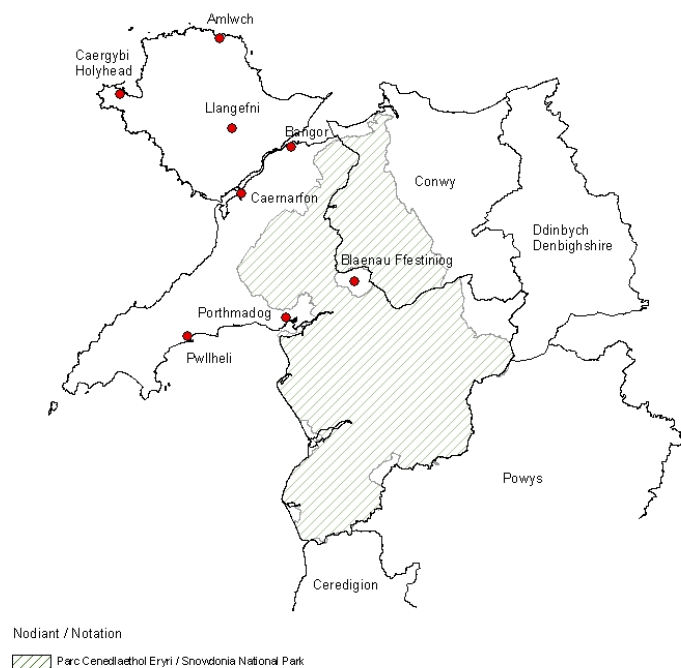


A spatial profile

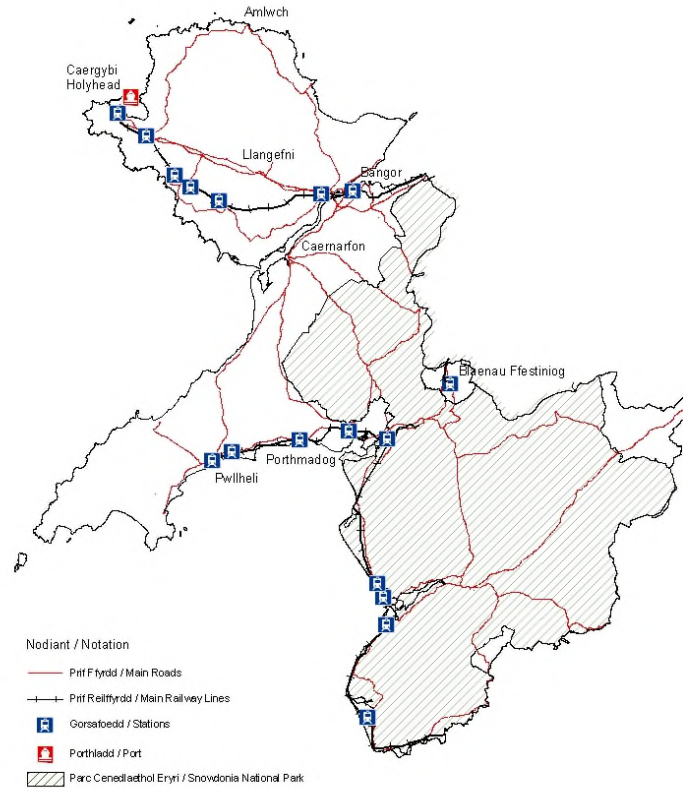
3.1 The Plan area includes the Unitary Authority of Anglesey and the Gwynedd Local Planning Authority. It shares its boundary with the Snowdonia National Park (but this Plan does not cover the Snowdonia National Park Authority area), Conwy County Borough Council and the Councils of Denbighshire, Powys and Ceredigion – see Map 4: spatial context. It is an area of approximately 3,260km² in size. According to the 2011 Census, which is the most recent source of information about population and household totals for different Councils, Anglesey had a population of 69,700 and there were 121,900 across the whole of Gwynedd. It was recorded that there were 30,600 households in Anglesey and 52,450 households in Gwynedd. A statistical profile of the Plan area is included in Appendix 3: Statistical Profile.

Map 4: Spatial context



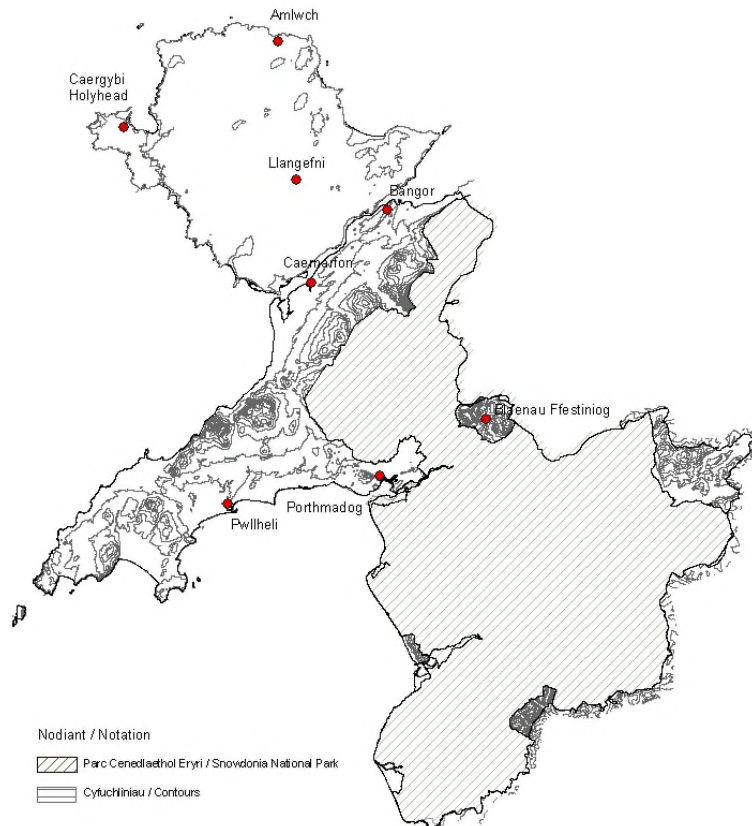
3.2 The A55, which is part of the Trans European Road Network (TERN), and the North Wales coastal railway line connects parts of the area with the remainder of North Wales and beyond, which means that goods and people can move quickly in and out of the area. The port of Holyhead provides a ferry service with Ireland and is the main road and rail link between Ireland and North Wales, the midlands and the North of England for the transfer of people and cargo. Although improvements have been made to parts of the road network to South Wales, the journey is not so easy. There are plans to improve additional sections across Gwynedd, e.g. the A487, which will improve links with the A55 as well as routes down to mid Wales – see Map 5: the main transport routes.

Map 5: The main transport routes



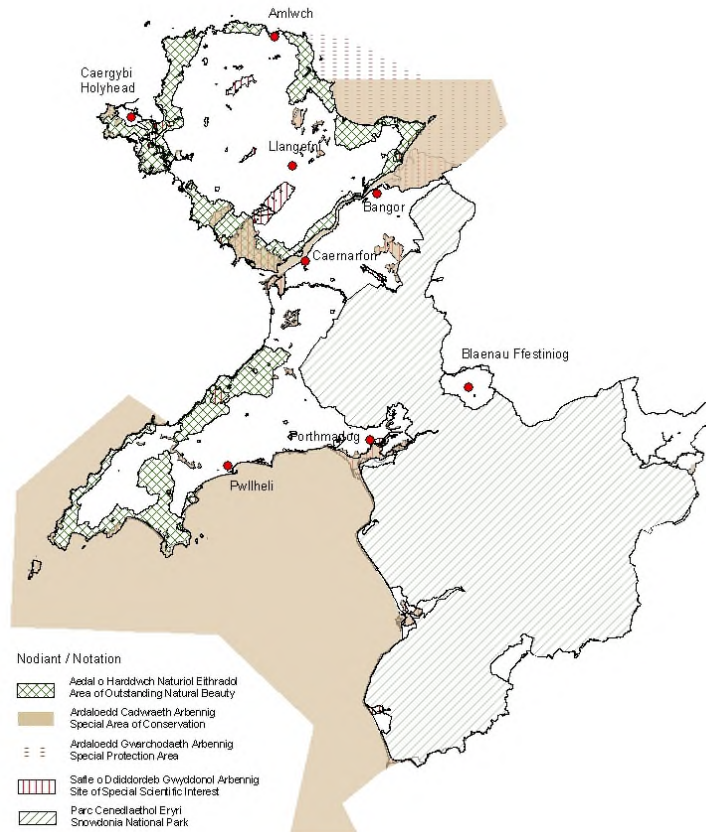
- 3.3 Geographically, the area consists mainly of mountains and coasts and it includes extremely special environmental assets, which have been acknowledged and designated nationally and internationally. Mountainous areas are the most distinct landscapes found in Gwynedd and land in Anglesey is lowland, – see Map 6: Topography of the Area and Map 7: National and International Environmental Designations. Human influence on the landscape can be traced back to prehistoric times and this can be seen in the large number of outstanding features, i.e. Listed Buildings, Registered Ancient Monuments, Historic Parks and Conservation Areas. As a consequence of all the environmental resources, the area attracts a large number of tourists / visitors who arrive along highways, by rail, and at the port of Holyhead and various marinas, which make an important contribution to the local economy.

Map 6: The area's topography



- 3.4 Agriculture is the main land use with villages and small towns found inland and most of the larger towns are along the coast. Generally, the largest employers and the widest range of services, transport and telecommunications are located within these larger towns. However, these communities very often display complete contrasts with very deprived areas located in close proximity to the most prosperous.
- 3.5 Outside the more developed coastal areas, the area is mainly rural with several remote areas, especially in Meirionnydd and Llŷn. The issues that need to be addressed in these areas are very different, with the striking and amazing natural environment concealing deprivation and low wages and negative effects of their peripheral locations.
- 3.6 The area also includes several communities that have suffered long-term or more recent decline after local industries such as quarrying and manufacturing came to an end. The needs of these communities once again are completely different to other parts of the area and to North Wales, as the impact of the large-scale loss of employment over an extended period of time has had a detrimental effect in several ways on the people and the places.

Map 7: national and international environmental designations



Main issues to be tackled

- 3.7 The key issues to be tackled in the Plan have been identified by considering the key trends brought to the fore through the consideration of various strategies, plans and programmes; the [Sustainability Appraisal Report](#); the baseline information about social, economic and environmental issues; the results of the public engagement periods prior to developing the Preferred Strategy; and the consultation about the Preferred Strategy. More information about these issues can be found in [Topic Papers, Background Papers, and the Sustainability Appraisal Report](#), which are listed in Appendix 2.
- 3.8 Table 2 provides a schedule of key issues that the Plan will aim to tackle. The key issues have not been listed in order of merit or importance.

Table 2: Schedule of the key matters (KI)

POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHY AND HOUSING

KI	1. A population which is ageing more and more as a consequence of the fact that some parts of the area are popular retirement destinations
KI	2. Impact of holiday / second homes on communities and the housing market

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| KI | 3. | Need to provide for students |
| KI | 4. | Need to provide for construction workers associated with major infrastructure projects |
| KI | 5. | Losing young residents who are economically active |
| KI | 6. | Insufficient supply of housing and responding to the need for a better range of housing in terms of location, type, size and affordability for local people |
| KI | 7. | Respond to the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers |
| KI | 8. | Many current houses are considered to be too old and of poor design in terms of their performance and sustainability to satisfy modern needs |
| KI | 9. | Capacity of settlements to deal with additional housing |
| KI | 10. | Rationalising and centralising education and health facilities |

WELL-BEING

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| KI | 11. | Promote opportunities for people to live healthy lives and have reasonable access to health care, especially within an ageing population |
| KI | 12. | Areas with high levels of various types of deprivation |
| KI | 13. | Need to maintain or improve residents' sense of safety within and outside their homes |
| KI | 14. | Access to facilities and community services, leisure facilities and formal and informal entertainment along with access to the countryside |

THE ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

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| KI | 15. | Low productivity (Gross Value Added, per capita) of the local economy |
| KI | 16. | Satisfy the demand for land and buildings for employment in sustainable locations to satisfy the need that has been identified across the area (urban and rural) |
| KI | 17. | Respond to business development needs and employment needs of existing / new employers |
| KI | 18. | Access to education and appropriate training skills |

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| KI | 19. Infrastructure requirements (e.g. telecommunications / ITC, water, transport connections, foul water and surface water disposal), associated with existing and new developments, including the infrastructure for the anticipated / proposed new energy developments |
| KI | 20. Decline in the prosperity and vitality of town centres as places offering shopping, leisure, employment and housing opportunities |
| KI | 21. Respond to the needs of the farming industry and other rural industries, including diversification in farming and the use of redundant farm buildings |
| KI | 22. The need to improve and manage the 'all year' tourist provision in the area in a sustainable way whilst at the same time promoting the heritage, the Welsh language and Welsh culture of the area |
| KI | 23. Need to safeguard the mineral resources of the area and take full advantage of secondary aggregates whilst assessing the supply levels |

THE ENVIRONMENT

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| KI | 24. Need to mitigate the effects of climate change, e.g. reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote generating renewable energy and low carbon |
| KI | 25. Adapt to the effects of climate change that are forecasted for the years to come, e.g. more floods, increase in sea levels, coastal erosion, storms, periods of hot weather and drier periods. |
| KI | 26. Reduce the need in the first place for energy and other resources for developments |
| KI | 27. Need to produce less waste in the first place and facilitate re-using and recycling waste along with disposal of residual waste |
| KI | 28. Need to protect and whenever possible, improve the natural environment, habitats and species of the area |
| KI | 29. Make the best use of the comparatively low levels of brownfield sites in the area along with vacant buildings or those which are underused |

TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

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| KI | 30. The impression that parts of the Plan area are remote |
| KI | 31. Areas with poor telecommunications and ITC connections |

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| KI | 32. Problems with accessibility to services and facilities, in particular in rural areas because of a lack of choice in terms of modes of transport |
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UNIQUE FEATURES

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| KI | 33. Fewer residents recorded as Welsh speakers in 2011 and fewer areas where more than 70% of the population can speak Welsh. |
| KI | 34. Maintain the positive features that contribute towards creating a unique character in various parts of the area. |
| KI | 35. Need to protect and improve places, landscapes and buildings of historic, cultural and archaeological importance and their settings |

LOCATION

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| KI | 36. The close relationship and the interactions between communities in the Gwynedd Local Planning Authority area and the Snowdonia National Park. |
| KI | 37. The jobs and key services provided in towns in adjoining areas |
| KI | 38. Transport corridor between Ireland and the UK / International Port |