

Progress Report

Place-names Project Cyngor Gwynedd

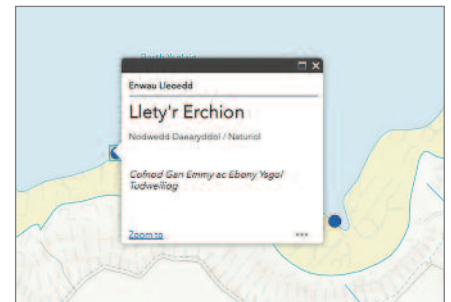
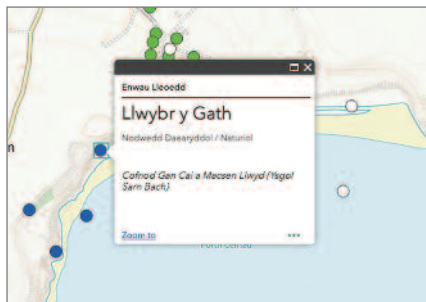
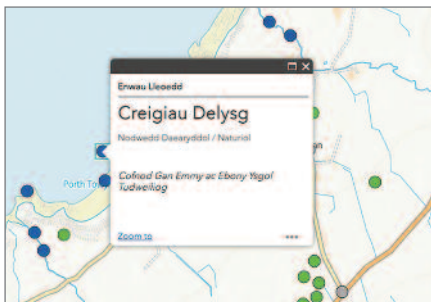
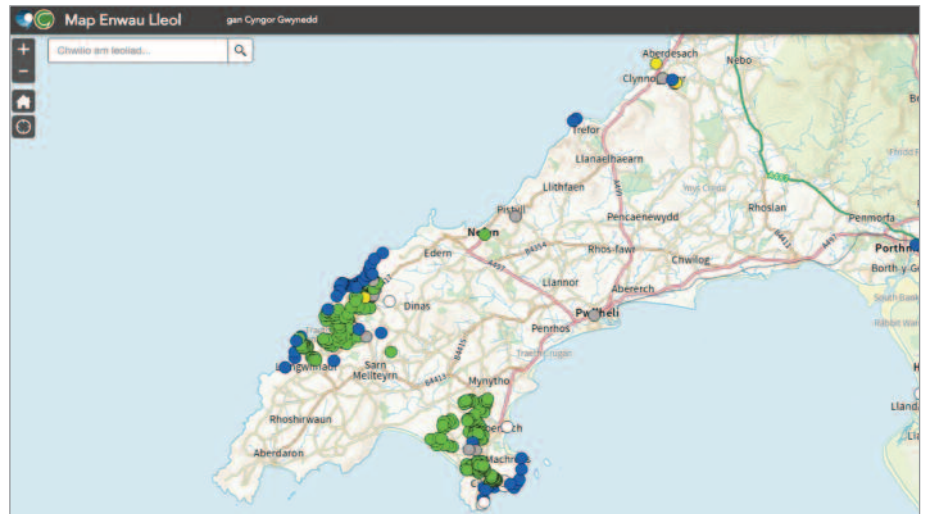


Place-name Project

The project was established by Cyngor Gwynedd due to growing concerns over many years that, for various reasons, native Welsh names were being lost. In 2021 a Place-names Project Officer was appointed to work on the project which since then has achieved a lot:

Local Place-names Map

Cyngor Gwynedd's **Place Names Map** is an online map that identifies local names for places within the county. Those names that are alive orally but have never been included on official maps - the names of fields, lanes, buildings, areas, rivers and so on.



The map continues to be populated with a host of interesting names as a result of workshops in **15 primary schools** and **one secondary school**. A number of individuals who have sound knowledge of their local areas have also been uploading names to the Map which so far contains over **670** local names.

An '**Imaginary Island Map**' education resource has been created especially for school classes in order to generate interest in maps and place-names within an area close to the school. A specific poem has also been composed to accompany the session.

Asked 'What was the highlight of the term?' the pupils of Yr 7, Ysgol Tryfan, Bangor replied unanimously "Mei Mac's session on maps!"

Inspired by the map, and following conversations with Waterford City and County Council, Ireland there is now also a similar map in the Irish language.

Ynys yr enwau

Dyma ynys sydd yn llawn o hanesion ond does ganddi ddim enw!

Dy waith di fydd dewis enw iddi ynghyd ag enw i unithw naw lle ar yr ynys. I dy helpu dyma ychydig o wybodaeth am lle:

Ochwyn wrth dy drwsell
Mae nifer o gliwau a sgriniau da am enwau addas i'w cael o hanes neu bethau daearyddol. Efallai bod aderyn neu anifail neu blantigyn yn cyrrig enw? Neu hanes un o'i bobol i'u'n byw ar yr ynys?

Yn 1765 suddodd llong o'r enw 'Yr Helen' oddi ar ogledd yr ynys. Colodd 20 o ddynion ifanc eu bywydau yn y llongdriyllad.

Ben bore, mae'r Tylwyth Teg i'w gweld ar y traeth sydd ar orllewin yr ynys - meddan nhw!

Mae pobl wedi prysoga gormod yn y llyn dros y blynyddoedd ac nid oes unithw bysgod yn byw ynddo bellach.

O amgylch y llyn mae cors, trî gwlyb sy'n gartref i lawer o fiodau a phlantigion gwylt.

Ar draethau de'r ynys mae llawer o wyronn yn hel ar ôl stormydd. Yna hwyfod gwelir cregin melyn a chorh-ym mhob man.

Mae hen blas mawr ar orllewin yr ynys lle roedd Mr Edward Allan Hearts yn byw. Daeth yna i fyw o Texas, America yn y 1980au gyda'r arlan.

Tystori
Oes tystor yn rhywle ar yr ynys? Ble tybed? A beth yn e' tystor gwerthfawr?

Dyma'r symbolau sy'n ymddangos ar y map:

- Llongdriyllad
- Eglwys
- Lwybr troed
- Clogwyn serth
- Coedwig
- Llyn/pwll
- Ffordd/rôn
- Cors/trî gwlyb
- Adellad
- Traeth
- Goleudy
- Alon

Ar y map mawr rho enw i'r ynys yn y blwch ar y top. Yna, gwnta gylich mewn 9 lle a rho rîf ym mhob cylch fel hyn. Yn y blychau isod, rho dy enwau di i'r 9 lle.

-
-
- Clogwyn Plas
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Newid

Does neb yn cofio'r marchog
Fu'n crwydro'r caeau hyn,
Yn arwain gwŷr i ryfel
Ar gefn ei geffyl gwyn.
Fe aeth holl stori'r brwydro blin
Pan aeth 'Bryn Cledd' yn 'Hazeldean'

A beth am y ddau gariad
A foddodd yn y llyn
Y bore wedi'r briodas
Ar goll mewn eira gwyn?
Diflannodd hanes eu mis mêl
Pan aeth 'Llwyn Serch' yn 'Willow Dale'.

A chwedl Dafydd Esgryn,
Y 'sgotwr dau gant oed
A ddaliodd gyda'i ddwylo
Yr eog mwya' rioed.
Does neb yn dweud ei hanes o
Ers troi 'Pwll Du' yn 'Tally Ho!'.

Nid dim ond enwau a gollwyd
Ar hyd yr ardal hon
Ond calon bro, ei harddwch,
Ei llais, ei henaid bron;
Os dewch i fyw i'n canol ni
Newidiwch ddim ar ddim da chi.

Meirion MacIntyre Huws
2022

Promotion and awareness

In order to raise awareness of the importance of place names and the historical, linguistic and cultural wealth they contain, the project has:

held occasional talks on Radio Cymru about place names etymology and their importance.

been posting interesting material about place names on social media

published 'The Name and the History' articles on the Council's intranet discussing the history of a place name within the County. This is the page that gets the most hits of all the Menwrwyd pages.

Yr Enw a'r Hanes

Pytiau yn adrodd yr hanes sydd tu ôl i enwau llefydd.

Penchwintan

Yr Enw a'r Hanes

Pytiau yn adrodd yr hanes sydd tu ôl i enwau llefydd.

Llangwnadl

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Boduan 2023

At the Cyngor Gwynedd stand on Maes Prifwyl Boduan, 202 the Place Names Project Officer was:

- a member of a national discussion panel (organized by the Place Names Project) in the company of Jeremy Miles MP, (Welsh Language Minister) and Dr Dylan Foster Evans (Cymdeithas Lleoedd Cymru). Chairing was the broadcaster Bedwyr Rees.
- talking about place names and local accents on an evening program on BBC Radio Cymru
- chairing a conversation in the Lân Tent on local names for the Festival. Picks from the conversation were broadcast on S4C.

Arwyddion

For various reasons, which have been reported elsewhere, the original intention by the Council's Leadership Team to try to have only Welsh street signs throughout the county changed direction. An 'alternative intention' was adopted which includes a number of plans:

Installation of local name signs in Twthill (Caernarfon), Lôn Rocar (Llandygai) Maes-y-Groes (Bethesda) and Lôn Groes (Pistyll).

Following meetings with Cymdeithas Ddinesig Caernarfon it is intended to erect signs indicating the old Welsh names on some of the streets of the old walled town.

Initial talks are underway with the Trefor village councillor to have Welsh only signs placed on the streets there, as a number of signs are missing.

With the co-operation of the Trefor village councillor, it is intended to install signs when reaching old commotes/townships (e.g., Arllechwedd and Dunoding) on 'A' roads. This is due to the interest in the 'Llŷn' signs which appeared during the Boduan National Eisteddfod, 2023.

As a result of discussions with the Language Commissioner and the Welsh Government, success was achieved with legislation to give villages and towns the right to have monolingual Welsh 'Croeso' signs for the first time ever. A letter informing town councils in Gwynedd of this development will be sent to council clerks in due course.

A Gwynedd Names 'App' has been created, in collaboration with the Council's IT department. The app will be installed on the Council's Intranet for staff to turn to to check the spelling of place names.

This will help when using the names that will be adopted by the Council in all internal and external correspondence.

Research work is currently being carried out to install signs on bridges and rivers where new English names have started to gain ground on maps and travel manuals.

Collaboration with external bodies/organisations

The Project Officer continues to meet as a member of the Welsh Place Names Forum, with representatives from the office of the Welsh Language Commissioner, the Welsh Government, Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri and some officers from other county councils.

Monthly talks are held with Mapio Cymru with the hope of having digital Welsh maps as a base layers for Cyngor Gwynedd maps.

Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri is also working on protecting place names within the land environment and geographical features so there is collaboration with them to share ideas and avoid duplication of activities.

Work with internal departments

On a weekly basis the project advises Building Control on matters relating to the naming of properties/streets/schools/estates.

A property naming 'good practice' booklet was published explaining who is responsible for what on matters of changing properties/streets etc. Leaflets were also published encouraging the use of Welsh names on properties to be sent out when the Council receives a request to change a name.

Another part of the project is to respond to requests from different departments for names and/or the correct spelling of places in Gwynedd. Up to April 2024 the Officer has consulted on approximately 80 house names and advised on the validity of an address, street name, postcode, and other matters relating to numerous addresses and property names.

Responses to complaints of various nature from the public who are concerned about misuse of Welsh names and/or names being replaced by English ones are also part of the Project Officer's work.



On the horizon

A Bwrlwm Arfor podcast discussing the significance of place names and their connection to dialects as part of Welsh identity.

Article for Llŷn AONB/AHNE magazine 'O Dan y Don' - place names and their connection with the sea.

