



# State of the Llŷn AONB Report 2025

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# Summary

## Baseline findings

Key to trend symbols:



New baseline



Informative data



Condition improving



Condition declining



Not clear

| Topic                            | Notes   | Baseline | Trend            |
|----------------------------------|---|----------|------------------|
| <b>Place</b>                     |   |          |                  |
| Land-use                         | Pasture and grassland are the dominant land uses within the AONB. There is little change between 2006 and 2018 though coniferous woodland has been reduced; some areas converted to broadleaved woodland and some to moors and heathland.   | 2006     |                  |
| Agricultural land-use            | In 2024, 14,575 ha was under agriculture, down from 14,697 ha in 2019 (a fall of 0.8%). 63% of the agricultural land use was as permanent grass.  | 2014     |                  |
| Agricultural holdings            | In 2024, there were 362 farms in the AONB, of which 43% were each less than 10 ha in area.  | 2014     |                  |
| Livestock numbers                | Sheep is the largest group of livestock. There were 43,237 breeding ewes in 2024, down from 46,704 in 2014 (a fall of 7%).  | 2014     |                  |
| Land in agri-environment schemes | In 2021, Glastir covered just over 40% of the AONB, increasing from 4,705.5 ha in 2013 to 6,452.4 ha (an increase of just over 37%).<br>In 2021, uptake of the Entry element in the AONB decreased by 1,057.9 ha (-29.2%) since 2013.<br>By 2021 the uptake of Glastir Advanced had increased by 2,804.7 ha (+259.2%) since 2013. | 2013     | 2024 data absent |
| Development monitoring           | There were 614 valid development applications between 2020 and 2024, 81% were approved and 19% were refused. The approvals include 13 new homes. Of these, 9 are classed as affordable.   | 2024     |                  |

|   |  |      |   |  |
|---|--|------|---|--|
| Number of development plans with Spatial Strategy and allocations | 1 - The Joint Anglesey and Gwynedd Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026<br>The new plan currently in preparation   | 2017 |    |  |
| Light pollution   | Annual satellite images. There is little change over the years; the area retains its dark night skies. Llŷn AONB was ranked as the darkest AONB in Wales and is the only AONB to have a larger percentage of their area within the darkest category compared to the Wales average.     | 2019 |    | Little change over time                          |
| Noise pollution   | Very little traffic noise in the AONB. Most roads presented an average sound level of only 40-50 dB.   | 2022 |    | Trend data not available as metrics have changed |
| Air quality   | Particulate matter (PM2.5) levels are very low but with hotspots around Abersoch, Aberdaron, Llanbedrog, Nanhoron (quarry), Groesffordd/Edern, Lithfaen, Trefor (quarry) and Clynnog-fawr.   | 2022 |    |  |
|   | Sulphur dioxide (SO2) levels are very low in the area but there are hotspots around Trefor and Llanbedrog. These are both sections of the A499 showing the highest traffic movements.  |      |   |  |
|   | Ammonia (NH3) levels are very low in the western half of the AONB. Levels are high in a band stretching coast to coast through the centre of the area with moderate levels in the eastern section.   |      |   |  |
| Change in weather patterns  | There is a rise of 0.6°C in annual mean temperature and a 92.7mm increase in annual rainfall over the last 60 years. The number of annual days of rainfall rose over the period by 6 days to 147 days. In contrast, the number of annual days of air frost fell by 4.8 days to 6 days. | 1961 |    |  |
| Greenhouse gases  | There has been a 21.5% reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions between 2005 and 2023. Except for agriculture, all sectors show significant decreases in emissions. Agriculture increased by 7% since 2005 but there had been a fall by 2013. The increase since then is 25%.       | 2005 |  |  |
|   | Carbon dioxide (CO2) levels in 2024. Agriculture produced 52% of emissions (related to transport and machinery), transport produced 22% and domestic 21%. The highest concentrations (100-1995 kt CO2e) are along the A499 and around Abersoch, Aberdaron, Llanbedrog and Nanhoron.    | 2024 |  |  |

|  |   |      |   |               |
|--|---|------|---|---------------|
|  | <p>Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) levels in 2024. 96% of emissions are associated with agriculture (primarily from livestock). Waste management contributes the remaining 4% of emissions. The highest levels are found around Graianog, perhaps associated with the waste management service in the area (100+ kt CO<sub>2</sub>e) and Llanengan (50-100 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e).</p> <p>Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) levels in 2024 is very low. 99% of emissions are associated with agriculture and soils (fertilizers) alone emit 61%.</p> |      |   |               |
| Renewable energy sites                     | No large renewable energy generation sites running within the AONB  | 2025 |    |               |
| Area at risk of flooding                   | There are two areas at high risk of flooding from rivers, surface water and small watercourses. They are around Clynnog Fawr and along the River Soch. The large majority of the AONB is at very low or no risk of flooding.  | 2018 |    |               |
| Area at risk of flooding from the sea      | There is an extensive area of high-risk flooding from the sea around Abersoch that extends as low-risk flooding along the lower reaches of the River Soch. There is a high risk of localised flooding from the sea along the whole coastline.   | 2018 |    |               |
| Area at risk of coastal erosion            | There is some risk of erosion along most of the coastline, but the greatest risk is in the Porthor Beach area.  | 2018 |   |               |
| <b>Natural heritage</b>                    |   |      |   |               |
| Number of designated sites                 | 22 designated SSSIs occupying 2,182.9 ha (14%) of AONB. No public data on condition.  | 2024 |    | No trend data |
| Seabird count                              | Between 2000 and 2021, there has been a 17% increase overall in birds counted.  | 2000 |   | Increasing    |
| Location of subtidal seagrass              | There is a decline in the seagrass beds, damage may be from recreational activities (anchoring).  | 2008 |  | Decreasing    |
| Condition of Special Areas of Conservation | 4 SACs in the AONB occupying 1,324.8 ha (8.5%) of AONB. 4 features in an unfavourable condition   | 2025 |  | No trend data |
| Condition of Special Protection Areas      | 2 SPAs in the AONB occupying 881 ha (5.7%) of the AONB. Manx shearwater in favourable condition, Chough in unfavourable condition.  | 2025 |  |               |
| National Nature Reserves                   | There are two NNRs occupying 219.9 ha (1.4%) of the area.   |      |  |               |

|  |   |        |   |                  |
|--|---|--------|---|------------------|
| Local Wildlife Sites                       | In 2025, there were 30 'Wildlife Sites' covering 421.6 ha (2.7%) of the area.   | 2017   |    |                  |
| Quality of coastal waters                  | Two blocks of coastal waters had good ecological and chemical status; one had a moderate chemical status.   | 2024   |    |                  |
| Ecological status of rivers                | 38% of rivers in a good ecological state (up from 24% in 2020); 50% were in a poor state (0% in 2020).  | 2024   |    | Some improvement |
| Area of habitats of principal importance   | 3,602 ha of habitats of principal importance, covering 23% of the AONB. No public data on condition.  | 2025   |    |                  |
| Area of woodland                           | 604 ha of woodland covering 4% of the AONB  | 2025   |    |                  |
| Ancient woodland                           | 255 ha of woodland covering 1.6% of the AONB.   | 2025   |    |                  |
| <b>Cultural heritage</b>                   |   |        |   |                  |
| Extent of Welsh Language skills            | 73% of the population aged 3 years and over had some Welsh language skills (2021 and 2011 the same)   | census |    |                  |
| Change in Welsh Language use               | Since 2011, there has been a very minor decrease in Welsh use. In 2011, 57.3% could speak, read and write Welsh; this rose to 57.8% in 2021. In both years, 6.1% of the population aged 3 years and over could understand spoken Welsh but could not speak, read or write it. | census |    | Minor decline    |
| Condition of historic landscapes           | Most of the historic landscape in the AONB is in a high or outstanding condition  | 2014   |    | No trend data    |
| Number of heritage assets                  | There are 257 Listed Buildings, 55 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (covering 156.6 ha), 1 Registered Park and Garden and 1 Historic Landscape. There is no public record on the current condition of these assets.  | 2025   |    |                  |
| Number and condition of conservation areas | 9 Conservation Areas covering 245 ha (1.6%) of the AONB. All were either well-maintained or fairly well maintained.   | 2015   |  |                  |
| <b>People</b>                              |   |        |   |                  |
| Population density                         | The population density in 2021 was 36 residents per km <sup>2</sup> (down 7.7% from 39 residents per km <sup>2</sup> in 2011).  | census |  |                  |

|   |   |        |   |                                |
|---|---|--------|---|--------------------------------|
| Number of residents                           | 3,734 (down 12.4% from 4,262 in 2011).  | census |    |                                |
| Population age profile                        | There is a slow ageing of the population with a 1.9% increase in the number of people over the age of 70 between 2011 and 2021. For the same period, there now 30.6% fewer people aged 40-49, 21% fewer aged 15-29, and 40% fewer aged 4 years and under. In 2011, the largest band was the 65-69 age group (7.74% of the population). Ten years later, the largest band is the 55-59 age group (9.2% of the population). | census |    |                                |
| Ethnicity of resident population (%)          | 98.7% of the resident population class as 'white'.  | census |    |                                |
| Gender of resident population (%)             | 50.5% of the resident population is female.   | census |    |                                |
| General health of the resident population (%) | 50% of the resident population enjoy very good health; only 1.4% suffer very bad health.  | census |    |                                |
| Disability status of resident population (%)  | 81.2% of the resident population suffered no long-term health conditions.   | census |    |                                |
| House-price affordability                     | In 2023, the Gwynedd house-price affordability ratio was 6, as it was for Wales as a whole.<br>It is estimated that the AONB house-price affordability ratio was between 13 and 14.   | 2023   |    | Only partial data is available |
| Household deprivation dimensions              | In 2021, 50.7% were not deprived in any dimension (up from 38.5% in 2011).  | census |    |                                |
| Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation           | In 2019, the majority of the AONB lay in the 30% and 50% of the most deprived Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Wales. There was a central band running from north to south in the 50% least deprived LSOAs. By 2025, those parts of the AONB in the Clynnog, Llanaelhaearn and Pistyll Community Council areas have fallen into the 20% and 30% of the most deprived LSOAs.                                      | 2019   |  | Local variations may be hidden |
|   | Considering just the housing domain; in 2019, a large part of the AONB lay in the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales. There were two small pockets in the north and south that lay in 30% and 50% of the most deprived LSOAs. And there was one small pocket between Nefyn and Mynydd Nefyn that lay in the 50% least deprived LSOAs.   | 2019   |  |                                |

|  |  |        |   |                            |
|--|--|--------|---|----------------------------|
| Second homes                           | In 2024, 1,150 residential units are either holiday accommodation or second homes (33.4% of the AONB housing stock).   | 2024   |    |                            |
| Employment status                      | Between 2011 & 2021: there has been a 6% reduction in the level of registered employment and a 7% swing from those residents wanting to work to those not seeking work; perhaps reflecting the increasing retired population (29.4% in 2021, up from 19.6% in 2011).                     | census |    |                            |
| Employment profile by occupation       | Between 2011 & 2021: the spread of occupations has shifted slightly from the skilled trades towards professional roles with the biggest change in the elementary occupations (a 2% reduction).   | census |    |                            |
| Employment profile by industry         | Between 2011 & 2021: There has been an increase in public administration, land-based industries, construction and hospitality sectors. There has been a decrease in manufacturing, transport, educational, health and retail sectors; but retail and health services are still dominant. | census |    |                            |
| Means of travel to work                | In 2021, 30% of employed residents worked from home, up from 14% in 2011. In 2011, 69% of employed residents drove to work; this reduced to 56% in 2021.   | census |    | Car commuting declining    |
| Distance travelled to work             | 35.9% of employed residents travelled less than 2km to work; 4% travelled over 60km to work (long distance commuters); and 19.5% worked in no fixed place, offshore or overseas.   | census |    |                            |
| Access to a car or van                 | In 2021, 90% of the resident population had access to at least one car or van, up from 86% in 2011. 14.2% of households had no access to a car or van in 2011, this reduced to 9.8% by 2021.   | census |    |                            |
| Traffic counts                         | In 2024, the number of vehicles that travelled past the count points (in both directions) was 19,299. The most common vehicles on all roads were cars (77%) and light goods vehicles (19%).  | 2000   |   |                            |
| Open access land                       | There are 2,069 ha of open country (13% of the AONB) and 835 ha of registered common (5% of the AONB).   | 2023   |  |                            |
| Access network                         | In both 2020 and 2025, 300 km of public rights of way were reported; there is no comprehensive assessment of condition.  | 2020   |  | No condition or trend data |
| Condition of designated bathing waters | There are 4 designated bathing waters within the AONB. In 2025, all were rated 'excellent'.  | 2025   |  | Improving                  |

Tourism and the visitor economy

In 2024, the AONB welcomed 277,000 visitors (a fall of 1.1% since 2019) with 863,000 visitor days (a rise of 0.7% since 2019). The economic impact was £63,900,000 (a rise of 32% since 2019). The impact of COVID shows clearly with a fall of 54% in visitor numbers between 2019 and 2020.

In 2024, the Llyn Peninsula welcomed 2,280,000 visitors (a fall of 1.6% since 2019) with 7,814,000 visitor days (a rise of 0.3% since 2019). The economic impact was £544,800,000 (a rise of 30.8% since 2019).

2019



## Forces for change

A force for change is defined as an influence that either directly or indirectly leads to change in the special qualities of the AONB. There are many drivers for the forces for change. These include legislation and policy, market and economy, social and climate influences. Llŷn AONB's forces for change were gleaned from a variety of sources, including national policy and guidance<sup>1</sup>. They fall under five broad headings:

- **Climate change:** Climate change will significantly affect the Special Qualities of the AONB; and it will affect other forces for change. Impacts are likely to be broad and far reaching. For example, there may be an increase in extreme weather events such as flooding and wildfires, a loss of agricultural crops and native species to invasive diseases, and damage to important cultural and historic assets.
- **Nature loss:** Wildlife will decline, mainly because of some agricultural land management practices, the effects of climate change, pollution, over exploitation and invasive species. This loss of nature threatens ecosystem resilience and nature's ability to support society and well-being, and nature's capacity to adapt to and mitigate against climate change.
- **People and communities:** The population will slowly increase driven by an increase in the number of people aged 65 and over. This will affect the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area. Llŷn is a stronghold of the Welsh language but there is a very slow but steady decline in its use, perhaps due to inward migration. Ensuring that everyone has opportunities to live, work, learn and play in Welsh will be essential to expanding its use for future generations.
- **Economic viability:** Local land managers and entrepreneurs will lose the confidence to invest in the area. Land management and the natural environment underpin the natural heritage of the AONB. Farming is fundamental to the rural community and its economy, and the current uncertainty in how new subsidy schemes will work is a cause for concern. Tourism is a significant economic driver. Regenerative tourism will connect visitors with the natural and cultural environment so that they have a positive impact on the area, leaving it in a better condition than how they found it.
- **Access, recreation and well-being:** Demands will increase for fair access to green and blue spaces for people of all ages and abilities. Recreation and access related issues are influenced by a variety of factors and bring a range of impacts. A key challenge is to ensure the critical health benefits of being able to access the area can be realised without any detrimental impact on the communities, livelihoods and natural environment of the AONB.

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<sup>1</sup> **References:** This State of the AONB Report; NRW (2020): The Second State of Natural Resources Report; LUC (2021): State of the AONB Report for the Llŷn AONB; Welsh Government (2021): Future Trends Report Wales 2021; Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Service Board (2022): Gwynedd Well-being Assessment; NRW (2023): North West Wales Area Statement; LUC (2024): Forces for Change for North East Wales National Park Area of Search; LANDMAP.

## Relationship of the Forces for Change to the Special Qualities

| The special qualities                | Positive forces   | Negative forces   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Landscape and coast                  | <p>Adoption of a landscape-led approach that creates vibrant, resilient places where people, nature and communities thrive.</p> <p>Land managers adopting nature-based solutions.</p> <p>Development of coastal enhancement measures using nature-based solutions to improve coastline resilience, biodiversity, and flood protection against climate change impacts like sea-level rise.</p>   | <p>The impacts of extreme weather events, including storms and coastal erosion.</p> <p>Pollution of seas and watercourses.</p> <p>Poorly sited or designed developments (large agricultural buildings, renewable energy infrastructure, leisure developments (such as caravan parks), and new housing.</p>  |
| Tranquillity and a clean environment | <p>The relative absence of human noise and influence, emphasising natural sounds (birdsong), starlight, and a sense of wildness.</p> <p>Growing awareness of the benefits of a dark night sky - improved outcomes for energy and carbon saving, attractive and safe spaces, leading to higher quality residential amenity, health and wellbeing, improved enjoyment of dark sky culture and heritage, and protection of biodiversity.</p> | <p>Release of polluted air and water.</p> <p>Introduction of floodlit and noisy activities.</p> <p>Urban development outside the AONB increasing light spillage and noise.</p>  |
| A wealth of wildlife                 | <p>Increasing the variety of life through diverse planting and habitat creation.</p> <p>Actions that reduce carbon emissions enhancing biodiversity, like planting trees.</p> <p>Growth of community-led projects to create and enhance local green spaces.</p> <p>Ffermio Bro and the Sustainable Farming Scheme facilitating the improvement of habitats and connectivity benefitting local wildlife.</p>                               | <p>Climate change affecting habitats and species through changing weather patterns, periods of drought and waterlogging, damage from storms and flooding and erosion.</p> <p>Climate change increasing the risk from pests and diseases, and the spread of invasive non-native species on land and in the sea.</p> <p>Land managers opting out of nature-based solutions.</p> |
| The Historic environment             | <p>Encouragement for local pride and understanding through projects promoting exploration of local historical assets.</p> <p>Projects to sustain and restore local historical assets e.g., Melin Daron mill.</p> <p>Supporting investment in cultural institutions like museums and arts venues.</p>  | <p>Land management changes driven by both policy and climate adaptation changing historic features in the landscape.</p> <p>Lack of condition reporting delaying opportunities for remedial actions.</p>  |
| The Welsh Language and Culture       | <p>Cymraeg 2050 – a million Welsh speakers</p> <p>Report by the Commission of Welsh Communities and the measures being recommended.</p>   | <p>Population changes from migration and age structure affecting community involvement and participation in local events and traditions, knowledge and use of the Welsh language.</p>   |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | <p>Digital programmes and aps to help learners and businesses.<br/>Welsh language courses for learners and the more advanced.<br/>Nant Gwrtheyrn Welsh Language and Culture centre located in the AONB.<br/>Menter Iaith Gwynedd – supporting and promoting the language in Gwynedd.</p>  | <p>Decline in employment in land-based industries leading to a loss of local knowledge, vernacular skills and Welsh language.</p>   |
| <p>People and close-knit communities</p>  | <p>Digital links will support social network building and reduce isolation.<br/>Local community events help create a feeling of belonging and a means to raise awareness of history and culture<br/>Grants by Perthyn, the Sustainable Development Fund other funds supporting community projects</p>   | <p>There may be increased poverty, health inequalities, lack of affordable housing, potential reduction in employment and growth, and an eroding of cohesive communities.<br/>The actions needed for climate change adaptation and mitigation may bring unwelcome changes to the local way of life.<br/>The cumulative effects of built development degrading the ‘sense of place’.</p>   |
| <p>Local produce and rural businesses</p> | <p>There is a need for innovation within the rural economy and routes to employment for local people of all ages. This can be supported through the production of local sustainable goods and services and local procurement policies.<br/>The revival of traditional crafts and development of new products can rejuvenate the local economy.<br/>The delivery of the Sustainable Farming Scheme should deliver significant environmental gains and farming systems that are less dependent on inputs and as such are more economically secure.</p>  | <p>Changes in agricultural policy, funding and viability can influence the management of features within the landscape.<br/>A tradition of knowledge passed down through generations of farming may be lost if farming families choose another vocation.<br/>Economic downturns or booms that cause budget adjustments and strategic shifts in policy – tariffs and trade wars, supply chain, other external factors.</p>   |
| <p>Rights of way and access</p>           | <p>People have been visiting the area for generations for tourism and recreation. As summers get warmer and the environmental cost of travel increases, local destinations may grow in popularity.<br/>Changes in people’s tastes or expectations will lead to new forms of recreation, such as sailboarding, jet skis, electric bikes and scooters.<br/>Digital connectivity will change how information is delivered; there may be a reduction in signage but a greater awareness of local features and opportunities.<br/>People will expect to be involved in planning and developing the right access opportunities to blue and green spaces that meets their needs and contributes to health and social benefits for communities now and in the future.</p> | <p>Pressures on honeypot sites, trails and routes may grow.<br/>There is no strategic monitoring of the condition of rights of way, which weakens strategic planning.<br/>New forms of recreation may increase pressures on local communities, wildlife and the landscape, it may affect tranquillity.<br/>There may be more people in the area, and they may demand new infrastructure that effects the landscape, such as charging points for vehicles, cycles and phones.<br/>Accessible route networks, parks, beaches and sea fronts, and the wider countryside, are not always located near to where people live or are not managed in a way that people of all ages and abilities can access them.</p> |

# Introduction

## The Llŷn AONB

An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is an area that is so precious that it is safeguarded for the nation. Designation of the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was in 1957.

The Llŷn Peninsula is renowned for its diverse and interesting coastline and beautiful landscape, which formed the basis for the AONB designation. The AONB covers around one quarter of the peninsula, a total of 15,500 hectares, mostly along the coast.

Llŷn, whose complex geology includes ancient pre-Cambrian rock formations, is a natural extension of the Snowdonia massif. The geology is typified by the wide variation of coastal landscapes, ranging from the steep cliffs of Aberdaron Bay and promontories to the sand dune systems in the Abersoch area. The highest point in Llŷn is the Eifl (564m) mountain range, which levels out to a plateau that extends towards the sea and the black rocks of Mynydd Mawr, at the tip of the Peninsula. The area is typified by narrow and winding roads, farms and whitewashed cottages. It also includes open areas of ancient common land.

Ynys Enlli is a very special island. Its links with Christianity date back to a very early period and pilgrims from near and far have flocked there over the ages. It occupies a prominent place in Welsh folklore and, according to legend, 20,000 saints are said to be buried here. The island has a wealth of historic remains and buildings and is home to a rich variety of wildlife.

The peninsula itself also boasts a rich heritage, with important archaeological sites of all periods. These include flint scatters

discarded by our earliest prehistoric ancestors about 10,000 years ago to twentieth century military sites.

In general, agriculture in Llŷn comprises small traditional units and this has helped to protect the landscape and the environment. However, the agriculture industry has witnessed many changes over the years that have resulted in a sharp fall in the number of people who make a living out of farming. There has also been a decline in the fishing industry.

Due to the lack of job opportunities, many local young people and people of working age move away. They are replaced by people from other parts of Wales and the UK. Many incomers are retired but some families are moving in. Most incomers have no knowledge of the language or culture, and this has had an impact on the cultural character of the area, and the use of the Welsh language. However, the percentage of Welsh speakers is still among the highest in Wales.

Tourism is vital to the local economy but puts seasonal pressure on local services, infrastructure and the environment. Many of the coastal villages, such as Abersoch, Aberdaron and Morfa Nefyn, are popular tourist destinations. As a result, the area is under pressure, especially along the southern coastline, due to the level of activity on the beaches, roads, car parks, boat launching areas; and on the sea itself.

## Purpose of document

This report provides the basis for measuring the condition of the Llŷn AONB's designated Landscape, its special qualities, and the factors essential to the survival of these special qualities. It will help to inform the statutory review of the current AONB Management Plan (2015-20) and support the preparation of a new plan. The report pulls together the data and information gathered

by the AONB team, with its partners including Natural Resources Wales, for the Llŷn AONB; and from other sources as indicated. It presents data collated in 2025 alongside comparable data from annual reviews and reports, where such exists, or to alternative baselines against which there are comparisons and trends.

The special qualities for the Llŷn AONB are:

- Landscape and coast
- Tranquillity and a clean environment
- A wealth of wildlife
- The historic environment
- The Welsh language and culture
- People and close-knit communities
- Local produce and rural businesses
- Rights of way and access

## Data considerations

There were difficulties in securing some trend data for this report. Natural Resources Wales did share data sets that they give to the protected landscapes. These present 25 topics for 2020 and 2025. Some topic data sets for 2025 are out of date as there have been new releases since publication. There is no public reporting on the condition of the heritage assets or the Sites of Special Scientific Interest by the agency. In addition, some data presented in the earlier State of the AONB Report (2021) could not be found.

The statistical service of the Welsh Government did cut agricultural data to the AONB boundary for three separate years. But due to the small area and the nature of the data sampling, it could not present data on agricultural employment or farm tenure.

No new studies were commissioned for this report, and not all existing data sets can be disaggregated to the AONB boundary.

For some topics, the data relates to either a part of the AONB or a section of the Peninsula. In such cases, the findings are indicative. Furthermore, it is recognised that many partners take actions that secure the Management Plan's objectives but do not necessarily report these to the AONB.

Census statistics help paint a picture of the nation and how we live. They provide a detailed snapshot of the population and its characteristics. Output Areas (OAs) are the lowest level of geographical area for census statistics. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has allocated Output Areas to the AONB on a 'best fit' basis, and they are to be the baseline for the AONB. Being a 'best fit' model means that the census presentations are estimates of the likely position. To show the changes between the 2011 and 2021 Census, we use the same (or equivalent) OAs.

The 2021 Census took place during a period of rapid change. The ONS gave extra guidance to help people on furlough answer the census questions about work. However, it is unable to decide how furloughed people followed the guidance. Interpreting this data needs to take note of this.

The ONS also warn that where there are small sample sizes (as is the case of the Llŷn data), it swaps records between different geographic areas, and adjusts counts by small amounts, to protect against disclosure of personal information. The official Census figures are also estimates because there is not a 100% response (Maximising the quality of Census 2021 population estimates - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)). For all these reasons, we do not show the numeric values recorded in the census, rather, we use the percentage scores for each topic.

# Location of the Llŷn AONB



Figure 1: AONB and location: Source GIS data obtained from OS Open data and www.data.gov.uk – October 2025.

# Place

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| Areas at risk of flooding from rivers, surface water and small watercourses ..... | 41 |
| Areas at risk of flooding from the Sea .....                                      | 44 |
| Areas at risk of coastal erosion.....   | 47 |

## The special qualities

### Landscape and coast

Llŷn is an area of beautiful coastal and rural landscape. The landscape varies from fertile lowlands to igneous hills. From the hilltops, excellent views are to be had to every direction, and the coastal nature of the area is obvious. The coast varies greatly – parts of the northern coastline are rocky with occasional but sandy beaches. Larger beaches are to be found on the southern coastline and sand dunes are to be found in the Abersoch area. Because of the lack of other developments, there is a strong feeling of an unspoilt, natural landscape. Small, dispersed villages are characteristic of the area. Because of their compact nature and the traditional building materials, they usually blend naturally into the landscape.

The sea gave subsistence to generations of Llŷn people, and a tradition of seafarers developed in the area. The sea has played a prominent part in the area's culture. Several shipwrecks have occurred along the shores and there are many stories collecting bounty off the beaches and even about attracting ships to difficulties. There are also tales of smuggling and pirates associated with Llŷn. In the present day, the sea is a valuable economic resource in terms of pleasure boats, jet-skis, fishing etc., and the beaches attract thousands of locals and tourists in the summer.

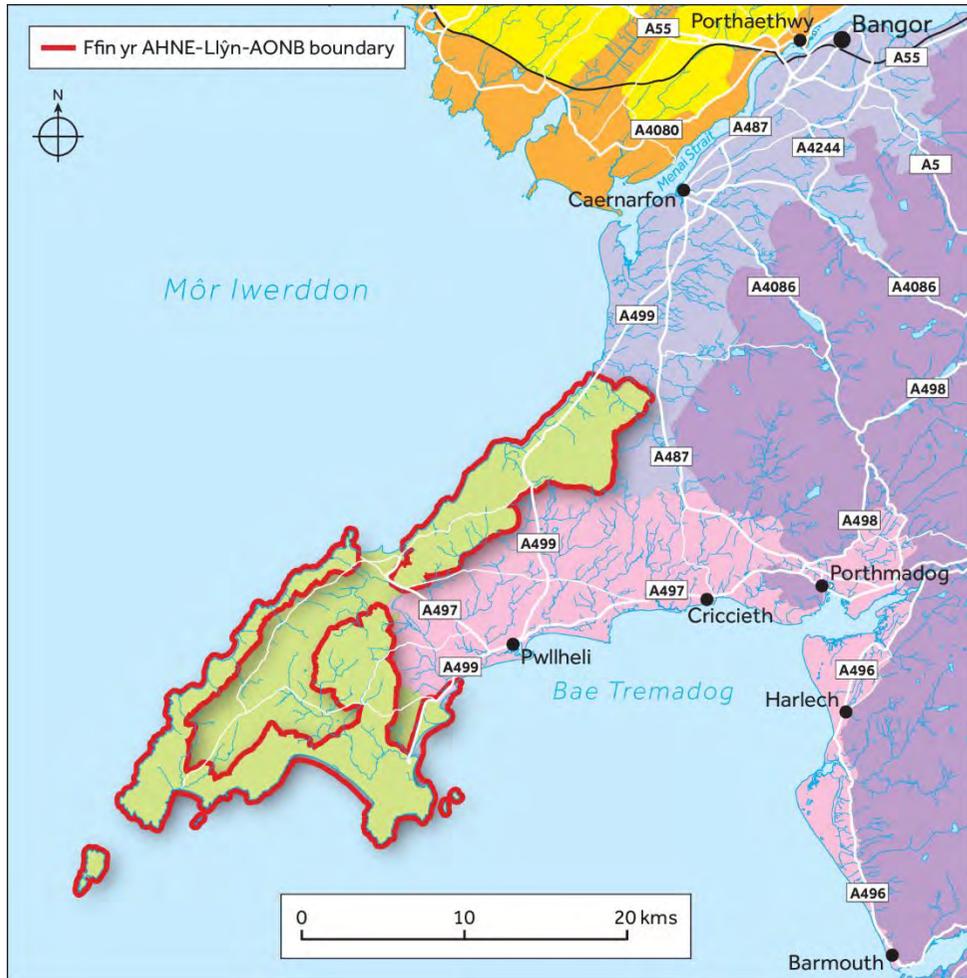
### Tranquillity and a clean environment

The Llŷn Peninsula, particularly at its western point, is one of the few areas where peace and tranquillity can be found. Despite the changes that have occurred over time, parts of Llŷn continue to be very rural and peaceful in their nature. There are few large-scale developments (houses or industry), few motorists and traffic, very few things moving and little light to disturb the darkness of night. Levels of pollution are low here in Llŷn. The quality of the soil, air, water and seawater continues to be very high here.



# Landscape Character

## National landscape character areas



### Allwedd/Legend

- Arfon / Arfon
- Arfordir Môn / Anglesey Coast
- Canolbarth Môn / Central Anglesey
- Eryri / Snowdonia
- Llŷn / Llyn Peninsula
- Bae Tremadog / Tremadoc Bay

The Llŷn AONB lies within three National landscape character areas.

| NLCA name    | % of AONB in the NLCA |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Llŷn         | 99.6%                 |
| Tremadoc Bay | 0.3%                  |
| Arfon        | 0.1%                  |

Source: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved.

## Extent of the Llŷn Heritage Coast

Most of the AONB's coastline is defined as Heritage Coast. The Llŷn Heritage Coast extends from Aberdesach in the north to Abersoch in the south.



Heritage coasts are 'defined' rather than designated; their status carries no legal protection. But planning authorities must take the designation into account when making decisions on development.

Heritage coasts are established to:

- conserve, protect and enhance the natural beauty of the coastline
- their terrestrial, coastal and marine flora and fauna
- their heritage features
- encourage and help the public to enjoy, understand and appreciate these areas
- maintain and improve the health of inshore waters affecting heritage coasts and their beaches through appropriate environmental management measures
- take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and fishing and the economic and social needs of the small communities on these coasts

Reference: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. See [https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW\\_HERITAGE\\_COAST](https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW_HERITAGE_COAST)

## Visual and sensory landscape classification



### Allwedd/Legend

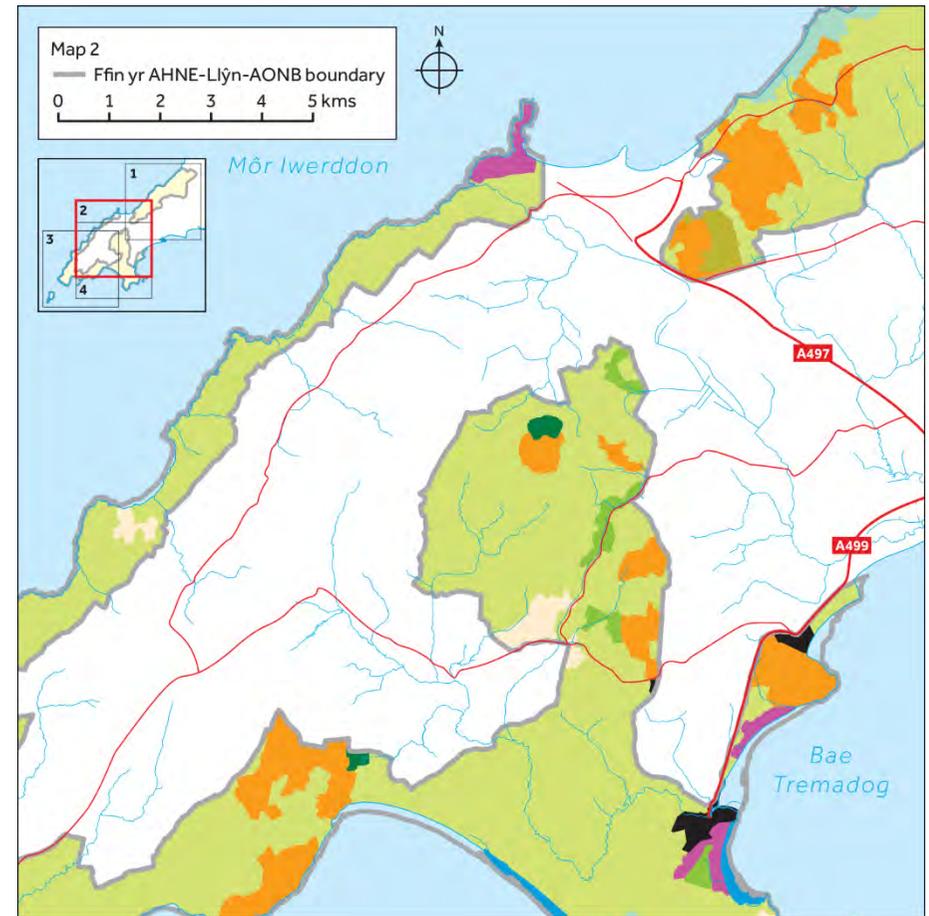
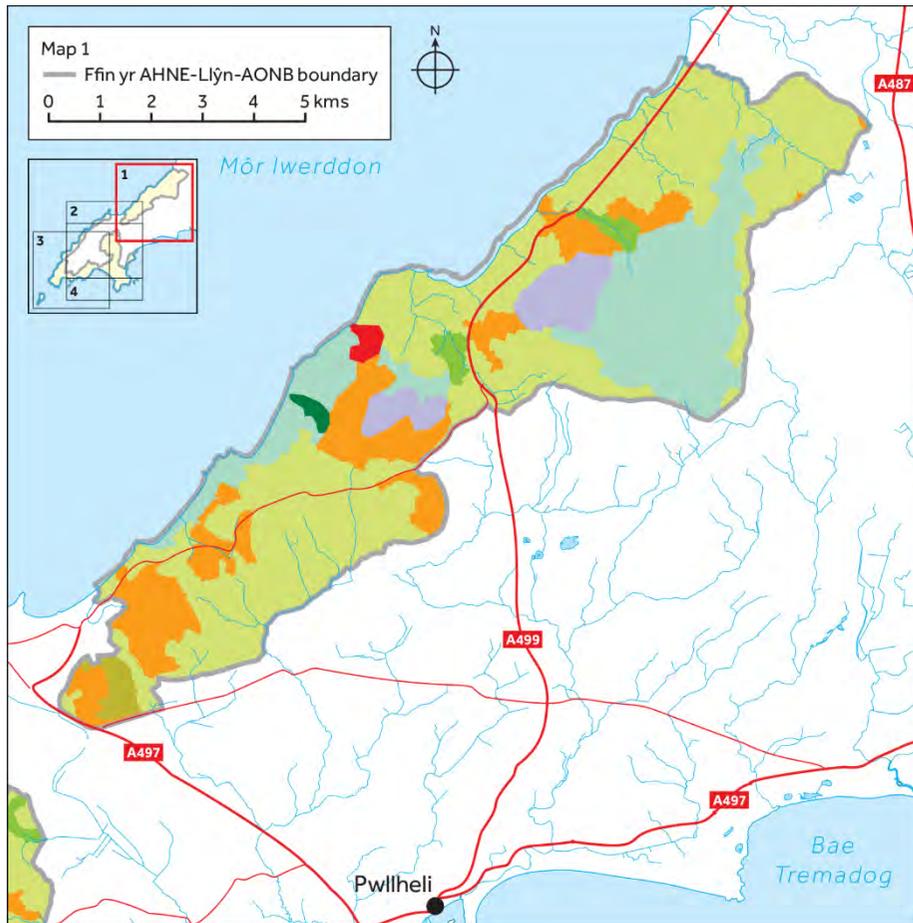
- Tir adeiledig/  
Built land
- Arfordirol/  
Coastal
- Chwareli/  
Quarries
- Llwyfandir ucheldir agored/  
Exposed upland plateau
- Iseldir gwastad/  
Flat lowland
- Bryniau, llwyfandir isaf a llethrau sgarp/  
Hills, lower plateau and scarp slopes
- Dyffrynnoedd iseldir/  
Lowland valleys
- Iseldir tonnog/  
Rolling lowland

Map showing visual and sensory landscape classification. This dataset maps the landscape as perceived through our senses based on the physical attributes of landform and land cover. The perceived characteristics of the landscape are primarily determined visually, but the senses of hearing, smell and touch are also considered.

Reference: visual and sensory Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved.  
[https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW\\_LANDMAP\\_Visual\\_Sensory](https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW_LANDMAP_Visual_Sensory)

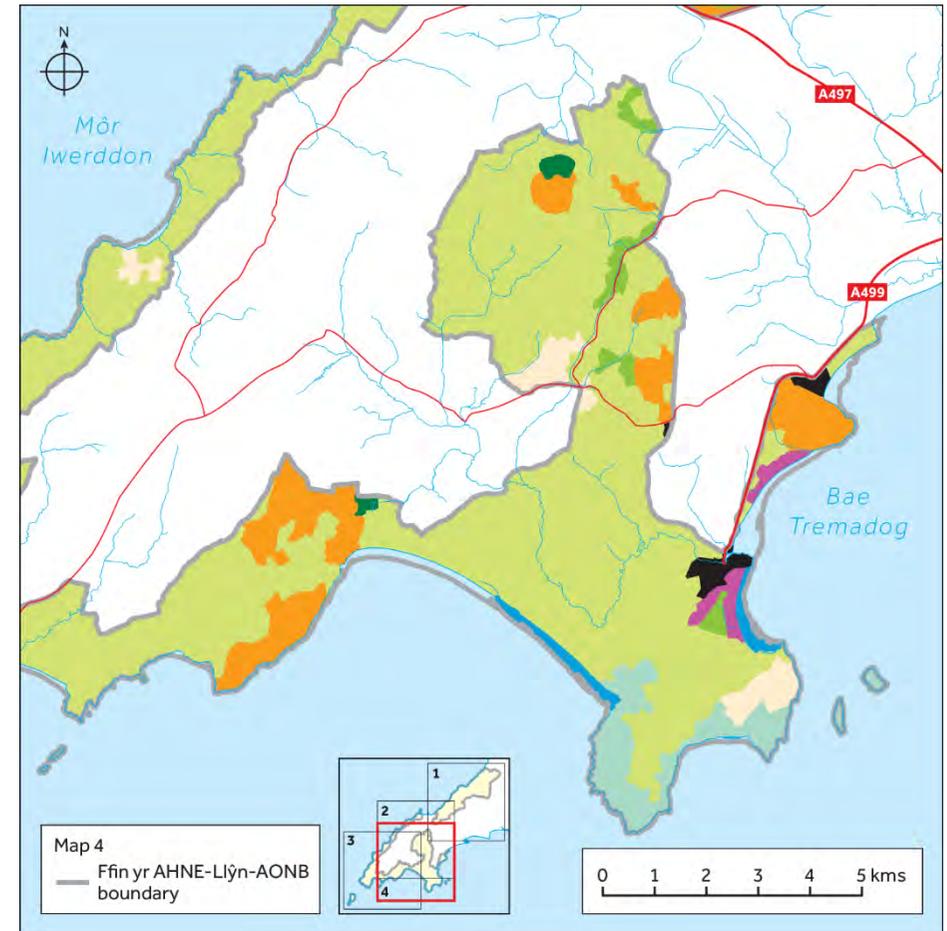
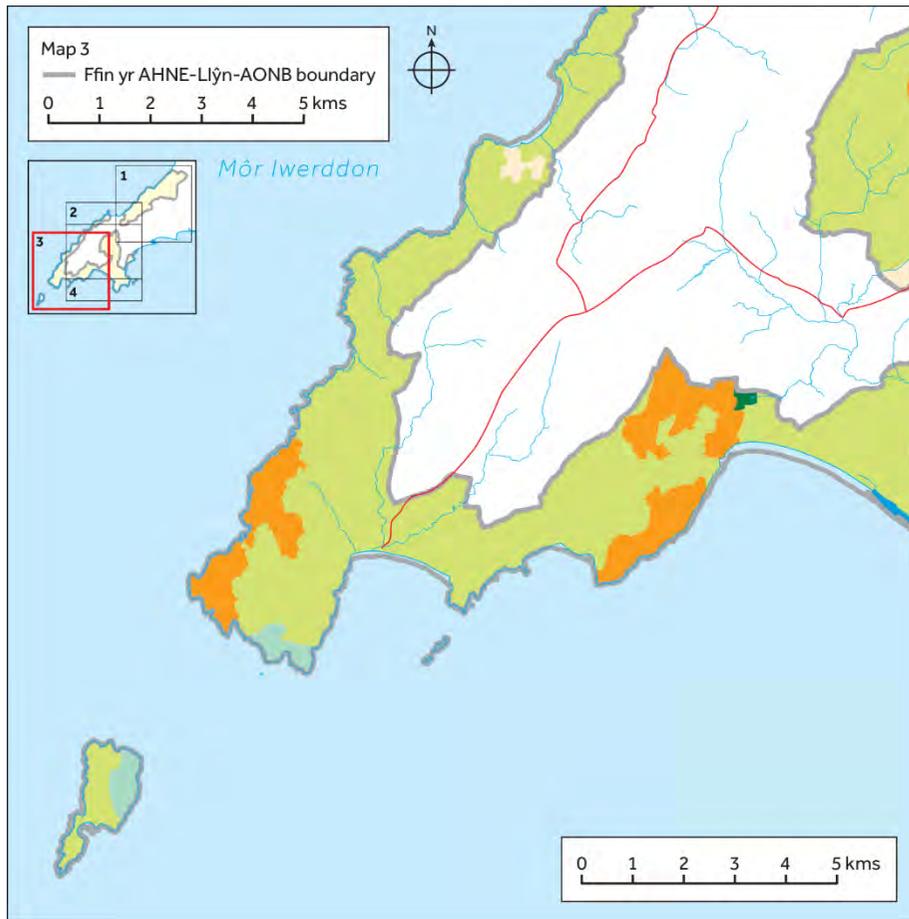
# Land-cover

Pasture and grassland are the dominant land uses within the AONB. There is little change between 2006 and 2018 though coniferous woodland has been reduced; some areas converted to broadleaved woodland and some to moors and heathland.



### Allwedd/Legend

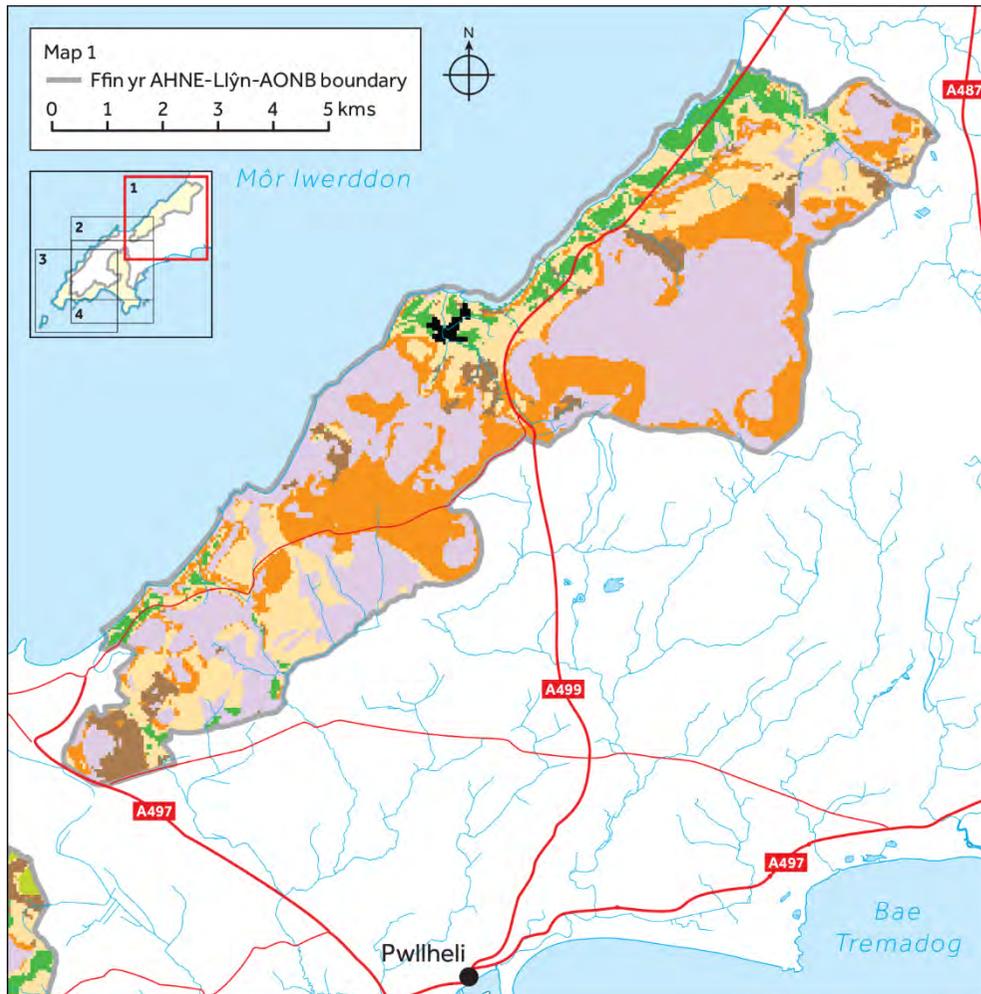
- |  |   |   |                                 |   |                                  |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Ardal â llystyfiant prin/<br>Sparsely vegetated area | Coetir llydanddail a chymysg/<br>Broadleaf and mixed woodland     | Glaswelltir/<br>Grassland                     | Llwyn coetir/<br>Woodland shrub | Rhosydd a rhostiroedd/<br>Moors and heathland     | Tir fferm âr/<br>Arable farmland |
| Coedwig gonifferaidd/<br>Coniferous forest           | Cyfleusterau chwaraeon a hamdden/<br>Sport and leisure facilities | Gwastadeddau rhynglanwol/<br>Intertidal flats | Porfeydd/<br>Pastures           | Safle echdynnu mwynau/<br>Mineral extraction site | Trefol/<br>Urban                 |



Source: © European Union, Copernicus Land Monitoring Service 2021, European Environment Agency (EEA). <https://land.copernicus.eu/pan-european/corine-land-cover> - CORINE Land Cover uses a Minimum Mapping Unit (MMU) of 25 hectares (ha) for areal phenomena and a minimum width of 100 m for linear phenomena.

## Agricultural land classification

In 2024, there is grade 2 agricultural land in the Llanengan Community Council area, with scattered pockets elsewhere. There are pockets of Grade 3a land throughout the area, but most land is either poor, very poor or non-agricultural.



### Allwedd/Legend

- Tir amaethyddol o ansawdd da iawn/  
Very good quality agricultural land
- Tir amaethyddol o ansawdd da/  
Good quality agricultural land
- Tir amaethyddol o ansawdd cymedrol/  
Moderate quality agricultural land
- Tir amaethyddol o ansawdd gwael/  
Poor quality agricultural land
- Tir amaethyddol o ansawdd gwael iawn/  
Very poor quality agricultural land
- Tir anamaethyddol/  
Non-agricultural land
- Tir trefol/  
Urban land

Grade 1 (Excellent Quality Agricultural Land): **Not present**

Grade 2 (Very Good Quality Agricultural Land): Slightly more limitations than Grade 1 but still highly productive, capable of sustaining diverse cropping options.

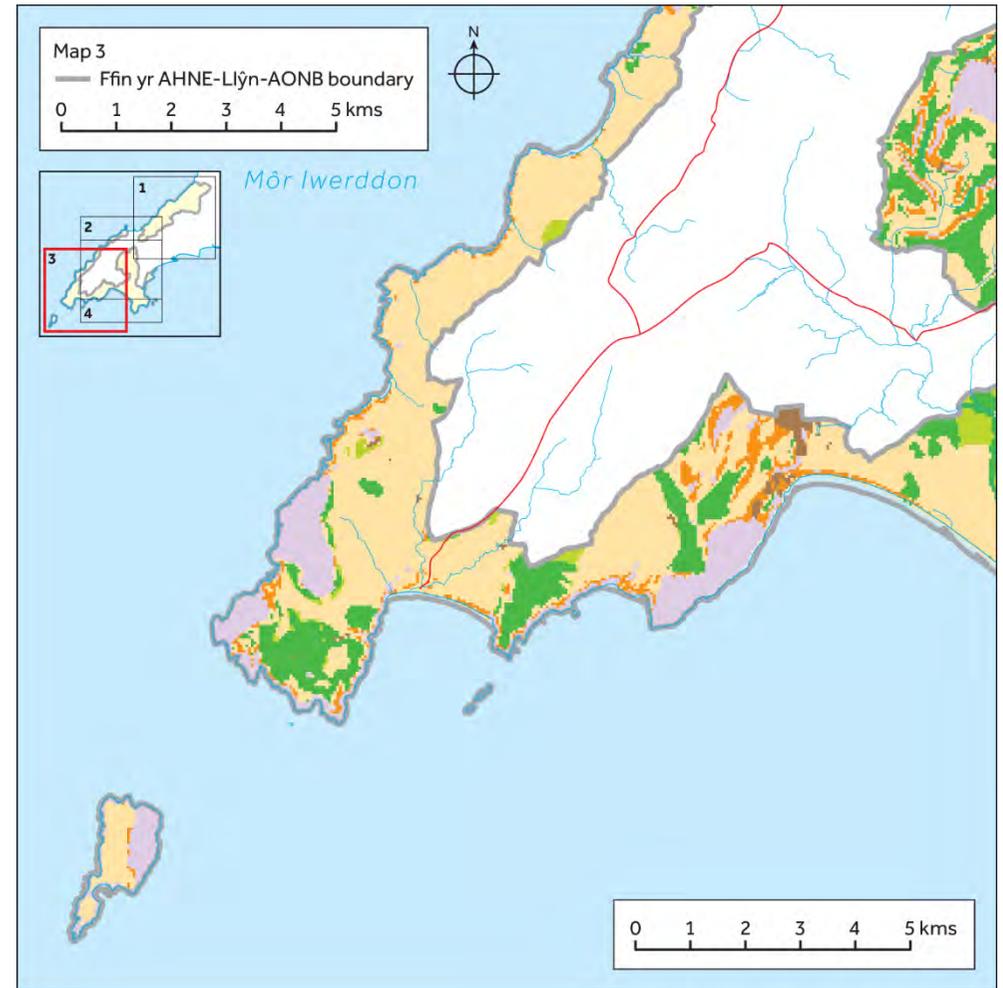
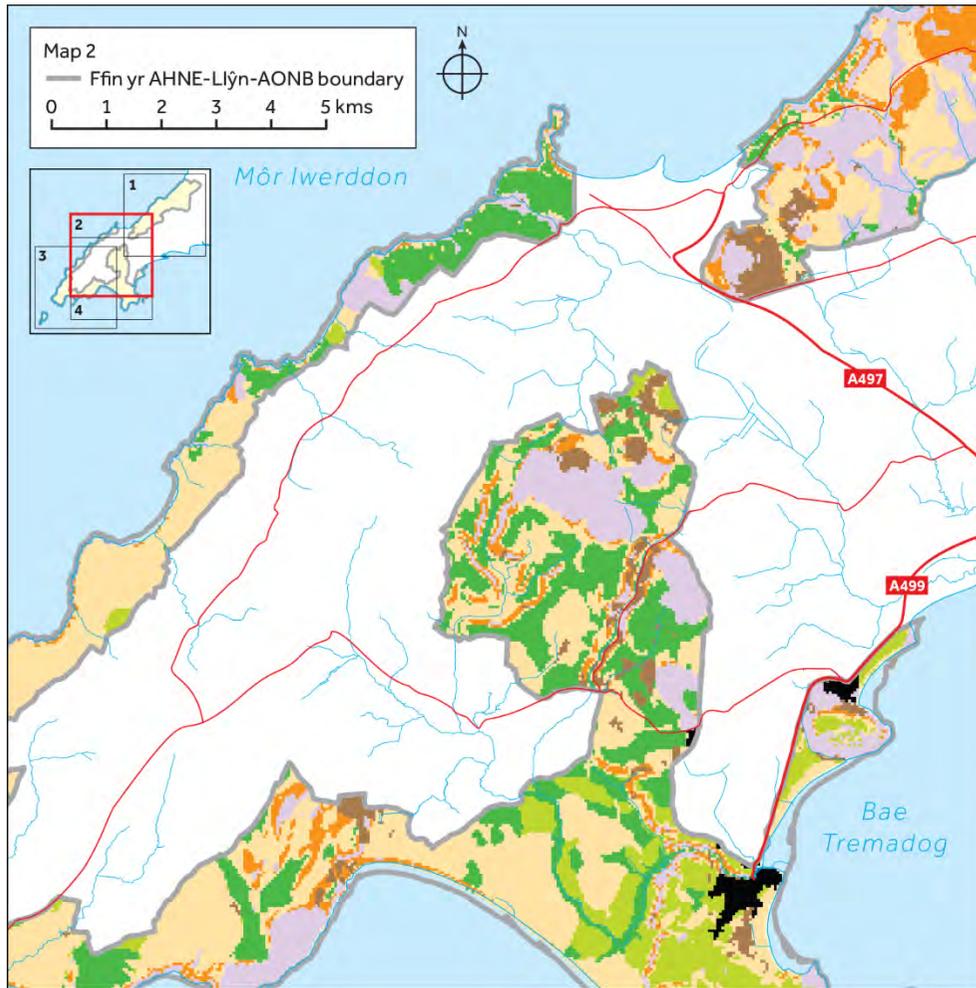
Grade 3 (Good to Moderate Quality Agricultural Land): This category is divided into two subgrades:

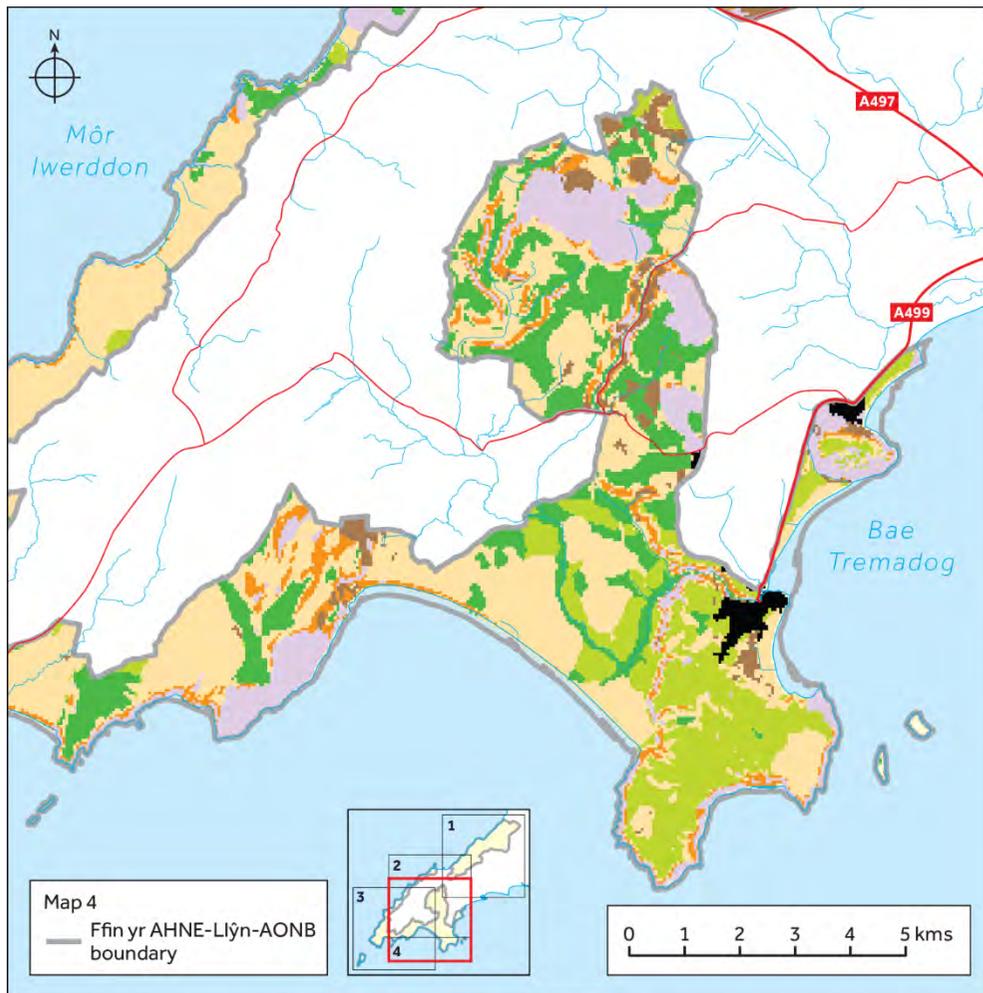
Grade 3a: Considered good quality, suitable for growing a variety of crops with some limitations.

Grade 3b: Moderate quality land, more limited in its agricultural use due to factors such as soil depth, drainage, or climate.

Grade 4 (Poor Quality Agricultural Land): Land with significant limitations, restricting it to lower-yield crops or permanent pasture.

Grade 5 (Very Poor Quality Agricultural Land): Only suitable for rough grazing due to severe limitations such as steep slopes or poor soil quality.





Source: Predictive Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Map 2. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.  
[https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-wg:wg\\_predictive\\_alc2](https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-wg:wg_predictive_alc2)

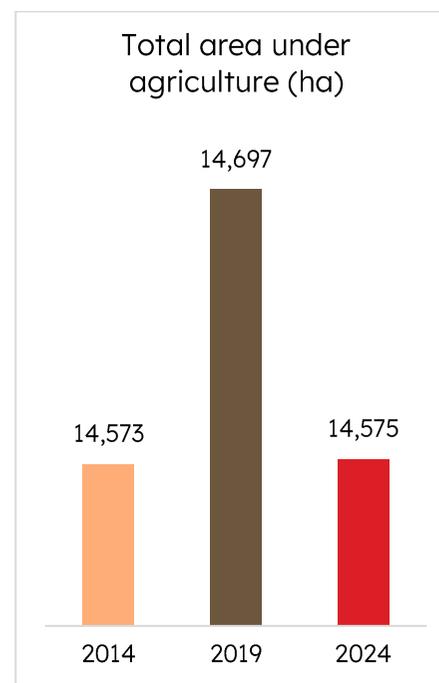
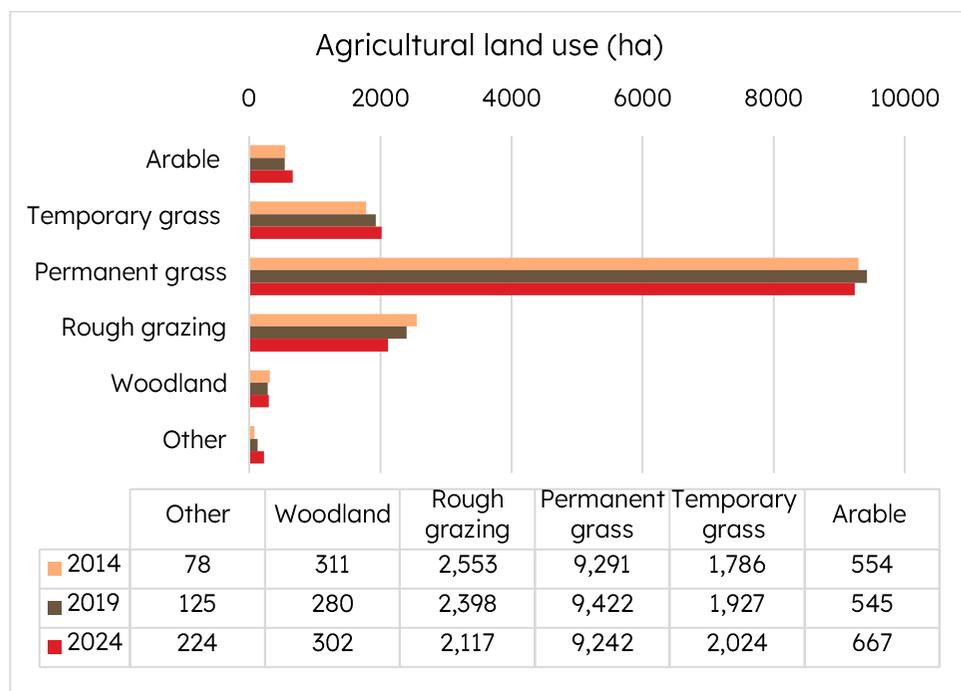
## June survey of agriculture and horticulture

The June survey of agriculture is an annual report that includes information on agriculture land, livestock and farm labour. It is a large sample survey sent to a representative sample of holdings across Wales. As the results are based on a sample survey, they are subject to a degree of sampling error and do not consider other sources of survey errors, such as non-response bias or administrative data errors. Figures are not directly comparable, as each year the cohort of farms may vary slightly within the AONB.

**Note:** Land tenure and employment figures are not available below a Wales level, due to quality of responses and issues imputing at an individual farm level.

### Agricultural land-use

In 2024, 14,575 ha was under agriculture, down from 14,697 ha in 2019 (a fall of 0.8%). 63% of the agricultural land use was as permanent grass.



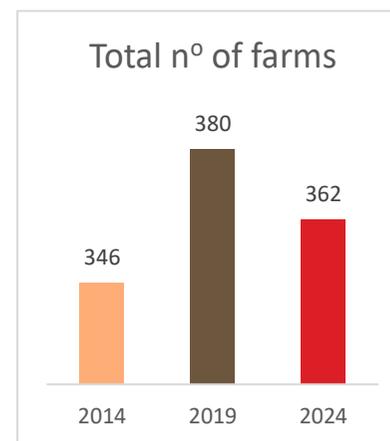
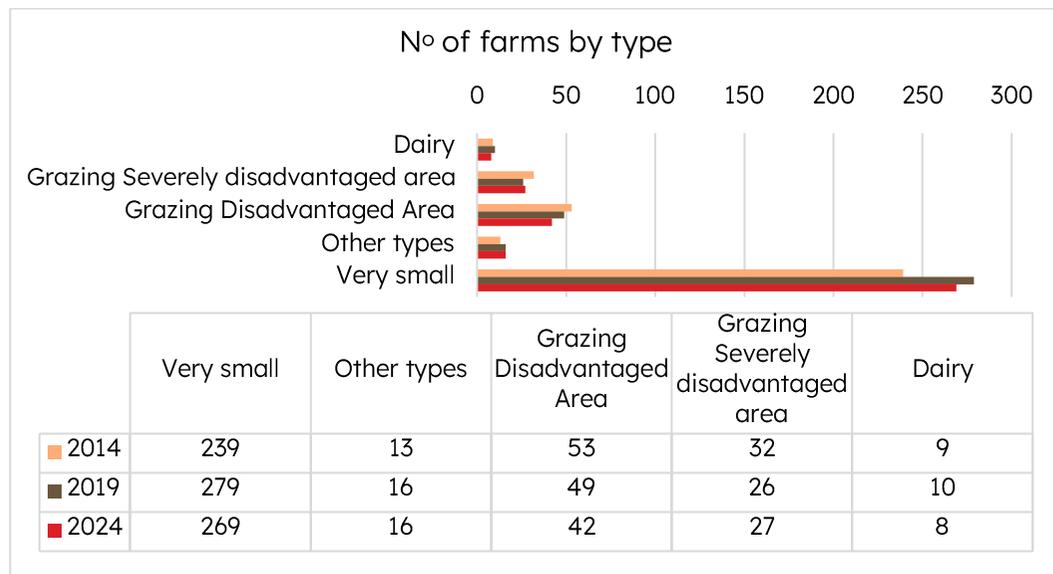
There has been a fall of 122 ha in agricultural land use between 2019 and 2024; but 2014 and 2024 are similar.

The dominant land use is grassland and grazing. Arable contains crops and bare fallow as well as horticulture.

Source: June agricultural & horticultural survey; <https://www.gov.wales/survey-agriculture-and-horticulture> - bespoke data set <https://www.gov.wales/ad-hoc-statistical-requests>

## Agricultural holdings

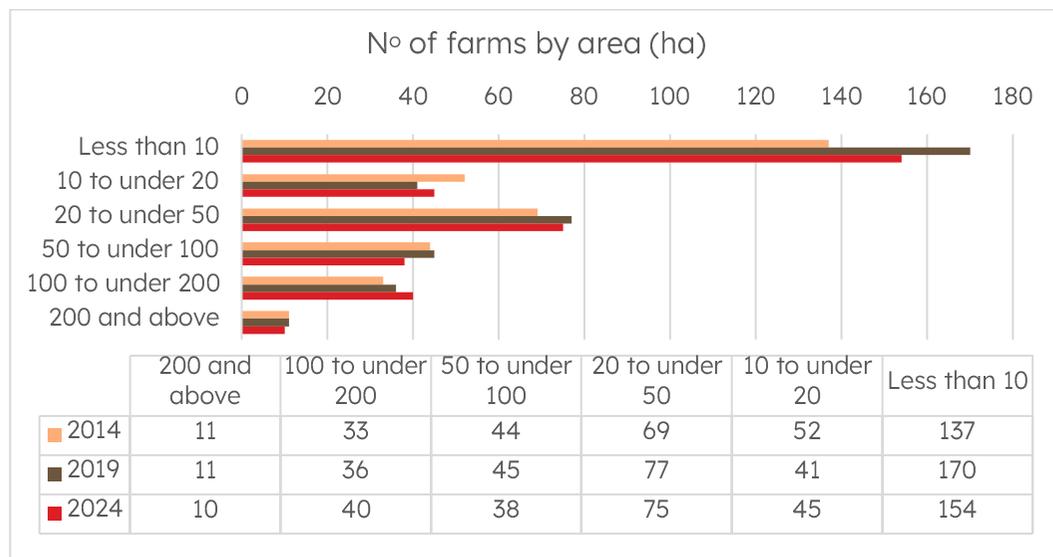
In 2024, there were 362 farms in the AONB, of which 43% were each less than 10 ha in area.



There has been a 5% increase in the number of farms between 2014 and 2024. There were 7% more farms in 2019 than recorded in 2024. This correlates with the size of farms. In 2019 there were 170 farms of less than 10 has, this fell by 9% to 154 farms in 2024.

It is possible that the changes in farm numbers are due to the subdivision of farms into smaller units rather than the creation of new farms.

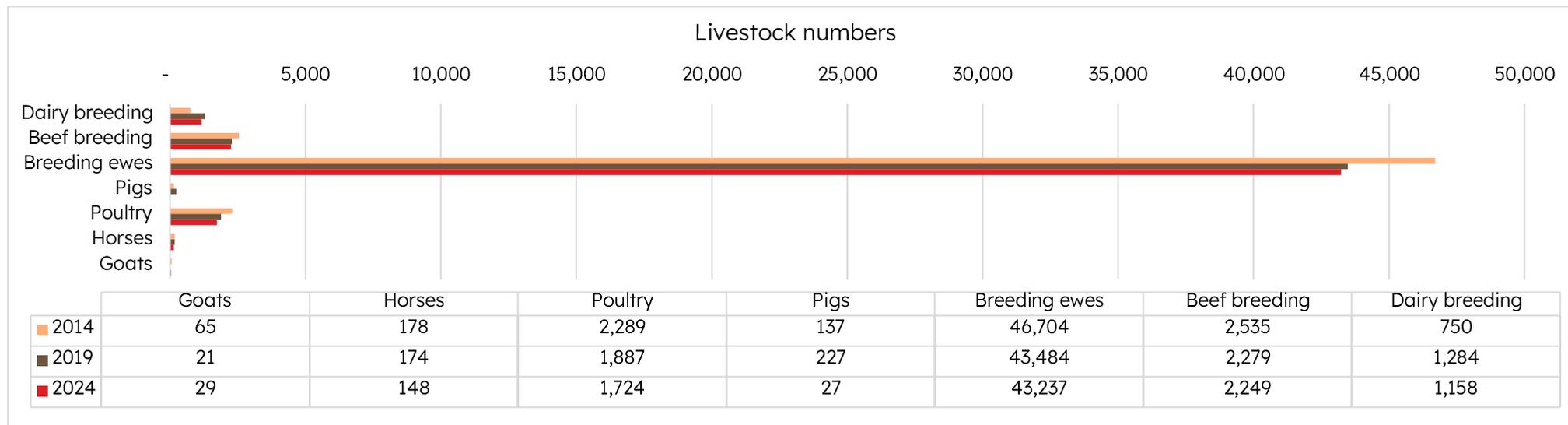
'Very small' includes farms below a 25,000 Euros standard output.



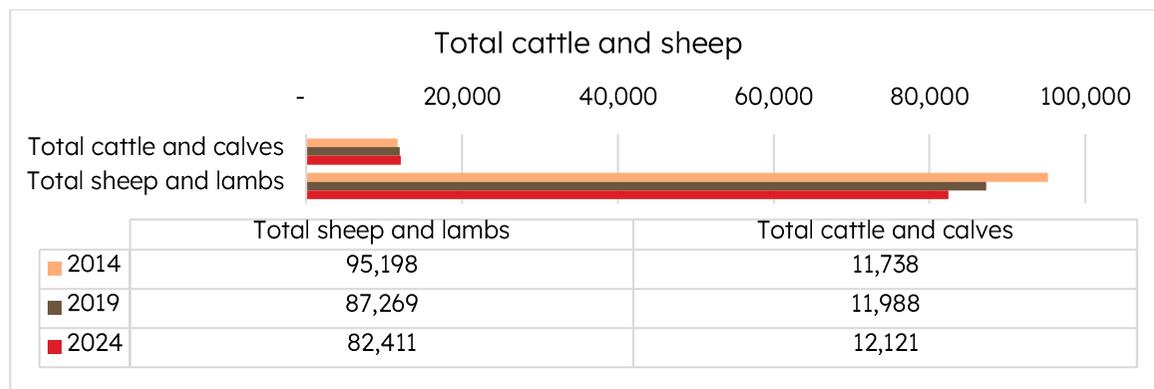
Source: June agricultural & horticultural survey;  
<https://www.gov.wales/survey-agriculture-and-horticulture> - bespoke data set  
<https://www.gov.wales/ad-hoc-statistical-requests>

## Livestock numbers

Sheep is the largest group of livestock. There were 43,237 breeding ewes in 2024, down from 46,704 in 2014 (a fall of 7%).



Dairy breeding, beef breeding and total cattle are sourced from the cattle tracing system. Breeding cattle are defined as female cattle aged 2+ that have calved.



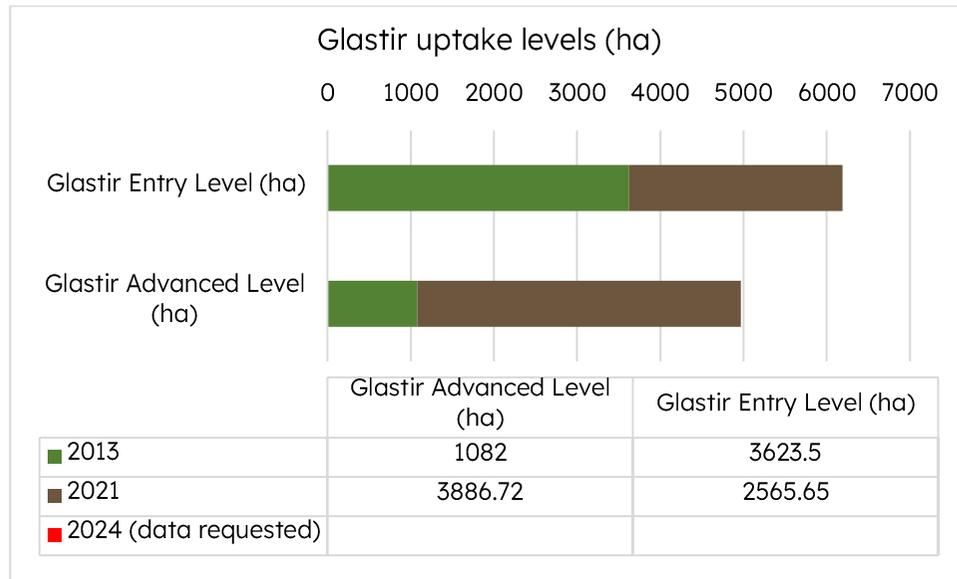
Changes in stock levels between 2014 and 2024:

- goats down 55%
- horses down 17%
- poultry down 25%
- pigs down 80%
- breeding ewes down 7%
- breeding beef down 11%
- breeding dairy up 54%

Source: June agricultural & horticultural survey; <https://www.gov.wales/survey-agriculture-and-horticulture> - bespoke data set <https://www.gov.wales/ad-hoc-statistical-requests>

## Land in agri-environment schemes (*using partial data*)

The total coverage of Glastir in 2021 covered just over 40% of the AONB, increasing from 4,705.5 ha in 2013 to 6,452.4 ha (an increase of just over 37%). In 2021, uptake of the Entry element in the AONB decreased by 1,057.9 ha (-29.2%) since 2013. The increase in Glastir uptake across the AONB was therefore due to the coverage of Advanced uptake in 2021. This increased by 2,804.7 ha (+259.2%) since 2013.



Wales's agri-environment schemes have transitioned from the comprehensive Glastir scheme to an interim Habitat Wales Scheme (2024-2025), which is designed to bridge the gap until the new Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) is fully introduced in 2026.

Glastir, introduced in 2012, was composed of an Entry element and an Advanced element. The Entry element was open to all farmers and land managers in Wales, whereas the Advanced tier was targeted to locations where significant improvements to the environmental status of a range of habitats, species, soils and water are desired, including through changes to land management practices. Glastir contracts ended in 2023 and were succeeded by the Habitat Wales Scheme.

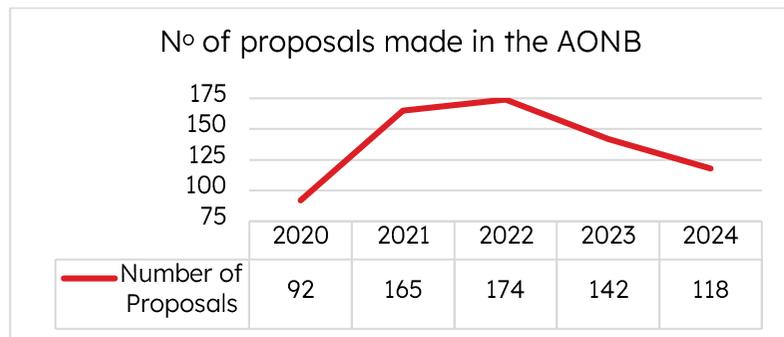
Habitat Wales Scheme is an interim scheme that began in January 2024 and will continue until the SFS is implemented. It supports habitat protection on agricultural land, particularly for those who were previously in Glastir Advanced.

The new SFS will offer a "Universal Layer" of support and optional "Collaborative" and "Optional" layers, aiming to support sustainable farming practices, food production, and environmental objectives like climate change mitigation and biodiversity enhancement.

Source: Welsh Government and LUC (2021): State of the AONB Report for the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

## Development monitoring

Between 2020 and 2024, Cyngor Gwynedd considered 691 development proposals within the AONB of which 614 were valid development applications. Of the valid development applications, 81% were approved and 19% were refused. The approved the new domestic building proposals are for 13 new homes. Of these, 9 are classed as affordable.



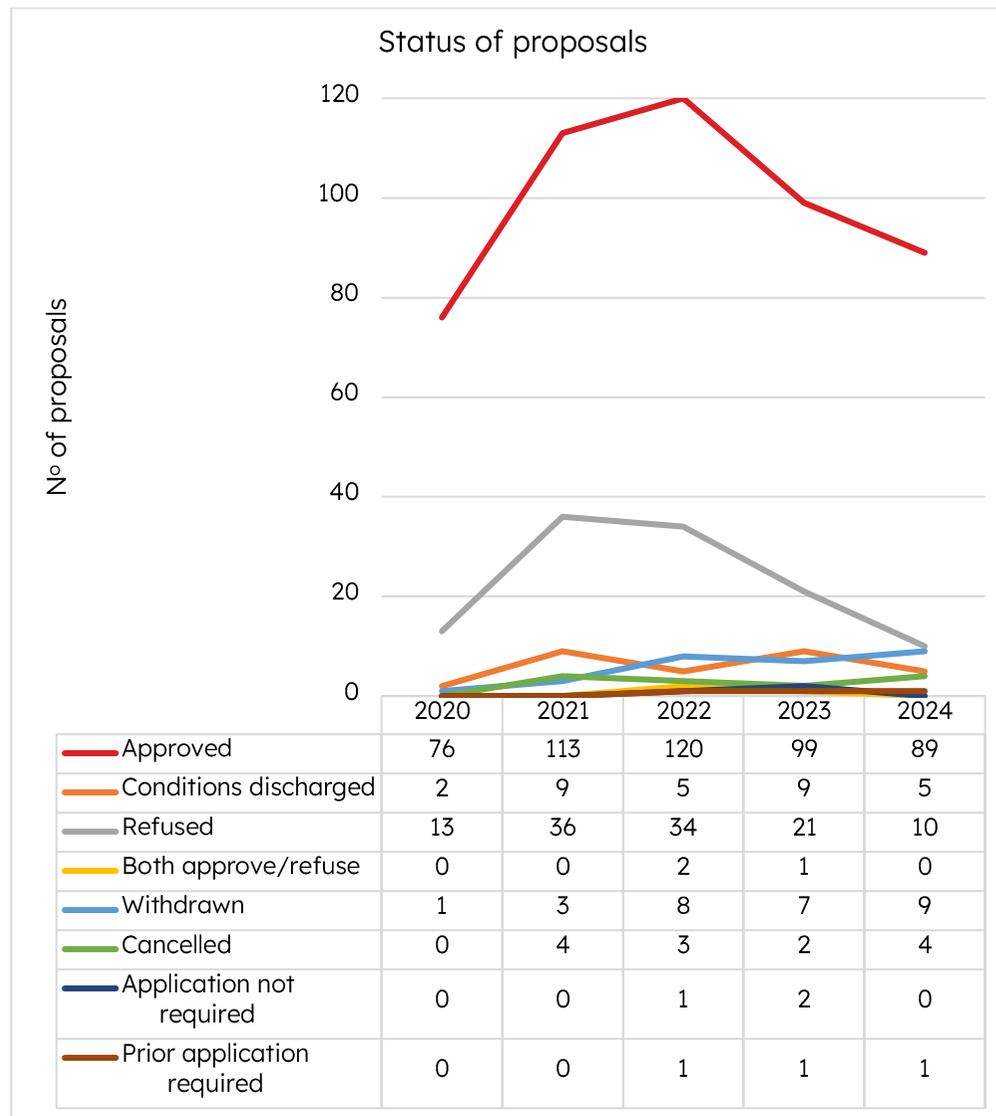
Between 2020 and 2024, Cyngor Gwynedd considered 691 development proposals within the AONB. Of these:

- 500 were approved (including 3 that were both approved and refused in part)
- 30 confirmed the discharge of conditions
- 114 were refused
- 28 were withdrawn or cancelled.

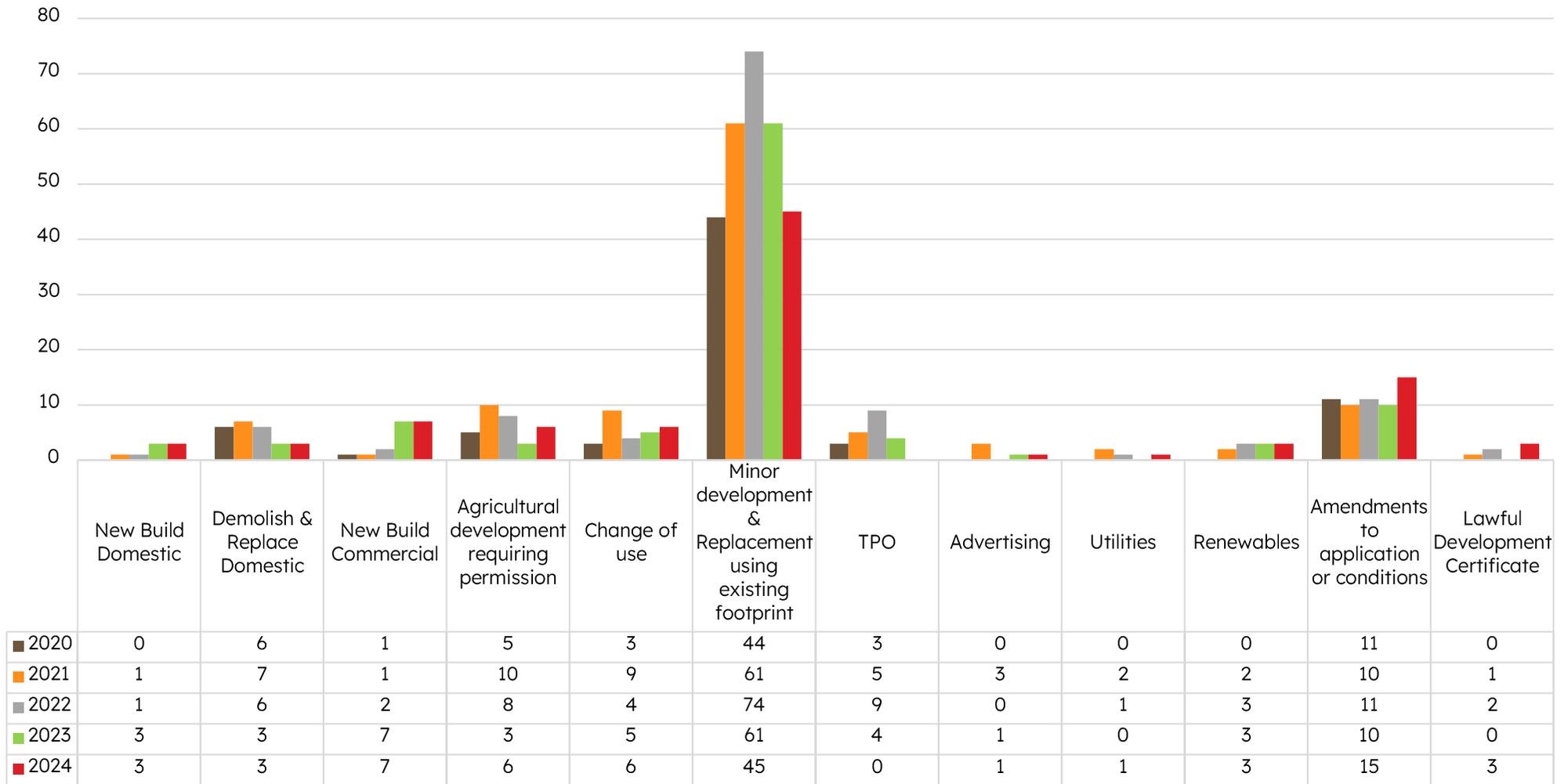
**LL53 7TT**  
LL53 7BT LL53 7LH  
**LL53 7EF LL53 7EU**  
LL53 7DZ LL53 8BE  
**LL53 7LG**  
LL53 8TG

Gwynedd logs the proposals by Postcode and there are applications from across the whole of the AONB. Only a few have more than 10 applications (all are shown in the infographic).

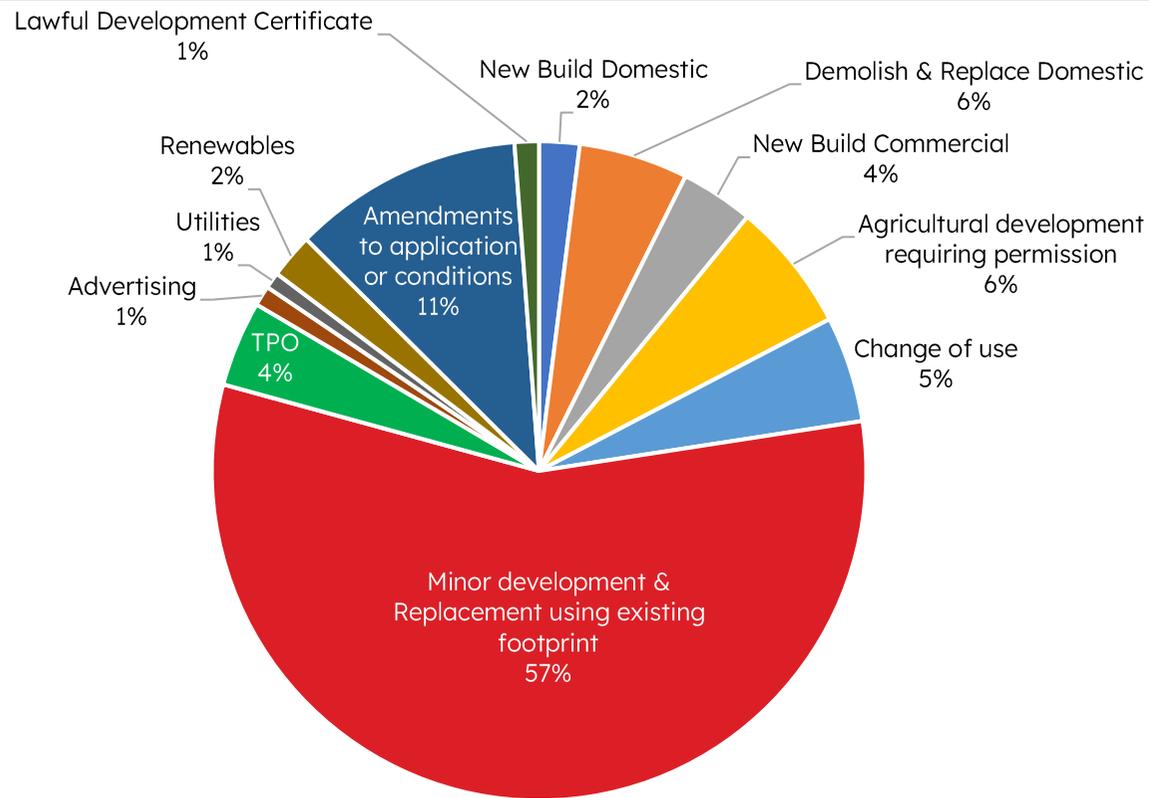
The most common post code for applications is **LL53 7TT**, which is on the edge of Llanbedrog. The other codes that stand out are, in descending order: Llanengan, Machroes and the southern edge of Abersoch. This implies that the greatest demand for development is in the southwest section of the AONB.



Number of consents by type



The eight new domestic building proposals are for 13 new homes. Of these, 9 are classed as affordable.



Percentage of consents by type

Of the approved applications:

- 57% were for minor developments using the existing built footprint
- 6% were for demolishing a residence and rebuilding
- 6% were for agricultural development
- 4% were for new build (commercial)
- 2% were for new build (domestic)

Source: Cyngor Gwynedd 2025

## Future development pressure

Working to ensure that local planning policy fully recognises the AONB's purpose and objectives.

### Local Plans

| Planning Authority & status of plan   | Date adopted     | Spatial Strategy and allocations  |
|---|------------------|---|
| <p><b>The Joint Anglesey and Gwynedd Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026</b></p> | <p>July 2017</p> | <p>STRATEGIC POLICY PS 19: CONSERVING AND WHERE APPROPRIATE ENHANCING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Councils will manage development so as to conserve and where appropriate enhance the Plan area's distinctive natural environment, countryside and coastline, and proposals that have a significant adverse effect on them will be refused unless the need for and benefits of the development in that location clearly outweighs the value of the site or area and national policy protection for that site and area in question. When determining a planning application, consideration will need to be given to the following:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Safeguard the Plan area's habitats and species, geology, history, the coastline and landscapes;</li> <li>2. Protect or where appropriate enhance sites of international, national, regional and local importance and, where appropriate, their settings in line with National Policy;</li> <li>3. Have appropriate regard to the relative significance of international, national or local designations in considering the weight to be attached to acknowledged interests, ensuring that any international or national responsibilities and obligations are fully met in accordance with National Policy;</li> <li>4. Protect or enhance biodiversity within the Plan area and enhance and/or restore networks of natural habitats in accordance with the Local Biodiversity Action Plans and Policy AMG 5;</li> <li>5. Protect or enhance biodiversity through networks of green/ blue infrastructure;</li> <li>6. Safeguard internationally, nationally and locally protected species;</li> <li>7. Protect, retain or enhance the local character and distinctiveness of the individual Landscape Character Areas (in line with Policy AMG 2) and Seascape Character Areas (in line with Policy AMG 4);</li> <li>8. Protect, retain or enhance trees, hedgerows or woodland of visual, ecological, historic cultural or amenity value.</li> </ol> |
|   |                  | <p>POLICY AMG1: AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY MANAGEMENT PLANS</p> <p>Proposals within or affecting the setting and/ or significant views into and out of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty must, where appropriate, have regard to the relevant Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan.</p>   |

STRATEGIC POLICY PS 20: PRESERVING AND WHERE APPROPRIATE ENHANCING HERITAGE ASSETS

In seeking to support the wider economic and social needs of the Plan area, the Local Planning Authorities will preserve and where appropriate, enhance its unique heritage assets.

Proposals that will preserve and where appropriate enhance the following heritage assets, their setting and significant views into and out of the building/area will be granted:

1. Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other areas of archaeological importance (in line with Policy AT 4).
2. Listed Buildings and their curtilages.
3. Conservation Areas (in line with Policy AT 1).
4. Beaumaris Castle and Caernarfon Castle and Town Walls World Heritage Sites (in line with Policy AT 1).
5. Candidate World Heritage Sites.
6. Registered Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens (in line with Policy AT 1).
7. Buildings of architectural/ historic/ cultural merit that are not designated or protected (in line with Policy AT 3).

POLICY AT 1: CONSERVATION AREAS, WORLD HERITAGE SITES AND REGISTERED HISTORIC LANDSCAPES, PARKS AND GARDENS

Proposals within or affecting the setting and/ or significant views into and out of Conservation Areas, World Heritage Sites and Registered Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens shown on the Constraints Map must, where appropriate, have regard to:

1. Adopted Conservation Area Character Appraisals, Conservation Area Plans and Delivery Strategies.
2. World Heritage Site Management Plans.
3. The Register of Landscape, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales.

Proposals should be supported by a Heritage Impact Assessment, where appropriate.

Housing allocations

Local Service Centre – Abersoch – indicative provision for local market housing – 65

Local village - Trefor - 13

Coastal/Rural Villages - Clynog-fawr – 10; Llithfaen – 9; Llanaelhaearn – 15 (development may not be in the AONB)

Aberdaron – indicative provision for local market housing – 13

Llanbedrog – indicative provision for local market housing – 16

Llangian - indicative provision for local market housing – 4

Mynytho – indicative provision for local market housing – 13 (development may not be in the AONB)

Sarn Bach - indicative provision for local market housing – 4

**Gwynedd Local Development Plan**

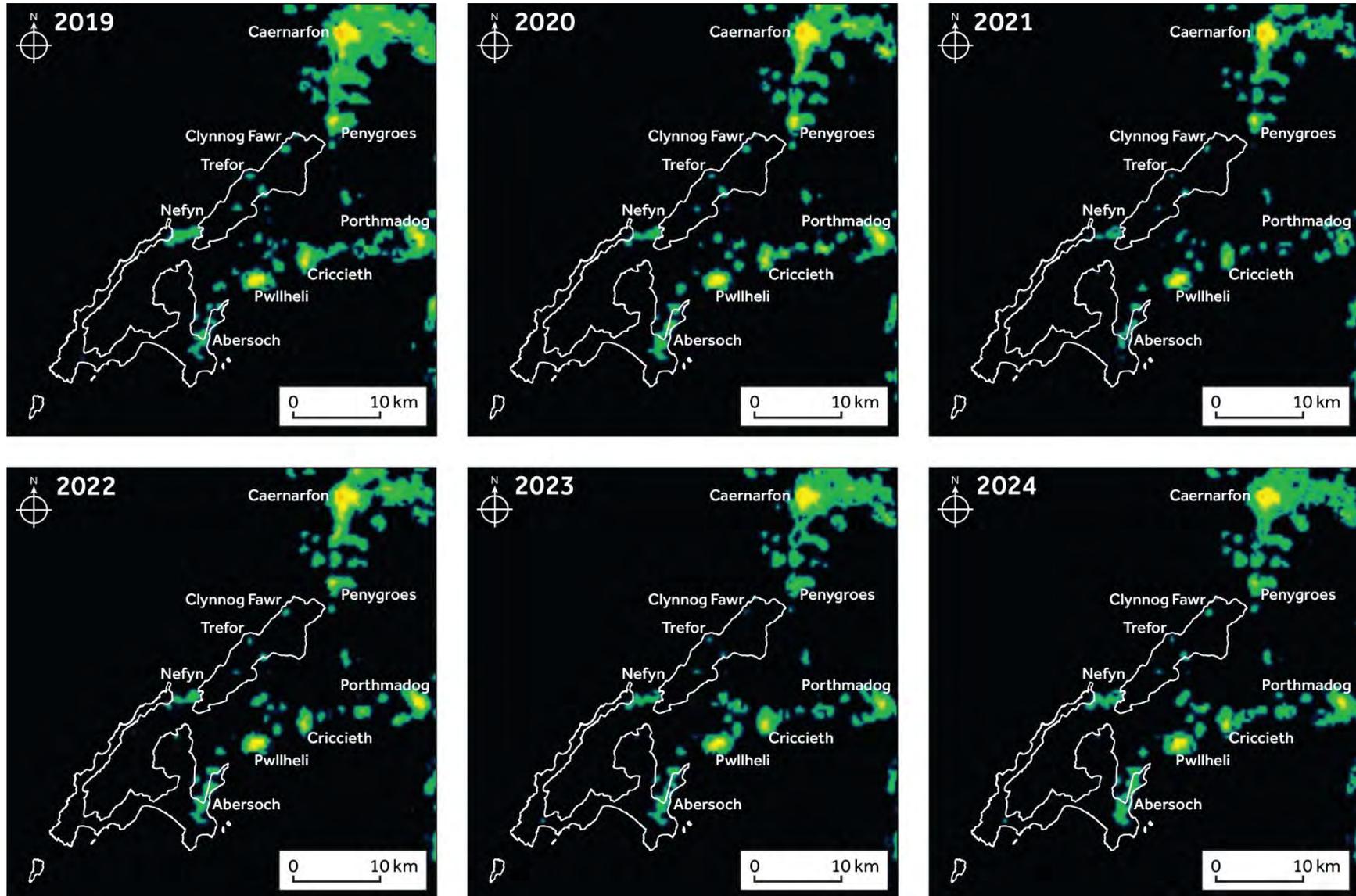
The new plan currently in preparation

Following a decision by Cyngor Gwynedd and the Isle of Anglesey County Council to cease the joint working agreement on Planning Policy matters on 31 March 2023, the Gwynedd Planning Policy Service has been established.

The process of preparing a new Local Development Plan (LDP) for the Gwynedd Local Planning Authority area only (which is the area of Gwynedd located outside the Eryri National Park) has commenced. The new LDP will cover a period between 2024 and 2039. The Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan continues to provide the local policy framework for decisions on planning applications, until the Gwynedd Local Development Plan is adopted.

## Light pollution across Llŷn

Six satellite images showing light radiance since 2019. There is little change over the years; the area retains its dark night skies.



We present 'tranquillity' reporting with data for light and noise pollution.

| Radiance (nWcm <sup>-2</sup> sr <sup>-1</sup> ) | 2024   | 2019   |   |
|---|--------|--------|---|
| Abersoch  | 0.81   | 0.55   | ↑ |
| Aberdaron                                       | 0.63   | 0.52   | ↑ |
| Clynnog-fawr                                    | 0.65   | 0.74   | ↓ |
| Trefor  | 0.70   | 0.83   | ↓ |
| Nefyn   | 0.84   | 0.97   | ↓ |
| Pwllheli  | 7.74   | 11.28  | ↓ |
| Caernarfon                                      | 18.66  | 21.06  | ↓ |
| Bangor  | 20.14  | 28.61  | ↓ |
| Swansea Copper Quarter                          | 200.48 | 171.93 | ↑ |
| Swansea City Centre                             | 38.79  | 66.82  | ↓ |
| Cardiff City Centre                             | 281.61 | 203.21 | ↑ |
| No light  | 0.00   |        |   |

Comparing energy radiating from the surface (watts/steradian/cm<sup>2</sup>)



The Llŷn AONB has very dark night skies, there are only very low levels of light radiated. Abersoch and its environs, Trefor and Clynnog-fawr are the main sources of light. There is less light pollution during 2020 and 2021. This is most likely due to the lockdowns during the Covid pandemic.

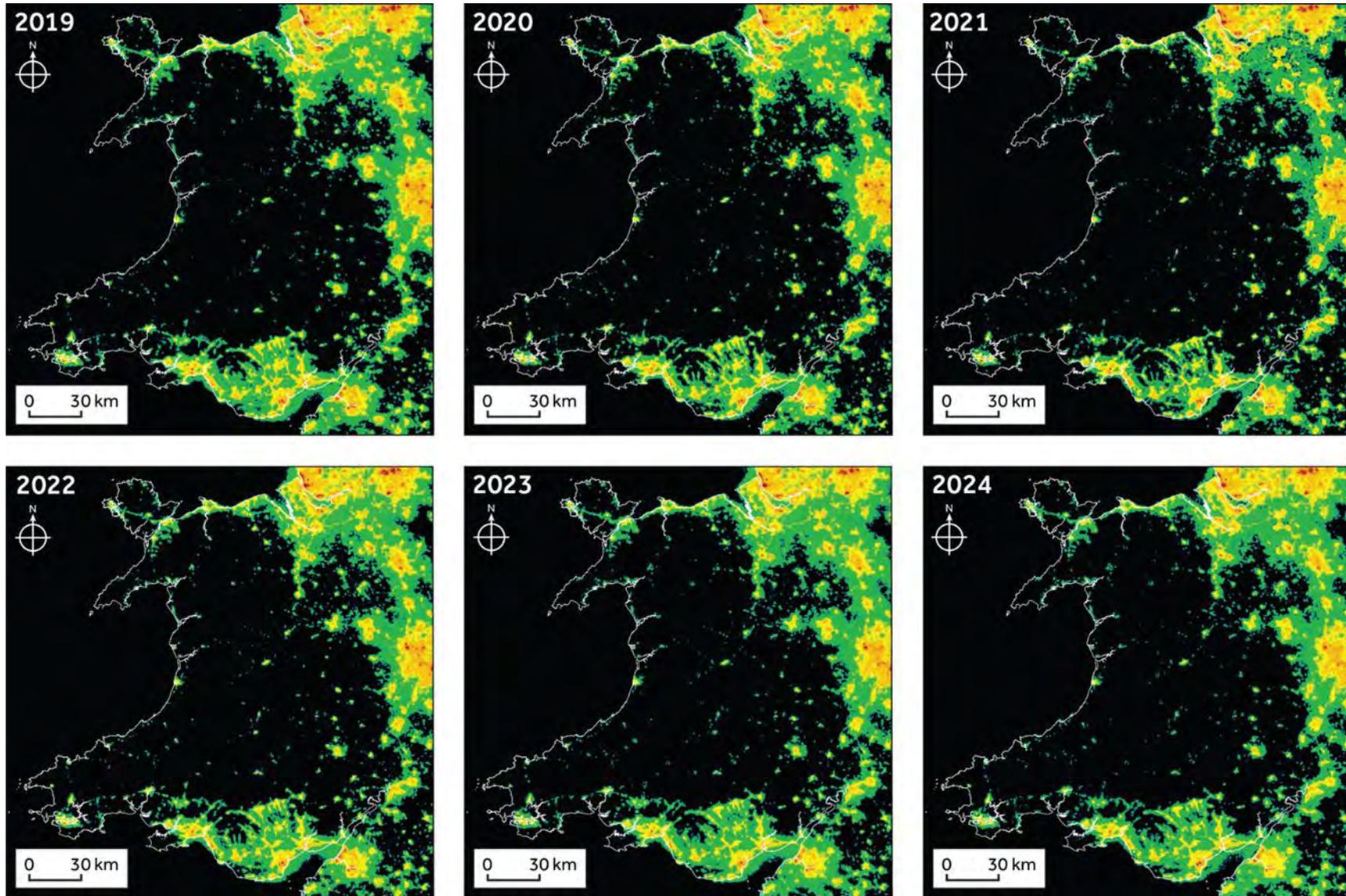
Source: The maps come from [www.lightpollutionmap.info](http://www.lightpollutionmap.info) and the data is NASA Earth Data shown is VNP46A4 - VIIRS/NPP Lunar BRDF-Adjusted Nighttime Lights Yearly L3 Global 15 arc second Linear Lat Lon Grid - for the years 2019 -2024

Citation - Román, M.O., Wang, Z., Sun, Q., Kalb, V., Miller, S.D., Molthan, A., Schultz, L., Bell, J., Stokes, E.C., Pandey, B. and Seto, K.C., et al. (2018). NASA's Black Marble nighttime lights product suite. Remote Sensing of Environment 210, 113-143. doi:10.1016/j.rse.2018.03.017.

Dark Skies Map for Natural Resources Wales (2021) <https://www.landuse.co.uk/projects/dark-skies-map-natural-resources-wales/>

## Light pollution across Wales

Six satellite images showing light radiance since 2019. The areas around Bangor, northeast Wales and the south coast show the greatest light pollution. But much of Wales retains dark night skies.



The Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales project 2021, undertaken by LUC for Natural Resources Wales, showed that the Llŷn AONB was ranked as the darkest AONB in Wales and is the only AONB to have a larger percentage of their area within the darkest category compared to the Wales average.

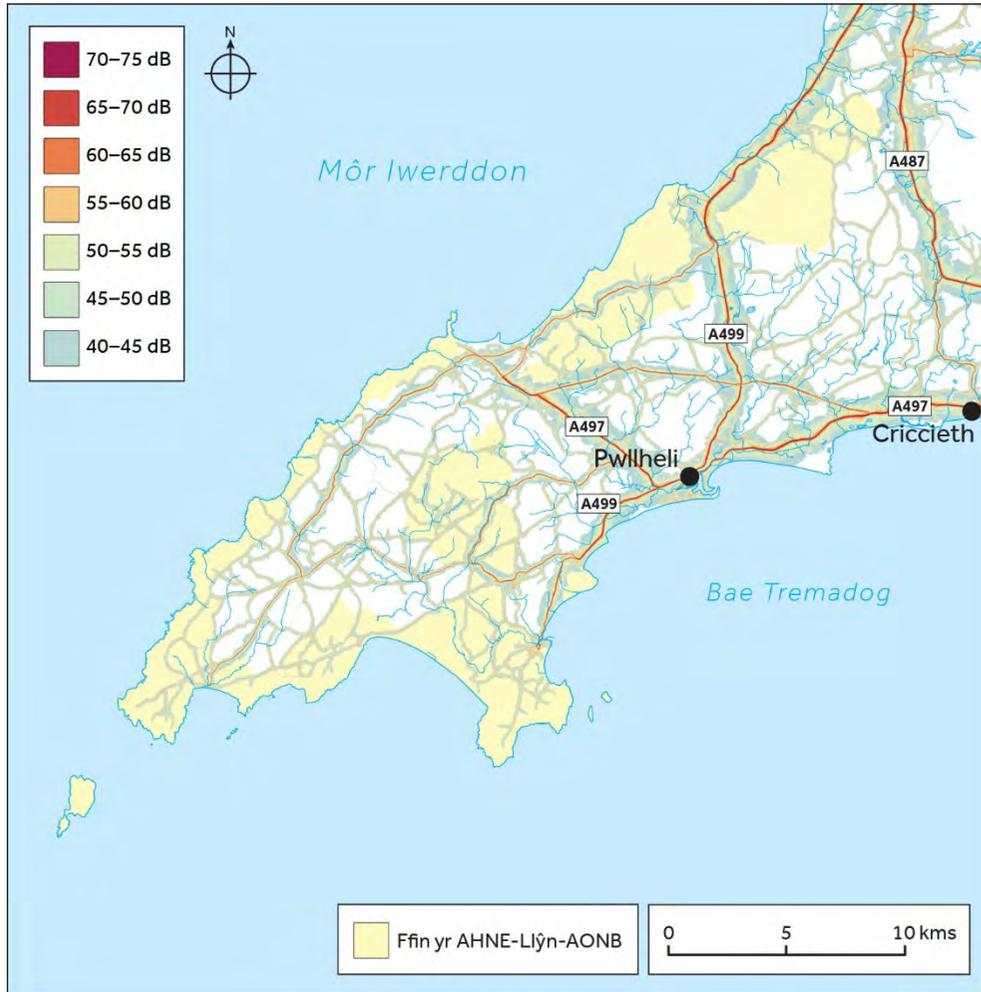
Source: The maps come from [www.lightpollutionmap.info](http://www.lightpollutionmap.info) and the data is NASA Earth Data shown is VNP46A4 - VIIRS/NPP Lunar BRDF-Adjusted Nighttime Lights Yearly L3 Global 15 arc second Linear Lat Lon Grid - for the years 2019 -2024

Citation - Román, M.O., Wang, Z., Sun, Q., Kalb, V., Miller, S.D., Molthan, A., Schultz, L., Bell, J., Stokes, E.C., Pandey, B. and Seto, K.C., et al. (2018). NASA's Black Marble nighttime lights product suite. *Remote Sensing of Environment* 210, 113-143. doi:10.1016/j.rse.2018.03.017.

Dark Skies Map for Natural Resources Wales (2021) <https://www.landuse.co.uk/projects/dark-skies-map-natural-resources-wales/>

## Noise pollution

In 2022, there was little traffic noise in the AONB. Most roads presented an average sound level of only 40-50 dB.



A new baseline set by the Welsh Government.

- The highest average noise levels were recorded along the A499 and around Abersoch (levels between 60-75 dB). And the data shows that noise spillage along the A499 is quite wide with bands of 40-55 dB either side of the road. Where the A499 passes through the AONB, it is intrusive.
- Average road noise in Aberdaron is between 55-60 dB.

Environmental noise mainly consists of noise from transport sources such as road, rail and aviation. One of the ways the Welsh Government manages this noise is by implementing the Environmental Noise (Wales) Regulations 2006 to make strategic noise maps for major roads, major railways and large urban areas (“agglomerations”) every five years, starting in 2007. To make the 2022 noise maps more useful, it went beyond the requirements of the legislation on this occasion and mapped noise consistently from all roads and railways across Wales.

The outputs of the 2022 noise mapping exercise are not comparable to any noise maps generated previously, because new noise mapping methods were introduced that calculate noise emissions and residential population exposure differently from the methods used in previous rounds. But because the Welsh Government has now adopted Defra’s new Noise Modelling System, the 2022 noise maps for Wales are considered broadly comparable to and consistent with the 2022 noise maps being generated for England.

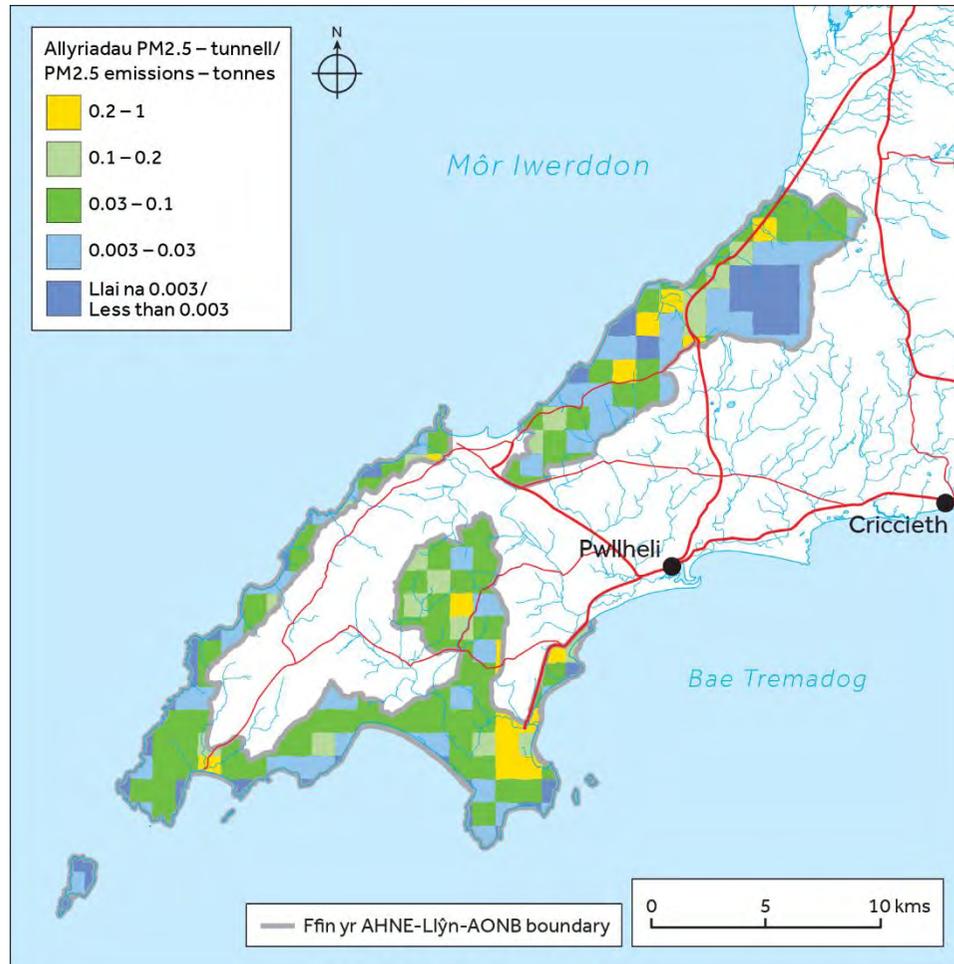
Note: **Lden** indicates the average sound level around the clock with extra weighting given to the evening and night periods

Source: Welsh Government 2023 - Environmental Noise Mapping 2022 - Road traffic noise (dB) - all roads (Lden)  
[https://datamap.gov.wales/layergroups/geonode:Environmental\\_Noise\\_Mapping\\_2022](https://datamap.gov.wales/layergroups/geonode:Environmental_Noise_Mapping_2022)

## Air quality

### Particulate matter in the AONB

Showing PM2.5 levels in 2022. Levels are very low in the area but with hotspots around Abersoch, Aberdaron, Llanbedrog, Nanhoron (quarry), Groesffordd/Edern, Llithfaen, Trefor (quarry) and Clynnog-fawr.

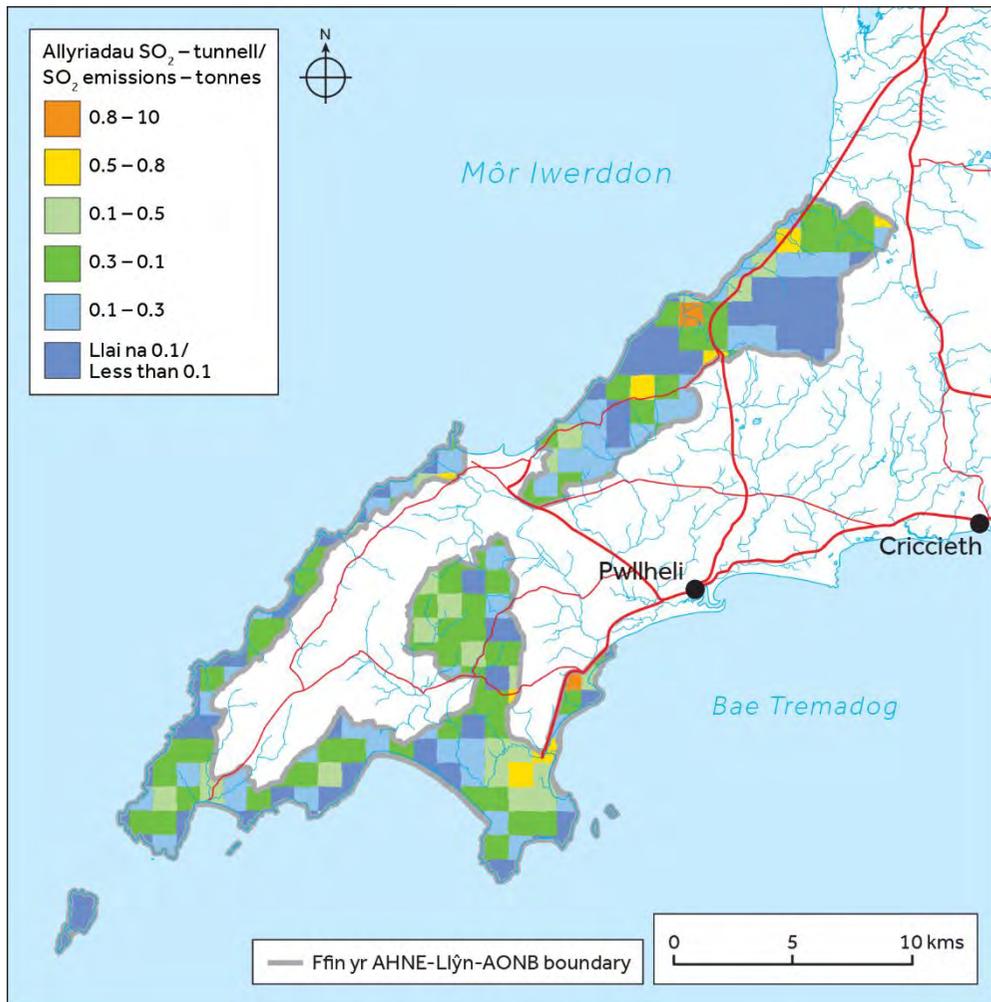


Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) can travel large distances in the atmosphere. A proportion of the concentrations of PM that people in the UK are exposed to come from naturally occurring sources such as pollen and sea spray. However, around half of the concentrations of PM comes from sources such as domestic wood burning and tyre and brake wear from vehicles. As such, it is in the interest of the UK to measure concentrations of PM in a range of locations that are both typical of population exposure and that have a greater influence from sources originating from human activity. PM2.5 is matter that is less than 2.5 micro gram in diameter. Due to the small size, some of these toxins may enter the bloodstream and be transported around the body, lodging in the heart, brain and other organs.

Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 (<https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping>). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control. Emissions of PM10 and PM2.5 from agricultural sources are distributed using agricultural census data 2014.

## Sulphur dioxide in the AONB

Showing sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in 2022. Levels are very low in the area but there are hotspots around Trefor and Llanbedrog. These are both sections of the A499 showing the highest traffic movements.



The principal man-made source of sulphur dioxide is the combustion of fossil fuels.

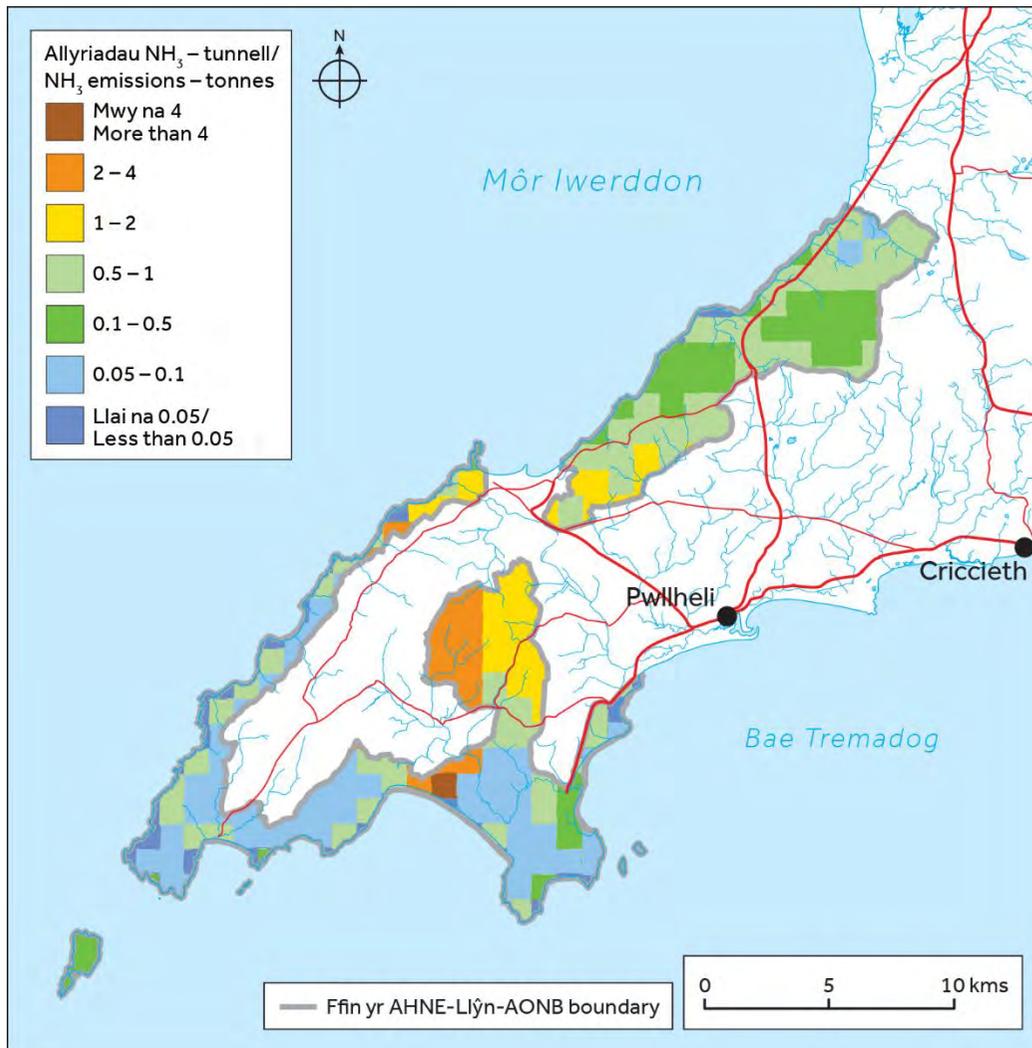
Sulphur dioxide contributes to aerosol formation which can either warm (through absorption of solar radiation on dark particles) or cool (from forming cloud droplets and reflecting radiation) the atmosphere.

UK-wide, emissions of sulphur dioxide have decreased by 97% since 1990, to 95 thousand tonnes in 2023.

Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 (<https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping>). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control.

## Ammonia in the AONB

Showing ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) in 2022. Levels are very low in the western half of the AONB. Levels are high in a band stretching coast to coast through the centre of the area with moderate levels in the eastern section. Rural ammonia usually comes from farming activities or large bird nesting areas.



Ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) is a highly reactive and soluble alkaline gas. It originates from both natural and anthropogenic sources, with the main source being agriculture (manures, slurries and fertiliser application). Other agriculture-related emissions include biomass burning or fertiliser manufacture. Non-agricultural sources, such as catalytic converters in internal combustion engines, landfill sites, sewage works, composting of organic materials, combustion, industry and wild mammals and birds can also emit ammonia. UK-wide emissions of ammonia have decreased by 14 per cent since 1990, to 265 thousand tonnes in 2023.

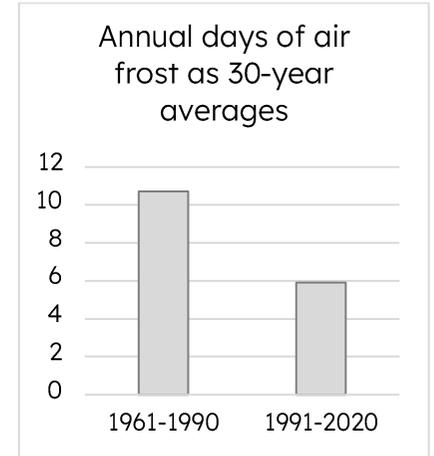
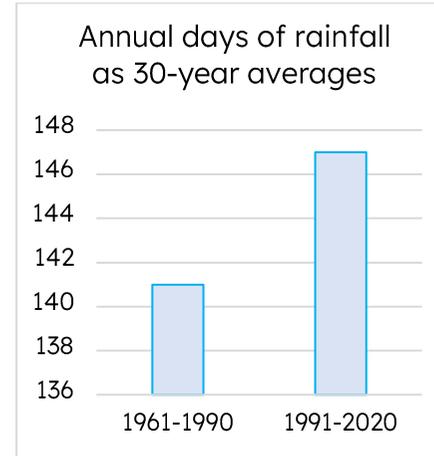
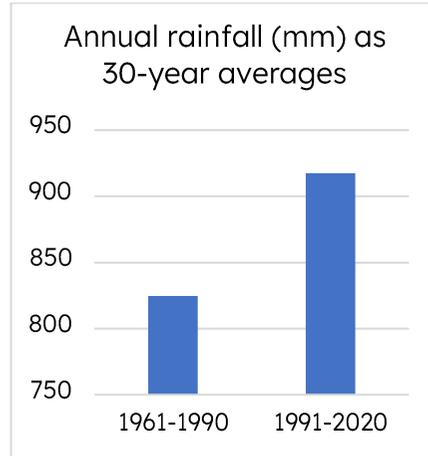
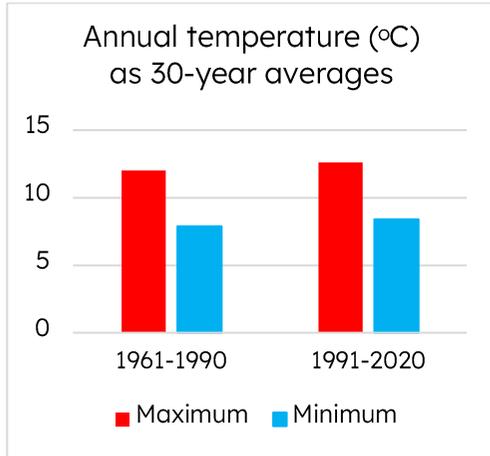
As well as impacting air quality, high ammonia concentrations can disturb the natural balance of ecosystems and endanger native flora, fauna and water sources:

- Eutrophication
- Shift in dominance from mosses, lichens and ericoids towards grasses like *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Molinia caerulea* and ruderal species.
- Increased risk of frost damage in spring
- Increased winter desiccation levels in *Calluna* and summer drought stress
- Increased incidence of pest and pathogen attack, e.g. heather beetle outbreaks.
- Direct damage and death of sensitive species, e.g. lichens and mosses.
- Reduced root growth and mycorrhizal infection
- Increase in soil pH follows acidification

Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 (<https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping>). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control.

## Changes in weather patterns

Charts showing a series of 30-year climate averages between 1961 and 2020 based on Metrological Office data for Aberdaron. There is a rise of 0.6°C in annual mean temperature and a 92.7mm increase in annual rainfall over the last 60 years. The number of annual days of rainfall rose over the period by 6 days to 147 days. In contrast, the number of annual days of air frost fell by 4.8 days to 6 days.

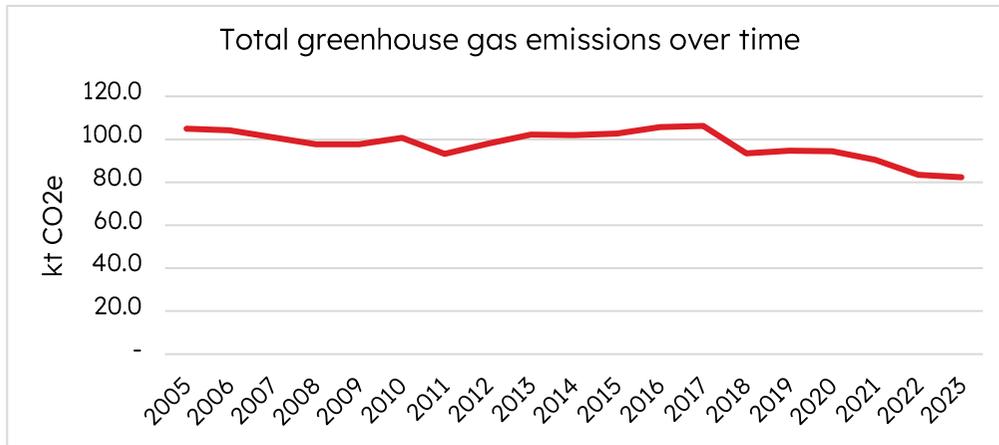


Source: Information provided by the National Meteorological Office, UK climate averages (MIDAS Open data 2025)  
<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/location-specific-long-term-averages/gcksk1uqj>

# Greenhouse gases

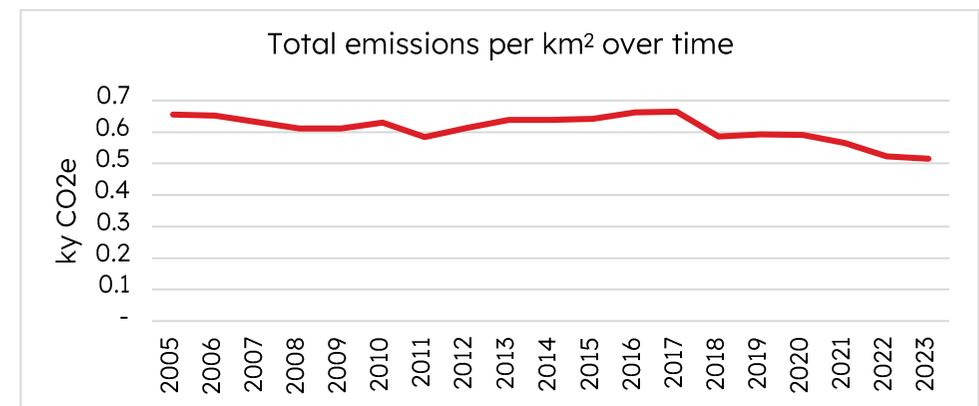
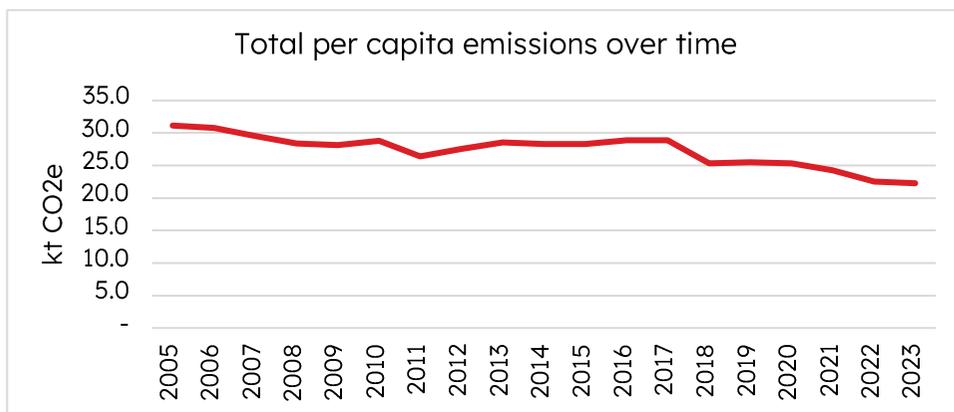
## Trend data for the Llŷn AONB

A series of charts showing levels of greenhouse gas emissions from the Llŷn AONB land mass. There has been a **21.5%** reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions between 2005 and 2023. Except for agriculture, all sectors show significant decreases in emissions. Agriculture increased by 7% since 2005 but there had been a fall by 2013. The increase since then is 25%.

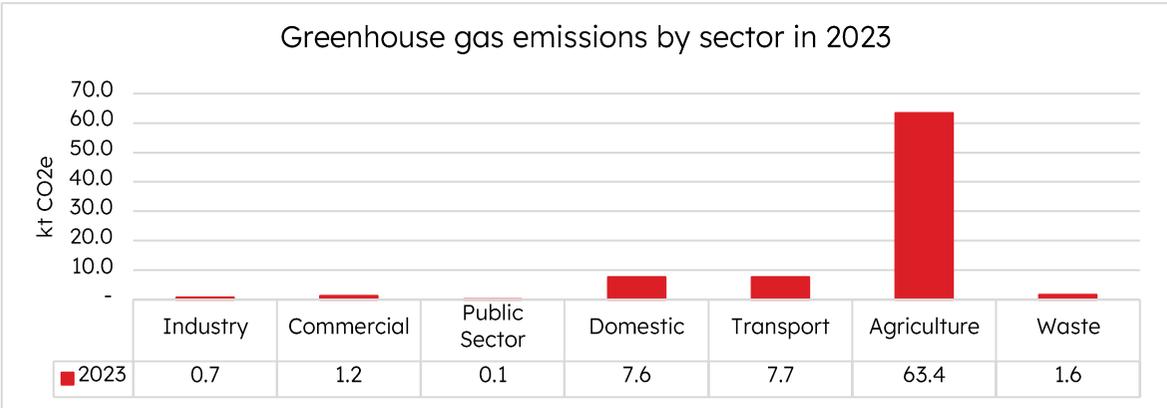
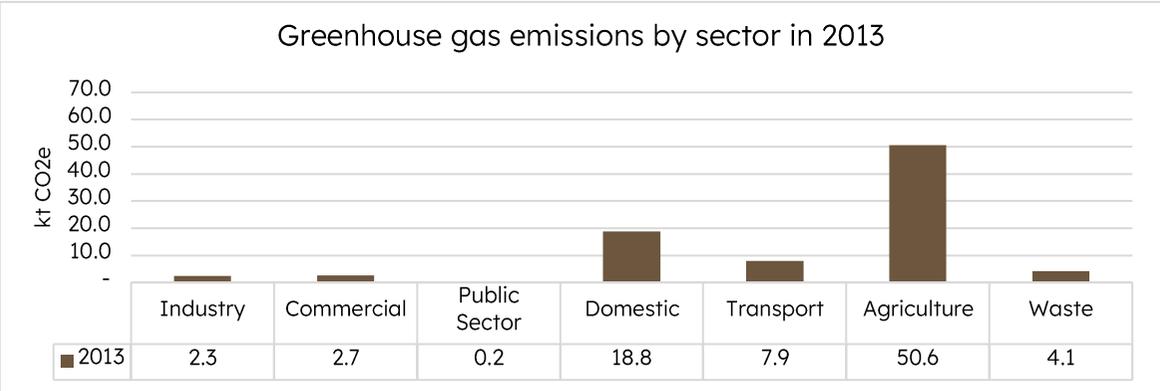
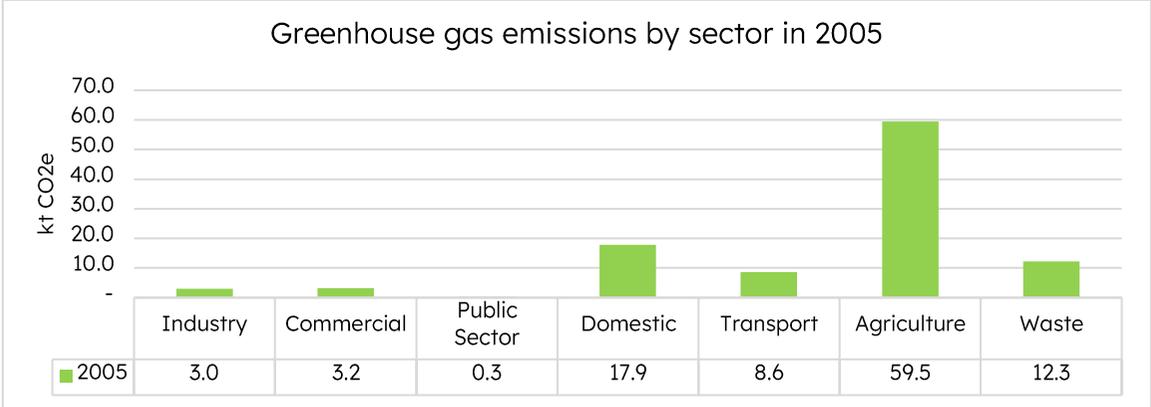


The greenhouse gases covered in this data are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. Each of these gases is weighted by its global warming potential (GWP), so that total greenhouse gas emissions can be reported on a consistent basis. The GWP for each gas is defined as its warming influence relative to that of carbon dioxide. Reporting is in kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO2e) unless otherwise stated.

It is usual to also report the LULUCF net emissions (Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry). In the case of the Llŷn AONB, no data is recorded for LULUCF.



# Comparison of greenhouse gas emissions by sector in 2005, 2013 and 2023



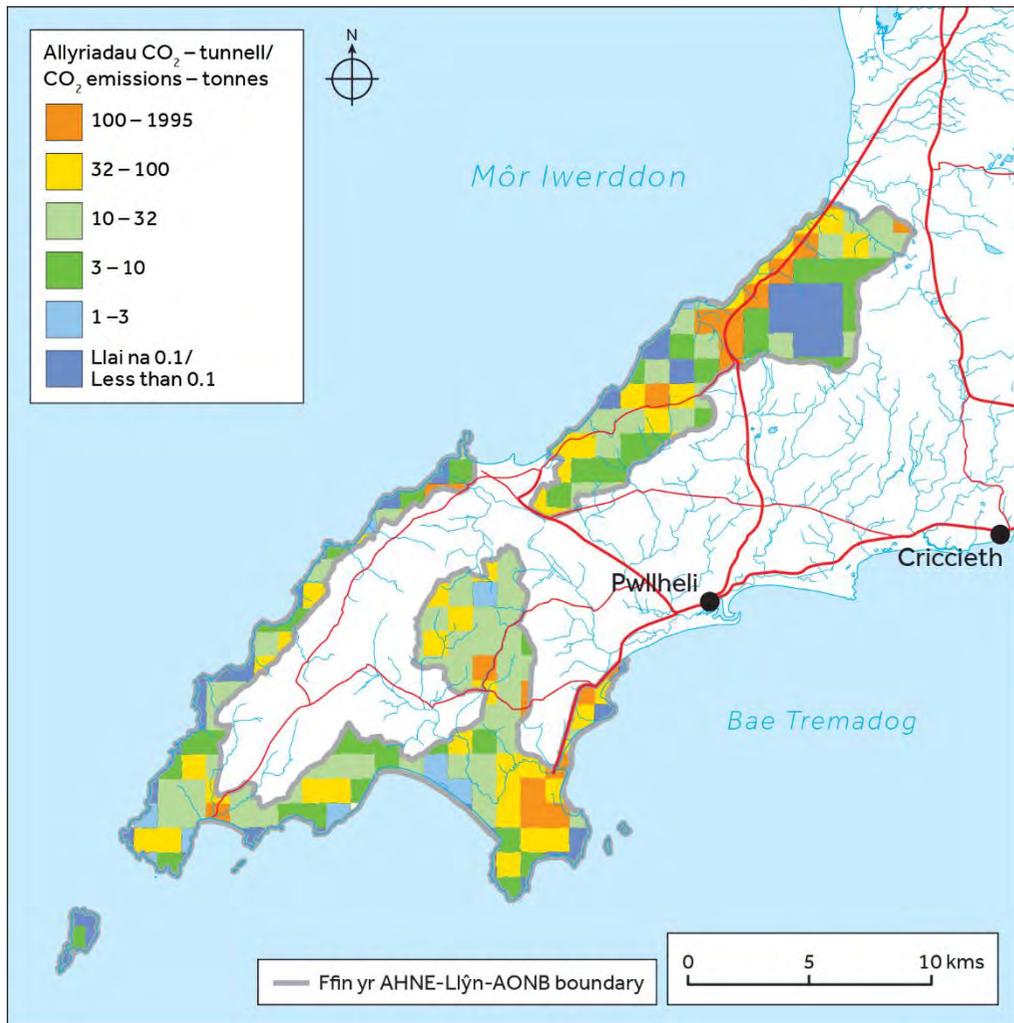
- Agriculture is the only producer of greenhouse gases that has increased. It produced 59.5 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2005, 50.6 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2013 and 63.4 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023 (+25% since 2013).
- Domestic was the next highest producer of greenhouse gases up until 2013. It rose from 17.9 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2005 to 18.8 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2013. This then fell to 7.6 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023 (-60% since 2013).
- Transport overtook domestic in 2023. In 2005, emissions were 8.6 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e, this fell to 7.9 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2013 and 7.7 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023 (-3% since 2013).
- Waste management was at 12.3 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2005, 4.1 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2013 and 1.6 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023 (-61% since 2013).
- The other sectors record very low emission levels throughout the period. Nonetheless, the sectors do record large decreases; industry (-70% since 2013), commercial (-56% since 2013), public sector (-50% since 2013).

Note: we compare 2013 and 2023 to show the changes during the last management plan period.

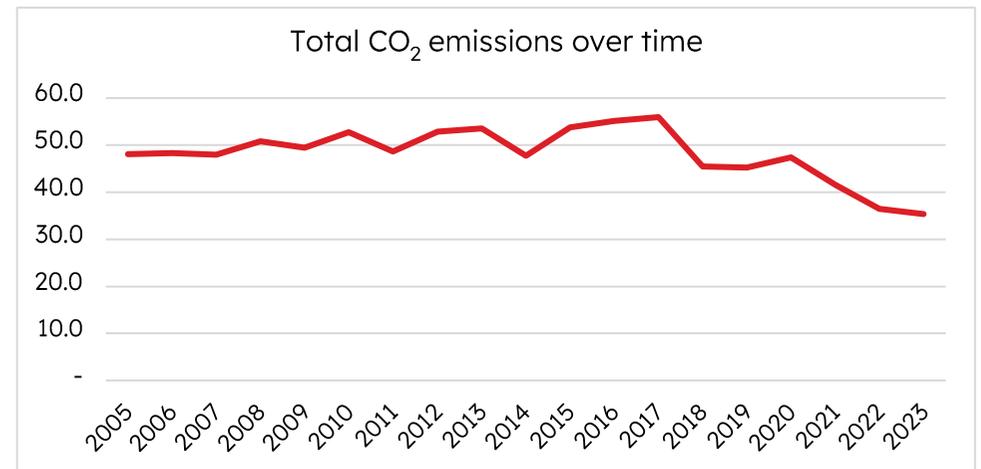
Source: Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; UK Protected Landscapes greenhouse gas emissions statistics: 2005-2023, published 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2023>

## Carbon dioxide in the AONB

Showing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels in 2024. Agriculture produced 52% of emissions (related to transport and machinery), transport produced 22% and domestic 21%. The highest concentrations (100-1995 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e) are along the A499 and around Abersoch, Aberdaron, Llanbedrog and Nanhoron.



Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) enters the atmosphere through burning fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil), solid waste, trees and other biological materials, and as a result of certain chemical reactions (e.g., cement production). Carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere (or "sequestered") when it is absorbed by plants as part of the biological carbon cycle.

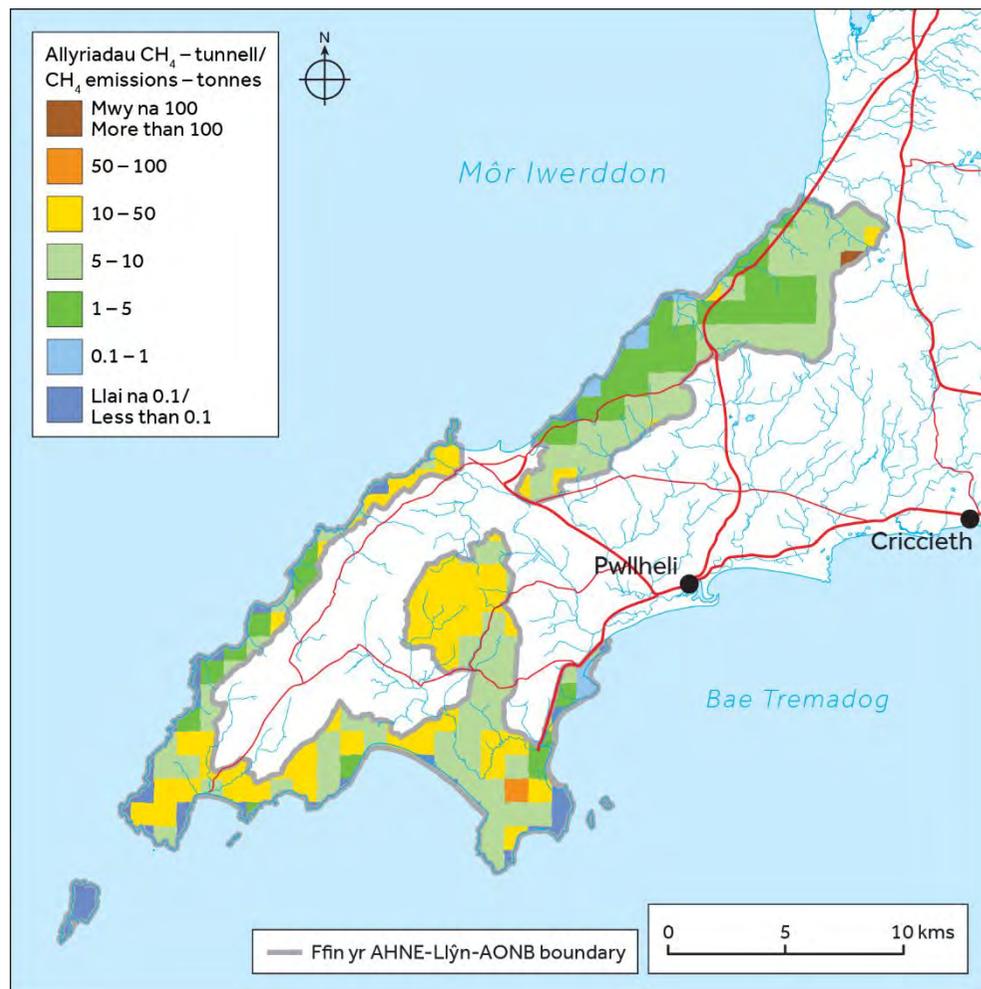


The main human activity that emits CO<sub>2</sub> is the combustion of fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil) for energy and transportation. Certain industrial processes and land-use changes also emit CO<sub>2</sub>.

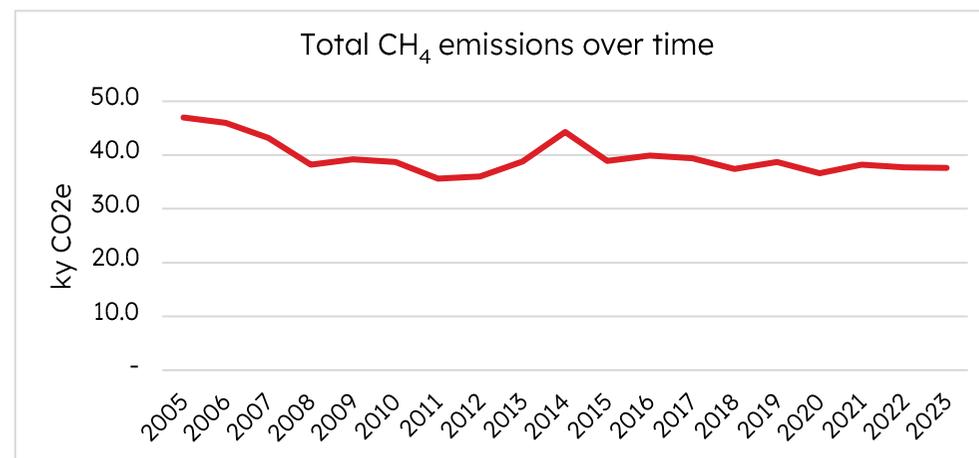
Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 (<https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping>). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control.

## Methane in the AONB

Showing methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) levels in 2024. 96% of emissions are associated with agriculture (primarily from livestock). Waste management contributes the remaining 4% of emissions. The highest levels are found around Graianog, perhaps associated with the waste management service in the area (100+ kt CO<sub>2</sub>e) and Llanengan (50-100 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e).



Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices, land use, and by the decay of organic waste in municipal solid waste landfills.

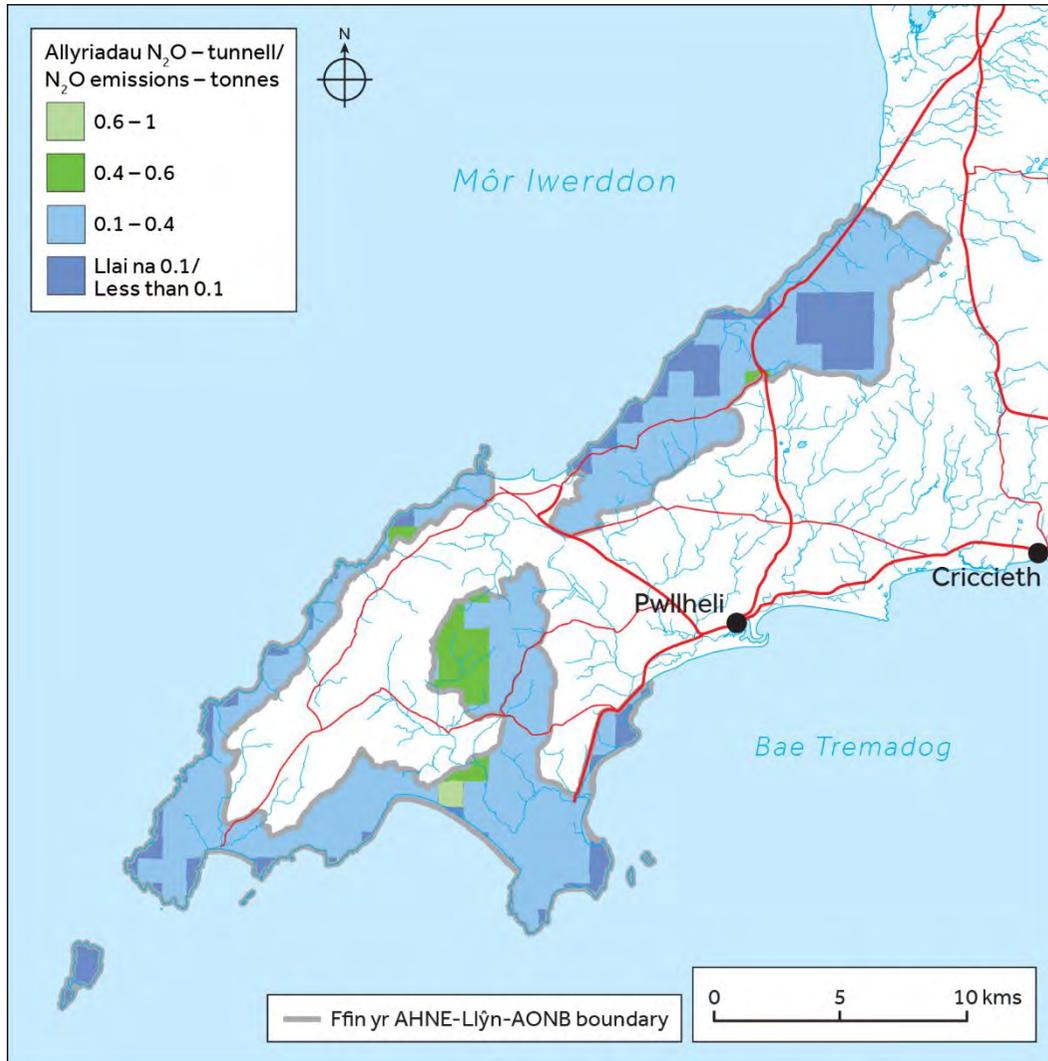


Reference to the [Land-cover](#) (click) shows that the areas showing greater than 10 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e of methane are generally within the pasture lands.

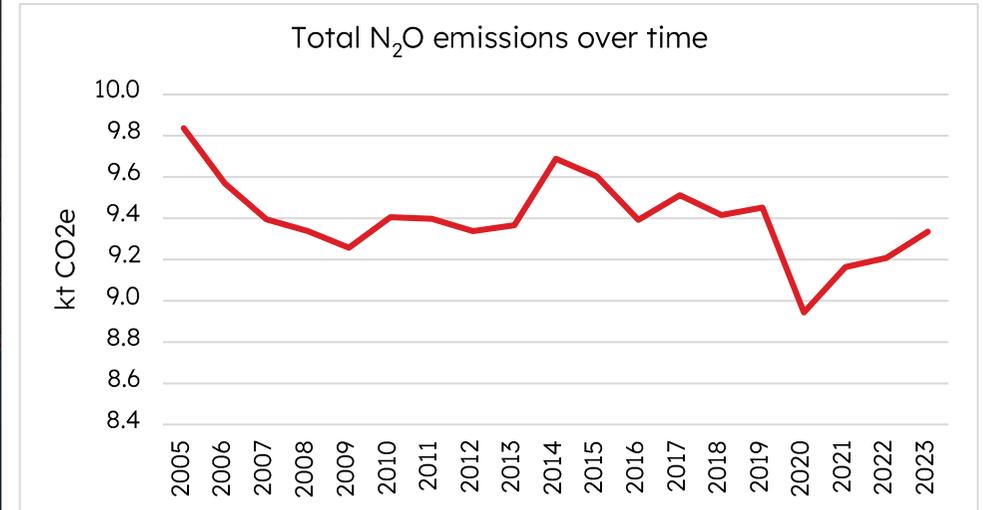
Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 (<https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping>). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control.

## Nitrous oxide in the AONB

Showing nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) levels in 2024, which is very low. 99% of emissions are associated with agriculture and soils (fertilizers) alone emit 61%.



Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) is emitted during agricultural land use and industrial activities; combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste; as well as during treatment of wastewater. It is associated with vehicle engines.



Reference to the [Land-cover](#) (click) shows that the highest rates are in the pasture lands in Botwnnog and Tudweiliog Community Council areas. This may relate to improved grasslands.

Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 (<https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping>). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control.

## Renewable energy

There are no large renewable energy generation sites running within the AONB but there are three not far from the boundary.



The Renewable Energy Planning Database tracks the progress of renewable electricity over 150kW through the planning system. There are three sites close to the boundary.

### Operational:

1. Tyddyn Cae (Boduan) – solar photovoltaics (4.9MW)
2. Llwyndyrys Farm - solar photovoltaics (5MW)

### Awaiting construction:

3. Nanhoron Home Farm, Nanhoron – solar photovoltaics (0.25MW)

### Application submitted:

4. Ty Du Uchaf, Pentreuchaf - solar photovoltaics (4.83MW)

And two sites considered but not proceeding

### Application refused:

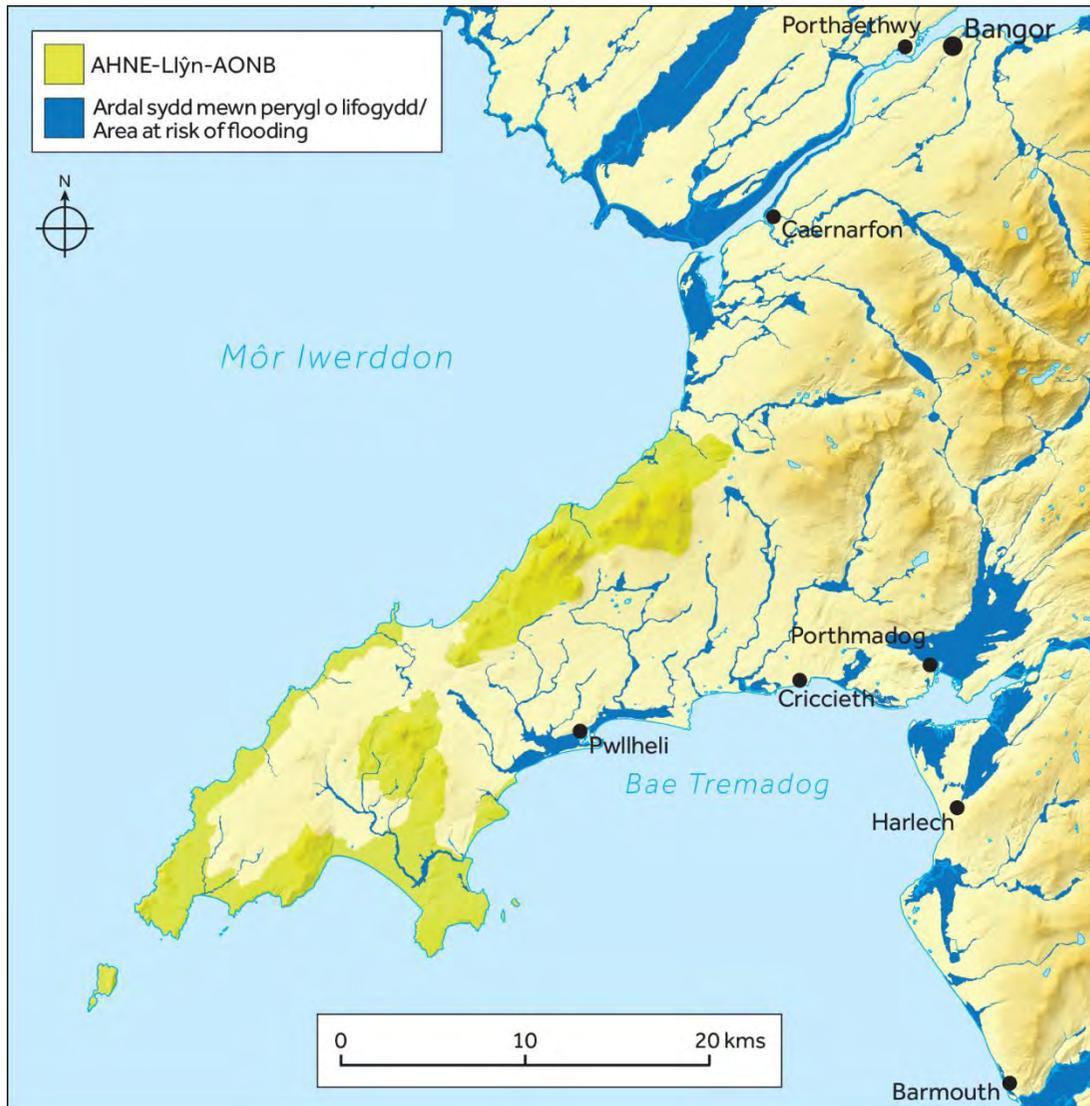
5. Land on Parc Farm, near Cilgwyn - solar photovoltaics (2.4MW)
6. Llanbedrog, Near Cae Pin - solar photovoltaics (4.9MW)

In addition, there are many small installations within the AONB.

Source: <https://www.mygridgb.co.uk/map/> See also Department for Energy Security & Net Zero <https://data.barbour-abi.com/smart-map/repd/desnz/?type=repd>

## Areas at risk of flooding - overview

Due to topography, the majority of the AONB is not at risk from flooding though there is a high risk of localised flooding along the lower reaches of the River Soch.

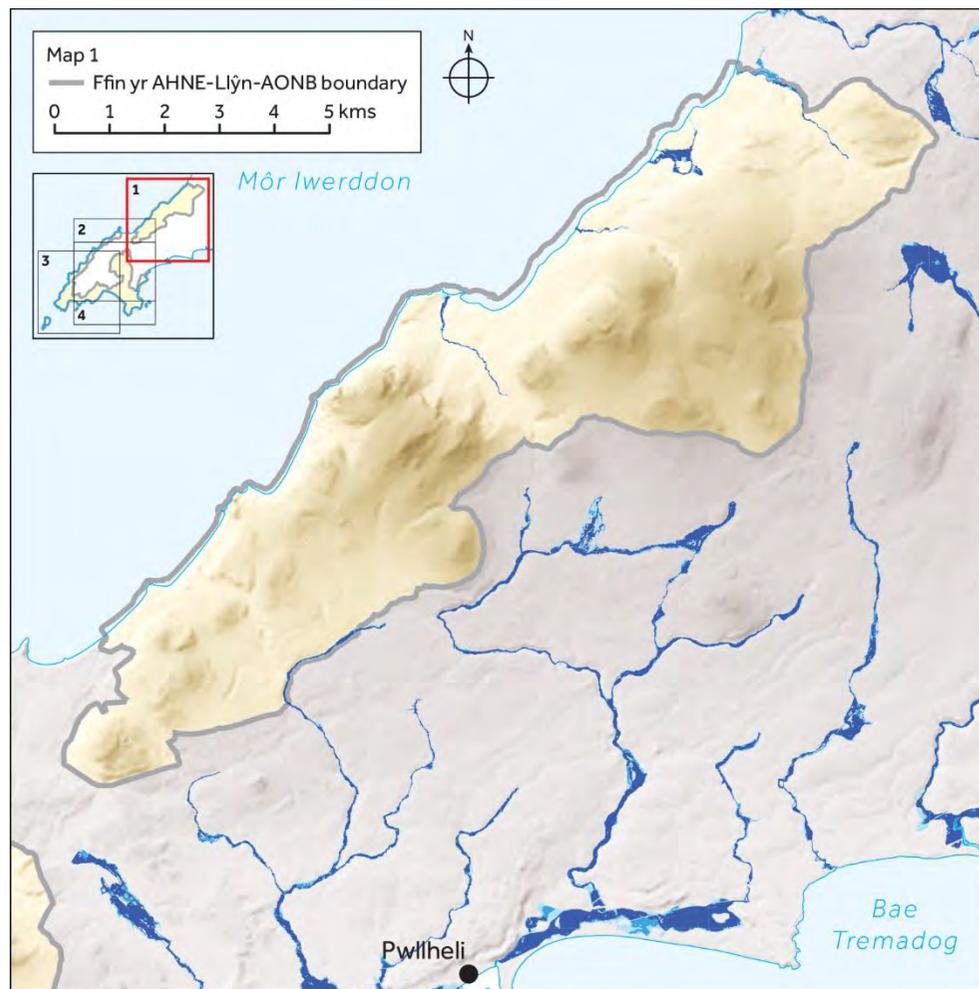


Showing high risk - this means that this area has a chance of flooding of greater than 3.3% each year. This considers the effect of any flood defences in the area. These defences reduce but do not completely stop the chance of flooding as they can be overtopped or fail.

Source: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000849444. Crown Copyright and Database Right. [https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW\\_FLOOD\\_WATCH\\_AREAS](https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW_FLOOD_WATCH_AREAS)

## Areas at risk of flooding from rivers, surface water and small watercourses

There are two areas at high risk of flooding from rivers, surface water and small watercourses. They are around Clynnog Fawr and along the River Soch. The large majority of the AONB is at very low or no risk of flooding.



### Allwedd/Legend

Risg lifogydd o afonydd/  
Risk of flooding from rivers

Risg uchel – siawns llifogydd o fwy nag 1 mewn 30 (3.3%) /  
High risk – chance of flooding of greater than 1 in 30 (3.3%)

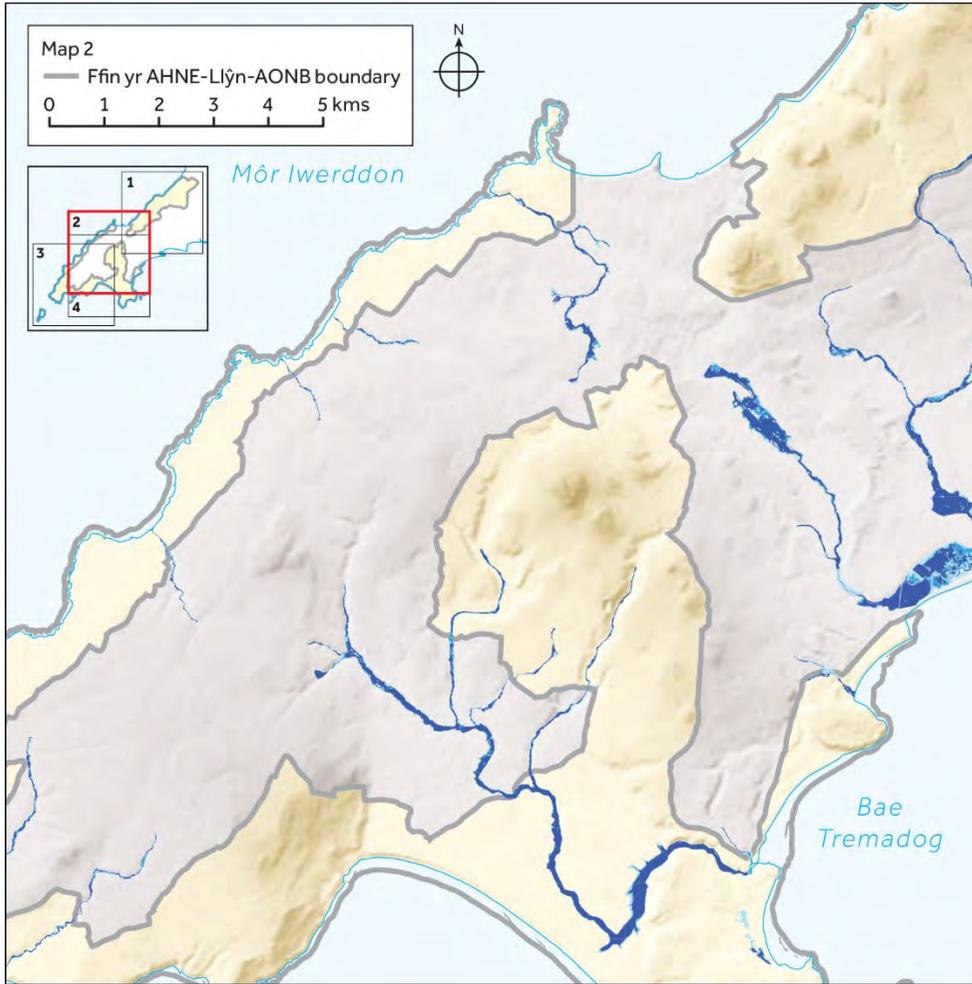
Risg ganolog – siawns o lifogydd rhwng 1 mewn 100 (1%) ac 1 mewn 30 (3.3%) /  
Medium risk – chance of flooding of between 1 in 100 (1%) and 1 in 30 (3.3%)

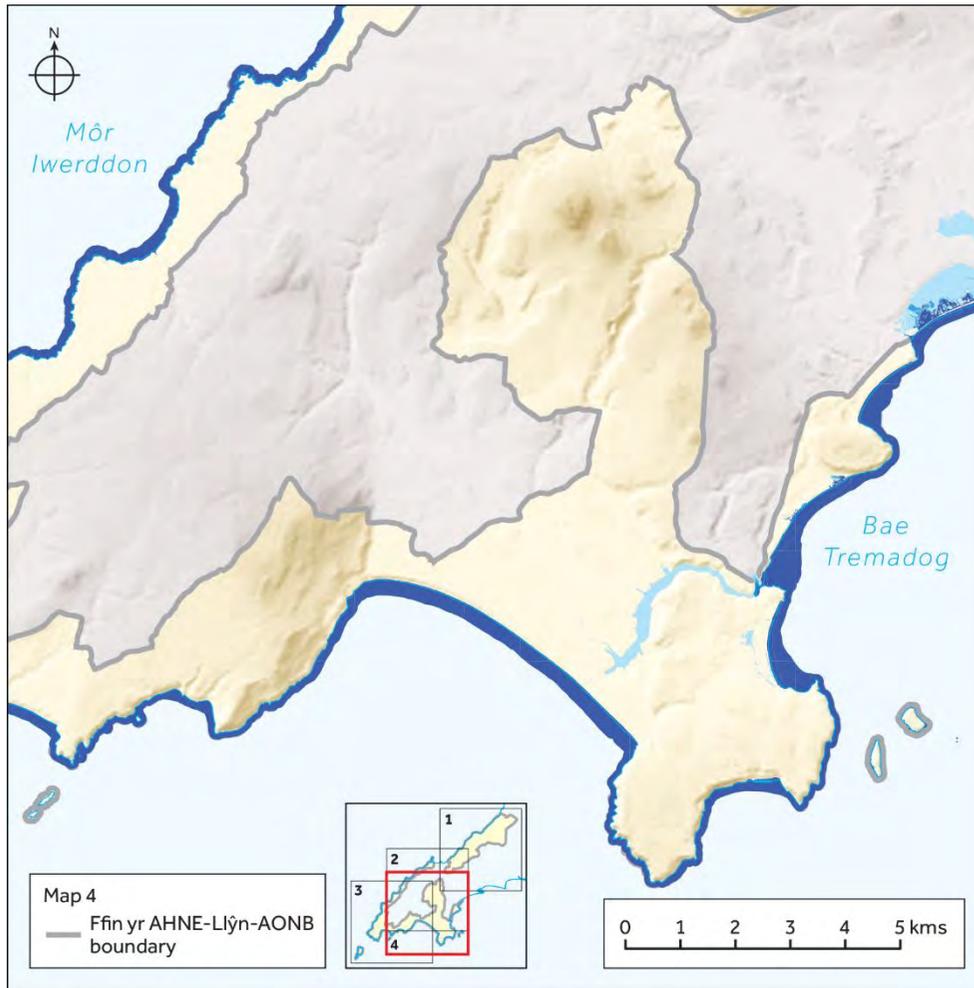
Risg isel – siawns o lifogydd rhwng 1 mewn 1000 (0.1%) ac 1 mewn 200 (0.5%) /  
Low risk – chance of flooding of between 1 in 1000 (0.1%) and 1 in 100 (1%)

Flood Risk Assessment Wales provides a national assessment of risk flooding from Rivers, the Sea and Surface Water and Small Watercourses.

The assessment takes into account flood defences and combines national-scale modelling with detailed local-scale models to categories risk into 3 bands, labelled 'High', 'Medium' and 'Low' risk.

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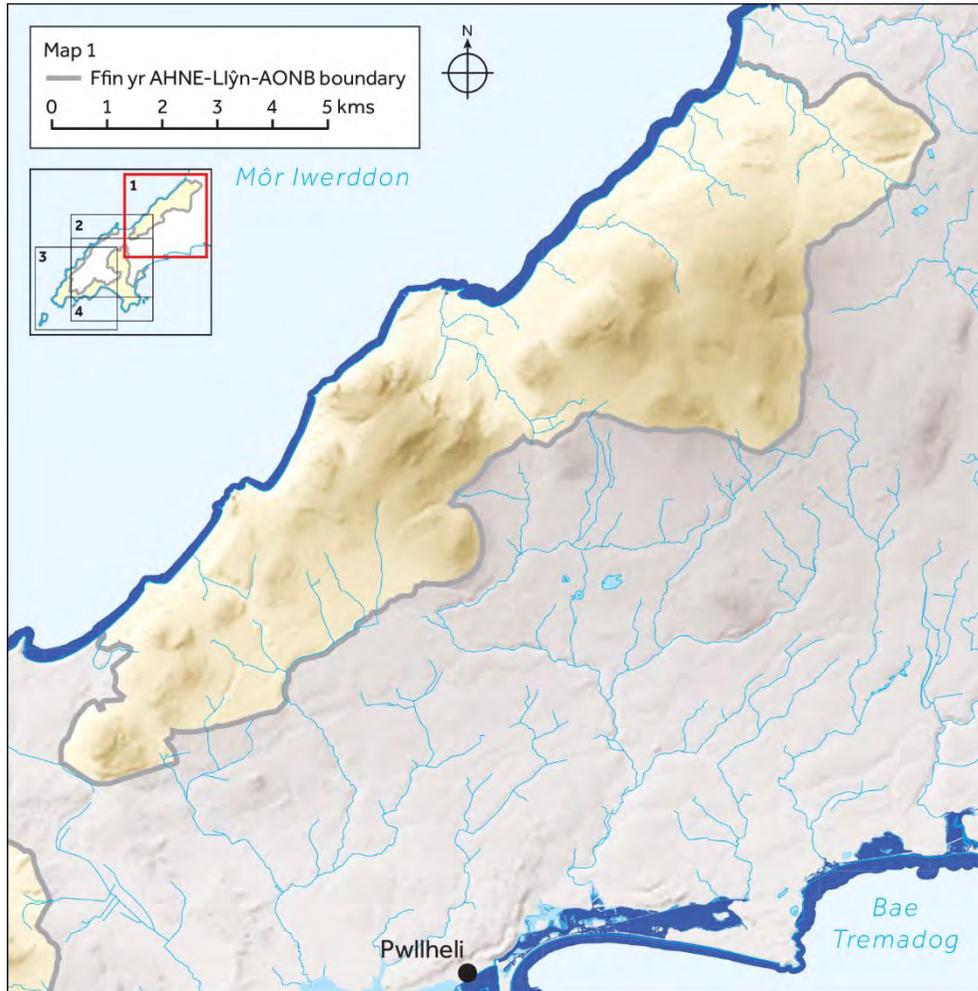


Within the AONB, there is only a high risk of flooding in two areas. The most extensive is along the River Soch from Pont Saithbont down to Llanengan and across to Abersoch. The other is centred around Clynog Fawr and Bach Wen.

Note: Flooding from surface water is difficult to predict as rainfall location and volume are difficult to forecast.

## Areas at risk of flooding from the Sea

There is an extensive area of high-risk flooding from the sea around Abersoch that extends as low-risk flooding along the lower reaches of the River Soch. There is a high risk of localised flooding from the sea along the whole coastline.



### Allwedd/Legend

Risg llifogydd o'r môr/  
Risk of flooding from sea

Risg uchel – siawns llifogydd o fwy nag 1 mewn 30 (3.3%)  
High risk – chance of flooding of greater than 1 in 30 (3.3%)

Risg ganolog – siawns o lifogydd rhwng 1 mewn 200 (0.5%) ac 1 mewn 30 (3.3%)  
Medium risk – chance of flooding of between 1 in 200 (0.5%) and 1 in 30 (3.3%)

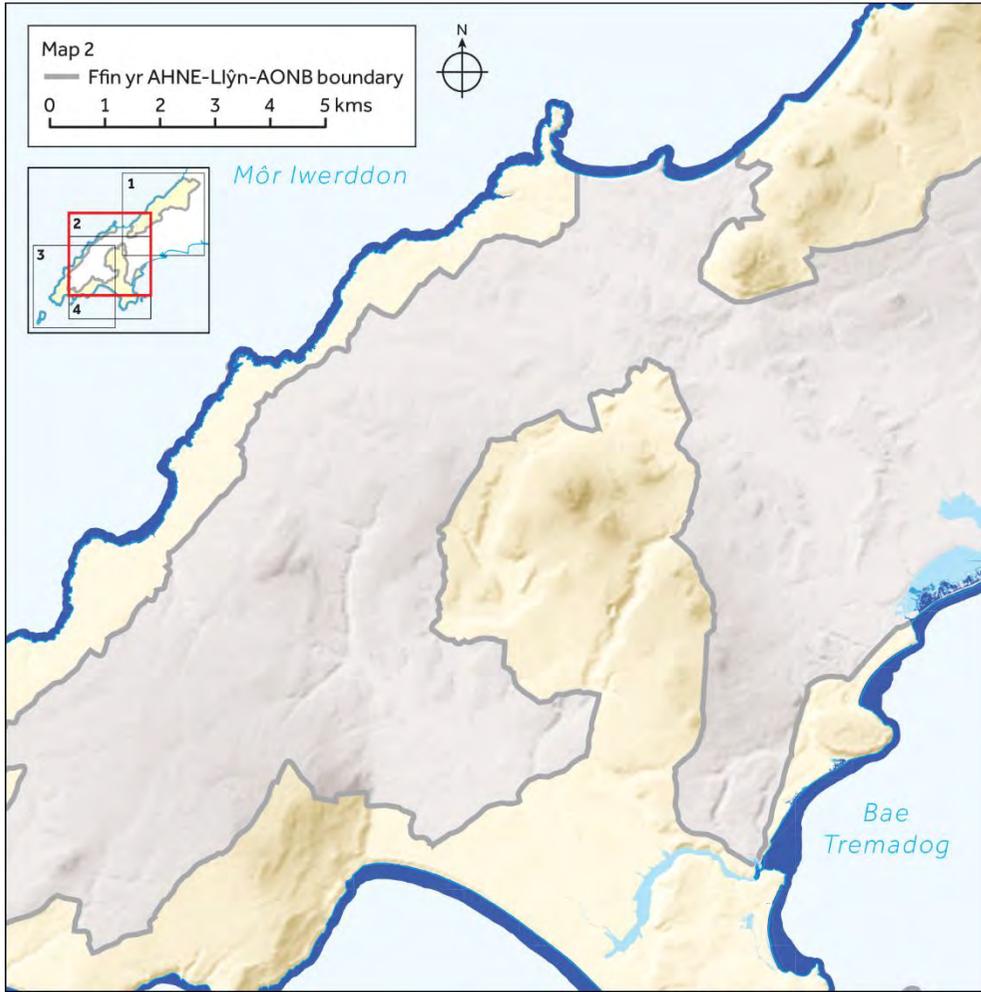
Risg isel – siawns o lifogydd rhwng 1 mewn 1000 (0.1%) ac 1 mewn 200 (0.5%)  
Low risk – chance of flooding of between 1 in 1000 (0.1%) and 1 in 200 (0.5%)

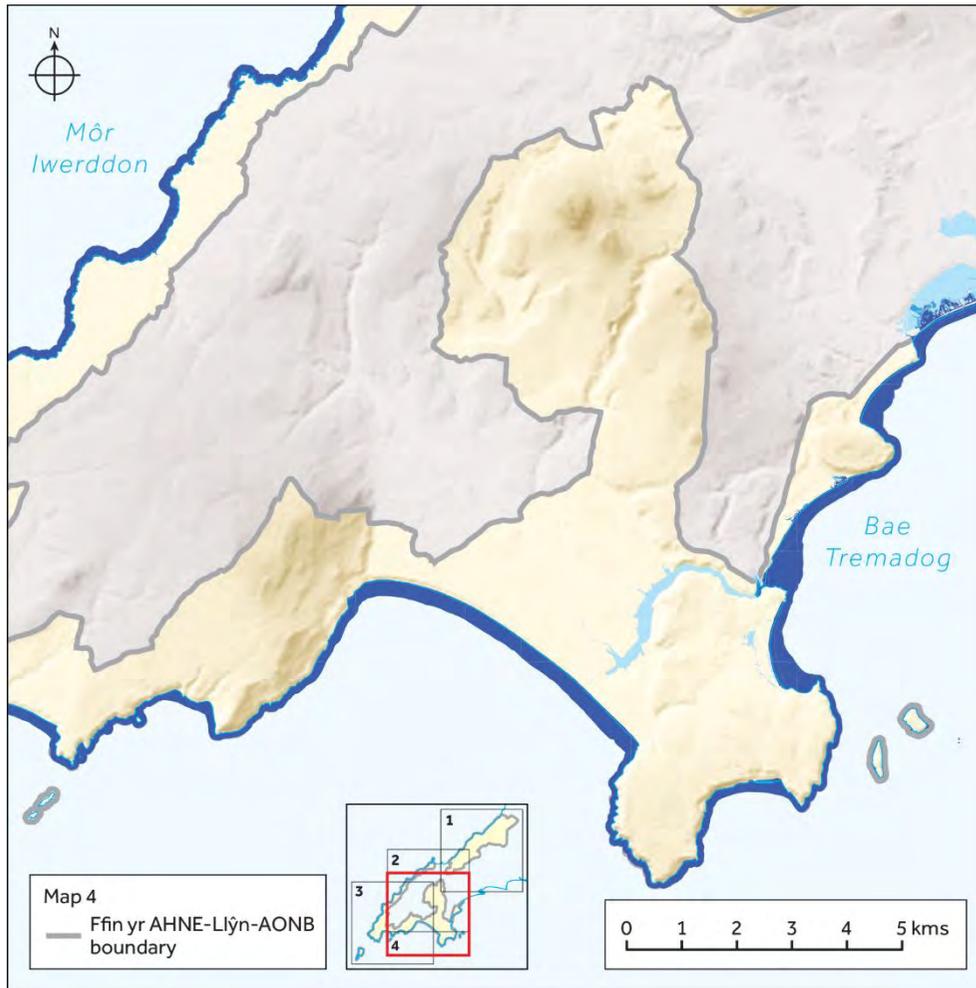
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<https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/new?layergroup=inspire-nrw:FloodRiskAssessmentWales#/>

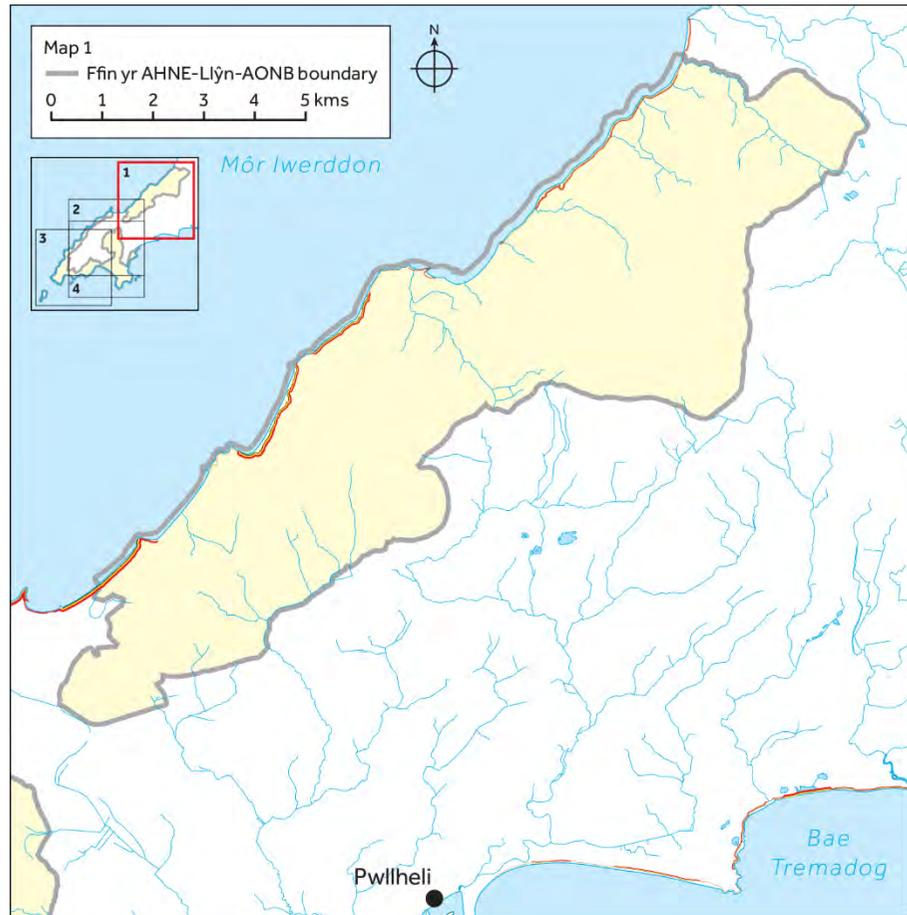




There is an extensive area of high-risk flooding from the sea around Abersoch that extends as low-risk flooding along the lower reaches of the River Soch. There is a high risk of localised flooding from the sea along the whole coastline. Generally, flood water could invade 150 – 200m inland along the whole coastline. This increases to 300m in Porth Neigwl.

## Areas at risk of coastal erosion

Maps showing erosion risk extents for the Short Term (up to 2025), Medium Term (up to 2055) and Long Term (up to 2105). There is some risk of erosion along most of the coastline, but the greatest risk is in the Porthor Beach area (famous for its 'whistling sands').



### Allwedd/Legend

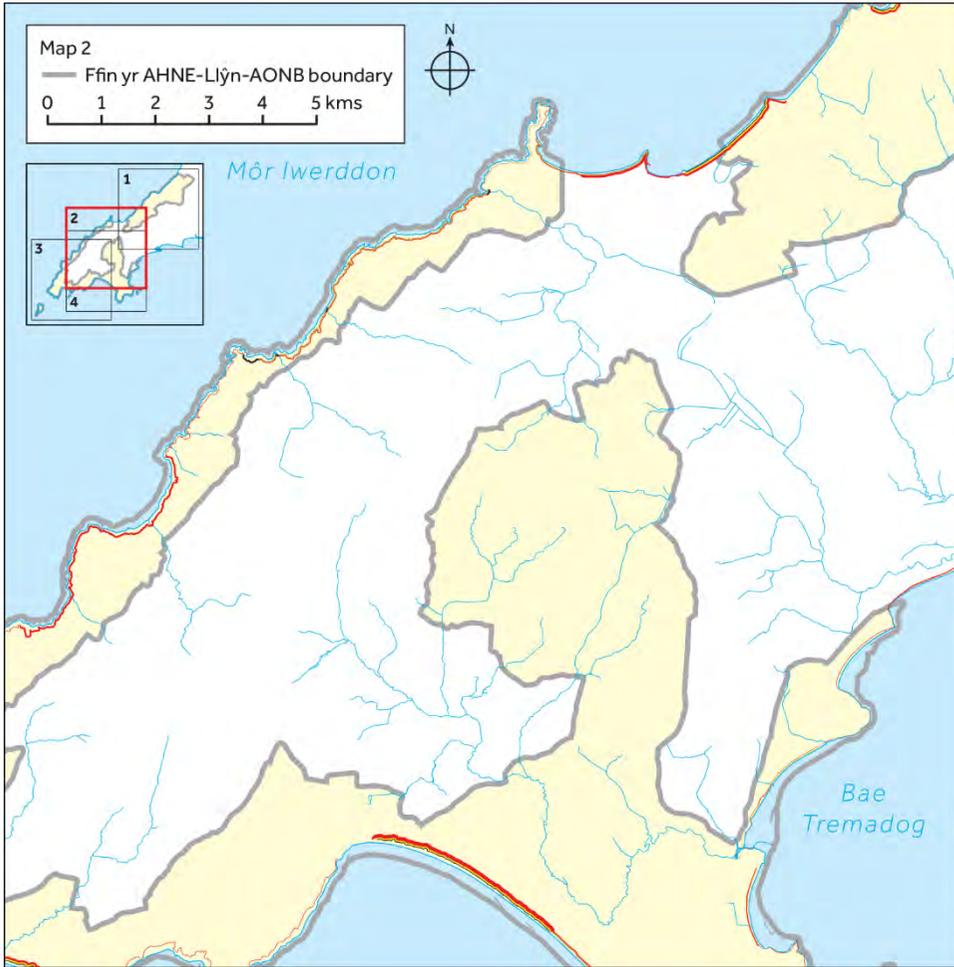
Rheoli Risg Erydiad Arfordirol Cenedlaethol (NCERM)  
Graddfa gyfnodol erydiad arfordirol/  
National Coastal Erosion Risk Management (NCERM)  
Periodic extent of coastal erosion

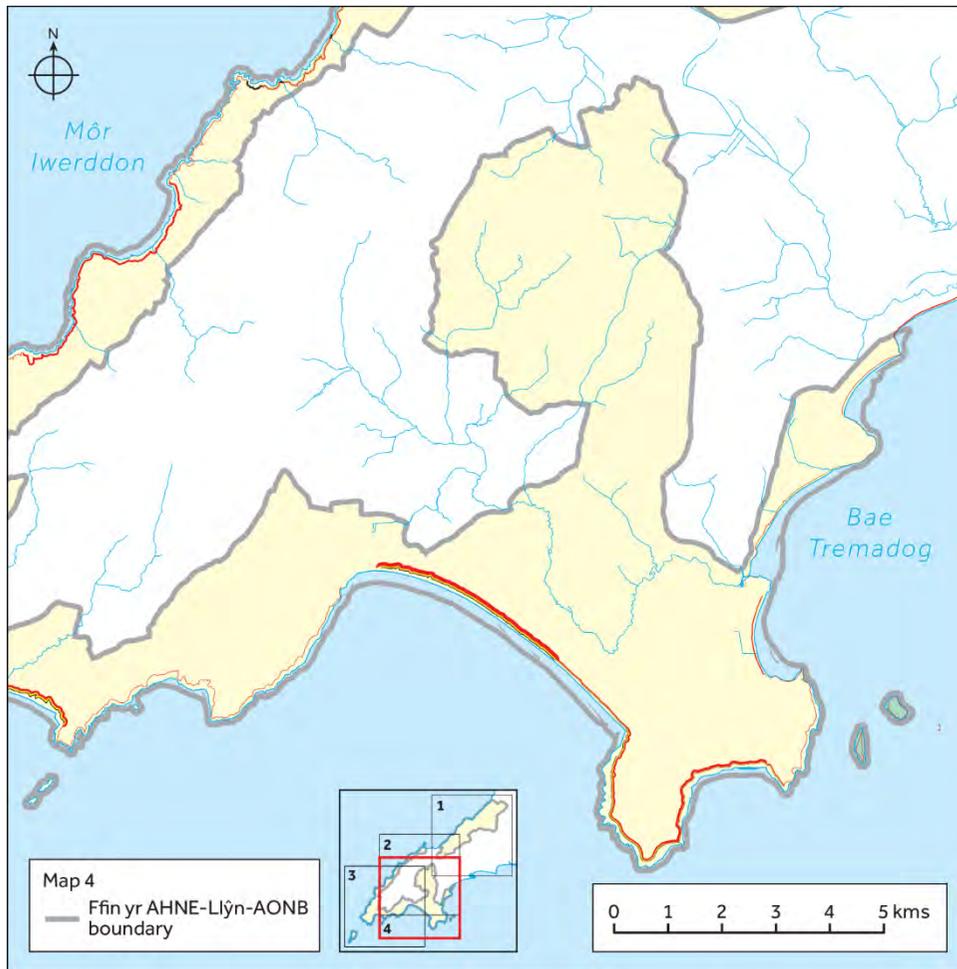
- Tymor Byr (0 – 20 mlynedd h.y. 2005 i 2025)/  
Short Term (0 – 20yr i.e. 2005 to 2025)
- Tymor Canolig (20 – 50 mlynedd h.y. 2025 i 2055)/  
Medium Term (20 – 50yr i.e. 2025 to 2055)
- Hirdymor (50 – 100 mlynedd h.y. 2055 i 2105)/  
Long Term (50 – 100yr i.e. 2055 to 2105)

The National Coastal Erosion Risk Management Map shows projected areas at risk from erosion. The erosion risk zones are created by splitting the coastline into 'frontages'. These frontages are defined as lengths of coast with consistent characteristics based on location, the cliff behaviour characteristics and the defence characteristics. The data describes the upper and lower estimates of erosion risk at a particular location, within which the actual location of the coastline is expected to lie (the data does not estimate the absolute location of the future coastline).

Much of the AONB's coastline is natural and erodible, though there are short sections where Shoreline Management Plan interventions are in place.

[Note: The coloured line is the top of an erodible feature. The map's standard blue coastline is the high-water mark].





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[https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/new?layergroup=geonode:nrw\\_ncerm#/](https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/new?layergroup=geonode:nrw_ncerm#/)

# Natural heritage

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## The special quality

### A wealth of wildlife

Over time, the rural and agricultural character of the area, as well as the calm and non-polluted nature of the area, has contributed to the continuation of several species that are now considered rare in the British Isles. Heaths are a prominent and important feature in LIŷn. They contribute not only as a habitat and a landscape feature, but also on a historical and cultural level and as a leisure resource.

The cliffs and slopes support a variety of vegetation that is slowly developing into coastal pastures and heaths, and they are also home to a variety of sea birds as well as a habitat for hornets and some rare invertebrate creatures. The reefs support a wide variety of flora and fauna communities including a variety of seaweed forests, sponges and sea squirts.

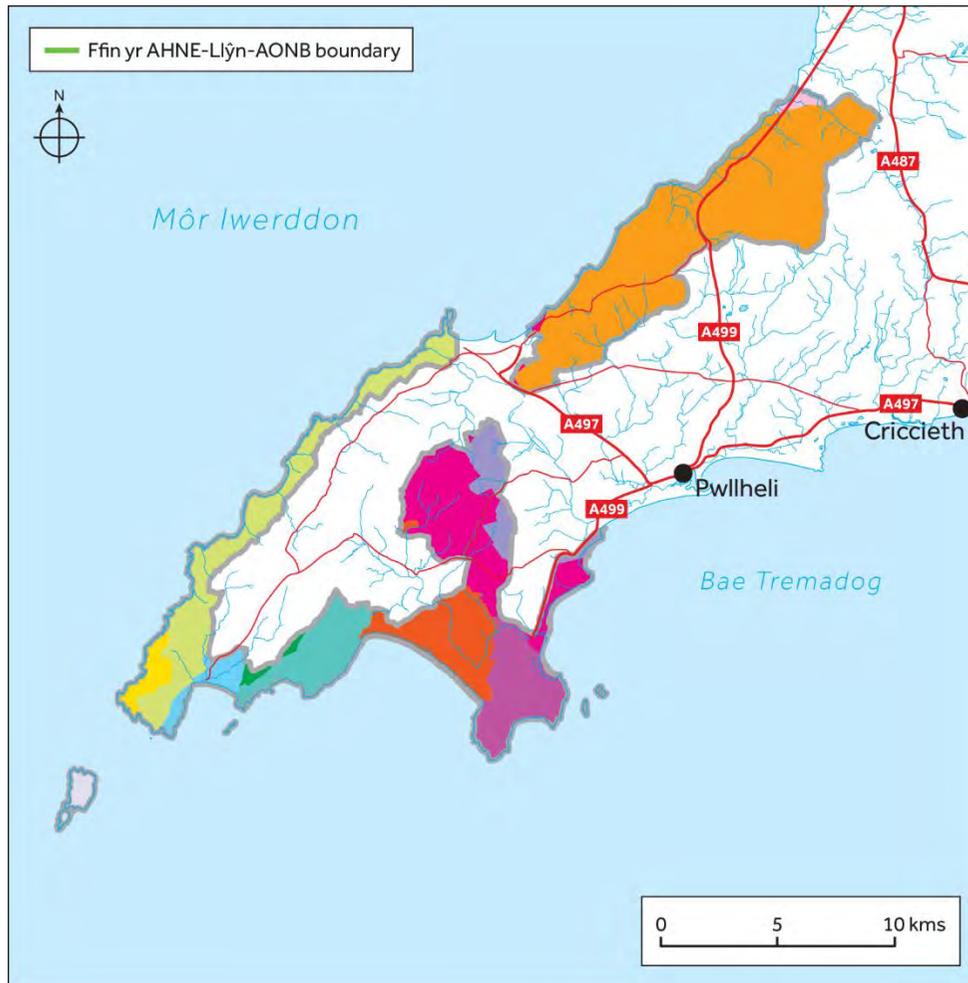
The grey seal is common to the area, along with otters, harbour porpoises and bottlenose dolphins that can be seen in the seas on the southern coast. LIŷn is a habitat for a large variety of land birds and sea birds. Among the rare birds is the chough that is used as the AONB's logo. Other bird species of European importance are to be found here also, including the Puffin, the Guillemot and the Manx Shearwater.



## Geology and soils

Geology - the stratigraphic period is primarily the early Palaeozoic (Cambrian & Ordovician) with some Neoproterozoic.

Soils - very low to low fertility, low carbon retention, and generally suited to grazing.



### Allwedd/Legend

- Cambriaidd – basalt, clystrau a thywodfeini, i gerrig mwd/  
Cambrian – basalt, conglomerates and sandstones, to mudstones
- Cambro-Ordofigaidd (Porth Neigwl – Ffurfiannau Nant Ffrancon) – tywodfeini, siltfeini a cherrig mwd/  
Cambro-Ordovician (Hell's Mouth – Nant Ffrancon Formations) – sandstones, siltstones and mudstones
- Cambro-Ordofigaidd (Dol-cyn-Afon - Ffurfiannau Nant Ffrancon) – cerrig llaid a cherrig silt/  
Cambro-Ordovician (Dol-cyn-Afon - Nant Ffrancon Formations) – mudstones and siltstones
- Cyn-Gambriaidd – siltfeini a thywodfeini ceirch, cerrig mwd coch/  
Precambrian – cherty siltstones and sandstones, red mudstones  
Igneaid metamorffig
- Cyn-Gambriaidd-Gambriaidd (Cymhleth Sarn a pharth hollt Llŷn) – gwenithfaen, gabbros, granodioritau a gneisau/  
Precambrian-Cambrian metamorphic igneous (Sarn Complex and Llŷn shear zone) – granites, gabbros, granodiorites and gneisses
- Cyn-Gambriaidd Hwyr – carreg laid, carreg silt, tywodfaen a chonglomerad, basalt a lafa gobennydd/  
Late Precambrian – mudstone, siltstone, sandstone and conglomerate, basalt and pillow lavas
- Ordofigaidd (Ffuriant Nant Ffrancon) – cerrig llaid a cherrig silt/  
Ordovician (Nant Ffrancon Formation) – mudstones and siltstones
- Ordofigaidd (Grŵp Folcanig Llanbedrog) – lafa canolradd a sylfaenol, tyffau asidig, siltfeini, tywodfeini a cherrig mwd duon/  
Ordovician (Llanbedrog Volcanic Group) – intermediate and basic lavas, acid tuffs, siltstones, sandstones and black mudstones
- Ordofigaidd Isaf (Grŵp Bae Aberdaron i Ffuriant Nant Ffrancon) – cerrig llaid, cerrig silt a thwffau asid/  
Lower Ordovician (Aberdaron Bay Group to Nant Ffrancon Formation) – mudstones, siltstones and acid tuffs
- Grŵp Bae Aberdaron Ordofigaidd, cerrig mwd a cherrig silt, gyda thywodfeini tenau a thwffau asidig, a sil dolerit trwchus/  
Ordovician Aberdaron Bay Group mudstones & siltstones, with thin sandstones and acid tuffs, and thick dolerite sill
- Cymysgedd Gwna o gerrig silt, cerrig mwd, tywodfeini a chonglomerat wedi'u tarfu/  
Gwna Melange of disturbed siltstones, mudstones, sandstones and conglomerate
- Diamictonau rhewlifol a thywod a graean wedi'u didoli'n wael/  
Glacial diamictons and poorly sorted sand and gravel

The Cambrian and Ordovician systems originated from study of rock successions in Wales. British Cambrian and Ordovician rocks are mostly of marine origin, ranging from sandstones and limestones from the shore and shallow shelves to mudrock facies that accumulated in deep basins or on the continental slopes.

Soil heavily influences our whole ecosystem and is a fragile resource that needs to be understood and protected. 'Soilscapes' is a 1:250,000 scale, simplified soils dataset covering England and Wales. It was created to communicate a general understanding of the variations that occur between soil types, and how soils affect the environment.

- Soilscape 4: Sand dune soils- Lime rich, low in carbon, not normally cropped.
- Soilscape 6: Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils – Low fertility, low in carbon, suitable for range of spring and autumn sown crops; under grass the soils have a long grazing season.
- Soilscape 10: Freely draining slightly acid sandy soils - Low fertility, low in carbon, suitable for wide range of spring and autumn sown crops including irrigated roots, potatoes and field vegetables.
- Soilscape 13: Freely draining acid loamy soils over rock - Low fertility, medium carbon retention, suited to grassland with potential for year-round grazing.
- Soilscape 15: Naturally wet very acid sandy and loamy soils - Very low fertility, medium carbon retention, highly productive, where not stony, and suitable for cereals, roots, potatoes and vegetables.
- Soilscape 16: Very acid loamy upland soils with a wet peaty surface -Very low fertility, high carbon retention, most only support rough grazing of low or moderate grazing value.
- Soilscape 17: Slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils – Impeded drainage, low fertility, medium carbon retention, mostly suited to grass production for dairying or beef; some cereal production often for feed.

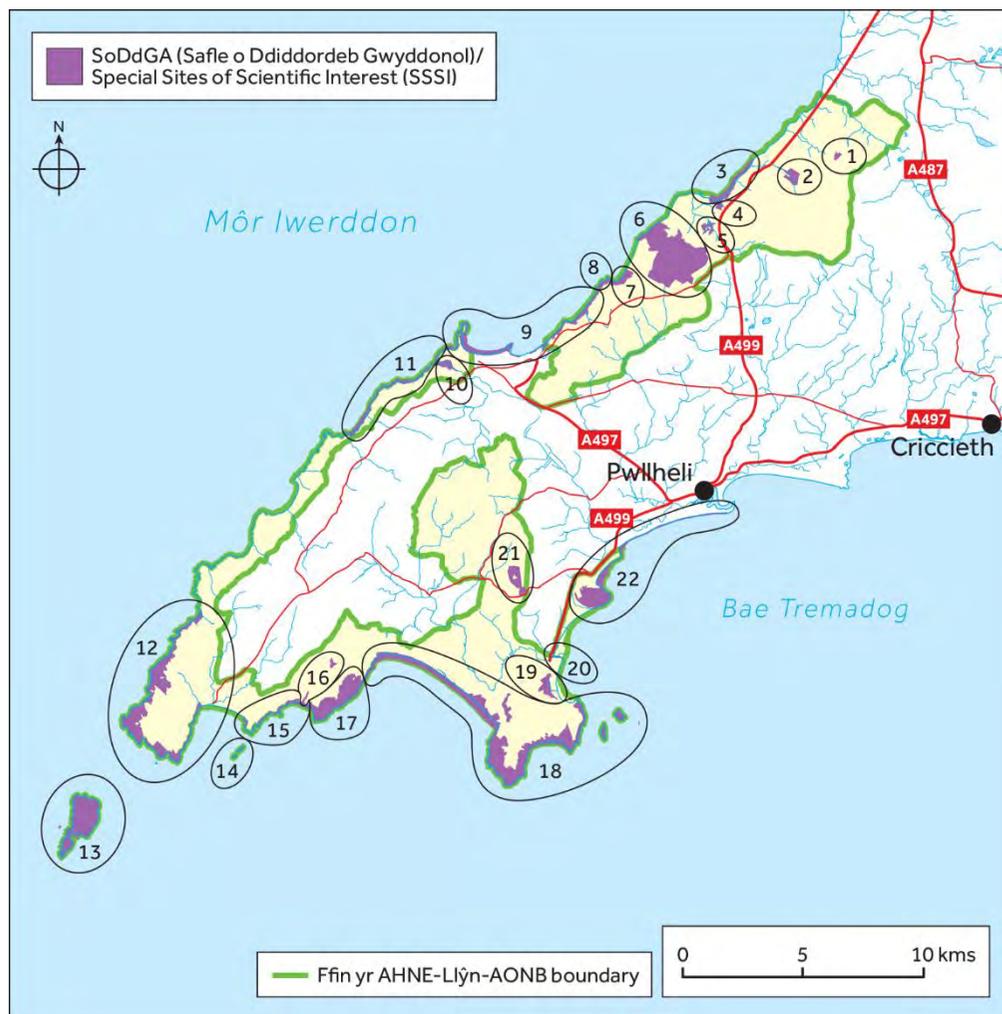
Reference: Brenchley, P.J., Rushton, A.W.A., Howells, M. & Cave, R. (2006). Cambrian and Ordovician: the early Palaeozoic tectonostratigraphic evolution of the Welsh basin, Midland and Monian Terranes of Eastern Avalonia. In: Brenchley & Rawson, P.F. (eds), *The Geology of England and Wales*, 2nd Edn, p 25-74, The Geological Society, London.

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British Geological Survey [https://osdatahub.os.uk/downloads/open/BGS\\_Geology\\_625k](https://osdatahub.os.uk/downloads/open/BGS_Geology_625k) and [https://osdatahub.os.uk/downloads/open/Soil\\_Parent\\_Material\\_Model\\_1km](https://osdatahub.os.uk/downloads/open/Soil_Parent_Material_Model_1km) Contains British Geological Survey materials © 2025 LandIS, the “Land Information System”, is an environmental information system operated by Cranfield University, <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>

## SSSI coverage in the AONB

In 2024, there are 22 designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the AONB, occupying 2,182.9 ha (14%) of its area.



| Map ref | SSSI Name   | SSSI Type  | Area within the AONB (ha) | % of area within the AONB |
|---------|---|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1       | Caeau Tan y Bwlch                                   | Biological | 6.4                       | 100                       |
| 2       | Coed Cwmgwared                                      | Biological | 28.9                      | 100                       |
| 3       | Gwydir Bay  | Geological | 54.8                      | 100                       |
| 4       | Cappas Lwyd   | Biological | 7                         | 100                       |
| 5       | Coed Elernion                                       | Biological | 17                        | 100                       |
| 6       | Yr Eifl   | Mixed      | 425                       | 100                       |
| 7       | Gallt y Bwlch                                       | Biological | 23.3                      | 100                       |
| 8       | Carreg y Llam                                       | Biological | 13.6                      | 100                       |
| 9       | Porth Dinlaen I Borth Pistyll                       | Mixed      | 69.7                      | 54                        |
| 10      | Aber Geirch   | Biological | 18.4                      | 100                       |
| 11      | Porth Towyn I Borth Wen                             | Biological | 62.1                      | 84                        |
| 12      | Glannau Aberdaron                                   | Mixed      | 304.1                     | 100                       |
| 13      | Ynys Enlli  | Biological | 199.3                     | 96.6                      |
| 14      | Ynysoedd y Gwylanod, Gwylan Islands                 | Biological | 4.9                       | 100                       |
| 15      | Wig Bach a'r Glannau I Borth Alwm                   | Mixed      | 43.6                      | 100                       |
| 16      | Benallt Mine and Nant y Gadwen                      | Geological | 12                        | 100                       |
| 17      | Mynydd Penarfynnydd                                 | Mixed      | 161.2                     | 100                       |
| 18      | Porth Ceiriad, Porth Neigwl ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal | Mixed      | 520.7                     | 93.2                      |
| 19      | Cors Llyferin                                       | Biological | 32.8                      | 100                       |
| 20      | Pen Benar   | Geological | 0.8                       | 99.6                      |
| 21      | Foel Gron a Thir Comin Mynytho                      | Mixed      | 47.3                      | 100                       |
| 22      | Mynydd Tir y Cwmwd a'r Glannau At Garreg yr Imbill  | Mixed      | 130                       | 79                        |

There is no data on the overall condition of each site or on the condition of individual features within in each site.

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## Seabirds Count

Between 2000 and 2021, there has been a 17% increase overall in birds counted.

| Site                | Seabirds Count (adjusted) | Count years | Count in 2000 | Change      |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| Carreg y Llam       | 12,164                    | 2018-21     | 9,389         | +30%        |
| Porth Gwylan        | 6                         | 2016        | 8             | -25%        |
| Porth Lago          | 15                        | 2016        | 21            | -29%        |
| Braich Anellog      | 38                        | 2016        | 19            | +100%       |
| Maen Du             | 81                        | 2016        | 96            | -16%        |
| Ynys Plod           | 29                        | 2016        | 6             | +383%       |
| Ynys Enlli          | 3,830                     | 2018        | 2,798         | +37%        |
| Ynsoedd Gwylan      | 339                       | 2015-18     | 789           | -57%        |
| Trwyn Penrhyn       | 28                        | 2016        | 8             | +250%       |
| Ebolion             | 7                         | 2016        | 8             | -13%        |
| Maen Gwenonwy       | 3                         | 2016        | 4             | -25%        |
| Penarfynydd         | 16                        | 2016        | 44            | -64%        |
| Trwyn Cilan         | 1,801                     | 2016        | 3,300         | -45%        |
| Murian              | 58                        | 2016        | 39            | +49%        |
| Porth Ceiriad       | 13                        | 2016        | 59            | -78%        |
| Ynsoedd Sant Tudwal | 2,776                     | 2016-21     | 1,608         | +73%        |
| <b>Total birds</b>  | <b>21,204</b>             |             | <b>18,196</b> | <b>+17%</b> |

The results from Seabirds Count, the fourth census of Britain and Ireland's internationally important populations of breeding seabirds, were published on 16 November 2023.

Source: Burnell, D., Perkins, A.J., Newton, S.F., Bolton, M., Tierney, T.D. & Dunn, T.E., 2023. Seabirds Count: a census of breeding seabirds in Britain and Ireland (2015–2021). Lynx Nature Books, Barcelona. <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/63f0ea40-485d-46dd-b967-150df90a7b2b>

## Location of subtidal seagrass

There is a decline in the seagrass beds, damage may be from recreational activities (anchoring).



Seagrass beds develop in intertidal and shallow subtidal areas on sands and muds. They may be found in marine inlets and bays but also in other areas, such as lagoons and channels, which are sheltered from significant wave action. Three species of *Zostera* occur in the UK, and all are considered to be scarce.

- Dwarf eelgrass *Zostera noltii* is found highest on the shore, often adjacent to lower saltmarsh communities.
- Narrow-leaved eelgrass *Zostera angustifolia* on the mid to lower shore, and
- Eelgrass *Zostera marina* predominantly in the sublittoral.

The plants stabilise the substratum, are an important source of organic matter, and provide shelter and a surface for attachment by other species. Where this habitat is well developed, the leaves may be colonised by diatoms and algae such as *Enteromorpha* spp, *Cladophora rectangularis*, *Rhodophysemma georgii*, *Ceramium rubrum*, stalked jellyfish and anemones.

### Vulnerability:

The seagrass beds of the Llŷn are some of the best in the UK, it is possible that recent decline is linked to recreational activity (Liley, D. & Saunders, P. (2024): Recreation and the environment on the Llŷn. Report by Footprint Ecology)

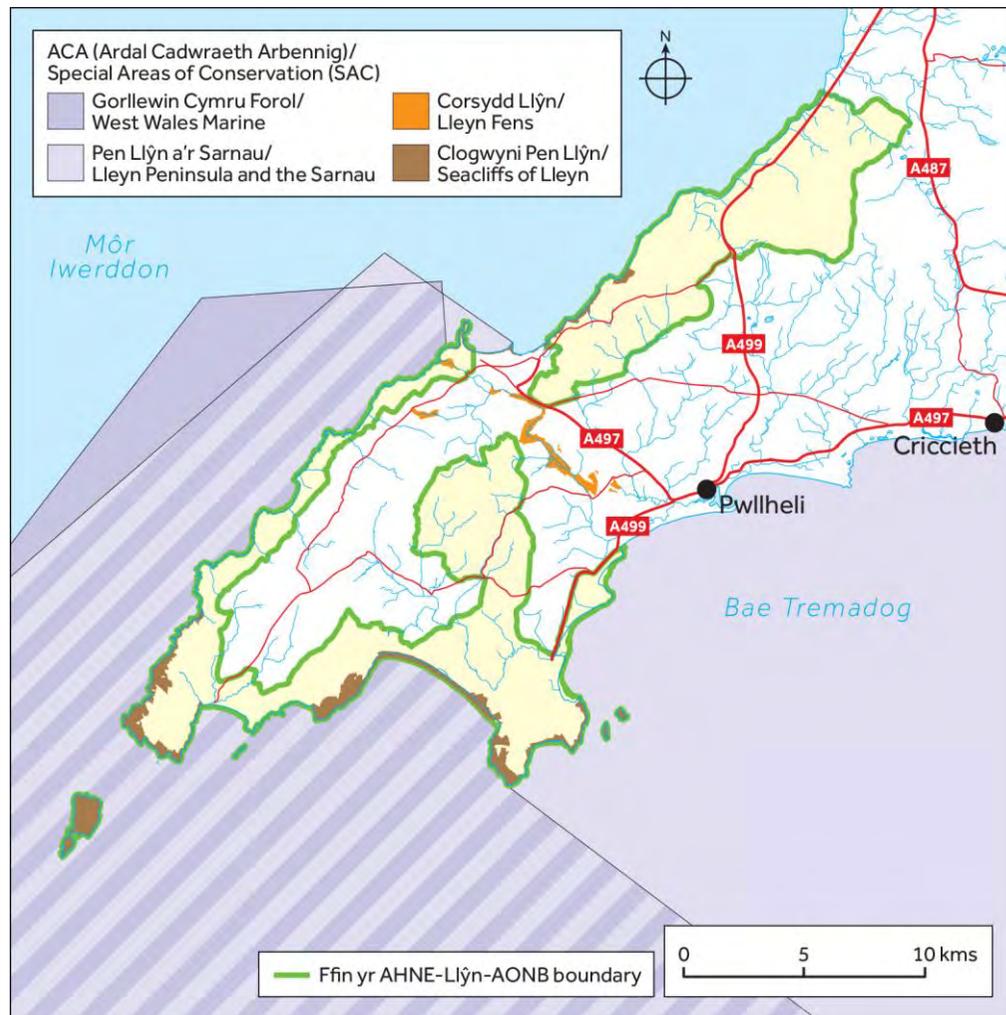
### Seagrass Ocean Rescue

The UK has lost up to 90% of its seagrass meadows in the past century. In 2019, Swansea University, the charity Project Seagrass and WWF-UK formed a collaboration to begin to restore sites through re seeding. In North Wales, Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau and the North Wales Wildlife Trust have joined the partnership.

Source: UK Biodiversity Action Plan; Priority Habitat Descriptions. BRIG (ed. Ant Maddock) 2008. <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/6e4e3ed1-117d-423c-a57d-785c8855f28c/UKBAP-BAPHabitats-49-SeagrassBeds.pdf> see <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/marine-habitat-data-product-habitat-suitability-models/#zostera-marina-beds> Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024.

## Special Areas of Conservation in the AONB

There are 4 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the AONB occupying 1,324.8 ha (8.5%) of the AONB.



### Clogwyni Pen Llŷn / Seacliffs of Llyn SAC

Area in AONB (ha) 1,030.9 | % of SAC in AONB 98.3

Relevant SSSIs in AONB (fully or partially)

Gallt Y Bwlch  
Glannau Aberdaron  
Mynydd Penarfynnydd  
Porth Ceiriad, Porth Neigwl ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal  
Porth Dinllaen I Borth Pistyll  
Ynys Enlli

### Corsydd Llŷn / Llyn Fens SAC

Area in AONB (ha) 18.4 | % of SAC in AONB 6.5

Relevant SSSIs in AONB (fully or partially)

Aber Geirch

### Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau / Llyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC

Area in AONB (ha) 275.5 | % of SAC in AONB 0.2

Relevant SSSIs in AONB (fully or partially)

Glannau Aberdaron  
Mynydd Tir y Cwmwd a'r Glannau hyd at Garreg Yr Imbill  
Porth Ceiriad, Porth Neigwl ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal  
Porth Dinllaen I Borth Pistyll  
Porth Towyn I Borth Wen  
Wig Bach a'r Glannau i Borth Alwm  
Ynys Enlli

### West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol SAC

Adjoins the AONB coastline

Relevant SSSIs in AONB (fully or partially)

Ynysoedd y Gwylanod, Gwylan Islands

## Condition of designated features 2025

| Feature  | Condition assessment |        |
|--|----------------------|--------|
| Reefs  | Unfavourable         | Red    |
| Large shallow inlets and bays                                  | Favourable           | Green  |
| Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time  | Favourable           | Green  |
| Estuaries  | Favourable           | Green  |
| Coastal lagoons  | Unfavourable         | Red    |
| Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide     | Favourable           | Green  |
| Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> | Unfavourable         | Red    |
| Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand           | Favourable           | Green  |
| Submerged or partially submerged sea caves                     | Unknown              | Yellow |
| Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>                            | Favourable           | Green  |
| Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>                   | Favourable           | Green  |
| Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>                                       | Unfavourable         | Red    |

SACs are protected areas in the UK to conserve important natural habitats and rare, endangered, or characteristic wild fauna and flora.

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Hatton-Ellis, M., Wynter, E., Jackson-Bué, M. and Cuthbertson, S. (2025): Condition Assessments for the Designated Features of Ardal Cadwraeth Arbennig Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau / Llyn Peninsula and the Sarnau Special Area of Conservation. NRW Evidence Report No. 908, 232pp, Natural Resources Wales, Cardiff.

## Special Protection Areas in the AONB

There are two Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the AONB occupying 881 ha (5.7%) of the AONB.



### Glannau Aberdaron ac Ynys Enlli / Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island SPA

|   |   |            |
|---|---|------------|
| Area in AONB (ha) / % of SPA in AONB        | 508.2   | 1.5%       |
| Relevant SSSIs in AONB (fully or partially) | Glannau Aberdaron<br>Ynys Enlli<br>Ynysoedd y Gwylanod, Gwylan Islands<br>Wig Bach a'r Glannau I Borth Alwm |            |
| Condition of designated features            | Manx shearwater<br><i>Puffinus puffinus</i>   | Favourable |

### Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn y Wylfa ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal SPA / Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn y Wylfa and the St Tudwal Islands SPA

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Area in AONB (ha) / % of SPA in AONB        | 372.8   | 100%  |
| Relevant SSSIs in AONB (fully or partially) | Porth Ceiriad, Porth Neigwl ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal |   |
| Condition of designated features            | Chough<br><i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>             | Threat from biocenotic evolution (succession), grazing and problematic native species |

SPAs are protected areas for birds in the UK to conserve populations of rare, vulnerable, and regularly occurring migratory wild birds and their essential habitats, both on land and at sea.

Source: Hatton-Ellis, M., Murphy, M. Cuthbertson, S., Jackson-Bué, M. and Wynter, E. 2025. Condition assessment for the designated feature of Ardal Gwarchodaeth Arbennig Glannau Aberdaron and Ynys Enlli / Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island. NRW Evidence Report No: 914, 17pp, Natural Resources Wales, Cardiff. Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000849444. Crown Copyright and Database Right

## RAMSAR site just outside the AONB

There are no RAMSAR sites within the AONB but one is adjacent to the AONB



### Corsydd Môn a Llŷn / Anglesey and Llŷn Fens

An internationally important suite of base-rich fens comprised of six component sites, supporting a range of associated floral and faunal rarities. The six wetlands occupy valley heads and former lake basins which have mostly infilled with marl and peat deposits, with open water persisting at two of the sites. Calcareous springs from limestone and calcareous drift aquifers irrigate the fens and result in a distinctive vegetation. These fens are notable as the best sites in Wales for stoneworts.

The sites are at risk from vegetation succession, drainage, eutrophication and pollution (from agricultural fertilisers).

A Ramsar Site is a wetland of international importance, designated under the global Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands) for its ecological value, aiming for its "wise use" and conservation through local, national, and international efforts, protecting crucial habitats for waterbirds, biodiversity, and sustainable development.

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## National Nature Reserves in the AONB

There are two NNRs in the AONB occupying 219.9 ha (1.4%) of the area.



| NNR Name   | Area within AONB (ha) | % of area within the AONB |
|------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Ynys Enlli | 178.6                 | 100                       |
| Yr Eifl    | 39.3                  | 100                       |

National Nature Reserves are set up to conserve and to allow people to study their wildlife, habitats or geological features of special interest.

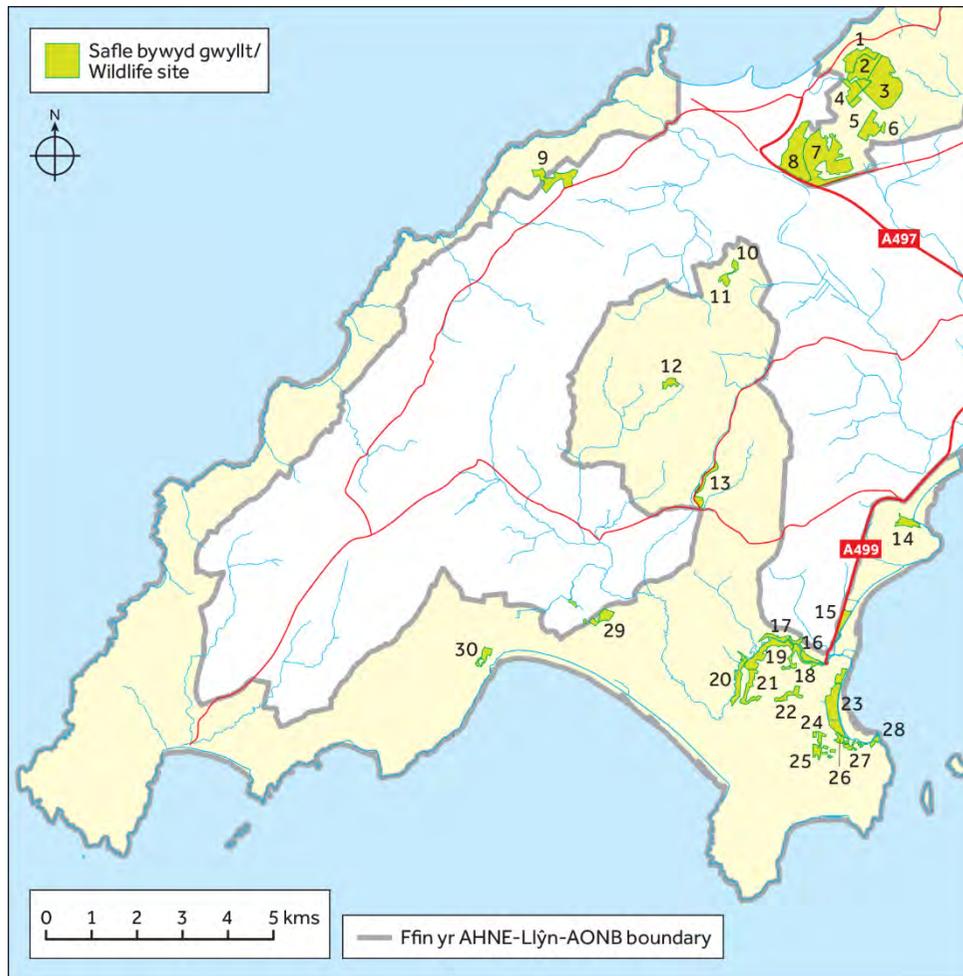
Ynys Enlli lies 3km from the tip of the peninsula. Mynydd Enlli – the ‘mountain’ – stands at 167m high, covered in bright pink thrift, purple heather, and rare golden lichens. Enlli is home to a working farm, thriving lobster and crab fishery, a Bird Observatory and spectacular wildlife, including over 200 Atlantic grey seals, a growing population of Manx shearwaters and the Chough. In 2023, Ynys Enlli (Bardsey Island) received International Dark Sky Sanctuary certification by the International Dark Skies Association. This makes Enlli the first site in Europe to achieve this status.

Yr Eifl was designated as a National Nature Reserve due to its heathland; there is also a population of breeding Choughs. “Yr Eifl” (The Rivals) are the highest mountains on the Llŷn Peninsula with three peaks - Tre'r Ceiri (485m), Garn Ganol (564m), and Garn Fôr (444m).

Source: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000849444. Crown Copyright and Database Right. The Bardsey Island Trust website accessed September 2025 <https://enlli.org/>

## Local wildlife sites

In 2025, there were 30 'Wildlife Sites' covering 421.6 ha (2.7%) of the area.

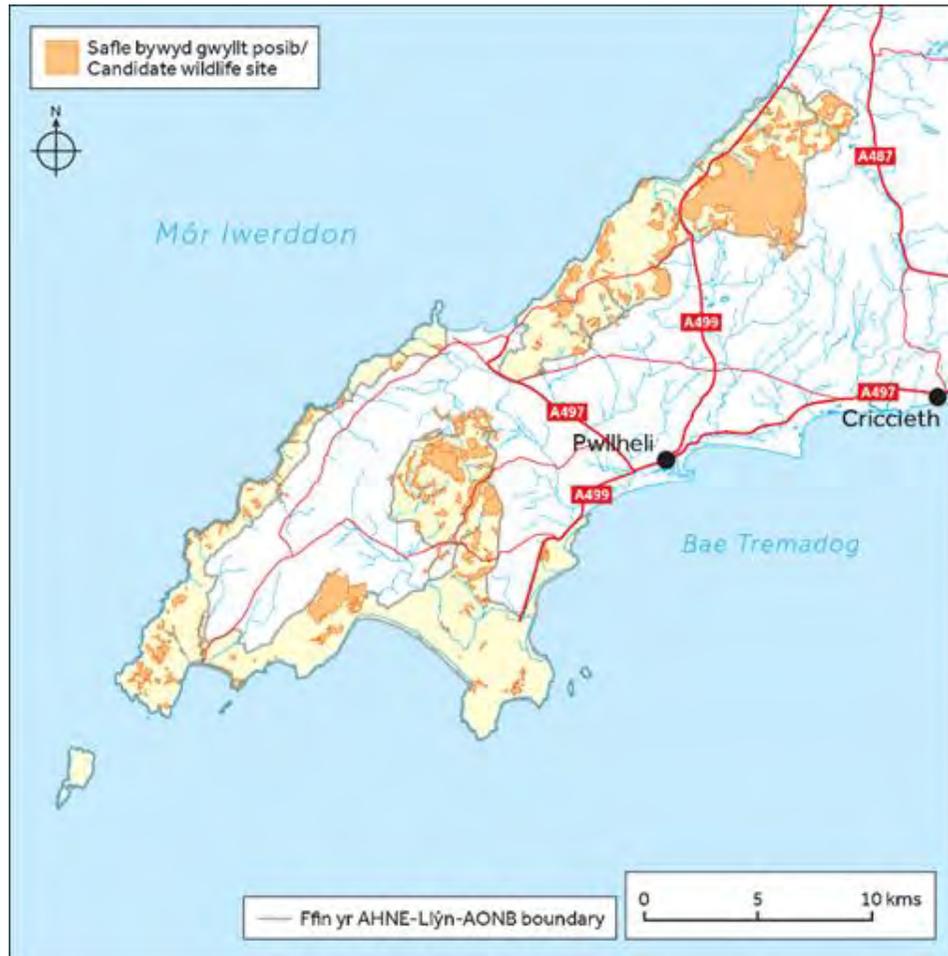


### Allwedd/Legend

- 1 Chwarel Bodeilias
- 2 Mynydd Nefyn 4
- 3 Mynydd Nefyn 1
- 4 Mynydd Nefyn 2
- 5 Mynydd Nefyn 3
- 6 Cerniog Bach & Isaf
- 7 Garn Boduan
- 8 Fflat orllewinol Garn Boduan
- 9 Min y Rhos
- 10 Coed Dinam
- 11 Coed Creigiau-cathod
- 12 Wierglodd Garn / Rhos
- 13 Bodlondeb
- 14 Coed Bachellyn
- 15 Trwyn-y-Fach
- 16 Afon Soch (Gogledd Ddwyrain)
- 17 Afon Soch (Gogledd Orllewin)
- 18 Afon Soch (De-ddwyrain)
- 19 Afon Soch (De Orllewin)
- 20 Dwyllan Bellaf / Dwyllan
- 21 Craigfryn
- 22 Creigir Goch
- 23 Abersoch, Borth Fawr
- 24 Pant Gwyn
- 25 Bwlchtocyn
- 26 Macroes Mosaic (Gorllewin)
- 27 Macroes Mosaic (Dwyrain)
- 28 Penrhyn Du
- 29 Tyn Lon
- 30 Plas yn Rhiw

In the emerging Gwynedd Local Development Plan, the Constraints Maps include '**Wildlife Sites**'. The map shows 30 'Wildlife Sites' covering an area of 421.6 ha within the AONB.

'Wildlife Sites' is the term used to cover those sites referred to in Planning Policy Wales as Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs). They hold habitats and species of high nature conservation value but without a statutory designation, therefore being of local importance. They have been ratified following a detailed site survey and assessment against a set of criteria.



In the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan (Adopted 2017), the Constraints Maps included ‘**Candidate Wildlife Sites**’ (those that are potentially worthy of consideration). Those maps show 250 ‘Wildlife Sites’ and ‘Candidate Wildlife Sites’ fully or partially within the AONB, covering 3,972.9 ha.

Further research is needed to confirm the status of the ‘Candidate Wildlife Sites’ identified in 2017.

Source: Cyngor Gwynedd 2026 (OS Public Sector End User Licence); Gwynedd Local Development Plan (the new Plan) <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Joint-Local-Development-Plan/Cynllun-Datblygu-Lleol-ar-y-Cyd-diwygiedig/Gwynedd-Local-Development-Plan-the-new-Plan.aspx>; LUC (2021): State of the AONB Report 2021 For the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

## Quality of coastal waters

In 2024, two blocks of coastal waters had good ecological and chemical status; one had a moderate chemical status.



The UK Water Framework Directive are an important mechanism for monitoring waterbodies for a range of issues, including pollution from chemicals and excess nutrients, as well as the health of wildlife communities such as plants and fish. Waterbodies are rated as high, good, moderate, poor or bad status. Only the waterbodies that are described as 'good' or 'high' are in a sustainable and healthy condition; the rest all need a greater level of protection and management if they are to improve to a good level of health.

|                      | Status                |   |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Caernarfon Bay South | Good <sup>1</sup>     | Ecological status is good, chemical status is high.       |
| Cardigan Bay North   | Moderate <sup>2</sup> | Ecological status is good but chemical status is moderate |
| Tremadog Bay         | Good <sup>1</sup>     | Ecological status is good, chemical status is high.       |

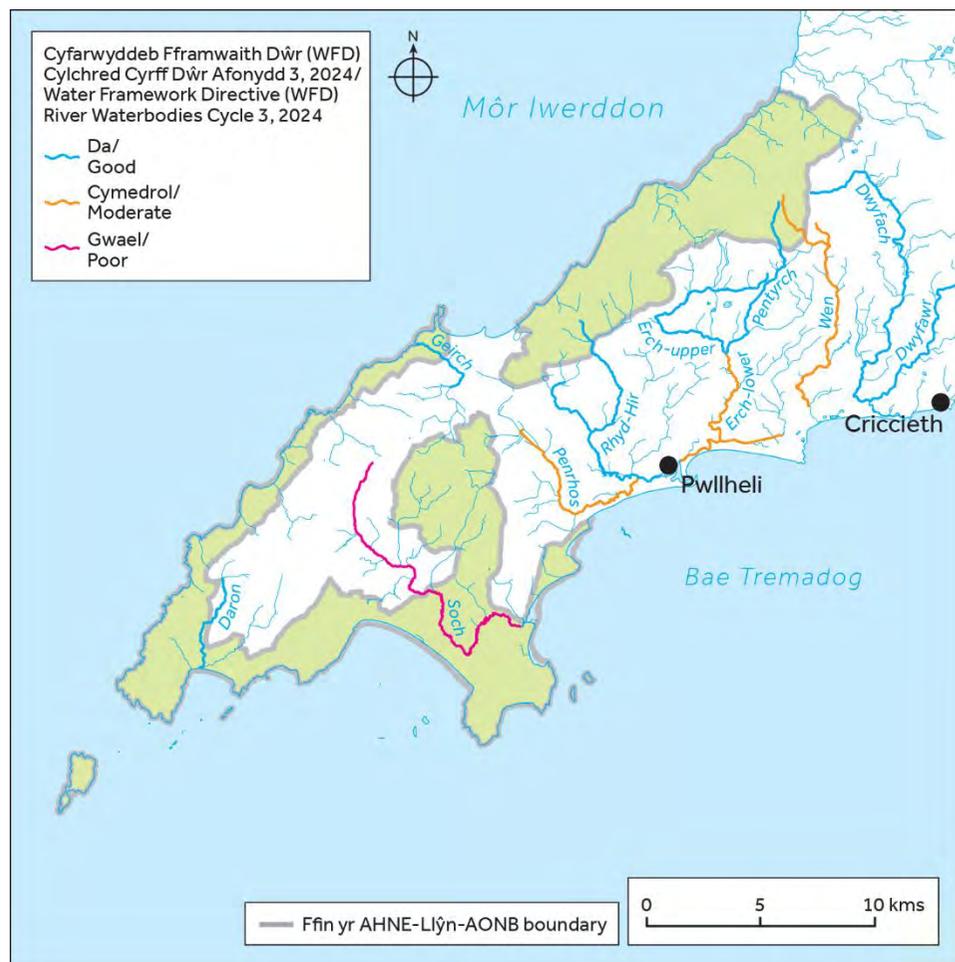
1 = Slight change from natural state because of human impact.

2 = Moderate change from natural state because of human impact.

Source: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000849444. Crown Copyright and Database Right. Wales Environmental Information Portal - WFD Coastal Cycle 3 2024 Interim. <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/water-reports/water-quality/assessment-of-water-quality-in-wales-2024/?lang=en>

## Ecological status of rivers

In 2024, 38% of rivers in the AONB were in a good ecological state (up from 24% in 2020); 50% were in a poor state (0% in 2020). The River Geirch has risen from a moderate to good status while the River Soch has fallen from a moderate to poor status.



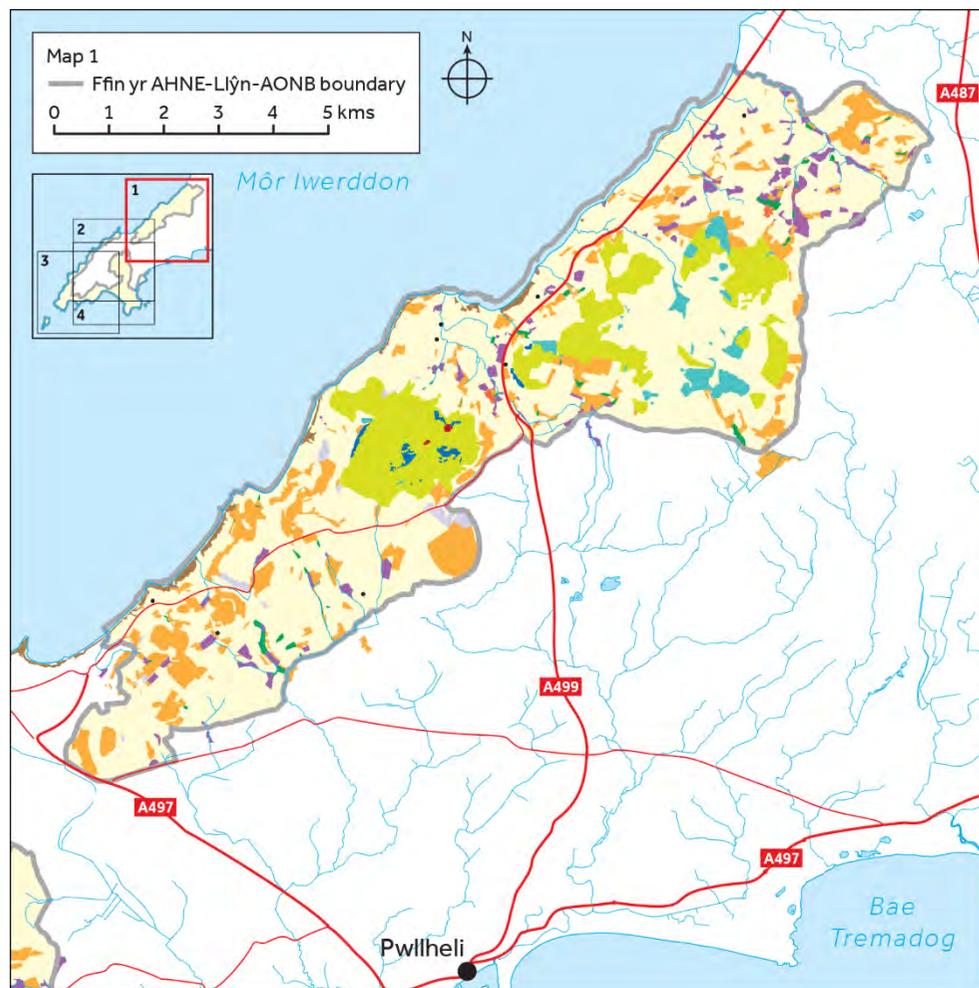
The UK Water Framework Directive are an important mechanism for monitoring waterbodies for a range of issues, including pollution from chemicals and excess nutrients, as well as the health of wildlife communities such as plants and fish. Waterbodies are rated as high, good, moderate, poor or bad status. Only the waterbodies that are described as 'good' or 'high' are in a sustainable and healthy condition; the rest all need a greater level of protection and management if they are to improve to a good level of health.

| Description   | Status                     | Length of river water bodies (km) |              |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
|   |                            | 2024                              | 2020         |
| Natural or almost natural state with no, or only minor evidence of distortion | High                       | 0                                 | 0            |
| Slight change from natural state because of human impact.                     | Good                       | 7.61                              | 4.78         |
| Moderate change from natural state because of human impact.                   | Moderate                   | 2.42                              | 15.32        |
| Major change from natural state because of human activity.                    | Poor                       | 10.08                             | 0            |
| Severe change from natural state because of human activity.                   | Bad                        | 0                                 | 0            |
|   | No status                  | 0                                 | 0            |
|   | <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>20.11</b>                      | <b>20.11</b> |
|   | % with High or Good status | <b>38%</b>                        | <b>24%</b>   |

Source: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000849444. Crown Copyright and Database Right. Wales Environmental Information Portal - WFD River Waterbodies Cycle 3 2024 interim. <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/water-reports/water-quality/assessment-of-water-quality-in-wales-2024/?lang=en>

## Area of habitats of principal importance

In 2025, there are 3,602 ha of habitats of principal importance, covering 23% of the AONB.



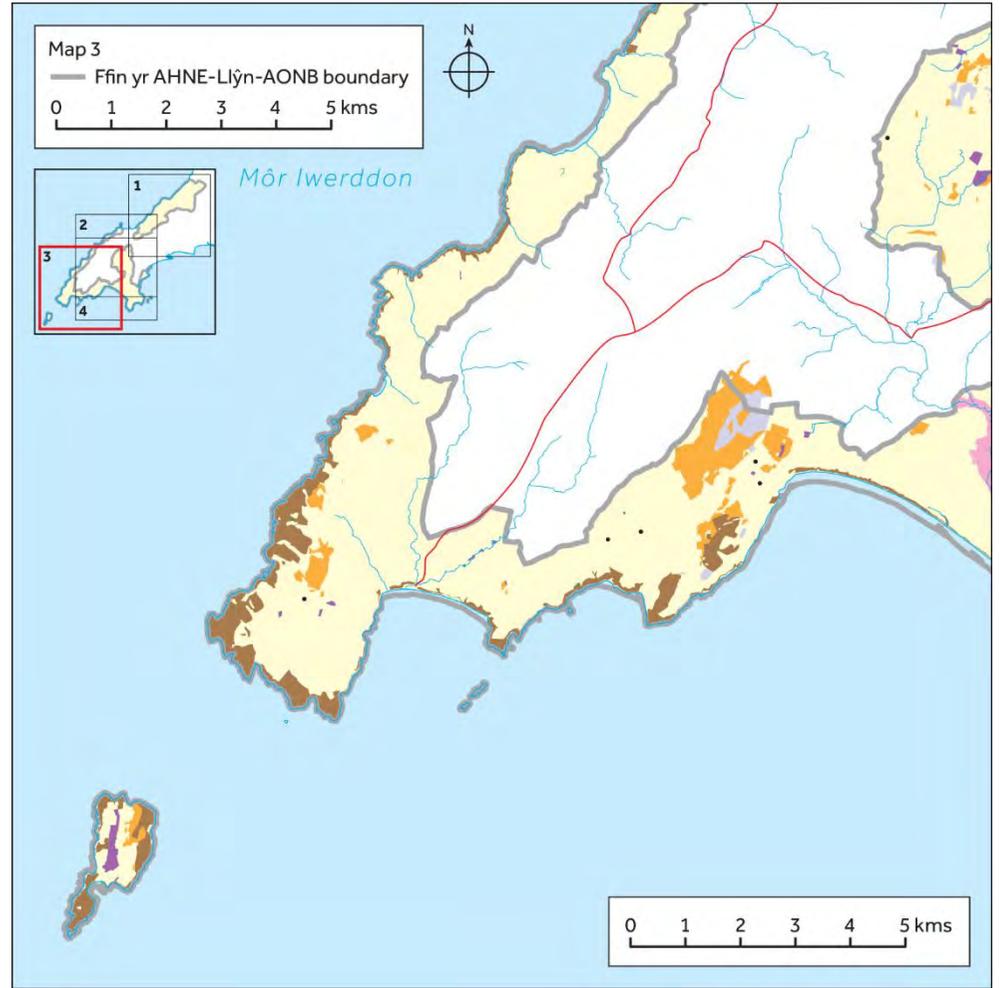
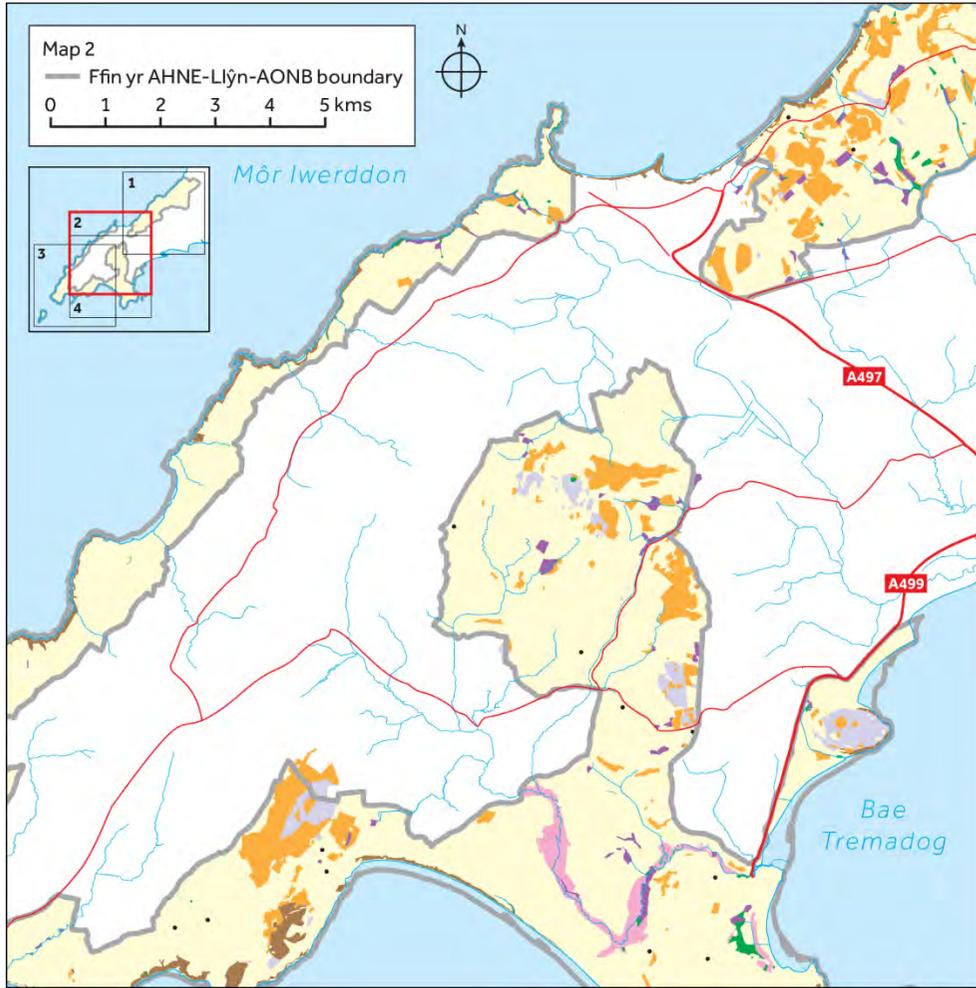
### Allwedd/Legend

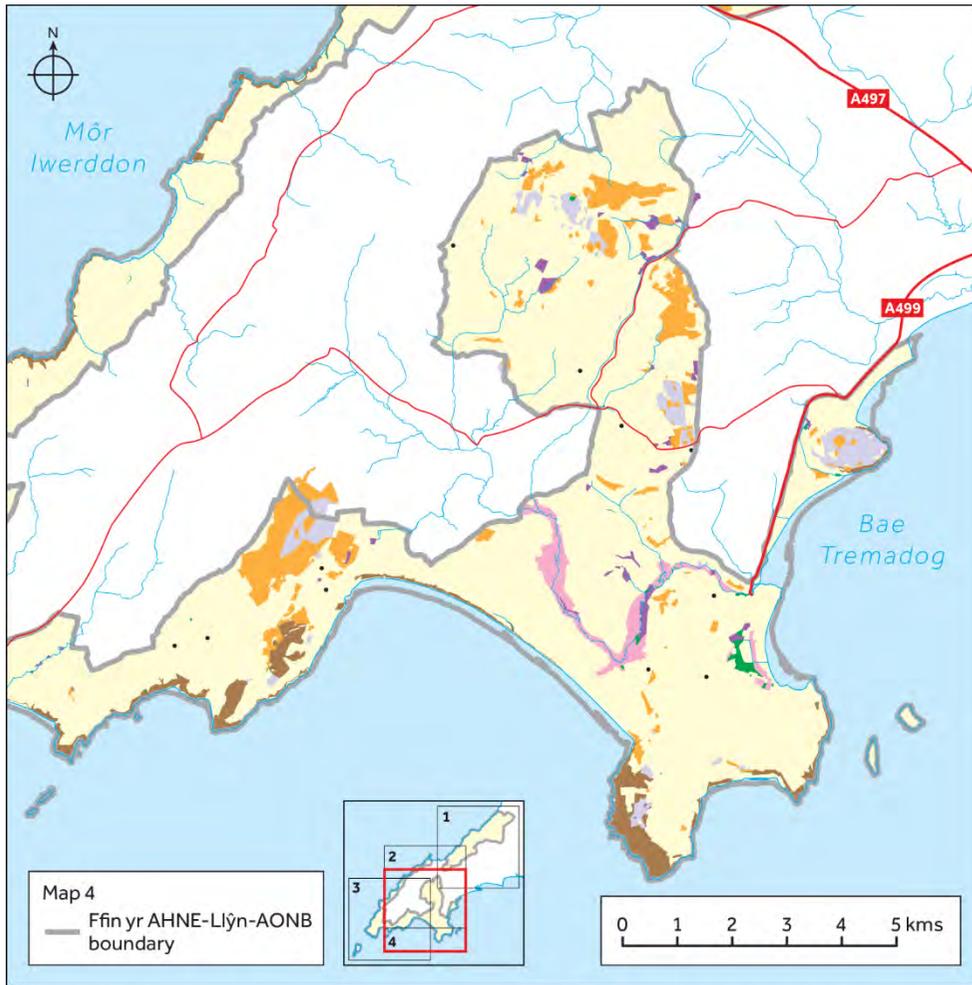
- Brigiad creigiog a sgri/  
Rock outcrop and scree
- Clogwyn a llethr morwrol/  
Maritime cliff and slope
- Corgors/  
Blanket bog
- Cors pori arfordirol a glaswelltir gorlifdir/  
Coast grazing marsh and floodplain grassland
- Cors a gwely cyrs iseldir/  
Lowland fen and reedbed
- Dôl iseldir/  
Lowland meadow
- Glaswelltir asid sych iseldir/  
Lowland dry acid grassland
- Glaswellt y gweunydd a phorfa brwyn/  
Purple moor grass and rush pasture
- Mae ucheldir yn llifo i mewn i ffen a chors/  
Upland flushes fen and swamp
- Perllan draddodiadol/  
Traditional orchard
- Rhostir iseldir/  
Lowland heathland
- Rhostir ucheldirol/  
Upland heathland

Under the Environment (Wales) Act (2016), Section 7 requires biodiversity lists to be produced. These lists include types of habitats that are of "Principal Importance" for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales.

This dataset was created using Priority Habitats of Wales Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and Broad Habitats, both of which are derived from Phase 1 Terrestrial habitat and species surveys conducted across Wales.

| Habitats of principal importance in ha       | 2025<br>ha     |
|--|----------------|
| Inland rock outcrops and scree               | 22.1           |
| Maritime cliff and slopes                    | 684.8          |
| Blanket bog                                  | 2.2            |
| Coast grazing marsh and floodplain grassland | 165.6          |
| Lowland fens and reed beds                   | 62.6           |
| Lowland meadows                              | 4.5            |
| Lowland dry acid grassland                   | 1,144.4        |
| Upland flushes, fens and swamps              | 80.6           |
| Traditional orchards                         | 0.8            |
| Purple moor grass and rush pastures          | 249.3          |
| Lowland heathland                            | 474.8          |
| Upland heathland                             | 710.7          |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>3,602.4</b> |





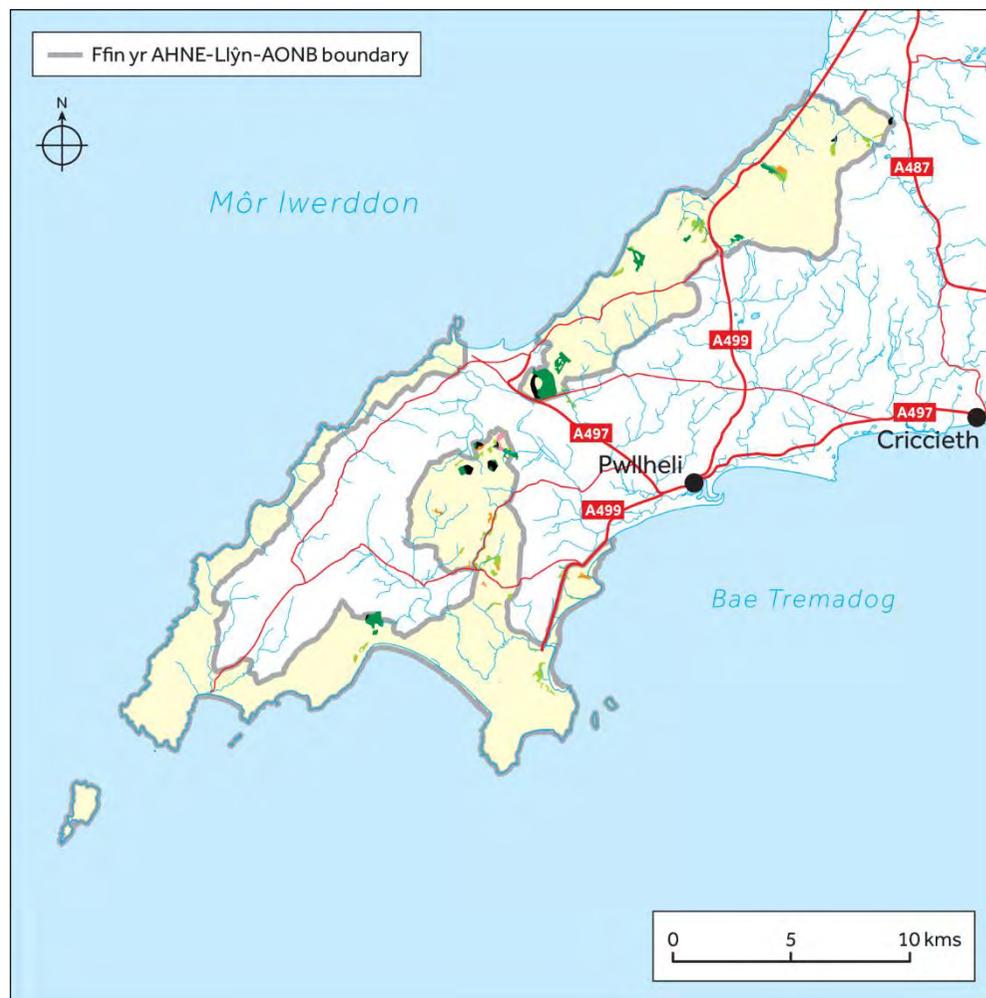
#### Of the 26 orchards found in the AONB:

- 2 are classed as 'Definitely is Traditional Orchard priority habitat' (Gilfach – Excellent condition (0.08 ha), and Plas yn Rhiw – Good condition (0.79 ha)),
- 4 are classed as 'Priority traditional orchard habitat may be present, but evidence is insufficient to determine presence confidently',
- 6 are classed as 'Probably traditional orchard priority habitat but some uncertainty',
- 14 are classed as 'Site does not meet priority habitat criteria'.

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[https://datamap.gov.wales/layergroups/geonode%3Anrw\\_terrestrial\\_sections\\_7\\_habitats](https://datamap.gov.wales/layergroups/geonode%3Anrw_terrestrial_sections_7_habitats)

## Area of woodland (by National Forest Inventory types)

In 2025, there are 604 ha of woodland covering 4% of the AONB with the distribution of National Forest Inventory\* types



| Allwedd/Legend             | Inventory type | 2019       | 2025       |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| Llydanddail/Broadleaved    | Broadleaved    | 321        | 257        |
| Conwydd/Coniferous         | Conifer        | 132        | 230        |
| Wedi'u torri i lawr/Felled | Felled         | 78         | 61         |
| Cymysg/Mixed               | Mixed          | 23         | 36         |
| Llwyn/Shrub                | Shrub          | 8          | 3          |
| Coed ifanc/Young trees     | Young trees    | 63         | 17         |
|                            | <b>Totals</b>  | <b>625</b> | <b>604</b> |

\* **Note:** There is an under-count for the Llŷn. The NFI covers any forest or woodland of at least 0.5 hectares in area with a minimum width of 20 m, and that have at least 20% tree canopy cover (or the potential to achieve this) (this ensures that the NFI outputs are compatible with outputs from other European forest inventories). Consequently, many small parcels of woodland on the peninsula are missed.

Source: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000849444. Crown Copyright and Database Right. [https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW\\_NIWT](https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW_NIWT)

## Ancient woodland

In 2025, there are 255 ha of woodland covering 1.6% of the AONB.



| Inventory categories                      | 2021  | 2025  |
|---|-------|-------|
| Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland             | 24.5  | 24.6  |
| Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites      | 88.2  | 88.1  |
| Restored Ancient Woodland Sites           | 98.93 | 98.6  |
| Ancient Woodland Site of Unknown Category | 43.47 | 43.5  |
|   | 255.1 | 254.8 |

The Ancient Woodland Inventory places woodland into one of four categories:

- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland - Broadleaf woodlands with mainly native tree and shrub species which are believed to have been in existence for over 400 years.
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites - Sites which are believed to have been continuously wooded for over 400 years and currently have a canopy cover of more than 50 percent non-native conifer tree species.
- Restored Ancient Woodland Sites\* - Woodlands which are believed to have been continually wooded for over 400 years. These woodlands will have gone through a phase when canopy cover was more than 50% non-native conifer tree species and now have a canopy cover of more than 50 percent broadleaf.
- Ancient Woodland Site of Unknown Category - Woodlands which may be any of the three categories above. These areas are mainly in transition and existing tree cover is described as 'shrubs', 'young trees', 'felled' or 'ground prepared for planting'

\* The phrase 'restored ancient woodland' describes woodland which appears, with the use of remote sensing techniques, to have returned to a more natural condition. The inventory designation does not mean that the woodland is fully restored or that it is in good ecological condition.

Source: Natural Resources Wales <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/browse-map-of-data-about-the-natural-environment/?lang=en>

## Extent of woodland creation grant scheme areas

This scheme provides financial support for small areas of tree planting on land between 0.1 hectare and 2 hectares.



Under this scheme, the application process provides a quick and simple way of ensuring proposals meet the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) requirements without needing to send a woodland creation plan for verification to NRW.

Planting can be:

- shelterwoods
- alongside watercourses,
- in field corners/small fields
- stock shelter
- biodiversity
- wood-fuel

Trees must be planted on land that is:

- agriculturally improved, or
- of low environmental value

Source: Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. <https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/small-grants-woodland-creation-2025/> Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown Copyright 2025.

# Cultural heritage

## In this section:

|   |    |
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| Welsh language and culture .....                  | 74 |
| Registered historic landscapes .....              | 77 |
| Number and type of heritage assets .....          | 79 |
| Location and condition of conservation areas..... | 85 |

## The special qualities

### The Welsh language and culture

Llŷn is one of the heartlands of the Welsh language, it is part of the special culture of the area. Here, the Welsh language is a live language and is used daily in the home, chapels and churches, in school, shops, the workplace and on the street. Religion continues to play an important part in the culture of the people of Llŷn. In times gone by, the saints were very prominent, and regular pilgrimages were made to Bardsey Island. Many local churches were dedicated to the early saints. Later, chapels were set up by different denominations across Llŷn. Linked to the chapels came the Eisteddfod tradition that continues to this day. There is a great wealth of stories, tales, folklore and legends associated with the Llŷn Peninsula. Information can be found from a variety of written and recorded sources such as Llên Gwerin Sir Gaernarfon by John Jones (Myrddin Fardd) 1908. Welsh placenames can be seen throughout the area and are an important part of the area's cultural character.

### The historic environment

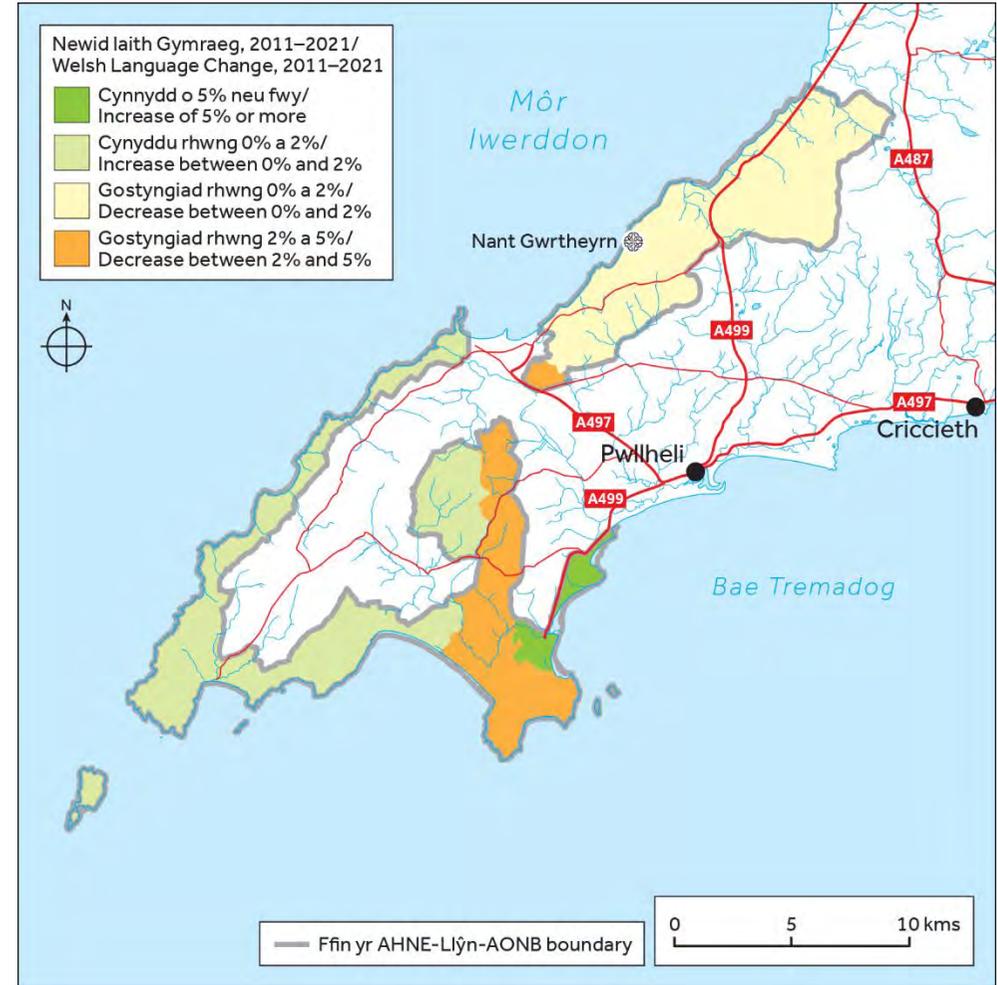
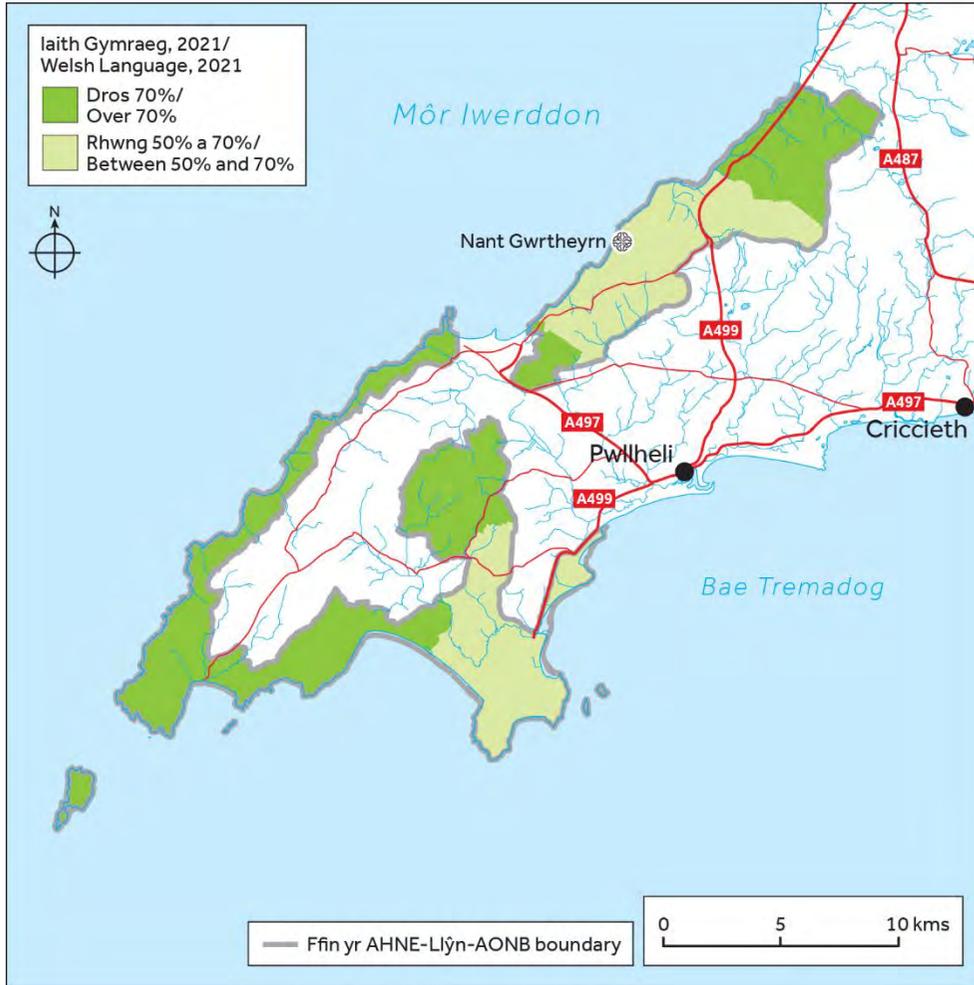
People have lived in Llŷn for thousands of years. Archaeological remains and distinctive field and settlement patterns link today with the distant past. The most striking remains from early civilisation in the area are the Iron Age hill forts found on many hills in the area. Religion has left its mark on Llŷn – in terms of the landscape, its history, the society and the culture. From a more recent era, remains of former industries of Llŷn such as the granite quarries and mineral mining, survive. The ordinary people of Llŷn lived in cottages – and usually, these were built in a simple way and in very little time. Those that have survived have been re-roofed with slate and the best examples have been listed by Cadw. There are a significant number of interesting farmhouses and agricultural buildings. Many historical religious buildings are to be seen in Llŷn as religion has played an important part in the development and culture of the area from the Christian period onwards. Chapels were built on a wide scale in Llŷn because of the development of Nonconformity from the mid seventeenth century onwards.



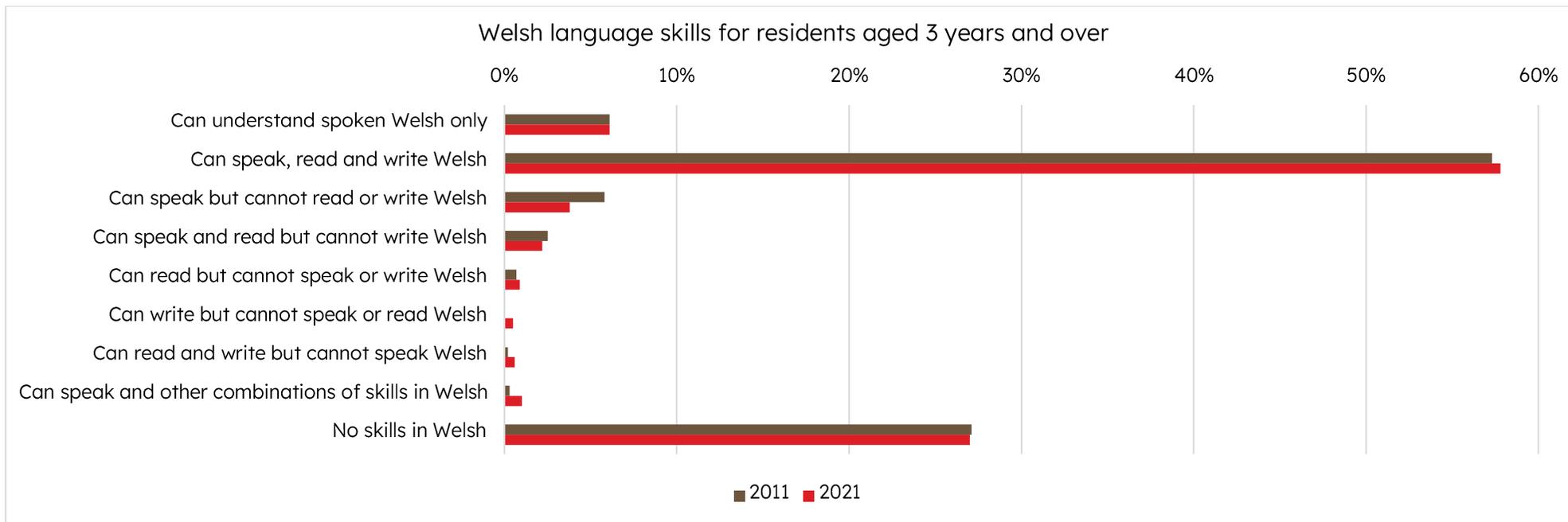
# Welsh language and culture

## Language skills

In both 2011 & 2021, 73% of the population aged 3 years and over had some Welsh language skills.



Source: Welsh Language Change in the percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh by LSOA 2011 to 2021  
[https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:welsh\\_by\\_lsoa](https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:welsh_by_lsoa)



In 2011, 57.3% could speak, read and write Welsh; this rose to 57.8% in 2021. In both years, 6.1% of the population aged 3 years and over could understand spoken Welsh but could not speak, read or write it.

Since 2011, there has been a very minor decrease in Welsh use in the northeastern section of the AONB (down by 2% of the population or less). There has been a greater decrease in a band from Nefyn to Abersoch (down between 2% and 5%). However, in a band between Abersoch and Llanbedrog, the use has increased by over 5%.

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 28 August 2025] 2011: Table QS207WA, 2021: Table TS032

## Welsh language activities

Cyngor Gwynedd publishes an interactive Welsh language activities map. This map shows 12 activities and/or organisations within the AONB. However, this is only a snapshot – there are many other activities within and/or near to the AONB boundary. The map does not show activities such as talks, exhibitions, music events and Eisteddfodau, which reflect the strength of the Welsh language on the Llŷn Peninsula.



### Allwedd/Legend

- Clwb Chwaraeon/ Sports Club
- Clwb Ffermwyr Ifanc/ Young Farmers
- Côr Neu Grŵp Cerddorol/ Choir or Musical Group
- Cylch Meithrin/ Nursery
- Cymdeithas Arall/ Other Social Club
- Grŵp Diddordeb/ Interest Group
- Gweithgaredd/Sgyrsiau yn ymwneud a Hanes yn bennaf/ Activity/Conversations mainly related to History
- Menter Gymdeithasol/ Social Enterprise
- Merched Y Wawr/ Ladies Social Group
- Papur Bro/ Local Newspaper

### Welsh language community newspapers

- Llanw Llŷn
- Lleu
- Y Ffynnon

### Canolfan Iaith a Threftadaeth Cymru/ Welsh Culture and language Centre

Nant Gwrtheyrn, an old mining village, has been transformed into a significant centre for Welsh language learning. It aims to grow the number of Welsh speakers, provide local employment and inspire people to come together, discovering connections to the Welsh language, nature and the seasons that can shape a life into the future.

There is also support to learn the Welsh language locally through Menter Iaith Gwynedd and *learnwelsh.cymru*.

Source: Cyngor Gwynedd website 2025 - <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/The-Welsh-Language/The-Welsh-Language.aspx>  
 Gweithgareddau Cymunedol Cymraeg interactive map updated July 2025 & accessed in September 2025 -  
<https://cyngorgwynedd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=23abd967d2894e2e9dc6081b9e8e59ec>

## Registered historic landscapes

There is one historic landscape, Llŷn ac Ynys Enlli, classed as Outstanding Historic Interest.



### Llŷn ac Ynys Enlli – designated 2001 (29,500 ha)

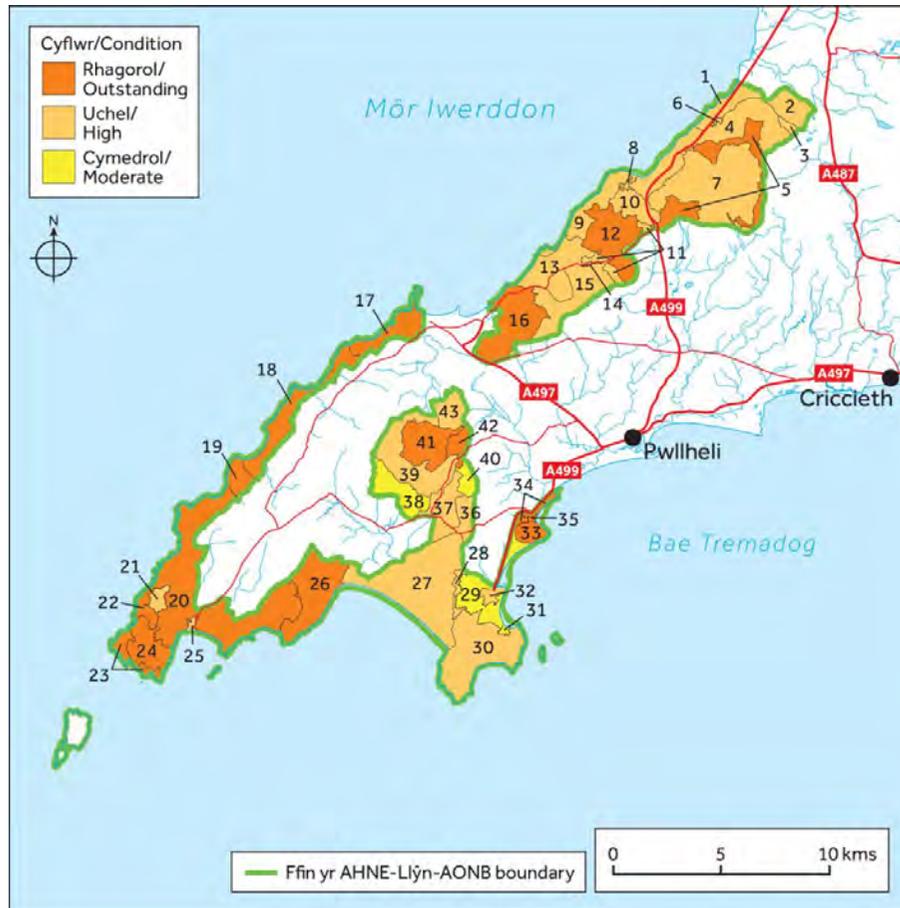
The Register of Historic Landscapes describes this as an area that "possesses a great and unparalleled wealth and diversity of, most often, smaller scale archaeological and historic features, which together form a cohesive and integrated whole, demonstrating both the continuity and the territorial unity of Llyn from possibly prehistoric times onwards. There are archaeological sites ranging from the Mesolithic period to the recent past."

The Register of Historic Landscapes is a non-statutory, advisory register. Its primary aim is to provide information and raise awareness of an initial selection of the most important and significant historic landscape areas in Wales in order to aid their protection and conservation.

Source: Designated Historic Asset GIS Data, The Welsh Historic Environment Service (Cadw), 2025, licensed under the Open Government Licence <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

## Condition of the historic landscape

The Gwynedd Archaeological Trust found that most of the historic landscape in the AONB is in a high or outstanding condition.



### Allwedd/Legend

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Dinas Dinlle-Aberdesach              | 29 Caeau arfordirol o amgylch Abersoch        |
| 2 Lleuar                               | 30 Penrhyn Cilan                              |
| 3 Coridor Afon Dwyfach                 | 31 Machroes                                   |
| 4 Tirwedd caeau uwchben Clynog         | 32 Abersoch                                   |
| 5 Tirwedd caeau islaw Bwlch Mawr       | 33 Mynydd Tir y cwmwd                         |
| 6 Clynog Fawr                          | 34 Fflatiau arfordirol o gwmpas Llanbedrog    |
| 7 Ucheldiroedd Bwlch Mawr              | 35 Llanbedrog                                 |
| 8 Trefor                               | 36 Mynytho                                    |
| 9 Chwareli cerrig arfordir y gogledd   | 37 Nanhoron                                   |
| 10 Caeau a choedwigoedd islaw Yr Eifl  | 38 Llwyfandir Botwnnog                        |
| 11 Caeau bach islaw Carnguwch          | 39 Dyffryn Llaniestyn                         |
| 12 Yr Eifl                             | 40 Carneddol                                  |
| 13 Moel Gwynus                         | 41 Garn Fadryn                                |
| 14 Lithfaen                            | 42 Tirwedd caeau o amgylch Llanfihangel       |
| 15 Tirwedd caeau o amgylch Pentreuchaf | 43 Coed a chaeau i'r gorllewin o Ryd-y-Clafdy |
| 16 Mynydd Nefyn                        |   |
| 17 Tirwedd caeau o amgylch Edern       |   |
| 18 Caelun, arfordir gogleddol Llŷn     |   |
| 19 Caeau Rhoshirwaun                   |   |
| 20 Llwyfandir Aberdaron                |   |
| 21 Anelog                              |   |
| 22 Mynydd Anelog                       |   |
| 23 Mynydd Mawr                         |   |
| 24 Llain-gaeau canoloesol, Uwchmynydd  |   |
| 25 Aberdaron                           |   |
| 26 Mynydd Rhiw                         |   |
| 27 Gwastadedd Neigwl (Gofaint Uffern)  |   |
| 28 Llangian ac Llanengan               |   |

The Gwynedd Archaeological Trust examines the component historic character of areas found within the registered historic landscape. Each area includes components that are distinct from its neighbours. This dataset focuses on archaeological and historical sites and how they relate to each other and to the surrounding landscape. The features mapped include those resulting from past human activity and structurally prominent patterns and features that contribute to the historic character of the present landscape.

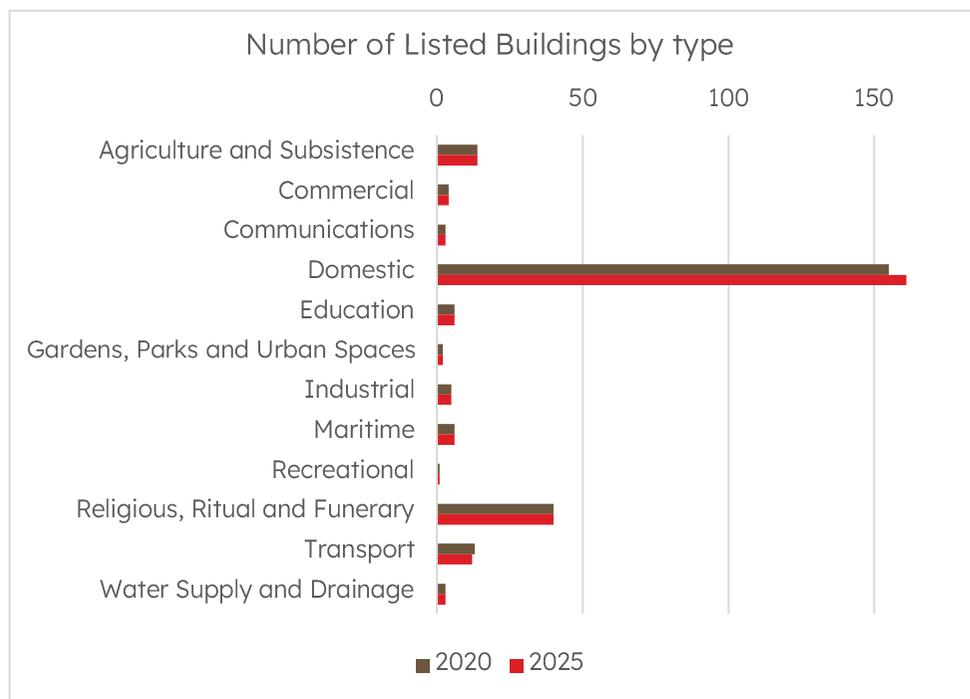
Source: From the Llŷn Historic Landscape Characterisation surveys by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved [https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW\\_LANDMAP\\_Historic\\_Landscape](https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW_LANDMAP_Historic_Landscape)

## Number and type of heritage assets

There are 257 Listed Buildings, 55 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (covering 156.6 ha), 1 Registered Park and Garden and 1 Historic Landscape. There is no public record on the current condition of these assets. Cadw seeks to undertake an inspection of the condition of all listed buildings in Wales at least once every five years, but it is not the intention to make any findings publicly available.

### Listed Buildings

Buildings on the List are given one of three grades (I,II\* & II) that denote their level of importance. Grade I is the highest; they are of exceptional interest.

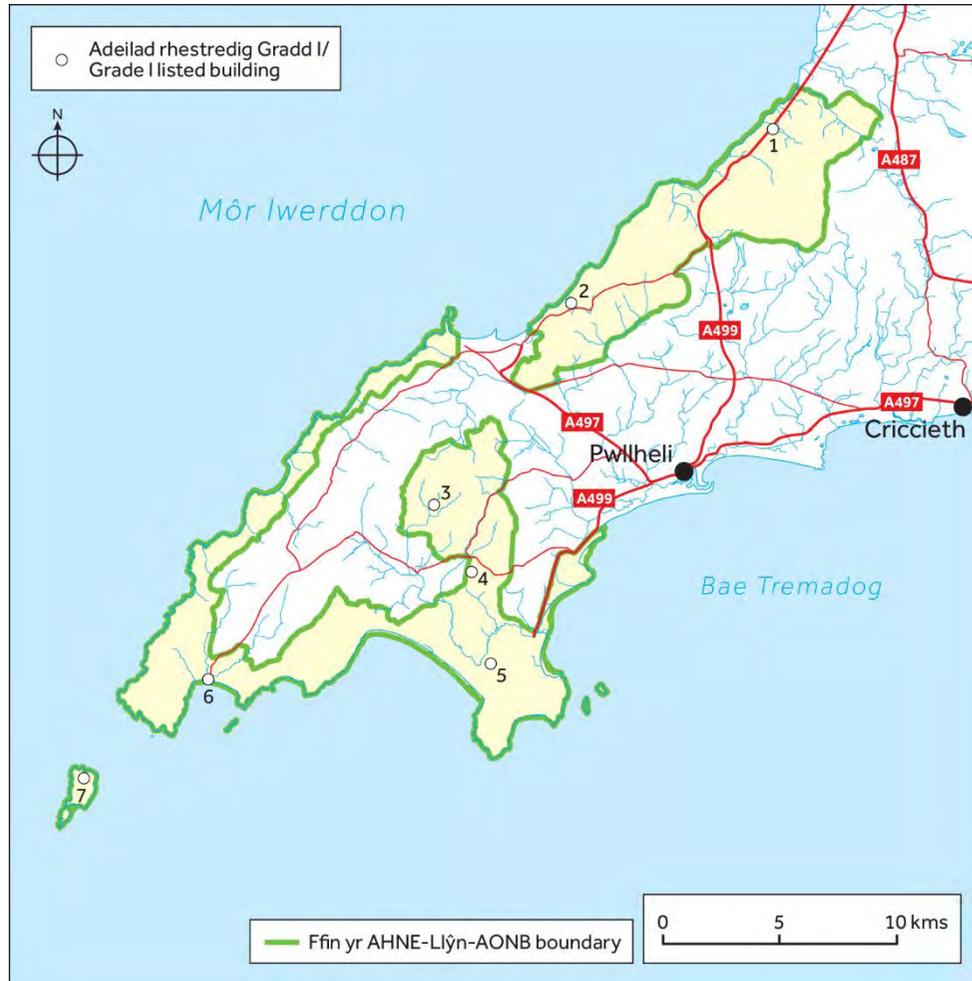


In 2025, there are 257 Listed Buildings, up from 252 in 2020. The change is because there are 6 additional domestic buildings but a loss of one transport building.

Source: Cadw

## Location of Grade I Listed Buildings

There are 7 Grade I listed buildings in the AONB (the same as in 2021).



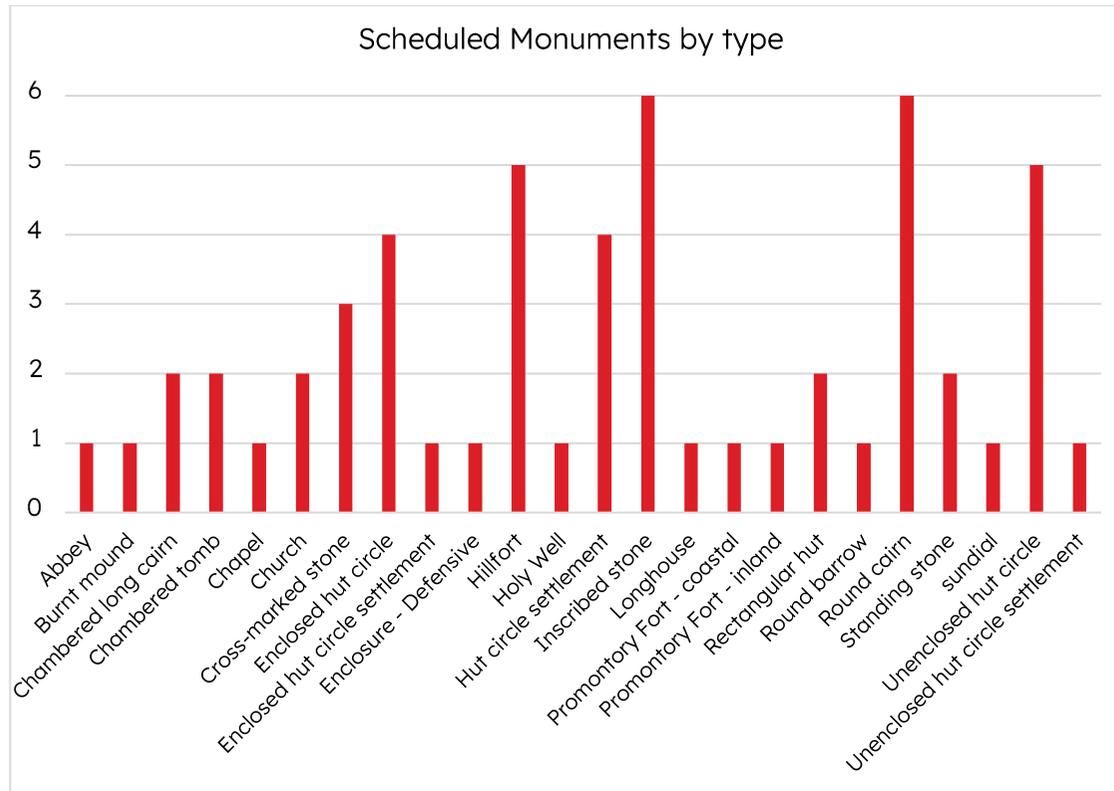
### Allwedd/Legend

- 1 Eglwys Sant Beuno, gyda Chapel Sant Beuno ynghlwm/  
Church of St Beuno, with attached Chapel of St Beuno
- 2 Eglwys Sant Beuno/  
Church of St Beuno
- 3 Eglwys Sant Iestyn/  
Church of St Iestyn
- 4 Capel Newydd/  
New Chapel
- 5 Eglwys Sant Engan/  
Church of St Engan
- 6 Eglwys Sant Hywyn/  
Church of St Hywyn
- 7 Adfeilion Abaty Santes Fair/  
Ruin of Abbey of St Mary

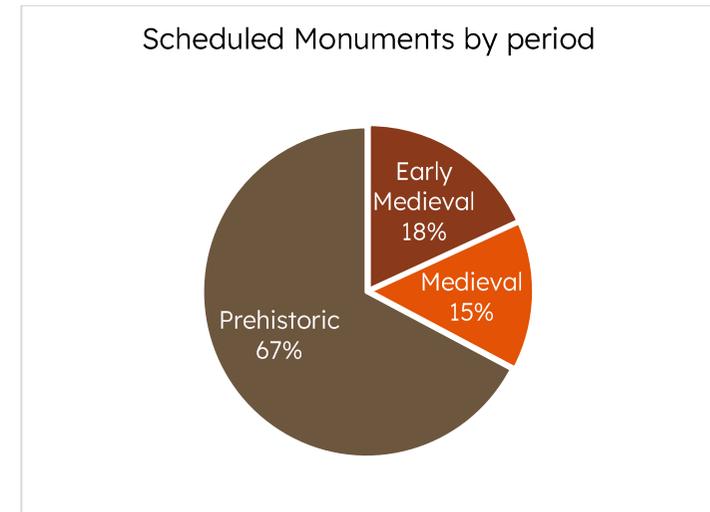
Source: Cadw listed buildings [https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-wg:Cadw\\_ListedBuildings](https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-wg:Cadw_ListedBuildings)

## Scheduled Monuments

There are 55 scheduled monuments within the AONB; 67% are from the prehistoric period. There is no public record on the current condition of these assets.



Source: Cadw



## Location of Scheduled Monuments

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales records the National Monuments Record of Wales. It lists 55 records for the Llŷn AONB (legend is shown on the next page).

More information on monuments within the AONB area is available from Heneb – the Trust for Welsh Archaeology.



Source: Cadw Scheduled monuments:  
[https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-wg:Cadw\\_SAM](https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-wg:Cadw_SAM)

## Allwedd

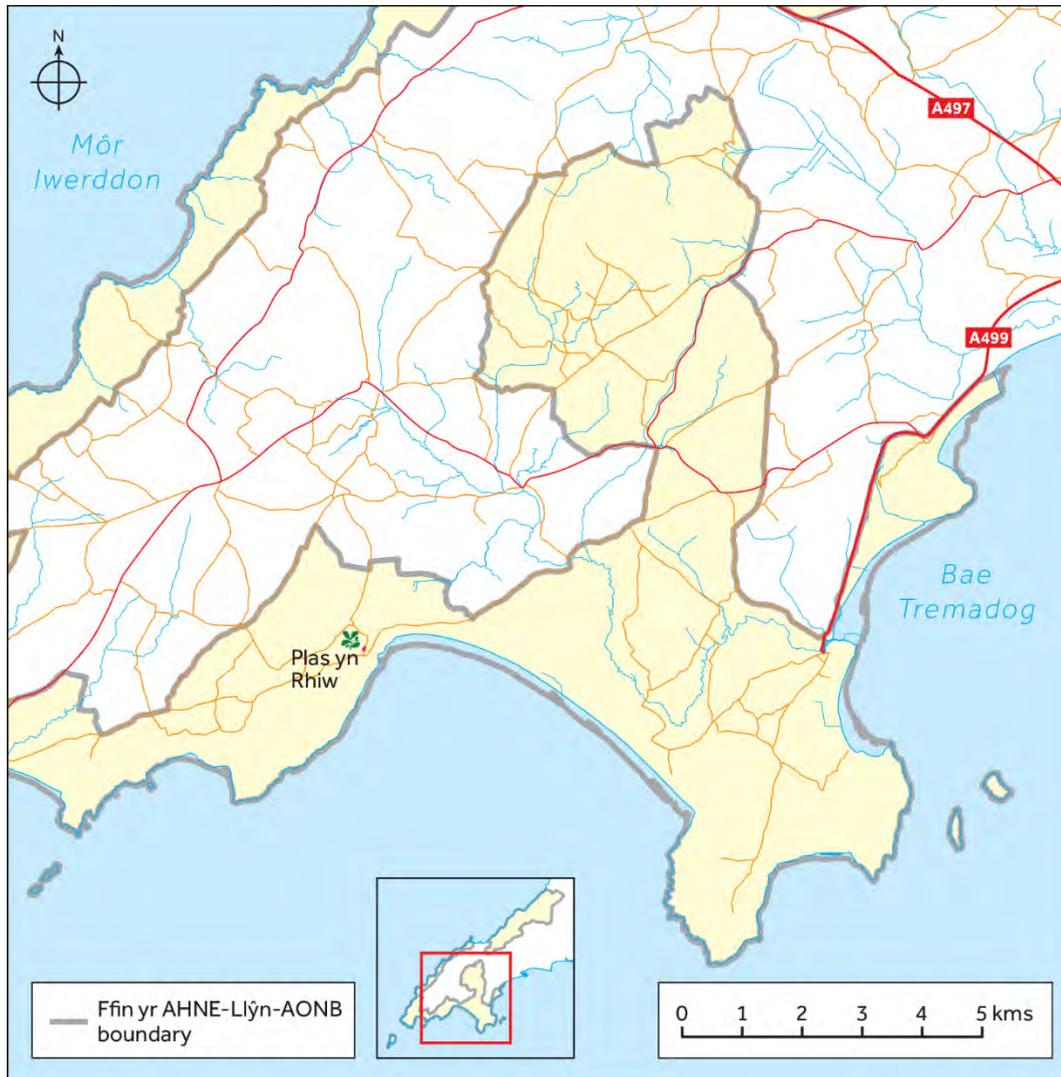
- 1 Siambr Gladdu Penarth
- 2 Gwersyll Y Foel
- 3 Siambr Gladdu Bachwen
- 4 Deial haul ym Mynwent Eglwys Clynnog Fawr
- 5 Croes Arysgrif Ger Capel Uchaf
- 6 Ffynnon Sant Beuno
- 7 Setliad Cylch Cytiau De-Orllewin o Ben-yr-allt Uchaf
- 8 Grŵp Cytiau Gogledd Gyrn Ddu
- 9 Grŵp Cytiau i'r Gorllewin o Gyrn Ddu
- 10 Carnedd Gron i'r Gorllewin o Gyrn Ddu
- 11 Dwy Garnedd Gron E o Gyrn Ddu
- 12 Grŵp Cytiau a System Caeau i'r De-ddwyrain o Iard y Fferm
- 13 Grŵp Cytiau i'r Gogledd o Cwmceiliog
- 14 Twmpath Llosgedig i'r Dwyrain o Pen-y-Gaer
- 15 Gwersyll Pen-y-Gaer
- 16 Grŵp Cytiau a System Gaeau i'r Gogledd Orllewin o Tyddyn Mawr (a elwid yn flaenorol yn Grŵp Cytiau NW o Tyddyn Mawr)
- 17 Anheddiad Cylch y Cwt i'r Gorllewin o Fferm Cwm
- 18 Cwt Hir i'r Gogledd o Fferm Cwm
- 19 Grŵp Cytiau Caeedig i'r Gogledd-orllewin o Fferm Cwm
- 20 Yr Eifl, carnedd ar gopa'r gogledd orllewin o
- 21 Cylchoedd Cytiau a Chlostir i'r Gogledd-orllewin o Mount Pleasant
- 22 Copa'r Eifl, Cairns
- 23 Gwersyll Tre'r Ceiri
- 24 Maen Arysgrifedig Cristnogol Cynnar ym Mynwent yr Eglwys, Llanaelhaearn
- 25 Rhan o Garreg Arysgrifedig wedi'i Adeiladu i Wal Mynwent yr Eglwys
- 26 Carnedd Carn-y-Gŵr
- 27 Maen Hir Moel Gwynus
- 28 Carreg Groes-Gerfiedig Tymawr
- 29 Slab Croes Wedi'i Adeiladu i Adeilad Fferm Ty'n-y-Cae
- 30 Garn Boduan
- 31 Maen Hir Nant y Gledrydd
- 32 Gwersyll Carn Fadryn
- 33 Anheddiad Cylch Cytiau ym Mhen-y-Caerau
- 34 Grŵp Cytiau Caeedig i'r De o Penbodlas
- 35 Ardrefniant Amddiffynnol Garn Saethon
- 36 Pen-y-Gaer
- 37 Carreg Arysgrifedig ym Mynwent Eglwys Sant Cian, Llangian
- 38 Gwersyll Pared Mawr
- 39 Siambr Gladdu Cilan-Uchaf
- 40 Siambr Gladdu Rhiw
- 41 Mynydd Rhiw Cairns Round
- 42 Tŷ Hir i'r De o Talarfor
- 43 Cylch y Cytiau ym Mynydd-y-Graig
- 44 Maen Senacus (gynt yn Nhudweiliog, Dwyfor)
- 45 Maen Veracius (gynt yn Nhudweiliog, Dwyfor)
- 46 Safle Eglwys Sant Merin
- 47 Anheddiad Cylch y Cwtiau i'r Gogledd-orllewin o Mount Pleasant
- 48 Capel Anelog
- 49 Eglwys Santes Fair
- 50 Tai Hir, Llociau a Systemau Caeau, Ynys Enlli
- 51 Abaty Santes Fair, Ynys Enlli
- 52 Carreg â Chroes wedi'i Harysgrifio yn y Capel, Ynys Enlli
- 53 Carreg Arysgrifedig yn y Capel, Ynys Enlli
- 54 Barrow Crwn Mynydd Enlli, Ynys Enlli
- 55 Cytiau ar Mynydd Enlli, Ynys Enlli

## Legend

- 1 Penarth Burial Chamber
- 2 Y Foel Camp
- 3 Bachwen Burial Chamber
- 4 Sundial in Clynnog Fawr Churchyard
- 5 Cross Inscribed Stone Near Capel Uchaf
- 6 St Beuno's Well
- 7 Hut Circle Settlement South-West of Pen-yr-allt Uchaf
- 8 Hut Group N of Gyrn Ddu
- 9 Hut Group West of Gyrn Ddu
- 10 Round Cairn West of Gyrn Ddu
- 11 Two Round Cairns E of Gyrn Ddu
- 12 Hut Group and Field System South East of Farm Yard
- 13 Hut Group North of Cwmceiliog
- 14 Burnt Mound East of Pen-y-Gaer
- 15 Pen y Gaer Camp
- 16 Hut Group & Field System North West of Tyddyn Mawr (previously known as Hut Group NW of Tyddyn Mawr)
- 17 Hut Circle Settlement West of Cwm Farm
- 18 Long Hut North of Cwm Farm
- 19 Enclosed Hut Group North West of Cwm Farm
- 20 Yr Eifl, cairn on NW summit of
- 21 Hut Circles and Enclosure NW of Mount Pleasant
- 22 Yr Eifl Summit Cairns
- 23 Tre'r Ceiri Camp
- 24 Early Christian Inscribed Stone in the Churchyard, Llanaelhaearn
- 25 Part of Inscribed Stone Built into Wall of Churchyard
- 26 Carnguwch Cairn
- 27 Moel Gwynus Standing Stone
- 28 Tymawr Cross-Incised Stone
- 29 Cross Slab Built into Farm Building Ty'n-y-Cae
- 30 Garn Boduan
- 31 Nant y Gledrydd Standing Stone
- 32 Carn Fadryn Camp
- 33 Hut Circle Settlement at Pen-y-Caerau
- 34 Enclosed Hut Group South of Penbodlas
- 35 Garn Saethon Defended Settlement
- 36 Pen-y-Gaer
- 37 Inscribed Stone in St Cian's Churchyard, Llangian
- 38 Pared Mawr Camp
- 39 Cilan-Uchaf Burial Chamber
- 40 Rhiw Burial Chambers
- 41 Mynydd Rhiw Round Cairns
- 42 Long House South of Talarfor
- 43 Hut Circle at Mynydd-y-Graig
- 44 The Senacus Stone (formerly in Tudweiliog, Dwyfor)
- 45 The Veracius Stone (formerly in Tudweiliog, Dwyfor)
- 46 Site of St Merin's Church
- 47 Hut Circle Settlement North-West of Mount Pleasant
- 48 Capel Anelog
- 49 St Mary's Church
- 50 Long Houses, Enclosures & Field Systems, Bardsey Island
- 51 St Mary's Abbey, Bardsey Island
- 52 Inscribed Stone in the Chapel, Bardsey Island
- 53 Cross-Inscribed Stone in the Chapel, Bardsey Island
- 54 Mynydd Enlli Round Barrow, Bardsey Island
- 55 Huts on Mynydd Enlli, Bardsey Island

## Location of Registered Parks and Gardens

In 2025, there is 1 Registered Park and Garden in the AONB - Plas yn Rhiw.



**Plas yn Rhiw 5.6 ha (shown as 4.5 ha in 2020) – Grade II Registered Historic Park & Garden.**

Plas yn Rhiw is registered for the historic interest of its small, enclosed plantsman's garden planted this century, but laid out earlier, and set within a wooded park. The house and gardens are afforded spectacular views out over Porth Neigwl (Hell's Mouth Bay). The registered area shares important group value with the house and associated estate buildings.

Source: Designated Historic Asset GIS Data, The Welsh Historic Environment Service (Cadw), September 2025, licensed under the Open Government Licence <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

## Location and condition of conservation areas

The Local Authority has designated nine Conservation Areas in the AONB, covering 245 ha (1.6%) of the AONB (condition was assessed in 2015).



### Conservation Areas in the Llŷn AONB (the statements in brackets are a précis of the 2015 study findings)

#### Designated 1974:

- Aberdaron – 9.11 ha in the AONB (well-maintained but ensure a good design standard for the dormant buildings)
- Clynog Fawr – 4.93 ha in the AONB (Establish Article 4 (2) guidance to limit cladding, painting, rendering, permitted rights and extensions.)
- Llangian – 9.56 ha in the AONB (well-maintained but ensure a good design standard for the dormant buildings. Establish Article 4 (2) guidance to restrict permitted rights for external appearance.)
- Llanengan – 17.64 ha in the AONB (well-maintained but preserve settlement boundary. Avoid development beyond the village border. Establish Article 4 (2) guidance to limit cladding, painting, rendering, permitted rights and extensions.)
- Llaniestyn – 1.34 ha in the AONB (well-maintained but ensure a good design standard for the dormant buildings. Establish Article 4 (2) guidance to restrict permitted rights for external appearance.)

#### Designated 1986:

- Llanaelhaearn – 0.46 ha in the AONB (fairly well maintained - needs additional protection and an extension possible)
- Porth Dinllaen – 0.71 ha in the AONB (unique – need to maintain character. Resist developments and extensions to the settlement. Assess changes to existing property against high standards.)
- Trefor – 2.05 ha in the AONB (fairly well maintained – need to retain the stone walls and field limits. Establish Article 4 (2) guidance to restrict permitted rights for external appearance)

#### Designated 1995:

- Ynys Enili – 199.28 ha in the AONB

Note: The best way to define the local character is through the production of a conservation area appraisal. This provides an understanding of the history of an area and its special qualities.

Source: Burum Advisory Services and Conservation Architect Maredudd ab Iestyn (2015)

# People

## In this section:

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## The special qualities

### People and close-knit communities

In Llŷn there are close-knit communities that have been developed over a long period of time. As with all areas there have been changes within the communities over the years – people from outside the area moved in for work purposes, to retire or as a lifestyle change. Although in-migration has taken place for centuries the level has been higher in the recent decades – and this has had an impact on communities and the Welsh language. People have also moved out of the area – mainly to obtain education or to find work. Because the community contributes to the area’s character, it is important to try and support the well-being of these communities. Therefore, there is a need to address people’s needs in terms of housing, services and facilities, leisure, employment and jobs.



### Local produce and rural businesses



Traditionally, emphasis has been placed on work that is linked directly to the environment. Farming and fishing have developed since very early times, and they continue to be important to this day. They support families, provide local produce and support other industries. In the eighteenth and nineteenth century, the quarries and mineral mining industries became important industries. There is a tradition of being self-employed in Llŷn. Once there was a high proportion of joiners, blacksmiths and farm workers but today, many builders, electricians, carpenters etc. are to be found. The tourism industry is mainly based on the special qualities of the area – the beauty, the beaches, the clean environment and the peace.

### Rights of way and access

There are many opportunities to roam and enjoy the natural beauty and historical features of Llŷn. As well as the network of public footpaths, there are a myriad of small rural lanes that weave their way along the peninsula and connect areas together. The paths along parts of the coast include the old routes used by Pilgrims who walked along the shore towards Bardsey. There are substantial areas of common land that offer an excellent opportunity to roam more informally, and view and enjoy wildlife, different plants and striking views. One of the main attractions are the wonderful beaches along the north and south coast.

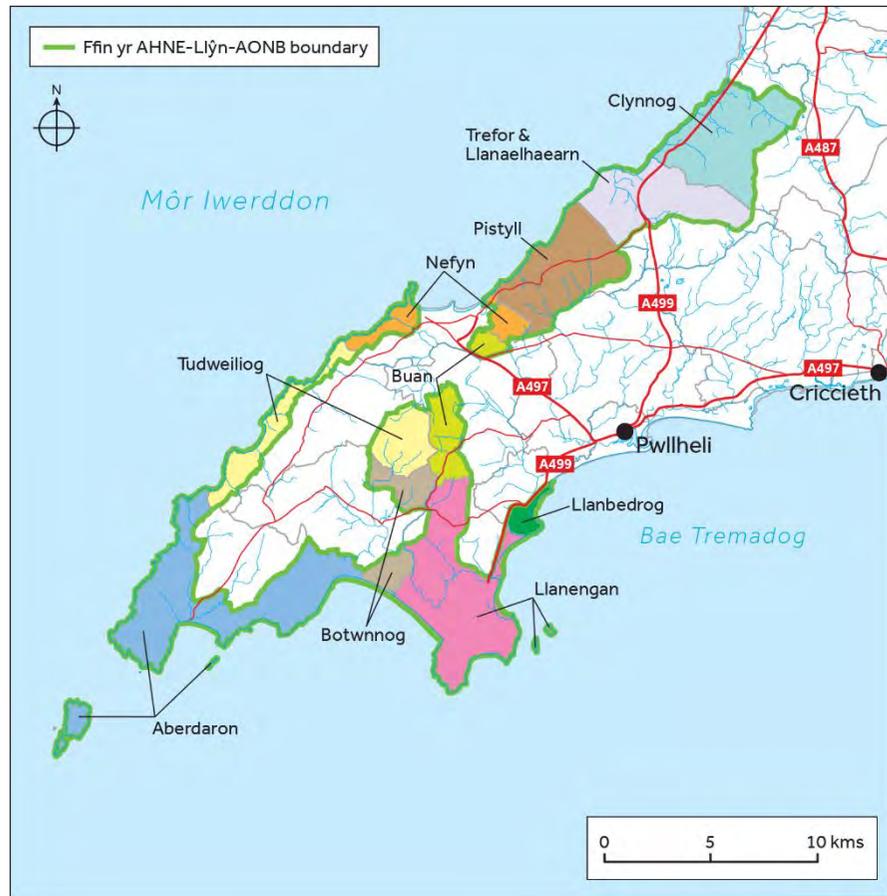


## Administrative boundaries

Only one local authority, Cyngor Gwynedd, is the 'relevant\* local authority' for the AONB.

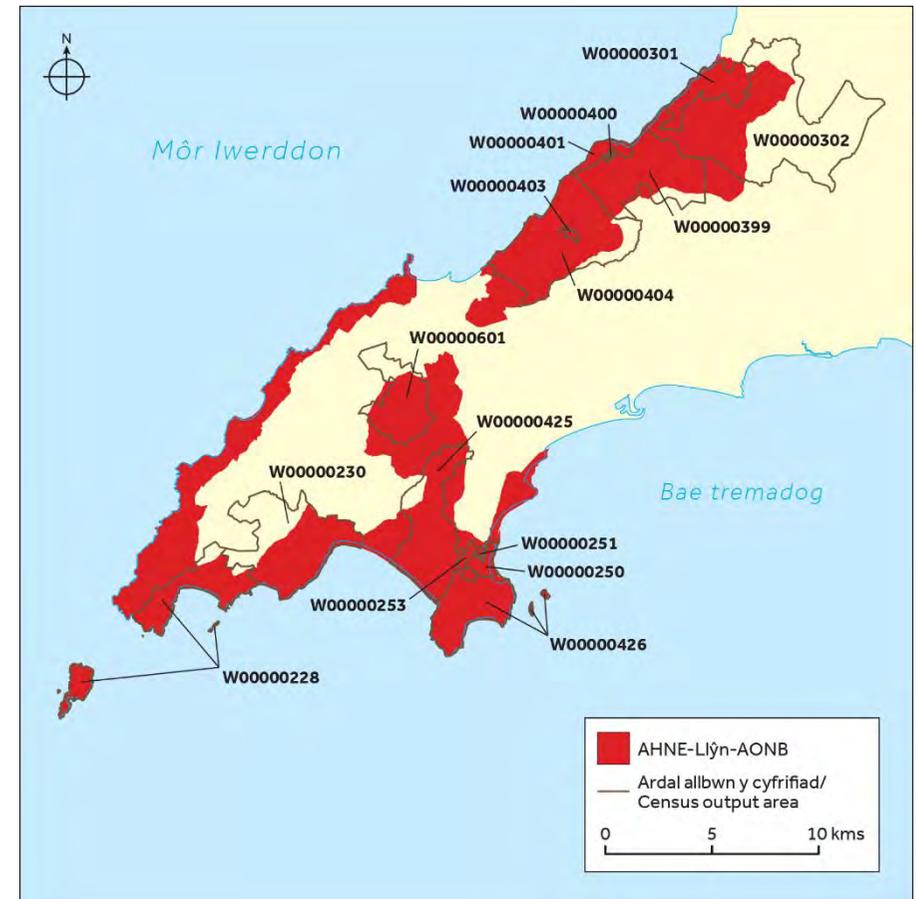
### Community council boundaries

There are 10 community councils



### Census Output Areas for 2011 and 2021

There are 9 output areas

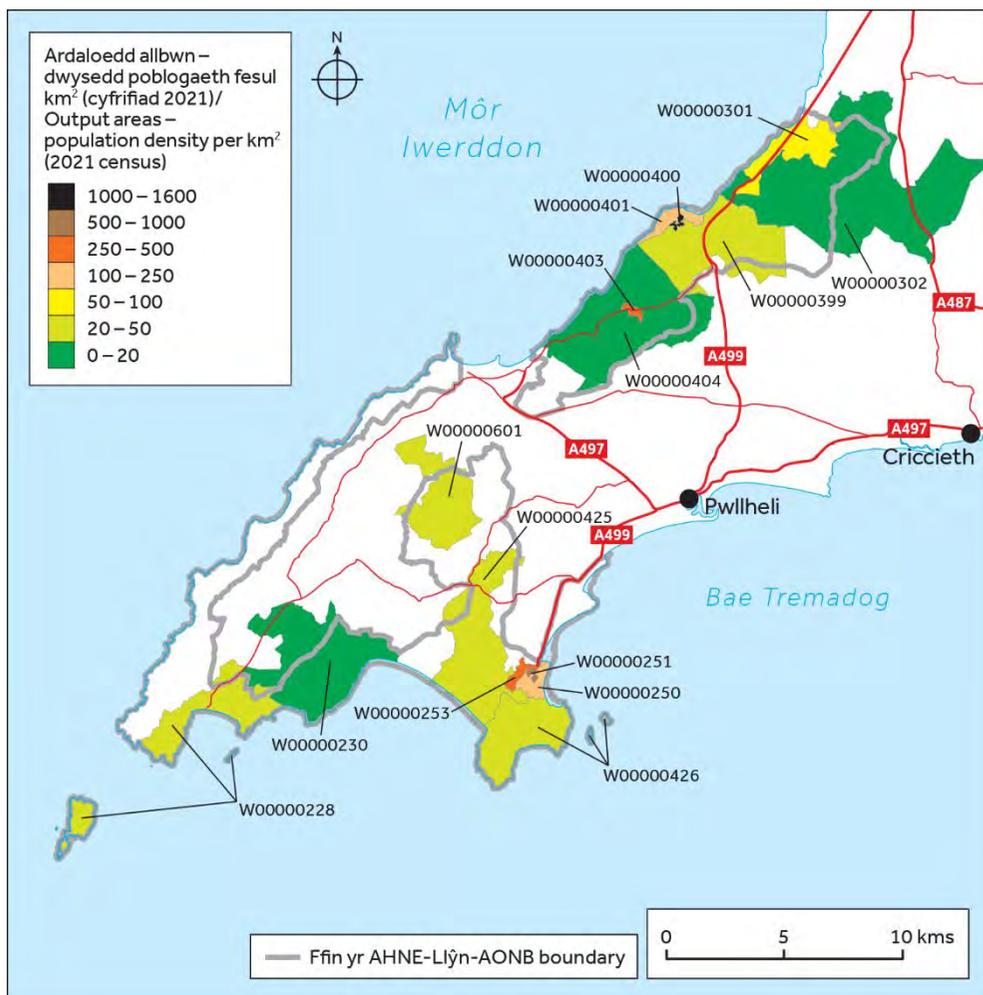


Source: GIS data obtained from [www.data.gov.uk](http://www.data.gov.uk) \*Note - The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Sections 84 & 89) define the relevant local authorities.

# Population density

## By census Output Areas

The population density in 2021 was **26.7 residents per km<sup>2</sup>** (down 12.4% from 30.5 residents per km<sup>2</sup> in 2011).



Within the selected Output Areas, there is rural depopulation.

### Output Area Profiles:

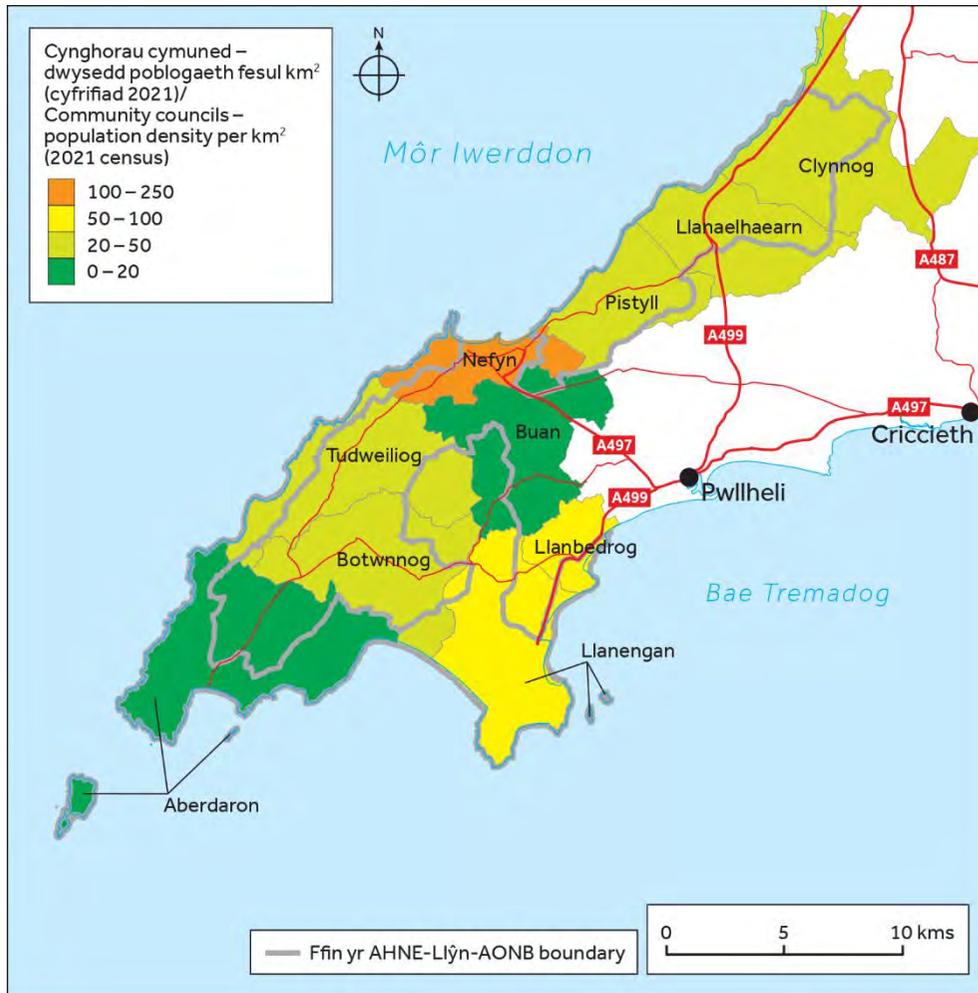
|               | Population   |              | Total area (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Population density (people/km <sup>2</sup> ) |             |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------|
|               | 2021         | 2011         |                               | 2021   | 2011        |
| W00000228     | 252          | 289          | 10.36                         | 24.3   | 27.9        |
| W00000230     | 294          | 308          | 17.27                         | 17.0   | 17.8        |
| W00000250     | 135          | 205          | 1.19                          | 113.4  | 172         |
| W00000251     | 141          | 174          | 0.15                          | 938.7  | 1,160       |
| W00000253     | 167          | 192          | 0.65                          | 262.0  | 295.4       |
| W00000301     | 304          | 343          | 5.36                          | 56.6   | 64          |
| W00000302     | 382          | 361          | 36.02                         | 10.6   | 10          |
| W00000399     | 299          | 303          | 14.04                         | 21.3   | 21.6        |
| W00000400     | 210          | 258          | 0.17                          | 1,223.8                                      | 1,517.7     |
| W00000401     | 238          | 253          | 1.50                          | 159.1  | 102         |
| W00000403     | 136          | 153          | 0.31                          | 437.3  | 493.5       |
| W00000404     | 367          | 413          | 20.38                         | 18.1   | 20.3        |
| W00000425     | 296          | 336          | 14.19                         | 20.8   | 23.7        |
| W00000426     | 217          | 334          | 8.91                          | 24.3   | 37.5        |
| W00000601     | 296          | 340          | 9.16                          | 32.2   | 37.1        |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>3,734</b> | <b>4,262</b> | <b>139.66</b>                 | <b>26.7</b>                                  | <b>30.5</b> |

The 2011 map is not shown as the only difference is OA W00000251; this was in the 1000-1600 band in 2011 but moved down to the 500-1000 band in 2021.

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 28 August 2025] 2011: Table QS102EW and 2021: Table TS006

## By community council areas

The population density in 2021 was **36 residents per km<sup>2</sup>** (down 7.7% from 39 residents per km<sup>2</sup> in 2011).



The Llyn AONB lies within ten community council areas. These community council areas are experiencing rural depopulation (fall of 7%) but not at the same rate as in the Output Areas (12.4%).

### Community Council Profiles:

|                        | Population    |               | Total area (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Population density (people/km <sup>2</sup> ) |             |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------|
|                        | 2021          | 2011          |                               | 2021   | 2011        |
| Aberdaron              | 896           | 965           | 47.70                         | 18.78  | 20.23       |
| Botwnnog               | 979           | 996           | 34.27                         | 28.57  | 29.06       |
| Buan                   | 478           | 484           | 32.43                         | 14.74  | 14.92       |
| Clynnog                | 950           | 997           | 45.55                         | 20.86  | 21.89       |
| Trefor & Llanaelhaearn | 1,053         | 1,117         | 27.41                         | 38.42  | 40.75       |
| Llanbedrog             | 838           | 1,002         | 9.29                          | 90.22  | 107.86      |
| Llanengan              | 1,685         | 1,989         | 33.64                         | 50.09  | 59.13       |
| Nefyn                  | 2,515         | 2,602         | 15.23                         | 165.1  | 170.85      |
| Pistyll                | 503           | 566           | 20.69                         | 24.31  | 27.36       |
| Tudweiliog             | 883           | 970           | 35.53                         | 24.85  | 27.3        |
| <b>Totals</b>          | <b>10,780</b> | <b>11,688</b> | <b>301.74</b>                 | <b>35.7</b>                                  | <b>38.7</b> |

Population density for the Gwynedd in 2021 was 46.08 people/km<sup>2</sup>

Population density for Wales in 2021 was 149.55 people/km<sup>2</sup>

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 28 August 2025] 2011: Table QS102EW and 2021: Table TS006. City populations <https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/wales/admin/>

## Comparative size of settlements

Most settlements within the AONB have a population of less than 500 people.



Most settlements within the AONB have a population of less than 500 people. The exceptions are Abersoch at 615 residents and Llanbedrog with 838.

There are larger settlements close to the area. Nefyn and Pwllheli have 1,294 and 3,622 residents respectively.

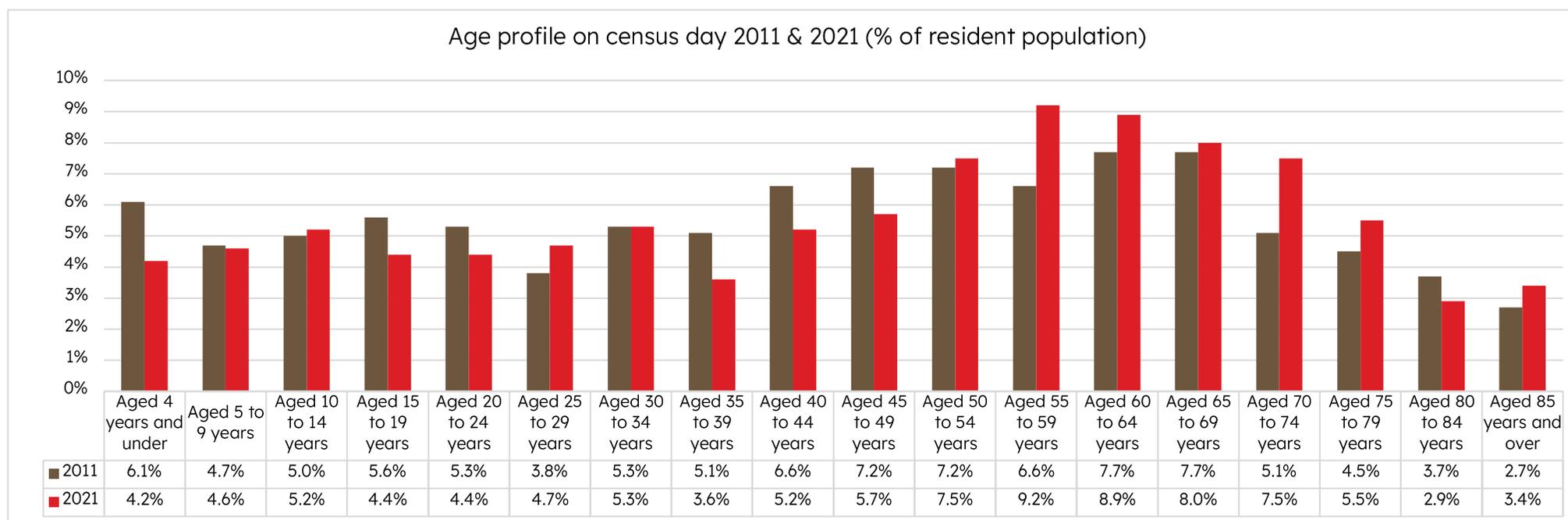
Within the 30-minute travel area, there is Caernarfon (9,827), Criccieth (1,738), and Porthmadog (2,574).

All these settlements lie within the 30-minute travel area for the AONB. (Click here to see the [Travel areas to the Llyn AONB](#) Error! Reference source not found.map).

Source: City populations (<https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/yorkshireandthehumber/>) OpenStreetMap data is available under the Open Database License

## Population numbers and age profile

The estimated total population on census day 2021 for the AONB was **3,734** (down 12.4% from 4,262 in 2011).

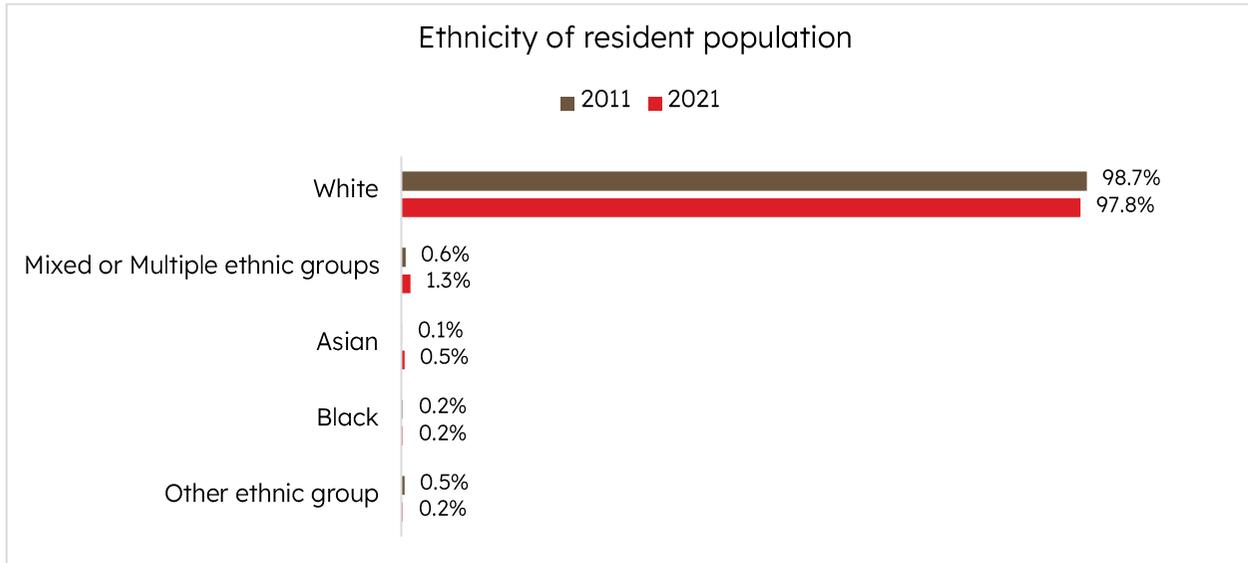


Population numbers have fallen by around 12% since 2011. Taking account of the respective population sizes, there is a slow ageing of the population with a 1.9% increase in the number of people over the age of 70 between 2011 and 2021. For the same period, there now 30.6% fewer people aged 40-49, 21% fewer aged 15-29, and 40% fewer aged 4 years and under. In 2011, the largest band was the 65-69 age group (7.74% of the population). Ten years later, the largest band is the 55-59 age group (9.2% of the population). This may be a result of early retirees moving into the area.

Source: Based on allocation of Output Areas, Census 2021. These estimates are based on AONB boundaries as of 2022. Output area population estimates have been allocated to AONBs on a best fit basis. ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 28 August 2025] 2011: Tables QS102EW & QS103EW and 2021: Tables TS006 & TS007A

## Ethnicity and gender resident population

There has been little change in either ethnicity or gender between 2011 and 2021. In 2021, around 99% of the resident population class as 'white' and just over 50% of the population is female.



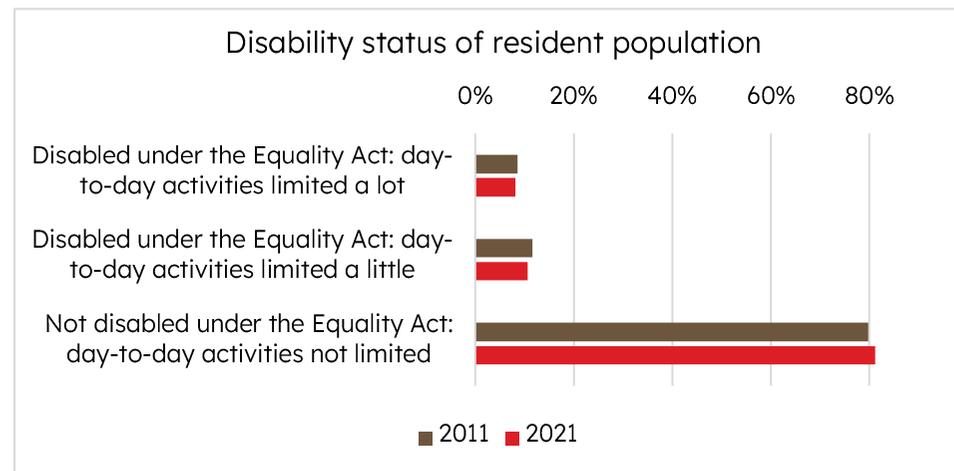
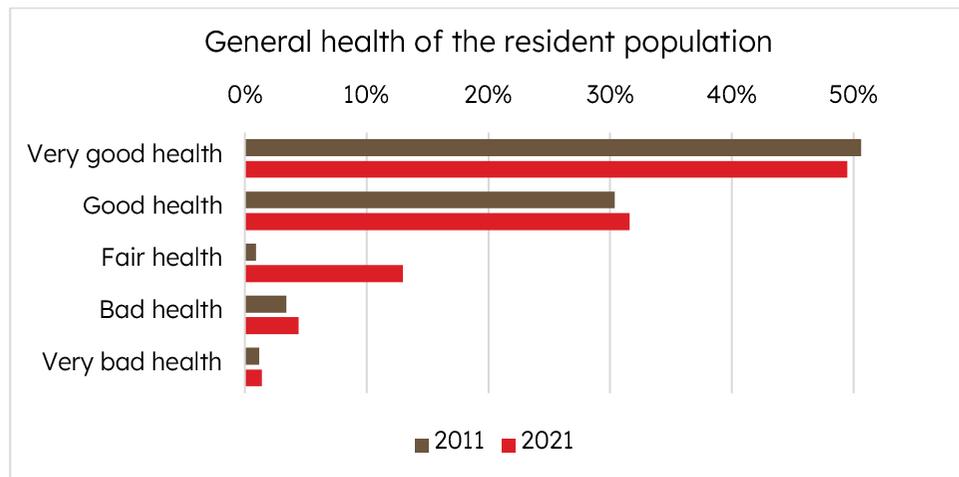
Gender of resident population

|        | 2011  | 2021  |
|--------|-------|-------|
| Female | 50.2% | 50.5% |
| Male   | 49.8% | 49.5% |

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 28 August 2025] 2011: Tables QS104EW & KS201EW, 2021: Tables TS008 & TS021

## Health of resident population

In 2021, 50% of the resident population enjoy very good health; only 1.4% suffer very bad health. There is no material difference with the 2011 data. In 2021, 81.2% of the resident population suffered no long-term health conditions. The 18.8% who did have long-term health condition were listed as disabled under the Equality Act.



Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 28 August 2025] 2011: Tables QS302EW & QS303EW, 2021: Tables TS037 & TS038

## Relative wealth of the resident population (*using partial data*)

From the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, the median gross annual earnings for full-time adults working in Gwynedd were £30,500 in 2023. For Wales, it was £34,000. No data has been found for smaller areas (data for Middle Layer Super Output Areas should be available).

From the ONS House Price Statistics for Small Areas data set, the median price paid in the Abersoch and Aberdaron Middle Layer Super Output Area was £454,167 in 2023 (up 84% since 2020). For Gwynedd, the price was £185,000 (up 16% since 2020). For Wales, the price was £202,500 (up 24% since 2020).

Dividing house prices by annual earnings creates a housing affordability ratio. Ratios have been rounded to the nearest 1. They stand for the mean house purchase price to mean gross annual household income.

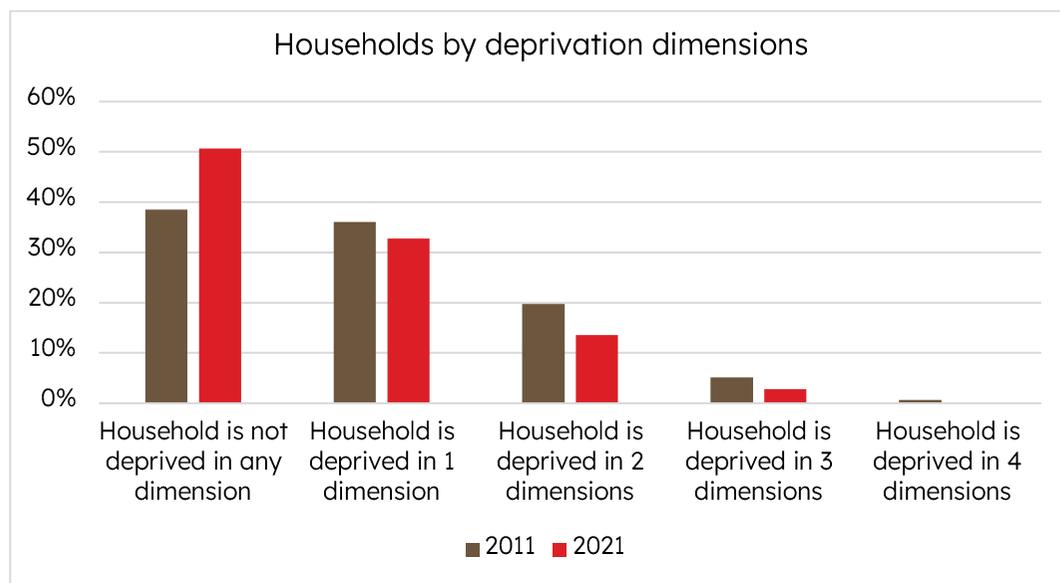
In 2023, the Gwynedd house-price affordability ratio was **6**, as it was for Wales as a whole. If the median gross annual earnings in the Abersoch and Aberdaron area equals that found in Gwynedd, then the AONB house-price affordability ratio was **14**. This means that full-time employees could expect to spend 14 times their earnings on buying a home in the AONB. Full-time employees in Wales could expect to spend around 6 times their annual earnings buying a home, making the AONB a less affordable area.

If earnings in Abersoch and Aberdaron are higher than the Gwynedd average, then the ratio would be lower. The median gross annual earnings for full-time adults working in Gwynedd was £34,900 in 2023. Using this income level, the house-price affordability ratio in the western end of the Llŷn peninsula would be **13**.

Source: Office for National Statistics, HM Land Registry - based on apportioning of Middle-layer Super Output Areas. ONS Crown Copyright Reserved. Welsh Government analysis of Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

## Households by deprivation dimensions

In 2021, there were 1,669 households in the AONB (down from 1,908 in 2011). In 2021, 50.7% were not deprived in any dimension (up from 38.5% in 2011).



The dimensions of deprivation used to classify households are indicators based on four selected household characteristics.

**Education** - A household is classified as deprived in the education dimension if no one has at least level 2 education and no one aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student.

**Employment** - A household is classified as deprived in the employment dimension if any member, not a full-time student, is either unemployed or economically inactive due to long-term sickness or disability.

**Health** - A household is classified as deprived in the health dimension if any person in the household has general health that is bad or very bad or is identified as disabled.

**Housing** - A household is classified as deprived in the housing dimension if the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 28 August 2025] 2011: Table QS119EW, 2021: Table TS011

## Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is the Welsh Government's official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. It is designed to identify those small areas where there are the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation. Deprivation is defined as the lack of access to opportunities and resources which we might expect in our society. This can be in terms of material goods or the ability of an individual to participate in the normal social life of the community.

An Index is a group of separate measurements which are combined into a single number. WIMD is currently made up of eight separate domains (or types) of deprivation:

|   |            |   |                      |
|---|------------|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Income     | 5 | Access to Services   |
| 2 | Employment | 6 | Housing              |
| 3 | Health     | 7 | Community Safety     |
| 4 | Education  | 8 | Physical Environment |

Each of the domains include several indicators of deprivation. WIMD ranks all small areas in Wales from 1 (most deprived) to 1,909 (least deprived). It does not provide a measure of the level of deprivation in an area. Of the eight domains, only Housing shows any significant variations across the area. The other domains show a uniform level of deprivation. Consequently, we map only Overall and Housing levels of deprivation and contrast the 2019 and 2025 data sets (see maps below).

### Considering the domains in combination

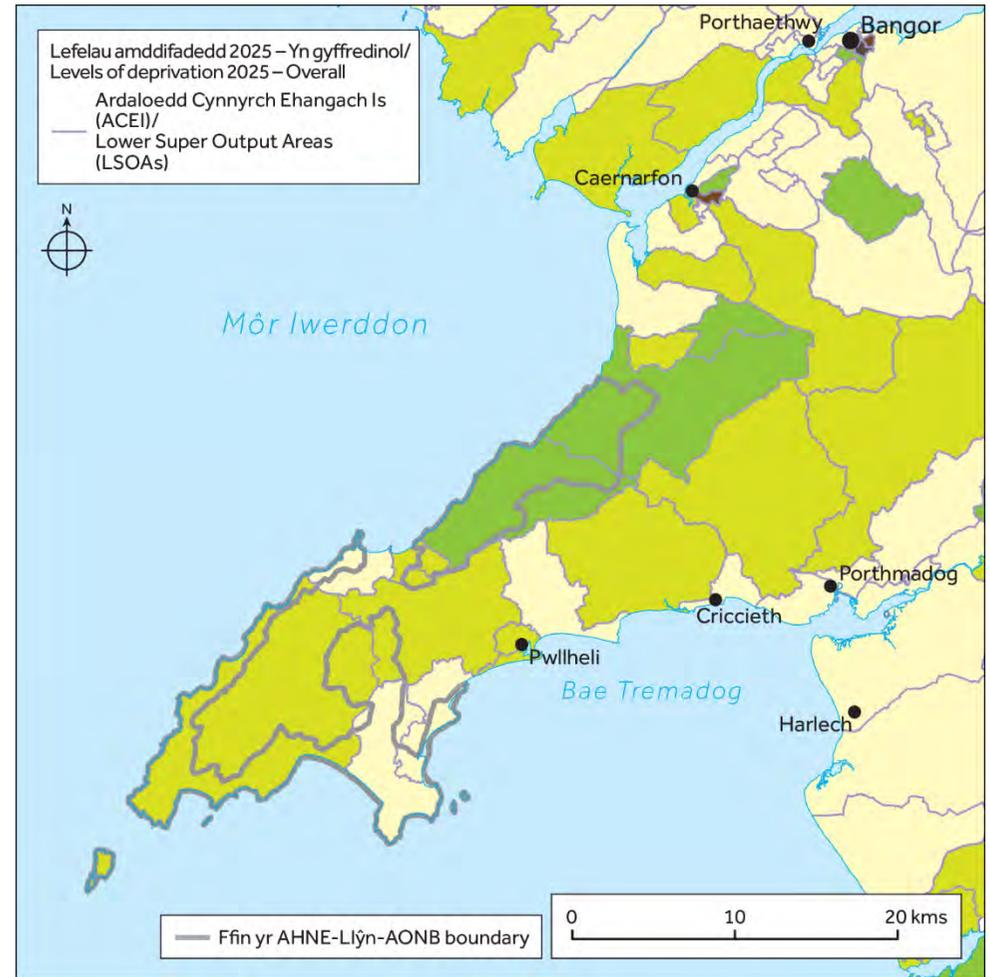
In 2019, the majority of the AONB lay in 30% and 50% of the most deprived Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Wales. In contrast, a central band running from Morfa Nefyn and Mynydd Nefyn in the north to Abersoch and Cilan Uchaf in the south lay in the 50% least deprived LSOA.

By 2025, those parts of the AONB in the Clynnog, Llanaelhaearn and Pistyll Community Council areas have fallen into the 20% and 30% of the most deprived LSOAs in Wales. The Buan Community Council area has fallen from the 50% least deprived LSOAs to the 30% and 50% of the most deprived LSOAs.

### Considering just the housing domain

In 2019, a large part of the AONB lay in the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales. This includes the western and eastern extremities of the area. Most of the rest lay in 10% and 20% of the most deprived LSOAs in Wales. There were two small pockets, around Morfa Nefyn in the north and Abersoch in the south, that lay in 30% and 50% of the most deprived LSOAs in Wales. And there was one small pocket between Nefyn and Mynydd Nefyn that lay in the 50% least deprived LSOAs in Wales.

By 2025, the majority of the AONB lies within the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales, with the exception a small area around Abersoch that is in the 10% and 20% of the most deprived LSOAs in Wales (a fall from 30% to 50%).



**Allwedd/Legend**

Lefelau amddifadedd – Yn gyffredinol/  
Levels of deprivation – Overall

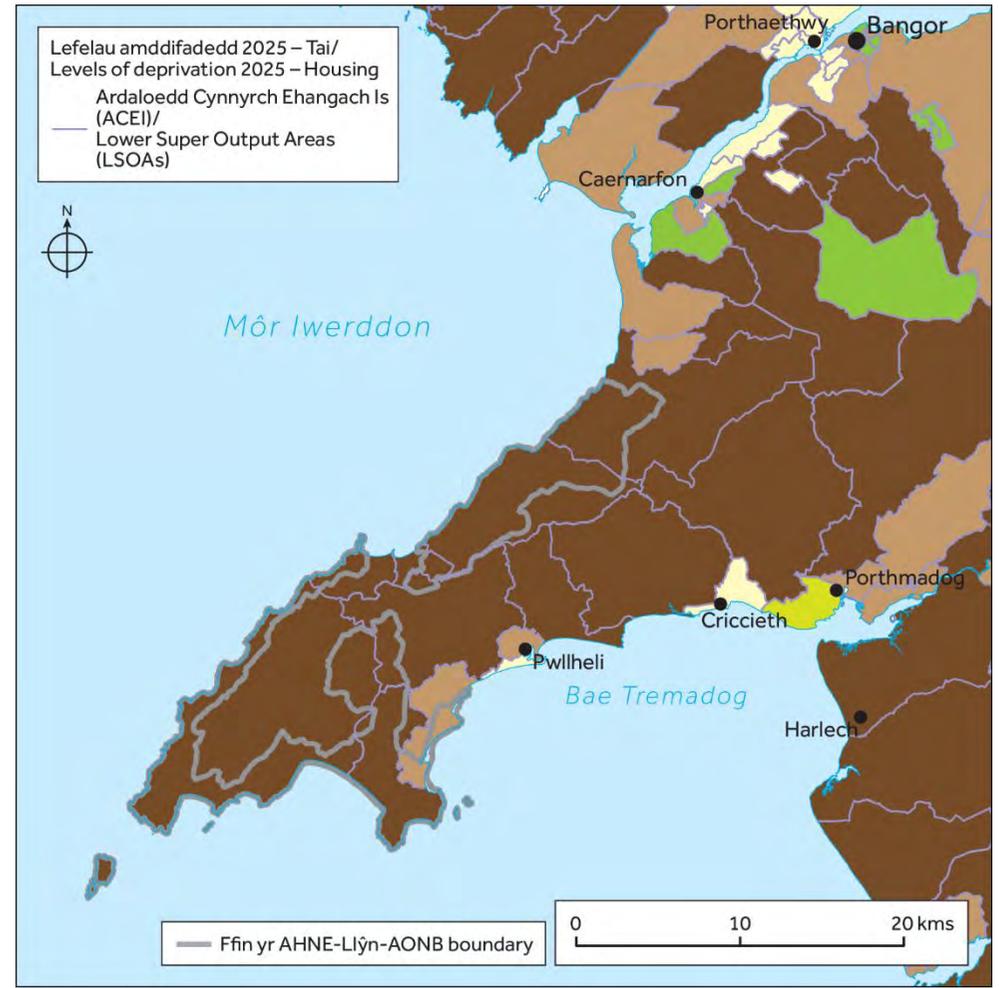
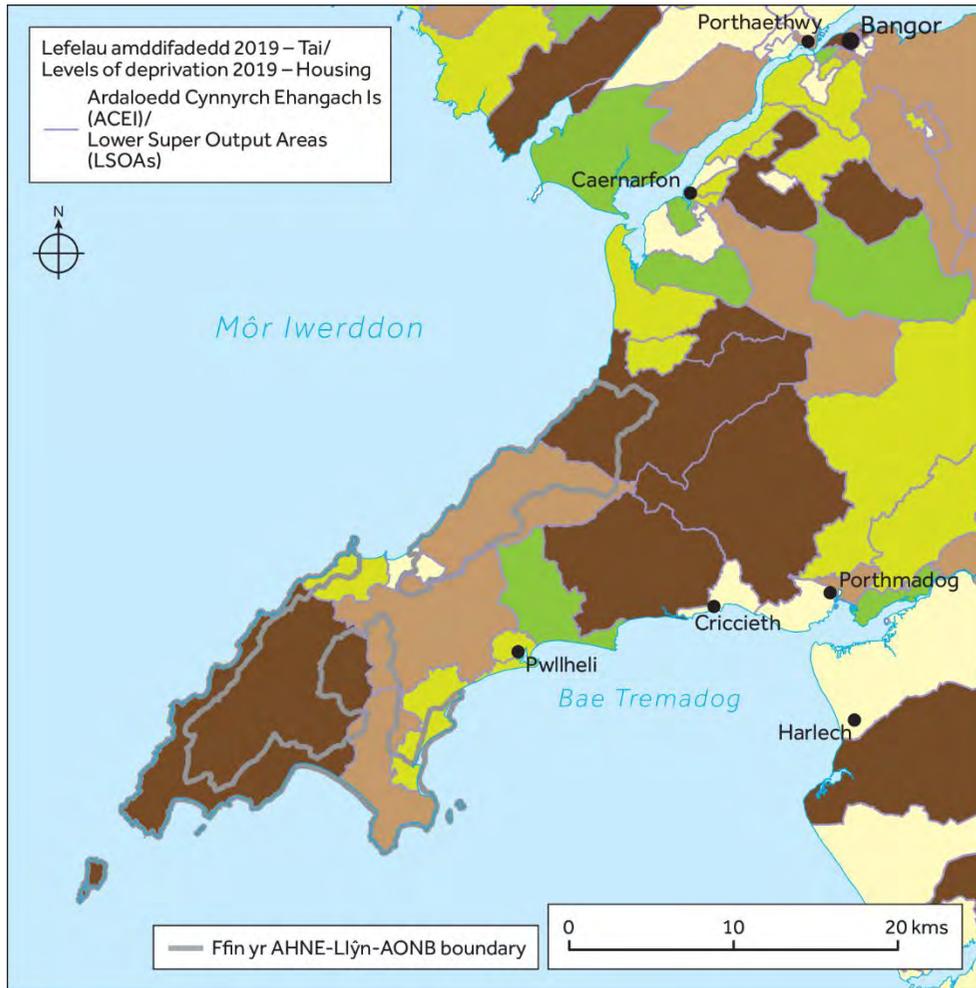
10% o'r rhai mwyaf difreintiedig/  
10% most deprived

Rhwng 10% a 20% o'r rhai mwyaf difreintiedig/  
Between 10% and 20% most deprived

Rhwng 20% a 30% o'r rhai mwyaf difreintiedig/  
Between 20% and 30% most deprived

Rhwng 30% a 50% o'r rhai mwyaf difreintiedig/  
Between 30% and 50% most deprived

50% lleiaf difreintiedig/  
50% least deprived



**Allwedd/Legend**

Lefelau amddifadedd – Tai/  
Levels of deprivation – Housing

10% o'r rhai mwyaf difreintiedig/  
10% most deprived

Rhwng 10% a 20% o'r rhai mwyaf difreintiedig/  
Between 10% and 20% most deprived

Rhwng 20% a 30% o'r rhai mwyaf difreintiedig/  
Between 20% and 30% most deprived

Rhwng 30% a 50% o'r rhai mwyaf difreintiedig/  
Between 30% and 50% most deprived

50% lleiaf difreintiedig/  
50% least deprived

Source: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved

<https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/welsh-index-of-multiple-deprivation-wimd-2019/> & <https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/welsh-index-of-multiple-deprivation-wimd-2025/>

## Numbers of second homes

Cyngor Gwynedd does have data based upon council tax and non-domestic business tax returns. This records 1,150 residential units as either holiday accommodation or second homes (33.4% of the AONB housing stock).

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Total number of residential units in the AONB  | 3,438 |
| Number of residential units paying second home premium                                 | 932   |
| Number of self-catering holiday units  | 218   |
| Percentage of AONB housing stock listed as either holiday accommodation or second home | 33.4% |

Source: Cyngor Gwynedd 2025

There are no second address census data cut to the AONB boundary. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produce housing data for second addresses by location and type. These datasets are part of 'Holiday homes in England and Wales', a release of results from the 2021 Census for England and Wales. There are two tables of interest; one by middle layer super output area and the other by lower layer super output area. Unfortunately, the data set is incomplete with the western end of the peninsula (covering Aberdaron and Botwnnog) data not presented.

## Employment profiles of resident population

### Employment status

Between 2011 & 2021: there has been a 6% reduction in the level of registered employment and a 7% swing from those residents wanting to work to those not seeking work; perhaps reflecting the increasing retired population (29.4% in 2021, up from 19.6% in 2011).

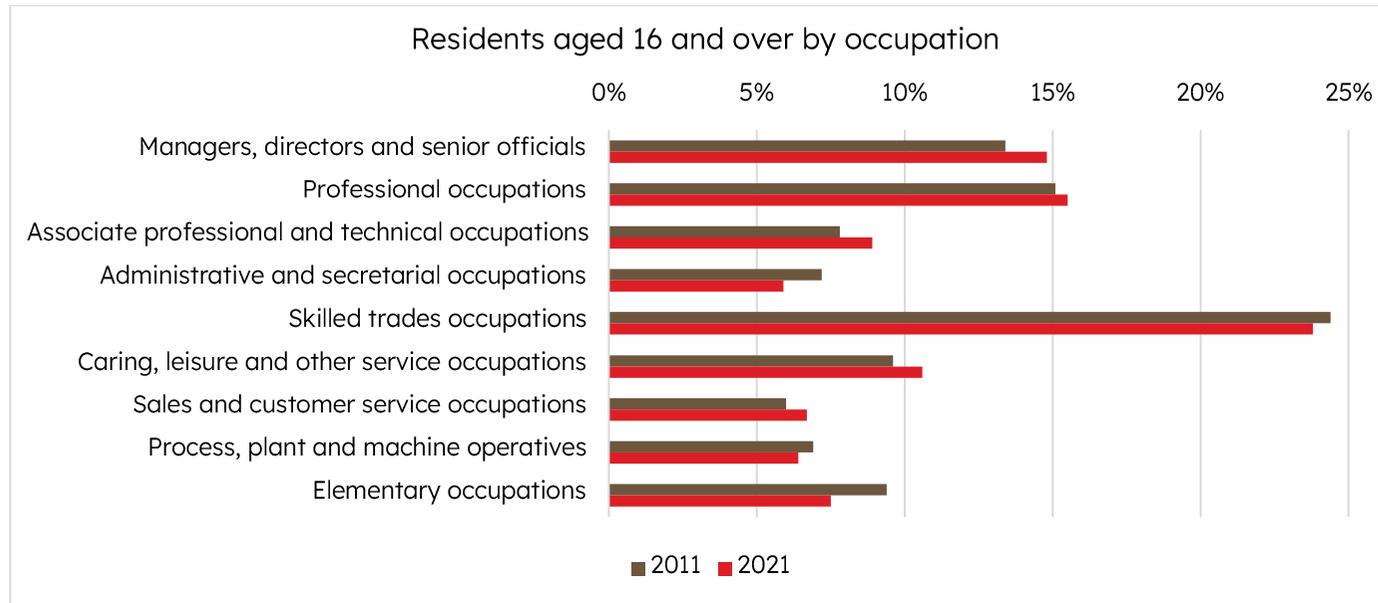
#### Employment status

|                            | 2011  | 2021  |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|
| Employed                   | 60.5% | 54.4% |
| Seeking work               | 2.9%  | 2.4%  |
| Not seeking work           | 36.6% | 43.2% |
| Not seeking work - Retired | 19.6% | 29.4% |

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 28 August 2025] 2011: Tables KS601EW to KS603EW, 2021: Table TS066

## Occupation

Between 2011 & 2021: the spread of occupations has shifted slightly from the skilled trades towards professional roles with the biggest change in the elementary occupations (a 2% reduction).



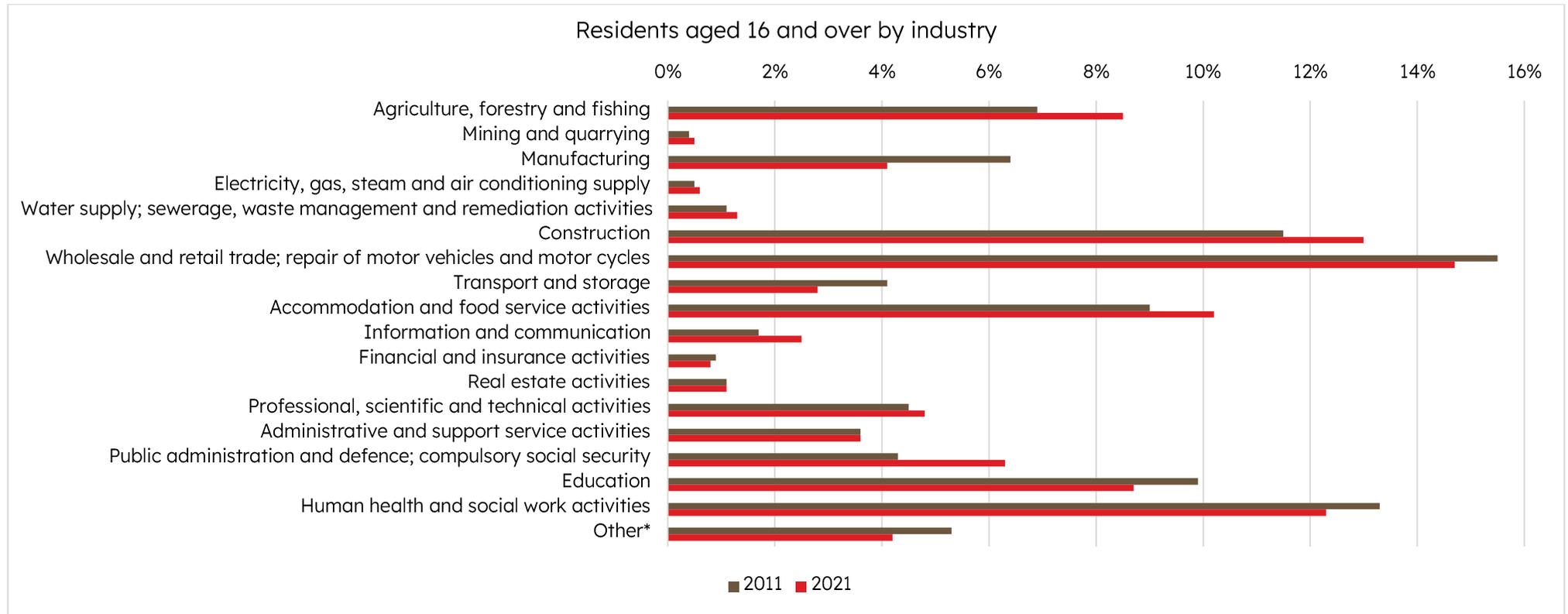
### Occupation

- Increase in managerial (+1.4%), associate professional (+1.1%), technical occupations (+1.1%), service occupations (+1%), sales (+0.7%), and professional occupations (+0.4%).
- Decrease in elementary occupation (-1.9%), administrative (-1.3%), skilled trades (-0.6%), and process operatives (-0.5%).

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 28 August 2025] 2011: Tables KS608EW to KS610EW, 2021: Table TSO63

## Industry

Between 2011 & 2021: There has been an increase in public administration, land-based industries, construction and hospitality sectors. There has been a decrease in manufacturing, transport, educational, health and retail sectors; but retail and health services are still dominant.



### Industry

- Increase in administration (+2%), agriculture and forestry (+1.6%), construction (+1.5%), hospitality (+1.2%), information ((+0.8%) and professional (+0.3%).
- Decrease in manufacturing (-2.3%), transport (-1.3%), education (-1.2%), other\* (-1.1%), health and social work (-1%) and retail (-0.8%).

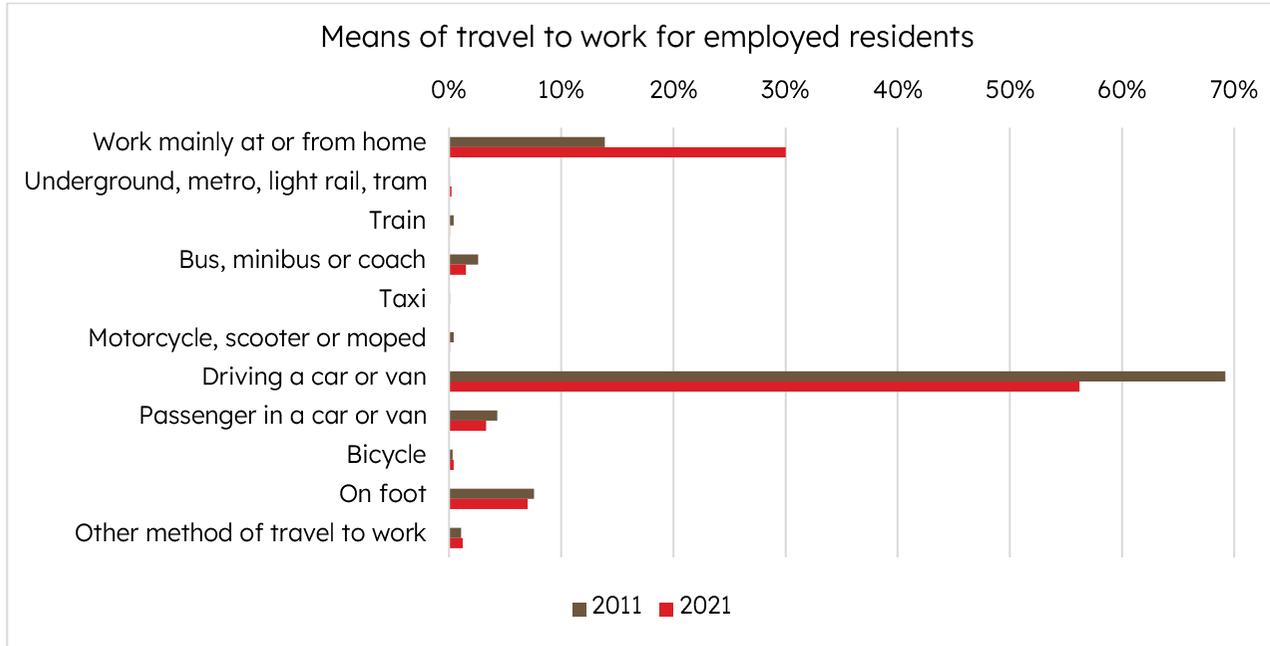
\*Other includes arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities; activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services producing activities of households for own use; activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies.

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 28 August 2025] 2011: Tables QS601EW, QS605EW, 2021: Table TS060A

# Travel to work

## Means of travel

In 2021, 30% of employed residents worked from home, up from 14% in 2011. In 2011, 69% of employed residents drove to work; this reduced to 56% in 2021.

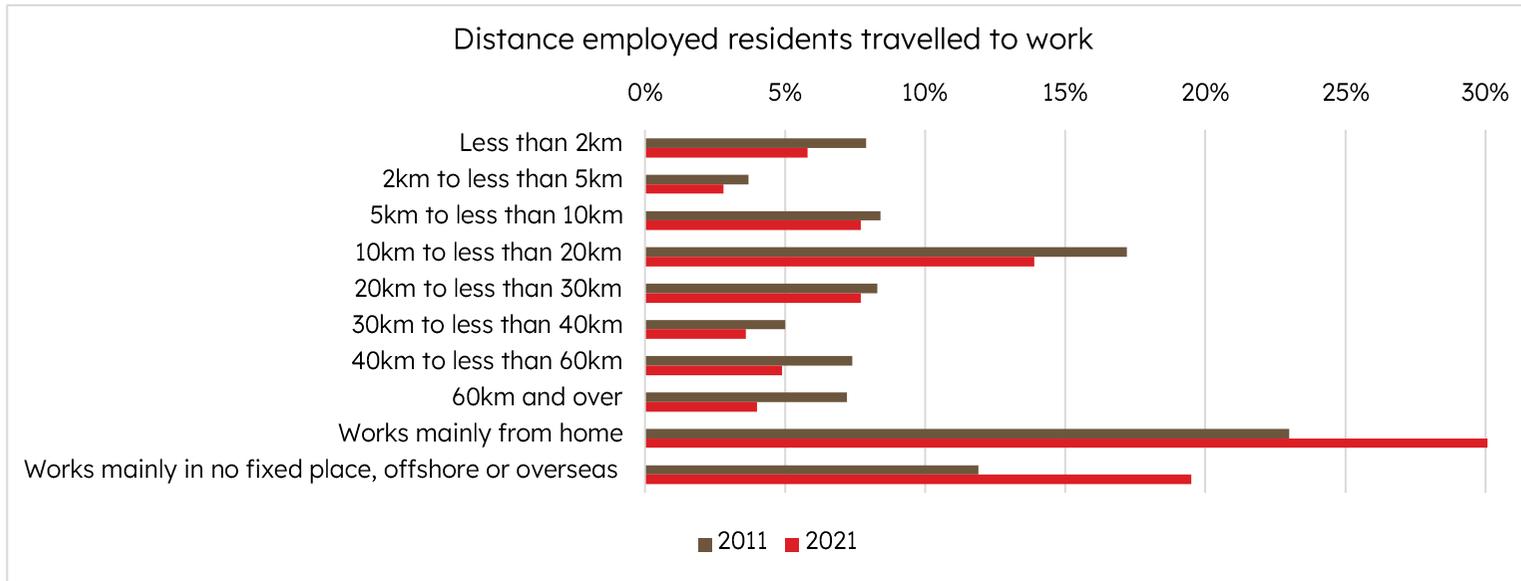


The most striking changes between 2011 and 2021 is the 16% increase in the number of people working mainly at or from their home, and the 13% decrease in people driving to work. These are, by far, the two highest categories. The third highest is walking to work (7% in 2021, down from 7.6% in 2011).

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 28 August 2025] 2011: Table QS701EW & 2021: Table TS061

## Distance travelled to work

In 2021, 35.9% of employed residents travelled less than 2km to work; 4% travelled over 60km to work (long distance commuters); and 19.5% worked in no fixed place, offshore or overseas.



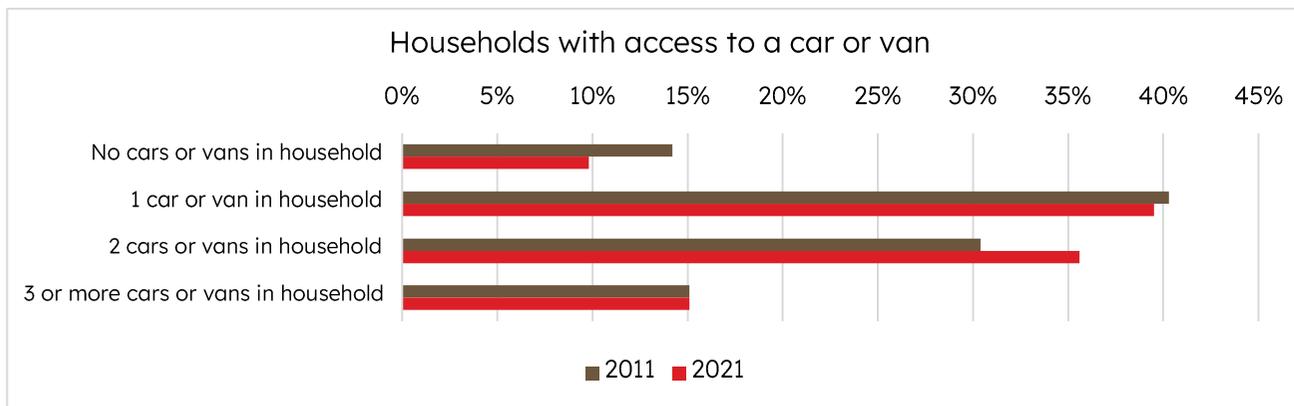
This table also shows that home working has increased. Up from 23% in 2011 to 30.1% in 2021. But there is only a 4% increase in travelling less than 2km to work (30.9% in 2011 up to 35.9% in 2021).

Long-distance commuting (60km+) has fallen from 7.2% in 2011 to 4% in 2021.

People working in no fixed place, offshore or overseas has risen from 12% in 2011 to 19.5% in 2021.

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 28 August 2025] 2011: Table QS702EW. 2021: Table TS058

## Access to car or van



In 2021, 90% of the resident population had access to at least one car or van, up from 86% in 2011. 14.2% of households had no access to a car or van in 2011, this reduced to 9.8% by 2021. The growth in access is primarily in the 2 car or van band; up from 30.4% in 2011 to 35.6% in 2021.

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 28 August 2025] Tables KS404EW & TS045

## Access to public transport



Source <http://www.busatlas.uk/> checked against the latest timetables October 2023 <https://bustimes.org/> Transport for Wales <https://tfw.wales/flecsi>

Few evening services but morning and afternoon services generally good.

### Routes shown on map:

#### Seven days a week

- 8** Pwllheli - Nefyn - Tudweiliog (Nefyn Coaches) regular service) 6:45-20:50
- 12** Caernarfon - Trefor - Pwllheli (Clynnog & Trefor / Berwyn Coaches) regular service 07:30-21:00
- 18** Pwllheli - Abersoch - Pwllheli (Berwyn & Nefyn Coaches) regular service 07:40-18:30

#### Six days a week

- 8A** Pwllheli - Nefyn (Nefyn Coaches) limited service 10:15-17:00
- 8B** Pwllheli - Rhydlios (Nefyn Coaches) 1 return journey 09:00 & 13:45
- 17** Pwllheli - Aberdaron (Berwyn Coaches) regular service 06:20-18:55
- 17B** Pwllheli - Aberdaron (Berwyn Coaches) 2 return journeys 10:25-15:00
- 27** Pwllheli - Llithfaen - Nefyn (Nefyn Coaches) regular service 09:15-17:40

#### Five days a week

- 14** Tudweiliog - Trefor - Pwllheli (Berwyn Coaches) limited service 7:15-17:15

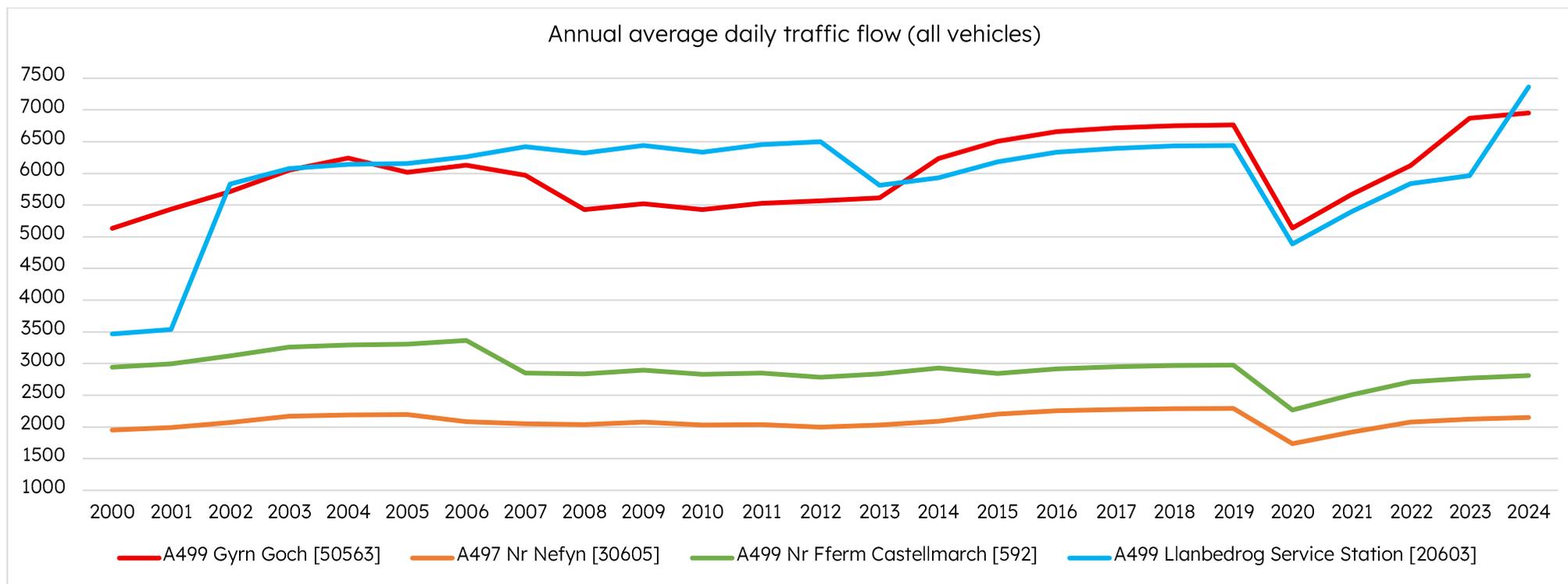
**flecsi bus** flecsi Llŷn Peninsula operates May - September. The service is a demand-responsive transport initiative run by O Ddrws i Ddrws with Transport for Wales (TfW) and AONB Sustainable Development Fund support. flecsi buses pick up and drop off passengers with bookings made via an app or phone.

#### Trains

Pwllheli for journeys towards Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury (Transport for Wales)

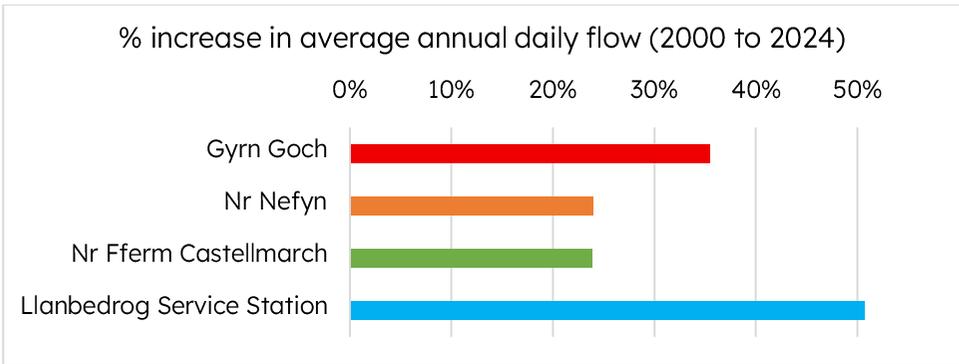
## Road traffic counts

In 2024, the number of vehicles that travelled past the count points (in both directions) was 19,299. The most common vehicles on all roads were cars (77%) and light goods vehicles (19%). Daily traffic flows for 2000-2024 show the busiest monitoring points are along the A499 in the eastern end of the peninsula. During that period, the average number of vehicles that travelled past the count point (in both directions) at Gyrn Goch was 6,006 vehicles, and at Llanbedrog, 5,956. The quietest A-road monitoring point is on the A497 near to Nefyn (2,914 vehicles).

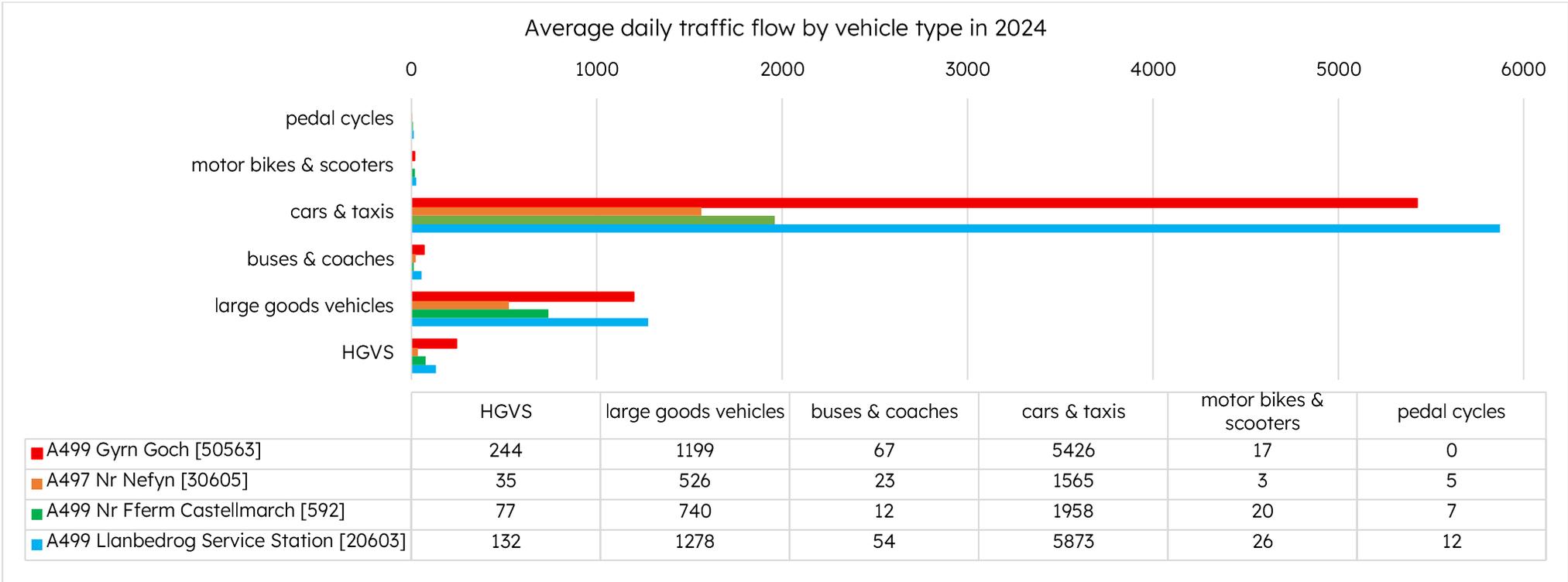


Number of vehicles that travel past the count point (in both directions) on an average day of the year. The Department for Transport reported on four traffic count monitoring points on A roads between 2000 and 2024 (there are other monitoring points, but they only cover short time periods). The effects of Covid-19 shows with a dip for the 2019-20 figures. Traffic levels in the eastern end of the peninsula have increased since 2000. Along the A499 at Gyrn Goch by 36% and at Llanbedrog by 112%. (Note: the 2000-2001 counts for Llanbedrog suggest an anomaly, perhaps caused by a local development or major road works. Using 2002-24 figures shows +22% at Gyrn Goch and +26% at Llanbedrog).

It is noticeable that the A497 and A499 in the western end of the peninsula have, with the exception of the Covid year, had steady flows of traffic since 2000. Traffic flows on the A497 near Nefyn only increased by 10% whilst the A499 near Fferm Castellmarch has seen a 5% decrease in traffic.



Traffic levels have increased since the Covid-19 lockdowns. The greatest increase (+51%) is along the A499 to the north of Llanbedrog with the A499 at Gyrn Goch showing the next highest increase in traffic (+36%). Both the A497 and A499 in the western end of the peninsula each experienced a 24% increase in traffic.

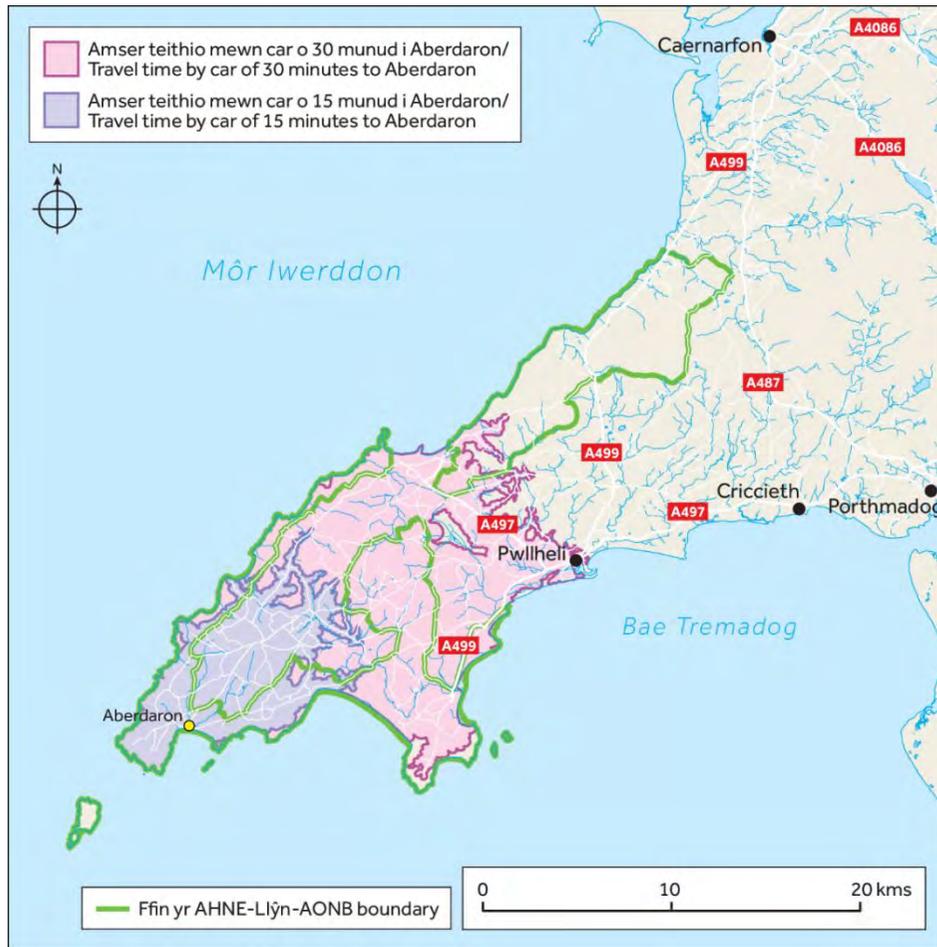


Source: Dept for Transport Road traffic statistics <https://roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk/#6/55.254/-6.053/basemap-regions-countpoints>

The Department for Transport monitoring point reference number is shown in square brackets [xx]. 'Average annual daily flow' is the number of vehicles that travel past the count point (in both directions) on an average day of the year.

## Travel areas to the Llŷn AONB

Map showing the 15 and 30-minute travel times by car to Aberdaron and Nefyn. Generally, travel surveys assume that the average trip-time for a day trip is 33 minutes.



The maps show the approximate boundary of the 15-minute and 30-minute car journey areas. Currently, there is no National Travel Survey data specifically for Wales. The intent is to introduce the Wales National Travel Survey in 2026. The primary aim is to provide Welsh Government and Transport for Wales with reliable, robust data to track progress towards targets and commitments for the transport sector.

Source: Wales National Travel Survey <https://tfw.wales/brief-guide-wales-national-travel-survey> Travel Time areas created using the Open Route Service plugin on QGIS based on Open Street Map data.

## Open Access Land

In 2023, there was 2,069 ha of open country (13% of the AONB) and 835 ha of registered common (5% of the AONB).



Open access land, under the CRow Act, consists of open country (mountain, moor, heath and downland) and 'registered common land', which consists of land that is recorded on the official registers held by the commons registration authorities. It also includes areas of 'dedicated land' where owners, such as Natural Resources Wales, allow free access.

| Access land type    | Area (ha) | % of AONB |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Open country (CRow) | 2,069     | 13%       |
| Registered common   | 835       | 5%        |

There are no recorded Urban Commons, Commons with Deeds for Access, 1899 Commons Act, Provisional Order Confirmation or Village Greens.

Source: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000849444. Crown Copyright and Database Right. <https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/recreation-and-access-policy-advice-and-guidance/managing-access/open-access-land/?lang=en>

## Access network

In both 2020 and 2025, 300 km of public rights of way were reported; there is no comprehensive assessment of condition.



### Allwedd/Legend

- Llwybr ceffylau/  
Bridleway
- Cilffordd ar agor i bob traffig/  
Byway open to all traffic
- Ffordd gyfyngedig/  
Restricted byway
- Llwybr Troed/  
Footpath

### Public Rights of Way

| Type                             | Length (Km)  |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Byway open to all traffic (BOAT) | 6.2          |
| Bridleway                        | 10.8         |
| Footpath                         | 270.8        |
| Restricted Byway (RUPP)          | 11.8         |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>299.6</b> |

Cyngor Gwynedd reports that it has never undertaken a full assessment of the condition of its rights of way network. The most comprehensive survey was undertaken 2004/05 when approximately 35% of the network was assessed. Up to 2012/13 an annual assessment of 5% of the network was undertaken but these surveys were stopped due to the lack of resources and the weaknesses inherent in small data sets.

The lack of core information about the condition of the network is a barrier to measuring the effectiveness of current working arrangements and policies.

Source: Cyngor Gwynedd Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2022, Natural Resources Wales 2025 and mapping from <https://www.rowmaps.com/kmls/GY/>

## Coastal Paths and trails

There are 12 waymarked circular walks and rides within the AONB and two close to its boundary. The Wales Coast Path follows the AONB's coastline.



### Wales Coast Path

The Wales Coast Path was launched in 2012. Its total length is 870 miles. On the Llŷn Peninsula, the Coast Path follows the AONB's coastline from Aberdesach on the north coast to Carreg y Defaid near Llanbedrog in the south.

### Circular walks:

- Clynog Trefor approximately 15km/9.3 miles (5hrs).
- Llithfaen approximately 13km/8 miles (4hrs).
- Nefyn Circular walk approximately 6.4km/4 miles (2hrs).
- Ederm approximately 10.4 km/6.5 miles. (3.5 hrs).
- Tudweiliog approximately 5 km/3.2 miles (2.5hrs).
- Llangwnnadi approximately 6.4 km/4 miles (2.5hrs).
- Aberdaron approximately 15 km/9.3 miles (5hrs).
- Rhiw approximately 4.3 km/2.7 miles (2hrs).
- Botwnnog approximately 15km/9.3 miles (6hrs).
- Llanbedrog approximately 3.6 km/2.3 miles (2hrs).

### Circular cycle routes:

- Route 40 approximately 22.5 km/14 miles
- Route 41 approximately 27.4 km/17 miles
- Route 42 approximately 43.5 km/27 miles
- Route 43 approximately 30.6 km/19 miles

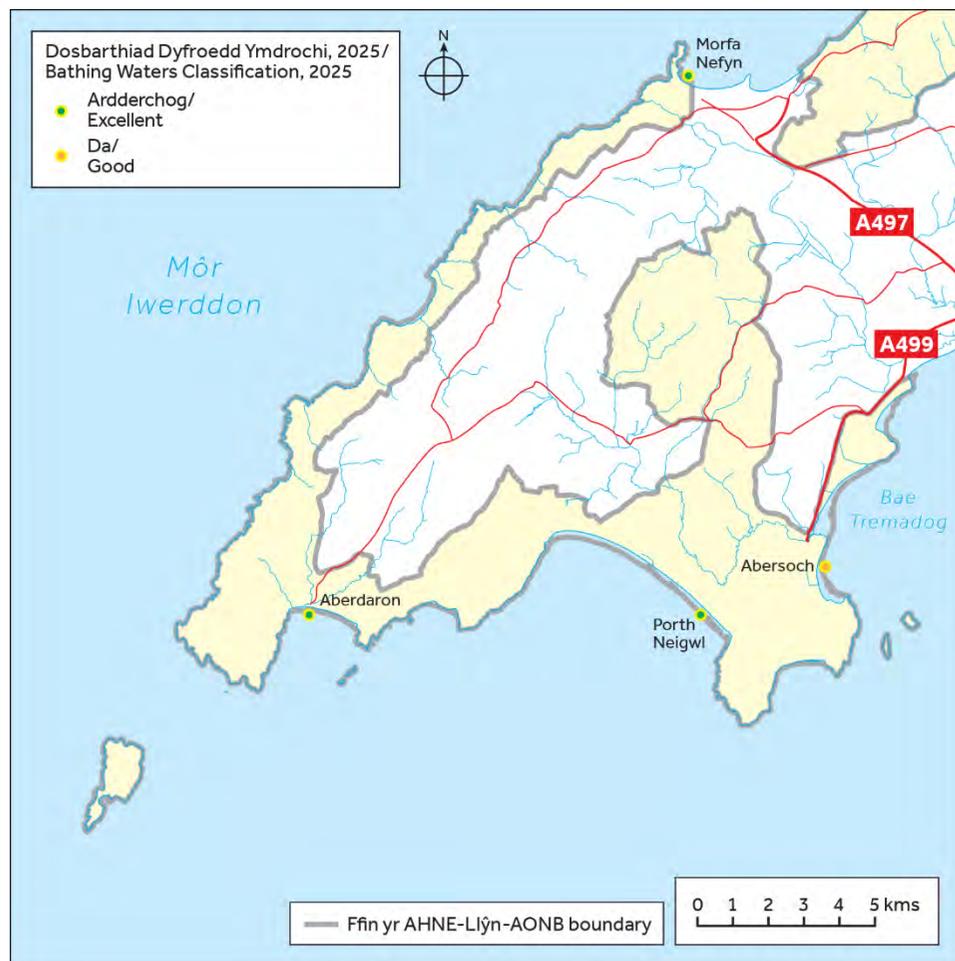
### National Cycle Route

Not in the AONB but crossing the peninsula, National Cycle Route No 8. Known as the Lôn Las Cymru, fully open and signed between Cardiff and Holyhead (Anglesey) via Brecon, Builth Wells, Machynlleth, Porthmadog and Bangor. Approximately 391.7 km/243.4 miles (20 hours 17 minutes to cycle; 81 hours 8 minutes to walk).

Source: Wales Coast Path - [https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW\\_WALES\\_COASTAL\\_PATH](https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW_WALES_COASTAL_PATH) Circular routes - <https://www.ahne-llyn-aonb.org/Circular-Walks> National Cycle Network - <https://data-sustrans-uk.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Sustrans-UK::national-cycle-network-public-1/about>

## Location and condition of designated bathing waters

There are 4 designated bathing waters within the AONB. In 2025, all were rated 'excellent'.



### Sites designated under the 2013 Bathing Water Regulations:

- Aberdaron (designated 2011) There are condition issues in 2025, but it was excellent between 2024 and 2021,
- Porth Neigwl (designated 2012) Condition was excellent between 2024 and 2021
- Abersoch (designated 1988) There are condition issues in 2025, it was good in 2024 but excellent from 2021
- Morfa Nefyn (designated 2012) Condition was excellent between 2024 and 2021

Just outside the AONB, Porth Nefyn bathing water was designated in 2024 with water in a good condition but there is no trend data to confirm the classification (see note below).

### Classification:

| Parameter               | “Excellent”     | “Good”         |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Intestinal enterococci1 | 100 cfu/100 ml* | 200 cfu/100 ml |
| Escherichia coli1       | 250 cfu/100 ml  | 500 cfu/100 ml |

\*cfu/100 ml = Colony forming units per 100 millilitres

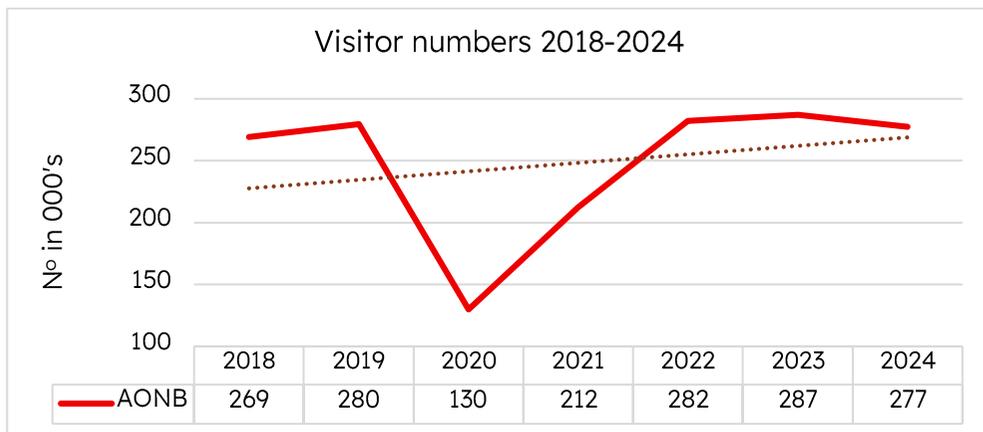
**Note:** Water quality at designated bathing water sites in Wales is assessed by Natural Resources Wales. From May to September, regular assessments measure current water quality, and at many sites daily pollution risk forecasts are issued. Annual ratings classify each site as excellent, good, sufficient or poor based on measurements taken over a four-year period.

Source: Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000849444. Crown Copyright and Database Right. <https://environment.data.gov.uk/wales/bathing-waters/profiles/index.html>

# Tourism and the Visitor Economy

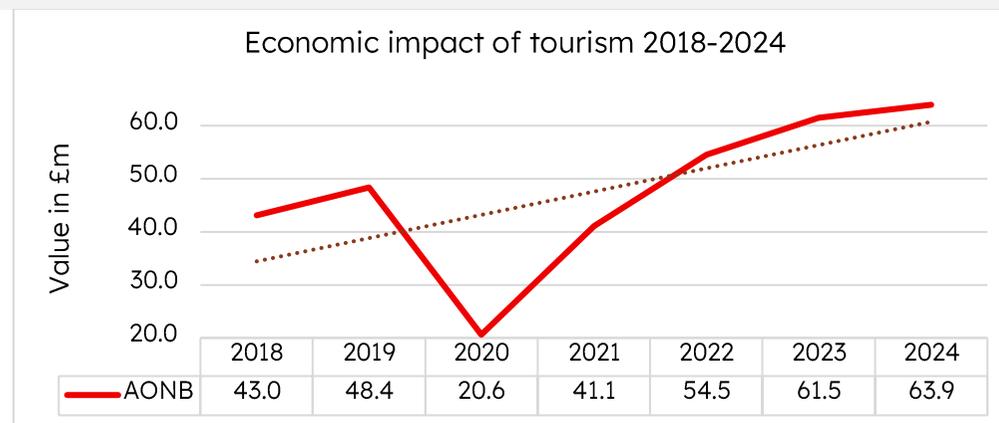
## Using the 2021 State of the AONB Report methodology

In 2024, the AONB welcomed 277,000 visitors (a fall of 1.1% since 2019) with 863,000 visitor days (a rise of 0.7% since 2019). The economic impact was £63,900,000 (a rise of 32% since 2019). The impact of COVID shows clearly with a fall of 54% in visitor numbers between 2019 and 2020.



For the 2021 state of reporting, the STEAM data for Gwynedd was apportioned to the AONB using Census 2011 data to establish a ratio. This was based on employment in the 'Accommodation and Food Service Activities' sector. We use Census 2021 data.

Census 2021 data shows that approximately 158 people within the AONB were employed in Accommodation and Food Service Activities whilst 4,419 were employed in this sector in Gwynedd as a whole. Therefore, analysis is based on attributing 3.58% of the local authority totals from STEAM data to the AONB. Due to the method used to apportion local authority data, the statistics presented in this section are best approximations.



Excluding the COVID effects in 2020/21, visitor numbers are generally stable over time averaging 280,000 a year, though the trend-line suggests a slow growth. Likewise, the number of visitor days remains stable, averaging 855,000 a year with the trend-line showing a slow growth. Notwithstanding the stable tourism numbers, the economic impact data shows a steady growth.

Source: Compiled by Cathy James, GTS (UK) Ltd (2025): STEAM Summary for Cyngor Gwynedd

## Data from STEAM Summary reports

The State of the AONB Report 2021 used data from the full STEAM reports. We have not had access to those reports, but Cyngor Gwynedd does publish STEAM summary reports. From these it is possible to add a little more detail, as shown in the table. The AONB figures are calculated as 3.58% of the Gwynedd totals.

Since 2019, the number of:

- staying visitor days has increased by 0.8%
- staying visitors has increased by 2.4%
- day visitors has increased by 3.1%
- FTE jobs supported by tourism has fallen by 3.8%

In 2023, 50.7% of visitors stayed at least one night; 49.3% were day visitors.

Source: LUC (2021): State of the AONB Report 2021 For the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and GTS (UK) Ltd (2023): STEAM Summary for Cyngor Gwynedd

| STEAM topics                                  | Gwynedd    | AONB    | Gwynedd    | AONB    | Gwynedd    | AONB    |
|---|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|
|   | 2023       |         | 2019       |         | 2011       |         |
| Staying visitor days                          | 20,250,000 | 724,950 | 20,100,000 | 719,580 | 18,190,000 | 651,202 |
| Number of staying visitors                    | 4,070,000  | 145,706 | 3,973,000  | 142,233 | 3,405,000  | 121,899 |
| Number of day visitors                        | 3,954,000  | 141,553 | 3,836,000  | 137,329 | 3,792,000  | 135,754 |
| Number of FTE jobs supported by tourism spend | 17,538     | 628     | 18,244     | 653     | 15,906     | 469     |

## Touring and Static Caravan Sites

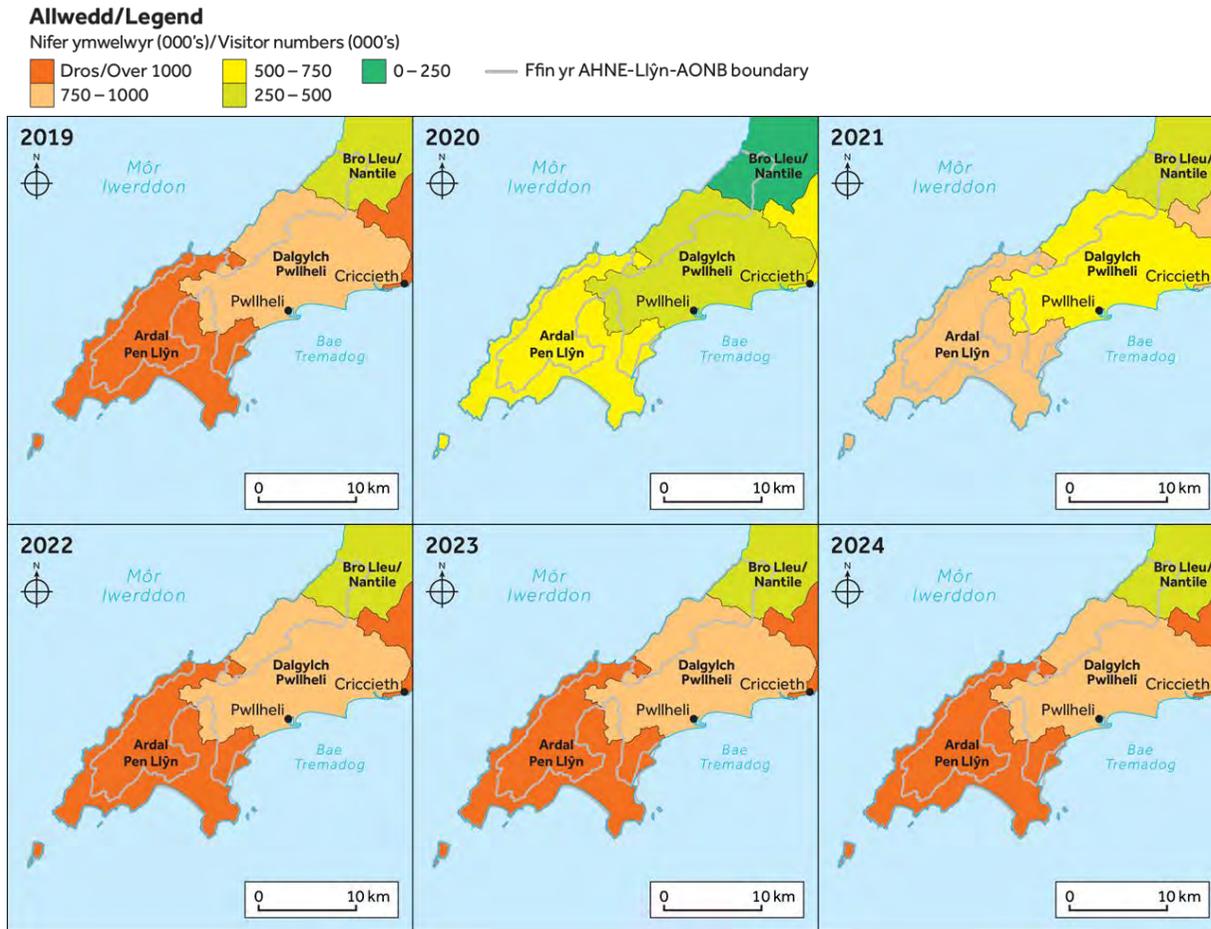
The Llŷn Peninsula is a very popular caravan and camping destination. To understand the pressures facing the AONB in relation to this, the number of touring and static caravan sites was set as a baseline indicator and reported in the 2021 State of the AONB report. Cyngor Gwynedd keeps a public register of licensed caravan and camping sites, as required by the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. This register lists sites with valid licences, including details on site owners, conditions, and, for mobile homes, a register of "fit and proper" managers.

**In 2021:** LUC found 82 sites on the Public Register of Licensed Caravan & Camping Sites within the AONB; 51 of these sites had provisions for static caravans; 32 had provisions for touring caravans; and 10 had provision for both touring and static caravans.

**In 2025:** The register had only 8 caravan (and 1 tent) records for the whole of the County, few were in the AONB. We could not find the data made available to LUC. Given the potential impact of caravan and camping on both the local economy and landscape character, we recommend that a survey is commissioned to find the current position within the AONB.

## Using STEAM Area reporting

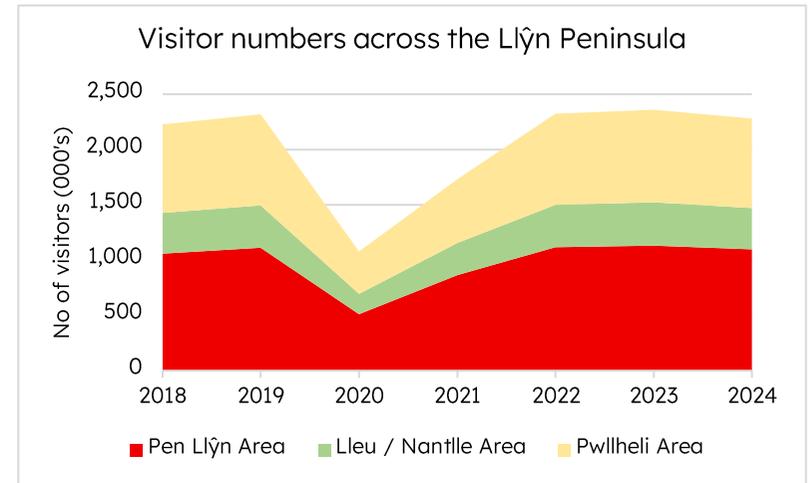
In 2024, the Llŷn Peninsula welcomed 2,280,000 visitors (a fall of 1.6% since 2019) with 7,814,000 visitor days (a rise of 0.3% since 2019). The economic impact was £544,800,000 (a rise of 30.8% since 2019).



There is no AONB-specific tourism data, but the Gwynedd-wide STEAM data is split into areas. Three of those areas cover the Llŷn Peninsula:

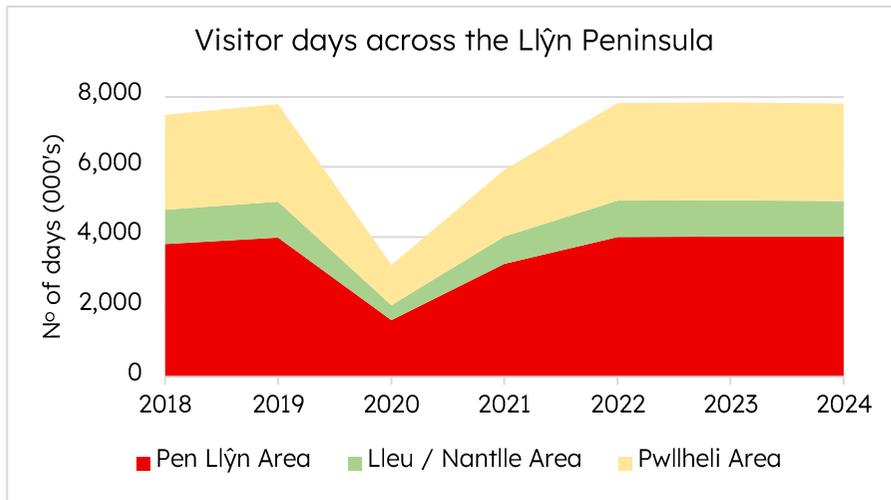
- Pen Llŷn Area
- Lleu / Nantlle Area
- Pwllheli Area

This data-set is statistically more robust than the bespoke methodology.



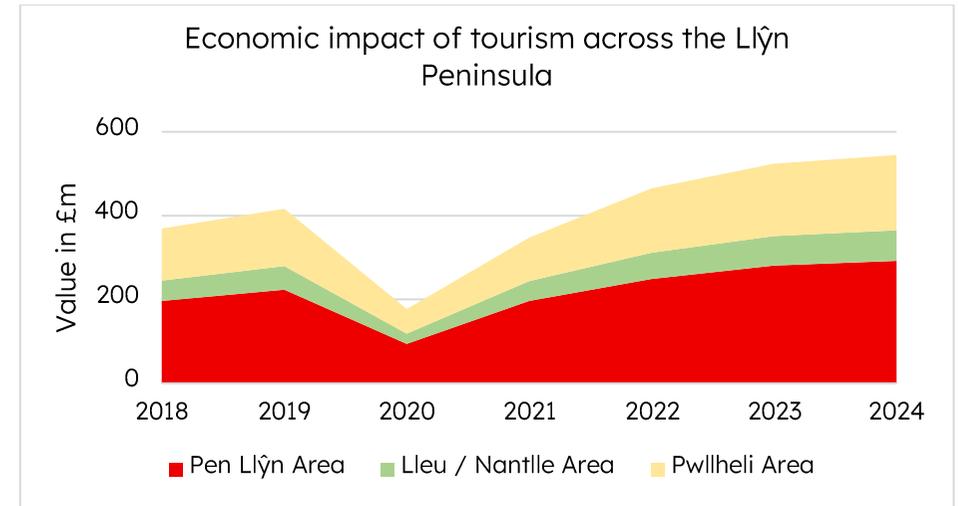
Visitor numbers are generally stable over time at around 2,300,000 a year but with the notable impact of COVID in 2020 (a fall of 53% in that year).

In 2024, around 48% of the visitors were in the Pen Llŷn Area, 36% in the Pwllheli Area, and 16% in the Lleu / Nantlle Area.



The number of visitor days is generally stable over time at around 7,750,000 a year but with the notable impact of COVID in 2020 (a fall of 59% in that year).

Source: Compiled by Cathy James, GTS (UK) Ltd (2025): STEAM Summary for Cyngor Gwynedd



The economic impact data shows a steady growth with a rise in value from £416,600,000 in 2019 to £544,800,000 in 2024 (up 30.8%).

# Glossary

## Access land

Open access land, under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, consists of open country (mountain, moor, heath and downland) and 'registered common land', which consists of land that is recorded on the official registers held by the commons registration authorities. It also includes areas of 'dedicated land' where owners, such as Natural Resources Wales, allow free access.

## Adaptive management

SMNR principle: Managing adaptively by planning, monitoring, reviewing and, where proper, changing action.

## Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

(Also known as an AONB) An area of landscape that is of such outstanding natural beauty that it merits designation under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. Together, AONBs represent 18% of the finest countryside in England and Wales. The designation helps to protect their special character, for example, through enhanced planning regulations.

## Area Statements

NRW document outlining the key challenges facing that locality, how to face those challenges and how to better manage natural resources.

## Agri-environment schemes

Schemes that offer payment to farmers who give an undertaking, or enter into an agreement, to manage their land for biodiversity, landscape, the historic environment, public access or amenity objectives. (See Glastir, Habitat Wales and Sustainable farming)

## Biodiversity

The term given to the variety of life and the natural processes of which living things are a part. The term includes living organisms, the genetic differences between them and the communities in which they occur.

## Built heritage

A collective term for heritage assets of local, regional or international significance because of their heritage value(s).

## Climate change

Change in global climate patterns apparent from the mid- to late 20th century onwards, attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced using fossil fuels.

## Climate change adaption

Adjustments that societies or ecosystems make to limit the negative effects of climate change or take advantage of opportunities provided.

## Climate change mitigation

Efforts aimed at reducing or preventing the impacts of climate change e.g. reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

## Common land

Areas where people who do not own the land have rights to use it for livestock grazing or other purposes. See also registered common land.

## Conservation Area

Designated by the local planning authority as an area which they consider has special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which they consider is desirable to preserve or enhance.

## Connectivity

Part of the DECCA framework to assess ecosystem resilience. Connectivity refers to the links between and within habitats, which may take the form of physical corridors, stepping stones in the

landscape, or patches of the same or related vegetation types that together create a network that enables the flow or movement of genes, species and natural resources.

### **Cultural heritage**

Inherited assets that people identify and value as a reflection and expression of their evolving knowledge, beliefs and traditions, and of their understanding of the beliefs and traditions of others

### **Cultural landscapes**

These landscapes have been moulded by human influence over millennia.

### **DECCA framework**

Diversity, Extent, Condition, Connectivity and Adaptability is used to assess ecosystem resilience in NRW's SoNaRR approach.

### **Designated heritage asset**

A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Registered Battlefield, Registered Historic Landscape, Registered Park and Garden, Listed Building, Conservation Area, Area of Townscape/Village Character, Local Landscape Policy Area or Protected Wreck Site.

### **Earth heritage**

The rocks, soils and landforms that reveal our geological history, determine the diverse habitats in which wildlife can thrive and create the rich landscapes that we all enjoy.

### **Ecosystem**

Natural unit consisting of all plants, animals and micro-organisms (biotic factors) in an area functioning together with all the non-living physical (abiotic) factors of the environment.

### **Ecosystem services**

Ecosystem services (sometimes called environmental services) are the essential services and benefits that are derived from a fully

functioning natural environment, including the management of basic resources such as water, and the sequestration of carbon.

### **Environmental capital**

Environmental capital is the environmental assets, such as soils, from which beneficial services flow supplying resources to the economy. Four basic categories of environmental capital are generally recognised: air, water (fresh, groundwater and marine), land (including soil, space and landscape) and habitats (including the ecosystems, flora and fauna which they both comprise and support).

### **Ffermio Bro**

An agri-environment scheme launched in 2025 to support habitat restoration and nature recovery on farms within the Designated Landscapes of Wales.

### **Geodiversity**

The term geodiversity incorporates the variety of rocks, minerals and landforms, and the processes that have formed them through geological time. The breadth of geodiversity gives insight to past climates, earlier environments and life on earth.

### **Glastir**

Introduced in 2012, this scheme had both an entry-level and an advanced-level component. Its objectives included soil management, water quality, flood risk reduction, and biodiversity conservation. Glastir contracts ended in 2023

### **Green infrastructure**

Strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high-quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multi-functional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality-of-life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability.

## **Habitats of Principal Importance**

Under the Environment (Wales) Act (2016), Section 7 requires biodiversity lists to be produced. These lists include types of habitats that are of "Principal Importance" for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales. This dataset was created using Priority Habitats of Wales Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and Broad Habitats, both of which are derived from Phase 1 Terrestrial habitat and species surveys conducted across Wales.

## **Habitat Wales**

The Habitat Wales is an interim scheme that began in January 2024 and will continue until the new Sustainable Farming Scheme is implemented. It supports habitat protection on agricultural land, particularly for those who were previously in Glastir Advanced.

## **Heritage Asset**

A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having cultural significance. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

## **Historic environment**

All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and deliberately planted or managed flora.

## **Invasive species**

Plants, animals and microbes not native to a region which, when introduced either accidentally or intentionally, are harmful to the environment by out-competing native species for available resources, reproducing prolifically or dominating regions and ecosystems.

## **LANDMAP**

A tool to help sustainable decision-making and natural resource planning at a range of levels from local to national. It includes five, nationally consistent spatial datasets.

## **Landscape**

An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.

## **Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)**

The LCA is a method for identifying, understanding and expressing the different patterns and elements of the landscape. These elements include the woodlands, hedgerows, building styles and historic artefacts that give a place a distinctive character.

## **Listed building**

Listed buildings are structures considered to be of high architectural or historic interest that are placed on a statutory list to help protect their important features under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The list is compiled by the Welsh Ministers on advice from Cadw.

## **Local Development Frameworks (LDFs)**

Since 2004, LDFs are part of the new two-tier structure of the planning system (the higher tier is the regional spatial strategy – see below). The LDF replaces the structure Plan and the Local Plan. It consists of several Local Development Documents (LDDs) including a Core strategy, site-specific Allocations of Land, and a Proposals Map. It may also contain additional optional development documents such as Area Action Plans. Production of the LDF must be accompanied by a statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

## **Local Geological Sites**

Previously known as Regionally Important Geological Sites, sites that are selected by voluntary geo-conservation groups, according to nationally agreed criteria.

## **Local Wildlife Sites**

There are several different terms in use to describe Local Wildlife Sites, including Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Sites of Nature Conservation Importance and County Wildlife Sites. National advice is to use the term, Local Wildlife Sites. Local Wildlife Sites are usually selected within a local authority area through Local Nature Partnerships. They support both locally and nationally threatened wildlife, and many sites will contain priority habitats and species.

## **National Landscapes**

A new name for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (see Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

## **Natural Capital**

Those elements of the natural environment that provide valuable goods and services to people, such as the stock of forests, water, land, minerals and oceans.

## **National Cycle Network (NCN)**

The National Cycle Network is a UK-wide network of signed paths and routes for walking, wheeling, cycling and exploring outdoors. Ideally, the route, will be traffic-free. If it is not, it should either be on a quiet-way section of road or be fully separated from the adjacent carriageway.

## **National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs)**

NLCAs are defined at a broad landscape scale throughout Wales. The descriptive profiles for the 48 individual character areas highlight what distinguishes one landscape from another, with reference to their regionally distinct natural, cultural and perceptual characteristics.

## **Natural beauty**

A combination of distinctive characteristics and key features. The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 states that natural beauty includes 'flora, fauna, and geological and

physiographical features. Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 confirms that land can be of natural beauty because of human intervention.

## **Priority Ecological Network (PEN)**

(PENs) in the terrestrial environment are versions of the all-Wales habitat networks that show areas of connectivity between Protected Sites, and as such provide a framework to inform the location of action to build functional resilient ecological networks based on our most important places for biodiversity.

## **Priority Habitat Mapping**

Semi-natural habitats which are listed as priority habitats under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

## **Protected landscape area**

Defined by the IUCN as a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.

## **Ramsar Site**

A Ramsar Site is a wetland of international importance, designated under the global Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands) for its ecological value, aiming for its "wise use" and conservation through local, national, and international efforts, protecting crucial habitats for waterbirds, biodiversity, and sustainable development.

## **Regenerative tourism**

Regenerative tourism is a sustainable way of travelling and discovering new places. Its main goal is for visitors to have a positive impact on their holiday destination, meaning that they leave it in a better condition than how they found it (see sustainable tourism).

## **Resilience**

The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, e.g. climate resilience is defined as the capacity of social, economic and ecosystems to cope with a hazardous event or trend.

### **Scheduled Monument**

A Scheduled Monument is defined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as a protected archaeological site or historic building of national importance. Nationally, they range from prehistoric standing stones and burial mounds to more recent structures such as collieries and wartime pill-boxes. The scheduling of a monument means that permission is required for works affecting that monument.

### **Setting**

The immediate and extended environment that is part of – and contributes to – the significance and distinctive character of an asset, and through which an asset is understood, seen, experienced and enjoyed.

### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)**

SSSIs are the best examples of our natural heritage of wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms. An SSSI is an area that has been notified as being of special interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

### **SMNR**

SMNR in Wales stands for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, a long-term goal under the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 that aims to manage natural resources for current and future generations without long-term decline. It is a key part of the Welsh Government's approach to sustainability, aligning with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 and focusing on four key aims: safeguarding natural resources, building resilient ecosystems, creating a healthy environment for people, and fostering a regenerative economy.

### **SMNR principles**

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources principles guide decision making and action to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems.

### **Social capital**

Social capital describes the pattern and intensity of networks among people and the shared values that arise from those networks. While definitions of social capital vary, the main aspects are citizenship, neighbourliness, trust and shared values, community involvement, volunteering, social networks and civic participation.

### **SoNaRR**

SoNaRR in Wales stands for the State of Natural Resources Report, a requirement of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. It is a statutory requirement for NRW to assess Wales's sustainable management of natural resources and to set out a range of opportunities for action.

### **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)**

SACs are protected areas in the UK designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 in the UK offshore area to conserve important natural habitats and rare, endangered, or characteristic wild fauna and flora

SACs, together with Special Protection Areas (SPAs), form part of the UK's national site network.

### **Special Characteristics**

The unique components that give the area its sense of place.

### **Special Features**

The physical elements in the landscape that are regionally distinctive.

### **Special Protection Areas (SPAs)**

SPAs are protected areas for birds in the UK classified under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in the UK offshore area to conserve populations of rare, vulnerable, and regularly occurring migratory wild birds and their essential habitats, both on land and at sea.

SPAs, together with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), form the UK's national site network.

### **Special Qualities**

The combination of distinctive characteristics and key features that make an area important and valued (see Distinctive Characteristics and Key Features).

### **STEAM**

STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor) is a tourism economic impact modelling process that approaches the measurement of tourism from the bottom up, through its use of local supply side data and tourism performance and visitor survey data collection.

### **Sustainable**

Capable of meeting present needs without compromising ability to meet future needs.

### **Sustainable development**

Sustainable development means meeting four objectives at the same time: social progress that meets the needs of everyone; effective protection of the environment; prudent use of natural resources; and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

### **Sustainable communities**

Places where people want to live and work, now and in the future, that meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment and contribute to a high quality of life.

### **Sustainable Farming Scheme**

The new, whole-farm scheme set to be introduced in 2026. It will serve as the primary source of government support for farmers in Wales. The Scheme will reward farmers for actions that align with the Sustainable Land Management Objectives set out in The Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023

### **Sustainable tourism**

Sustainable tourism is tourism that attempts to make a low impact on the environment and local culture, while helping to generate income, employment and the conservation of local ecosystem services.

## State of the Llŷn AONB Report 2025

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