

# Eryri National Park Authority

## Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

January 2026

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Date January 2026

### Revision Control

Revision	Date	Author	Checker	Reviewer	Approver	Changes
1	December 2025	WP	CB	ST	RE	First draft for client review
2	January 2026	WP	CB	ST	RE	Update following client review
3	January 2026	WP	CB	ST	RE	Final following client review

This report dated 27 January 2026 has been prepared for Eryri National Park Authority (the “Client”) in accordance with the terms and conditions of appointment dated 09 October 2025 (the “Appointment”) between the Client and Arcadis Consulting (UK) Limited (“Arcadis”) for the purposes specified in the Appointment. For avoidance of doubt, no other person(s) may use or rely upon this report or its contents, and Arcadis accepts no responsibility for any such use or reliance thereon by any other third party.

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Eryri National Park

1.1.1 Eryri National Park covers 823 square miles, includes nine mountain ranges and 74 miles of coastline. In October 1951, Eryri National Park was designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949<sup>1</sup> as a protected landscape because of its special qualities:

- *Community cohesion – Eryri’s communities are scattered over five towns and twenty-four villages each with a strong identity that is deeply felt by its inhabitants and visitors.*
- *The vibrancy of the Welsh language in Eryri is one of its defining factors. It is evident in the names given to places and wildlife. The language is the mother tongue of the majority of the National Park’s communities.*
- *Diverse Landscapes – Eryri features nine mountain ranges, fifteen peaks above 3000 feet, 74 miles of sweeping coastline and 3000mm of rainfall per year – all within 823 square miles.*
- *Inspiration for the arts – Eryri is a place which has inspired some of the nation’s most notable culture, folklore, art, literature and music; an influence which continues across all creative pursuits to the present day.*
- *Tranquillity and solitude – Tranquillity still prevails in many parts of Eryri, both during the day, in its large, remote and rugged mountain ranges; and at night, when the vast, awe-inspiring dark skies are revealed.*
- *Recreation opportunities – Eryri is great for adventure and exploring. It has endless opportunities to be active and learn new skills. Everest teams use Eryri to practice their climbing skills.*
- *Historic landscapes – Eryri is a backdrop to a rich history and heritage. From stone monuments to medieval castles, the landscape is teeming with history and tradition ready for you to explore.*
- *Renowned geology – It might be hard to believe, but, 500 million years ago Yr Wyddfa was submerged in seawater. Shell fossils have been found at its summit giving us a better understanding of how the landscape of Eryri was formed.*
- *Internationally important species and habitats – Eryri is home to numerous species of animals, insects, plants and fungi of international importance. Among the rarest of species is Lili’r Wyddfa – a plant found only at the highest peaks”.*

1.1.2 Figure 1-1 shows how the National Park sits in relation to the counties of Gwynedd and Conwy. The National Park features Yr Wyddfa, which at 1,085m (3,560 feet) is the highest peak in Wales.

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<sup>1</sup> National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Available at: [National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949](#)  
[Accessed: 27/11/2025]

Figure 1-1: Eryri in relation to Conwy and Gwynedd Local Authorities



## 1.2 The Local Development Plan

- 1.2.1 A Local Development Plan (LDP) is a statutory document concerned predominantly with the use and development of land. The first Eryri LDP (2007-2022) was adopted in 2011, and a short form revision was undertaken in 2016, with the revised plan being adopted in February of 2019 with an implementation period of between 2016 and 2031<sup>2</sup>. The LDP includes strategic policies and

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<sup>2</sup> Snowdonia National Park Authority (2019) Eryri Local Development Plan 2016 – 2031 Written Statement. Available at: [Adopted Eryri Local Development Plan - Planning and Development](#) [Accessed: 14/11/2025]

development policies which will deliver the long-term spatial vision for the future of Eryri National Park. The plan is also accompanied by a set of proposals and inset maps.

- 1.2.2 A full review of the Eryri Local Development Plan is required every four years from time of adoption. Following the evidence presented within the third edition (October 2022) of the Plan's Annual Monitoring Report, it was highlighted that certain LDP policies and proposals were not being implemented as intended. This was also against the backdrop of significant changes due to the environmental, social and economic impacts of Brexit and the Covid 19 pandemic and significant changes have occurred in the planning policy context on a national level. The publication of Future Wales – the National Plan 2040<sup>3</sup> during February 2021 and the updated Planning Policy Wales<sup>4</sup> means that the revised LDP will need to reflect the emphasis within these documents. Therefore, it was decided, between members and officers, during the Authority's Planning and Access Committee on October 19 2022, that a review of the LDP would be triggered.

## 1.3 Cynllun Eryri (Eryri Management Plan)

- 1.3.1 Cynllun Eryri is a Statutory Management Plan<sup>5</sup>. The emerging Cynllun Eryri will help achieve the National Park's functions and achieve many of the Welsh Government's objectives and priorities. The final plan will focus on three areas that are closely linked to Eryri's National Park Authority's core purposes, namely: environment; health, well-being and communities; and Eryri's economy. The LDP aims to reflect the land use implications of the emerging Cynllun Eryri as well as providing an opportunity to deliver the spatial elements of other plans and strategies at the national, regional and local level.
- 1.3.2 The aims of the new and revised Cynllun Eryri are proposed to be:
- Working in partnership to increase the diversity and abundance of nature and improve ecological resilience throughout Eryri.
  - Collaboration across the National Park to support resilient and thriving communities.
  - Responding to the climate emergency with innovation and ambition.
  - Encouraging safe and responsible access to nature and wellbeing for residents and visitors alike.
  - Ensuring the continuing vibrancy of the Welsh language, culture and heritage of the area.

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<sup>3</sup> Welsh Government (2019) Future Wales: the national plan 2040. Available at: [Future Wales: the national plan 2040 | GOV.WALES](#) [Accessed: 14/11/2025]

<sup>4</sup> Welsh Government (2024) Planning Policy Wales. Available at: [Planning policy Wales | GOV.WALES](#) [Accessed: 14/11/2025]

<sup>5</sup> Eryri National Park Authority (2025) Cynllun Eryri. Available at: [Cynllun Eryri - Park Authority](#) [Accessed: 02/12/2025]

## 1.4 What is the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal?

- 1.4.1 The ISA will incorporate Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which are both legal requirements. In line with best practice these will be integrated into one coherent process. In addition, the SEA/SA will also integrate an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and a Health Impact Assessment (HIA), a process known as Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA).
- 1.4.2 Integral to the principles of sustainable development is the need to adopt an integrated approach. The integration of environmental, equalities, language and health assessments into one process ensures that a collaborative approach is undertaken on different issues, sharing knowledge and recognising links between topics in a consistent and transparent manner. This provides a robust and thorough mechanism for identifying issues and opportunities, assessing impacts including cumulative and indirect effects and undertaking monitoring in a holistic manner. Overall, the ISA will facilitate a more rounded view of the sustainability implications and opportunities arising from the Eryri LDP and Cynllun Eryri.
- 1.4.3 The ISA is a process for predicting and evaluating the likely social, economic and environmental impacts of a plan or policy, and aims to ensure that sustainable development is at the heart of the plan-making process. In addition, it can also be used to capture cultural impacts, which enable it to be consistent with the four components of sustainable development in Welsh law. These are described in the sections below.

## 1.5 Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.5.1 SEA is a requirement of several pieces of legislation including the European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive)<sup>6</sup> which was transposed directly into Welsh law through the SEA Regulations<sup>7</sup>. SEA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of plans and programmes to ensure that environmental issues are integrated and assessed at the earliest opportunity in the decision-making process. Article 1 of the SEA Directive states that the aim is to:

*"provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development".*

- 1.5.2 SA is an assessment of the economic, environmental and social effects of a Plan carried out from the outset of the Plan-making process to ensure that decisions are made that accord with sustainable development principles. SA is a systematic and iterative process that identifies and reports on the extent to which implementation of the plan will achieve the environmental, social and economic objectives by which sustainable development can be defined and identifies opportunities for improving plan performance in relation to these.

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<sup>6</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

<sup>7</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations (SI 2004/1656 (W/170)) and in England, the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1633)

- 1.5.3 It is best practice to integrate SA and SEA into one coherent process, and Welsh Government<sup>8</sup> *‘has decided that for development plans the requirements of the SEA Regulations are best incorporated into Sustainability Appraisal.’*
- 1.5.4 The SEA Directive specifies certain topics in Appendix 1(f) that require consideration throughout the SEA and will therefore be a key element of this IIA. These include:
- Biodiversity;
  - Population;
  - Human health;
  - Fauna;
  - Flora;
  - Soil;
  - Water;
  - Air;
  - Climatic factors;
  - Material assets;
  - Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage;
  - Landscape; and
  - The interrelationship between the above factors.
- 1.5.5 Guidance produced by the UK Government<sup>9</sup> (see also Section 2 of this report) presents a series of prescribed stages for SEA. These same stages are adopted for this IIA albeit the coverage is broader than environmental issues. Nevertheless, the principles and legal requirements of the SEA Regulations must be upheld. This Scoping Report identifies and explains the specific requirements of the SEA Directive that need to be fulfilled. A key part of the Scoping process is that it is shared with the statutory consultees to agree the scope of the SEA assessment (see section 1.10).

## 1.6 Integrated Approach

- 1.6.1 It is important to note that the cross-cutting and overlapping nature of the impact assessments is recognised. The nature of the assessments in the ISA will seek to ensure that topics are ultimately considered as a whole, with repetition across different topics avoided as much as feasible, with no topic area being given greater ‘weight’ over another.

Table 1-1: Summary of Integrated Assessments Screening

Impact Assessment	Summary of Integrated Assessments Screening Results
Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Sustainability Appraisal	See section 1.4

<sup>8</sup> Welsh Government (2015), Local Development Plan Manual Edition 2. Available at: [local-development-plan-manual-edition-2-2015.pdf](#) [Accessed 03/12/2025]

<sup>9</sup> ODPM (2005) A Practical Guide to Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance> [Accessed: 07/11/2025]



Impact Assessment	Summary of Integrated Assessments Screening Results
Health Impact Assessment	<p>At this early stage, it has been concluded that the Eryri LDP and Cynllun Eryri would have a potential impact on health and well-being. This is due to the potential to create a strong sense of place and communities as part of new housing developments, locating new development near open spaces, but also the increase of residents of Eryri may lead to increased pressure on already overcrowded health facilities. The assessment of health will be based on the broad, participatory and inclusive methodology as advocated in Wales and described in 'Health Impact Assessment: A Practical Guide'<sup>10</sup> and it will use the wider determinants of health including well-being as a framework for discussion. The ISA Framework (which will be used to appraise the Eryri LDP and Cynllun Eryri) encompasses health and well-being objectives that reflect the Public Health Wales indicators.</p>
Equalities Impact Assessment	<p>Under the equality duty (set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010<sup>11</sup>), many public authorities must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, this includes race, sexuality, gender and disabilities.</p> <p>At this early stage, it has been concluded that the Eryri LDP and Cynllun Eryri will have a potential impact on equalities and human rights, primarily due to fair access to transport and employment options for all, including those living in more rural Wales. The nine protected characteristic groups as identified in the Equality Act 2010 have been screened and the following groups have been screened in for further consideration in the assessment process: race, age, disability and sex (gender). These protected characteristics will be incorporated in the objectives and questions within the ISA Framework. At this stage, all protected characteristics are scoped-in to the assessment. However, it is recognised that this will be reviewed as part of the assessment process, as it is not anticipated that there will be effects on some protected groups, including marriage and civil partnership and religion.</p>
Welsh Language Assessment	<p>The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011<sup>12</sup> and Standards<sup>13</sup> require the following effects to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What effect, if any, the LDP and Cynllun Eryri would have on the opportunities for other persons to use the Welsh language, or treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language;</li> <li>• How the LDP and Cynllun Eryri could have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for other persons to use the Welsh language, or treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language; and</li> <li>• How the LDP and Cynllun Eryri could be developed so that it doesn't have or reduces any adverse effects which the policy decision would have on opportunities</li> </ul>

<sup>10</sup> Wales HIA Support Unit (2012) Health Impact Assessment: A Practical Guide. Available at: <https://phwwhocc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Health-Impact-Assessment-A-Practical-guide.pdf> [Accessed: 07/11/2025]

<sup>11</sup> Equality Act 2010. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents> [Accessed: 07/11/2025]

<sup>12</sup> Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/1/contents/enacted> [Accessed: 07/11/2025]

<sup>13</sup> The Welsh Language Standards (No. 7) Regulations 2018. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2018/441/contents/made> [Accessed: 07/11/2025]

for other persons to use the Welsh language or treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

At this early stage, it has been concluded that the LDP and Cynllun Eryri will have a potential impact on the Welsh language. Objectives encompassing Welsh language have therefore been incorporated into the ISA Framework. This will ensure opportunities for the LDP and Cynllun Eryri to contribute to the future well-being of the Welsh language are considered and identified where possible through this work.

## 1.7 Purpose of the Scoping Report

1.7.1 This Scoping Report represents the initial stage of the SEA and sets the scope for the remainder of the process. It is an integrated approach which has been shaped through engagement and involvement of stakeholders and follows the methodology set out in the published guidance and seeks to:

- Set the scope and level of detail of the SEA;
- Identify relevant plans, policies, programmes and initiatives that will inform the SEA process and the LDP and Cynllun Eryri;
- Identify relevant information about existing social, economic, cultural and environmental conditions in Eryri at a regional scale;
- Identify key sustainability issues and opportunities; and
- Present an appraisal framework for the SEA, against which the LDP and Cynllun Eryri can be appraised.

1.7.2 This Scoping Report represents the first stage of the SEA process but has been used as an opportunity to combine baseline information useful for the development of the wider ISA process. A key output of the Scoping Stage is the assessment Framework. For the purposes of the SEA Regulations, this is the SEA Framework. This is referred to as the ISA Framework to support the integrated approach to assessment being undertaken. This has been developed through the review of the relevant plans, policies and programmes, as well as a review of the relevant baseline information, and identification of key sustainability issues and opportunities. The Draft ISA Framework is the main assessment tool used during the ISA and comprises a series of 10 Draft ISA Objectives covering social, economic, cultural and environmental issues identified, ensuring that the requirements of each of the integrated assessments are included. Following consultation on this Scoping Report, the amended Final ISA Objectives will be used to assess the LDP and Cynllun Eryri as they are developed.

## 1.8 ISA Scoping Workshop

1.8.1 For the Management Plan and the LDP, a supporting ISA workshop with key stakeholders ensured that a range of views were gathered on the draft ISA Scoping Report, including the “Key Issues and Opportunities” identified as part of the Baseline Assessment (Eryri ISA Scoping Report – Appendix B). The attendees are listed below:

- Gwynedd County Council
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Natural Resources Wales
- BMC Cymru

- National Trust Wales
- Farmers Union Wales
- National Farmers Union
- CLA Cymru
- Cadw
- North Wales Outdoor Partnership
- Public Health Wales
- One Voice Wales
- Federation of Small Businesses Wales
- Snowdonia Active
- Cymdeithas Eryri
- Grwp Llandrillo Menai
- Bangor University
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Woodland Trust
- North Wales Wildlife Trust

1.8.2 The workshop included a presentation on the purpose and process of the ISA, and a discussion regarding the identified Key Issues and Opportunities. All attendees (and thereafter partners who could not attend the meeting) had the opportunity to comment on the points raised and request changes and/or additions to the draft scoping report within the workshop and in the following months. In summary, changes were made to the main report and Appendix B: Baseline Assessment. These included a stronger focus on agriculture throughout the Scoping Report and Appendices, particularly relating to its ties to the local economy, and how it raises new key issues or opportunities for Eryri. Further actions stemming from the workshop included making changes to Table 3-1 of this report, surrounding how the Local Development Plan and Cynllun Eryri can contribute to the improvement of the identified Key Issues and Opportunities, and refinements to the ISA Framework.

## 2 Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Sustainability Objectives

2.1.1 The box below stipulates the SEA Regulations requirements for this stage of the process.

*Box 1: SEA Regulations requirements for the review of plans programmes and environmental protection objectives*

*“An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes” (Schedule 2 (1))*

*“The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation” (Schedule 2 (5))*

2.1.2 A review of other plans and programmes that may affect the preparation of this Scoping Report was undertaken in order to contribute to the development of both the ISA and the LDP and Cynllun Eryri. This included:

- Identification of any external social, environmental or economic objectives, indicators or targets that should be reflected in the ISA process.
- Identification of any baseline data relevant to the ISA.
- Identification of any external factors that might influence the preparation of the document, for example sustainability issues.
- Identification of any external objectives or aims that would contribute positively to the development of the LDP and Cynllun Eryri.
- Determining whether there are clear potential conflicts or challenges between other identified plans, programmes or sustainability objectives and the emerging LDP and Cynllun Eryri.

2.1.3 The review included documents prepared at international, national, regional and local scale. Full details are presented in Appendix A. In summary, the implications for the ISA arising from the review, which will be considered when developing the ISA Framework, are:

- Support the provision of affordable, accessible housing and Welsh-speaking communities, while promoting healthy, inclusive environments with good access to green spaces, services, and sustainable transport.
- Support sustainable rural employment and diversified local economic growth, promote high-quality sustainable tourism, and ensure economic development aligns with Eryri’s landscape, culture, and environmental capacity.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity, designated sites, and ecological networks, promoting ecosystem resilience, nature-based solutions, and development that avoids pollution and strengthens connectivity across Eryri.
- Protect and enhance Eryri’s landscape character, scenic quality, tranquillity, and historic landscapes, conserving the Park’s special qualities and strengthening resilience to environmental and climate change.
- Promote sustainable, low-carbon travel and improved active and public transport, while protecting air quality, minimising noise, and maintaining the tranquillity and environmental quality of the National Park.
- Protect and enhance soil and water quality, promote sustainable use and flood resilience, and support ecosystem health through sustainable land management and nature-based solutions.

- Support the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient future by promoting energy efficiency, renewable technologies, sustainable transport, and nature-based solutions that mitigate emissions and protect natural carbon stores.
- Protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment, conserving heritage assets and settings, supporting the reuse of historic buildings, and promoting the Welsh language and cultural identity as central to Eryri's distinctiveness.

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## 3 The Sustainability Baseline and Key Issues and Opportunities

### 3.1 Baseline

3.1.1 Box 2 defines the SEA Regulations requirements for this element of the process.

*Box 2: SEA Regulations requirements for baseline data collation*

*“Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme” (Schedule 2 (2))*

*“The environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected” (Schedule 2 (3))*

*“Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds(a) and the Habitats Directive” (Schedule 2 (4))*

3.1.2 Understanding the characteristics of Eryri’s economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being is essential in being able to understand the effects of the LDP and Cynllun Eryri. Characterising the environmental and sustainability baseline, issues and context is an important activity in defining the Framework for the ISA. It involves the following elements:

- Characterising the current state of the environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being of Eryri.
- Understanding the future trends based on current trends and future projections that may impact on Eryri’s economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being.
- Using this information to identify existing problems and opportunities which could be influenced by the LDP and Cynllun Eryri.

### 3.2 Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

3.2.1 **Error! Reference source not found.** presents the key sustainability issues and opportunities for the Eryri National Park Authority identified across the sustainability theme which stem from the baseline data (Appendix B). These will be refined and updated alongside the emerging LDP and Cynllun Eryri when further details of the content of both plans are known.

3.2.2 Data gaps at this stage have been listed as, where gaps may not be able to be filled throughout the process of consultation, the assessment of potential effects may be limited as the baseline situation will be unknown.

Table 3-1: Key Issues and Opportunities

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
<b>Population, Health and Wellbeing</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ageing demographic, combined with population decline, represents a key issue for the sustainability of local services, workforce availability, and community vitality.</li> <li>Rising house prices, combined with the growth of second homes and holiday lets, have reduced the availability of affordable housing for local residents. This presents a key issue for retaining the resident population, housing equity, community cohesion and sustaining the Welsh-speaking community.</li> <li>Limited public transport provision and comparatively low digital connectivity create a key issue for equitable access within the community to essential services, particularly affecting older residents and those with disabilities.</li> <li>There is high demand for accessible mental health and community support services across the rural north-west of Wales. Geographic isolation, limited-service reach, and socio-economic factors may exacerbate wellbeing challenges in Eryri.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Park's extensive green spaces, active travel potential, and access to outdoor recreation, represent a key opportunity to promote active lifestyles and preventative health outcomes, supporting both physical and mental wellbeing.</li> <li>Projections show the total number of households in Eryri increasing slightly by 0.3% by 2028, while the population is projected to fall by 1.9%. This divergence highlights a key issue for sustainable community planning and housing provision, but also a key opportunity for the LDP to strengthen policies supporting affordable housing and balanced demographic growth.</li> <li>The decision by the Eryri National Park Authority to use only Welsh names for Eryri (Snowdonia) and Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon), including within its official logo, reflects a key opportunity to promote Welsh linguistic and cultural heritage through branding,</li> </ul>	<p>Data gaps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistical health data beyond 2021 for Eryri National Park.</li> <li>Up to date projections for age demographics in Eryri for children and adults below 65.</li> <li>Projections for ethnicity in Eryri.</li> <li>Trend data for religion specific to Eryri.</li> <li>Trend data for disability specific to Eryri.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP could support sustainable communities by planning for appropriate housing and services to help mitigate the impacts of population ageing and decline.</li> <li>The LDP should seek to deliver affordable housing and manage the impacts of second homes and holiday lets to support community cohesion.</li> <li>The LDP could seek to promote accessible settlement patterns, active travel and digital connectivity to improve equitable access to services, while Cynllun Eryri and the LDP could seek to support inclusive access for older and disabled residents.</li> <li>The LDP could encourage developments to contribute positively to health and wellbeing through design and access to green space,</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The decline in Welsh language ability among residents of Eryri indicates a continuing reduction in linguistic fluency across the National Park, particularly among working-age adults (16–64). This represents a key issue for maintaining the cultural and linguistic identity of the area.</li> <li>Variation in Welsh-language ability across the NPA highlights a key issue for the longevity of the Welsh language. As its use is unevenly distributed, housing, tourism, and economic strategies under the LDP could seek to further promote the Welsh language to prevent further decline in Welsh-speaking communities.</li> </ul>	<p>communication, and tourism engagement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data on number of schools and travel to school data for Eryri.</li> </ul>	<p>complemented by Cynllun Eryri's initiatives promoting preventative health and community support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP could seek to embed Welsh language considerations in housing, employment and tourism policies to support linguistic vitality, with Cynllun Eryri reinforcing everyday use through promotion and engagement.</li> <li>The LDP could seek to protect and enhance access to green spaces and active travel routes, enabling healthy lifestyles, while Cynllun Eryri could seek to maximise their use for physical and mental wellbeing.</li> <li>Cynllun Eryri's Welsh-only place naming provides an opportunity to increase vibrancy cultural identity, which the LDP could seek to reinforce through placemaking, development design and tourism-related policies.</li> </ul>



Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP could seek to support the provision of local work hubs and flexible workspaces as part of community facilities, offering alternatives to long-distance commuting and supporting those unable to work effectively from home.</li> <li>The LDP could seek to support sustainable settlement patterns and reduce the need for private vehicle use, while Cynllun Eryri could continue to advocate for well-connected, sustainable and inclusive transport options through partnership working across the National Park.</li> <li>The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to protect communities from the adverse effects of over tourism, including seasonal pressures that reduce liveability and contribute to housing stress.</li> </ul>
<b>Economy</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The higher average of residents unemployed due to retirement in Eryri, compared to the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP should seek to support the transition from traditional volume-</li> </ul>	Data gaps: N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP could seek to support workforce resilience by planning</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
<p>national average, limits the availability of labour including for essential services such as health care. This represents a key issue for the long-term resilience of the local workforce and highlights the need to attract and retain younger residents within the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eryri's economy is somewhat reliant on the hospitality and food service industries, with limited diversification. This narrow employment base has the potential to make the economy vulnerable to seasonal fluctuations, such as in tourism, and changing consumer demand. This presents a key issue for economic stability within the National Park.</li> <li>The dominance of livestock farming across Severely Disadvantaged and Less Favoured Areas, combined with environmental constraints, poor soils and challenging climatic conditions, presents a key issue for the long-term viability and resilience of agricultural businesses in Eryri. This reliance on farming in some locations may constrain productivity, income diversification, and the ability of the local Agriculture sector to adapt to economic, environmental, and climate related pressures or changes.</li> <li></li> </ul>	<p>based tourism to a model centred on sustainability, community benefit, and low-carbon growth. By promoting year-round tourism, local supply chains, and environmentally responsible experiences, the strategy offers the potential to strengthen the economy while protecting Eryri's natural assets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP should seek to deliver place-based economic and environmental improvements. Funding for local projects supports initiatives in green infrastructure, renewable energy, community development, and Welsh Language prosperity, aligning to local economic development.</li> <li>With 94.6% of Welsh enterprises classified as micro-businesses, the economy of Eryri largely comprises small-scale enterprises. This structure reflects the rural nature of the area and the prevalence of tourism, agriculture, and service-based activities. Supporting micro and small businesses through home-based working, flexible workspace provision, and local enterprise initiatives presents</li> </ul>		<p>for employment opportunities and digital infrastructure that help attract and retain younger working-age residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP could aim to reduce economic vulnerability by supporting diversification beyond hospitality, agriculture, and food services, including through policies that enable year-round tourism, small-scale enterprise growth and a broader rural employment base.</li> <li>The LDP could seek to support delivery of its objectives through partnership working, while Cynllun Eryri could strengthen advocacy, skills development and training through Fforwm Eryri to support economically sustainable communities across Eryri.</li> <li>Cynllun Eryri could seek to encourage businesses to embed environmental sustainability within their business models, including greater use of local</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
	<p>an opportunity to strengthen economic resilience, retain local employment, and maintain economic activity within communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture's extensive land coverage and strong links to landscape management, tourism, and local supply chains present a key opportunity to support sustainable rural employment and multifunctional land use. By encouraging diversification, low-impact farming practices, and closer integration between agriculture, environmental management, and tourism, the Local Development Plan could help to strengthen the rural economy while maintaining the landscape and cultural identity of Eryri.</li> </ul>		<p>produce, local procurement, and environmentally responsible operational practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LDP could seek to support the long-term viability of agricultural businesses by enabling appropriate diversification and complementary land uses, while Cynllun Eryri could aim to promote sustainable land management and rural skills that strengthen resilience to economic and climate pressures.</li> <li>• The LDP could seek to support the development of sustainable tourism initiatives and guide the transition towards a sustainable visitor economy that prioritises low-carbon growth, community benefit and environmental protection.</li> <li>• The LDP could seek to facilitate place-based economic developments by enabling green infrastructure, small scale,</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
			<p>locally appropriate renewable energy, and community-led projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LDP could seek to support micro and small businesses through flexible workspace provision, home-based working policies and appropriate development in rural settlements.</li> <li>• The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to support appropriately sited mixed amenity woodland creation, recognising its multiple benefits for carbon storage, recreation, rural skills, employment, and biodiversity. For example, this could be incorporated as part of planning mitigation measures.</li> <li>• The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to support creative and diversified approaches to employment and enterprise in the countryside, linked to sustainable access, recreation,</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
			and place-based economic opportunities.
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence from NRW indicates that many designated features remain in unfavourable or declining condition, particularly upland, freshwater, and dune habitats. This highlights a key issue for biodiversity conservation within Eryri and the need for coordinated management and monitoring of these protected areas.</li> <li>• Fragmented ecosystems and changing climatic conditions, such as altered hydrology, temperature shifts, and increased extreme weather events, threaten species distribution and ecosystem resilience in Eryri. This is particularly evident in upland moorland and woodland habitats.</li> <li>• Increasing visitor numbers continue to place pressure on fragile habitats and species. Trampling, path erosion, and disturbance from recreation activities are recognised as threats to the ecological integrity of key sites. This represents a key issue for maintaining biodiversity within the National Park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Eryri Nature Partnership, comprising 48 partners, is developing a Nature Recovery Action plan to coordinate local biodiversity action and support national targets such as 30x30 (protecting 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030) The LDP and Cynllun Eryri should seek to strengthen ecosystem resilience and enhance connectivity between priority habitats.</li> <li>• The upcoming Eryri LDP revision offers a mechanism to embed net benefit to biodiversity, green infrastructure assessments, and ecosystem resilience principles into development policy. This provides a clear opportunity to ensure that new development contributes positively to biodiversity outcomes.</li> </ul>	<p>Data gaps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition status of all Eryri's protected sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LDP should seek to strengthen the protection of designated sites by requiring development to avoid adverse effects on sensitive habitats, support favourable condition, and align with regulations and policies led by NRW and local partners.</li> <li>• The LDP should follow the step-wise approach and seek to ensure new developments incorporate positive mitigation and enhancement measures, such as green infrastructure, tree planting, hedgerows, and accessible green space to contribute to ecological networks and biodiversity recovery.</li> <li>• The LDP and Cynllun Eryri should seek to promote ecosystem resilience by</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
			<p>safeguarding ecological networks, supporting habitat connectivity, and ensuring development takes account of climate-related pressures affecting habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LDP and Cynllun Eryri should aim to help manage recreational pressure by guiding development, access and infrastructure away from ecologically sensitive areas, while supporting sustainable access and visitor management measures to reduce habitat disturbance.</li> <li>• Furthermore, the LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to manage events based tourism, ensuring large activities and events do not adversely effect biodiversity, other countryside users, and local communities.</li> <li>• The LDP and Cynllun Eryri have an opportunity to embed net benefit to biodiversity, green infrastructure and ecosystem</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
			<p>resilience principles into policy, ensuring that new development delivers measurable positive outcomes for biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LDP could apply the Sandford principle where there is uncertainty over environmental impacts, ensuring that the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity is prioritised where benefits cannot be clearly demonstrated.</li> <li>• The LDP could seek to protect the local environment from big businesses, ensuring that if large commercial operators do want to work within Eryri, their business must operate in a manner that benefits the environment, local communities and businesses. Monitoring should be in place to assess this.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The management of development pressure within the National Park and its valued areas,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The protection and enhancement of local distinctiveness and character</li> </ul>	Data gaps: N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LDP should seek to manage development pressure by</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
<p>whilst retaining their natural beauty and special qualities, represents a key issue. New growth, infrastructure, and tourism-related activity could erode landscape quality and distinctiveness if not carefully planned, requiring policies that protect and enhance both designated and non-designated landscapes. Development within these areas should focus on meeting the social and economic needs of local communities while upholding the statutory purpose of these designations. The LDP could seek to maintain this balance through appropriate spatial and design policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural diversification and tourism-related development are a key issue, as they can generate economic benefits but also introduce visual change and additional infrastructure into sensitive landscapes.</li> <li>• There is pressure on the character of rural landscapes from the need to generate energy from low and zero carbon sources.</li> <li>• Dark skies are a key opportunity and issue for landscape protection and tranquillity. Preserving these skies could support recreation, well-being and wildlife, while managing light pollution is essential to maintain tranquillity and landscape quality.</li> </ul>	<p>across Eryri's settlements and rural landscapes is a key opportunity to ensure new development reflects local materials, forms, and settlement patterns, helping maintain a sense of place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LDP and Cynllun Eryri should seek to balance the competing pressures of rural diversification and tourism-related development to protect scenic quality while supporting rural livelihoods.</li> </ul>		<p>applying spatial and design policies that protect designated landscapes, ensuring that growth meets local social and economic needs while safeguarding Eryri's natural beauty and special qualities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LDP should seek to apply the Sandford Principle where landscape impacts are uncertain, ensuring that the conservation of natural beauty, tranquillity and special qualities is prioritised where potential effects cannot be clearly mitigated.</li> <li>• The LDP could guide rural diversification and tourism-related development to appropriate locations and scales, seeking to make the best use of previously developed land, minimising visual intrusion and landscape harm while supporting sustainable rural livelihoods.</li> </ul>



Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LDP should seek to manage landscape impacts arising from developments by ensuring they are sensitively sited and designed in accordance with landscape character and National Park purposes.</li> <li>• The LDP could seek to support small-scale, locally appropriate renewable energy development, where these can contribute to decarbonisation without harming biodiversity, landscape character or visual amenity.</li> <li>• The LDP and Cynllun Eryri should aim to protect dark skies and tranquillity by managing external lighting and new developments which contribute to light pollution, supporting recreation, wellbeing, biodiversity and landscape quality.</li> <li>• The LDP could seek to promote local distinctiveness by requiring developments to reflect traditional materials, forms and</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
			<p>settlement patterns, helping to maintain landscape character and sense of place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cynllun Eryri could support a balanced approach to rural diversification and tourism by coordinating landscape protection, economic activity and community wellbeing through partnership-led delivery.</li> </ul>
<b>Transport and Pollution</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a largely rural area with dispersed settlements, Eryri experiences challenges related to poor transport connectivity and digital coverage, which could be contributing to lower productivity levels compared to the Welsh average. Limited infrastructure can restrict economic participation, increase business costs, and reduce access to employment opportunities, presenting a key issue for Eryri.</li> <li>The high private vehicle dependency within the NPA presents a key issue for sustainable transport in Eryri, contributing to seasonal congestion, parking pressures, and emissions hotspots.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active travel networks present an opportunity to support sustainable mobility and recreation. Enhancing links between Eryri's PRow's, trails, key destinations and transport links could reduce car dependency while supporting health and tourism aims.</li> <li>The aim to expand EV infrastructure offers a key opportunity to reduce travel related emissions in the National Park.</li> <li>Further protecting the low ambient noise levels of the NPA could present a key opportunity to support</li> </ul>	<p>Data gaps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data specific to Eryri on travelling to work</li> <li>Air Quality monitoring data for rural, upland, and remote parts of Eryri</li> <li>Data specific to Eryri for the noise environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to address transport connectivity challenges by working in Partnership to support developments that improve access to employment, services and digital infrastructure, helping reduce the constraints associated with rurality and dispersed settlements.</li> <li>The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could aim to reduce reliance on private vehicles by prioritising developments in accessible</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although the Sherpa bus network has expanded, most services are seasonal and concentrated around popular upland areas, highlighting a key issue for year-round reliable public transport.</li> </ul>	<p>biodiversity, tourism value, and resident well-being.</p>		<p>locations, supporting sustainable transport infrastructure, and working in Partnership to manage parking provision in sensitive and high-pressure areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to support community-led and locally delivered transport services, such as community buses and taxi schemes, which could aim to reduce rural isolation and loneliness.</li> <li>The LDP could support more resilient public transport provision by safeguarding transport routes, hubs and infrastructure that enable the expansion and year-round operation of services such as the Sherpa bus network.</li> <li>The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could aim to enhance active travel by strengthening links between public rights of way, trails, settlements and transport interchanges, supporting</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
			<p>sustainable mobility, recreation and public health outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could support the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at appropriate locations, helping to reduce transport-related emissions while managing landscape and visual impacts.</li> <li>The LDP could seek to protect Eryri's low ambient noise environment as a priority by managing transport and development related noise sources, supporting tranquillity, biodiversity and tourism, and facilitating delivery through increased advocacy and partnership working</li> </ul>
<b>Land and Water Resources</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Much of Eryri's soil resource is composed of acidic, organic, and seasonally wet soils, including extensive blanket bog and upland peat deposits that are highly vulnerable to degradation through drainage, erosion, over-grazing, or disturbance from development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extensive coverage of carbon-rich peat and organic soils across Eryri presents a significant opportunity to enhance the Park's role in climate change mitigation and ecosystem resilience. Protecting and improving</li> </ul>	<p>Data gaps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up-to-date Nitrate Vulnerable Zones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP could seek to protect soil resources by directing developments away from key areas such as peatlands, and by requiring land management practices that minimise soil</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
<p>Degraded peatlands release stored carbon and contribute to poor water quality and habitat decline, representing a significant challenge for climate mitigation and soil conservation within the National Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quality of Wales's water catchments is still not up to Water Framework Directive requirements with more being identified as 'bad' quality in 2024 compared to 2021.</li> <li>• Flood risk is a significant issue in North West Wales including coastal, fluvial and surface water flooding that may affect existing and future infrastructure. This is exacerbated by an increase in extreme weather events, meaning that properties and businesses are increasingly becoming at risk.</li> <li>• Climate change will affect the land, air, water and habitats across North West Wales through more extreme weather events, an increase in storminess, higher maximum and minimum temperatures, more severe droughts and exacerbated rates of coastal erosion. This is likely to lead to unprecedented change for the wellbeing of communities, flora and fauna, leading to the need for the LDP and Cynllun Eryri to include strategies for adaptation across all developments, land and services.</li> </ul>	<p>the condition of these soils through sustainable land management—such as reducing soil disturbance, maintaining vegetation cover, and promoting natural rewetting—can increase carbon sequestration, improve water regulation, and support biodiversity recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need to achieve nutrient neutrality presents an opportunity to improve water quality and ecosystem resilience across Eryri. Addressing nutrient pressures could contribute to the recovery of designated sites, support compliance with environmental legislation, and enable developments to proceed in a manner which avoids further deterioration of waterbodies and SACs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data in relation to current and future water resource availability.</li> <li>• Data gaps relating to the demographics of households most likely to be affected by flooding.</li> <li>• Eryri specific information surrounding Nutrient Neutrality and targets for SACs.</li> </ul>	<p>disturbance, erosion and degradation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LDP could seek to support improvements in water quality by ensuring development aligns with Water Framework Directive objectives, avoids adverse effects on water bodies, and incorporates sustainable drainage and pollution-prevention measures.</li> <li>• The LDP could seek to reduce flood risk by guiding development away from areas at risk of fluvial, surface water and coastal flooding, and by supporting natural flood management approaches where appropriate.</li> <li>• The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to integrate climate adaptation measures into land use planning by requiring developments and land management measures to respond to increased flood risk,</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutrient enrichment of freshwater and coastal waterbodies represents a growing issue across Wales, with over 60% of waterbodies failing to meet Water Framework Directive objectives. Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), new development must not contribute to further nutrient loading in failing catchments, which may constrain development in sensitive areas of Eryri where wastewater capacity, diffuse pollution, or agricultural runoff already place pressure on designated sites.</li> <li></li> </ul>			<p>drought, storminess and coastal erosion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP could seek to ensure that new developments avoid contributing to increased nutrient loading, particularly within catchments draining to designated sites, through appropriate location, scale, and infrastructure requirements. The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to encourage land and water management practices that reduce nutrient inputs at source, supporting improvements in water quality, ecosystem resilience and compliance with statutory environmental objectives, with Cynllun Eryri playing a key role in partnership working, advocacy and communications to support behaviour change and coordinated delivery across the National Park</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Change and Energy</b>			

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projected warmer temperatures, wetter winters, and drier summers present a key issue for the National Park's ecosystems, infrastructure, and tourism economy. These changes are expected to increase the frequency of extreme weather events, flood risk, and soil erosion, all of which have direct implications for land management, resilience, and local development planning.</li> <li>With over 6,000 properties in Gwynedd identified as being at risk of flooding, rising sea levels and intense rainfall events present a key issue for development planning, emergency preparedness, and infrastructure resilience.</li> <li>The National Park's total annual emissions of 1.16 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, with a significant proportion from visitor travel. This represents a key issue for achieving national and local net-zero targets, whilst maintaining the natural character of the National Park.</li> <li>Due to its rural character and limited grid infrastructure, Eryri's communities have a higher dependence on fossil-fuel-based energy sources compared to urban Wales, presenting a key issue for decarbonisation and fuel poverty.</li> <li>Increasing visitor numbers, coupled with more frequent extreme weather, could create a key issue for maintaining active travel routes,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upland peatlands and woodlands function as critical carbon sinks, partially offsetting emissions from degraded soils and agricultural activity. This represents a key opportunity to expand nature-based solutions to strengthen natural carbon storage and resilience in line with the Low Carbon Strategy.</li> <li>There is an opportunity for the LDP to encourage new development plans in Eryri to embed adaptive design standards, promote sustainable infrastructure, and coordinate with neighbouring authorities and those within the National Park (Gwynedd and Conwy) on climate adaptation and flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data gaps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flooding data specific to Eryri.</li> <li>Up-to-date quantitative data specific to Eryri for energy use.</li> <li>Up-to-date general information on energy infrastructure in Eryri.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to strengthen climate resilience by requiring developments and land management measures to respond to projected increases in temperature, rainfall intensity and extreme weather, reducing risks to infrastructure and the tourism economy.</li> <li>The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to work with existing forums and networks to support the rural economy agenda, including improving understanding of the role of agriculture and rural enterprises in underpinning economic resilience and identifying how the planning system can support a sustainable rural economy.</li> <li>The LDP could seek to reduce flood risk by directing developments away from areas at risk of fluvial, surface water and coastal flooding, and by</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
<p>heritage assets, and rural infrastructure. Targeted investment in climate-resilient visitor facilities and active travel network could offer a key opportunity to reduce emissions while enhancing accessibility and public safety. This could also reduce local transport emissions.</p>			<p>promoting climate-resilient design and infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LDP could seek to encourage improved energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy where appropriate, including support for community-led energy initiatives and small-scale technologies, where these align with landscape and environmental objectives.</li> <li>• The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to support the transition to net zero by prioritising sustainable transport, reducing emissions from visitor travel, and supporting low-carbon development while safeguarding the landscape character of the National Park.</li> <li>• The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to promote nature-based solutions to climate change, including improved management of forests, peatlands and other natural assets to enhance</li> </ul>



Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
			<p>carbon sequestration, water storage, flood resilience and biodiversity benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to improve the resilience of visitor infrastructure, active travel routes and heritage assets by requiring climate-adapted design and maintenance.</li> </ul>
<b>Historic Environment</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two of the major challenges facing the Conservation Areas are the climate change emergency and the lack of understanding of the function and significance of the buildings within these designated areas.</li> <li>Eryri's rich historic environment represents a significant cultural and economic asset. This distinct heritage defines local identity and contributes to the character of settlements across the region. The need to balance protection of this heritage with future growth presents a key issue for the LDP, as new developments must respond sensitively to Eryri's unique historic and cultural environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design informed by heritage context is a key opportunity to achieve sustainable and resilient development. Drawing on local character and construction traditions can guide design that responds to setting, orientation, and materials while also delivering environmental benefits.</li> <li>The LDP and Cynllun Eryri should seek to reduce the effects of the climate change emergency to protect existing heritage assets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data gaps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up-to-date data on the condition of the Scheduled Monuments after 2003.</li> <li>Up-to-date data on the risk status of Listed Buildings.</li> <li>Number of heritage assets at risk.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP could seek to improve understanding of the function and significance of historic buildings by promoting heritage-led design and conservation guidance.</li> <li>The LDP could seek to balance heritage protection with future growth by ensuring new development respects the scale, form and setting of historic assets and contributes positively to local identity.</li> <li>The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to encourage design</li> </ul>

Key Issues	Key Opportunities	Data Gaps	How can the LDP and/or Cynllun Eryri contribute to the improvement of the issues and opportunities identified?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further information on condition of the Historic Parks and Gardens within Eryri.</li> </ul>	<p>informed by heritage context, using local materials to deliver development that is both culturally sensitive and environmentally resilient.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LDP and Cynllun Eryri could seek to reduce the impacts of the climate change emergency on heritage assets by embedding adaptation and resilience measures into conservation, land use and development policies.</li> </ul>

## **4 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Framework**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 The ISA Framework provides a way in which the sustainability effects of the plan can be described, analysed and compared. The framework provides a set of sustainability objectives and decision-aiding questions to be used when undertaking the appraisal. The ISA Framework will be refined following feedback from the statutory consultation with NRW and Cadw.

### **4.2 Developing the ISA Framework**

- 4.2.1 Stage 4 of the Scoping process entails developing the ISA Framework. Sustainability issues have been identified through the consideration of the baseline information and policies, plans and programmes and these are detailed in the baseline (Chapters 2 and 3 and Appendices A and B).
- 4.2.2 The issues have then been used to inform 10 ISA Objectives. It should be noted that the ISA Objectives are distinct from the LDP and Cynllun Eryri objectives though it is likely there will be overlaps between them.
- 4.2.3 The ISA Framework is designed to reflect the key issues facing Eryri's environment, the economy and society. The Framework sets out objectives, accompanied by a set of 'decision making criteria' for consideration in the ISA assessment. The 'decision making criteria' within the ISA Framework are developed to provide some guidance on assessing the likely significant sustainability impacts of the Local Plan.
- 4.2.4 The following table sets out the proposed ISA Framework, which will be used in the preparation of the interim ISA Report and new LDP and Cynllun Eryri.

Table 4-1: ISA Framework

ISA Topic area		ISA Objectives	Decision Aiding Questions: Will the Local Development Plan/Cynllun Eryri...?	Relationship to other relevant legislation
1	Population Health and Wellbeing	Improve the quantity and quality of publicly open space and green infrastructure	Support balanced communities by addressing population decline and an ageing demographic?	SEA: Population, Human Health, Material Assets EqIA HIA Welsh Language Wellbeing of Future Generations
		To promote improved access to local services and amenities for all	Sustain equitable access throughout Eryri and to local services such as public transport and healthcare?	
		To promote safe, healthy and sustainable communities which embodies the principles of Placemaking	Support the retention of the resident population? Enhance access to green spaces, active travel routes, and outdoor recreation to support physical and mental wellbeing?	
		To promote and facilitate improved community involvement	Promote sustainable community planning?	
2	Economy	To aid the creation of local employment opportunities and businesses related to National Park purposes	Seek to attract and retain younger residents to support a balanced and resilient workforce? Encourage economic diversification to reduce the reliance on seasonal and tourism-based employment? Promote sustainable year-round tourism that benefits local communities? Support local economic growth? Encourage micro and small businesses, including home-based and flexible working opportunities? Enhance local supply chains and promote low-carbon economic development?	SEA: Population, Human Health EqIA HIA Welsh Language Wellbeing of Future Generations

ISA Topic area		ISA Objectives	Decision Aiding Questions: Will the Local Development Plan/Cynllun Eryri...?	Relationship to other relevant legislation
			<p>Encourage agricultural resilience and diversification to support the long-term viability of farming in Eryri?</p> <p>Seek to strengthen links between agriculture, tourism, and local supply chains? Support the vitality of Eryri's towns and villages and improve their capacity for employment, services, and community?</p>	
3	Housing	To provide housing to meet local need	<p>Increase the provision of genuinely affordable housing for local residents?</p> <p>Reduce pressures from second homes and holiday lets on local housing markets?</p> <p>Support the improvement and re-use of existing housing stock and empty buildings to enable local people to live and work within Eryri?</p>	<p>SEA: Population</p> <p>EqlA</p> <p>HIA</p> <p>Welsh Language</p> <p>Wellbeing of Future Generations</p>
4	Welsh Language	Conserve, promote and enhance Eryri's cultural heritage and the Welsh language	<p>Protect and maintain the use of the Welsh language?</p> <p>Promote the use of Welsh names and heritage in branding and tourism as well as protecting the Welsh names of traditional/listed buildings</p> <p>Promote the use of Welsh names on new developments such as advertisements, signs, roads and streets</p>	<p>SEA: Population</p> <p>Welsh Language</p> <p>Wellbeing of Future Generations</p>
5	Transport and Pollution	<p>Promote the use of sustainable transport modes and reduce the impact of cars, road freight and infrastructure</p> <p>Protect and enhance air quality</p> <p>To promote good transport links to support the local economy</p>	<p>Aid in the reduction of private vehicle dependency and tourism related traffic, alongside the associated congestion, parking pressures, and emissions?</p> <p>Support sustainable transport alternatives for visitors, including improving access to reliable, year-round public transport and active travel links across Eryri?</p>	<p>SEA: Population, Air, Material assets</p> <p>EqlA</p> <p>HIA</p> <p>Wellbeing of Future Generations</p>

ISA Topic area		ISA Objectives	Decision Aiding Questions: Will the Local Development Plan/Cynllun Eryri...?	Relationship to other relevant legislation
			<p>Recognise the reliance of residents on private vehicles due to the rural nature of Eryri, while seeking opportunities to improve accessibility, efficiency, and low emission travel options?</p> <p>Support the expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure?</p> <p>Protect and enhance tranquillity and low noise levels?</p> <p>Protect good air quality across Eryri, particularly in areas experiencing seasonal traffic pressure?</p>	
6	Biodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity through seeking net gain from every new development; protecting habitats and species and enhance green infrastructure provision	<p>Support the delivery of local biodiversity action and nature recovery?</p> <p>Embed net benefit to biodiversity, green infrastructure, and ecosystem resilience into development policy and design?</p> <p>Protect and improve the condition of designated habitats and species across Eryri?</p>	<p>SEA: Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora, Human Health, Soil</p> <p>HIA</p> <p>Wellbeing of Future Generations</p>
		Improve the quantity and quality of publicly open space and green infrastructure	<p>Manage visitor pressures to reduce recreational impacts on sensitive habitats and species?</p> <p>Enhance habitat connectivity and strengthen ecosystem resilience?</p>	
7	Landscape	Protect and enhance landscape character and quality	<p>Protect and enhance the natural beauty, special qualities, and distinctiveness of Eryri's landscapes, including views into and out of the National Park?</p>	<p>SEA: Landscape, Architectural and archaeological heritage</p> <p>HIA</p> <p>Wellbeing of Future Generations</p>
		Safeguard National Park geology and geomorphology	<p>Ensure that developments outside of Eryri do not adversely effect the landscape character, setting, or visual amenity of Eryri?</p> <p>Ensure that new developments respect local character?</p>	

ISA Topic area		ISA Objectives	Decision Aiding Questions: Will the Local Development Plan/Cynllun Eryri...?	Relationship to other relevant legislation
			<p>Balance rural diversification and tourism related development with the protection of landscape quality?</p> <p>Conserve tranquillity and dark skies by managing light pollution and visual effects?</p> <p>Protect landscape character and quality from the effects of climate change?</p>	
8	Historic Environment	Protect and enhance the historic environment including built heritage, archaeology, historic landscape	Conserve and enhance the historic and cultural environment, including Conservation Areas and heritage assets?	<p>SEA: Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage, Landscape</p> <p>Welsh Language</p> <p>Wellbeing of Future Generations</p>
		Value and protect local diversity and distinctiveness including townscape character and conservation areas	Promote the understanding and appreciation of historic buildings and assets?	
		Conserve, promote and enhance Eryri's cultural heritage	<p>Ensure new developments respond sensitively to local character, heritage context, including the use of traditional materials?</p> <p>Protect the historic environment from the effects of climate change?</p>	
9	Land and Water Resources	To promote mechanisms for waste minimisation, increased re-use and recycling	Protect and enhance soil quality, peatlands, and carbon-rich soils to support climate mitigation and ecosystem resilience?	<p>SEA: Material assets, Climatic factors, Human health, Landscape, Water</p> <p>HIA</p> <p>Wellbeing of Future Generations</p>
		To safeguard the quality and quantity of water resources	Promote sustainable land management practices that prevent soil degradation, erosion, and manage grazing?	
		Conserve the quality of soils through reducing contamination and protecting soil function and carbon rich soil	<p>Improve water quality and contribute to achieving objectives within the Water Framework Directive?</p> <p>Manage and reduce flood risk?</p> <p>Ensure that new developments do not contribute to increased nutrient loading in sensitive catchments and designated sites?</p>	

ISA Topic area		ISA Objectives	Decision Aiding Questions: Will the Local Development Plan/Cynllun Eryri...?	Relationship to other relevant legislation
			Contribute to reducing nutrient pressures on freshwater and coastal water bodies, helping to improve ecological status and support Water Framework Directive objectives?	
10	Climate Change and Energy	Ensure that all developments adopt appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures to reduce and respond to the climate emergency	Aid in the mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change, including flooding, extreme weather, and soil erosion? Support the transition to a low-carbon economy?	SEA: Air, Climatic factors, Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna, Human Health, Water HIA Wellbeing of Future Generations
		Ensure that the location and design of new development is acceptable in terms of the potential consequences of coastal and inland flooding	Promote energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, and reduced dependence on fossil fuels? Encourage climate resilient design and infrastructure that supports the population and biodiversity?	
		Promote the use of sustainable locally sourced material including energy	Improve the resilience of visitor infrastructure and active travel networks to climatic effects? Protect and support the Welsh language and Welsh speaking communities from the effects of climate change.	



## 5 Next Steps

5.1.1 The next stage for both the LDP and Cynllun Eryri will be the publication of the preferred strategy of the LDP, and the draft versions of Cynllun Eryri. An ISA Report will be published and consulted upon alongside this. The ISA Report will:

- Demonstrate how the ISA has shaped the development of the LDP and Cynllun Eryri;
- Set out the methodology for the appraisal;
- Set out the options that were considered, how they were identified and any mitigation measures proposed
- Set out the social, economic, cultural and environmental effects of the LDP and Cynllun Eryri; and
- Describe the proposals for monitoring the predicted significant effects of the LDP and Cynllun Eryri.

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## **Appendix A**

### **Review of relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives**

JANUARY 2026

# Contents

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Abbreviation
ISA	Integrated Sustainability Appraisal
LDP	Local Development Plan
NL	National Landscape
PPP	Plans, Programmes, and Policies
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

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Table A.1 - Plans, programmes, and Environmental Protection Objectives

<b>International Plans and Programmes</b>
Ramsar (1976) International Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR Convention)
United Nations (1994) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
United Nations (1997) Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
United Nations (2002) The World Summit on Sustainable Development
United Nations (2015) Paris Climate Change Agreement
<b>National Plans and Programmes</b>
Welsh Government (2021) Future Wales: The National Plan 2040
Welsh Government (2024) Planning Policy Wales Edition 12
Welsh Government (2022) Welsh Language Communities Plan
Welsh Government (2021) Llwybr Newydd- The Wales Transport Strategy
Welsh Government (2019) Wales National Marine Plan
Welsh Government (2020) The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales
Welsh Government (2019) Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales Delivery Plan
Welsh Government (2021) Net Zero Wales
Committee on Climate Change (2021) Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3): Summary for Wales
Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales) (2001) Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (2020) The Future Generations Report
Historic Environment Group (2020) Historic Environment and Climate Change in Wales Sector Adaption Plan
National Assembly for Wales (2009) Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009
National Assembly for Wales (2012) Contaminated Land (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
National Assembly for Wales (2014) Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
National Assembly for Wales (2015) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
National Assembly for Wales (2016) Environment (Wales) Act 2016
National Assembly for Wales (2016) Public Health (Wales) Act
Natural Resources Wales (ongoing) LANDMAP Programme
Natural Resources Wales (2015) LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales
Natural Resources Wales (2017) Natural Resources Policy Statement
Natural Resources Wales (2020) Marine Area Statement
NHS Wales (2016) Together for Health
Oxfam (2020) The Welsh Doughnut – A Framework for Environmental Sustainability and Social Justice
Public Health Wales (2015) A Healthier, Happier and Fairer Wales
Public Health Wales (2018) Long Term Strategy 2018-2030
Sustainable Development Commission (2009) Low Carbon Wales
Wales Council for Voluntary Action (2016) Shape Your Future - future trends: Implications for the third sector in Wales
Welsh Government (2022) The National Events Strategy for Wales 2022 to 2030
Wales Biodiversity Partnership (2010) Wales Biodiversity Framework
Welsh Government (2006) Play Policy Implementation Plan
Welsh Government (2006) Environment Strategy for Wales
Welsh Government (2009) Woodlands for Wales Strategy
Welsh Government (2009) Living Well Living Independent Lives
Welsh Government (2010) Economic Renewal: A New Direction
Welsh Government (2010) Valuing the Welsh Historic Environment
Welsh Government (2010) Fulfilled Lives, Supportive Communities

Welsh Government (2011) Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

Welsh Government (2012) Sustaining a Living Wales: A Green Paper on a New Approach to Natural Resource Management in Wales

Welsh Government (2021) Wales Infrastructure Investment Strategy

Welsh Government (2020) Welcome to Wales: Priorities for the visitor economy 2020-2025

Welsh Government (2013) The Historic Environment Strategy for Wales

Welsh Government (2013) Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013

Welsh Government (2014) Green Growth Wales: Investing in the Future

Welsh Government (2017) Natural Resources Policy

Welsh Government (2017) Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan

Welsh Government (2018) Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks

Welsh Government (2021) Beyond Recycling

### **Regional Plans and Programmes**

Gwynedd and Mon Public Services Board (2023) Gwynedd & Anglesey Well Being Plan 2023-2028

Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board (2023) The Conwy and Denbighshire Local Well-being Plan 2023-2028

Gwynedd Council (2025) Gwynedd Council's Regeneration Plan: Ardal Ni 2035

Gwynedd Council (2025) Gwynedd Council Housing Action Plan 2020/21 – 2026/27

Conwy County Borough Council's Housing Strategy 2018- 2023

North Wales Economic Ambition Board (2019) North Wales Growth Deal

Gwynedd Council (2022) Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/30 – 2029/30

Conwy Council (2023-2029) Destination Conwy Management Plan 2023-2029

Gwynedd Council (2023) Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy 2035

Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru Ambition North Wales (2025) The Regional Transport Plan for North Wales

### **Local Plans and Programmes**

Welsh Government (2025) Yr Wyddfa Partnership Plan 2025

Eryri National Park (2024) Outdoor Recreation Position Statement

Eryri National Park (2025) Eryri Tree and Woodland Strategy

Eryri National Park (2025) Eryri Nature Recovery Action Plan

Table A.2 - Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Themes relevant to the ISA	Source						Main SEA Topics	Relevant ISA Objectives
	International and European	National	Regional	Local	Implications for the Local Development Plan and Cynllun Eryri	Implications for the ISA		
<b>Population, Health and Wellbeing</b>	N/A	Welsh Government (2021) Future Wales: The National Plan 2040; Welsh Government (2021) Planning Policy Wales Edition 12; Welsh Government (2022) Welsh Language Communities Plan; Welsh Government (2021) Llwybr Newydd; Welsh Government (2019) Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales Delivery Plan; Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (2020) The Future Generations Report; National Assembly for Wales (2014) Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014; National Assembly for Wales (2015) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; National Assembly for Wales (2016) Public Health (Wales) Act; NHS Wales (2016) Together for Health;	Gwynedd and Mon Public Services Board (2023) Gwynedd & Anglesey Well Being Plan 2023-2028; Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board (2023) The Conwy and Denbighshire Local Well-being Plan 2023-2028; Gwynedd Council (2019) Gwynedd Council Housing Strategy 2019-2024; Gwynedd Council (2025) Gwynedd Council Housing Action Plan 2020/21 – 2026/27; Conwy County Borough	Welsh Government (2025) Yr Wyddfa Partnership Plan 2025 Eryri National Park (2024) Outdoor Recreation Position Statement	<b>The Local Development Plan</b>  The LDP should seek to secure sustainable, thriving communities by ensuring that local people have access to suitable, affordable, and high-quality housing. With outward migration of young people and an ageing population, the Plan should prioritise housing that meets demonstrable local needs and supports a balanced population structure. The LDP also should ensure that new homes are genuinely affordable, safeguard opportunities for younger households to remain in or return to their communities and provide accessible and adaptable housing for older residents and those with care needs.  The LDP should seek to enhance physical and mental wellbeing by ensuring that the built, social, and natural environments promote healthy lifestyles and reduce inequality. The Plan should safeguard and improve access to the National Park's extensive rights of way network, open country, and high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities, which play a central role in supporting health, active travel, and community enjoyment of the Park's "Special Qualities". Across Eryri, the	The ISA Framework should include objectives that support meeting local housing needs, increasing genuinely affordable and accessible homes, and sustaining balanced, Welsh-speaking communities. It should promote healthy, safe, and inclusive living environments, protect access to green and recreational spaces, and ensure strong access to services, sustainable transport, and community facilities to enhance physical and mental wellbeing across Eryri.	Population and Human Health	1, 3, 4, 5



Appendix A - Review of relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Themes relevant to the ISA	Source						Main SEA Topics	Relevant ISA Objectives
	International and European	National	Regional	Local	Implications for the Local Development Plan and Cynllun Eryri	Implications for the ISA		
		<p>Oxfam (2020) The Welsh Doughnut – A Framework for Environmental Sustainability and Social Justice;</p> <p>Public Health Wales (2015) A Healthier, Happier and Fairer Wales;</p> <p>Public Health Wales (2018) Long Term Strategy 2018-2030;</p> <p>Wales Council for Voluntary Action (2016) Shape Your Future - future trends: Implications for the third sector in Wales;</p> <p>Welsh Government (2009) Living Well Living Independent Lives;</p> <p>Welsh Government (2010) Fulfilled Lives, Supportive Communities;</p> <p>Welsh Government (2011) Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011;</p> <p>Welsh Government (2013) Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013;</p> <p>Welsh Government (2017) Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan.</p>	Council's Housing Strategy 2018-2023		<p>Plan should promote opportunities for all residents—particularly vulnerable and older groups—to lead healthy, independent lives supported by accessible housing, services, and sustainable transport options.</p> <p><b>Cynllun Eryri</b></p> <p>Cynllun Eryri should seek to strengthen the wellbeing and resilience of Eryri's communities by ensuring that the National Park remains a place where local people can live, work, and thrive. The Management Plan should continue to promote opportunities for residents to lead healthy, active, and independent lives by supporting access to services and sustainable transport options that meet local needs. The Plan should also seek to emphasise the close link between the natural environment and public health by promoting outdoor recreation, active travel, and access to nature for physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>Furthermore, Cynllun Eryri should seek to promote community cohesion and celebrate the Welsh language and culture as key components of wellbeing and identity. By encouraging inclusive participation, supporting local employment, and ensuring that change benefits both residents and visitors, the Management Plan can help to sustain healthy communities across Eryri.</p>			

Appendix A - Review of relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Themes relevant to the ISA	Source						Main SEA Topics	Relevant ISA Objectives
	International and European	National	Regional	Local	Implications for the Local Development Plan and Cynllun Eryri	Implications for the ISA		
<b>Economy</b>	N/A	Welsh Government (2021) Future Wales: The National Plan 2040; Welsh Government (2021) Planning Policy Wales Edition 12; Welsh Government (2010) Economic Renewal: A New Direction; Welsh Government (2021) Wales Infrastructure Investment Strategy; Welsh Government (2020) Welcome to Wales: Priorities for the visitor economy 2020-2025; Welsh Government (2017) Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan.	N/A	Conwy Council (2023-2029) Destination Conwy Management Plan 2023-2029	<p><b>The Local Development Plan</b></p> <p>The LDP should seek to support a resilient rural economy that provides sustainable employment opportunities for local people while protecting the National Park's special landscapes and cultural identity. Given the area's dependence on lower-wage sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and public services, and the outward migration of young people due to limited job prospects, the Plan should prioritise small-scale, locally rooted economic growth that strengthens community prosperity and supports a balanced population. The LDP should also support a high-quality, sustainable tourism sector that delivers local benefits while protecting the environment. Furthermore, the LDP should resist the loss of retail units in core shopping areas and support opportunities for small businesses to establish and grow, ensuring that settlements remain economically active and well-served.</p> <p><b>Cynllun Eryri</b></p> <p>Cynllun Eryri should continue to strengthen Eryri's rural economy by supporting local employment, skills development, and innovation that align with the Park's special qualities and environmental limits. It should seek to guide efforts to build a low-carbon,</p>	The ISA Framework should include objectives that support sustainable rural employment, encourage small-scale and diversified economic growth, and strengthen opportunities for young people. It should promote a high-quality, sustainable tourism sector, protect essential retail and services in local centres, and ensure that economic development aligns with the National Park's landscape, cultural identity, and environmental capacity.	Population and Material Assets	2

Appendix A - Review of relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Themes relevant to the ISA	Source						Main SEA Topics	Relevant ISA Objectives
	International and European	National	Regional	Local	Implications for the Local Development Plan and Cynllun Eryri	Implications for the ISA		
					inclusive, and resilient National Park, one that sustains livelihoods while protecting the landscapes and culture that define Eryri. The Management Plan emphasises partnership working to foster communities where people can live and work locally, helping to address outward migration and ensure that the Welsh language and culture remain present within the local economy. The strategy should also focus on creating year-round, high-quality jobs through sustainable tourism, low-carbon enterprises, and enhanced digital infrastructure.			
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Ramsar (1976) International Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR Convention)	Welsh Government (2021) Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 Welsh Government (2021) Planning Policy Wales Edition 12; National Assembly for Wales (2009) Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009; National Assembly for Wales (2012) Contaminated Land (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012; National Assembly for Wales (2016) Environment (Wales) Act 2016;	Gwynedd Council (2022) Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/30 – 2029/30	Welsh Government (2025) Yr Wyddfa Partnership Plan 2025; Eryri National Park (2025) Eryri Tree and Woodland Strategy; Eryri National Park (2025) Eryri Nature Recovery Action Plan	<b>Local Development Plan</b>  The LDP should seek to protect, enhance, and restore the National Park's internationally significant biodiversity, ensuring that new developments contribute positively to ecosystem resilience in line with national policy and statutory duties. The LDP should ensure that development avoids harm to designated sites, priority habitats, protected species, and ecological networks, and delivers measurable biodiversity enhancement. This includes safeguarding Natura 2000 sites through the LIFE Programme, integrating LANDMAP landscape assessments, and ensuring that ecological connectivity is protected and strengthened. The Plan should also address environmental risks, including	The ISA Framework should include objectives that protect and enhance designated sites, priority habitats, species, and ecological networks. It should promote net benefit to biodiversity, ecosystem resilience, nature-based solutions, and development that avoids pollution, prevents environmental damage, and strengthens	Biodiversity, Flora, and Fauna	6, 9

Appendix A - Review of relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Themes relevant to the ISA	Source						Main SEA Topics	Relevant ISA Objectives
	International and European	National	Regional	Local	Implications for the Local Development Plan and Cynllun Eryri	Implications for the ISA		
		<p>Natural Resources Wales (ongoing) LANDMAP Programme;</p> <p>Natural Resources Wales (2015) LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales;</p> <p>Natural Resources Wales (2017) Natural Resources Policy Statement;</p> <p>Oxfam (2020) The Welsh Doughnut – A Framework for Environmental Sustainability and Social Justice;</p> <p>Wales Biodiversity Partnership (2010) Wales Biodiversity Framework;</p> <p>Welsh Government (2006) Environment Strategy for Wales;</p> <p>Welsh Government (2009) Woodlands for Wales Strategy;</p> <p>Welsh Government (2017) Natural Resources Policy;</p> <p>Welsh Government (2018) Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks.</p>			<p>pollution, land contamination, and environmental damage, consistent with Welsh regulations and NRW guidance. The LDP should encourage habitat creation, sustainable land management, woodland expansion, and nature-based solutions that respond to the climate and nature emergency, and new developments should contribute to carbon sequestration, flood resilience, and soil and water protection.</p> <p><b>Cynllun Eryri</b></p> <p>Cynllun Eryri should continue to seek to protect and enhance the National Park's biodiversity through the sustainable management of habitats, species, and ecosystems. The Management Plan should promote landscape-scale restoration that strengthens ecological networks and supports nature recovery across woodlands, peatlands, rivers, and uplands. It should also focus on improving ecosystem resilience to climate change, pollution, and invasive species while ensuring that land use and recreation are managed sustainably. The Management Plan should also seek to encourage partnership-led conservation and community engagement to support biodiversity monitoring, habitat restoration, and species protection. By promoting nature-based solutions that</p>	<p>landscape-scale connectivity across Eryri.</p>		

Appendix A - Review of relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Themes relevant to the ISA	Source						Main SEA Topics	Relevant ISA Objectives
	International and European	National	Regional	Local	Implications for the Local Development Plan and Cynllun Eryri	Implications for the ISA		
					deliver wider benefits such as carbon storage, flood resilience, and access to nature, Cynllun Eryri can continue to integrate ecosystem health with cultural and community wellbeing across the National Park.			
<b>Landscape</b>	N/A	Welsh Government (2021) Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 Welsh Government (2021) Planning Policy Wales Edition 12; Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales) (2001) Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest Historic Environment Group (2020) Historic Environment and Climate Change in Wales Sector Adaption Plan National Assembly for Wales (2009) Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009 National Assembly for Wales (2012) Contaminated Land (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 National Assembly for Wales (2016) Environment (Wales) Act 2016	Gwynedd Council (2022) Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/30 – 2029/30	Welsh Government (2025) Yr Wyddfa Partnership Plan 2025; Eryri National Park (2025) Eryri Tree and Woodland Strategy; Eryri National Park (2025) Eryri Nature Recovery Action Plan	<b>The Local Development Plan</b>  The LDP should seek to protect, enhance, and celebrate the outstanding landscapes of Snowdonia, reflecting their national and international significance and the statutory duty to conserve and enhance natural beauty. The LDP should ensure that decision-making is informed by robust landscape assessments and that the special qualities of Eryri—including its cultural landscapes, tranquillity, scenic value, and sense of place—are fully protected. The LDP should also safeguard historic landscape features, recognising their contribution to identity and resilience. The LDP should ensure that all new development conserves and enhances Eryri's nationally important landscapes, reinforcing the Park's special qualities, supporting ecosystem resilience, and preserving the area's unique natural and cultural character for future generations.  <b>Cynllun Eryri</b>  Cynllun Eryri should continue to protect, enhance, and celebrate the outstanding landscapes and seascapes	The ISA Framework should include objectives that protect and enhance Eryri's landscape character, scenic quality, tranquillity, and historic landscapes. It should conserve the Park's special qualities, avoid visual and cumulative impacts (both within and outside of the National Park boundary), and strengthen resilience to climate and environmental change.	Landscape and Visual	5, 7, 9

Appendix A - Review of relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Themes relevant to the ISA	Source						Main SEA Topics	Relevant ISA Objectives
	International and European	National	Regional	Local	Implications for the Local Development Plan and Cynllun Eryri	Implications for the ISA		
		<p>Natural Resources Wales (ongoing) LANDMAP Programme</p> <p>Natural Resources Wales (2015) LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales</p> <p>Natural Resources Wales (2017) Natural Resources Policy Statement</p> <p>Welsh Government (2006) Environment Strategy for Wales</p> <p>Welsh Government (2009) Woodlands for Wales Strategy</p> <p>Welsh Government (2010) Valuing the Welsh Historic Environment</p> <p>Welsh Government (2018) Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks</p>			<p>of the National Park, ensuring they remain at the heart of Eryri's identity and sense of place. The Plan should promote landscape management that safeguards scenic quality, tranquillity, dark skies, and biodiversity while supporting adaptation to climate change and maintaining the Park's "Special Qualities." It should also ensure that change within the landscape, whether from development, land use, or visitor activity, respects landscape character and distinctiveness. By encouraging understanding and connection with Eryri's landscapes, and supporting sustainable peatland recovery, Cynllun Eryri can continue to protect the natural beauty, tranquillity and cultural richness that define the National Park for future generations.</p>			
<b>Transport and Pollution</b>	<p>United Nations (2002) The World Summit on Sustainable Development</p>	<p>Welsh Government (2021) Future Wales: The National Plan 2040</p> <p>Welsh Government (2021) Planning Policy Wales Edition 12;</p> <p>Welsh Government (2021) Llwybr Newydd; National Assembly for Wales (2016) Public Health (Wales) Act</p>	<p>Gwyness Council (2025) Gwynedd Council's Regeneration Plan: Ardal Ni 2035</p> <p>North Wales Economic Ambition Board (2019) North</p>	<p>Welsh Government (2025) Yr Wyddfa Partnership Plan 2025</p> <p>Eryri National Park (2024) Outdoor Recreation Position Statement;</p>	<p><b>The Local Development Plan</b></p> <p>The LDP should seek to promote a sustainable, low-carbon transport system that improves accessibility for residents and visitors while protecting the National Park's air quality, tranquillity, and special landscape character. The LDP should support transport infrastructure that prioritises walking and cycling, this includes improving safe, attractive, and well-connected active travel routes within</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives that promote sustainable and low-carbon travel, improve active travel and public transport access, and reduce reliance on private cars. It should</p>	<p>Population, Human Health, and Material Assets</p>	5

Appendix A - Review of relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Themes relevant to the ISA	Source						Main SEA Topics	Relevant ISA Objectives
	International and European	National	Regional	Local	Implications for the Local Development Plan and Cynllun Eryri	Implications for the ISA		
		Public Health Wales (2015) A Healthier, Happier and Fairer Wales Welsh Government (2021) Wales Infrastructure Investment Strategy Welsh Government (2013) Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 Welsh Government (2014) Green Growth Wales: Investing in the Future;	Wales Growth Deal Gwynedd Council (2023) Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy 2035; Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru Ambition North Wales (2025) The Regional Transport Plan for North Wales	Conwy Council (2023-2029) Destination Conwy Management Plan 2023-2029	and between communities, as well as enhancing sustainable access to key visitor destinations.  Protecting air quality and reducing exposure to harmful emissions is essential for public and environmental health. The LDP should therefore promote development patterns that reduce vehicle trips, minimise congestion in sensitive areas, and support low-emission transport solutions. The Plan should also safeguard the tranquillity and acoustic environment of Eryri by preventing developments that generate harmful noise or erode the Park's valued sense of quiet, consistent with national policy expectations for protecting amenity and wellbeing. Noise-sensitive receptors, quiet areas, and landscape tranquillity should be protected through careful siting, design, and management of new development.  <b>Cynllun Eryri</b> Cynllun Eryri should continue to promote sustainable, low-carbon transport solutions that improve accessibility for residents and visitors while protecting the National Park's air quality, tranquillity, and landscape character. The Management plan should seek to encourage active and sustainable travel, reducing reliance on private vehicles and supporting connections between communities and	support development that protects and enhances air quality, minimises noise pollution, and maintains the tranquillity and environmental quality of the National Park.		



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Themes relevant to the ISA	Source						Main SEA Topics	Relevant ISA Objectives
	International and European	National	Regional	Local	Implications for the Local Development Plan and Cynllun Eryri	Implications for the ISA		
					key visitor destinations. It should also seek to manage visitor pressures and traffic impacts through integrated transport planning, which is consistent with efforts to decarbonise travel, with the aims of improving air quality across Eryri or prevent it from becoming poor. Protecting quiet areas and maintaining tranquillity should also be a key focus for Cynllun Eryri.			
<b>Land and Water Resources</b>	Ramsar (1976) International Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR Convention)	Welsh Government (2021) Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 Welsh Government (2021) Planning Policy Wales Edition 12; Welsh Government (2019) Wales National Marine Plan; Welsh Government (2020) The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales; National Assembly for Wales (2009) Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009; National Assembly for Wales (2012) Contaminated Land (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012; National Assembly for Wales (2016)	Gwynedd Council (2022) Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/30 – 2029/30	Welsh Government (2025) Yr Wyddfa Partnership Plan 2025	<b>The Local Development Plan</b>  The LDP should seek to safeguard and enhance the National Park's land and water resources, ensuring their sustainable management in line with national and local policy. The LDP should ensure that development protects water quality, supports efficient water use, and avoids pollution, consistent with Welsh environmental regulations. It should also ensure that contaminated or degraded land is appropriately remediated before any redevelopment.  The LDP should also align with the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management by directing development away from at-risk areas, integrating natural flood management, and promoting resilience to climate change impacts on rivers, coasts, and catchments.  The LDP should promote a nature-positive and climate-resilient approach	The ISA Framework should include objectives that protect and enhance soil and water quality, promote sustainable water use, and prevent pollution or land contamination. It should ensure development avoids flood risk areas, supports natural flood management, and contributes to ecosystem resilience through sustainable land use, catchment protection, and nature-based solutions.	Soil, Material Assets and Water	



Appendix A - Review of relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Themes relevant to the ISA	Source						Main SEA Topics	Relevant ISA Objectives
	International and European	National	Regional	Local	Implications for the Local Development Plan and Cynllun Eryri	Implications for the ISA		
		Environment (Wales) Act 2016; Natural Resources Wales (ongoing) LANDMAP Programme; Natural Resources Wales (2015) LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales; Natural Resources Wales (2017) Natural Resources Policy Statement; Natural Resources Wales (2020) Marine Area Statement; Welsh Government (2006) Environment Strategy for Wales; Welsh Government (2009) Woodlands for Wales Strategy; Welsh Government (2012) Sustaining a Living Wales: A Green Paper on a New Approach to Natural Resource Management in Wales; Welsh Government (2018) Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks.			to land and water resources, ensuring that new development maintains high environmental standards, enhances ecosystem services, and protects the fundamental natural systems that underpin Eryri's landscapes and communities.  <b>Cynllun Eryri</b>  Cynllun Eryri should continue to promote the sustainable management of land and water resources to protect the ecosystems, landscapes, and communities that utilise them. The Management Plan should seek to guide actions that protect soil health, water quality, and catchment integrity, while encouraging land use practices that restore natural processes. It should also seek to support flood and coastal risk management through nature-based solutions. By promoting sustainable land use, reducing pollution, and ensuring that development and recreation respect the Park's environmental setting, Cynllun Eryri can help ensure clean water, healthy soils, and functioning ecosystems that sustain both nature and communities across the National Park.			
<b>Climate Change</b>	United Nations (1994) The United	Welsh Government (2021) Future Wales: The National Plan 2040	Gwynedd Council (2022) Climate and Nature	Welsh Government (2025) Yr Wyddfa	<b>The Local Development Plan</b>  The LDP should seek to support a climate-resilient and low-carbon future,	The ISA Framework should include objectives that support the	Climate, Air Quality, Natural Resources	10

Appendix A - Review of relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Themes relevant to the ISA	Source						Main SEA Topics	Relevant ISA Objectives
	International and European	National	Regional	Local	Implications for the Local Development Plan and Cynllun Eryri	Implications for the ISA		
	Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change United Nations (1997) Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change United Nations (2002) The World Summit on Sustainable Development United Nations (2015) Paris Climate Change Agreement	Welsh Government (2021) Planning Policy Wales Edition 12; Welsh Government (2019) Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales Delivery Plan Welsh Government (2021) Net Zero Wales Committee on Climate Change (2021) Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3): Summary for Wales Historic Environment Group (2020) Historic Environment and Climate Change in Wales Sector Adaption Plan National Assembly for Wales (2009) Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009 Oxfam (2020) The Welsh Doughnut – A Framework for Environmental Sustainability and Social Justice Public Health Wales (2018) Long Term Strategy 2018-2030 Sustainable Development Commission (2009) Low Carbon Wales	Emergency Plan 2022/30 – 2029/30	Partnership Plan 2025	in line with national climate legislation and strategic commitments. The LDP should ensure that development minimises greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable location choices, energy-efficient design, integration of renewable and low-carbon technologies, and support for active and low-carbon travel. New developments should also protect natural carbon stores—such as woodlands, peatlands, and soils—and promote nature-based solutions.  Climate adaptation is a key priority for Eryri's landscapes and communities. The LDP should respond to climate risks by managing flood risk, supporting water scarcity resilience, reducing vulnerability to extreme weather, and ensuring that new developments are designed with long-term climate impacts in mind.  Overall, the Eryri LDP should guide development that reduces emissions, strengthens climate resilience, protects natural carbon-rich environments, and ensures that the National Park contributes positively to Wales's transition to a net-zero and climate-resilient future.  <b>Cynllun Eryri</b>  Cynllun Eryri should continue to manage climate change through	transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient future. It should promote energy-efficient design, renewable and low-carbon technologies, sustainable transport, and nature-based solutions. Objectives should also ensure that development mitigates greenhouse gas emissions, adapts to climate risks, and protects natural carbon stores such as woodlands and peatlands.		

Appendix A - Review of relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Themes relevant to the ISA	Source						Main SEA Topics	Relevant ISA Objectives
	International and European	National	Regional	Local	Implications for the Local Development Plan and Cynllun Eryri	Implications for the ISA		
		Welsh Government (2006) Environment Strategy for Wales			actions that reduce carbon emissions, build resilience, and protect the National Park's natural and cultural assets. The Management Plan should seek to promote a transition to a low-carbon future through supporting renewable projects, sustainable transport, and energy efficient designs and strategies, while encouraging carbon-conscious behaviours among residents and visitors. The Management Plan should also focus on climate adaptation by addressing the impacts of extreme weather, flooding, and temperature changes on landscapes, wildlife, and the historic environment. By integrating climate action across all themes, from sustainable tourism to land management, Cynllun Eryri could maintain a strategy to respond to the climate and nature emergency, helping Eryri to contribute positively to national net-zero goals while protecting the National Park for future generations.			
<b>Historic Environment</b>	N/A	Welsh Government (2021) Future Wales: The National Plan 2040; Welsh Government (2021) Planning Policy Wales Edition 12; Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales) (2001) Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest;	N/A	Welsh Government (2025) Yr Wyddfa Partnership Plan 2025	<b>The Local Development Plan</b>  The LDP should seek to protect, enhance, and promote the area's rich historic and cultural environment, recognising its vital role in shaping local identity and character. The LDP should seek to ensure that new developments respect the setting and historic character of Eryri and protect archaeology and cultural landscapes while encouraging sensitive adaptation	The ISA Framework should include objectives that protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment, including designated and locally important heritage assets. It	Cultural Heritage	8

Appendix A - Review of relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Themes relevant to the ISA	Source						Main SEA Topics	Relevant ISA Objectives
	International and European	National	Regional	Local	Implications for the Local Development Plan and Cynllun Eryri	Implications for the ISA		
		<p>Historic Environment Group (2020) Historic Environment and Climate Change in Wales Sector Adaption Plan;</p> <p>National Assembly for Wales (2009) Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009;</p> <p>National Assembly for Wales (2016) Environment (Wales) Act 2016</p> <p>Oxfam (2020) The Welsh Doughnut – A Framework for Environmental Sustainability and Social Justice;</p> <p>Welsh Government (2006) Environment Strategy for Wales;</p> <p>Welsh Government (2010) Valuing the Welsh Historic Environment;</p> <p>Welsh Government (2013) The Historic Environment Strategy for Wales</p>			<p>to climate change. Furthermore, the LDP should promote the Welsh language and cultural traditions as vital elements of Eryri's heritage, ensuring that new developments support local distinctiveness and cultural vitality.</p> <p><b>Cynllun Eryri</b></p> <p>Cynllun Eryri should continue to protect, celebrate, and enhance the National Park's historic environment as a living part of its cultural landscape. The Management Plan should seek to guide collaborative efforts to conserve designated and locally important heritage assets, ensuring they are sensitively managed. The Management Plan should also seek to address the challenges posed by climate change to the historic environment, promoting research, conservation and adaptive management that protect heritage from changing land uses, flooding, and other climatic impacts. By embedding heritage within wider goals for community wellbeing, sustainable tourism, and environmental management, Cynllun Eryri can ensure that the Park's unique historic environment remains a defining feature of its identity and a source of inspiration for future generations.</p>	<p>should ensure that development conserves landscape character, heritage settings, and archaeology, supports the sustainable reuse of historic buildings, and promotes the Welsh language and cultural identity as key elements of Eryri's distinctiveness.</p>		

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DRAFT

# **Eryri National Park Authority**

## **Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**

### **Appendix B – Baseline, Key Issues and Opportunities**

January 2026

DRAFT

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# 1 Population, Health and Wellbeing

## 1.1 Baseline Conditions

### Population

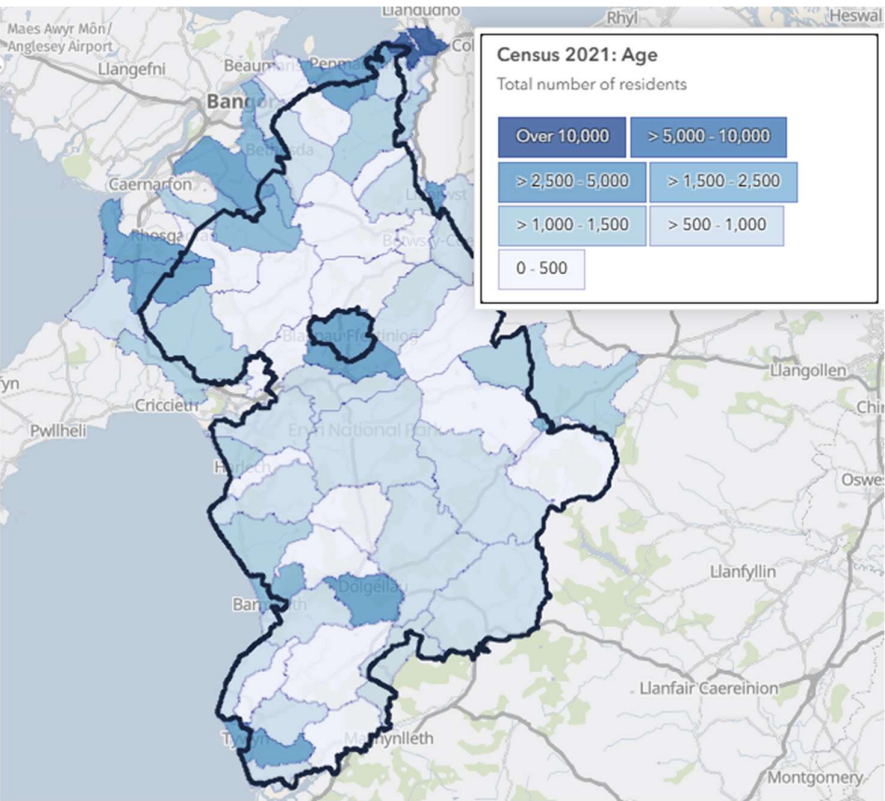
1.1.1 Within the Eryri National Park Authority (NPA), there are 24 villages and five towns, Bala and Dolgellau are the two main centres. Data from the 2021 census shows that the population of Wales increased by 1.4% in the last 10 years, compared to an increase of 5.5% between 2001 and 2011. In the same period, the population of Eryri National Park has decreased by 5%, compared to an increase of 0.86% between 2001 and 2011<sup>1</sup> See Table B-1-1 and Figure B-1-1 for the population distribution below. Post 2021, the general population of Eryri has been steadily increasing after a marginal drop, with an estimated population of 24,307 residents in 2022, to 24,275 in 2023, and 24,536 in 2024<sup>1</sup>

Table B-1-1: The Population of Wales and Eryri (Welsh Government, 2024)

Population	Eryri National Park	Wales
2011 Whole Population	25,702	3,063,456
% Male (2011 Population)	49.8%	49.1%
% Female (2011 Population)	50.2%	50.9%
2021 Whole Population	24,418	3,107,494
% Male (2021 Population)	50.1%	51.1%
% Female (2021 Population)	49.9%	48.9%

<sup>1</sup> ONS (2025) National Park population estimates. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/nationalparkmidyearpopulationestimatesexperimental> [Accessed: 17/12/2025]

Figure B-1-1: The geographical distribution of population within Eryri (Welsh Government, 2024)



Age Demographics

1.1.2 By 2021, there was an increase in the number of older people (aged 65+) living in the National Park (+3.5%) which is slightly higher than the increase across Wales (+3.1%). The percentage in Eryri was 28.7% compared to 21.4% in Wales. In 2021, the percentage of children aged 0-4 living in Eryri was 3.7% which is less than in 2011 (4.6%), and also less than the Welsh percentage of 5.0%<sup>2</sup>. The age distribution of Eryri is shown in Table B-1-2.

Table B-1-2: The age distribution of the population of Wales and Eryri

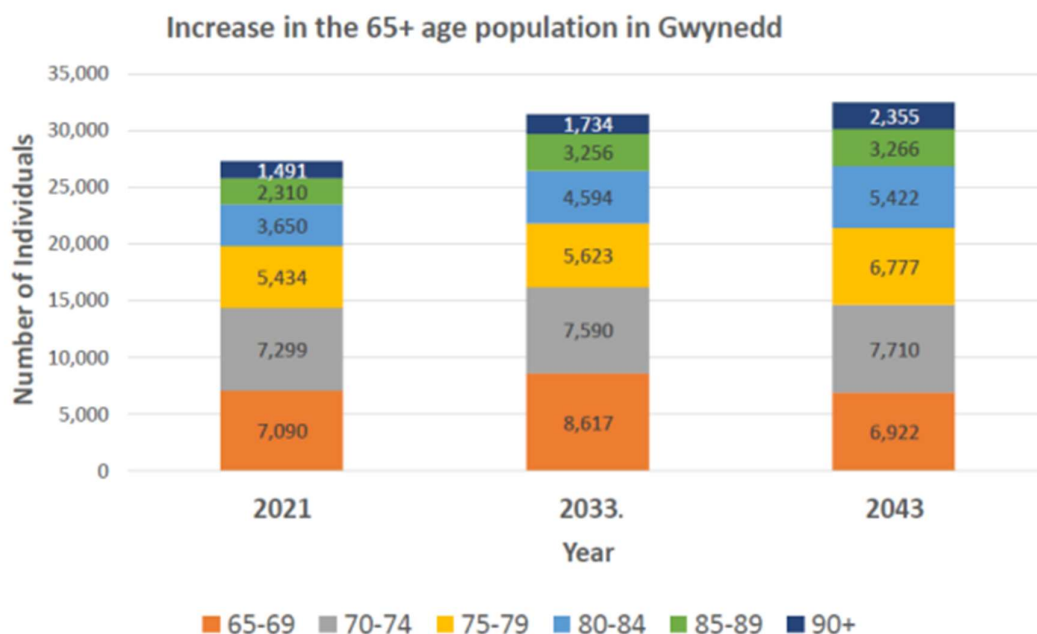
Age	Eryri (2011)	Wales (2011)	Eryri (2021)	Wales (2021)
0-4 years	4.6%	5.8%	3.7%	5.0%
64-74 years	13.7%	9.8%	15.6%	11.6%
75-84 years	8.4%	6.1%	9.4%	7.1%
Over 85 years	3.1%	2.4%	3.7%	2.7%

1.1.3 Population projections suggest sustained growth in Eryri’s population aged 65 and over, with numbers increasing each decade to an estimated 31,000 by 2033 and 32,500 by 2045. The majority of residents within this age group are predicted to be between 65-69 years of age, with age projections reaching to 2,355 residents aged 90 and over by 2043<sup>3</sup> (see Figure B-1-2 below).

<sup>2</sup> Eryri National Park (2024) State of the Park Report – Population. Available at: <https://data.eryri.gov.wales/park-authority/community-cohesion/> [Accessed: 06/01/2025]

<sup>3</sup> Gwynedd Council (2024) Social Services for older people for the future. Available at: <https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/documents/s42055/Cabinet%20Report%20-%20Llechen%20Ln.pdf> [Accessed: 17/12/2025]

Figure B-1-2: The increase in the 65+ age population in Gwynedd



Source: Gwynedd Council

## Ethnicity

- 1.1.4 When compared with the rest of the population in England and Wales, the population who lived in national parks tend to be less ethnically diverse, it has also been recorded that there are fewer people in ethnic minority groups in national parks than elsewhere<sup>4</sup>. In line with this and according to the 2021 Census, the highest percentage of Eryri residents are White (98.4%) – White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British (96%), White: Irish (0.5%) and White: Other (1.8%). This is 4.6% higher than the National Average of 93.8%. Following that, the two highest ethnic groups in Eryri are mixed or multiple ethnic groups (0.8% is equal to 193 residents) and Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh at 0.5% (119 residents)<sup>37</sup>. Both percentages are lower than the National average of 1.6% and 2.9%, respectively.

## Religion

- 1.1.5 When compared to the rest of the population in England and Wales, the population who have lived in national parks are more likely to be Christian than other religions<sup>4</sup>. In 2021, 41% of Eryri residents noted that they had 'no religion' which is 5.5% lower than the National Average of 46.5%. However, the percentage of Christians was 6.9% higher in Eryri (50.5%) than Wales (43.6%). All other religion percentages were under 1% for Eryri, in line with the National trend, with 7.1% choosing not to answer<sup>37</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> ONS (2023) National Park Residents, England and Wales. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/nationalparkresidentsenglandandwales/census2021#ethnicity-language-and-religion> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

## Disability and Access

- 1.1.6 There were 4,531 Eryri residents registered as Disabled under the Equality Act in 2021. As a percentage (18.6%), this is slightly lower than the National Average of 21.6%, which has decreased from 22.7% in 2011<sup>5</sup>.
- 1.1.7 While Eryri has made some efforts to improve physical and social access to the NPA, there remain significant gaps in how access for underrepresented and disabled groups is strategically planned and monitored<sup>6</sup>. However, Eryri does offer instances of accessible infrastructure and services - Designated accessible walking routes have been established, and the NPA offers mobility support equipment to aid people with reduced mobility across woodland paths and selected trails.
- 1.1.8 While Eryri has some capacity to support disabled and less-mobile visitors, there is no robust, long-term strategy or monitoring framework to ensure access is equitable across all user groups<sup>6</sup>.

## Education

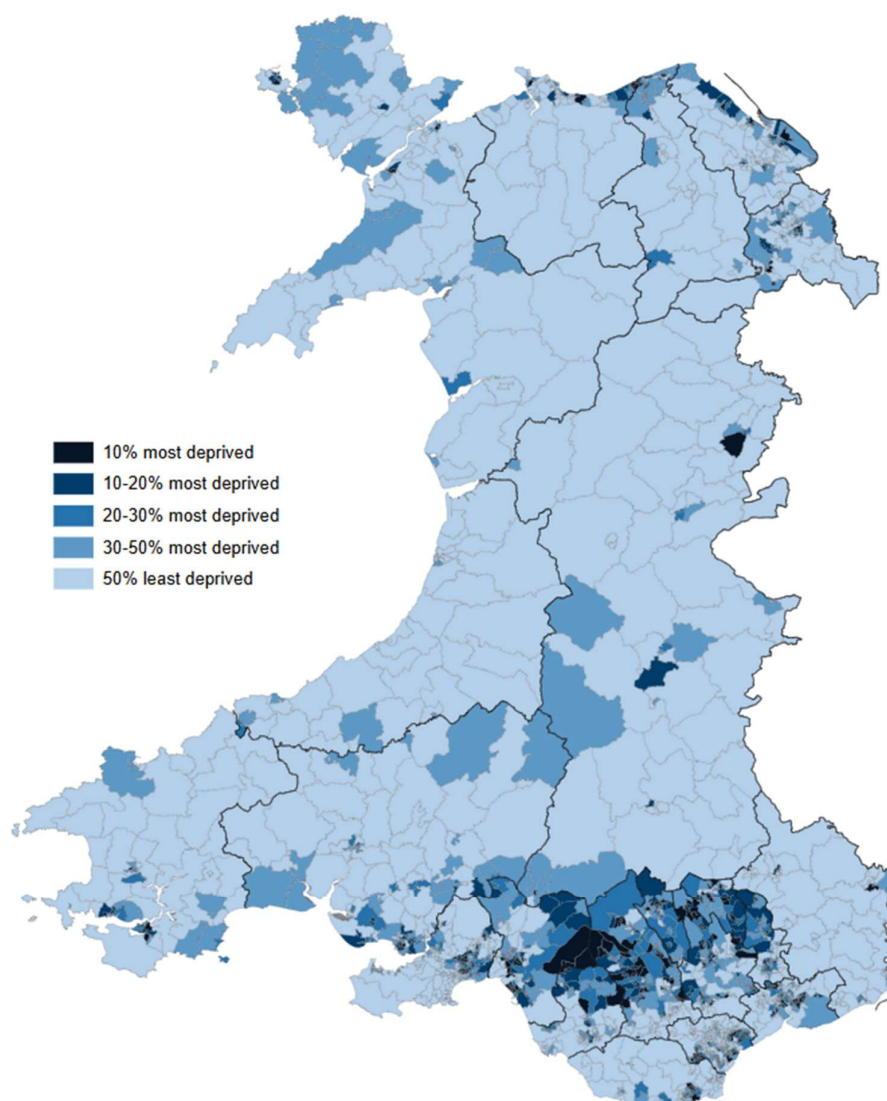
- 1.1.9 The distribution of LSOAs and their relative deprivation in the education domain illustrates regional variation in educational attainment and access to education. This is shown in Figure B-1-3 The majority of the LSOAs in Eryri from the 2025 WIMD are in the 50% least deprived. This is the same picture as the 2019 WIMD, and across the whole of Wales, of the 50% least deprived areas in 2019, 88% remained in that group in 2025. Conwy only has two areas in the 10% most deprived.

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<sup>5</sup> ONS (2022) Disability in England and Wales. Available at:  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/disability/datasets/disabilityinenglandandwales2011>  
[Accessed:30/11/2025]

<sup>6</sup> Audit Wales (2025) Promoting Access to Eryri National Park. Available at:  
[https://www.wao.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/4633A2024\\_Eryri\\_Access\\_Report\\_Eng%20FINAL.pdf](https://www.wao.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/4633A2024_Eryri_Access_Report_Eng%20FINAL.pdf) [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

Figure B-1-3: Education Deprivation for LSOAs in Wales



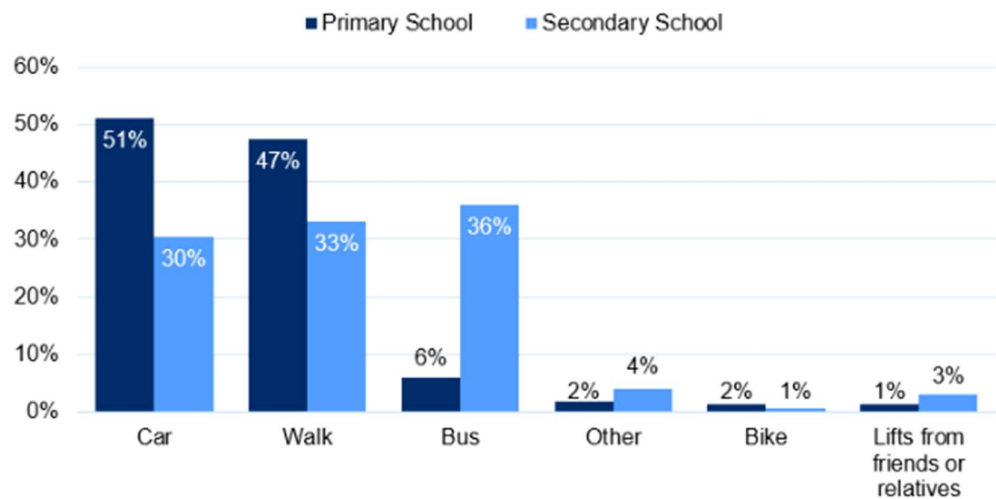
© Crown copyright 2025. Cartographics. Welsh Government.

Source: WIMD 2025

- 1.1.10 National Survey for Wales 2024-2015<sup>7</sup> results indicate that 48% of primary school children walk to school compared with 33% of secondary school children (see Figure B-1-4). The mode of travel to school varies depending on whether the child lives in an urban or rural area. Approximately 51% of primary school children living in urban areas walk to school compared with 39% who live in rural areas. This difference was more marked in secondary school commutes, where 45% of children in urban areas walk to school compared with 12% of children who live in rural areas.

<sup>7</sup> Welsh Government (2025) National Survey for Wales headline results: April 2024 to March 2025. Available at: [National Survey for Wales headline results: April 2024 to March 2025 \[HTML\]](#) | [GOV.WALES](#) [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

Figure B-1-4: Model of travel, by school type, in Wales



- 1.1.11 According to the 2021 Census, the percentage of those who have a Level four qualification or above within the National Park is 4.7% higher than the national average (36.2% Eryri compared with 31.5% for Wales). The percentage for 'no qualifications' is lower in Eryri (16.3%), compared with the percentage for the whole of Wales (19.9%)<sup>37</sup>.

### Housing in Eryri

- 1.1.12 The average house price in Eryri in 2020 was £215,524, up from £211,107 in 2019. The mean average house price for 2021 rose further to £259,096. In 2022 it rose again to £272,294. During 2023, it dropped significantly to £244,570<sup>8</sup>.
- 1.1.13 The median value of house prices has been increasing since 2014 (with a decrease in 2016), reaching £172,000 in 2020. It increased substantially in 2021 to £210,000. 2022 saw a further increase to £220,000. During 2023, this dropped to £200,000<sup>9</sup>. In comparison, the average house price in Wales was £219,000 in November 2024<sup>9</sup>, and across the UK as a whole, the average house price was reported at approximately £273,000 in August 2025<sup>10</sup>.
- 1.1.14 In recent years, Eryri has seen growing pressure on housing supply and affordability, driven by increased demand for second homes and holiday lets, a trend accelerated by the post-Brexit and COVID-19 boost to domestic tourism. This led to more houses being bought as second homes or holiday rentals within Eryri<sup>37</sup>, reducing the availability of primary housing within the National Park. Figure B-1-5 below shows the distribution of Secondary Homes and Holiday Lets per Town and Community Council across Eryri.
- 1.1.15 It has been recorded that typical house prices in North Wales remain significantly higher than two decades ago: the median house price in North Wales in 2023 was £188,000, with a lower-quartile price of £140,000. This has been compared with median income, which shows that median-priced houses cost well over five times median income, placing them out of reach for many average-earning households<sup>11</sup>. Locally, the housing delivery and tenure mix within Eryri is constrained. The most

<sup>8</sup> Welsh Government (2024) Adopted Local Development Plan. Available at: [Adopted Eryri Local Development Plan - Planning and Development](#) [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

<sup>9</sup> UK Government (2025) UK House Price Index Wales: December 2024. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-house-price-index-for-december-2024/uk-house-price-index-wales-december-2024> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

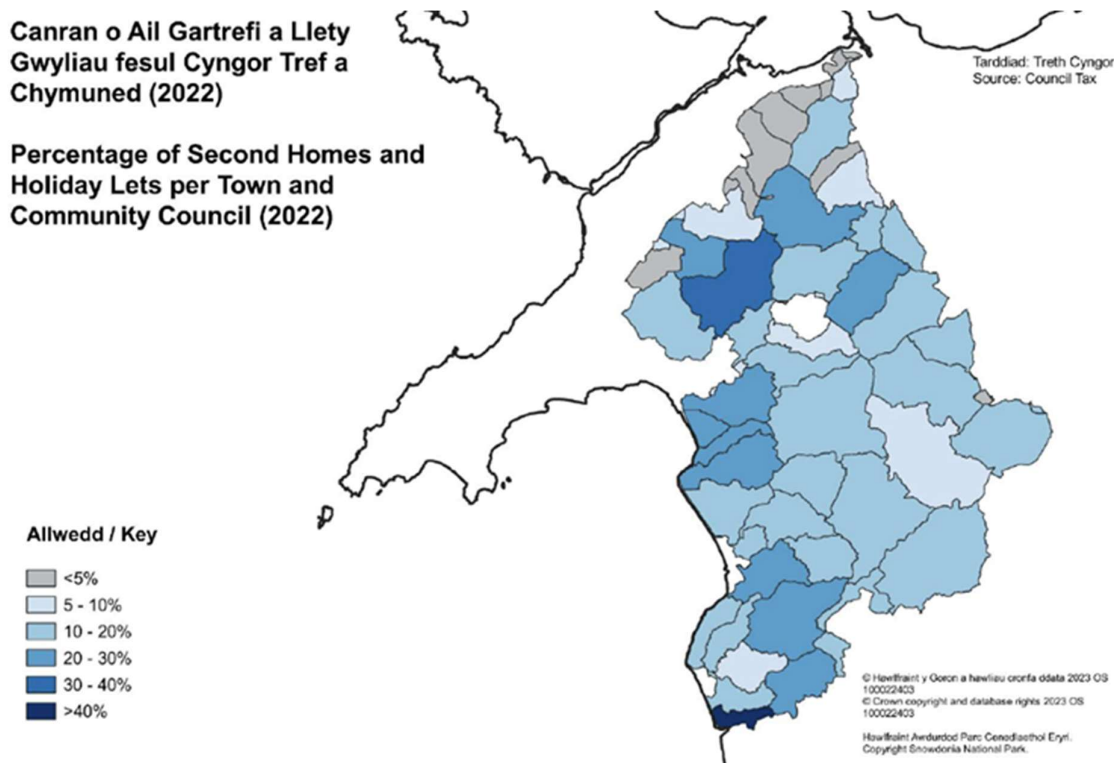
<sup>10</sup> Land registry (2025) UK House Price Index. Available at: <https://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/ukhpi/> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>11</sup> North Wales Regional Partnership Board (2024) Statistics about housing and homelessness in North Wales. Available at: <https://www.northwalescollaborative.wales/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Statistics-about-housing-and-homelessness-in-North-Wales-202409.pdf> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]



recent Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for Eryri shows that affordable-housing completions are very low, and largely reliant on the activity of housing associations; private-sector developers have contributed virtually no affordable or “entry-level” housing in most years<sup>12</sup>. Furthermore, in many parts of the National Park there is little private-sector interest in development, limited housing supply, and few large or windfall sites coming forward — a pattern that limits housing choice and affordability for local people<sup>12</sup>.

Figure B-1-5: Percentage of Secondary Homes and Holiday Lets per Town and Community Council across Eryri



## Population and Household Projections

- 1.1.16 The national 2018 based household projections for the National Park were published in May 2021. These projections estimate that between 2018 and 2028 the population of the National Park will decrease by 1.92% which is a total of 480. During the same period the number of households in Eryri is projected to increase by 40 units (0.3%)<sup>13</sup>. This can be compared to national household projections, where the number of households in Wales is projected to increase by around 98,500, or 7.2%, to 1.46 million by mid-2032, driven mostly by an increase in one-person households. The number of households is projected to increase in all local authorities<sup>14</sup>.
- 1.1.17 It is projected that the number of one-person households will increase and continue to be the most common household type, accounting for 41.7% of all households in 2028. The number of all other broad household types are projected to decrease over the period, with larger household types projected to see a more marked percentage decrease. Furthermore, it is projected that the number of

<sup>12</sup> Welsh Government (2023) Annual monitoring Report. Available at: <https://eryri.gov.wales/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/AMR-2023.pdf> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>13</sup> Welsh Government (2023) Community Cohesion. Available at: <https://data.eryri.gov.wales/park-authority/community-cohesion/> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>14</sup> Welsh Government (2025) Local authority household projections for Wales: 2022-based. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/local-authority-household-projections-wales-2022-based.html> [Accessed: 27/12/2025]

households with children will decrease from nearly 2,450 households to just under 2,160 households (a decrease of 4.2%), making up 17.8% of all households by 2028<sup>37</sup>.

## Health and Wellbeing

1.1.18 The health of residents within national parks in Wales has been recorded to be generally better than those elsewhere. The Age-standardised proportions (ASPs) of people who reported they were in “very good” health was higher in every national park than it was elsewhere in Wales (46.5%). The highest proportion was recorded to be in Eryri (53.3%). Correspondingly, the ASP of people who reported being in “very bad” or “bad” health was lower in every national park than it was elsewhere in Wales (1.6% in “very bad” health and 5.2% in “bad” health). The lowest proportions in Wales were recorded in Eryri (0.8% in “very bad” health and 3.2% in “bad” health)<sup>15</sup>.

1.1.19 Table B-1-3 shows the health of Eryri residents at the time of the 2021 and 2011 census.

*Table B-1-3: Reported health of Eryri residents*

Overall Health	Eryri (2011)	Wales (2011)	Eryri (2021)	Wales (2021)
<b>Very Good</b>	47.7%	46.6%	53.3%	46.2%
<b>Good</b>	32.8%	31.1%	33.7%	32.4%
<b>Satisfactory</b>	14.6%	14.6%	9%	14.5%
<b>Poor</b>	3.8%	5.8%	3.2%	5.3%
<b>Very Poor</b>	1.1%	1.8%	0.8%	1.7%

## Healthcare in Eryri

1.1.20 NHS Wales delivers services through seven local health boards and three NHS trusts - they are responsible for planning and delivering NHS services (dental, optical, pharmacy, mental health) in their respective areas. Health services for most of Eryri fall under the responsibility of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), the largest local health board in Wales<sup>16</sup>. BCUHB provides primary, community, mental-health and acute hospital services for a population of over 700,000 people across six counties including Gwynedd and Conwy — both of which cover large areas of Eryri. Within the regions covered by the BCUHB, health care is delivered via a network which includes 96 GP practices, as well as a substantial number of dental practices, optometry providers, pharmacies, community clinics, and hospitals<sup>17</sup>. The two hospitals likely to serve many residents across Eryri are the Ysbyty Eryri and Ysbyty Gwynedd, with Ysbyty Gwynedd located approximately 20-40 minutes by road from most northern settlements in Eryri<sup>18</sup>.

1.1.21 In terms of health-service demand, recent records for BCUHB (serving Eryri) indicate that in 2020–21, there were 1,183 admissions to mental-health facilities — marking substantial demand for mental-health services in the region<sup>19</sup>. More broadly, total hospital admission episodes across BCUHB

<sup>15</sup> ONS (2021) National park residents, England and Wales: Census 2021) Available at: [National park residents, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/mentalhealth/articles/national-park-residents-england-and-wales-census-2021/2021-09-22) [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

<sup>16</sup> NHS Wales (no date) Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr University Health board. Available at: <https://bcuhb.nhs.wales/about-us/> [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

<sup>17</sup> NHS Wales (2024) Annual Review 2022/23. Available at: <https://bcuhb.nhs.wales/about-us/governance-and-assurance/annual-report-and-accounts/annual-review/annual-review-2022-23/> [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

<sup>18</sup> NHS 111 Wales (no date) Ysbyty Eryri. Available at: <https://111.wales.nhs.uk/localservices/ViewLocalService.aspx?id=3208&utm> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>19</sup> North Wales Public Sector Equality Network (2023) Equality in North Wales: Data and Evidence Report. Available at: [https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Documents-Residents/Have-your-say/Draft-Equality-Objectives-2024-28/Main-Documents/2023-Equality-in-North-Wales-Data-and-evidence-report.pdf?securitytoken=PX7jzwcJEvmEPsYD6zfuvmkNDpUBKxAZU03M6ac64W%2BMHHveRgG53UVUR9q71GkiTaxFgQNVR8BdoUg4Juq%2BMH6GUrq7iBE&utm\\_](https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Documents-Residents/Have-your-say/Draft-Equality-Objectives-2024-28/Main-Documents/2023-Equality-in-North-Wales-Data-and-evidence-report.pdf?securitytoken=PX7jzwcJEvmEPsYD6zfuvmkNDpUBKxAZU03M6ac64W%2BMHHveRgG53UVUR9q71GkiTaxFgQNVR8BdoUg4Juq%2BMH6GUrq7iBE&utm_) [Accessed: 26/11/2025]



increased from 186,900 in 2022-23 to 203,700 in 2023-24, a rise of approximately 9%, before slightly decreasing to 172,100 in 2024–25<sup>20</sup>.

## Life Expectancy

- 1.1.22 Life expectancy in the area covering Eryri is in line with or slightly above the Welsh average. In the 2018 to 2020 period, the combined area covered by BCUHB recorded a life expectancy at birth for males of approximately 78.8 years and for females of approximately 82.3 years. This compares to overall Wales life expectancy of 77.9 years for males and 81.8 years for females in 2020 to 2022<sup>21</sup>. In Wales, life expectancy for males and females between 2010–12 and 2018–20 increased only marginally (by around 0.2 years for males and 0.1 years for females) compared to larger gains in previous decades<sup>22</sup>.

## Deprivation

- 1.1.23 The BCUHB indicates varied instances and levels of deprivation across its jurisdiction, including Eryri<sup>23</sup>. Several small areas (Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)) in Gwynedd, the principal authority covering much of Eryri, fall within higher instances of deprivation for domains including employment, income, and health<sup>24</sup>. In Wales, instances of multiple deprivation are varied, which is also seen in the regions covered by Eryri NPA, with most localities being within the 30 to 50% most deprived and 50% least deprived ratings. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2025 is a similar picture to WIMD 2019.

<sup>20</sup> NHS Wales (2025) Headline Figures. Available at: <https://dhcw.nhs.wales/data/statistical-publications-data-products-and-open-data/annual-pedw-data-tables/hospital-admissions-publications-tables/headline-figures-betsi-cadwaladr-ulhb-providers-202425/> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

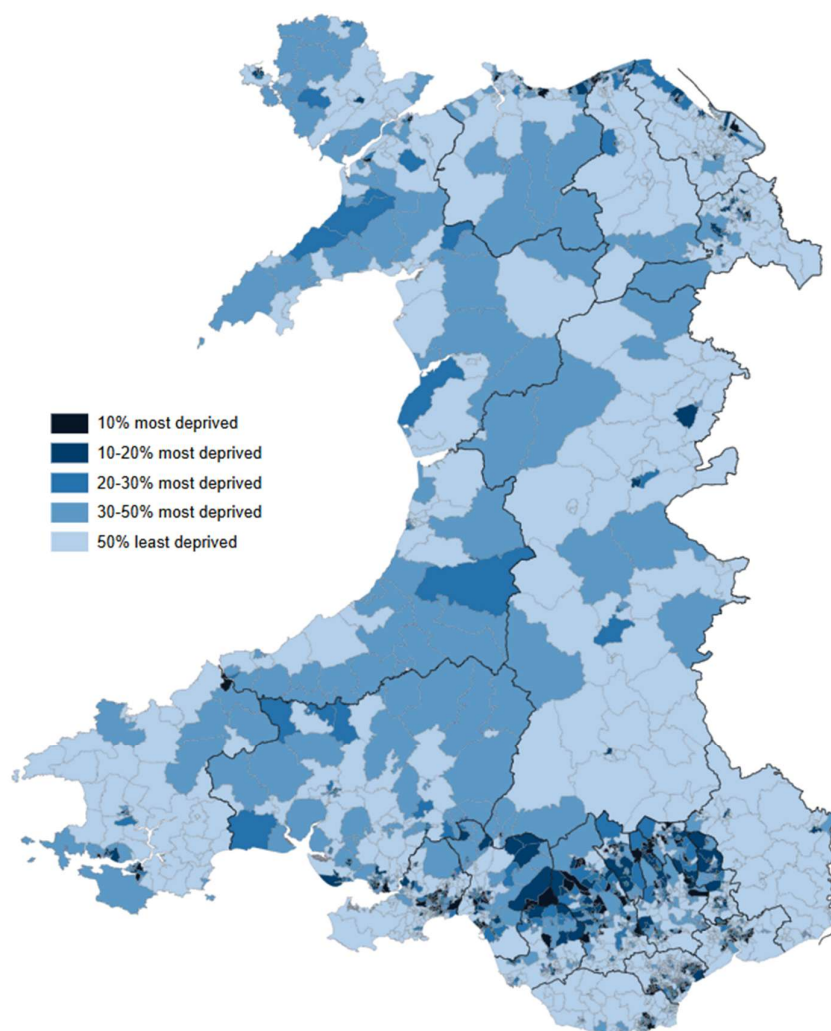
<sup>21</sup> NHS Wales (2024) BCUHB Mortality Quarterly Report. Available at: [https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fbcuhb.nhs.wales%2Fuse-of-site%2Fpublication-scheme%2Fclass-one-who-we-are-and-what-we-do%2Fstatistics%2Fstatistics%2FBCUHB-Mortality-Quarterly-Report-for-WG-March-2024%2F%3Futm\\_source%3D](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fbcuhb.nhs.wales%2Fuse-of-site%2Fpublication-scheme%2Fclass-one-who-we-are-and-what-we-do%2Fstatistics%2Fstatistics%2FBCUHB-Mortality-Quarterly-Report-for-WG-March-2024%2F%3Futm_source%3D) [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

<sup>22</sup> NHS Wales (2020) Life Expectancy and Mortality in Wales. Available at: <https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/observatory/data-and-analysis/life-expectancy-and-mortality-in-wales-2020/> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>23</sup> Stats Wales (2019) Local Health Board Analysis. Available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2019/localhealthboardanalysis?> [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

<sup>24</sup> Welsh Government (2019) Data Map Wales. Available at: <https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/welsh-index-of-multiple-deprivation-wimd-2019/view#/> [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

Figure B-1-6: Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation map



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## Welsh Language

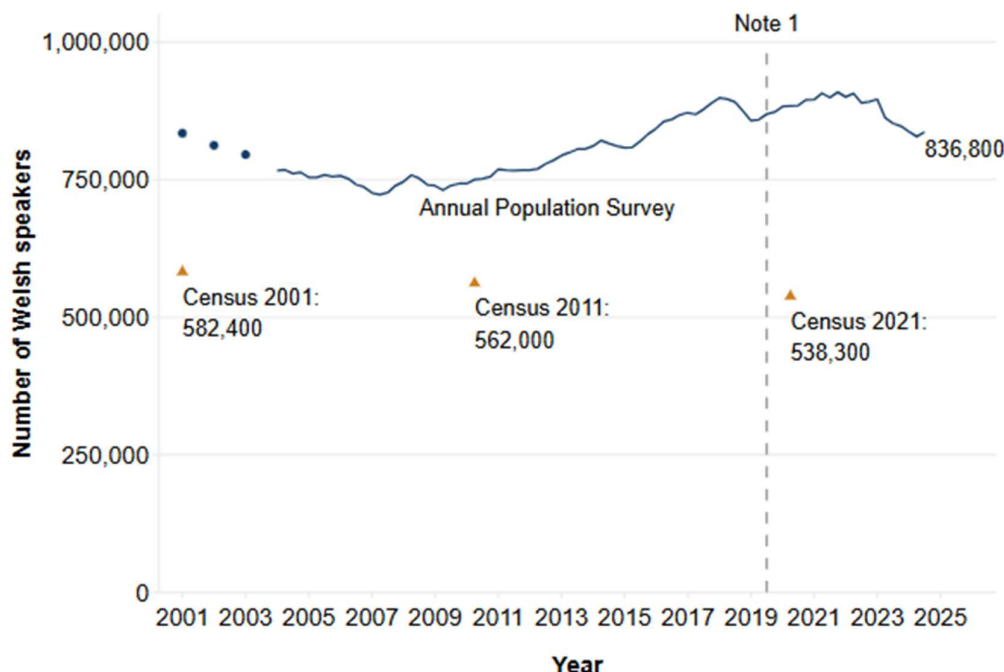
### General Baseline in Wales

- 1.1.24 Wales is a bilingual country, and the Welsh language is an important component of Welsh national identity and culture, in June 2025, there was an estimated 836,800 Welsh speakers living in Wales<sup>26</sup>. Cymraeg 2050<sup>25</sup> sets out that Welsh-medium immersion education is our principal method for ensuring that children can develop their Welsh language skills, and for creating new speakers. Cymraeg 2050 incorporates three key themes: Increasing the number of Welsh speakers, increasing the use of Welsh and creating favourable conditions – infrastructure and context<sup>25</sup>.
- 1.1.25 The historic decline in use of the Welsh language has been reduced and has now been on a general upward trend since the early 1990s. This is, in part due to Welsh entering the national curriculum and being a compulsory subject in schools<sup>25</sup>. Levels of fluency are still low and there are large regional variations, and within Wales, 27.2% of the population aged three years and older were estimated to

<sup>25</sup> Welsh Government (2017) Cymraeg 2050: Welsh Language Strategy. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

be able to speak Welsh, and of this percentage, 11% reported they spoke Welsh daily (more than a few words)<sup>26</sup>. Figure B-1-7 presents the trend of Welsh speakers from 2001 to 2025<sup>26</sup>.

Figure B-1-7: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh, 2001 to June 2025 (Welsh Government, 2025)



1.1.26 Further Welsh language statistics have found that:

- Regarding language use in households, 23.7% of households have at least one person who can speak Welsh<sup>27</sup>.
- Among children aged 3-4 living in households where two adults speak Welsh, 80.7% were recorded as able to speak Welsh<sup>27</sup>.
- Regarding attitudes towards the Welsh language, among Welsh speakers who speak Welsh daily, 52% reported they mainly or always text or email in Welsh to friends and family members who speak Welsh, indicating Welsh remains used in formal, everyday contexts<sup>28</sup>.

## Welsh Language in Eryri

1.1.27 In 2022, Eryri National Park Authority decided to use only the Welsh names of Eryri (Snowdonia) and Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) in both Welsh and English contexts. Following this, in November 2024, the Authority approved a proposal to exclusively use “Eryri” in its official logo<sup>29</sup>.

1.1.28 Overall, the percentage of residents who could speak Welsh in Eryri in 2021 was 57.2%, a decrease from 62.1% in 2001<sup>29</sup>. The percentage of residents who can speak, read, and write Welsh also decreased, from 54.5% in 2001 to 49.2% in 2021. Highlighting the variation of Welsh speakers within

<sup>26</sup> Welsh Government (2025) Welsh language data. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/welsh-language-data-annual-population-survey-july-2024-june-2025.html> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

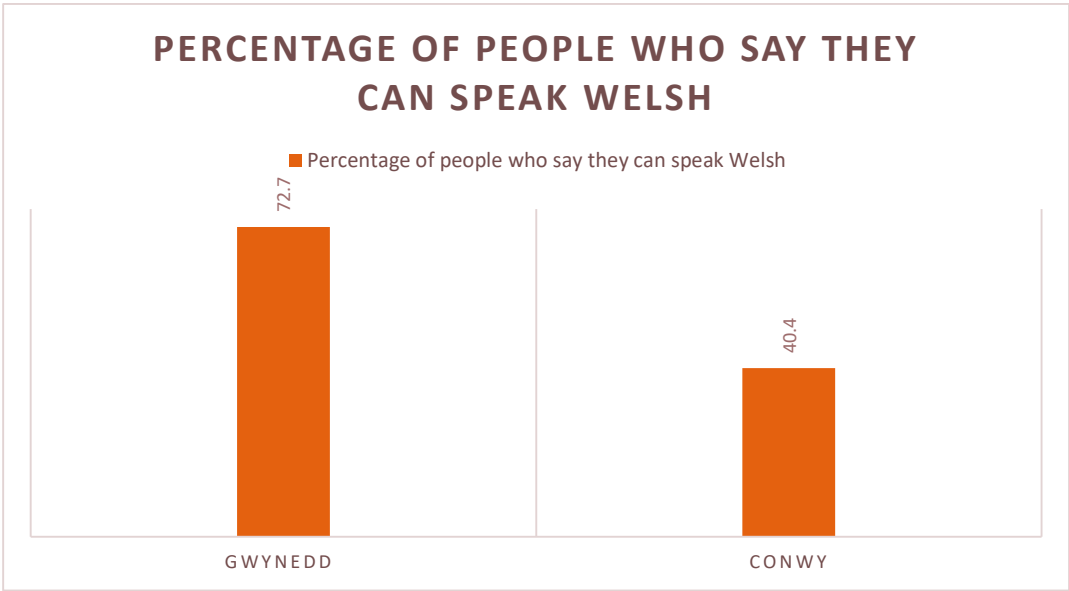
<sup>27</sup> Welsh Government (2023) Welsh Language composition of Households in Wales. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/welsh-language-composition-households-wales-census-2021.html> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>28</sup> Welsh Government (2022) Social Use of the Welsh Language. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/social-use-welsh-language-july-2019-march-2020.html> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>29</sup> Welsh Government (2024) Eryri State of the Park – Welsh Language. Available at: <https://data.eryri.gov.wales/park-authority/vibrancy-of-the-welsh-language/> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

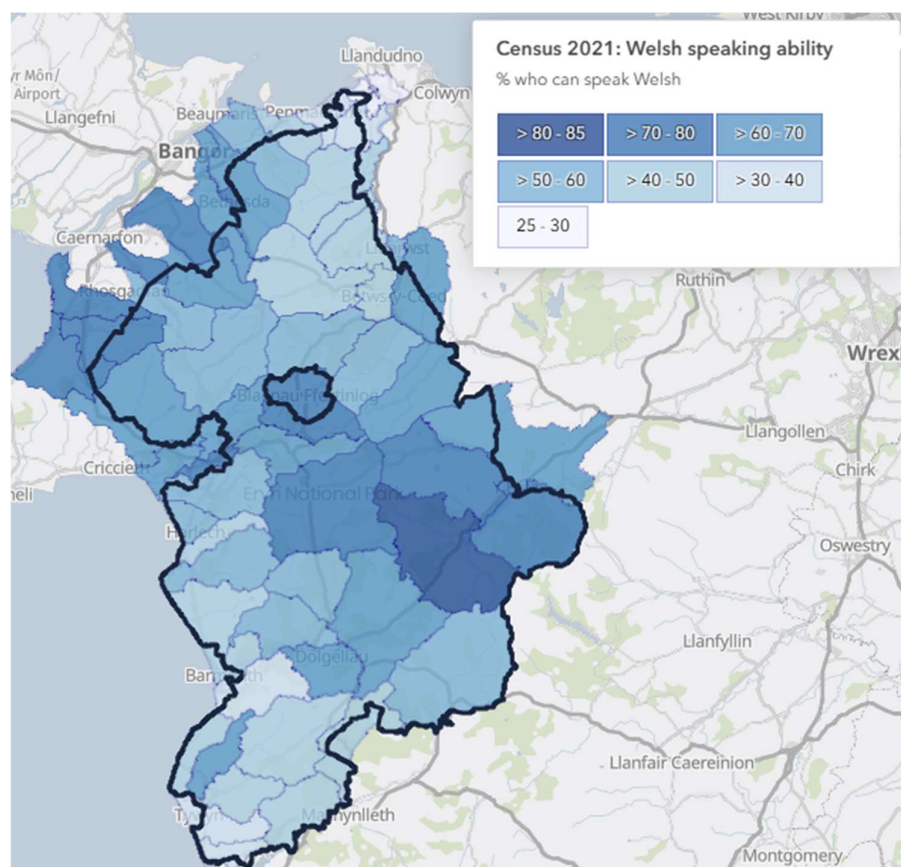
the NPA, the percentage of people who say they can speak Welsh in Gwynedd and Conwy, both within the NPA, is presented in Figure B-1-8<sup>30</sup>. Figure B-1-9 further illustrates the distribution of Welsh speakers across Eryri<sup>29</sup>.

Figure B-1-8: Percentage of Welsh Speakers who are fluent in Gwynedd and Conwy



<sup>30</sup> StatWales.gov (2025) Annual Population survey – Ability to speak Welsh by local authority and year. Available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Annual-Population-Survey-Welsh-Language/annualpopulationsurveyestimatesofpersonsaged3andoverwhosaytheycanspeakwelsh-by-localauthority-measure> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

Figure B-1-9: Geographical distribution of Welsh speakers within Eryri



- 1.1.29 By age group, the percentage of the population aged three to 15 who can speak Welsh in Eryri has fallen by 0.49% between 2011 and 2021 which is less than the National decrease of 0.84%. There is also a decrease in Welsh speakers in the 16 to 64 year old group (-1.4%) which is higher than the percentage across Wales, a decrease of 0.26%. The only group to have seen an increase in Welsh speakers in Eryri between 2011 and 2021 are aged 65 and over (12.4 to 12.9%)<sup>29</sup>.
- 1.1.30 In comparison with Wales's other National Parks, 57.2% of the population in Eryri can speak Welsh, compared to 13.0% in the Bannau Brycheiniog and 19.4% in the Pembrokeshire Coast.

## 1.2 Data Gaps

- Statistical health data beyond 2021 for Eryri National Park.
- Up to date projections for age demographics in Eryri for children and adults below 65.
- Projections for ethnicity in Eryri.
- Trend data for religion specific to Eryri.
- Trend data for disability specific to Eryri.
- Data on number of schools and travel to school data for Eryri.

## 1.3 Key Issues and Opportunities

- The ageing demographic, combined with population decline, represents a key issue for the sustainability of local services, workforce availability, and community vitality.
- Rising house prices, combined with the growth of second homes and holiday lets, have reduced the availability of affordable housing for local residents. This presents a key issue for retaining the resident population, housing equity, community cohesion and sustaining the Welsh-speaking community.
- Limited public transport, healthcare reach, and digital connectivity create a key issue for equitable access to essential services, particularly affecting older residents and those with disabilities.
- The National Park's extensive green spaces, active travel potential, and access to outdoor recreation, represent a key opportunity to promote active lifestyles and preventative health outcomes, supporting both physical and mental wellbeing.
- Projections show the total number of households in Eryri increasing slightly by 0.3% by 2028, while the population is projected to fall by 1.9%. This divergence highlights a key issue for sustainable community planning and housing provision, but also a key opportunity for the Local Development Plan to strengthen policies supporting affordable housing and balanced demographic growth.
- The decline in Welsh language ability among residents of Eryri indicates a continuing reduction in linguistic fluency across the National Park, particularly among working-age adults (16–64). This represents a key issue for maintaining the cultural and linguistic identity of the area.
- The decision by the Eryri National Park Authority to use only Welsh names for Eryri (Snowdonia) and Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon), including within its official logo, reflects a strategic opportunity to promote Welsh linguistic and cultural heritage through branding, communication, and tourism engagement.
- Variation in Welsh-language ability across the NPA highlights a key issue for the longevity of the Welsh language. As its use is unevenly distributed, housing, tourism, and economic strategies under the Local Development Plan (LDP) could seek to further promote the Welsh language to prevent further decline in Welsh-speaking communities.

## 2 Economy

### 2.1 Baseline Conditions

#### General Baseline

2.1.1 Eryri has a small, largely rural, economy with a higher proportion of self-employed people compared to the Welsh average. 2021 census data shows that 54.7 of residents in Eryri are economically active (excluding full-time students), higher than the national average (52.6% in Wales). In comparison, the 2011 Census recorded an economic activity rate of 58.2% for the Welsh population overall, indicating a decline in national economic participation over the decade<sup>31</sup>. The percentage of unemployed people in Eryri is also slightly lower than the national average (2.1% in Eryri compared to 2.5% across Wales)<sup>32</sup>. The percentage of those economically inactive due to retirement within the National Park is 6.5% higher than the national average at 31.2% (compared to 24.7% across Wales).

Table B-2-1: Economic Status of the population in Eryri (Welsh Government, 2021)

Economic Status	% of the population (Eryri)
Employed	37.1
Self-employed	16.5
Unemployed	2.4
Inactive economically: Retired	31.2
Inactive economically: Other Reasons	12.8

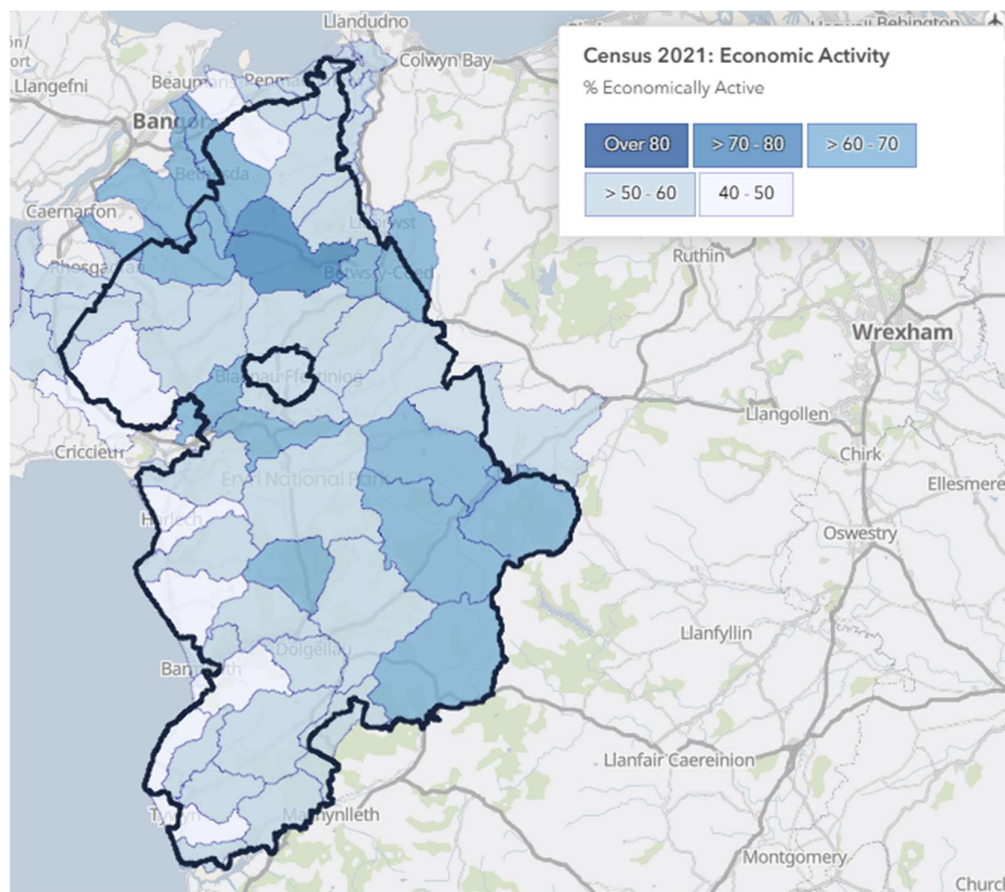
2.1.2 The distribution of the economically active population of Eryri is also shown in Figure B-2-1 below<sup>32</sup>.

<sup>31</sup> ONS (2022) Census data. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>32</sup> Welsh Government (2024) Economic Activity in Eryri. Available at: [Community Cohesion & Living in Eryri - Eryri State of the Park Report](#) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]



Figure B-2-1: The distribution of the economically active population within Eryri in 2021 (Welsh Government, 2024)



## Industry in Eryri

2.1.3 The prevailing working industries for the population of Eryri are:

- Human Health and Social Work (13.3%)
- Wholesale and retail trade; motor vehicle and motorcycle repairs (11.1%)
- Hospitality and food service activities (10.8%), 5.6% above the national average
- Education (10.7%)
- Tourism is also a large employer in Eryri, with close to 7,000 full-time equivalent employees<sup>33</sup>
- Approximately 80% of land within Eryri is utilised for agricultural production, indicating the significance of agriculture within the local economy<sup>34</sup>

2.1.4 These categories are the same as the 2011 census, however, wholesale and retail trade (12.8%), education (12%) and hospitality and serviced percentages (11.6%) have all decreased while human health and social work have increased from 12.8% to 13.3%. Furthermore, in terms of occupation, Eryri has a much higher percentage working in the skilled trades occupation category than across the rest of Wales (20.3% Eryri, 12.2% Wales)<sup>32</sup>.

<sup>33</sup> National Grid (2016) Socio-economics and tourism. Available at: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/document/344666/download> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>34</sup> Eryri National Park (2025) Climate Change Risk Assessment [Accessed: 06/01/2025]



## Visitor Economy

- 2.1.5 Tourism is a large contributor to the local economy. In 2023, there was an estimated total of 4.89 million visitors to Eryri, an increase of 3.4% compared to 2019 when total visitor numbers were estimated at 4.73 million. These figures can be broken down into day visitors at 3.20 million in 2023 and staying visitors at 1.69 million in 2023. Table B-2-2 shows the economic impact of visitors to Eryri in 2023<sup>35</sup>.

Table B-2-2: Economic impact of visitors to Eryri in 2023

	Total (million)	Day Visitors (million)	Staying Visitors (million)
Number of Visitors to Eryri	4.89	3.21	1.69
Economic Impact	£822.49	£198.96	£523.53

### The Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy 2035 Strategy

- 2.1.6 The Gwynedd & Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy 2035 strategy sets out a new, long-term framework for tourism within the area covered by the Eryri NPA and its wider Gwynedd context. Its vision is *“a visitor economy for the benefit and wellbeing of the People, Environment, Language and Culture of Gwynedd and Eryri”*<sup>36</sup>.
- 2.1.7 The strategy recognises tourism as a cornerstone of the local economy, supporting close to 7,000 full-time employment roles – the number decreasing since 2010<sup>33</sup>, and small businesses, while emphasising the need to ensure that economic benefits are retained locally and shared equitably among communities. It seeks to move beyond traditional growth-based models of tourism by focusing on quality, seasonality, and value - promoting year-round economic activity and supporting local supply chains. Implementation through a new Partnership and Action Plan aims to align tourism with community prosperity, low-carbon business growth, and sustainable infrastructure investment, positioning the visitor economy as a key driver of inclusive, resilient growth for Eryri and Gwynedd<sup>36</sup>.

### Eryri Communities Fund

- 2.1.8 The Eryri Communities Fund is a fund to support communities within and around Eryri to develop and fulfil projects linked to the following themes:
- Green infrastructure
  - Improved recreational access for health and well-being
  - Green energy generation
  - Local environmental improvements such as litter and waste management
  - Community development
  - Prosperity of the Welsh language
  - Decarbonisation
- 2.1.9 The fund was established through an agreement between the NPA and Welsh Government in 2021 with the NPA administering the fund. The fund has supported an array of projects across the area between 2024 and 2025, with overall funding rising from £59,958.98 between 2023 and 2024 to £102,688.13 between 2024 and 2025<sup>37</sup>. Outcomes of the fund to date include improved community

<sup>35</sup> Eryri National Park (2024) Recreation, Leisure and Learning. Available at: [Recreation, Leisure and Learning 1 - Eryri State of the Park Report](#) [26/11/2025]

<sup>36</sup> Gwynedd Council (2025) Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy 2035. Available at: [Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy 2035](#) [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

<sup>37</sup> Eryri National Park (2024) Community Cohesion. Available at: [Community Cohesion & Living in Eryri - Eryri State of the Park Report](#) [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

facilities, enhanced environmental quality, and strengthened engagement in Welsh language and climate action initiatives across Eryri<sup>37</sup>.

## Gross Value Added (GVA) and Income

- 2.1.10 The economy of Wales is closely aligned with that of the rest of the UK. However, for a long time, economic output has been lower in Wales compared with other UK nations. In 2022, total GVA in Wales was £74.5 billion, up 9.5% on 2021 and an increase of 9.6% on 2019<sup>38</sup>. Both the increases for Wales and for the UK from 2021 were the largest since records began and were mainly the result of the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. GVA per head in Wales in 2022 was 72.1% of the UK figure (excluding extra-regio), the second lowest of the UK countries and English regions. This is broadly similar to previous years<sup>38</sup>.
- 2.1.11 Gwynedd and Conwy contain substantial areas of Eryri, and together they capture the majority of its resident population and economic activity. As such, these authorities can provide an understanding of the scale of economic output associated with Eryri. In 2016 (the latest year available in the local authority GVA dataset), the total GVA in Gwynedd was approximately £2.35 billion, while Conwy generated approximately £1.87 billion, giving a combined GVA of just over £4.2 billion<sup>39</sup>.
- 2.1.12 Across the communities within Eryri, the average median household income is approximately £35,498.00, and the average lower quartile household income is £20,638.00. Median household incomes within Eryri range from around £28,000.00 to £43,000.00, reflecting variation in earnings. By comparison, the median annual earnings for full-time workers in Wales were £34,303.00 in 2024<sup>40</sup>.

## Micro-businesses

- 2.1.13 In 2023, there were an estimated 248,000 enterprises active in Wales, employing an estimated 1.2 million people. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in Wales accounted for 62.3% of employment and 43.4% of turnover, with large enterprises accounting for the remainder. The majority of active enterprises were SMEs (0-249 employees), accounting for 99.3% of total enterprises in Wales in 2023. Micro enterprises (0-9 employees) accounted for 94.6% of the total enterprises in Wales<sup>41</sup>.

## Agriculture

- 2.1.14 Agriculture is a dominant land-based activity within Eryri National Park. Approximately 80% of land within Eryri is utilised for agricultural production, of which around 80% is classified as Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA) and the remainder as Less Favoured Area (LFA)- reflecting the poor soils and climatic conditions which influence the farming systems across the NPA. Agricultural activity within the National Park is shaped by its upland landscape and physical conditions, with land use predominantly associated with extensive livestock farming and land management across large areas of the NPA<sup>34</sup>.
- 2.1.15 There are over 1,000 farms within the boundaries of Eryri, predominantly for sheep and cattle farming, and agriculture remains a significant source of employment within local communities. Sheep farming is a central component of the agricultural sector in the area. The extensive use of land for agriculture supports the local economy through rural employment<sup>42</sup>, agricultural services and local supply chains,

<sup>38</sup> Welsh Government (2022) Regional gross domestic product: 1998 to 2022. Available at: [Regional gross domestic product: 1998 to 2022 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/regional-gross-domestic-product-1998-to-2022) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]

<sup>39</sup> ONS (2021) Regional gross value added (balanced) by local authority in the UK. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva> [Accessed: 17/12/2025]

<sup>40</sup> Welsh Government (2024) Annual Survey of hours and earnings: 2024. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/annual-survey-hours-and-earnings-2024.html> [Accessed: 08/01/2025]

<sup>41</sup> Welsh Government (2023) Statistical Bulletin. Available at: [Size Analysis of Active Businesses in Wales, 2023](https://gov.wales/statistical-bulletin) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]

<sup>42</sup> Eryri National Park (no date) Agriculture. Available at: <https://eryri.gov.wales/discover/landscapes-and-wildlife/agriculture/> [Accessed: 06/01/2025]

and contributes to the management of landscapes that also support tourism and recreation, demonstrating the role of agriculture as a key component of Eryri's economy.

## 2.2 Key Issues and Opportunities

- The higher average of residents unemployed due to retirement in Eryri compared to the national average limits the working-age population and the availability of labour for essential services such as health care. This represents a key issue for the long-term resilience of the local workforce and highlights the need to attract and retain younger residents within the community.
- Eryri's economy is somewhat reliant on a small number of industries with limited diversification. This narrow employment base has the potential to make the economy vulnerable to seasonal fluctuations in tourism and changing consumer demand. This presents a key issue for economic stability within the National Park.
- The LDP should seek to support the transition from traditional volume-based tourism to a model centred on sustainability, community benefit, and low-carbon growth. By promoting year-round tourism, local supply chains, and environmentally responsible experiences, the strategy offers the potential to strengthen the economy while protecting Eryri's natural assets.
- The LDP should seek to deliver place-based economic and environmental improvements. Funding for local projects supports initiatives in green infrastructure, renewable energy, community development, and Welsh Language prosperity, aligning to local economic development.
- With 94.6% of Welsh enterprises classified as micro-businesses, the economy of Eryri is largely made up of small-scale and self-employed enterprises. This structure reflects the rural nature of the area and the prevalence of tourism, agriculture, and service-based activities. Supporting micro and small businesses through home-based working, flexible workspace provision, and local enterprise initiatives presents an opportunity to strengthen economic resilience, retain local employment, and maintain economic activity within communities.
- The dominance of livestock farming across Severely Disadvantaged and Less Favoured Areas, combined with environmental constraints, poor soils and challenging climatic conditions, presents a key issue for the long-term viability and resilience of agricultural businesses in Eryri. This reliance on farming in some locations may constrain productivity, income diversification, and the ability of the local agriculture sector to adapt to economic, environmental, and climate related pressures or changes.
- Agriculture's extensive land coverage and strong links to landscape management, tourism, and local supply chains present a key opportunity to support sustainable rural employment and multifunctional land use. By encouraging diversification, low-impact farming practices, and closer integration between agriculture, environmental management, and tourism, the Local Development Plan could help to strengthen the rural economy while maintaining the landscape and cultural identity of Eryri.

## 3 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

### 3.1 Baseline Conditions

#### Designated Sites

- 3.1.1 The Eryri National Park contains rich and varied biodiversity of national and international significance<sup>43</sup>. The area supports a wide range of habitats, including upland moorland, woodland, freshwater, and coastal systems<sup>44</sup>. There are 15 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)<sup>45</sup>, which include these inland sites (marine sites described in section 3.1.3):
- Coedydd Aber
  - Eryri/ Snowdonia
  - Afon Gwyrfai a Llyn Cwellyn
  - Meirionnydd Oakwoods and Bat Sites (multiple across the authority)
  - Eifionydd Fens
  - Migneint-Arenig-Dduallt
  - River Dee and Bala Lake
  - Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains
  - Cadair Idris
  - Morfa Harlech a Morfa Dyffryn
  - Llyn Peninsula and the Sarnau
- 3.1.2 One Local Nature reserve (LNR) is located within Eryri (Nant y Coed). Three Ramsar sites are located within or partly within the National Park (Llyn Idwal, Llyn Tegid, Cors Fochno and Dyfi). There are 107 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and 21 National Nature reserves (NNRs), reflecting the ecological diversity of the National Park<sup>45</sup>.
- 3.1.3 Eryri National Park includes 60km of coastline, which is covered or directly fringed by several Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) (principally marine SACs and marine/estuarine SPAs), which overlap on the Park's Cardigan Bay and Menai Strait/ Conwy Bay edges. These include the West Wales Marine SAC, the Llyn Peninsula & the Sarnau Marine SAC, the Dyfi Estuary, Lafan Sands Conwy Bay marine SPA, and the Menai Strait marine SAC<sup>46</sup>.
- 3.1.4 The Dyfi Estuary, located on the southern edge of the National Park, is recognised as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, highlighting the global importance of the local natural environment, being recognised for its salt marshes and estuarine systems<sup>47</sup>. It is the only UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in Wales. The Biosphere Reserve measures 845 sqkm, of which 765 sqkm are land and 80 sqkm are sea. Just over 6% of Eryri National Park falls within the Biosphere Reserve.

<sup>43</sup> National Parks UK (no date) The National Park of Eryri (Snowdonia). Available at: [Eryri \(Snowdonia\) // The National Park Of Eryri \(Snowdonia\)](#) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]

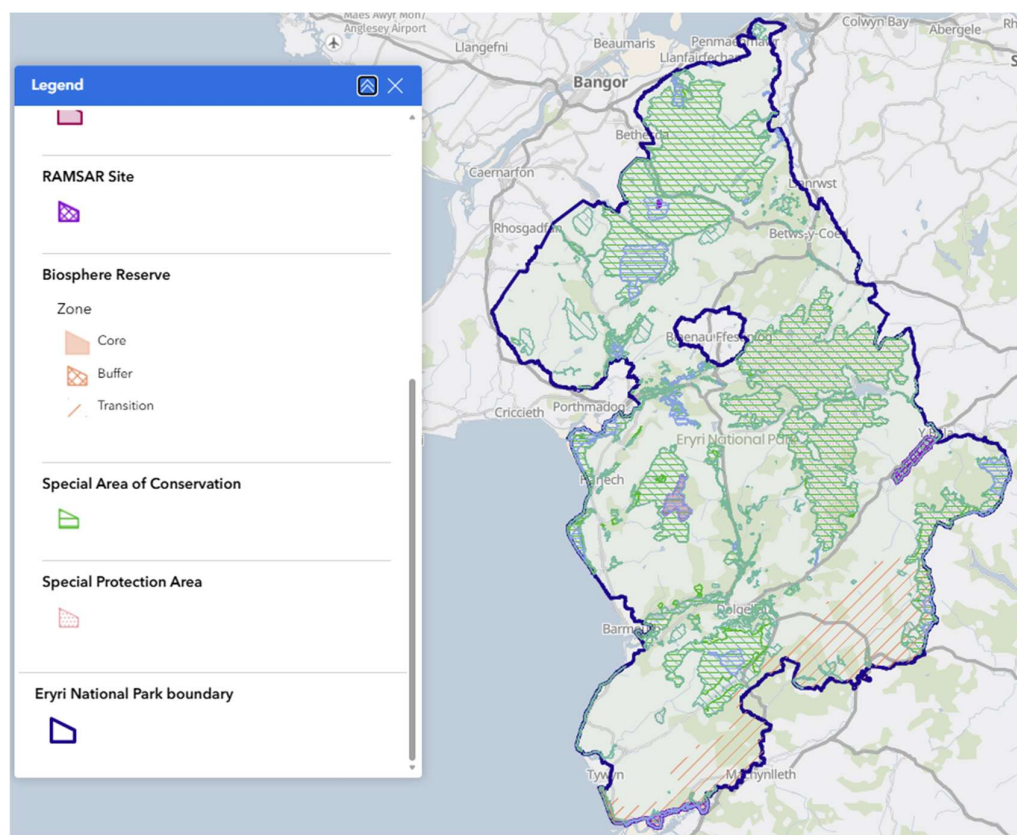
<sup>44</sup> Eryri National Park (2006) Statutory Sites and Priority Habitats. Available at: [Statutory Sites and Priority Habitats - Planning and Development](#) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]

<sup>45</sup> Eryri National Park (no date) Interactive Map of the Natural Environment of Eryri National Park. Available at: [Natural Environment](#) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]

<sup>46</sup> Welsh Government (no date) DataMapWales. Available at: [New map | DataMapWales](#) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]

<sup>47</sup> UNESCO (no date) Biosffer Dyfi. Available at: [Biosffer Dyfi - Man and the Biosphere Programme \(MAB\)](#) [Accessed: 24/11/2025]

Figure B-3-1: Eryri National Park Designated Sites



- 3.1.5 In Eryri, 27.3% of protected site features are in favourable condition, while 24.3% are in unfavourable condition. The condition status of the remain 48.3% is currently unknown<sup>48</sup>.

## Agriculture

- 3.1.6 Agriculture in Eryri forms an integral part of the rural landscape, with upland sheep and cattle grazing remaining the dominant land use across much of the National Park. Over 80% of the National Park is categorised as upland agricultural land, managed primarily through extensive grazing systems that help maintain the character of open moorland and grassland habitats<sup>48</sup>. The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) indicates that most of this land falls within ALC Grade 4 and 5, which represent poor to very poor-quality agricultural land with severe limitations that restrict the uses of the land<sup>49</sup>, reflecting the challenging topography and climate of the uplands<sup>50</sup>.

<sup>48</sup> Welsh Government (2024) Eryri Nature Recovery Action Plan. Available at: [DRAFT\\_Eryri-Nature-Recovery-Action-Plan.pdf](#) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]

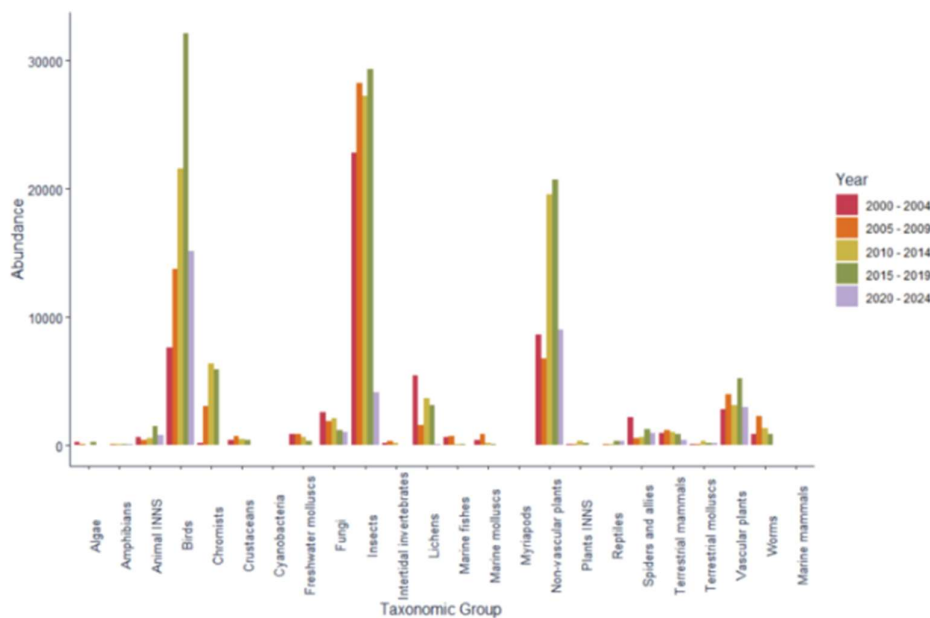
<sup>49</sup> Land Research Associates (no date) Agricultural land classification. Available at: <https://lra.co.uk/agricultural-land-classification/> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>50</sup> Eryri National Park (No date) Agriculture. Available at: [Agriculture | Eryri National Park](#) [Accessed: 24/11/2025]

Habitats and Species

- 3.1.7 Eryri contains a diverse range of priority habitats, including Traditional Orchards, Wet Woodland, Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, Upland heathland, coastal sand dunes, and saltmarsh along the Dyfi and Mawddach estuaries<sup>51</sup>.
- 3.1.8 The NPA is home to a wide assemblage of 48 priority species targeted for conservation action. The Park features:
- 15 priority bird species such as the Hen Harrier, Chough, and Redstart;
  - 13 vertebrate priority species including the Brown Hare, Dormouse, Great crested Newt and Otter;
  - Eight invertebrate priority species including the Marsh Fritillary; and
  - 12 priority plant species, including the Snowdon Lilly and Western Gorse<sup>52</sup>.
- 3.1.9 A summary of publicly recorded data for the overall abundance of species within the Eryri NPA shows that birds, insects and non-vascular plants were the most commonly recorded species from 2000 to 2024 (see Figure B-3-2). However, taxonomic groups including birds and insects have shown decline over time, with the highest mean abundance of birds in 2000 to 2004, and a mean abundance decline of insects from 2005 onwards<sup>53</sup>.

Figure B-3-2: Abundance of all species data within Eryri NPA for public records 2000 – 2024 split into taxonomic groups (Welsh Government, 2024)



- 3.1.10 Several areas of ancient woodland are present within Eryri National Park. The Meirionnydd Oakwoods are recognised under the SAC management of the area and include ancient semi-natural woodland remnant sites which support rich bryophyte and lichen communities<sup>54</sup>. Other instances include the ancient oakwood remnants around the Gwydyr Forest area near Betws-y-Coed, where restoration of

<sup>51</sup> Welsh Government (2006) Habitats. Available at: [Microsoft Word - MASTER S42 Habitats List 150508.doc](#) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]  
<sup>52</sup> Eryri National Park (no date) Priority Species. Available at: [Priority Species - Planning and Development](#) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]  
<sup>53</sup> Welsh Government (2024) Internationally important habitats and species. Available at: [Internationally important habitats and species - Eryri State of the Park Report](#) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]  
<sup>54</sup> Natural Resources Wales (no date) Eryri Forest Resource Plan. Available at: [eryri-objectives-only-v-1.2.pdf](#) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]



planted ancient woodland sites (PAWS) is established to bring back native broadleaved woodland and improve structural diversity<sup>55</sup>.

- 3.1.11 Multiple Welsh partnerships, strategies, and schemes are in place or in development to protect and enhance the environment local to Eryri and/or nationally. These include the Eryri Nature Partnership dedicated to creating a nature recovery network across Eryri, the Local Places for Nature programme which includes a variety of funded nature enhancement projects<sup>57</sup>, and the National Peatland Action Programme, a five-year plan of peatland restoration in Wales<sup>56</sup> (see paragraphs 6.1.3 to 6.1.6 for further information).

## 3.2 Data Gaps

- Condition status of all Eryri's protected sites.

## 3.3 Key Issues and Opportunities

- The Eryri Nature Partnership, comprising 48 partners, is developing a Nature Recovery Action plan to coordinate local biodiversity action and support national targets such as 30x30 (protecting 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030)<sup>57</sup>. This presents a key opportunity to strengthen ecosystem resilience and enhance connectivity between priority habitats.
- The upcoming Eryri LDP revision offers a mechanism to embed net benefit to biodiversity, green infrastructure assessments, and ecosystem resilience principles into development policy. This provides a clear opportunity to ensure that new development contributes positively to biodiversity outcomes.
- Evidence from NRW indicates that many designated features remain in unfavourable or declining condition, particularly upland, freshwater, and dune habitats. This highlights a key issue for biodiversity conservation within Eryri and the need for coordinated management and monitoring of these protected areas.
- Increasing visitor numbers continue to place pressure on fragile habitats and species. Trampling, path erosion, and disturbance from recreation activities are recognised as major threats to the ecological integrity of key sites. This represents a key issue for maintaining biodiversity within the National Park.
- Fragmented ecosystems and changing climatic conditions, such as altered hydrology, temperature shifts, and increased extreme weather events, threaten species distribution and ecosystem resilience in Eryri. This is particularly evident in upland moorland and woodland habitats.

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<sup>55</sup> Natural Resources Wales (2021) Eryri Forest Resource Plan – Approved 19 November 2021. Available at: [Natural Resources Wales / Eryri Forest Resource Plan - Approved 19 November 2021](#) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]

<sup>56</sup> NRW (2025) National Peatland Restoration Programme. Available at: [Natural Resources Wales / The National Peatland Action Programme](#) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]

<sup>57</sup> Welsh Government (no date) Eryri Nature Partnership. Available at: [Eryri Nature Partnership | Eryri National Park](#) [Accessed: 25/11/2025]

## 4 Landscape

### 4.1 Baseline Conditions

#### Mountains

4.1.1 Within Eryri there are nine mountain ranges and 15 peaks above 3000 feet:

- Yr Wyddfa range (Snowdon Massif)
- Glyderau
- Carneddau
- Moel Hebog range (Efionydd's Mountains)
- Moelwynion
- Rhinogydd
- Cader Idris range
- Aran range - two Arans: The Fawddwy and the Benllyn – the highest peaks in Britain south of Snowdon
- Dyfi Hills

#### Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon)

- 4.1.2 Yr Wyddfa, the highest mountain in Wales at 1,085m above sea level, stands proudly in the heart of Eryri National Park. The Yr Wyddfa range is the National Park's most visited area and attracts upwards of 600,000 users every year. The environmental, social and economic impacts of such a popular site have necessitated the creation of a specific Place Plan and Partnership<sup>58</sup> (Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa), which works towards a sustainable future for the mountain.
- 4.1.3 The Cynllun Yr Wyddfa 2025<sup>59</sup> (Management Plan) is not a statutory document but seeks to provide a strategic framework for the sustainable management of Yr Wyddfa. Some effective schemes carried out by the Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa include Caru Eryri, where 1.4 tonnes of litter was collected from Yr Wyddfa in 2024, and Sherpa'r Wyddfa, a bus service, which transported over 72,000 visitors across the Eryri area in the summer of 2024.

#### The Carneddau

- 4.1.4 The Carneddau range is the largest uninterrupted area of upland in the National Park, covering over 220sqkm. However, the landscape and biodiversity of the area is under pressure from climate change, shifts in land-use patterns, invasive species and human pressures. Traditional knowledge, place names and stories that connect people with the landscape are also at risk of being lost.
- 4.1.5 Many of Eryri's high summits are capped by great stone cairns, ceremonial and burial mounds, built around 4,500 years ago. The mountainous uplands of northern Eryri even take their name from them; Carneddau means cairns. The Carneddau includes two of Wales's five 1000m peaks.
- 4.1.6 Since 2020, the Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme has been promoting a positive future for the Carneddau in collaboration with a broad range of communities, individuals and organisations, by increasing understanding of its history, cultural traditions and wildlife. It is conserving the area's

<sup>58</sup> Available at: [Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa — Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa](#) [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

<sup>59</sup> Available at: [Cynllun\\_Yr\\_Wyddfa\\_Saesneg\\_LR.pdf](#) [Accessed: 27/11/2025]



heritage by demonstrating sustainable farming that protects rare habitats, species and archaeological remains, and by recording place names and memories.

## National Landscape Character Areas

- 4.1.7 National Landscape Character Areas are defined at a broad landscape scale throughout Wales. A total of 48 character areas have been identified, and Eryri National Park is identified as NLCA06: Snowdonia. It is described as *“an extensive, rural upland area, broadly coinciding with the Snowdonia National Park. It is dominated by mountain ranges of which the Snowdon massif rises to the highest peak in England and Wales, Yr Wyddfa, at 1,085m ... The area encompasses many of the country's most spectacular uplands including all 15 of Wales's mountain peaks over 3000 feet. There are numerous glacial features including sharp ridges, cirques, cliffs, lakes (including Llyn Tegid, Wales' largest), bogs, rivers and waterfalls. The steep topography is challenging for travel with most main routes being limited to valley bottoms and over high passes. It is a geologically diverse area, playing an important part in the early development of geology as science, attracting the attention of some of the discipline's founding fathers like Charles Darwin, who explored the area in 1831”*.

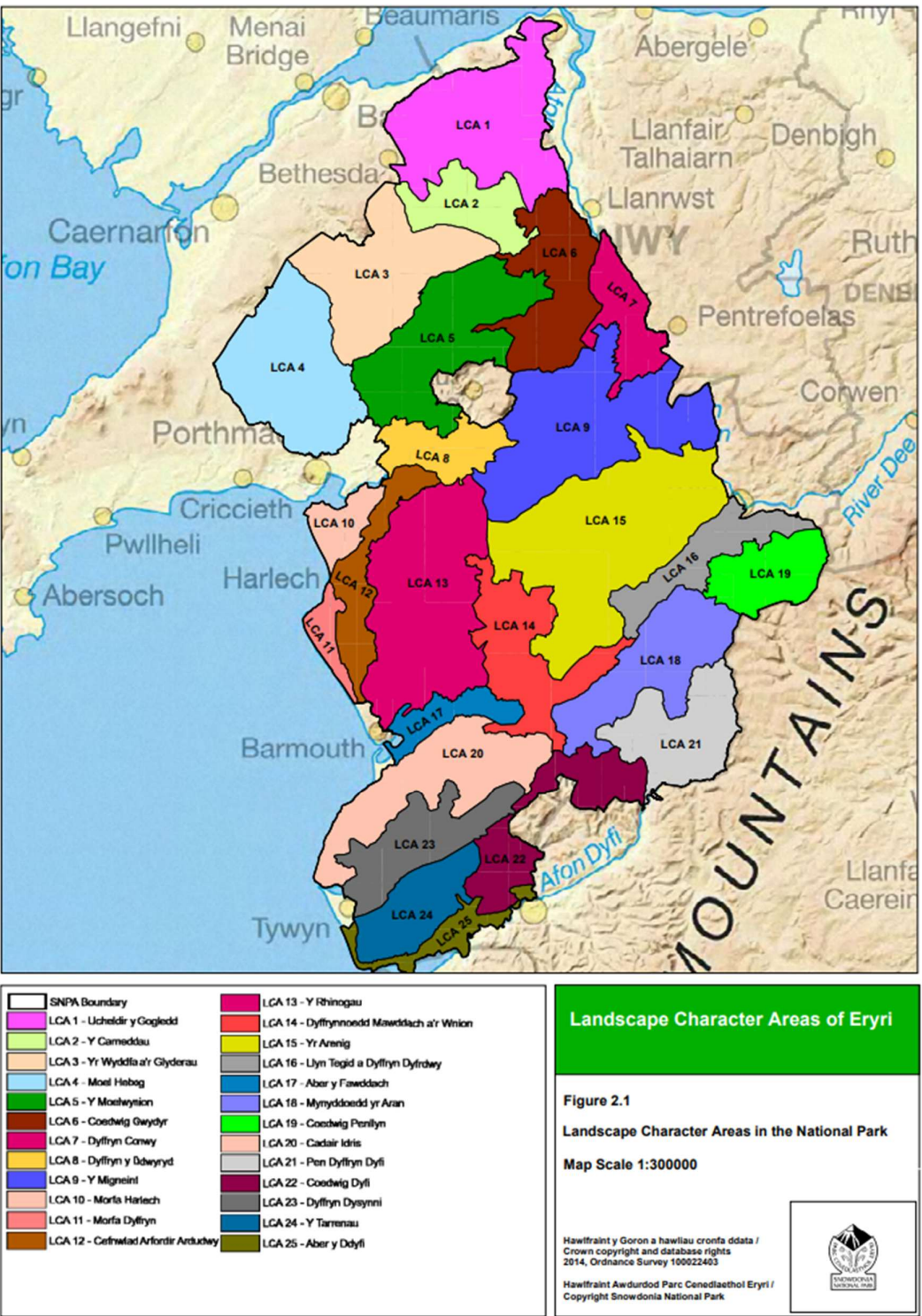
## Landscape Character Areas

- 4.1.8 Eryri is characterised by 25 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) comprising distinct elements of the landscape that sets them apart from other areas. These 25 areas are shown in Figure B-4-1<sup>60</sup>.

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<sup>60</sup> Available at: [Supplementary-Planning-Guidance-7—Landscape-and-Seascapes-of-Eryri.pdf](#) [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

Figure B-4-1: Landscape Character Areas of Eryri



### Tranquillity

4.1.9 Tranquillity is associated with the degree to which places and ecosystems deliver a state of quiet, calm, peace and well-being. This can be described as a relative abundance, perception or experience of nature, natural landscapes and features (e.g. birdsong, natural sounds, moving water, stars and

perceived wildness) and/or a relative freedom from unwanted visual disturbance, signs of human influence and artificial noise (e.g. from people, transport, development, light pollution, power lines).

4.1.10 Tranquillity, as a landscape asset and important cultural service, is highly valued and contributes to landscape value and identity. Tranquillity also contributes to health, well-being, spiritual benefit and quality of life. Tranquillity has limited resilience in that subtle changes in noise, visual intrusion and light pollution may have marked effects on natural settings and tranquillity.

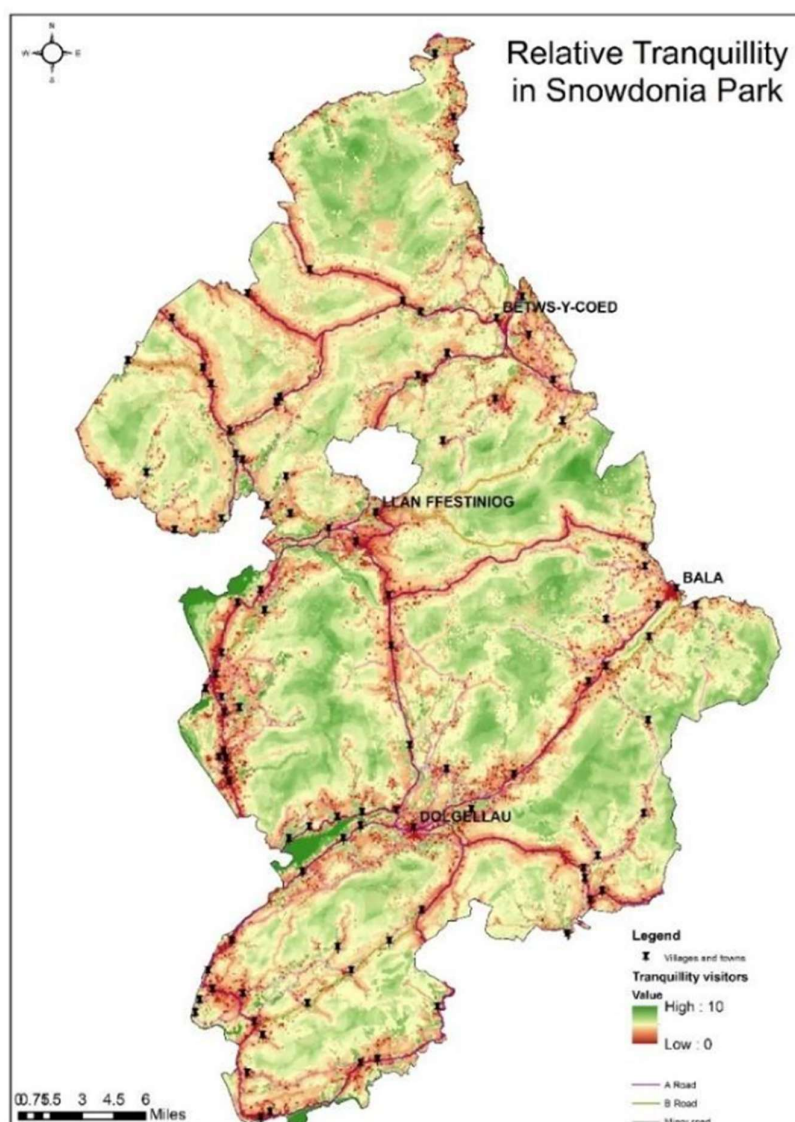
4.1.11 The following five factors were most important to the 2,850 households that were questioned as part of the 2022 University of Winchester study as characteristics of a tranquil place:

- Large open space – views of landscapes;
- Natural environments: nature (sights and sounds);
- Few or no people around;
- Being able to visit, experience, see mountains; and
- Bodies of water i.e. lakes, streams and coastline.

4.1.12 Following a 2022 study, Eryri has the highest percentage of land area within the top three visually tranquil categories at 90% of the three National Parks in Wales.

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Figure B-4-2: Relative Tranquillity in Eryri (Natural Resources Wales, 2022)<sup>61</sup>



## Dark Skies

- 4.1.13 Eryri National Park is the second area in Wales to be designated as an International Dark Sky Reserve. Dark Sky Reserves are designated areas where there is little to no light pollution, and the quality of the night air is outstanding. These are prestigious designations awarded only by the International Dark Sky Association.
- 4.1.14 National Parks in Wales are especially dark; so much so that less than 1% of each fall within the brightest four categories, with Eryri having only 1.3% of its land area outside of the darkest two categories.
- 4.1.15 Dark skies have benefits to local wildlife, including:

<sup>61</sup> Natural Resources Wales (2022) Tranquillity Map Viewer. Available at: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?layers=d6ab41d9b6134f4e8be1eabc752a43df> [Accessed: 07/01/2025]

- **Bats** - Bats are nocturnal mammals. They hunt and feed during the night and sleep during the day. Strong light during the night confuses some bat species that are sensitive to light. They think that night is day and to avoid being hunted, they don't feed.
- **Owls** - Owls prey on mice and rodents who tend to be active during darkness. Owls have incredibly sophisticated eyes that allow them to see and hunt prey in complete darkness.
- **Birds** - Many birds use the sun, moon and stars to navigate from place to place. Artificial light can confuse them and disrupt their migrations.

4.1.16 Since 2019, the Park has entered into a partnership with the three National Landscapes of Ynys Môn, Clwydian Range and Dee Valley, and Pen Llŷn to help protect night skies over a larger area of North Wales, impacting positively on wildlife, habitat, residents and tourists on a much larger scale.

4.1.17 Light pollution is monitored annually around the entire National Park. Measurements are taken by a Sky Quality Meter (SQM) and help us to understand how any given location in the National Park is impacted by artificial light at night. These measurements are also reported back to Dark Sky International in our annual report. This is a mandatory requirement from Dark Sky International who oversee the Dark Sky Places programme.

4.1.18 Figure B-4-3 shows the change between light radiance bands between 2019 and 2019 (latest data available)<sup>62</sup>. There are minor changes to light pollution in Eryri compared to the remainder of Wales.

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<sup>62</sup> Natural Resource Wales (2019) Tranquillity and Place – Dark Skies. Comparison between 2016 and 2019. Available at: [Comparison between 2016 and 2019 – Tranquillity and Place – Dark Skies](#) [Accessed: 28/11/2025]



Figure B-4-3: Change between light radiance bands - September 2016 to December 2019

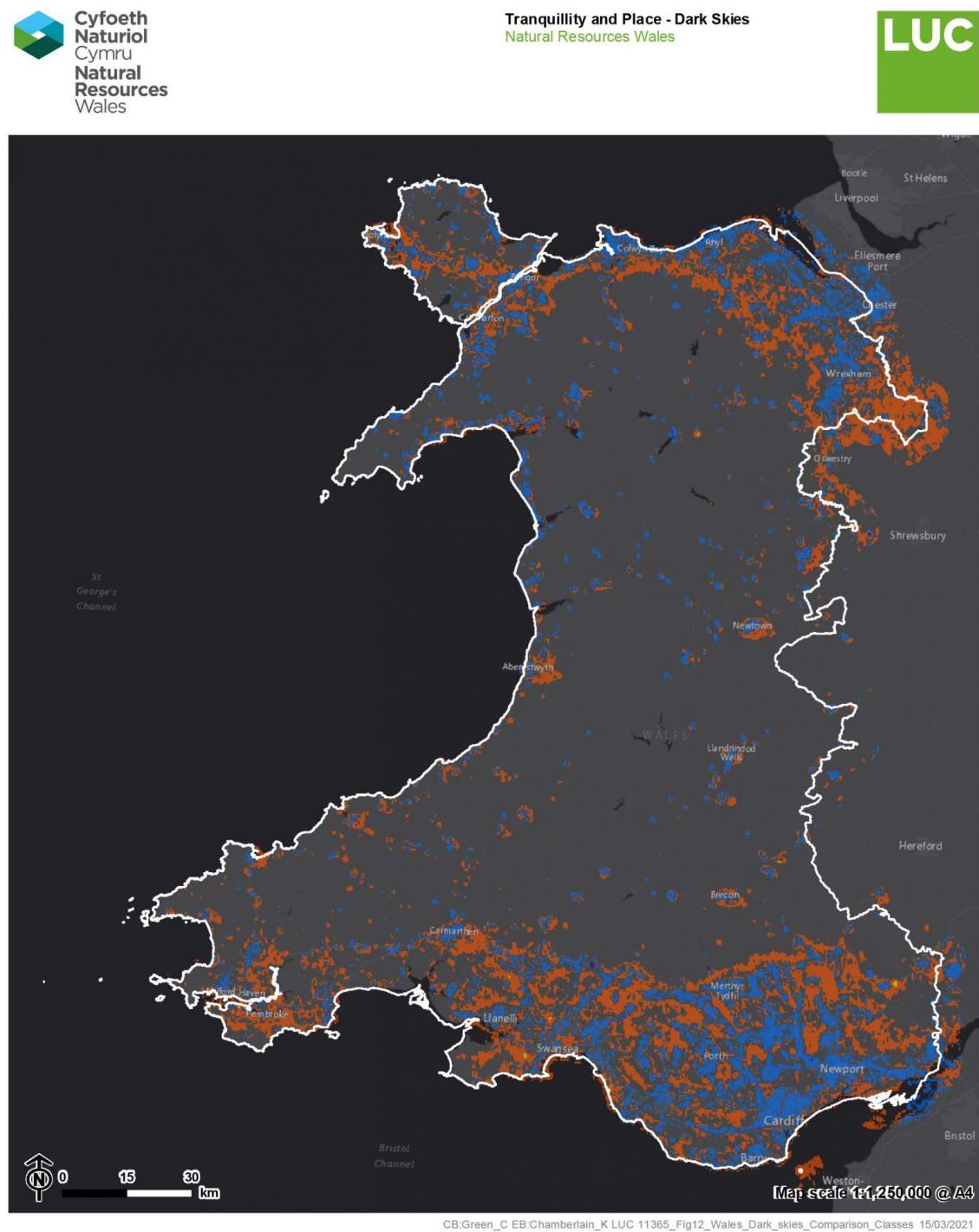


Figure 12 – Change between light radiance bands – September 2016 to December 2019

- Significantly darker (> 2 bands darker)
- Somewhat darker (1 or 2 bands darker)
- No change (Same band)
- Somewhat brighter (1 or 2 bands brighter)
- Significantly brighter (> 2 bands brighter )

Source: Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite, (VIIRS) Day/Night Band (DNB), Earth Observation Group, NOAA National Geophysical Data Center, Colorado School of Mines Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

- 4.1.19 There are three Core Areas in Eryri National Park identified as part of the International Dark Sky Reserve designation granted in November 2015, where there is an aim to not allow any increase in artificial light at night. These Core Areas represent the darkest and most remote parts of Eryri, where the night sky quality is highest and very limited new development is anticipated. Each planning application for anything new would be assessed by the Dark Skies Officer and the Planning system to determine if it will have detrimental impact to the nightscape<sup>63</sup>.
- 4.1.20 Within these Core Areas, the approach to lighting is based on maintaining and enhancing existing dark sky conditions, with a strong emphasis on avoiding any increase in artificial light at night. Surrounding each Core Area are designated 'buffer zones' which form part of the wider Dark Sky Reserve. Lighting within these buffer areas is also subject to management controls to ensure that artificial light does not increase and adversely affect the Core Areas<sup>60</sup>.

## 4.2 Key Issues and Opportunities

- The management of development pressure within the National Park and its valued areas, whilst retaining their natural beauty and special qualities, represents a key issue. New growth, infrastructure, and tourism-related activity could erode landscape quality and distinctiveness if not carefully planned, requiring policies that protect and enhance both designated and non-designated landscapes. Development within these areas should focus on meeting the social and economic needs of local communities while upholding the statutory purpose of these designations. The LDP could seek to maintaining this balance through appropriate spatial and design policies.
- Rural diversification and tourism-related development are a key issue, as they can generate economic benefits but also introduce visual change and additional infrastructure into sensitive landscapes.
- The protection and enhancement of local distinctiveness and character across Eryri's settlements and rural landscapes is a key opportunity to ensure new development reflects local materials, forms, and settlement patterns, helping maintain a sense of place.
- Dark skies are a key opportunity and issue for landscape protection and tranquillity. Preserving these skies could support recreation, well-being and wildlife, while managing light pollution is essential to maintain tranquillity and landscape quality.
- The LDP and Cynllun Eryri should seek to balance the competing pressures of rural diversification and tourism-related development to protect scenic quality while supporting rural livelihoods.

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<sup>63</sup> Snowdonia National Park Authority (2016) Supplementary Planning Guidance – Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution). Available at: <https://eryri.gov.wales/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Supplementary-Planning-Guidance-14-%E2%80%93-Obtrusive-Lighting-Light-Pollution.pdf> [Accessed: 17/12/2025]

## 5 Transport and Pollution

### 5.1 Baseline Conditions

#### Transport and Parking in Eryri

- 5.1.1 The combination of landscape and visitor numbers in Eryri has created pressures in terms of parking and transport capacity, particularly in hotspot areas such as Yr Wyddfa, Dyffryn Ogwen and Llyn Tegid<sup>64</sup>. Almost all visitors to Eryri (96%) travelled to Eryri by car, van, or motorbike, with only a small proportion (4%) travelling to Eryri by public transport. Furthermore, 90% of visitors continued to use cars, vans, or motorbikes to travel within Eryri during their visit<sup>65</sup>.

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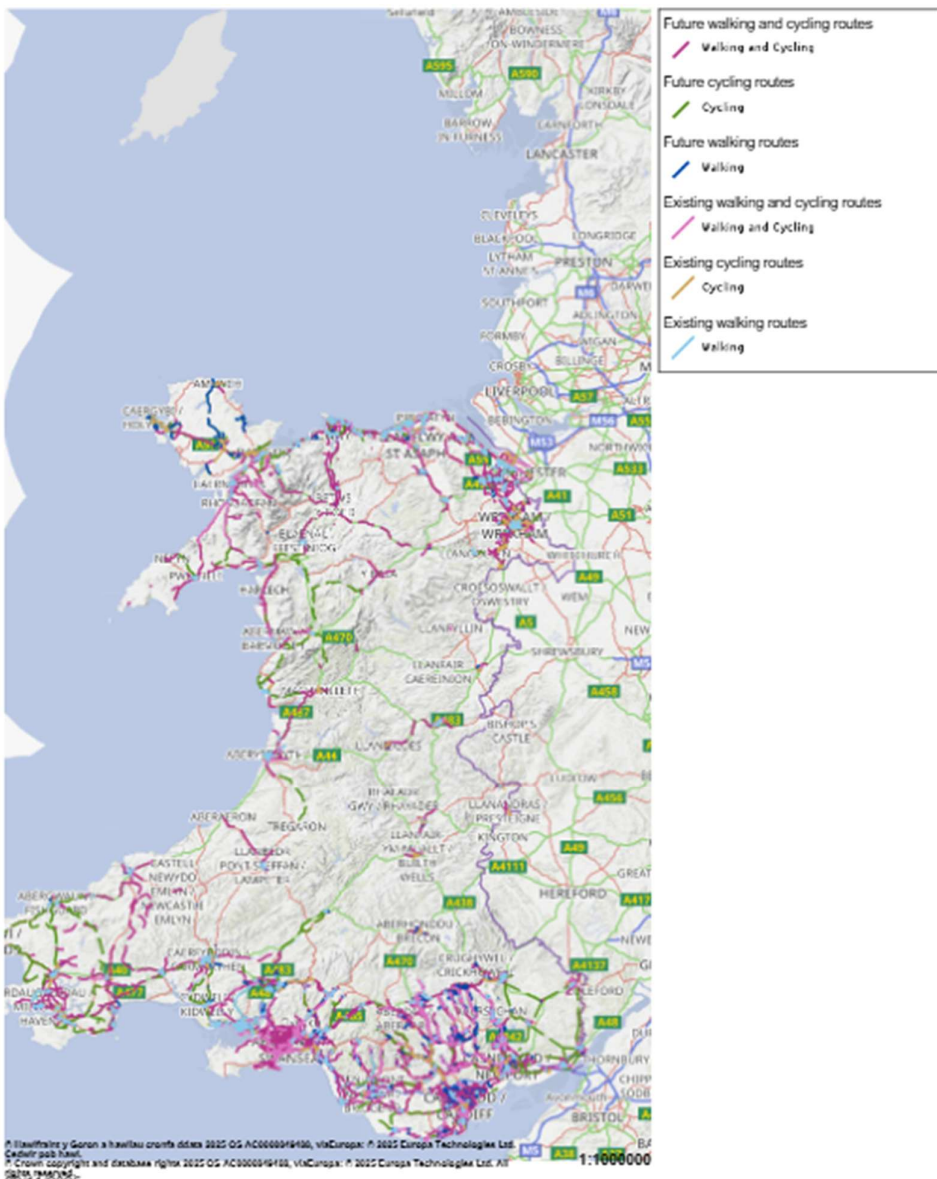
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<sup>64</sup> Welsh Government (2024) Recreation, leisure, and learning. Available at: <https://data.eryri.gov.wales/park-authority/recreation-leisure-and-learning/recreation-leisure-and-learning-2/> [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

<sup>65</sup> Welsh Government (2022) Visitor Monitoring Figures. Available at: <https://eryri.gov.wales/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Visitor-Monitoring-Report-2022.pdf> [Accessed: 27/11/2025]



Figure B-5-1: Walking and Cycling Routes across Wales



## Road Network

- 5.1.2 Eryri National Park is accessed primarily via a network of A and B class roads that cross the National Park and connect it with neighbouring regions. The main route through the NPA is the A470, which passes from south to north and provides a key link between southern Wales and north-western Wales through the heart of the National Park<sup>66</sup>.
- 5.1.3 Coastal and western parts of the NPA, particularly around the Cambrian Coast, are served by the A496 road, which provides a coastal route through the National Park's western valleys<sup>67</sup>.

<sup>66</sup> Welsh Government (no date) Getting to and Around Eryri. Available at: <https://eryri.gov.wales/visit/plan-your-visit/getting-to-and-around/> [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

<sup>67</sup> Google (no date) Google Maps: Eryri National Park. Available at: [https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Eryri+National+Park+\(Snowdonia\)/@52.8535111,-4.0464229,35823m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m6!3m5!1s0x48657b46edc788b9:0xf7fcbd503f97ba7!8m2!3d52.9005518!4d-3.8963384!16zL20vMDIkcmI?entry=ttu&g\\_ep=EgoyMDI1MTEyMy4xIXMDS0ASAFAw%3D%3D](https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Eryri+National+Park+(Snowdonia)/@52.8535111,-4.0464229,35823m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m6!3m5!1s0x48657b46edc788b9:0xf7fcbd503f97ba7!8m2!3d52.9005518!4d-3.8963384!16zL20vMDIkcmI?entry=ttu&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MTEyMy4xIXMDS0ASAFAw%3D%3D) [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

## Rail Network

- 5.1.4 The NPA benefits from rail links which connect the National Park to coastal and national networks. The Conwy Valley Line runs from Llandudno Junction south through the National Park to Betws-y-Coed and Blaenau Ffestiniog, offering access to the northern and central parts of Eryri for both residents and visitors. In addition, the Cambrian Line serves the southern and western fringes of the NPA, providing connections from mid-Wales and central Wales to communities near or within the NPA boundaries<sup>68</sup>.
- 5.1.5 The Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways offer an alternative transport and leisure option, linking villages and popular tourism areas of the NPA<sup>43</sup>.

## Bus Network

- 5.1.6 Bus services play a key role in providing transport across Eryri for those without access to private vehicles and visitors who wish to travel sustainably. An example is the Sherpa bus service, which operates around the base of Snowdon, linking trails and local communities, aiding in the reduction of car traffic and parking demand in sensitive upland areas. The Sherpa bus service has also undergone a rebrand, making it more desirable from a visitor experience point of view<sup>66</sup>.
- 5.1.7 The current network offers various services during the peak tourist season, which includes daily hourly services. During the busiest times of the peak tourist season, there is a bus service available from the Nant Peris park and ride up to Pen y Pass every 15 minutes. The current Sherpa bus network service is funded and run in Partnership by Cyngor Gwynedd, Cyngor Conwy, Eryri NPA and Transport for Wales. See Table B-5-1 below which presents the patronage of the Sherpa bus network in the period 2019 to 2020 and 2023 to 2024<sup>66</sup>.

Table B-5-1: Bus patronage in Eryri

Time Period	Bus Patronage (number of people)	
	2019-2020	2023-2024
Jan	21,269	22,226
Feb	20,006	23,198
Mar	15,031	37,050
Apr	30,364	50,036
May	26,681	59,348
Jun	33,253	55,018
Jul	40,485	55,558
Aug	40,083	67,159
Sep	32,974	53,796
Oct	30,165	42,637
Nov	23,153	24,472
Dec	20,138	20,696

<sup>68</sup> Walking in Circles (2025) Guide to Snowdonia National Park. Available at: <https://walkingincirclesuk.com/hiking-guides/snowdonia-national-park-7s9td> [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

## Public Rights of Way and Active Travel Routes

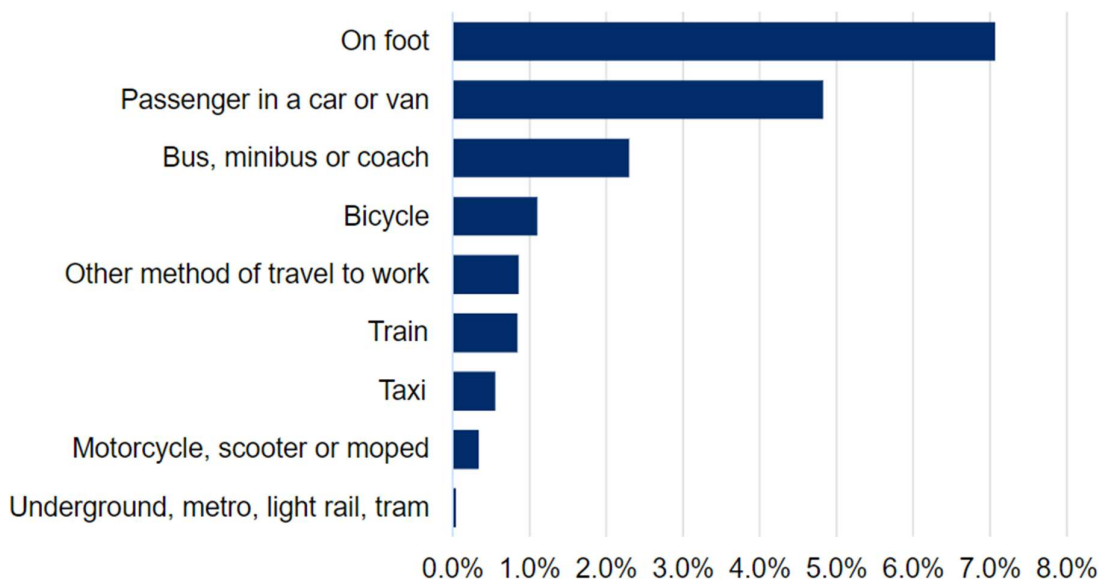
- 5.1.8 The NPA possesses an extensive network of footpaths and recreational routes. There are approximately 1,497 miles of approved routes for walking and other non-motorised access, spread across upland, coastal, and valley landscapes<sup>69</sup>. These paths, including long distance trails such as the Snowdonia Way, and the 60% of land within the National Park freely available on foot to members of the public, provide critical access for recreation, tourism, and outdoor activities across the National Park, enabling the enjoyment of natural landscapes without reliance on motorised transport<sup>70</sup>.

## Journey to work by mode

- 5.1.9 The 2021 Census states that in Wales, out of all usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment<sup>71</sup>:
- 772,600 people travelled to work by driving a car or van (56.5% of all usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment)
  - 66,000 travelled as passengers in a car or van (4.8%)

- 5.1.9.1 The estimated percentage of people who drove a car or van to work was greater in Wales than in England (44.5%, 11.8 million). Figure B-5-2 shows the other than driving a car or van the largest category is on foot, accounting for 7.1% of travel to work.

Figure B-5-2: Method of travel to work other than driving a car or van for usual residents aged 16 and over in Wales, 2021



Source: Census 2021

<sup>69</sup> Welsh Government (no date) Eryri National Park: Walks and Routes. Available at: <https://eryri.gov.wales/visit/walks/> [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

<sup>70</sup> Eryri National Park (2023) Eryri National Park Recreation Strategy. Available at: <https://eryri.gov.wales/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Snowdonia-National-Park-Recreation-Strategy.pdf> [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

<sup>71</sup> Welsh Government (2022) Labour market and travel to work in Wales (Census 2021). Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/labour-market-and-travel-work-wales-census-2021-html> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

- 5.1.10 Gwynedd and Conwy contain substantial areas of Eryri, and together they capture the majority of its resident population and economic activity. As such, data from these authorities has been utilised to provide an estimation of methods and distances of travelling to work within Eryri. In both Gwynedd and Conwy, travel to work by personal car or van is the most common method (61% in Gwynedd, compared to 62% in Conwy), with smaller proportions of residents travelling by public transport, cycling, or walking. A notable proportion of residents also reported working mainly at or from home (around 23% in both authorities). In regard to distances, data indicates that journeys vary in length, with residents travelling both short distances (less than 5km) and longer distances (10km or more)<sup>72 73</sup>.

### **Access to Services**

- 5.1.11 The WIMD 2025<sup>74</sup> sets out deprivation in relation to access to services. The access to services domain measures travel times to a range of services as a proxy for wider physical access to services.
- 5.1.12 Figure B-5-3 presents the overall scores across Wales. In the WIMD 2025 access to services domain, high deprivation was widespread across rural areas of Wales. There were also some deprived pockets near large urban areas. Gwynedd is ranked as the fifth most deprived authority for access to services, and Conway is ranked 12<sup>th</sup>. The overall patterns of access to services deprivation in WIMD 2025 are broadly like those for WIMD 2019.

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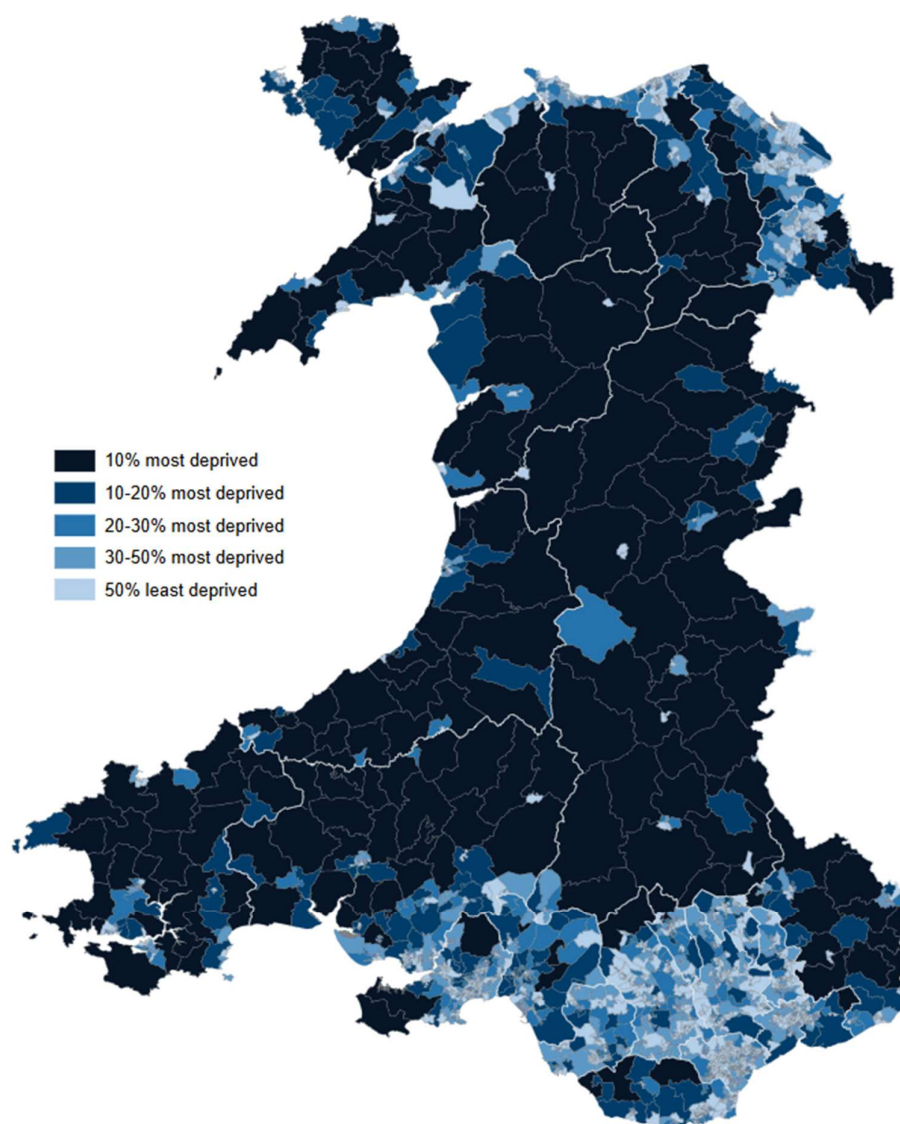
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<sup>72</sup> ONS (2022) Distance Travelled to Work. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS058/editions/2021/versions/1> [Accessed: 17/12/2025]

<sup>73</sup> ONS (2022) Method Travelled to Work. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS061/editions/2021/versions/1> [Accessed: 17/12/2025]

<sup>74</sup> Welsh Government (2025) Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2025 Results report. Available at: [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(WIMD\) 2025 results report: access to services domain results \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#) [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

Figure B-5-3: Access to services for LSOAs in Wales



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Source: WIMD 2025

## Transport and the Eryri National Partnership Plan

5.1.13 The Eryri National Partnership Plan includes an objective to achieve sustainable options for transport and parking, though highlights potential long-term funding issues as a barrier to achieve this. The Plan aims to reduce the impact of parking and transport on the environment and local landscape, improving the sustainability and availability of transport for visitors and residents, and seeks to:

- Review public transport and parking in the Snowdon and Ogwen areas to provide and implement recommendations;
- Establish and agree terms of reference for a transport and parking working group in Eryri;
- Work with Partners to trial greener solutions to public transport;
- Work with landowners to identify landscape sensitive overflow car parking, in line with Local Development Plan policies and as part of traffic management plans;

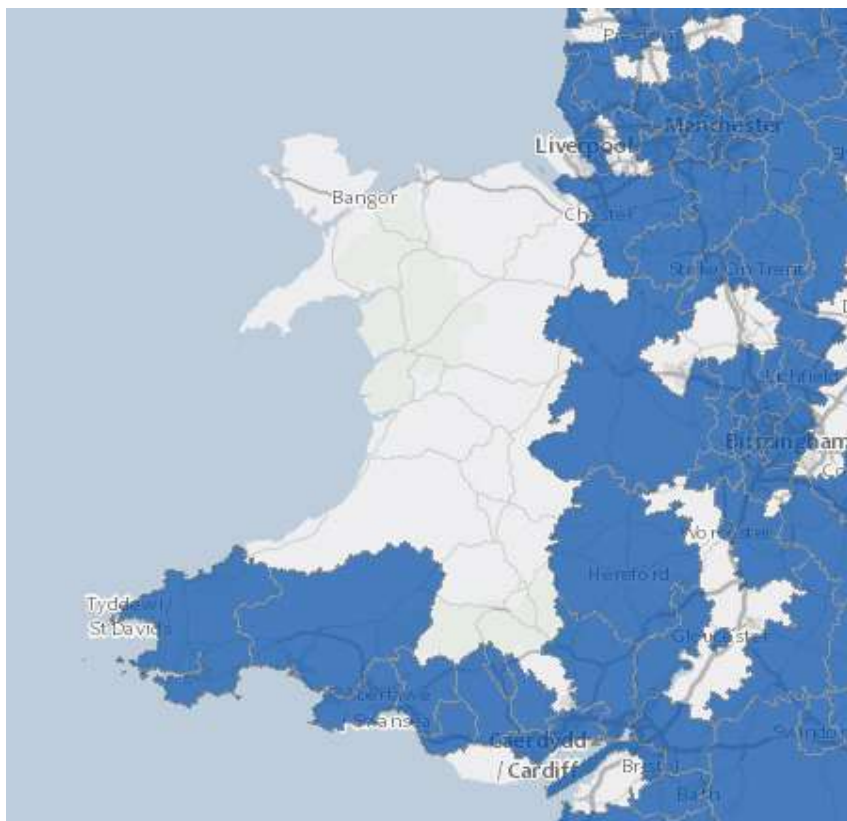


- Improve information on sustainable transport options for visitors; and
- Install electric vehicle (EV) charging points at strategic locations within the National Park.

## Air Quality

5.1.14 Air quality in Wales is monitored through a combination of local authorities. The air quality status for much of Eryri is covered by regional monitoring carried out by the authorities of North Wales (including Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council), and no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been declared in the region<sup>75 76</sup>.

Figure B-5-4: AQMAs of Wales



- 5.1.15 In the 2023 monitoring year, there were no exceedances of the statutory annual-mean Air Quality Objective (AQO) for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) (40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) at any monitored location across the six-authority area, and the most recent national report for 2022 to 2023 from the Welsh Air Quality Forum (WAF) confirms that overall pollutant concentrations across Wales remain generally low in rural and semi-rural areas, including those overlapping Eryri<sup>76</sup>.
- 5.1.16 Throughout Eryri, including its rural, remote, and upland areas, emissions of both air quality pollutants and greenhouse gases remain generally low. Mapping from the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory demonstrates that emissions of NO<sub>2</sub> and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>), fall within the 0.03 – 0.1 tonnes per 1x1km grid cell category (see Figure B-5-5), and carbon monoxide, benzene, and greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane predominantly fall within the lowest mapped emissions categories (<0.3 tonnes per 1x1km grid cell and < 0.0003 tonnes per 1x1km grid

<sup>75</sup> Defra (no date) AQMA Interactive Map. Available at: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/maps/> [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

<sup>76</sup> Gwynedd Council (2024) North Wales Authorities Collaborative Project 2024 Air Quality Progress Report. Available at: <https://www.conwy.gov.uk/en/Resident/Environmental-problems/assets-Air-Quality/documents/NW-Authorities-Collaborative-Project-2024-Air-Quality-Progress-Report.pdf> [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

cell), see Figure B-5-6. Higher emissions are observed primarily in more populated or developed areas beyond the core rural and upland areas of Eryri<sup>77</sup>.

Figure B-5-5: Concentrations of Nitrogen Oxides across Eryri

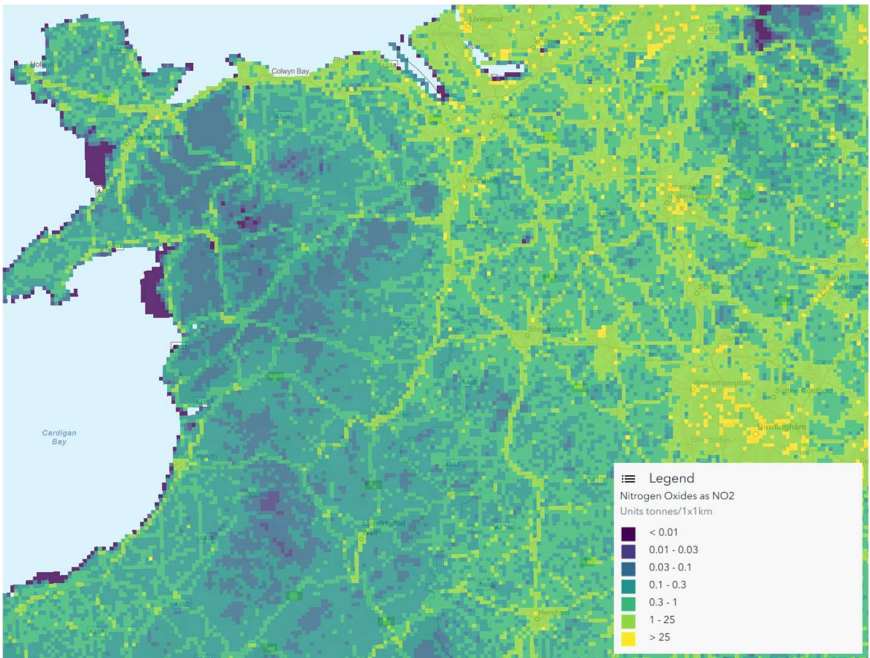
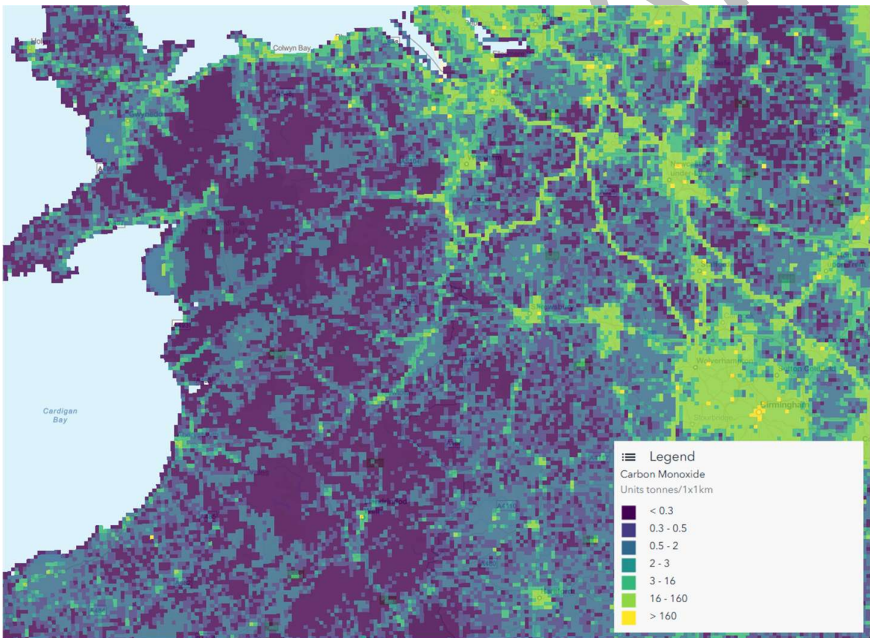


Figure B-5-6: Concentrations of Carbon Monoxide across Eryri



<sup>77</sup> National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (no date) UK Emissions Interactive Map. Available at: <https://naei.energysecurity.gov.uk/emissionsapp/> [Accessed: 18/12/2025]

- 5.1.17 Within the jurisdiction of Gwynedd Council, air quality monitoring comprises roadside BO<sub>2</sub> diffusion tube sites and particulate matter monitoring where relevant. Gwynedd Council reports that no location has triggered the need for a “Detailed Assessment” under Local Air Quality Management<sup>78</sup>.

## Noise Environment

- 5.1.18 In 2022, the Welsh Government commissioned strategic noise mapping<sup>79</sup> across Wales, covering all roads and railways (not only “major” transport routes). These maps use a modern noise-modelling system and provide new baseline data for ambient sound exposure across urban, rural, and transport-linked areas<sup>80</sup>.
- 5.1.19 It is indicated that Eryri is characterised by low ambient noise levels, particularly in areas away from transport corridors, and is recognised as one of Wales’s key tranquil landscapes. The absence of any designated noise action areas or other localised noise management zones further suggests that the Park’s baseline sound environment remains of high quality<sup>81</sup>.
- 5.1.20 In addition to strategic noise mapping, national tranquillity mapping provides further context for the sound environment of Eryri National Park. This mapping combines indicators relating to sound environments, relative freedom from intrusive noise, dark skies and visual disturbance, classifying areas on a ten-point tranquillity scale. Results indicate that National Parks contain the highest proportion of land within the upper tranquillity categories, with approximately 50.2% of Eryri National Park falling within the highest tranquillity classes<sup>82</sup>. Areas within these categories are characterised by sound environments where natural sounds are more prominent than human made noise, demonstrating Eryri’s low ambient noise levels and tranquil character.

## 5.2 Data Gaps

- Data specific to Eryri on travelling to work
- Air Quality monitoring data for rural, upland, and remote parts of Eryri
- Data specific to Eryri for the noise environment

## 5.3 Key Issues and Opportunities

- The high private vehicle dependency within the NPA presents a key issue for sustainable transport in Eryri, contributing to seasonal congestion, parking pressures, and emissions hotspots.
- Although the Sherpa bus network has expanded, most services are seasonal and concentrated around popular upland areas, highlighting a key issue for year-round reliable public transport.
- Active travel networks present an opportunity to support sustainable mobility and recreation. Enhancing links between Eryri’s PProWs, trails, key destinations and transport links could reduce car dependency while supporting health and tourism aims.

<sup>78</sup> Gwynedd Council (2024) 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Monitoring Report – Gwynedd 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024. Available at: <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Annual-Monitoring-Report-6-2023-2024.pdf> [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

<sup>79</sup> Welsh Government (2022) DataMapWales. Available at: [https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/new?layergroup=geonode:Environmental\\_Noise\\_Mapping\\_2022#/](https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/new?layergroup=geonode:Environmental_Noise_Mapping_2022#/) [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

<sup>80</sup> Defra (2022) Explaining the 2022 noise maps. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-noise-mapping-2022/explaining-the-2022-noise-maps> [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

<sup>81</sup> NRW (2023) Tranquillity and Place Sound Environment. Available at: [https://lucmaps.co.uk/NRW\\_TranquillityPlace/Tranquillity%20and%20Place%20Sound%20Environment%20Final%20Report.pdf](https://lucmaps.co.uk/NRW_TranquillityPlace/Tranquillity%20and%20Place%20Sound%20Environment%20Final%20Report.pdf) [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

<sup>82</sup> NRW (2025) Tranquillity & Place Theme 6 full resource – connecting sound and visually tranquil places. Available at: <https://datamap.gov.wales/documents/7420?> [Accessed: 07/01/2025]



- The aim to expand EV infrastructure offers a key opportunity to reduce travel related emissions in the National Park.
- Further protecting the low ambient noise levels of the NPA could present a key opportunity to support biodiversity, tourism value, and resident well-being.
- As a largely rural area with dispersed settlements, Eryri experiences challenges related to poor transport connectivity and digital coverage, which could be contributing to lower productivity levels compared to the Welsh average. Limited infrastructure can restrict economic participation, increase business costs, and reduce access to employment opportunities, presenting a key issue for Eryri.

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## 6 Land and Water Resources

### 6.1 Baseline Conditions

#### Soils

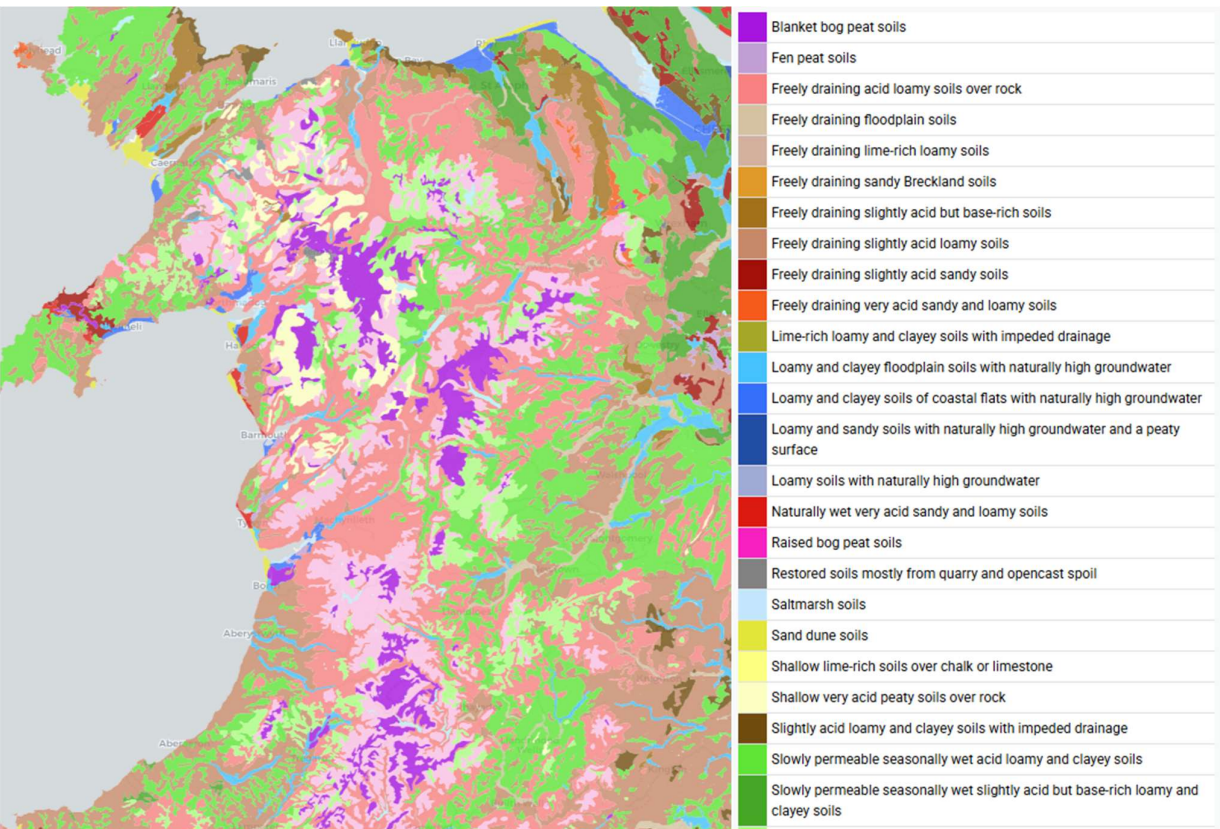
- 6.1.1 The soils of Eryri National Park are highly varied, reflecting the area's complex topography, glacial history, and underlying geology. Upland areas are dominated by blanket bog peat soils, shallow very acid peaty soils over rock, and freely draining acid loamy soils over rock, which together characterise much of the National Park's central mountain mass<sup>83</sup>. These peaty and acidic soils are widespread across the high plateaus and mountain slopes, supporting heath, bog, and upland grassland habitats of high conservation value. Blanket bog peat soils are particularly extensive in central and southern Eryri, and one of the defining soil features of Eryri is its peatlands, as although peatland soils cover only about 12% of the National Park's land area, they store an estimated 17 million tonnes of carbon, which corresponds to approximately 52% of all the soil carbon held within the National Park<sup>84</sup>.
- 6.1.2 In the northern, southern and western areas of the NPA, particularly near the coast and lower valleys, loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater and slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils occur. These soils retain moisture and are important for agricultural use, wet woodland, and riparian habitats<sup>83</sup>. Overall, Eryri's soil resource is dominated by acidic, organic, and seasonally wet soils, with smaller extents of fertile loamy and alluvial soils in valleys and coastal plains.

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<sup>83</sup> LandIS (no date) Soilsclapes Viewer. Available at: <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilsclapes/> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>84</sup> Welsh Government (2024) Peatlands. Available at: <https://eryri.gov.wales/discover/landscapes-and-wildlife/peatlands/> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

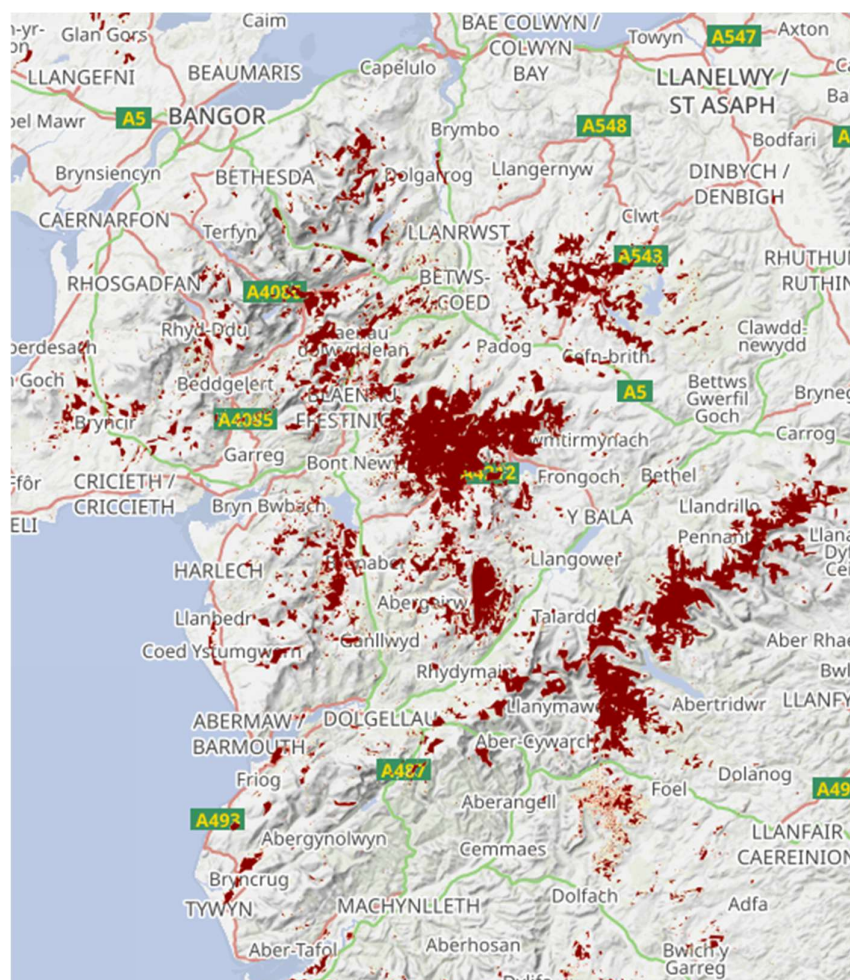
Figure B-6-1: Soil types across Eryri



**Peat Soils**

- 6.1.3 Peatlands hold carbon-rich peat; a dark, organic soil formed when soils are so waterlogged there is no oxygen to break down the plant material. Over millennia, the partially decomposed plants and mosses build up layer by layer, creating a huge carbon store and preserving ecological history in the process. Peatlands come in two main forms: those fed mostly by ground water (fens) and those fed only by rainwater (bogs). Due to high quantities of rain in the UK, bogs are the most widespread semi-natural habitat, and around 13% of the world’s globally rare blanket bog is found in the UK. The UK’s peatlands play an important role in conserving a wide range of species, many of which are rare and/or declining and are priorities for conservation action<sup>84</sup>.
- 6.1.4 Healthy bogs act as a small net carbon sink. The biggest carbon benefit of peatlands is the vast amount of carbon they keep locked away in stable carbon stores. In Eryri, the peatlands hold nearly 17 million tonnes of carbon, which is around 52% of the total soil carbon store.
- 6.1.5 Nationally, peatlands cover approximately 4% of Wales’s land area. Approximately 30% of these peatlands are found in Eryri, which has a total estimated cover of 25,460ha of peat.
- 6.1.6 With over 9,700ha of blanket bogs, mires and fens, the largest area of peatland within the National Park is within the Migneint – Arenig – Duallt SAC. The remaining peatlands are found scattered over most of our upland areas, with large areas in the Carneddau, the Moelwynion, and the Rhinogydd<sup>84</sup>.

Figure B-6-2: Peatlands of Wales



## Geology

- 6.1.7 The National Park has a unique and visible geological character that is a fundamental part of its outstanding landscape and scenery which has been formed and re-shaped by complex processes such as plate tectonics, glaciations, weathering and erosion
- 6.1.8 Human action has, over a considerable period of time, impacted in various ways on geological and soil resources through activities such as quarrying; the clearance of native woodlands for agriculture; the draining of upland bogs; commercial afforestation and erosion due to recreational activities and overgrazing.
- 6.1.9 The bedrock geology across Eryri is dominated by Cambrian, Ordovician and Silurian sedimentary and volcanic rocks. A large area of Cambrian sandstones and shales, known as the Harlech Dome, underlies the Rhinogydd and extends west into Coed y Brenin and south to the foothills of Cader Idris. Coarse-grained sedimentary rocks form some of the higher peaks in the Rhinogydd and are some of the oldest rock formations in the UK. Around the Harlech Dome, major volcanic centres developed at different intervals during the Ordovician period and these erupted vast quantities of lava and ash that are now preserved in upland areas such as Rhobell Fawr (705m) and Cader Idris (893m) in the south, and farther north around Yr Wyddfa (1085m) and the Carneddau. This volcanic activity was also

accompanied by the widespread emplacement of igneous intrusions of granitic and basaltic composition that now form distinctive, erosion-resistant features throughout the landscape<sup>85</sup>.

- 6.1.10 Ancient volcanic activity created several types of mineral deposit in the area and copper, lead and zinc mineralisation is a particular feature of Eryri. Manganese was mined from around the flanks of the Harlech Dome, whilst copper and gold were won from quartz veins that outcrop to the west and north of Dolgellau. Collectively known as the Dolgellau gold-belt, this mining district experienced a major gold-rush during the last half of the 19th century when large gold deposits were found at the Clogau and Gwynfynydd mines<sup>85</sup>.

### **Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites**

- 6.1.11 Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS) were designated as Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites in 1990 and identified as being of a standard worthy of recognition and protection as non-statutory sites, to complement the SSSIs and NNRs under statutory protection. RIGS sites in Wales are now known as Regional Geodiversity Sites.
- 6.1.12 There are 47 RIGS in the National Park (see Figure B-6-3) and 94% of the Geological Landscape has been assessed as of high or outstanding quality.

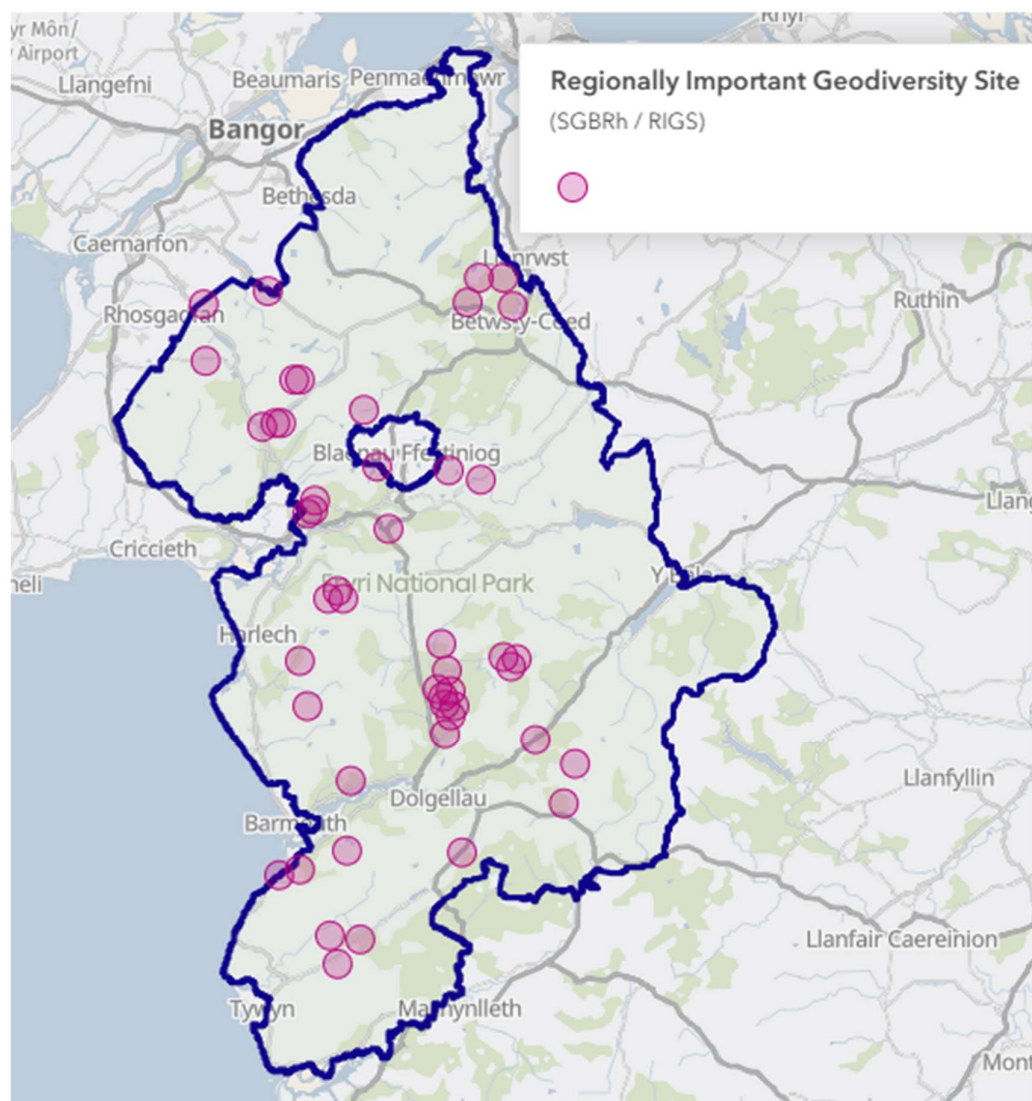
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<sup>85</sup> Eryri National Park (2020) Cynllun Eryri. Available at: <https://eryri.gov.wales/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Cynllun-Eryri-English-ER.pdf> [Accessed: 06/01/2025]



Figure B-6-3: Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites in Eryri



## Working Mineral Sites

6.1.13 There are four working mineral sites in Eryri

- Braich Ddu- Slate Waste
- Craig y Tan - Igneous and Metamorphic rock
- Ty'n-y-Coed - Slate Waste
- Tonfanau (currently mothballed – permission until 2037) - Igneous (High PSV)

## Slate and Geology

6.1.14 Different colours of slate that were excavated in and around Eryri tell us much about the geology of the area:

- Dyffryn Ogwen – Geology: Cambrian, Colour of slate: Red, Blue, a bluish-green
- Dinorwig – Geology: Cambrian, Colour of slate: Red and Blue

- Dyffryn Nantlle – Geology: Cambrian, Colour of slate: Red, Blue, bluish-green on the dual side of the valley
- Gorseddau and Bwlch y Ddwy Elor (Prince of Wales) – Geology: Ordovician, Colour of slate: Greyish-blue
- Ffestiniog and Porthmadog – Geology: Ordovician, Colour of slate: Grey
- Abergynolwyn and Tywyn – Geology: Ordovician, Colour of slate: Grey

6.1.15 These areas are now being monitored and evaluated regularly as part of the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site (see paragraphs 8.1.2 to 8.1.3).

## Water

### River Basins

6.1.16 Under the Water Framework Directive, a management plan is required for each River Basin District. Wales. NRW produces two River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) for Wales, one for the Western Wales catchment and the other for the Dee River Basin District. Additionally, the Environment Agency produce the RBMP for the Severn. The plans are updated in 6-yearly cycles and contain information on the status of the waterbodies and a summary of the programme of measures required to achieve statutory objectives to maintain and enhance the quality of the water environment. Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies are developed at a catchment level to manage permitting and abstraction rates to ensure sustainable water levels.

6.1.17 Eryri is located partially within two river basin districts:

- Western Wales River Basin District
- Dee River Basin District

6.1.18 In July 2022, NRW produced the Western Wales River Basin Management Plan 2021-2027<sup>86</sup> and the Dee River Basin Management Plan 2021-2027<sup>87</sup>.

6.1.19 Eryri covers four management catchments:

- Conwy (1)
- Dee (8)
- Llŷn and Eryri (9)
- Meirionydd (2)

6.1.20 Because of the topography of Wales, Welsh Water has a high number of “water resource zones” (see Figure B-6-4). The 24 water resource zones represent a fifth of the total for England and Wales. Welsh Water has identified that three out of its 24 “water resource zones” are not resilient to droughts, with some of these being Tywyn/ Aberdyfi, South Meirionydd, Bala, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Llŷn/ Harlech/ Barmouth, North Eryri/ Ynys Mon and Dyffryn Conwy<sup>88</sup>.

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<sup>86</sup> Natural Resources Wales (2022) Western Wales River Basin Management Plan 2021 – 2027 Summary. Available at: [Western Wales RBMP 2021\\_2027 Summaryhttps://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/media/695227/western-wales-rbmp-2021\\_2027-summary.pdf](https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/media/695227/western-wales-rbmp-2021_2027-summary.pdf) [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>87</sup> Natural Resources Wales (2022) Dee River Basin Management Plan 2021 – 2027 Summary. Available at: [Dee RBMP 2021-2027 Summaryhttps://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/media/695227/western-wales-rbmp-2021\\_2027-summary.pdf](https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/media/695227/western-wales-rbmp-2021_2027-summary.pdf) [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>88</sup> Welsh Water (2025) Draft Drought Plan 2025. Available at: <https://www.dwrcymru.com/-/media/project/files/page-documents/corporate/environment/water-resources/draft-drought-plan-2025/draft-drought-plan-2025-main-technical-report/dcw-w-draft-dp2025-main-technical-report-v05.ashx> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

Figure B-6-4: Welsh Water's Water Resource Zone



## Water Quality

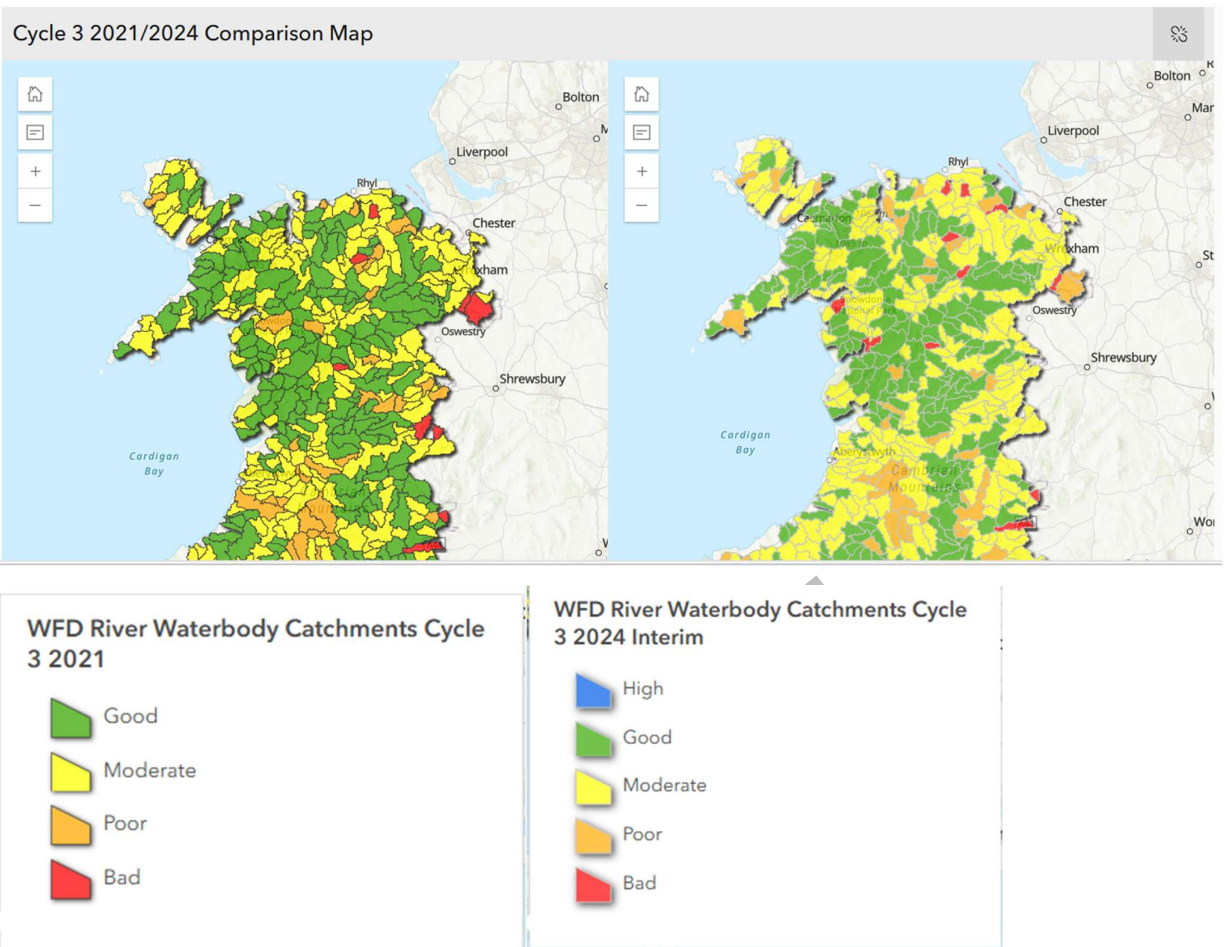
- 6.1.21 Figure B-6-5 shows the comparison between the Water Framework Directive assessed waterbody catchments between 2021 and 2024<sup>89</sup>. Waterbody quality across Wales tend to range from a good to poor classification but are very rarely classed as 'bad', although more catchments in north Wales have been identified as 'bad' in 2024 compared to 2021. The Water Framework Directive<sup>90</sup> requires the UK to achieve 'good' status of all water bodies (including rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater)<sup>90</sup>.

<sup>89</sup> Natural Resource Wales (2024) Water Watch Wales. Available at: [Water Watch Wales](#) [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>90</sup> Environment Agency (2023) Water Framework Directive assessment: estuarine and coastal waters. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-framework-directive-assessment-estuarine-and-coastal-waters> [Accessed: 27/11/2025]



Figure B-6-5: Water Framework Directive waterbody catchment condition status 2021 vs 2024



- 6.1.22 Out of the 110 designated bathing waters in Wales, 108 met the bathing water quality standard in 2024<sup>91</sup>. A total of 75 bathing waters were of an Excellent standard, 28 achieved a Good standard, five were classified as Sufficient, and two bathing waters failed to achieve the standard and were assessed as Poor.
- 6.1.23 Overall, drinking water in Wales is of an excellent standard, the Drinking Water Inspectorate (2022) identifies that climate change impacts such as drought and floods increase the risk of algae, metals, pesticide run-off and “other substances of concern” affecting water<sup>92</sup>.

### Nitrate

- 6.1.24 In Wales, the EC Nitrates Directive<sup>93</sup> was brought into law through the Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2013<sup>94</sup>. A Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) is an area of land draining into ground

<sup>91</sup> Natural Resource Wales (2024) Wales Bathing Water Report 2024. Available at: [Wales Bathing Water Report 2024](#) [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>92</sup> World Health Organization (no date) D5.5 Water Supply and Quality. Available at: <https://phwwwhocc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/D5.5-Water-Supply-and-Quality-Eng-final.pdf> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>93</sup> Council Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:01991L0676-20081211&from=EN> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>94</sup> The Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2013. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/2506/contents/made> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

or surface waters that are currently high in nitrate; or may become so if appropriate actions are not taken. In 2014, around 2.3% of Wales was within an NVZ<sup>95</sup>.

- 6.1.25 The Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations (2013) have been revoked and replaced by the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021. Measures to protect the environment from pollution by nitrates from agricultural sources will now apply to the majority of holdings in Wales after the transition periods (these apply to holdings not previously in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone). Nitrate Vulnerable Zones in Wales previously included on the Protected Area Register have been removed<sup>96</sup>.

## Nutrient Neutrality

- 6.1.26 Nutrient neutrality is a planning principle used to ensure that new development does not result in a net increase in nutrient pollution, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen, within sensitive water catchments. Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) local planning authorities must ensure new developments do not contribute to further nutrient enrichment in failing SAC catchments<sup>97</sup>. In Wales, over 60% of waterbodies now fail these targets<sup>98</sup>.

## Groundwater

- 6.1.27 Groundwater provides a third of the drinking water in England and Wales, and it also maintains the flow in many of our rivers. All of Wales is classified as groundwater inner source protection zone. The zone is defined as the 50-day travel time from any point below the water table to the source. These areas apply at and below the water table. The criteria are set to protect against transmission of toxic chemicals and water-borne disease.

## Sewerage and Drainage

- 6.1.28 In many Welsh rivers, flows are particularly vulnerable to climate change because they tend to rise and fall quickly in response to rainfall. Increased flows during winter may also increase pressure upon sewerage and drainage systems and diffuse pollution. A recent Inquiry was conducted by the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee (2022)<sup>99</sup> to respond to concerns “*about the frequency of sewage discharges from storm overflows, (and) the adverse impact of discharges on the environment and public health*” and concluded that spills are at an “unacceptable level”<sup>100</sup>.

## Flood Risk

- 6.1.29 Flooding is a key area in which the effects of climate change are felt locally. Flood risk is a significant issue in Wales including coastal, fluvial and surface water flooding.
- 6.1.30 Across North West Wales, there are 7,671 properties at risk of flooding from rivers and 11,743 properties at risk of flooding from the sea. In addition, there are 254 key services (include property types related to education, health services, transport, utilities and emergency services) at risk of flooding from rivers and 340 key services at risk of flooding from the sea<sup>101</sup>.

<sup>95</sup> Welsh Government (2014) Nitrate vulnerable zones. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/cross-compliance-nitrate-vulnerable-zones-smr-1.pdf> [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>96</sup> Natural Resources Wales (2022) Western Wales River Basin Management Plan 2021 – 2027 Summary. Available at: [https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/media/695227/western-wales-rbmp-2021\\_2027-summary.pdf](https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/media/695227/western-wales-rbmp-2021_2027-summary.pdf) [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

<sup>97</sup> NRW (2025) Principles of nutrient neutrality in relation to development or water discharge permit proposals. Available at: <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/advice-for-planning-authorities/principles-of-nutrient-neutrality-in-relation-to-development-or-water-discharge-permit-proposals/?lang=en> [Accessed: 09/09/2025]

<sup>98</sup> NRW (2025) Assessment of water quality in Wales 2024. Available at: <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/water-reports/water-quality/assessment-of-water-quality-in-wales-2024/?lang=en> [Accessed: 10/01/2025]

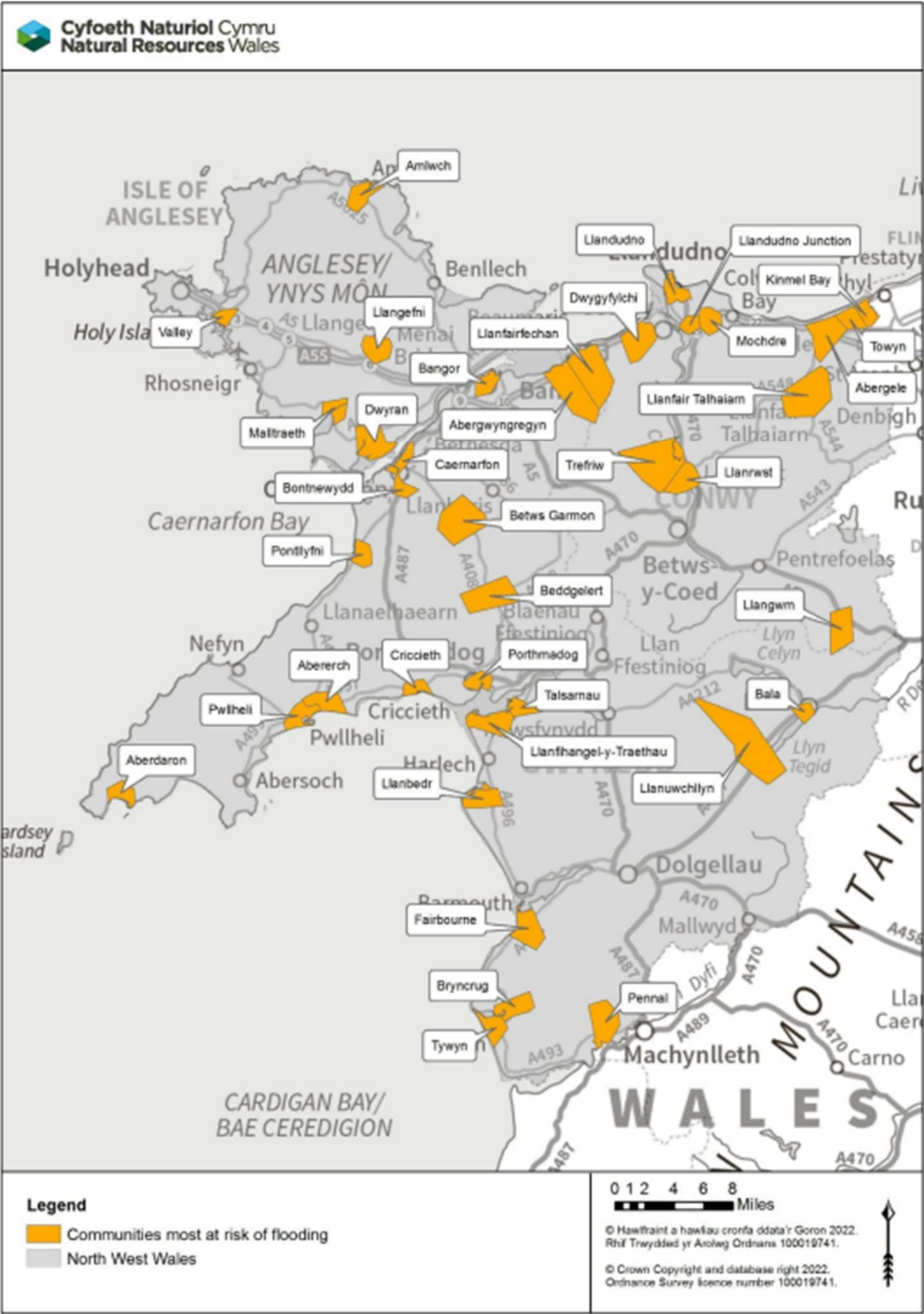
<sup>99</sup> Welsh Parliament (2022). Report on storm overflows in Wales. Available at: <https://senedd.wales/media/v4apg5wb/cr-ld15015-e.pdf> [Accessed 28/11/2025]

<sup>101</sup> Available at: [Natural Resources Wales Flood Risk Management Plan: North West Wales Place](#) [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

- 6.1.31 Through the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment stage associated with this FRMP communities were identified as “Flood Risk Areas”. The assessment undertaken to identify Flood Risk Areas across Wales was done using the undefended status of communities to create a platform for comparison. Figure B-6-6 shows the communities across North West Wales that are at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea as identified by the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) and where action is planned to manage the risk of flooding.

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Figure B-6-6: The communities across the North West Wales Place that are most at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea as identified by the CaRR



- 6.1.32 Flood risk across Eryri reflects its topography and extensive network of rivers. The majority of the NPA has been mapped as being at largely low risk of flooding from rivers, though with areas of medium and high fluvial flood risk confined to areas associated with major watercourses. Flood risk from the sea is high, though constrained to low-lying coastal and estuarine areas, and flood risk from surface water and small watercourses is more widely distributed throughout the NPA<sup>102</sup>.
- 6.1.33 The network of sea flood defences across the North West Wales help to reduce the risk to nearly 8,000 properties (residential and non-residential) in the 1 in 30-year scenario (3.3% annual exceedance probability) and over 11,000 properties in the 1 in 200-year scenario (2% annual exceedance probability). Further to this, the network of river flood defences help to reduce the risk to over 400 properties (residential and non-residential) in the 1 in 30-year scenario (3.3% annual exceedance probability) and over 700 properties in the 1 in 100-year scenario (1% annual exceedance probability). These properties are not removed from risk entirely by flood defences because flood defences do not completely stop the chance of flooding as they can be overtopped or fail, but the risk is significantly reduced.
- 6.1.34 Climate projections indicate that there will be an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, including storm events in the summer and prolonged wet periods during the winter period. This will increase peak flows in our rivers, which is expected to increase the risk of flash flooding events. Such flooding is very difficult to forecast and predict and can be very challenging to manage.
- 6.1.35 Flood risk and the need to manage and adapt to it is a very significant issue for Wales in the future as the risks brought about by climate change are anticipated to exacerbate flooding issues in the future. The most recent information for Wales from the UK Climate Projections (UKCP18)<sup>103</sup> forecasts that by the 2070s there will be an increase in winter mean precipitation of 19% under a low emission scenario, and 29% wetter under a high emission scenario. For summer rainfall change, it is predicted to get 39% drier under a low emission scenario and 56% drier under a high emission scenario. The combination of warmer summers and more intense rainfall may lead to an increased incidence of storm conditions and flash flooding. Severe weather events, including storms and flooding, took account for 6% of all rail delays in Wales in 2021<sup>104</sup>.
- 6.1.36 Across North West Wales, there are predicted to be nearly 18,000 properties at risk of flooding from the sea and over 11,000 properties at risk of flooding from rivers by 2120. This is an increase of nearly 4,500 properties at risk of flooding from the sea and an increase of over 2,000 properties at risk of flooding from rivers. This equates to an estimate of over 47,000 people at risk of flooding from the sea and nearly 29,000 people at risk of flooding from rivers by 2120. This is an additional 11,000 people at risk from flooding from the sea and an additional 6,000 people at risk from flooding from rivers from 2020.

## 6.2 Data Gaps

- Up-to-date Nitrate Vulnerable Zones
- Data in relation to current and future water resource availability.
- Data gaps relating to the demographics of households most likely to be affected by flooding.
- Eryri specific information surrounding Nutrient Neutrality and targets for SACs.

<sup>102</sup> NRW (no date) Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Maps. Available at: <https://flood-risk-maps.naturalresources.wales/?locale=en> [Accessed: 18/12/2025]

<sup>103</sup> Met Office (2021) UKCP18 key results. Available at: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp/key-results> [Accessed: 02.09.24]

<sup>104</sup> Welsh Government (2021) Llwybr Newydd A New Wales Transport Strategy Consultation Draft Supporting information Transport data and trends. Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2020-11/supporting-information-transport-data-and-trends.pdf> [Accessed: 02.09.24]



## 6.3 Key Issues and Opportunities

- The extensive coverage of carbon-rich peat and organic soils across Eryri presents a significant opportunity to enhance the Park's role in climate change mitigation and ecosystem resilience. Protecting and improving the condition of these soils through sustainable land management—such as reducing soil disturbance, maintaining vegetation cover, and promoting natural rewetting—can increase carbon sequestration, improve water regulation, and support biodiversity recovery.
- Much of Eryri's soil resource is composed of acidic, organic, and seasonally wet soils, including extensive blanket bog and upland peat deposits that are highly vulnerable to degradation through drainage, erosion, over-grazing, or disturbance from development. Degraded peatlands release stored carbon and contribute to poor water quality and habitat decline, representing a significant challenge for climate mitigation and soil conservation within the National Park.
- The quality of Wales's water catchments is still not up to Water Framework Directive requirements with more being identified as 'bad' quality in 2024 compared to 2021.
- Flood risk is a significant issue in North West Wales including coastal, fluvial and surface water flooding that may affect existing and future infrastructure. This is exacerbated by an increase in extreme weather events and this means that properties and businesses are increasingly becoming at risk.
- Climate change will affect the land, air, water and habitats across North West Wales through more extreme weather events, an increase in storminess, higher maximum and minimum temperatures, more severe droughts and exacerbated rates of coastal erosion. This is likely to lead to unprecedented change for the wellbeing of communities, flora and fauna, leading to the need for the LDP and Cynllun Eryri to include strategies for adaptation across all developments, land and services.
- Nutrient enrichment of freshwater and coastal waterbodies represents a growing issue across Wales, with over 60% of waterbodies failing to meet Water Framework Directive objectives. Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), new development must not contribute to further nutrient loading in failing catchments, which may constrain development in sensitive areas of Eryri where wastewater capacity, diffuse pollution, or agricultural runoff already place pressure on designated sites.
- The need to achieve nutrient neutrality presents an opportunity to improve water quality and ecosystem resilience across Eryri. Addressing nutrient pressures could contribute to the recovery of designated sites, support compliance with environmental legislation, and enable developments to proceed in a manner which avoids further deterioration of waterbodies and SACs.

## 7 Climate Change and Energy

### 7.1 Baseline Conditions

- 7.1.1 Eryri National Park is characterised by a cool, wet and Atlantic-influenced climate, with high rainfall, frequent wind and variable conditions especially in upland and coastal zones<sup>105</sup>. Like the rest of Wales, the Park is subject to projected climate change that is expected to bring warmer temperatures, wetter winters, drier summers, and more extreme weather including increased rainfall intensity, storm frequency, and rising sea levels<sup>106</sup>. These changes have the potential to impact biodiversity, water resources, landscape integrity, recreation/tourism, infrastructure, and land-based activities (agriculture, forestry), increasing vulnerability across multiple sectors<sup>107</sup>.

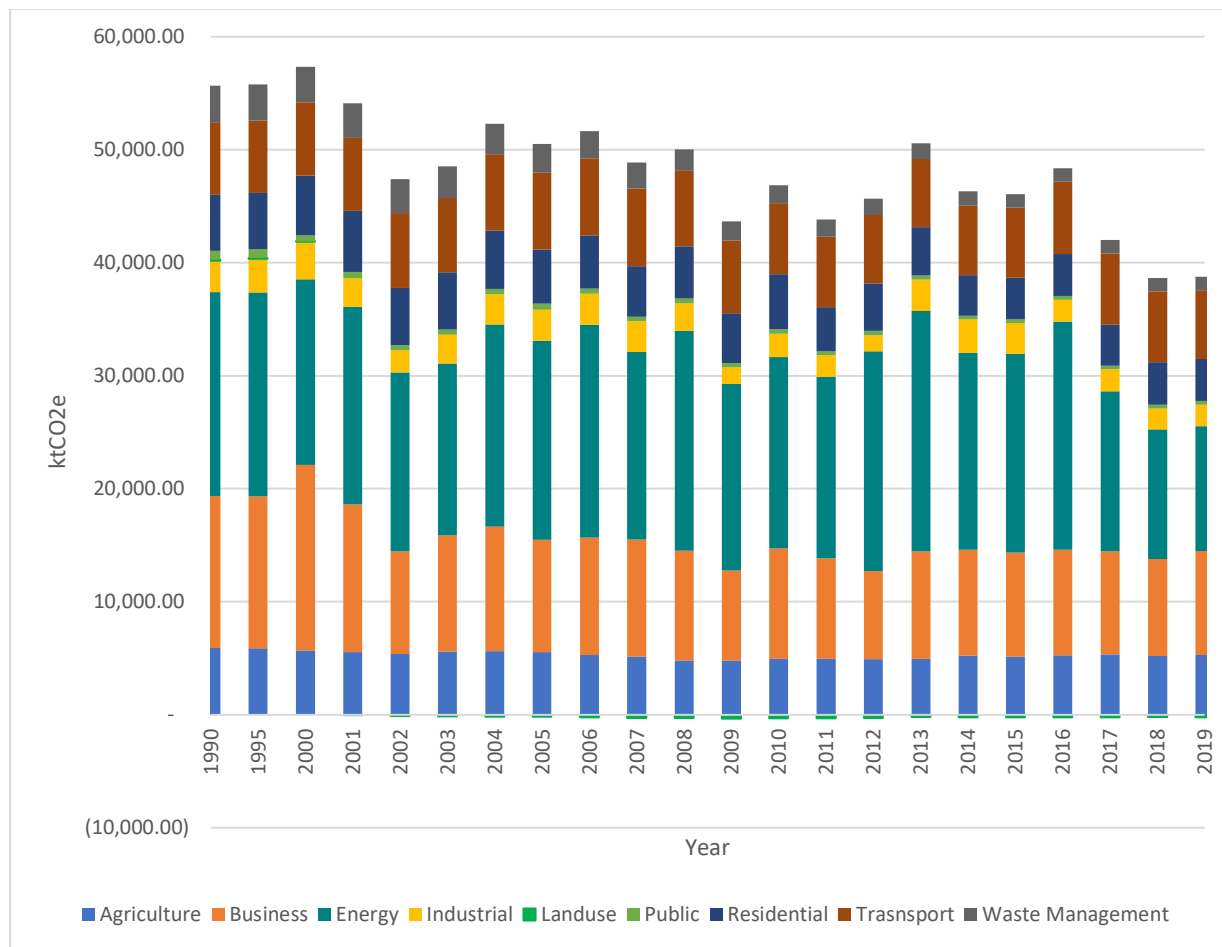
#### Emissions

- 7.1.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions in Wales in 2018 amounted to 38.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e). This translates to a 31% decrease on 1990 levels, although that figure has fluctuated over the period showing a gradual decreasing trend overall. These emission reductions are mainly due to efficiencies in energy generation and business sector heating, the use of natural gas to replace some coal and other fuels as well as abatement in some chemical industries, and variations in manufacturing output (e.g. in iron and steel, bulk chemical production).
- 7.1.3 Figure B-7-1 illustrates the split of emissions between different sources in Wales between 1990 and 2019. This shows that the largest contributor remains the energy supply industry. Since 1990, the sector that has decreased its proportion of emissions the most is the business sector.

<sup>105</sup> Weather Spark (2025) Weather in Snowdonia. Available at: [https://weatherspark.com/y/150339/Average-Weather-in-Snowdonia-United-Kingdom-Year-Round#google\\_vignette](https://weatherspark.com/y/150339/Average-Weather-in-Snowdonia-United-Kingdom-Year-Round#google_vignette) [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

<sup>106</sup> Welsh Government (no date) Climate Change. Available at: <https://eryri.gov.wales/protect/challenges/climate-change/> [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

<sup>107</sup> NRW (2024) Climate and environment emergency – adaptation and mitigation. Available at: [https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/what-we-do/strategies-plans-and-policies/area-statements/north-west-wales-area-statement/climate-and-environment-emergency-adaptation-and-mitigation/?lang=en&utm\\_](https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/what-we-do/strategies-plans-and-policies/area-statements/north-west-wales-area-statement/climate-and-environment-emergency-adaptation-and-mitigation/?lang=en&utm_) [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

Figure B-7-1: Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions per Sector in Wales (ktCO<sub>2</sub>e)

- 7.1.4 The Eryri NPA has undertaken an assessment of territorial greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within the National Park boundary, identifying total annual emissions of approximately 1.16 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e across all sectors. The principal sources of emissions are residential energy use (367,018 tCO<sub>2</sub>e), visitor activity within the National Park (213,597 tCO<sub>2</sub>e), and visitor travel to and from the National Park (278,915 tCO<sub>2</sub>e). In addition, industry accounts for 107,338 tCO<sub>2</sub>e and net land-use emissions (including both carbon sinks and emissions from land-use change) total approximately 190,331 tCO<sub>2</sub>e<sup>108</sup>.
- 7.1.5 On a per-capita basis, this equates to approximately 13.6 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per resident per year, and 17.3 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e per visitor-day. Emissions linked to travel represent a significant proportion of total output, reflecting the area's reliance on private vehicles and the dominance of road-based tourism. The Park's net land-use emissions indicate a mixed carbon balance, with upland peatlands and woodlands functioning as key carbon sinks, partially offsetting emissions from degraded soils and agricultural practices<sup>108</sup>.
- 7.1.6 The NPA has identified these emissions as the baseline for the Low Carbon Strategy 2024–2029<sup>109</sup>, which sets out a target pathway for achieving net-zero emissions by approximately 2039, requiring average annual reductions of 14.2% CO<sub>2</sub>e. Measures include improving energy efficiency in housing,

<sup>108</sup> Welsh Government (2024) Climate Change and Carbon. Available at: <https://data.eryri.gov.wales/park-authority/climate-change-and-carbon/> [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

<sup>109</sup> Eryri National Park Authority (2024) Eryri's Low Carbon Strategy 2024–2029. Available at: [Eryri-Carbon-Strategy-2024.pdf](#) [Accessed: 01/12/2025]



decarbonising transport infrastructure, enhancing renewable-energy generation, and restoring natural carbon sinks such as peatlands and woodlands<sup>110</sup>.

## Energy Consumption and Infrastructure

- 7.1.7 In 2021, Wales consumed a total of 85.5 TWh of energy, representing a 22% reduction in energy use since 2005. Between 2019 and 2020, energy use in Wales dropped by 8%, a significant decline linked to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, compared to an average annual decrease of 2% over the previous 16 years. However, energy consumption rose by 2% between 2020 and 2021<sup>111</sup>. Given the rurality of Eryri, residents use a higher % of fossil fuel-based, and therefore more carbon intensive energy sources than the metropolitan areas of Wales<sup>108</sup>. The annual emission from residents in Eryri from 2019 was 13.6tCO<sub>2</sub>e per capita per year and from visitors visiting the National Park was 17.3 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e per visitor-day.
- 7.1.8 Wales aims to generate the equivalent of 70% of its annual electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2030 and 100% by 2035<sup>111</sup>.
- 7.1.9 Estimated domestic and non-domestic gas consumption in Eryri totalled approximately 126 GWh in 2014, comprising 94.9 GWh from domestic users and 31.0 GWh from commercial and industrial users (see Table B-7-1). Over the same period, estimated electricity consumption within the NPA was approximately 116.6 GWh, with 51.3 GWh from domestic electricity use and 65.3 GWh from non-domestic users (see Table B-7-2). These figures exclude energy use associated with transport. Between 2010 and 2014, estimated gas consumption within the NPA decreased, with domestic gas use falling from 111.8 GWh and non-domestic gas use reducing from 39.9 GWh. Over the same time period, domestic electricity consumption also declined from 56.6 GWh, while non-domestic electricity consumption increased, rising from 56.4 GWh<sup>112</sup>.

Table B-7-1: Gas usage in Eryri

Year	Domestic Gas Customers		Commercial and Industrial Customers		Sales per Customers	
	Sales (GWh)	No. of Customers (Thousands)	Sales (GWh)	No. of Customers (Thousands)	Average Domestic Consumption (kWh)	Average C&I Consumption (kWh)
2010	111.8	8.1	39.9	0.1	3016.3	77672.4
2014	94.9	8.2	31.0	0.1	2518.3	66124.1

Table B-7-2: Electricity usage in Eryri

Year	Domestic Electricity Customers		Commercial and Industrial Customers		Sales per Customers	
	Sales (GWh)	MPANs (Thousands)	Sales (GWh)	MPANs (Thousands)	Average Domestic Consumption (kWh)	Average C&I Consumption (kWh)
2010	56.6	12.8	56.4	1.6	972.4	7717.9
2014	51.3	12.9	65.3	1.6	881.1	8795.0

<sup>110</sup> Welsh Government (2024) Eryri's low carbon strategy. Available at: <https://eryri.gov.wales/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Eryri-Carbon-Strategy-2024.pdf> [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

<sup>111</sup> Welsh Government (2024) Energy Use in Wales. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-10/energy-use-in-wales-report-2022.pdf> [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

<sup>112</sup> Snowdonia National Park (2017) Eryri Local Development Plan – Background Paper 5: Energy. [Not available online]

## Energy Infrastructure

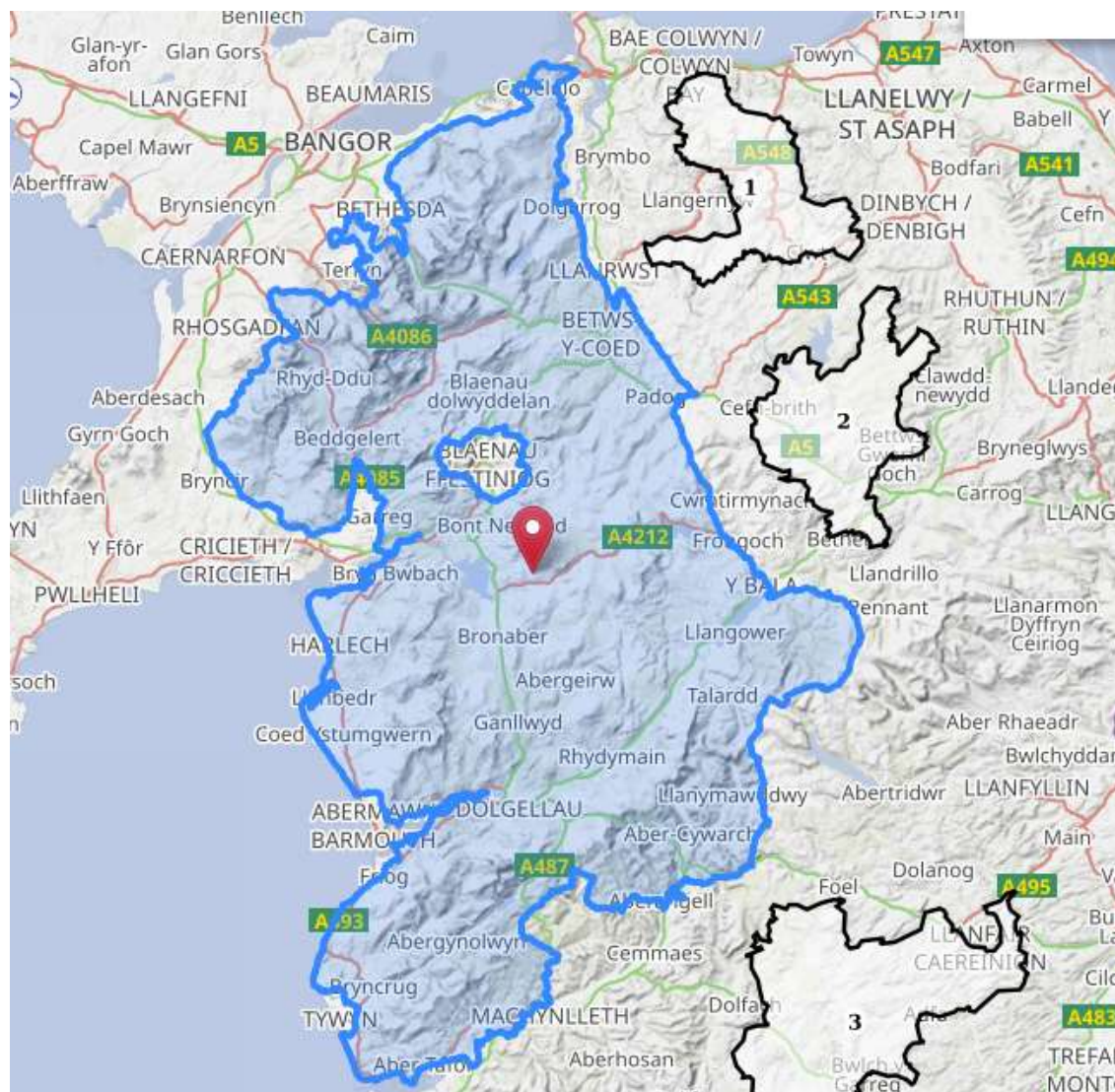
- 7.1.10 As of 2016, there were between 20 and 25 established hydro power stations, which are located in or using water from the Eryri National Park, alongside a number of micro-hydro schemes operating in the area. In 2016, hydro-electric schemes within the National Park generated 94.6 Megawatts (MW), with the potential to generate 289.7GWh/yr<sup>108</sup>.
- 7.1.11 Eryri NPA has a 28kW hydroelectric scheme at Plas Tan y Bwlch, producing 92,709 and 12,256 kWh in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 respectively. This scheme provides the majority of Plas Tan y Bwlch's electricity needs with the surplus being exported to the grid. In addition to this Eryri NPA Headquarters feature PV solar panels and charging facilities for an EV fleet of three vehicles<sup>108</sup>.
- 7.1.12 Future Wales: the national plan 2040<sup>113</sup> includes 'pre-assessed areas for wind energy', including two areas just outside of the National Park (see Figure B-7-2). Policy 17 states that "*Applications for large-scale wind and solar will not be permitted in National Parks*". However, there is the potential for effects from wind energy on the setting of the National Park, but also the potential need for energy transmission infrastructure within it, in order to transfer generated electricity across the country.
- 7.1.13 Energy infrastructure within and around Eryri National Park is predominantly small-scale and distribution-level in nature. Electricity infrastructure serving the area operates primarily through the local distribution network, with generation assets connected at sub-transmission and distribution scales. The area is also served by public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, with 29 public charging points recorded across Gwynedd. In addition, electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure is present within and adjacent to the NPA, supporting local demand and enabling the transfer of electricity generated elsewhere through the wider network<sup>114</sup>.

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<sup>113</sup> Welsh Government (2021) Future Wales: the national plan 2040. Available at: [Update to Future Wales - The National Plan 2040](#) [accessed 27/11/2025]

<sup>114</sup> Gwynedd Council (2024) Local Area Energy Plan. Available at: <https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=45671> [Accessed: 18/12/2025]

Figure B-7-2: Areas identified under Policy 17 of the Future Wales: the National Plan 2040



## The Impact of Climate Change

### Weather Patterns

- 7.1.14 Eryri has experienced changes to the climate evidenced by monitoring on Yr Wyddfa. Spring air temperatures have shown an upward trend whilst winters have become less severe. Soil and grass minimum temperatures have also both risen<sup>108</sup>.
- 7.1.15 Monitoring data from five weather stations across Eryri show measurable changes in local weather patterns between the periods 1961 to 1990 and 1991 to 2020. Across all stations, maximum air temperatures increased by between 0.69°C and 0.98°C, while minimum temperatures increased by up to 0.77°C, alongside a reduction in frost frequency where data is available. The largest recorded reduction in frost days (days where the minimum air temperature falls below 0°C) was at Capel Curig (-34.4 days per year), with further reductions observed in Llanfairfechan (-18.5 days), Bala, and Llanbedr<sup>115</sup>.

<sup>115</sup> Eryri National Park (2025) Climate Change Risk Assessment. [Not available online].

- 7.1.16 Changes in rainfall show spatial variation across the NPA, with annual rainfall increasing by up to 295mm at Capel Curig, while other stations recorded smaller increases or decreases in annual totals. These station based observations provide quantitative evidence of warming temperatures, fewer frost days, and changing rainfall patterns across Eryri<sup>115</sup>.

## Flooding

- 7.1.17 Climate change is causing sea levels to rise which contributes to the risk of flooding. See paragraphs 6.1.28 to 6.1.34 for further details on flood risk.

## Climate Adaptation

- 7.1.18 The Eryri Low Carbon Strategy 2024-2029 outlines a local response aligned with Welsh Government's Climate Emergency commitments and the national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2020). Adaptation priorities include increasing the resilience of habitats and ecosystems, safeguarding carbon-rich peat soils, restoring natural floodplains, and improving infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events<sup>110</sup>.
- 7.1.19 The Eryri National Park Partnership Plan includes the objective to ensure preparedness for the impacts of climate change and reduce the local carbon footprint, which is supported by actions such as developing baselines for emission monitoring, promoting building energy efficiency, expanding renewable energy generation, and supporting electric vehicle infrastructure<sup>116</sup>. Climate adaptation work also addresses the vulnerability of historic environments, upland habitats, and visitor infrastructure, while collaborative measures with Gwynedd and Conwy Councils aim to integrate climate adaptation into transport, land management, and tourism planning.

## 7.2 Data Gaps

- Flooding data specific to Eryri.
- Up-to-date quantitative data specific to Eryri for energy use.
- Up-to-date general information on energy infrastructure in Eryri.

## 7.3 Key Issues and Opportunities

- Projected warmer temperatures, wetter winters, and drier summers present a key issue for the National Park's ecosystems, infrastructure, and tourism economy. These changes are expected to increase the frequency of extreme weather events, flood risk, and soil erosion, all of which have direct implications for land management, resilience, and local development planning.
- With over 6,000 properties in Gwynedd identified as being at risk of flooding, rising sea levels and intense rainfall events present a key issue for development planning, emergency preparedness, and infrastructure resilience.
- The National Park's total annual emissions of 1.16 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, with a significant proportion from visitor travel. This represents a key issue for achieving national and local net-zero targets, whilst maintaining the natural character of the National Park.
- Due to its rural character and limited grid infrastructure, Eryri's communities have a higher dependence on fossil-fuel-based energy sources compared to urban Wales, presenting a key issue for decarbonisation and fuel poverty.

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<sup>116</sup> Cynllun Eryri (2020) The National Park Partnership Plan. Available at: <https://authority.eryri.gov.wales/the-authority/partnerships/cynllun-eryri/> [Accessed: 27/11/2025]

- Upland peatlands and woodlands function as critical carbon sinks, partially offsetting emissions from degraded soils and agricultural activity. This represents a key opportunity to expand nature-based solutions to strengthen natural carbon storage and resilience in line with the Low Carbon Strategy.
- There is an opportunity for the LDP to encourage new development plans in Eryri to embed adaptive design standards, promote sustainable infrastructure, and coordinate with neighbouring authorities and those within the National Park (Gwynedd and Conwy) on climate adaptation and flood risk management.
- Increasing visitor numbers, coupled with more frequent extreme weather, could create a key issue for maintaining active travel routes, heritage assets, and rural infrastructure. Targeted investment in climate-resilient visitor facilities and active travel network could offer a key opportunity to reduce emissions while enhancing accessibility and public safety. This could also reduce local transport emissions.

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## 8 Historic Environment

### 8.1 Baseline Conditions

#### World Heritage Sites

- 8.1.1 Within the Eryri National Park are the World Heritage Sites (WHSs) Castell Harlech (Harlech Castle) and the 2021 designation of the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales.

#### Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales

- 8.1.2 This WHS illustrates the transformation that industrial slate quarrying and mining brought about in the traditional rural environment of the mountains and valleys of the Snowdon massif. The territory, extending from mountain-top to sea-coast, presented opportunities and constraints that were used and challenged by the large-scale industrial processes undertaken by landowners and capital investors, which reshaped the agricultural landscape into an industrial centre for slate production during the Industrial Revolution (1780 to 1914). The WHS comprises relict quarries and mines, archaeological sites related to slate industrial processing, historical settlements, both living and relict, historic gardens and grand country houses, ports, harbours and quays, and railway and road systems illustrating the functional and social linkages of the relict slate industrial landscape. The WHS was internationally significant not only for the export of slates, but also for the export of technology and skilled workers from the 1780s to the early 20th century. It played a leading role in the field and constituted a model for other slate quarries in different parts of the world. It offers an important and remarkable example of interchange of materials, technology and human values.
- 8.1.3 The designation runs inside and outside of Eryri National Park's boundaries, and some key locations relative to the Eryri National Park include:
- Nantperis;
  - Cwmystradllyn and Cwm Pennant;
  - Ffestiniog, Dwyryd River and Ffestiniog Railway;
  - Bryneglwys Quarry, Abergynolwyn and Talyllyn Railway; and
  - Aberllefenni Quarry.

#### Harlech Castle

- 8.1.4 Harlech Castle falls within the UNESCO designation of the 'Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd'. The four castles of Beaumaris, Conwy, Caernarfon, Harlech and the attendant fortified towns at Conwy and Caernarfon in Gwynedd, North Wales, are the finest examples of late 13th century and early 14th century military architecture in Europe, as demonstrated through their completeness, pristine state, evidence for organized domestic space, and extraordinary repertory of their medieval architectural form. The castles as a stylistically coherent group are an example of medieval military architecture designed and directed by James of St George (c. 1230 to 1309), King Edward I of England's chief architect, and the greatest military architect of the age. The castles of Beaumaris and Harlech are unique artistic achievements for the way they combine characteristic 13th century double-wall structures with a central plan, and for the beauty of their proportions and masonry.

## Listed Buildings

- 8.1.5 There are 1,911 LBs across Eryri. Based on Cadw's 2022 assessment, there are 171 listed buildings 'at risk' in the National Park<sup>117</sup>. Of these, 61 have been classified as at 'extreme risk', three at 'serious risk', and the remaining 107 'at risk'. Between 2020 and 2023, four listed buildings at risk received grant support for capital improvements: Ty Uchaf (Llandderfel), Ty Cerrig (Rhydymain), Wern (Llanfrothen), and the Wilkins building in Dolgellau.

## Scheduled Monuments

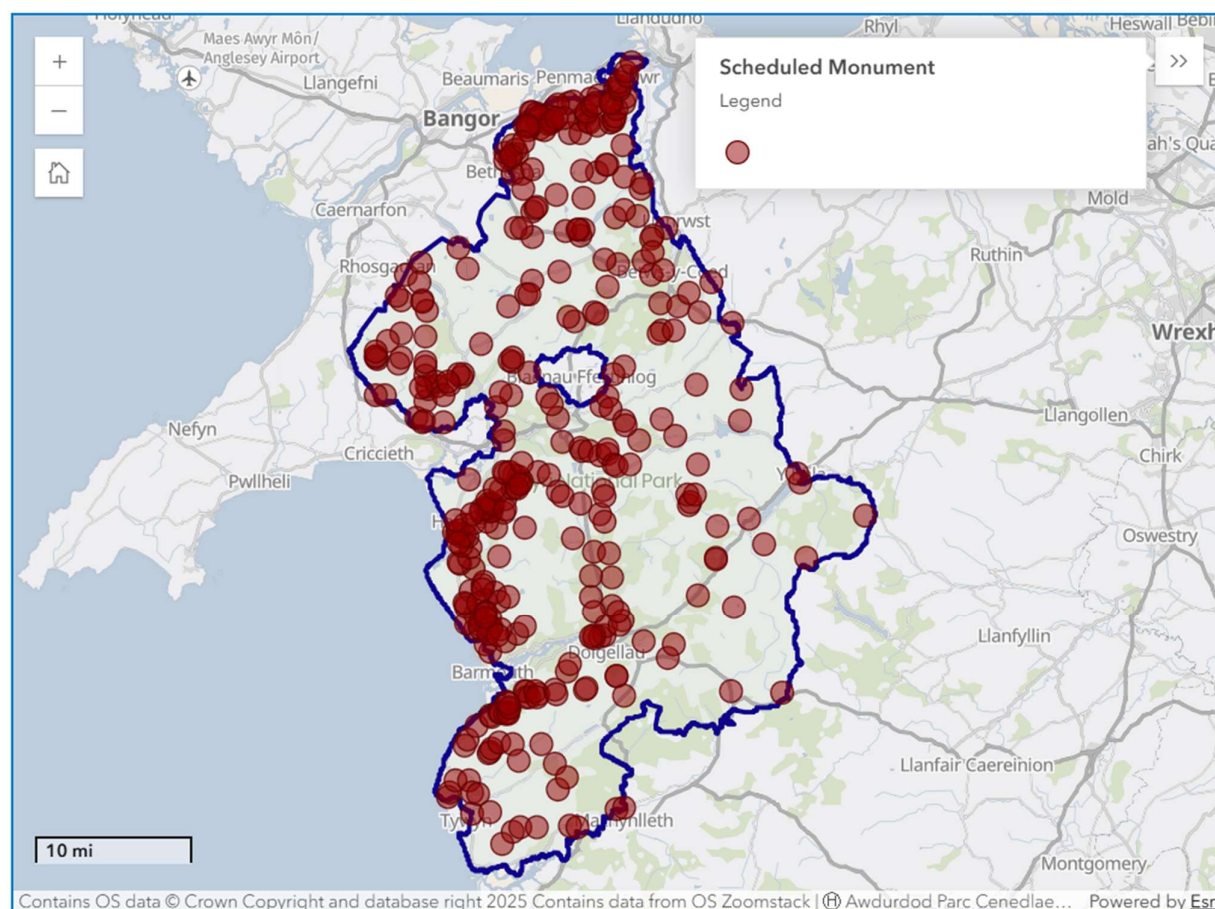
- 8.1.6 Scheduling is the process of giving legal protection to nationally important archaeological sites and monuments by including them on an official list (schedule). Cadw is responsible for scheduling and maintaining the list of scheduled monuments on behalf of the Welsh Government. Scheduled monuments include a wide range of archaeological sites, including some that do not have visible above-ground remains, as well as unoccupied historic structures.
- 8.1.7 There are 376 Scheduled Monuments across Eryri, covering an area of approximately 670 ha (see Figure B-8-1).
- 8.1.8 Whilst not all scheduled monuments in the National Park have had their condition assessed, over 97% that are considered to be in a 'stable' condition<sup>118</sup>. The deterioration of other sites is largely attributed to the natural decay, erosion by livestock, agricultural operations, visitors and overgrowth by vegetation.

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<sup>117</sup> Eryri National Park (2024) Historic Landscapes. Available at: <https://data.eryri.gov.wales/park-authority/historic-landscapes/> [Accessed: 06/01/2025]

<sup>118</sup> Eryri National Park (2025) State of the Park Report 2025 - Number and Condition of Schedule Monuments. Available at: [Historic Landscapes - Eryri State of the Park Report](#) [Accessed: 26/11/2025]

Figure B-8-1: Scheduled Monuments in Eryri



## Conservation Areas

8.1.9 A conservation area is defined as an area of “special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance” (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Planning Act 1990). The aim of designating conservation areas is to ensure that the character is not damaged, destroyed or undermined by inappropriate changes to the elements which shape the area. Within conservation areas it is not just the buildings which contribute to special character but also the materials used, history, architectural detailing, and hard and soft landscaping including trees<sup>117</sup>.

8.1.10 There are 14 designated Conservation Areas within Eryri National Park, these are:

- Aberdyfi
- Abergwyngregyn
- Y Bala
- Beddgelert
- Betws y Coed
- Cymer Abbey (Llanelltyd)
- Dolbenmaen
- Dolgellau
- Harlech
- Llanllechid



- Maentwrog
- Nantmor
- Nant Peris
- Pandy'r Odyn

8.1.11 The NPA has worked with local communities and interest groups between 2021 and 2023 to develop Appraisals and Management Plans for each Conservation Area. These plans will serve as a statement of significance and action plans to sustainably conserve and enhance the Conservation Areas, with a particular emphasis on making them more energy efficient.

## Historic Parks and Gardens

8.1.12 The Statutory Register of Parks and Gardens in Wales of Special Historic Interest came into force on 1 February 2022<sup>119</sup>. This followed the passing of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 when Wales became the first nation in the UK to recognise that historic parks and gardens should be protected in the same way as listed buildings and scheduled monuments. There are 22 Historic Parks and Gardens within Eryri, covering approximately 1,388 ha.

### The Carneddau

8.1.13 Many of Eryri's high summits are capped by great stone cairns, ceremonial and burial mounds, built around 4,500 years ago. The mountainous uplands of northern Eryri even take their name from them; Carneddau means cairns. The Carneddau includes two of Wales's five 1,000m peaks. Its lower slopes have a varied landscape of traditional 'ffridd' pasture, woodland, heath and lowland grassland. Changing climate and land management are impacting on fragile relict landscapes and biodiversity. Traditional knowledge about the landscape is at risk because it is not being recorded. With support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund a partnership of organisations is running a scheme to help people discover, record, celebrate and care for the cultural and natural heritage of the Carneddau<sup>119</sup>.

## 8.2 Data Gaps

- Up-to-date data on the condition of the Scheduled Monuments after 2003.
- Up-to-date data on the risk status of Listed Buildings.
- Number of heritage assets at risk.
- Further information on condition of the Historic Parks and Gardens within Eryri.

## 8.3 Key Issues and Opportunities

- Two of the major challenges facing our Conservation Areas today are the climate change emergency and the lack of understanding of the function and significance of the buildings within these designated areas.
- Eryri's rich historic environment represents a significant cultural and economic asset. This distinct heritage defines local identity and contributes to the character of settlements across the region. The need to balance protection of this heritage with future growth presents a key issue for the LDP, as new developments must respond sensitively to Eryri's unique historic and cultural environment.

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<sup>119</sup> Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (2022) The Register of Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales. Available at: [RCAHMW | The Register of Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales](#) [Accessed: 28/11/2025]

- Design informed by heritage context is a key opportunity to achieve sustainable and resilient development. Drawing on local character and construction traditions can guide design that responds to setting, orientation, and materials while also delivering environmental benefits.
- The LDP and Cynllun Eryri should seek to reduce the effects of the climate change emergency to protect existing heritage assets.

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