

## Section 10.4 community appendix

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Biosffer Dyfi Biosphere; Appendix M

### Additional description of communities

The Dyfi Biosphere lies within the administrative boundaries of three local Authorities – **Ceredigion**, **Gwynedd** and **Powys** and includes part of the **Snowdonia National Park Authority** area.

The Biosphere area is very diverse, varying between traditional agricultural areas and those affected by tourism; between traditional rural communities and those communities that have seen rapid growth in the past 50 or so years.

#### 1 Ceredigion

The southern section of the Dyfi Biosphere lies within the administrative county of **Ceredigion**, which has been a recognised unit since the fifth century. The County (formerly known as Cardiganshire) was formed by the 1536 Act. From 1974 to 1996 the historical name Ceredigion was adopted by the District Council and then the by County Council, the new unitary authority in 1996. It covers an area of 180,500 hectares (696 square miles) and has a population of 78,000.

The coastal county situated in the centre of Cardigan Bay/Bae Ceredigion stretches from Eglwys-fach in the north to Cardigan in the south, and its main towns are Aberystwyth, Aberaeron, Lampeter, Tregaron, Llandysul and Cardigan.

The main Council offices are shared between Aberystwyth and Aberaeron but there are local offices in all the main towns.

Of the resident population, 59% are Welsh speakers according to the 1991 census. Two Universities are located in the County, one in Aberystwyth and the other in Lampeter.

The county has a college of Further Education and a system of bilingual education is offered in the county's schools.

There are three art centres in the county in Aberystwyth, Felin-fach and Cardigan, and Aberystwyth is the home of the National Library of Wales, the Welsh Books Council and Urdd Gobaith Cymru. Indeed, Aberystwyth in particular and the county in general is an important cultural and academic centre; it is one of the strongholds of the Welsh language and is crucial to the growth and prosperity of the language in Wales.

##### 1.1 - Aberystwyth

Although not lying immediately within the Dyfi river catchment, the influence of Aberystwyth on the Biosphere cannot be dismissed; it is an established commercial and administrative centre and a tourism destination in its own right. It has a resident population of some 12,000 swelled by an international student population of approximately 8,000. It has a well-respected research facility at Aberystwyth University. More importantly, it is only some 15 minutes by car to the beach at Borth and the core of the Biosphere.

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Employment is predominantly public sector and education, closely followed by the wholesale, retail and repairs sector. Tourism plays a very important part in the town's economy.

The resident student population somewhat skews the figures obtained by census for the knowledge of Welsh language indicating that only 26% of the resident population can speak, read and write in Welsh whereas over 58% are reported to have no knowledge of the Welsh language. In reality the percentages of indigenous resident population speaking, reading and writing Welsh would be higher.

Having stated that the student population can skew the results, the census figures show that 55% of the population are born in Wales and 40% born in the rest of the UK. 2.12% of the population is of West and East European birth, 0.61% of African birth and 0.98% of Asian birth.

It is a popular destination for day-trippers from England and Wales and is on the itinerary of many coach tour operators. The Aberystwyth area has some 14,000 visitor bedspaces spread across the Serviced, Self-catering and Caravan/Camping sectors.

The town was established over seven hundred years ago by virtue of a charter awarded by King Edward I. Neighbouring Llanbadarn Fawr however, is a much older settlement whose history is more based upon native Welsh culture and from which the later settlement of Aberystwyth developed.

Proving Aberystwyth's important strategic position is a history of fortifications. The imposing Iron-age hill fort at Pen Dinas to the south being among the earliest, the later Norman castle was built by invading forces to the south of the site of the existing castle ruins. The original fortifications would probably have been much nearer to the mouth of the river.

The later castle was first built during the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and along with the other large castle of Ceredigion (in the southern town of Cardigan/Aberteifi) remained as a stronghold until the English Civil war in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Aberystwyth Castle latterly housed a mint for the locally mined silver and was under Royalist control until besieged and then partially destroyed by the Parliamentarian forces.

Aberystwyth developed relatively recently as a sea port: Cardigan was well established as a major UK seaport when, during the 1500's, Aberystwyth was described as "a barred haven of no value". The Northern part of Ceredigion was at that time served by the port of Aberdyfi, which was the location for the region's Custom House and by the smaller fishing port at Borth on the other side of the Dyfi, which was at this time a navigable river some way inland. During the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century however the customs house moved to Aberystwyth reflecting the growing importance of Aberystwyth as a seaport. Much improved during the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> centuries Aberystwyth became a busy shipbuilding and sea freight port, shipping lead and silver ores to south Wales for smelting and importing building materials such as timber from the Baltic, Scandinavia and Canada. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century Aberystwyth port took on a new role as the departure point for emigration to the new world.

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The arrival of the railway in 1864 saw the beginnings of new growth for the town as tourism began to develop. Easier access to the coast for residents of the industrial regions of South Wales and the Midlands of England brought new economic prosperity to the town.

Although its origins stemmed from intent to subdue the Welsh people, Aberystwyth became the home of some of the most important institutions for and of Wales. The very first college of the University of Wales was established at Aberystwyth as was the very first Welsh medium Primary School. The recently independent University of Aberystwyth now encompasses the College of Librarianship Wales and the Institute for Rural Sciences.

Aberystwyth also houses the National Library of Wales - where many of the greatest literary treasures of Wales and the other Celtic countries are securely stored, including the illuminated "Black Book of Carmarthen", the oldest surviving manuscript written in the Welsh language. During the Second World War some of Britain's most precious treasures were stored underground in the National Library's vaults.

It has a well-respected research facility at Aberystwyth University with a vast and culturally diverse international resident student population. The Institute for Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) is situated on the outskirts of the town. IGER is known throughout the world for its scientific contribution to forage-related plant breeding, plant biology and genetics, animal science and nutrition, organic dairying, soil science and agro-ecology.

Many other of Wales's national institutions and leading organizations are based at Aberystwyth, including:

The Welsh League of Youth	The Centre for Performance Research
The Farmers' Union of Wales	The Centre for Advanced Welsh & Celtic Studies
The Union of Welsh Teachers	The Association of Learners of Welsh
The Welsh Language Society	Menter a Busnes (Enterprise & Business)
The Welsh Books Council	The Welsh Pony and Cob Society
The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales	

### **1.2 - Borth Ward**

The Borth ward covers some 2549 Hectares and includes the settlements of Y Borth, Upper Borth, Llandre, Dol-y-bont, and Ynyslas – where the core area of the Biosphere lies.

Borth ward has a resident population of 2258 people and 972 households with a population density of 0.89 (persons per Hectare). Employment is predominantly public sector and education, closely followed by the wholesale, retail and repairs sector. Although not reflected in the statistics, tourism plays an important role in the ward's economy.

45% of the population (over the age of 3) are reported as either speaking, reading or writing in the Welsh language and 47% are reported as having no knowledge of the Welsh language.

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51% of the population are born in Wales and 47% born in the rest of the UK. 1% of the population are of West and East European birth and 0.66% are of Asian birth.

Borth, Ynyslas and Clarach are very popular destinations for touring caravan owners and campers. Some of Wales' highest graded caravan and camping sites are to be found in the vicinity.

### Approximated Social Grade – Borth Ward

Approximated Social Grade – Borth Ward	Persons
All People Aged 16 and over in Households	1,810
AB: Higher and intermediate managerial / administrative / professional	336
C1: Supervisory, clerical, junior managerial / administrative / professional	691
C2: Skilled manual workers	271
D: Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers	247
E: On state benefit, unemployed, lowest grade workers	265

### Industry of Employment – Borth Ward

Industry of Employment – Borth Ward	Persons
<b>All People</b>	937
A. Agriculture, hunting and forestry	49
B. Fishing	0
C. Mining and quarrying	3
D. Manufacturing	52
E. Electricity, gas and water supply	6
F. Construction	68
G. Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	129
H. Hotels and restaurants	108
I. Transport, storage and communications	31
J. Financial intermediation	9
K. Real estate, renting and business activities	88
L. Public administration and defence, social security	55
M. Education	146
N. Health and social work	118
O. Other community, social and personal service activities	75
P. Private households with employed persons	0
Q. Extra-territorial organisations and bodies	0

### **Communities within the Borth ward**

#### **Y Borth**

Borth is a large coastal village of around 600 dwellings and a population of 1200 (1991). The town is located some 11.3 km (7 miles) north of Aberystwyth on the B4353 and B4575.

Borth has a very prominent setting situated upon a shingle spit and cliffs at the southwest corner of Borth Bog (Cors Fochno).

This position leaves it open to threat of flooding – not only from the sea but the Afon Leri river behind the village and this is a matter of concern to residents.

Borth sea front is a massive sea defence structure, which is struggling to effectively carry out its role. Plans are underway to improve the sea defences and investigations are on-going into the installation of an artificial reef.

The old fishing hamlet of Borth boasts one of Ceredigion's longest and most golden of beaches - stretching to the Dyfi National Nature Reserve with its impressive sand dune system.

A Welsh legend tells of a long ago time before an area of Wales - called Cantre'r Gwaelod - had disappeared under the waters of Cardigan Bay. Just like parts of the Netherlands, Cantre'r Gwaelod was protected from being swamped by the ocean waters via a series of dykes and dams. One night, a feast was held at Cantre'r Gwaelod and Seithennyn, the man entrusted with the job of staying sober to staff the watchtower that night, let his compatriots down to the effect that the sea breached the defences and the land of Cantre'r Gwaelod was completely drowned. Only a legend? Well, at particular times of year the tides on Borth's beach reveal the stumps and trunks of old, old forests long hidden under the golden sands....

Besides listening to a wealth of local legends, there are plenty of things to see and do within Borth and in the surrounding area.

Borth's economy is underpinned to a large extent by the tourist industry - the main asset is the award-winning 6.4 km (4 mile) long golden sandy beach stretches from the cliffs at upper Borth to the mouth of the River Dyfi at Ynyslas. The town attracts visitors from many parts of the UK, especially the Midlands and North West. The majority of these visitors are accommodated in Borth's static caravan parks, which contain over 6,000 bedspaces.

The demand on the natural resource can lead to conflict amongst users. The long beach and prevailing winds satisfy the requirements for the growing interest in land and water-based wind-powered sports such as land yachting and kite surfing. Easy access to the water has led to concern over the use of Personal Water Craft (PWC's or jet ski's) and similar craft. These activities can bring considerable economic input to the

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area but need active management to avoid conflict with the more traditional uses of the beach and sea.

Borth possesses a good range of services and facilities – a railway station (The Aberystwyth - Shrewsbury railway line runs to the east of Borth) being of great benefit to the village, a Youth Hostel, a primary school, doctor's surgery and four places of worship, a large playing field and a golf club are also present.

Many of Borth's services and facilities are highly seasonal in nature, catering mainly for the tourist market. Out of season, an adequate range of shops, public houses and garages remain open to cater for the resident population.

The built environment also makes a significant contribution to the character of the town but in places Borth has a slightly run down image. Although substantial improvements have been made to parts of the town, other parts of the town would benefit from environmental improvements.

Residents consider Borth to be a unique vibrant cosmopolitan community. The attributes that people consider make Borth special are the beach, the sand dunes, the cliffs, the golf course and to a lesser extent the bog. Socially it's the people, the hall, the pubs, the carnival, and the vibrancy of local clubs and voluntary organisations like the Lifeboat that make Borth special.

Due to the relatively large resident population and its proximity to Aberystwyth, Borth will continue to be the focus for some residential development though this should not be at the same rate as the previous 15 years.

### **Ynys Las**

Ynyslas village is situated 1.6 km (1 mile) north of Borth between the golf links and Borth Bog, and as such is the nearest community to the core area of the Biosphere

Ynyslas possesses a high quality natural environment. To the north and east of the village the Dyfi Estuary and Borth Bog have been designated as a National Nature Reserve known as the Dyfi a Cors Fochno NNR. The sand dunes and beach, which are part of this reserve, are managed by the Countryside Council for Wales, who have built an interpretation centre in the dunes to inform people about this unique natural attraction. The Dyfi Estuary has also been designated as a "Wetland of International Importance" under the RAMSAR convention. To the south of the village a site of Special Scientific Interest, the Hen Afon Leri SSSI is located.

Housing development has occurred in a linear fashion with a string of detached houses, bungalows and chalets running due north south. Some of these dwellings are only used seasonally as holiday homes. Close to the village there are two large caravan parks. In addition to these permanent sites there are sites for touring caravans and tents.

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Ynyslas has few facilities and services. Some facilities are available at the golf club and nearby caravan sites. Only part of the village is connected to mains drainage.

Like Borth, areas within the settlement may be liable to flooding.

### **Llandre**

Llandre is a linear settlement of approximately 170 dwellings situated 6.5 km (4 miles) north of Aberystwyth on the B4353 Borth Road.

The village originally developed in the vicinity of St Michael's church to the west of the Aberystwyth- Shrewsbury railway line. The bulk of the village is however now located to the east of the railway line and takes the form of a linear development along the Borth road and Lon-Glanfred where most recent development has occurred.

Two ancient monuments are situated near the village, Castell Gwallter to the west and Caer Pwll Glas to the east.

Llandre possesses few facilities for a village of its size. The shop has recently closed and it is left with two places of worship, a nursery school, children's playground and tennis courts. However, Rhydypennau school and garage are very close to the eastern end of the village and these facilities serve both the communities of Llandre and Bow Street. Likewise there is a pub at Rhydypennau and a hotel at Llety Ceiro that serve both settlements.

### **Dôl-y-bont**

Dolybont is an attractive, small village of some 35 dwellings located on the edge of the Ceredigion Coastal Special landscape Area, just off the B4354 road, 9.7 km (6 miles) to the north of Aberystwyth.

The village occupies both banks of the River Leri in a relatively steeply sided valley. The village has taken a linear form with its north and south banks connected by Dol-y-bont Bridge, a hump back bridge of eighteenth century origin and a listed building. The village is a mix of traditional and newer dwellings with new development having infilled the gaps between the older dwellings and that occurring on the extremities. Facilities and services available in Dolybont are restricted to a place of worship and a small caravan park. Residents of the community would like to see a play area installed for children within the village.

Some areas within the settlement are liable to flooding.

### **1.3 - Ceulanamaesmawr Ward**

The Ceulanamaesmawr ward is the northernmost ward of the county and covers some 13,638 Hectares and includes the settlements of **Eglwys Fach, Furnace, Tre'r ddol, Tre Taliesin, Talybont and Bontgoch.**

Ceulanamaesmawr ward has a resident population of 1917 people and 820 households with a very low population density of 0.14 (persons per Hectare).

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Employment is predominantly public sector and education, closely followed by the wholesale, retail and repairs sector.

65% of the population (over the age of 3) are reported as either speaking, reading or writing in the Welsh language and 35% are reported as having no knowledge of the Welsh language.

58% of the population are born in Wales and 39% born in the rest of the UK. 1.25% of the population are of West and East European birth and 0.94% of Asian birth.

Approximated Social Grade		Ceulanamaesmawr (Persons)
	All People Aged 16 and over in Households	1,545
AB	Higher and intermediate managerial, administrative, professional	406
C1	Supervisory, clerical, junior managerial, administrative, professional	458
C2	Skilled manual workers	260
D	Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers	213
E	On state benefit, unemployed, lowest grade workers	208

### Industry of Employment

Industry of Employment	Ceulanamaesmawr (Persons)
All People	898
A. Agriculture, hunting and forestry	70
B. Fishing	0
	0
D. Manufacturing	59
E. Electricity, gas and water supply	3
F. Construction	82
G. Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	102
H. Hotels and restaurants	55
I. Transport, storage and communications	39
J. Financial intermediation	8
K. Real estate, renting and business activities	92
L. Public administration and defence, social security	52
M. Education	150
N. Health and social work	121
O. Other community, social and personal service activities	65
P. Private households with employed persons	0
Q. Extra-territorial organisations and bodies	0

### **Communities within the Ceulanamaesmawr Ward**

#### **Bont-goch**

Bont-goch is a small linear settlement of approximately 20 dwellings, which lies 19.3 km (12 miles) north east of Aberystwyth.

Bont-goch is a small rural community lying in an extremely attractive area. It has practically no services and is dependant on people getting in their cars even for the smallest of requirements. The road network serving the village is also poor as only minor roads reach the village from Talybont, Bow Street and Penrhyncoch.

Bont-goch occupies part of the Upper Leri Valley lying in an open dramatic landscape situated on the western border of the Upland Special landscape Area.

A wind farm occupies the hillcrest of Mynnydd Gorddu to the southwest and a Water treatment works lies on the edge of the settlement.

Apart from St Peter's Church, which is grade II Listed Building, and a part time post office there are no facilities in Bont-goch. There is no bus service.

#### **Talybont**

Talybont is a large village of around 310 houses situated 11.3 km (7 miles) north of Aberystwyth on the A487(T).

The village is located at the confluence of three valleys, Cwm Leri, Cwm Ceulan and Cwm Slaid. Tal-y-bont was a centre for mining and a woollen mill was in operation until recent times. In 1897, a steam railway, the Hafren Tramway ran up the Leri and Cyneiniog Valleys.

The oldest parts of the village are located at Penlôn and around Talybont Bridge, the buildings in these two areas date from the eighteenth century and there are 10 listed buildings in Talybont.

New development has occurred to the north of the village and along the minor road from the school towards Bontgoch and at Plas Penpompren. The new development skirts the river meadows of the Leri attractively creating a large green wedge in the centre of the village.

Talybont possesses a relatively wide range of services and facilities. There is a primary school, village hall and two places of worship. There is also a post office, two public houses, a garage and a printing establishment.

The community has identified a need for a local employment site and to protect the future of Welshness in the village and the future for the community.

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Talybont's relative proximity to Aberystwyth, its popularity as a place to live and its level of facilities render it suitable for further growth. However, Talybont and its surrounding hinterland is predominantly Welsh speaking and the emphasis on future development should be on meeting the needs of the local community and nurturing the Welsh language.

Talybont has tourism potential and the architectural qualities and character of the community merits conservation area designation. The surrounding landscape is very attractive. The Borth to Devil's Bridge long distance footpath (formerly the "Mal Evans Way") is a signposted route that passes through the village.

### **Furnace**

Furnace is a small attractive village of around 25 dwellings located in the Dyfi valley, 19.3 km (12 miles) north of Aberystwyth and 9.7 km (6 miles) south of Machynlleth. It is located on the A487(T) at the foot of the Cambrian Mountains at the point where the escarpment is broken by Cwm Einion. Here the River Einion descends swiftly, creating a cascading waterfall.

In the past its force was harnessed to drive the water wheel that powered the iron works, which gave Furnace its name. Today the forge is an Ancient Monument restored and protected by Cadw and a tourist attraction open to the public. Across the road is the car park for the Furnace and the entrance to the RSPB Ynys Hir Nature Reserve. To the west the village has good views over the Dyfi and Cors Fochno National Nature Reserve and Ynys Eidiol – Ynys–Hir Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Approximately 0.8 km (0.5 mile) south west of the village at Coed y Garth a further 15 houses are situated in a woodland setting. These houses built since the 1950's are sited on large plots scattered through the woodland and are hardly visible for the main road. Services include a garage and store.

### **Eglwys-fach**

Eglwys Fach is an attractive small village of around 30 dwellings located in the Dyfi valley, 19.2 km (12 miles) north of Aberystwyth and 9.6 km (6 miles) south of Machynlleth.

It straggles the A487(T) at the foot of the steeply wooded slopes of Foel Fach. To the west the village has good views of the Dyfi National Nature Reserve and Ynys Eidiol – Ynys–Hir Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The RSPB Reserve lies just to the west of the village.

The only facilities in Eglwys Fach are St Michael's Church, which is a grade II, listed building, the church hall and a restaurant and Hotel approximately 0.8 km (0.5 a mile) to the west of the village.

### **Tre'r ddol**

Tre'r-ddol is a small village of around 50 dwellings situated at the junction of the A487(T) and the B4353 Ynyslas Road 16 km (10 miles) north of Aberystwyth. The majority of the village is situated to the east of the present line of the A487 (T) and is not visible from the main road. Formerly the road passed through the centre of the

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village. The oldest parts of the village are located near Pont Tre'rddol, which is very attractive and relatively traffic free. A small Council estate has been built on the western side of the trunk road. To the east of the village lies the Coed Cwm Clettwr Site of Special Scientific Interest, while to the west the Dyfi and Cors Focho National Nature Reserve is situated. Services and facilities available in Tre'r-ddol include a place of worship, garage, cafe and shop and public house. The village is on a daily bus route. The village would look to nearby Taliesin for its local school.

### **1.4 - Tirymynach Ward**

The Tirymynach Ward is a small ward of 1453 hectares that makes up the southernmost edge of the Biosphere transitional zone.

Tirymynach ward has a population of 1888 in 782 dwellings and has a population density of 1.30. Employment is predominantly public sector and education, closely followed by the wholesale, retail and repairs sector.

51% of the population (over the age of 3) are reported as either speaking, reading or writing in the Welsh language and 30% are reported as having no knowledge of the Welsh language.

67% of the population are born in Wales and 30% born in the rest of the UK. 0.6% of the population are of West and East European birth and 1.3% are of Asian birth.

<b>Approximated Social Grade</b>	<b>Tirymynach (Persons)</b>	<b>%</b>
All People Aged 16 and over in Households	1,423	
AB: Higher and intermediate managerial, administrative, professional	405	28.46
C1: Supervisory, clerical, junior managerial, administrative, professional	454	31.90
C2: Skilled manual workers	187	13.14
D: Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers	207	14.55
E: On state benefit, unemployed, lowest grade workers	170	11.95

<b>Industry of Employment</b>	<b>Tirymynach (Persons)</b>	<b>%</b>
All People	869	
A. Agriculture, hunting and forestry	32	3.68
B. Fishing	0	-
C. Mining and quarrying	3	
D. Manufacturing	50	5.75
E. Electricity, gas and water supply	6	
F. Construction	61	7.02
G. Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	121	13.92
H. Hotels and restaurants	63	7.25
I. Transport, storage and communications	36	4.14

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Industry of Employment	Tirymynach (Persons)	%
J. Financial intermediation	22	2.53
K. Real estate, renting and business activities	68	7.83
L. Public administration and defence, social security	64	7.36
M. Education	153	17.61
N. Health and social work	131	15.07
O. Other community, social and personal service activities	59	6.79
P. Private households with employed persons	0	-
Q. Extra-territorial organisations and bodies	0	-

### Communities within the Tirymynach Ward

#### **Bow Street**

Bow Street is situated 4.8 km (3 miles) north of Aberystwyth on the A487(T). By Ceredigion standards Bow Street is a large village with just under 600 dwellings. The village has developed in a linear form and lacks a well-defined centre. The vast majority of Bow Street's housing stock is of post-war construction. Three large housing estates Bryncastell, Maesafallen and Maesceiro have been constructed. There are also two council estates, Tregerddan and Caerfelin. More recently a housing association estate has been completed.

The garage and public house at the junction with the road to Borth is known as Rhydypennau and it has generally been accepted that Rhydypennau should remain as a distinct cluster from Bow Street.

Bow Street has access to a relatively wide range of services and facilities with shops, garage, public houses, 2 chapels, nearby churches, doctor's surgery, old people's home and sheltered housing complex, village hall, recreational land and employment sites. Bow Street is well served by buses.

Residents believe that more use could be made of public transport, cycling and car sharing as most residents commute to Aberystwyth to work. Bow Street is well served by buses and the railway

#### **Llangorwen**

Llangorwen is a small village of 55 dwellings located 3.2 km (2 miles) north of Aberystwyth in the Clarach Valley.

The village has developed around the cross roads between the B4572 Aberystwyth – Borth road and the local road between Bow Street and Clarach and is visually important as the gateway to the holiday parks at Clarach.

The oldest part of the village is located around the bridge and the church with newer development located at the crossroads and along the minor road to Bow Street. Clarach Beach, a mile to the west, is a popular holiday resort with a number of large caravan sites.

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Llangorwen has few facilities; there is only one place of worship and a church hall. A bus service only operates in the summer months. A large Sunday market is located on the outskirts of the village during the summer. Nantllan Yard to the west provides some additional local employment opportunity.

The community are keen that the provision of recreational space and footpath and cycleway links within the village should be an integral part of the overall design of any new schemes, and that the integrity of the oldest part of the village, around the church, and its setting should be retained.

## **2 - Powys**

Powys is an extensive, largely upland and extremely rural county covering 2000 square miles, that is about a quarter of the area of Wales. With only 1 person in every 10 acres (4 hectares) it is one of the most sparsely populated local authority areas in England and Wales.

The county has tremendous landscape assets, from the dramatic mountains of the Brecon Beacons National Park and the rolling hills of Radnor Forest to the Berwyn Mountains in the north, and some of Britain's most spectacular river valleys - the Severn, Wye and Usk - sweeping through its glorious scenery.

The economy is based on agriculture and tourism, with high self-employment and small businesses predominating, and an important contribution to employment opportunities from the public sector.

### **2.1 - Machynlleth**

Machynlleth is the largest settlement in the west of Powys, and the nearest one to the sea. Standing beside the River Dyfi halfway between hills and the estuary on the river's flood plain, the town's population of 2000+ is bilingual and independent. At the crossroads within the town's Conservation Area, the exuberantly carved Clock Tower dominates what is in architectural style essentially a Victorian town, while to the east is the former mansion of the Londonderry family's Plas Machynlleth. The long-established tradition of street fairs continues, held mainly in Maengwyn Street. The market and commercial centre serves the local area and has more the feeling of a busy market town than that of a tourist centre although visitors are an important element in the economy.

58% of the population (over the age of 3) are reported as either speaking, reading or writing in the Welsh language and 32% are reported as having no knowledge of the Welsh language.

72% of the population are born in Wales and 27% born in the rest of the UK. 0.13.% of the population are of West and East European birth, 0.42 of African birth and 0.13% are of Asian birth.

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Industry of Employment	Machynlleth
All People	867
A. Agriculture, hunting and forestry	33
B. Fishing	0
C. Mining and quarrying	0
D. Manufacturing	104
E. Electricity, gas and water supply	0
F. Construction (	78
G. Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	137
H. Hotels and restaurants	79
I. Transport, storage and communications	84
J. Financial intermediation	7
K. Real estate, renting and business activities	79
L. Public administration and defence, social security	29
M. Education	51
N. Health and social work	128
O. Other community, social and personal service activities	58
P. Private households with employed persons	0
Q. Extra-territorial organisations and bodies	0

	Machynlleth
All People Aged 16 and over in Households	1,740
AB: Higher and intermediate managerial / administrative / professional	218
C1: Supervisory, clerical, junior managerial / administrative / professional	501
C2: Skilled manual workers	314
D: Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers	342
E: On state benefit, unemployed, lowest grade workers	365

### 2.2 - Cadfarch/Glantwymyn

62% of the population (over the age of 3) are reported as either speaking, reading or writing in the Welsh language and 34% are reported as having no knowledge of the Welsh language.

63% of the population are born in Wales and 36% born in the rest of the UK. 0.36% of the population are of West and East European birth and 0.15% are of Asian birth.

Industry of Employment	Glantwymyn
All People	882
A. Agriculture, hunting and forestry	147
B. Fishing	3
C. Mining and quarrying	3

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Industry of Employment	Glantwymyn
D. Manufacturing	87
E. Electricity, gas and water supply	6
F. Construction	64
G. Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	130
H. Hotels and restaurants	58
I. Transport, storage and communications	45
J. Financial intermediation	8
K. Real estate, renting and business activities	81
L. Public administration and defence, social security	37
M. Education	67
N. Health and social work	83
O. Other community, social and personal service activities	60
P. Private households with employed persons	0
Q. Extra-territorial organisations and bodies	3

	Glantwymyn
All People Aged 16 to 74 in Employment in Area	558
AB: Higher and intermediate managerial / administrative / professional	76
C1: Supervisory, clerical, junior managerial / administrative / professional	193
C2: Skilled manual workers	180
D: Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers	109
E: On state benefit, unemployed, lowest grade workers	0

### 2.3 - Llanbryn-mair

55% of the population (over the age of 3) are reported as either speaking, reading or writing in the Welsh language and 40% are reported as having no knowledge of the Welsh language.

57% of the population are born in Wales and 40% born in the rest of the UK. 0.93% of the population are of West and East European birth, 0.93% of African birth and 0.31% are of Asian birth.

Industry of employment	Llanbryn-mair
All People	440
A. Agriculture, hunting and forestry	75
B. Fishing	0
C. Mining and quarrying	0
D. Manufacturing	67
E. Electricity, gas and water supply	3
F. Construction	40

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Industry of employment	Llanbrynmair
<b>G. Wholesale and retail trade, repairs</b>	69
<b>H. Hotels and restaurants</b>	18
<b>I. Transport, storage and communications</b>	15
<b>J. Financial intermediation</b>	0
<b>K. Real estate, renting and business activities</b>	32
<b>L. Public administration and defence, social security</b>	11
<b>M. Education</b>	40
<b>N. Health and social work</b>	52
<b>O. Other community, social and personal service activities</b>	18
<b>P. Private households with employed persons</b>	0
<b>Q. Extra-territorial organisations and bodies</b>	0

	Llanbrynmair
<b>All People Aged 16 to 74 in Employment in Area</b>	258
<b>AB: Higher and intermediate managerial / administrative / professional</b>	27
<b>C1: Supervisory, clerical, junior managerial / administrative / professional</b>	77
<b>C2: Skilled manual workers</b>	88
<b>D: Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers</b>	66
<b>E: On state benefit, unemployed, lowest grade workers</b>	0

## 3 - Gwynedd

### 3.1 – Aberdyfi

The first maritime mention and records of the ferry across the river of Aberdyfi date back to the 1100's and during the Elizabethan period Aberdyfi already had a notable fishing industry but little built development. During the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> centuries Aberdyfi was still enjoying prosperity from the Herring fishing industry and was finding added business from exporting the locally mined Lead Ore. When the Lead industry became less profitable in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century the port had developed to take advantage of the growing Slate quarrying industry. The port has its first lifeboat in 1837. The end of Aberdyfi as a sea port came about with the decline in shipbuilding in the late 1800's, a reduction in Herring stocks and a general decline in the local economy leading up to the depression and the first world war. Since then Aberdyfi has grown as a tourism destination and a base for marine leisure activities.

Aberdyfi, with its near neighbour Penhelig, is squeezed in between the mountain and the sea on the north of the estuary. It developed as a small slate port initially before expanding as a Victorian and Edwardian holiday resort, a character that it retains to the present. Its drier microclimate, beach and harbour are a magnet for visitors and retirees. Its high proportion of second homes creates a marked seasonal fluctuation in population. In the 20th century the town became synonymous with the Aberdovey Outward Bound Centre, one of the earliest to be established in Britain. Aberdyfi has a significant place in Welsh history as the meeting place for the parliament of Llywelyn

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the Great in 1216 and it has an even stronger association with the, one time, popular song The Bells of Aberdover. Clychau Aberdyfi refers to the tradition that relates to the drowning of the kingdom of Gwyddno Garanhir in Cardigan Bay.

The Gwynedd villages of Corris and Aberllefenni are unique in the Dyfi valley in being slate quarrying and mining areas that retain the physical and community sense of industrial communities. The last commercial slate quarry clung on tenaciously into the twenty first century. These communities epitomised the Welsh speaking, Liberal and Non-Conformist society of the late 19th and first half of the 20th century. Being so close to the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), itself located in a former quarry, Corris is now home to many ecologically-minded incomers as well.

Pennal facing the estuary is famous as the site of the assembly held by Owain Glyndŵr in 1406 from which was written the Pennal Policy to Charles VI of France.

In the Aberdyfi/Pennal Ward, 43.9% of the population (over the age of 3) are reported as either speaking, reading or writing in the Welsh language and 47.66% are reported as having no knowledge of the Welsh language.

48.8% of the population are born in Wales and 49.6% born in the rest of the UK. 0.62% of the population are of West and East European birth and 0.27% are of Asian birth.

Industry of employment	Aberdovey
<b>All People</b>	468
<b>A. Agriculture, hunting and forestry</b>	23
<b>B. Fishing</b>	0
<b>C. Mining and quarrying</b>	0
<b>D. Manufacturing</b>	45
<b>E. Electricity, gas and water supply</b>	0
<b>F. Construction</b>	28
<b>G. Wholesale and retail trade, repairs</b>	71
<b>H. Hotels and restaurants</b>	91
<b>I. Transport, storage and communications</b>	16
<b>J. Financial intermediation</b>	6
<b>K. Real estate, renting and business activities</b>	26
<b>L. Public administration and defence, social security</b>	17
<b>M. Education</b>	42
<b>N. Health and social work</b>	39
<b>O. Other community, social and personal service activities</b>	64
<b>P. Private households with employed persons</b>	0
<b>Q. Extra-territorial organisations and bodies</b>	0

	Aberdovey
<b>All People Aged 16 and over in Households</b>	974
<b>AB: Higher and intermediate managerial / administrative /</b>	194

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	<b>Aberdovey</b>
<b>professional</b>	
<b>C1: Supervisory, clerical, junior managerial / administrative / professional</b>	350
<b>C2: Skilled manual workers</b>	136
<b>D: Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers</b>	116
<b>E: On state benefit, unemployed, lowest grade workers</b>	178

### 3.2 – Corris/Mawddwy

In the Corris/Mawddwy Ward 61.6% of the population (over the age of 3) are reported as either speaking, reading or writing in the Welsh language and 34% are reported as having no knowledge of the Welsh language.

55.3% of the population are born in Wales and 42.3% born in the rest of the UK. 1.6% of the population are of West and East European birth, 0.25 of African birth and 0.49% are of Asian birth.

	<b>Corris/Mawddwy</b>
<b>All People</b>	502
<b>A. Agriculture, hunting and forestry</b>	44
<b>B. Fishing</b>	3
<b>C. Mining and quarrying</b>	4
<b>D. Manufacturing</b>	42
<b>E. Electricity, gas and water supply</b>	4
<b>F. Construction</b>	48
<b>G. Wholesale and retail trade, repairs</b>	74
<b>H. Hotels and restaurants</b>	45
<b>I. Transport, storage and communications</b>	26
<b>J. Financial intermediation</b>	3
<b>K. Real estate, renting and business activities</b>	33
<b>L. Public administration and defence, social security</b>	29
<b>M. Education</b>	48
<b>N. Health and social work</b>	74
<b>O. Other community, social and personal service activities</b>	22
<b>P. Private households with employed persons</b>	0
<b>Q. Extra-territorial organisations and bodies</b>	3

	<b>Corris/Mawddwy</b>
<b>All People Aged 16 and over in Households</b>	983
<b>AB: Higher and intermediate managerial / administrative / professional</b>	162
<b>C1: Supervisory, clerical, junior managerial / administrative / professional</b>	267
<b>C2: Skilled manual workers</b>	227
<b>D: Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers</b>	165
<b>E: On state benefit, unemployed, lowest grade workers</b>	162