







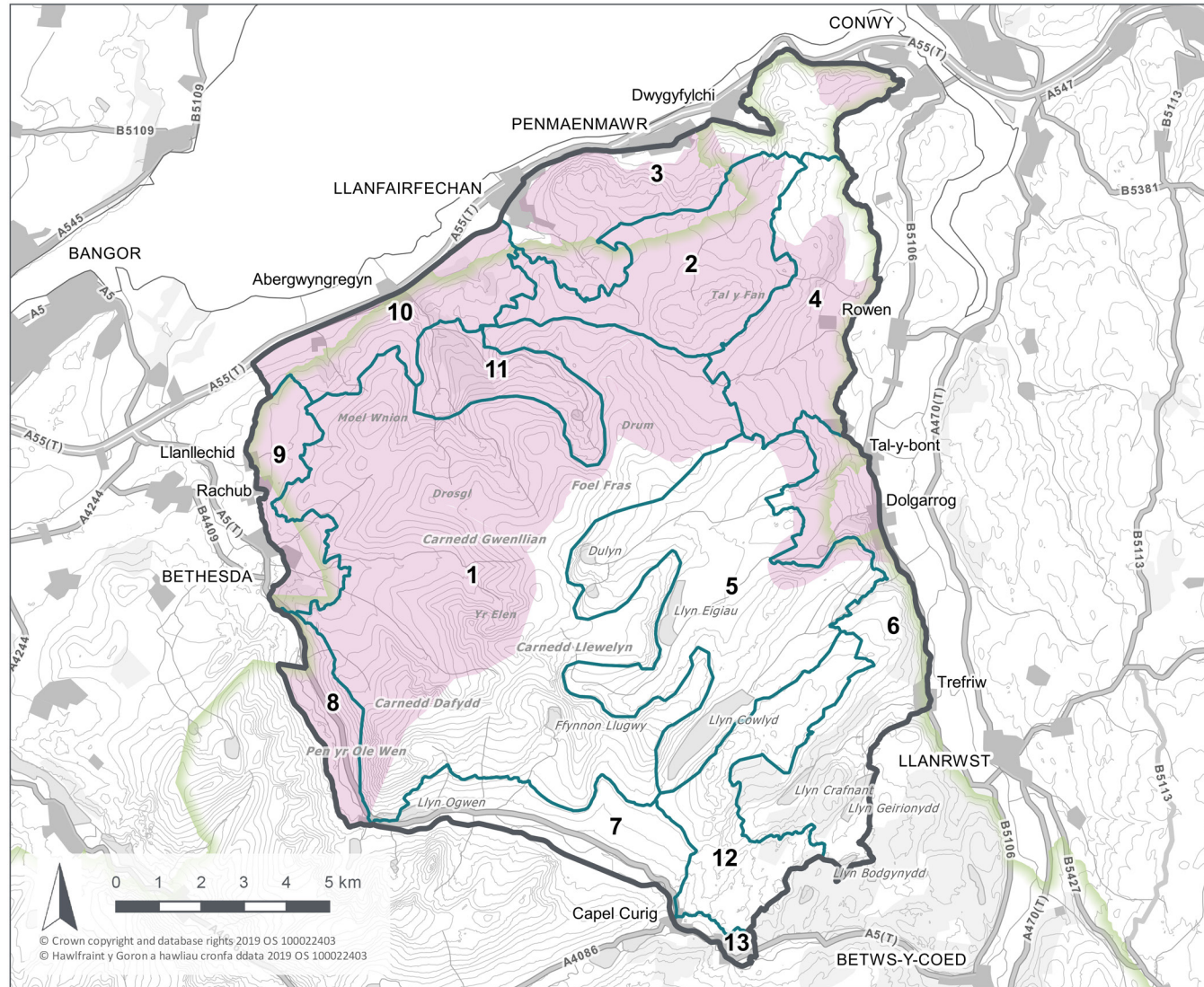
PARTNERIAETH TIRWEDD Y
CARNEDDAU
LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

Statement of Significance

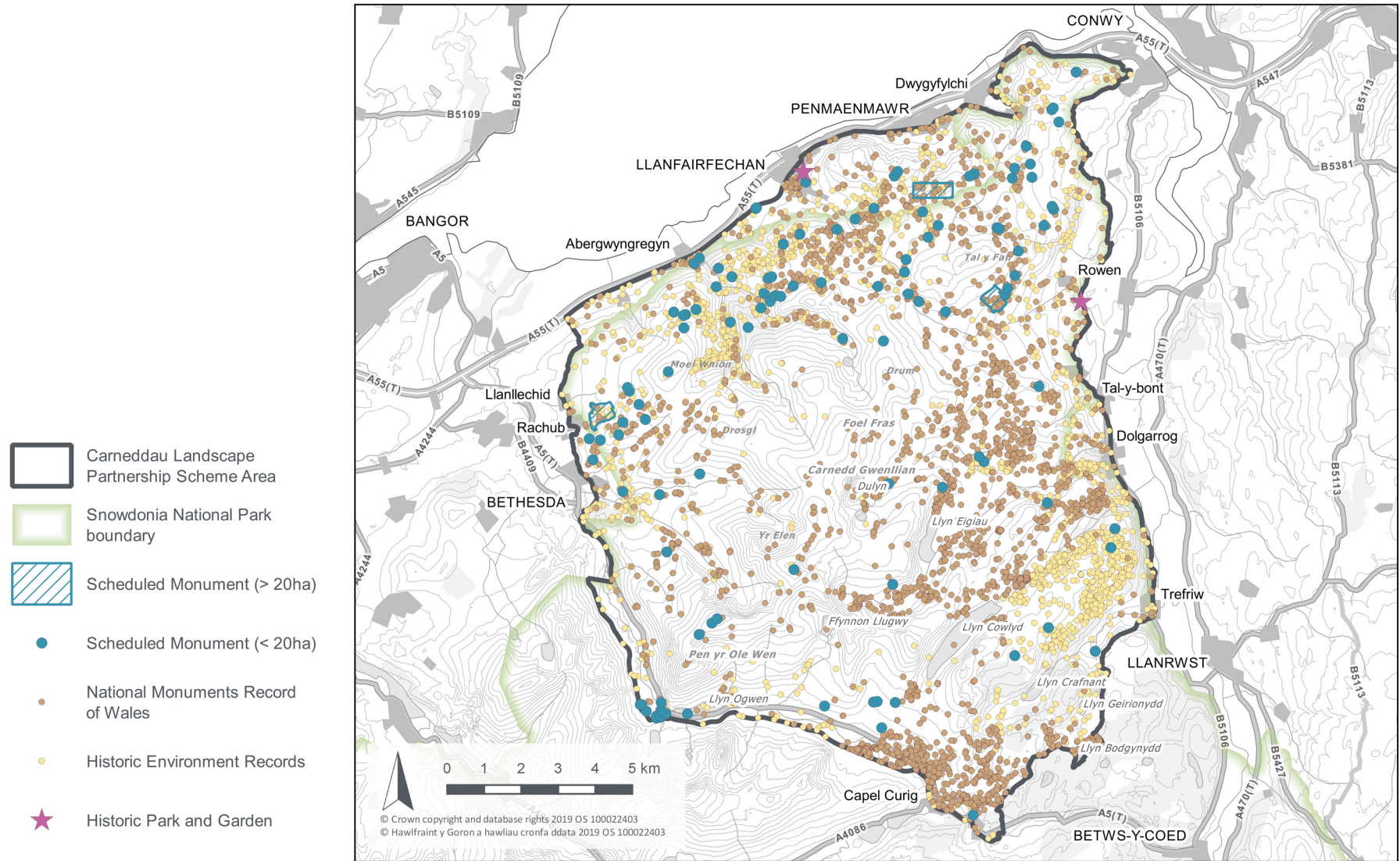
Historic Environment

Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest – Register of Historic Landscapes in Wales

- 1 Carneddau mountains
 - 2 Tal y Fan and Bwlch y Ddeufaen
 - 3 Llanfairfechan, Penmaenmawr and Conwy coastal hills
 - 4 Rowen farmed hillslopes
 - 5 Duly, Eigiau and Cowlyd upland valleys
 - 6 Conwy Valley wooded hillslopes
 - 7 Nant y Benglog
 - 8 Nant Ffrancon
 - 9 Bethesda and Llanllechid hillslopes and fields
 - 10 Wooded coastal hill slopes and Abergwyngregyn village
 - 11 Abergwyngregyn and Anafon valleys
 - 12 Creigiau Gleision, Crimpiau and Cefn Cyfarwydd open mountain land
 - 13 Capel Curig wooded hillslopes and fields
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-  Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme Area
 -  Snowdonia National Park boundary
 -  Landscape Character Area
 -  Registered Historic Landscape



Historic environment - scheduled and non-scheduled monuments





Statement of significance

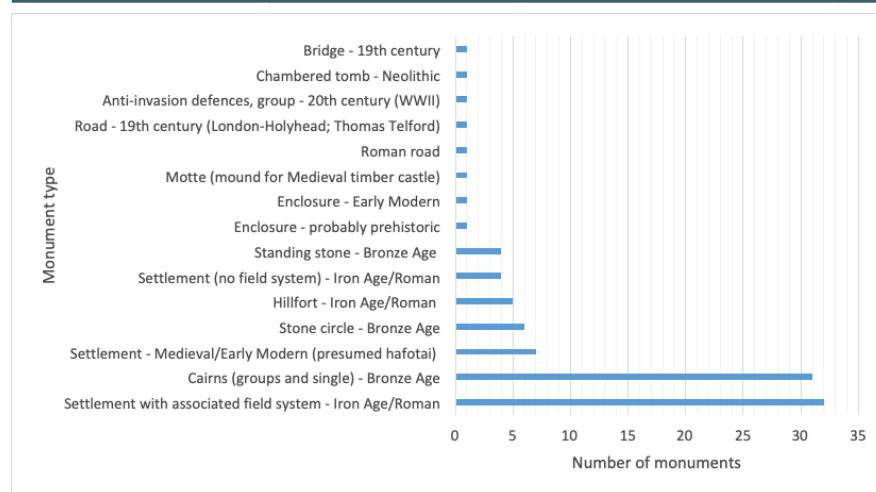
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Designations

The uplands of Eryri support some of the largest tracts of semi-natural habitat in Wales. Whilst much of this habitat is degraded or in poor condition as a result of factors including land management practices, pollution and recreation pressure, there are still areas of high biodiversity value, with habitats and species of national and international importance. Just over 50% of the project area (approximately 110 square kilometres) falls within the protected sites network. The largest of these are the Eryri SAC and SSSI, which include the highest summits and ridges of the Carneddau massif.

Special Conservation Area	National Nature Reserve	Site of Special Scientific Interest	Principal habitats for the designation
		Ceunant Dulyrn	Broadleaved woodland
		Coed Dolgarrog	Broadleaved woodland
		Mwyngloddiau a Chreigiau Gwydyr	Geological features (Outcrop)
		Cors Geuallt	Geological feature (Pleistocene)

Special Conservation Area	National Nature Reserve	Site of Special Scientific Interest	Principal habitats for the designation
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A review of species data for the Carneddau was undertaken for the LPS by Corin North Wales Environmental Information Service. Full details are presented in the report and appendices. Carneddau Biological Record Audit Comod 2018. At the time of review there were 101,612 records, representing 5,798 different species. In addition to SAC, Marshy Grassland, Broadleaved woodland; Glacial and cold water landforms and deposits; Ordovician rock exposures

Flowering plants, moths, flies, beetles, lichen, moss, spiders and birds are the top eight groups, in terms of number of species per group. The top groups in terms of numbers of records are, highest to lowest: birds, flowering plants, moths, mosses, butterflies, flies, mammals and; adleaved woodland. The representation and distribution of records shows that there are major biases in the data relating to where recording has taken place and the interests and expertise of recorders; for example, there are a high number of records for the area around the Pencychnant Conservation Centre.

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Individual species were scored against their designation and conservation status to give an overall 'Designation Score' for each species; the criteria used are described in the report 'Production of key summaries of ecological data. Alex Turner. Eryri Ecology 2018'. The highest scoring species are shown in the table. Because they are biased by national or international designation criteria, the scores do not always reflect the priority species for the Carneddau at a local level. For example, for birds, the following species did not score highly enough against designation criteria to be included in the table but are more important locally than the score implies: Dotterel; Ring Ouzel; Snow Bunting; Whinchat. Some entire groups are not represented even though they include nationally important species. Waxcap fungi are an example of this and are discussed below with ffridd habitat.

Species group	Number of species	Particular species included
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Amphibians	2	Common Toad; Great Crested Newt
Bird	24	Chough; Corncrake; Starling; Twite; Wood
Bony fish	2	Atlantic Salmon; Eel
Clubmoss Stag' Horn Clubmoss	1	Marsh Clubmoss
Conifer	1	Scots Pine
Fern	6	Forked Spleenwort; M
Flowering plant	27	Hair Sedge; Alpine M Common Cudweed; Water-pepper; Lesse Cinquefoil; Small-wh Spurrey; Alpine Penn
Insect*	25	Butterfly species (Hig Heath; Marsh Fritillar species (Water scava
Lichen* Cladonia portentosa	10	Lungwort; Bladder St
Liverwort	3	Fragile Frillwort; Wes
Moss	3	Muehlenbeck's Threa
Reptile	4	Slow-worm; Grass Sn



Langelynin church, Rowen © Mike Raine

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Mammal	13 Deep Water vole, Otter, Hazel Dormouse, Polecat, Badger, Stoat, Weasel, Pine Squirrel	upland acid grassland	Woodland Mixed covers only 10% of the project area and of this only 12% of this area lies within the uplands. 36% is conifer or mixed conifer and broadleaved plantations. Oak woodland and mixed deciduous woodland found in both the uplands and lowlands are the dominant broadleaved woodland types within the project area. These woodlands typically have a canopy consisting of Sessile Oak and Downy Birch, with a mix of other species including Ash, Hazel, Wych Elm and on wetter ground Alder.
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* Species names have not been included where scientific (Latin) names alone were provided in the report, not common names; in many cases this will be because these are rare and/or obscure species.

Habitats

A detailed habitat map of the Carneddau was produced as part of the supporting documents reviewing the ecology of the area. Upland Framework mapping by NRW (and its predecessor Countryside Council for Wales) in 2007 and 2016 was used as a basis, but this only covered 80% of the LPS area. UK biodiversity action plan Priority Habitat types were used as the basis for the mapping, but the original list was updated and expanded to encompass the lowland habitats; distinguish lowland, upland and transition characteristics of some habitats and; add some non-BAP Priority Habitats which are nevertheless significant for the Carneddau. The table shows the list used for the mapping; UK BAP Priority Habitats are distinguished by names with capitalised first letters.

Habitat types used for mapping (capitals indicate UK BAP Priority Habitats)

Lowland Acid Grassland	upland acid grassland-upland Heath transition	Upland Mixed Ash
Lowland Heathland	upland heathland	Upland Mixed Ash
Lowland Heathland-Woodland transition	upland heathland-woodland transition	Wet Woodland
Lowland Meadows	upland marshy grassland	Hedgerows
Lowland Marshy Grassland	upland marshy grassland-heathland transition	scrub
Lowland Marshy Grassland-Woodland transition	upland marshy grassland-woodland transition	mixed woodland
Purple Moor-grass and Rush-pasture	Montane Heath	coniferous woodland
improved grassland	Rock and Scree	Fen-Flush and Swamps vegetation
Upland Calcareous Grassland	Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pasture	rock in the Dwyren, Eigiau and Cowlyd upland valleys. They are a mix of Ash, Hazel, Wych Elm and have a ground flora consisting of species such as Dog's Mercury, Enchanter's Nightshade and Wood Anemone. Wet woodlands are found along valley bottoms and on moist slopes. They are typically dominated by Alder and Ash and can have a rich ground flora, where not grazed, including Yellow Pimpernel, Meadowsweet, Remote Sedge and Tufted Hair Grass.

Nine broad habitat groups were identified as particularly significant to the Carneddau LPS: Woodland, hedges and scrub; Grassland; Heathland; Peatland; Montane heath; Cliff, rock and scree; Lakes, streams and rivers; Ffridd. They are described in the following section along with some of the key or iconic species that are associated with them.

Woodland, hedges and scrub

The woodlands in the project area support

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Turnpike road beneath Thomas Telford London-Holyhead road, Nant Ffrancon © SNPA

important breeding birds including: Wood Warbler; Pied Flycatcher and; Greater Spotted Woodpecker. The woodlands and hedgerows are also important for mammals including foraging bats (such as the Lesser Horseshoe Bat, Whiskered Bat and Soprano Pipistrelle Bat) and Hazel Dormice. On the open mountains, there are few trees but where the grazing pressure is low enough (or was low historically) or on inaccessible ledges Hawthorn, Rowan and Birch can get a foothold.

Grassland

Grassland habitats occupy a larger proportion (35%) of the Carneddau Landscape Partnership area than any of the other main habitat types.

Upland Grassland

89% of the grassland in the uplands is unimproved acid grassland dominated by grasses such as Common Bent and Sheep's Fescue. This typically short, species-poor grassland is most extensive on the mountain common land where there has been heavy grazing. Where grazing pressures have been high over a long period

less palatable species such as Mat Grass and Heath Rush dominate often forming a dense mat. Flowering plants are scarce although Tormentil and Heath Bedstraw can survive relatively heavy grazing. Lighter grazing favours Bilberry and mosaics of heath and grassland. There is a large area of upland marshy grassland in the Duly, Eigiau and Cowlyd areas, in which, although it is dominated by Juncus rush, some flowering plants including Marsh Bedstraw, Marsh Willowherb and Devil's-bit Scabious persist. Upland calcareous grassland is the least extensive grassland habitat, with only 1 hectare recorded (mainly Tal y Fan and Creigiau Gleision, Cwm Cowlyd) on basic (alkaline) volcanic rocks. Where steep slopes, rocks and ledges have protected them from grazing, they support diverse plant species including: Mossy Saxifrage; Eyebright; club mosses; Mountain Avens, Wild Thyme and sedges.

Open acid grassland is important for a number of bird species including Chough, Wheatear, Meadow Pipit and Skylark.

Lowland Grassland

Improved grassland forms 64% of the



'Farmers on the Carneddau', by Kyffin Williams, c1980 © National Museum of Wales



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