

Locality Baseline Report

North Wales



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Localities in North Wales: A Baseline Report

Preface

This is the first version of the localities baseline report. The intention is to up-date the report periodically when new data are released and as the Localities research progresses.

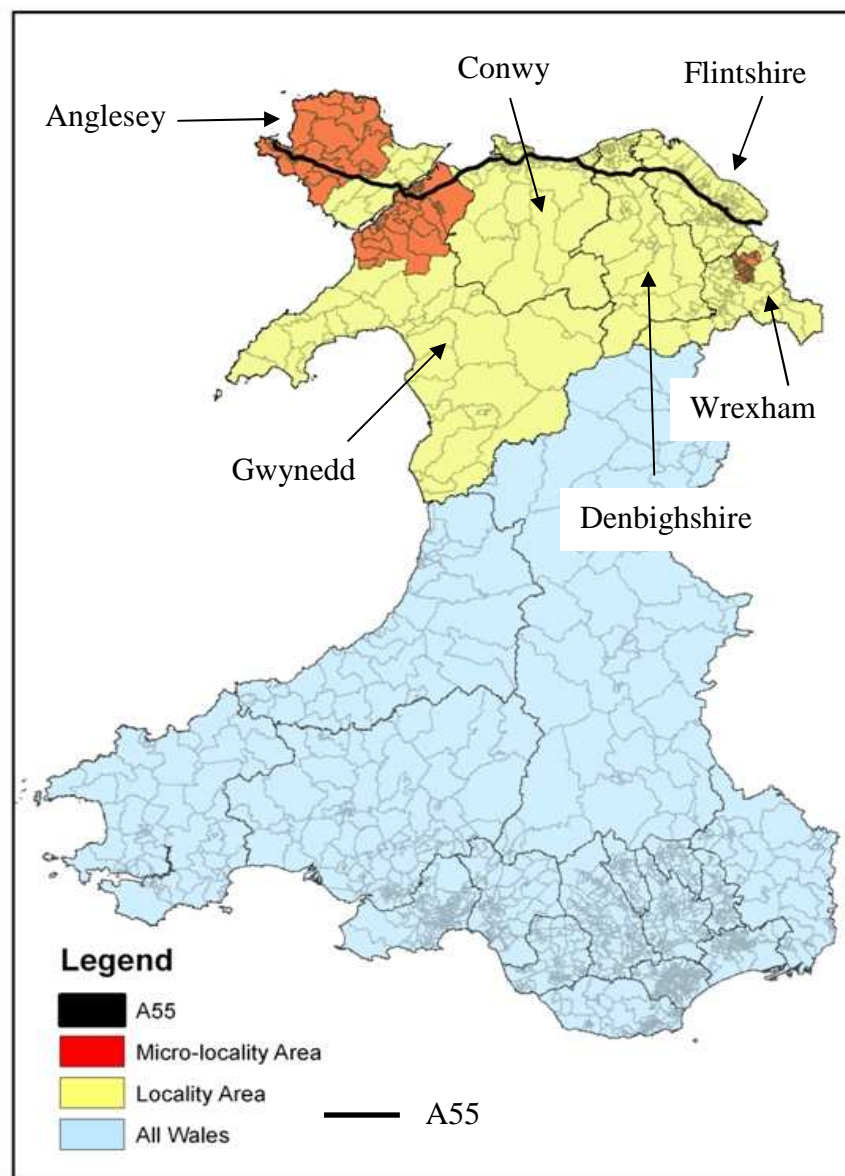
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Section 1: Introduction: Defining Localities

1.1 The A55 Corridor –Heterogeneity and Connectivity

WISERD@Bangor undertakes the localities work in North Wales. We provide an account of the A55 corridor. We provide an explanation and justification for our selection of three Unitary Authorities (UAs) - Gwynedd, Anglesey and Wrexham - and of the narrower localities sites within these. The A55 (North Wales Expressway) runs from Chester to Holyhead docks and is designated part of “Euroroute E22”. Figure 1.1 provides an overview of the locality in the context of Wales.

Figure 1.1 The North Wales Locality



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The black line indicates the A55 expressway. The yellow shading represents the broader north Wales locality. This covers the six Unitary Authorities containing the A55 corridor (from east to west these are Wrexham¹, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Conwy, Gwynedd and Anglesey). As discussed further below, three UAs - Anglesey, Gwynedd, and Wrexham - have been selected to represent the North Wales region. The red shading represents our three micro-localities sites within the three selected UAs for both baseline and in-depth localities work.

As a site the A55 Corridor is characterised on one hand by its **heterogeneity** (as well as a state of flux and fragmentation) but also by its **connectivity**. So a key idea is of understanding connectivity and relationality between diverse localities along and beyond the corridor. It is a site which cuts across administrative boundaries, covering six Unitary Authorities. It comprises a mixture of different contexts including: *environmental* (urban and rural); *economic* (e.g. deindustrialization, farming, tourism, declining coastal resorts, numerous business parks and industrial estates); *deprivation* (areas having some of the least and most deprived districts in Wales) and *language/cultural identity* (areas of both high and low proportions of Welsh speakers, areas of significant in- and out- migration, as well as a notable migrant worker population in Wrexham; cross-border relationships).

In using the A55 Corridor as a way of defining micro-localities, proximity/distance to the A55 becomes a way of understanding differences within the site. For example, access to the A55 means that you can reach the border and Chester within one hour when driving from locations east of Bangor. So in choosing micro-localities one key issue was to think about the differences between the coastal strip running parallel to the A55 as well as inland to the south. We can think about roads here as tributaries off the A55 so we have Holyhead-Llangefni- and north to WYLFA nuclear power station and Amlwch; Bangor-Caernarfon-Llanberis; Llandudno-Llanrwst; Rhyl-Denbigh etc. Another aspect to this is the distinction between rurality and peripherality. Towns such as Caernarfon and Bangor are not rural but are characterised by a feeling of being peripheral. In turn, those living in Caernarfon may not see themselves as rural but may see other places within 10 miles as being rural.

A further important consideration was the need to account for localities in both north west and north east Wales. The Wales Spatial Plan (described in detail below), for

¹ Although not strictly part of the A55 corridor, Wrexham is included as part of the locality due to its strategic importance in the North East Wales Spatial Plan

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example distinguishes between north west and north east and so this distinction clearly has historical, cultural and political resonance. In fact, north east Wales remains under-researched in social science in Wales. In north east Wales there are large towns such as Colwyn Bay, Rhyl, Prestatyn, Flint, Shotton. But away from the coast there are parts of north east Wales which are largely rural characterised by village communities, with the area west of Wrexham becoming deep rural. Wrexham itself is the largest town in north Wales and the fourth largest in Wales after Cardiff, Swansea and Newport.

The A55 corridor also affords consideration of how localities are embedded in different kinds of relational networks. Certain places are embedded in cross-border relationships for instance, particularly between Flintshire and the neighbouring English Unitary Authority of Deeside. According to the 2001 Census, 15.4% of 16-74 year olds living in Flintshire work in England; this is 10% in Wrexham; 6% for the six UAs making up north Wales and 3% for Wales as a whole. This embeddedness is also reflected in the Spatial Plan for north east Wales in which economic regeneration is very much centred on fostering of cross-border economic and business partnerships. It is also reflected in cross-border access to services such as Hospitals which also explains the high percentages of non-Welsh born in districts close to the border (also noted by the Aberystwyth team in Montgomeryshire). In a number of districts along the border, the non-Welsh born population is over 50%. Furthermore the census indicates that the numbers of people living in north west Wales and working in north east Wales vastly outweighs the opposing movements of people living in the north east and working in the north west. Conversely, one can think of opposing movements from east to west Wales when one considers recreational and leisure opportunities provided by Snowdonia National Park and other opportunities.

In other places, it is evident that networks and relationships remain largely locality-specific and often only extend to the nearest large town. This appears to be the case in the slate mining villages on the western face of Snowdonia which have historically looked, and continue to look, towards Caernarfon. We have emerging evidence of this from our pilot research on civil society networks in the Nantlle Valley which has the feeling of being on the other side of the mountains to the A55. Both Caernarfon and Bangor represent major public sector employers in the form of Gwynedd County Council and the Countryside Council for Wales (which has its national headquarters in Bangor), as well as being sites of Welsh language cultural and media industries.

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So we can think of there being degrees of localised and extended (cross-border) relationships.

One key logistical decision arising is whether and how we understand this site in a bounded way. Because the locality cuts across administrative UA boundaries, it cannot be defined in a bounded way for aggregating statistics for the A55 Corridor in its entirety. This also makes little sense given its heterogeneity. Nevertheless it maybe useful to develop data for the A55 corridor at some point and this baseline study thus represents a first stage of data capture. Therefore, because most recent available data is broken down to UA level, these statistical divisions necessitate a focus on specific UAs as discrete entities.

Therefore in this baseline document when reporting on available baseline data across discrete domains, we focus on three UAs to represent the 'A55 corridor', within which our three micro localities are located. These are:

1. **Anglesey UA**
2. **Gwynedd UA**
3. **Wrexham UA**

In light of these and other issues our current approach therefore has been to identify three micro-localities (the red-shading in Figure 1.1) along the corridor, situated within these three UAs. At the same time it is about understanding the sites, to varying degrees, as relational and as connected to each other as well as to other locations.

From west to east, these micro- localities are:

1. **Anglesey** (Holyhead-Llangefni-Wylfa-Menai Bridge);
2. **Arfon** (North Gwynedd inc. Bangor);
3. **Wrexham Town**.

Each of the three sites can be described as fitting the principles of heterogeneity and connectivity. They can be described as self contained in that they contain centres which attract people for work and consumption as well as residential areas. Each of the three locations comprises of between 30 and 40 Lower Level Super Output Areas (LSOAs) as defined in the 2001 Census (See Figure 1.2 - 1.4). We found dealing with this number of LSOAs to be much more workable than having to contend with up to over 80 LSOAs for some Unitary Authorities. All three micro locality case study

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sites consist of LSOAs with significant variations in different domains such as poverty indicators; in other words, the micro localities are not homogenous in terms of their demographics but importantly contain a great deal of variation/heterogeneity. For example all three micro localities contain LSOAs which are ranked extremely high and extremely low on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD). Studying micro localities which in themselves contain significant variation on indicators such as poverty and health is important in terms of capturing demographic breadth and highlighting the demographic variation that exists within small geographical areas as well as across regions. Examining available data at LSOA level enables more insight into 'averages' provided at UA level. For example, while an average of 23% of households had no car in the 2001 census across the three case study UAs, at LSOA level in the micro localities this percentage varied between 7% and 50% of households. The significance of such huge variation within extremely small geographical areas can be missed using the UA level average.

Thus between them the three micro locality sites provide "windows" into the economic and cultural complexities of north Wales. It may be a coincidence that the three micro localities contain such significant levels of demographic variation, reflecting the heterogeneity identified across the A55 corridor; or this micro heterogeneity may in fact be typical of the way this broader regional heterogeneity is dispersed, and this is a possible line of further inquiry. In turn, the locations will provide the spatial focus for subsequent in-depth, localities research. Taken together they provide sufficient sample sizes for statistical analysis at the micro level. A brief description of the micro-localities now follows:

1.2 The three micro-localities

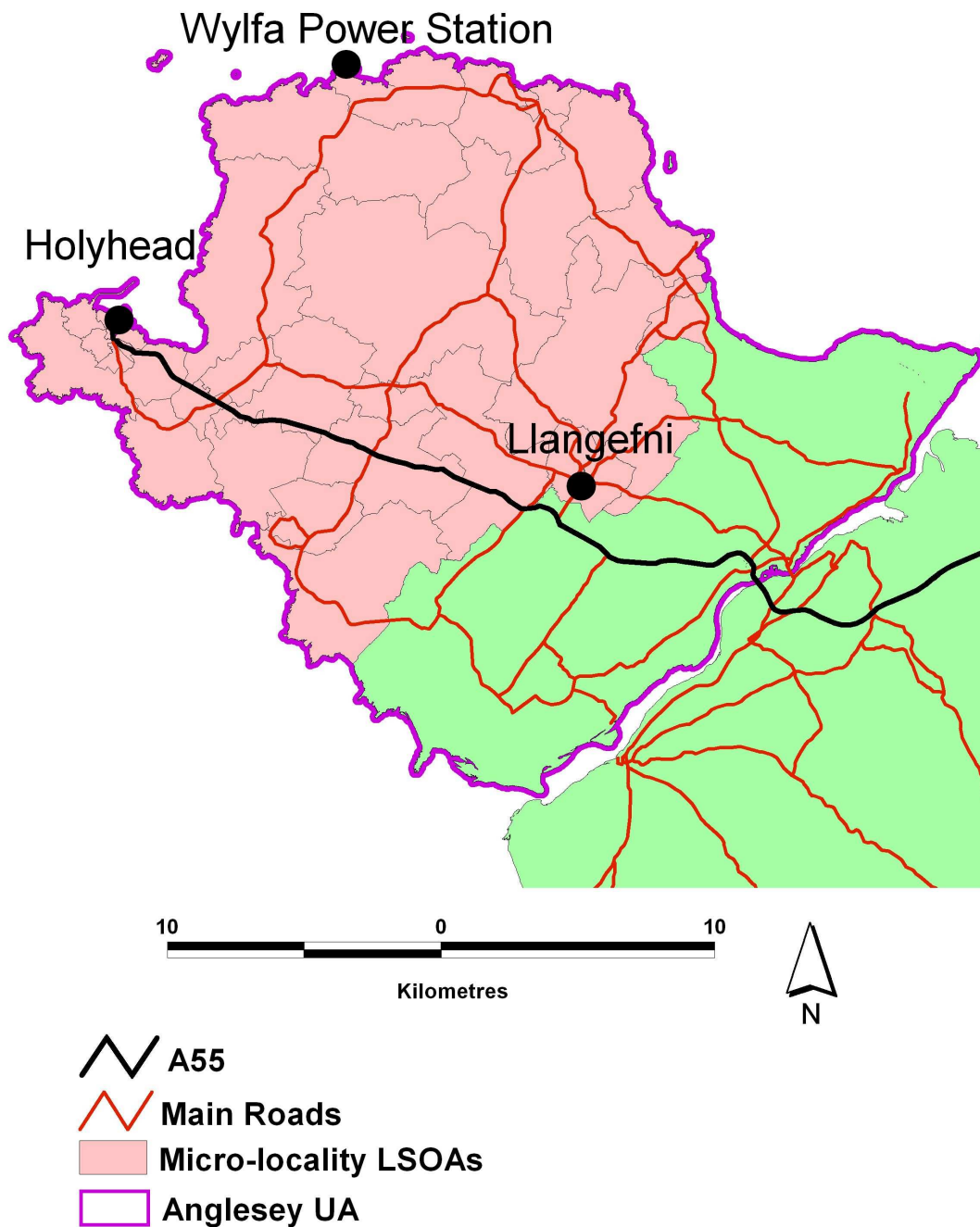
1. Anglesey

Originally, the area of focus for the Anglesey micro-locality study was to be the continuation of the A55 corridor from Llangefni to Holyhead, expanding this eastward in the north to include the area surrounding Wylfa nuclear power station. This formed a triangle with Llangefni, Holyhead and Wylfa as the three corners. However, exploration of the data revealed Anglesey to be a "Divided Isle" so it was decided to update the areas to reflect this. These updated areas include *Wylfa Power Station*, *Holyhead* and *Llangefni* together with other areas close to the A55, the southern most area being Menai Bridge – see Figure 1.2.. The population of the site is approximately 32,000. The rationale for choosing this area is that Holyhead is the western end of the A55 corridor, which forms the basis for the North Wales study

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area as a whole. There are significant possible changes surrounding the possible reprise of Wylfa power station, the threatened closure of Anglesey Aluminium, the possible expansion of services from Anglesey Airport and the ongoing ten year regeneration plan for Holyhead. The additional areas to the south of the island will allow for exploration of the divided nature of the island. The area contains the two Anglesey LSOAs that are in the most deprived 10% in Wales together with districts that are in the least deprived 10%. Overall, Anglesey has a high percentage of Wales born and Welsh speaking residents compared to Wales as a whole. Our micro-study area covers the LSOAs that have high and low percentages of both.

Figure 1.2 The Anglesey micro-locality site



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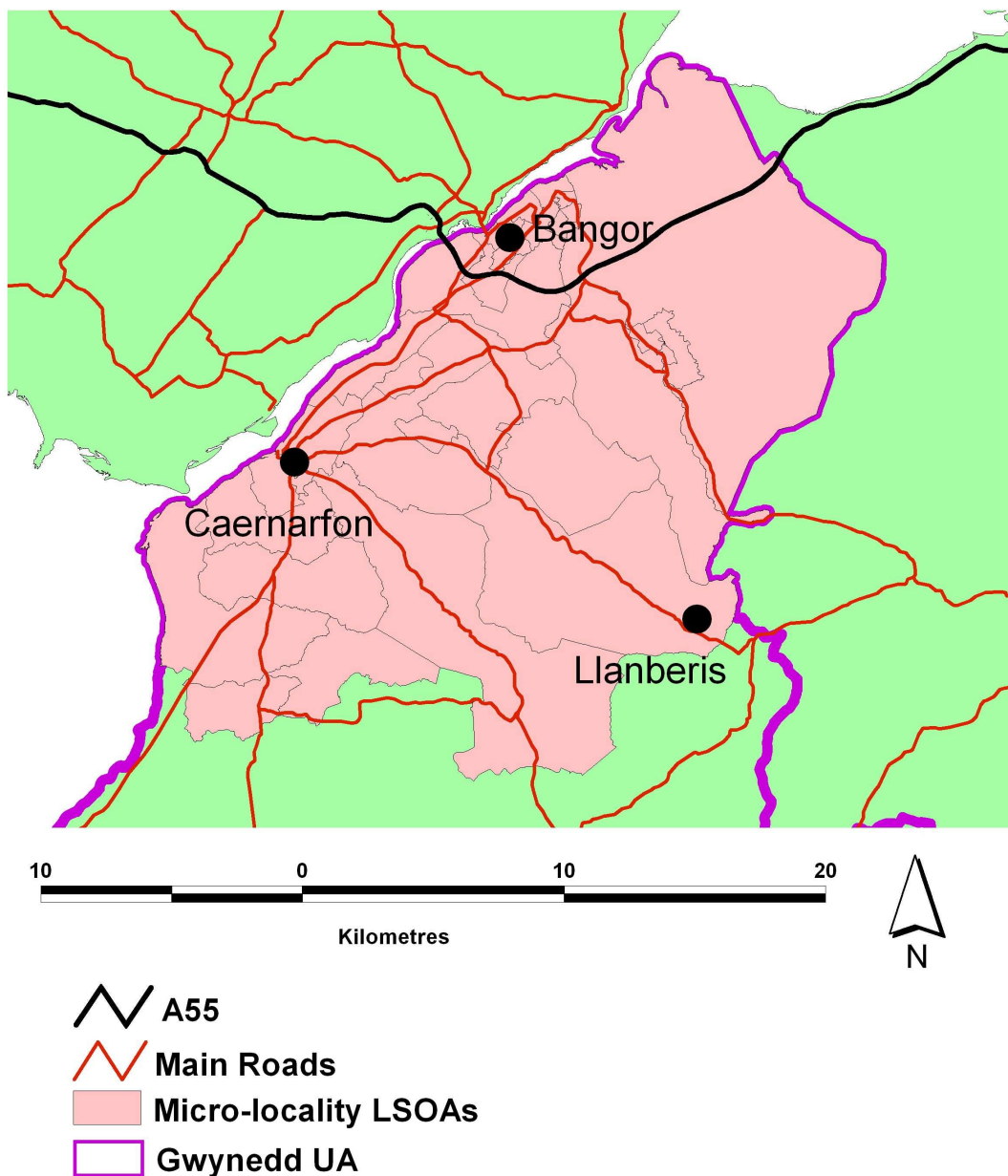
2. Arfon

The Arfon (North Gwynedd) research site comprises a triangle of the population centres of Caernarfon, Bangor and Llanberis. It incorporates the key population bases and administrative bases of the region and some of the area's key employers such as Ysbyty Gwynedd, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Gwynedd

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County Council and Bangor University. It also encompasses a mix of rural and urban areas, including those located on the northern fringes of the Snowdonia National Park. The micro locality is characterised by both high and low levels of deprivation as scored on the WIMD and other available indicators, as well as some of the highest proportions of Welsh speakers in Wales. The research site has a population of 55,440 and comprises of 31 LSOAs, which are indicated in Figure 1.3.

Figure 1.3 The Arfon Micro-locality site



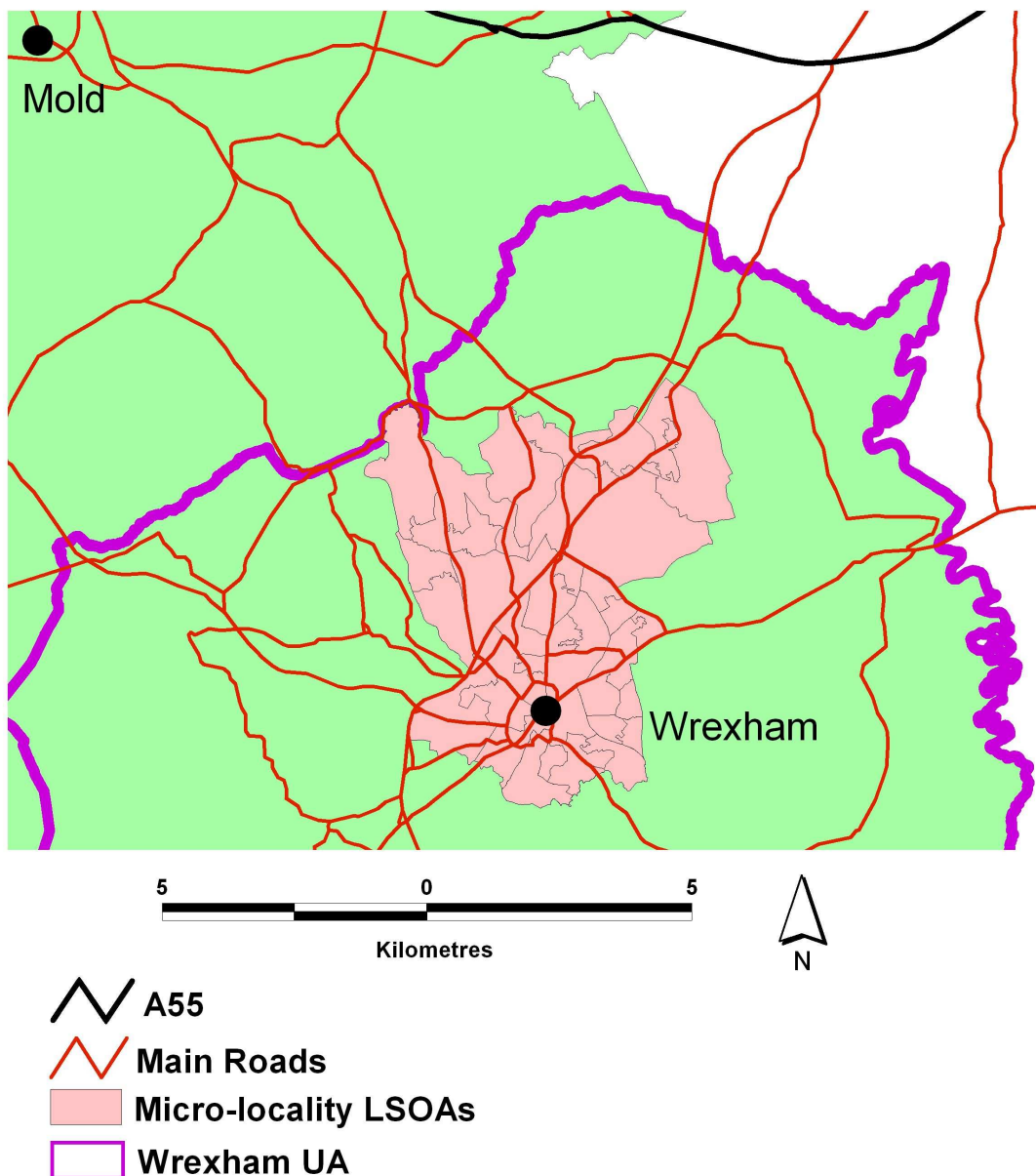
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3. Wrexham Town

The Wrexham site focuses principally on the town itself – Figure 1.4. It comprises of 40 LSOAs with a total population of 59, 918. Three LSOAs correspond to rural areas to the north. Wrexham is the largest town in north Wales, and the fourth largest in Wales. The area has experienced a shift from a heavy manufacturing base to more high-tech industries. Wrexham Industrial Park, along with Wrexham Technology Park, is the UK's second largest industrial park and one of the largest in Europe. Wrexham, as with the northeast of Wales more generally, has been an area of relatively high economic activity and employment over the recent decades. But it is also one which has experienced significant job losses and closures of major local employers over the last 12 months. Wrexham also hosts one of the three major hospitals in North Wales, Wrexham Maelor Hospital and also the UK's most recent university, Glyndwr University.

Figure 1.4 The Wrexham Micro-locality site



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The relatively low unemployment levels in Wrexham over the last 10 years have attracted migrant workers from Eastern Europe, particularly from Poland. It is estimated that there are around 10-15K who have migrated from Eastern Europe over the last 5 years (since EU enlargement). According to the Institute for Public Policy Research, Wrexham has the largest number of Eastern European economic migrants in Wales. Wrexham also hosts one of the largest housing estates in Wales, Caia Park, on the south eastern edge of the town, with over 5000 properties and a population of around 12,500. The estate received media attention during the summer

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of 2003 for its “race riots” involving local whites and Iraqi asylum seekers. In October 2008, a new shopping and leisure development was opened in Wrexham, Eagles Meadow, but with concerns amongst certain stakeholders over the effect of this development on the town centre.

1.3 The Wales Spatial Plans

1.3.1 The North West Wales Eryri a Môn Spatial Plan Area

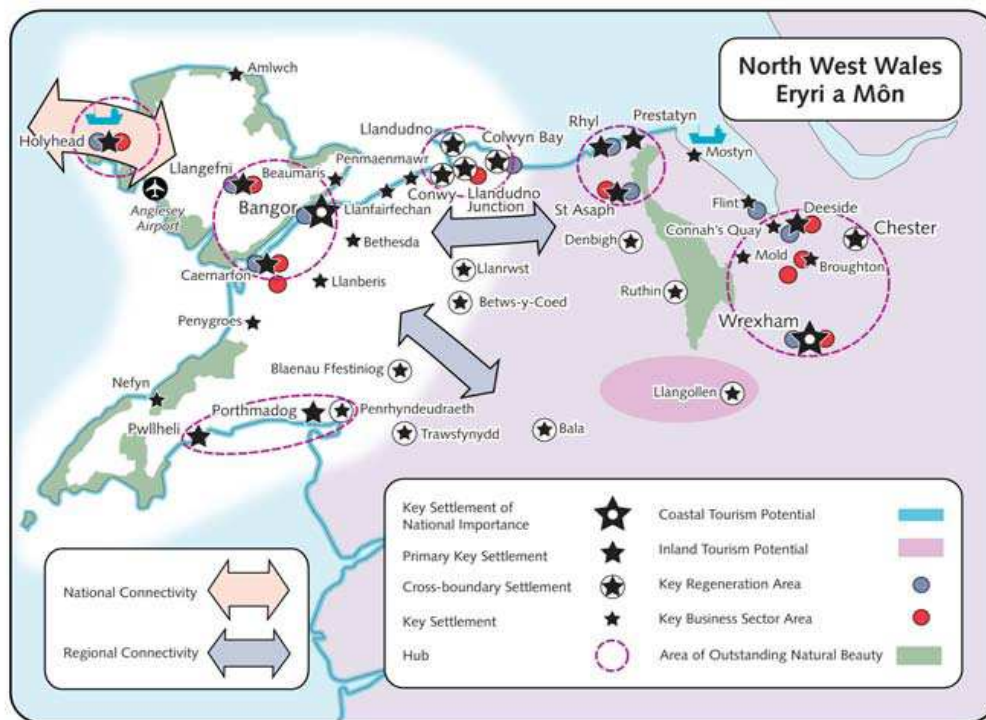
Gwynedd and Anglesey play a key role in the north west Wales’s spatial plan as indicated in Figure 1.5. The north west Wales region is presented in the plan as focused on a natural and physical environment and a cultural and knowledge-based economy which are viewed as supporting its distinctive Welsh language/cultural identity. Longstanding Welsh speaking communities are explicit within this as is the specific issue of retaining young people in order to sustain these communities. Equally the natural and physical environment of the area is seen to attract people from other parts of the UK both for tourism and recreation opportunities, as well as offering a quality of life that can lead to permanent settlement. This interface between longstanding Welsh speaking and in-migrant communities reflects the rural yet hybrid nature of the region.

Of key importance in the plan, and to the Arfon research site, is the “Menai Hub” incorporating Bangor, Caernarfon, and Llangefni. This includes significant cultural and knowledge based economies such as those centred on Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor University, Welsh Language Media Industries. In Anglesey, as can be seen, there are two focuses of attention; southern Anglesey, which is included in the Llangefni, Bangor and Caernarfon Hub, and north west Anglesey which is focussed on the Holyhead Hub. The Holyhead Hub is defined as an area of national connectivity reflecting its importance as one of the main UK links to Dublin and Eire. Holyhead is also a key primary settlement and a key regeneration and key business sector area, as is Llangefni. Currently, Llangefni is the administrative centre for the Island and houses the main council offices. The placing of the town within the Bangor Hub seems rather strange therefore, perhaps implying that Llangefni should have dual role. Interestingly, no Anglesey town is classed as being of key national importance, with Bangor being the only settlement in North West Wales identified as such. It is also worth noting that links from Anglesey to other areas in Wales are not identified. Anglesey is presented as being an important link to Dublin and Eire, as being part of the Caernarfon and Bangor Hub, but not as having important links to other areas of Wales. Anglesey airport has only been in operation since 2007 so its

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impact on links to south Wales and Cardiff in particular remain to be assessed. Tourism on the Island is confined to the coast, with only coastal areas being identified as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and of having tourism potential.

Figure 1.5 The North West Wales Eryri a Môn Spatial Plan Area



Source: Welsh Assembly Government (2008): *People, Places, Futures, The Wales Spatial Plan Update 2008*, (p. 66) <http://wales.gov.uk/dpsp/wspatialplan/documents/wsp2008update/wsp2008updateee.pdf?lang=en> (Accessed 17.03.2010)

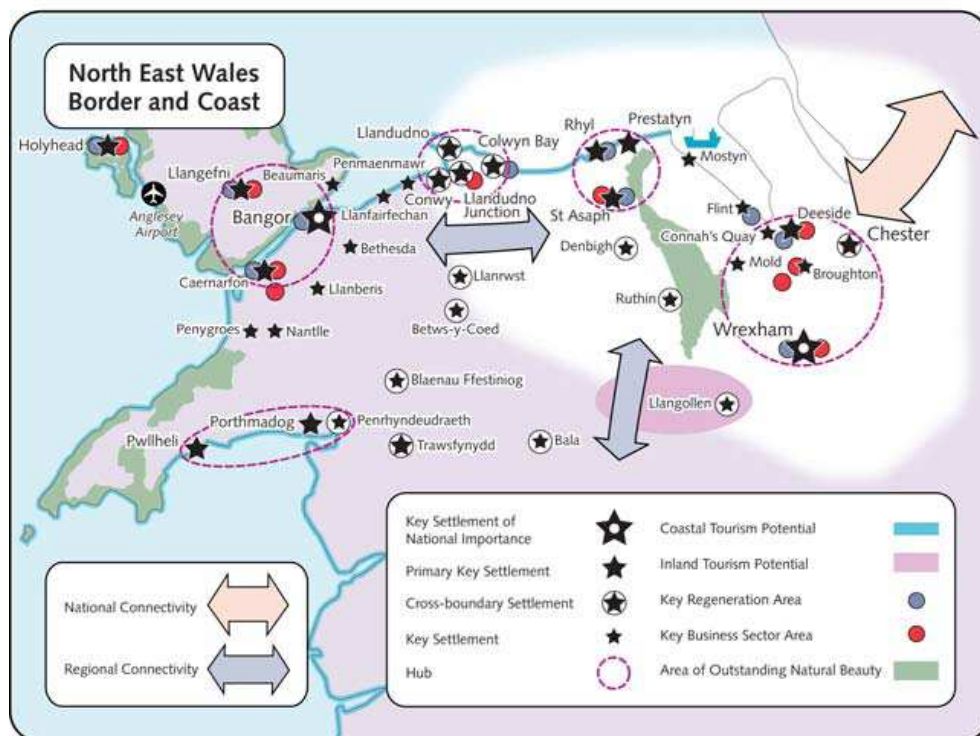
1.3.2 The North East Wales Border and Coast Spatial Plan Area

Wrexham is situated within the north east Wales spatial plan. It forms part of the Wrexham-Broughton-Deeside-Chester hub which is described as a highly industrialized cross border area (see Figure 1.6). The plan considers the Wrexham hub to be distinct from the coastal belt towns of Rhyl, Prestatyn and others, as well as from the rural hinterland which includes Llangollen. It is evident from the spatial plan that cross-border linkages are viewed as crucial to the economic prosperity of this area (although it is also evident that this raises issues relating to identity, culture, community and language as a result of significant economic in-migration). There are questions as to whether this relationship amounts to dependency or inter-dependency? The high levels of economic in-migration can also be contrasted to net-

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out migration of young people aged 16-24. The north east Wales area and Wrexham in particular, is highly dependent on the manufacturing sector which makes it particularly susceptible to global economic changes. It also raises issues about the skills base of the local population for a knowledge economy, which is reflected in the lack of graduate employment opportunities in the area. Although there has been some success in re-developing the area along the lines of high skills manufacturing, Wrexham and Flintshire are still structurally weaker than Chester in this respect.

Figure 1.6 The North East Wales Border and Coast Spatial Plan Area



Source: Welsh Assembly Government (2008): People, Places, Futures, The Wales Spatial Plan Update 2008, (p. 52) <http://wales.gov.uk/dpsp/wspatialplan/documents/wsp2008update/wsp2008updateee.pdf?lang=en> (Accessed 17.03.2010)

1.4 Thematic Data Summaries at Unitary Authority Level

At present, and for practical purposes, we are working on baseline reports at UA level for Anglesey, Gwynedd and Wrexham but ultimately it maybe that we extend baseline data for all six UAs across north Wales. In turn, with regard to stakeholder interviewing, we have been working with Gwynedd and Wrexham for UA level stakeholders with the likelihood of focusing on Gwynedd for further stakeholder tiers.

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In this section we provide data summaries at UA level for Gwynedd, Anglesey and Wrexham and consider how they compare to national Wales figures. We do this for each of the eight WISERD themes. These are supplemented with LSOA level data where available for the three WISERD micro-localities. The eight WISERD thematic areas are:

- Health, Wellbeing and Social Care
- Education and Young People
- Language, Citizenship and Identity
- Employment and Training
- Economic Development and Regeneration
- Crime, Public Space and Policing
- Housing and Transport
- Environment, Tourism and Leisure

1.4.1 Data Utilized

The starting points for the data summaries presented in this report were Infobase Cymru² and the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)³.

a) Infobase Cymru

Infobase Cymru was recently established by the Local Government Data Unit (June 2009) and provides small area statistic for Wales. The website draws on data from the Census and other key government surveys (e.g. Annual Population Survey).

b) Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (2008) requires more in-depth explanation. It is produced by the Welsh Assembly Government's Statistical Directorate and the Local Government Data Unit (Wales)⁴. Rather than relying on census data (with the exception of the housing domain), data is provided by the appropriate government department at LSOA level. For example, income and employment data (from August 2006 to May 2007) is provided by the Department of Work and Pensions.

It is important to take into consideration how each domain is calculated when interpreting the indices. For example, income does not take into consideration the

² <http://www.infobasecymru.net/>

³ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/wimd/2008/?lang=en>

⁴ <http://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/>

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actual salary earned in a particular area. Taking each domain in turn they are calculated as follows:

- **Income:** By totalling the number of adults and children in receipt of income related benefits (for example, income support; pension credit and child tax credit);
- **Employment:** By totalling the number of people claiming unemployment benefits (for example, unemployed-related benefits; incapacity benefits and New Deal participants);
- **Health:** By combining rates of limiting long-term illness; standardised all-cause death rate; standardised cancer incidence rate and singleton low birth weights (combined using weights derived from factor analysis);
- **Education, skills and training:** By combining average point scores at Key Stages 2, 3 and 4; primary and secondary school absence rates; proportion of people aged 18-19 not entering higher education; and proportion of adults aged 25-59/64 with no qualification (combined using weights derived from factor analysis);
- **Housing:** Two indicators only (equally weighted) are used for this domain: lack of central heating and overcrowding (excluding student households);
- **Physical environment:** This covers air quality; proximity to waste disposal and industrial sites; and flood risk;
- **Geographical access to services:** Services included: food shops; GP surgeries and NHS dentists; primary and secondary schools; post office; public library; leisure centre; and transport nodes (combined using weights derived from factor analysis);
- **Community safety:** Indicators for police force recorded crime; youth and adult offenders and fire incidence were combined using weights derived from factor analysis.

Some of the measures used in calculating the domain scores may be somewhat unexpected. For example, in the education, skills and training domain there is no mention of the number of pupils achieving at least 5 A* - C passes at GCSE. It is the housing indicators which appear to be the most surprising as they are restricted to central heating and overcrowding. It could be argued that a lack of central heating is not a reliable indicator of quality of housing as there are a number of damp and

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poorly maintained properties that still have central heating. These are the figures taken from the most recent census and are therefore an efficient means of collecting the data. It is interesting to note that the Community Safety indicators rely on measures of crime, rather than the perceived level of safety felt by the residents. This should result in the figures being able to be used more objectively. Each LSOA is ranked based on an overall score with the LSOA ranked 1 the most deprived (out of 1896 LSOAs in Wales). Although it is convenient to look at the figures for the Overall Index, a composite based on the scores of the different domains, it is also important to be aware of the individual domains as some may be more important in some instances than others. For example, there will be many affluent suburbs that do not score well on the geographical access to services domain.

c) Other Sources

More specific information relating to labour market data was consulted via the NOMIS website⁵ which draws on a variety of sources such as Census data, Annual Population Survey and Job Centre Plus. Data derived from these sites were then supplemented with key Welsh publications relating to each theme.

⁵ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

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Section 2: Health, Well-being and Social Care

2.1 Births and Deaths

We begin this section with births and deaths. According to annual ONS data, in 2008 there were 1251 live births in Gwynedd, 720 in Anglesey and 1758 in Wrexham. These compare to 35,755 across Wales as a whole. The rates of deaths (per 1000 residents) were higher for Gwynedd (11.6) and Anglesey (11.3) than for Wales (10.7) whilst Wrexham (10.3) has a rate just below the national average. In 2007, the rate of under 18 conceptions (per 1000 people) was higher in Gwynedd (49.2) compared to Anglesey (36.7) and Wrexham (44.1) as well as for Wales (44.9). Life expectancy rates are available via ONS which has data for 2003-05, 2004-06 and 2005-07. Rates of life expectancy for the period 2005-07 show similar patterns across the three UAs and compared to Wales (females 81.2, males 76.8) with no more than +/- 1% for each figure.

2.2 General Health

A variety of data is available on health from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) Welsh Health Survey for 2005-07 and 2007-08. A selection of these are listed in Table 2.1

Table 2.1: General health indicators Gwynedd, Anglesey, Wrexham

Year	Percentage of adults who reported...	Gwynedd	Anglesey	Wrexham	Wales
2007-08	...being a current smoker	22	23	23	24
2008	...binge drinking on at least one day a week	29	28	27	28
2005-07	...binge drinking on at least one day a week	17	16	18	19
2008	...currently being treated for a heart condition	8	9	9	9
2007-08	...being treated for mental illness	6	9	9	9
2007-08	...being treated for a repository illness	12	14	12	14
2007-08	...being treated for diabetes	6	5	6	6
2007-08	...being treated for high blood pressure	20	16	22	20

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2007-08	...eating 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetables the previous day	42	42	29	36
2007-08	...having a limiting long term illness	24	27	25	27
2007-08	...meeting physical activity guidelines in the past week	35	33	30	30
2007-08	...who were obese	19	18	19	21
2007-08	...who were overweight or obese	55	56	53	57
2007-08	...currently being treated for arthritis	10	10	12	13

Source: InfoBaseCymru/Welsh Health Survey 2005-07 and 2007-08

For many of the above indicators, the three UAs are similar to the Welsh average. The 2005-07 rates for binge drinking are included as there appears to be a significant increase for UAs and Wales. Some significant differences between UAs in rates can also be noted. Gwynedd has notably lower rates compared to others on proportion of adults being treated for mental illness for example. Anglesey also has lower rates for adults treated for high blood pressure. Both Gwynedd and Anglesey do better than Wrexham and Wales on physical activity guidelines and interestingly they also do significantly better on proportions of adults eating 5 or more fruit and vegetables per day. Wrexham ranks lower on this latter score.

2.3 Social Care

The Local Government Data Unit provides up to date information on adult social care as well as children in social services. In the period 2008-9, there were 107,261 adult social care clients for Wales, 6374 for Gwynedd, 2722 for Anglesey and 3856 for Wrexham. The numbers seem comparatively high for Gwynedd given its population. As of 31 March 2009, there were 4705 children looked after by local authorities, 160 for Gwynedd, 70 for Anglesey and 130 Wrexham. Again the numbers seem comparatively high for Gwynedd.

2.4 Substance Misuse

The Patient Episodes database for Wales served by the National Public Health Service provides information on categories substance misuse. This provides rates of persons admitted to hospitals for alcohol-related conditions per 100,000 for 2005. Compared to the Wales average (309.1) the rates were notably higher for Anglesey (366.7) compared to the Wales average. Gwynedd (349.8) and Wrexham (354.3) also reported rates higher than the national average. As one might expect the rates

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are higher for men compared to women for Wales (405.4 males, 218.2 females) and for the three UAs (Gwynedd: males 421.5, females 281.7; Anglesey: males 507.4, females 210.6; Wrexham males 447.5, females 267.1). Rates are also available for persons admitted to hospital for drug-related conditions per 100,000 people for 2005. The rates are lower for drug-related compared to alcohol related conditions: 165.9 for Wales, 172.3 for Gwynedd, 157.4 for Anglesey 226.0 for Wrexham. Thus rates for drug-related conditions are highest in Wrexham. Interestingly the gender differences show that while rates are higher for males for Wales (172.6; 159.6), Gwynedd (179.4; 165.9) and Anglesey (190.0; 124.2) they are higher for females in Wrexham (217.9, 235.3).

2.5. Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation – Health Domain

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation provides LSOA level data on the Health domain. The “top” 3 of Anglesey’s forty-four LSOAs for the Health domain are located in Holyhead, these are: *London Road* (169 – which is in the top 10% for Wales), *Morawelon* (296) and *Kingsland* (337). Gwynedd has no LSOAs ranked in the top 10% in the health domain. The most deprived LSOAs are *Peblig* (260) in Caernarfon and *Marchog 1* (271) and *Marchog 2* (324) which correspond to Maesgeirchen, Bangor. In contrast, Wrexham has four LSOAs ranked in the top 10% for Wales in the health domain, these are: *Queensway 1* (11), *Queensway 2* (55), *Hermitage 2* (76) – these three are part of the Caia Park estate – and *Gwersyllt West 1* (177).

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Section 3: Education and young people

The following information on assistance in schools, average class sizes and attainment is provided by WAG 2008-09 data. Data on qualifications is provided by the Annual Population Survey for 2008.

3.1 Assistance in Schools

The percentage of pupils entitled to free-school meals at primary and secondary levels provide one indicator of assistance in schools. For Wales, in 2008, there were 17.1% of primary school pupils and 14.8% secondary school pupils entitled to free school meals. These figures were lower for Gwynedd (12% for primary and 10.3% for secondary) whilst Anglesey (16.7% for primary and 14.4% for secondary) and Wrexham (15.4% for primary and 15.8% for secondary) were closer to the national picture.

3.2 Average Class Sizes

Average class sizes for Wales as a whole are 24.6 pupils for Key Stages 1, 25 pupils for Key Stage 2, 22.1 pupils for Years 7-11 and 10.9 pupils for Years 12-13. Averages for the three UAs reflect these Wales averages. The one notable exception is Years 12 and 13 for Wrexham in which the average class sizes is only 6 pupils compared to 10.1 pupils for Gwynedd and 11 pupils for Anglesey.

3.3 Attainment

A wide range of information is made available on educational attainment over different years, provided by WAG via Infobase Cymru. Two indicators are provided here. The first indicator is percentage of pupils entered for two or more A/AS levels or vocational equivalent achieving 2 or more A-C grades in 2006. For Wales, this was 67.5%. This was lower in Wrexham (55.6%) and Gwynedd (63.2%) but notably higher in Anglesey (80%). In fact Anglesey has by far the highest percentage for all UAs across Wales (Vale of Glamorgan (74.5%) is the second highest). The second indicator is percentage of pupils achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C for the period 2007 – 2008. For Wales this was 56%. This was again lower in Wrexham (52%) but in this case only slightly higher in Anglesey (58%) and Gwynedd (62%).

3.4 Qualifications

The 2008 Annual Population Survey provides data on percentage of the working age population with no qualifications, those with NQF2+ (5 GCSEs A-C+) and those with NQF4+. In Wales, 13.9% of the working age population had no qualifications. This

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compares to 15% for Anglesey, 13.8% for Gwynedd and 13.8% for Wrexham. In terms of the percentage of working age population with NQF2+ or above, Wales has an average of 70.3% and this compares to 69.9% in Anglesey, 71.8% in Gwynedd and 68.1% in Wrexham. The percentage of the working age population with qualifications at level NQF4+ or above is 28.2% for Wales and this is 24.0% in Anglesey, 29.9% in Gwynedd and 24.7% in Wrexham. In all cases, Anglesey is not as good as the Welsh average with Wrexham also performing poorly on the percentage of highly educated workers compared to Gwynedd and Wales as a whole.

3.5. Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation – Education Domain

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation provides LSOA level data on domains of income and employment. Of the forty-four LSOAs in Anglesey, *Morawelon* (119) is in the top 10%. Apart from *Tudur* (182) in Llangefni, seven of the eight most deprived LSOAs in Anglesey are in Holyhead. Of the 75 LSOAs, Gwynedd has 3 in the top 10% for Wales: *Marchog 1* (73), *Peblog* (86) and *Marchog 2* (164). Of the 85 LSOAs in Wrexham, 10 are in the top 10% for Wales, the majority of these LSOAs are located in Caia Park such as *Queensway 1* (10) and *Wynnstay* (11), but also includes areas such as *Plas Madoc* (77) to the south of Wrexham and *Brymbo* (123) to the north. This means that approximately 12% of Wrexham's LSOAs are amongst Wales' 10% most deprived LSOAs in the education domain⁶.

⁶These figures also reflect a discussion in a stakeholder focus group in Wrexham in which one stakeholder described a certain "Wrexham mindset" of low education and low aspiration

Section 4: Language, Citizenship and Identity

4.1 Population

We begin this section with population summaries which also form background to all the themes. As of June 2008, the resident populations were 118,207 for Gwynedd; 68,732 for Isle of Anglesey; 130,248 for Wrexham and 2,993,430 for Wales⁷.

4.2 Welsh Speakers

According to the 2001 Census, 20.8% of people in Wales (aged 3 and over) were able to speak Welsh. There are significant contrasts however by Unitary Authority. There were 69.0% in Gwynedd and 60.0% in Anglesey able to speak Welsh. These two UAs have the highest proportions of Welsh speakers across Wales. This is in contrast to Wrexham in which the proportion able to speak Welsh is 14.6% which is less than the national average. There was a 2.1 percentage point rise in people able to speak Welsh between the 1991 and 2001 census from 18.7% to 20.8%⁸. In Gwynedd and Anglesey however the proportion of Welsh speakers decreased by 3.1 and 1.9 percentage points respectively between 1991 and 2001. This is also in contrast to Wrexham which reported a small percentage point increase from 13.7 to 14.6.

The Annual Population Survey (2008) reports 26.5% of people in Wales who can speak Welsh. In Gwynedd, 71.9% of people say they can speak Welsh whilst the figure for Anglesey is 63.1%. In Wrexham, 21.0% of people say they can speak Welsh. In each of these cases, the APS reports higher percentages of people who say they can speak Welsh compared to the 2001 Census. Changes between 2005 and 2008 can also be identified. Gwynedd in particular reported a 3.1 percentage point drop from 75.0% to 71.9% between 2005 and 2008. There was little change in proportions for Anglesey, Wrexham or for Wales as a whole.

Overall, the trends in both these data-sets reflect that it is in majority Welsh speaking areas (those with over 50% able to speak Welsh) such as Gwynedd and Anglesey that we find the sharpest declines in numbers of speakers, whilst the greatest increases in numbers of Welsh speakers are to be found in areas with lower overall proportions such as Cardiff and the Southeast.

⁷ Source: Office for National Statistics.

⁸ There is a data issue here to do with the change in the wording of the Welsh Language question in the 1991 and 2001 Censuses. The wording of questions may also explain differences in proportions of Welsh speakers in the Census and APS.

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4.3 Welsh in Schools

Data on Welsh language in primary and secondary schools (for the period September 2008 - August 2008) ⁹ reflect patterns of Welsh speakers across Wales as identified in section 4.2. In Wales as a whole, 30.7% of maintained primary schools and 15.7% of maintained secondary schools (year groups 7-11) teach Welsh as the first language. The majority of schools in Wales teach Welsh as a second language (66.8% for primary and 83.5% for secondary schools). In contrast to the national picture, in Gwynedd 99.1% of primary schools and 79.5% of secondary schools teach Welsh as a first language. The majority of schools in Anglesey also teach Welsh as a first language (72% for primary and 66% for secondary schools). Wrexham on the other hand is closer to the national average with 10.6% of primary and 9.8% of secondary schools teaching Welsh as a first language. For each of the UAs, as well as for Wales, the proportion teaching Welsh both as first and second languages is greater for primary schools than for secondary schools.

4.4 Country of Birth

The 2001 census provides UK level data on country of birth down to LSOA level. This allows distinctions to be made between people born in Wales, those born in the UK but outside of Wales and those born outside of the UK. For Wales as a whole, 75.4% of the resident population were born in Wales. Of those born outside of Wales, 20.3% were born in England. Patterns for the three UAs are relatively similar to the Wales average with 69.9% Welsh-born and 26.6% English-born in Gwynedd; 70.2% Welsh-born and 19.9% English-born in Anglesey; and 71.9% Welsh-born and 24.5% English-born in Wrexham. Comparable 2001 census figures on country of birth for England demonstrate that the proportion of people who live in Wales but were born outside of Wales (24.6%) is very high. However, the figures on English-born living in Wales are accentuated in the case of Wales due to significant numbers of people born in cross-border hospitals in England. This is a particular issue for the very high figures on English-born for unitary authorities adjacent to the English border. For these and other reasons, country of birth is an inadequate indicator of ethnic and national identification in Wales.

⁹ Source: Welsh Assembly Government.

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4.5 National Identity/Ethnicity

The Annual Population Survey (APS) 2008 asks questions on national identity and ethnicity at the UK level with breakdowns for Wales and UA. This provides data on people who consider themselves Welsh as well as on numbers of people from a non-white background. However, numbers of ethnic minority people in Wales in this survey are too small to be considered at UA level. Census 2001 data on “ethnic group” report very low percentages of non-white populations in Gwynedd, Anglesey and Wrexham. In the APS 2008, 64.2% of people in Wales considered themselves as Welsh, with similar proportions in the three UAs - 64.7% in Gwynedd; 60.5% for Anglesey and 61.9% for Wrexham. APS data also points to changes over time. Between 2001 and 2006 there was a 6.4 percentage point decrease in Wrexham (from 67.1% to 60.7%) for those who consider themselves Welsh, the second largest decrease in Wales after Ceredigion. On the other hand, Anglesey showed a growth of 3.4 percentage points during this same period (between 60.1% and 63.5%).

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Table 4.1 Contrasting Welsh Language and Identity Contexts

	<i>Percentage who consider themselves Welsh</i>	<i>Percentage who say they can speak Welsh</i>
Gwynedd	64.7	71.9
Wrexham	61.9	21.0
Anglesey	60.5	63.1
Denbighshire	48.3	30.8
Conwy	46.2	34.1
Flintshire	38.9	30.7
Wales	64.2	26.5

Source: Annual Population Survey 2008

Table 4.1 shows at the UA level the extent to which Welsh identity relates to speaking Welsh (shown for all UAs across the North Wales region). The table shows that the UAs of Gwynedd and Anglesey as high Welsh speaking and fairly high Welsh identity contexts can be contrasted to Flintshire where the rates for both are much lower. Although even in Flintshire it appears that the majority of people who consider themselves Welsh are Welsh speakers. Wrexham is interesting here in that unlike Flintshire it has a fairly high percentage of people considering themselves Welsh, comparable to Gwynedd and Anglesey, but is the lowest across North Wales for numbers of Welsh speakers. It's also interesting that Anglesey, and particularly Gwynedd, report higher percentages of people who say they can speak Welsh compared to those who consider themselves Welsh. Taking care of interpreting aggregate data, this may suggest that some people who are able to speak Welsh do not necessarily identify themselves as Welsh. Therefore, just as there are people who identify themselves as Welsh who don't speak the Welsh language, there are also, albeit to a much lesser extent, people who do speak Welsh but who do not claim to be Welsh— 7.2% in Gwynedd. An obvious explanation for this, given the migration trends in the region discussed in section 1 and below, is the impact of

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Welsh learning amongst non-Welsh born individuals who report being able to speak Welsh whilst not adopting a Welsh identity.

4.6 Migration

The inadequacies and needs of migration-related data are well recognised at the UK level. The census only provides area of origin based on an address one year before the census. The Annual Population Survey provides data on out and inflow of migrants from the UK between UAs. The NHS Patient Register Data System provides data on movements within Wales and between Wales and England. Based on estimates for year ending mid-2002 to year ending mid-2006, inflow and outflow rates were 19.8 and 16.0 respectively for Wales¹⁰. Both Anglesey and Wrexham reflect the Wales figures, but in Gwynedd rates of migration inflows and outflows are higher at 28.4 and 23.0 respectively. This is also reflect in real numbers of migration inflows and outflows which are higher for Gwynedd compared to Wrexham, despite Wrexham having a larger resident population. North Wales as a whole (comprising the six unitary authorities of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham) have higher numbers of inflows and outflows of migration compared to the other regions in Wales (Mid Wales, South West Wales, South East Wales, Valleys)¹¹.

¹⁰ Rates are people migrating per 1,000 resident population. See the WAG document *Wales Population: A Demographic Overview*.

¹¹ See Statistical Bulletin: Patterns of Migration in Wales.

Section 5: Employment and Training

5.1 Employment

The Annual Population Survey, which combines responses from the quarterly Labour Force Survey, provides up to date information on economic activity/inactivity, and occupation at UA level. The figures reported are for the period April 2008 - March 2009. The percentage of all persons that are of working age for Wales is 60.2%. Compared to the national average, the proportion working age is lower for Gwynedd (58.6%) and Anglesey (57.2%) but slightly higher for Wrexham (61.4%). The proportion of those economically active for Wales is 75.8%. This is also higher for Wrexham which at 81.5% is one of the highest for UAs across Wales, but lower for Gwynedd (71%) and Anglesey (68.9%). The same pattern is also reflected in rates of economic inactivity: 25.4% for Gwynedd; 25.5% for Anglesey; 18.5% for Wrexham and 24.2% for Wales as a whole. However, different patterns are evident for the self-employed which are higher than the Wales average (8.8%) in Gwynedd (12.3%) and Anglesey (10.2%) as they are in other non-industrial UAs of mid, west and north west Wales. Conversely the proportion self-employed in Wrexham is much lower at 6.3%.

5.2 Occupation

The Annual Population Survey categories employment by occupation into four major groups and nine sub-groups as Soc 2000 major groups;

- 1-3 (1. Managers and senior officials, 2. Professional occupations and 3. Association professional and technical); Wales average: 38.7%
- 4-5 (4. Administrative and 5. Secretarial); Wales average 23.9%
- 6-7 (6. Personal services occupations and 7. Sales and customer services occupations); Wales average 16.8%
- 8-9 (8. Process plant and 9. Machine operatives) Wales average 20.5%

Reflecting its manufacturing base, Wrexham has a relatively high proportion of process plant and machine operatives (23.5%), 3% higher than the national average. Conversely, Gwynedd and Anglesey have higher proportions than Wrexham and Wales for managers and professionals at 39.4% and 40.5% respectively. In Wrexham this is 22% and Wales this is 25% In Anglesey the proportion of managers and professions is more than double that of process plant and machine operatives.

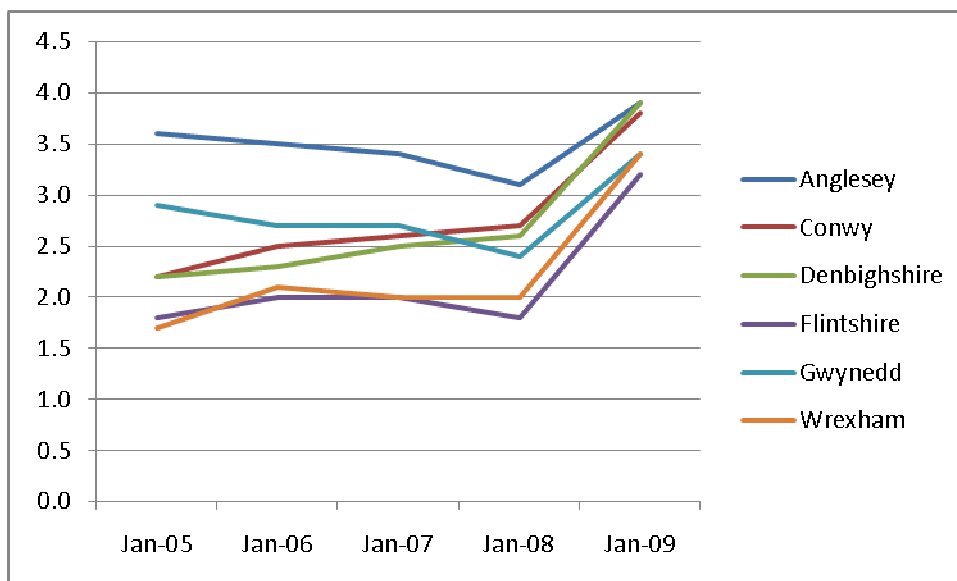
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5.3 Receipt of Benefits

Information on benefit receipt is available from NOMIS. In contrast to the above indicators, information is available for LSOA level thus allowing more detailed geographical comparisons to be made. However because population data lower than UA level is only available from the 2001 Census, rates may be inaccurate as areas may have experienced significant changes in their population since this period. Thus we concern ourselves here with UA level comparisons. In looking at total claimant counts in proportion to working age population for September 2009, both Anglesey (4.1%) and Wrexham (4.3%) reflect the Wales national average (4.4%). Gwynedd however is significantly lower at 2.9%.

Information for benefit receipt is available quarterly and thus allows for comparison over time. Figure 5.1 shows number of claimants for each of the six north Wales unitary authorities over the period 2005 to 2009. All six reflect significant rises in the number of claimant counts, with sharp rises in each from January 2008 onward, and are much more bunched together than they were. Yet it is interesting to note how this rise begins at different points in time for each UA. For example Anglesey and Gwynedd were still showing declining rates of claimants up until January 2008, whilst Conwy and Denbighshire show steady increases since 2005.

Figure 5.1 Number of benefit claimants 2005-2009 ('000s)



Source: NOMIS

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5.4. Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation – Employment and Income Domains

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation provides LSOA level data on domains of income and employment. Of the forty-four LSOAs in the Anglesey micro-locality, two are in the 10% most deprived for Wales in the income domain – these are *Morawelon* in Holyhead (119) and *Tudur* in Llangefni (187); and one for the employment domain – *Morawelon* (187) again. Of the seventy five LSOAs in Gwynedd micro-locality, two are in the first 10% for income - *Pebblig* (72) in Caernarfon and *Marchog 2* (169) which is part of Bangor's Maesgeirchen housing estate; and one for the employment domain – *Pebblig* (129). Finally of the eighty-five LSOAs in the Wrexham micro-locality, there are five in the first 10% for the Income Domain – *Queensway 1* (24), *Queensway 2* (176), *Wynnstay* (58) and *Hermitage 2* (95) which form part of the Caia Park estate and *Plas Madoc* (48) which is south of the town and Wrexham. Four of these five are in the first 10% for employment – *Queensway 1* (34), *Plas Madoc* (58), *Wynnstay* (82) and *Hermitage 2* (95). *Queensway 1* of the Caia Park estate in Wrexham has the highest deprivation position for our three UAs for income and employment.

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Section 6: Economic Development and Regeneration

6.1 Businesses by Industry and Size

Table 6.1, based on 2008 ONS data, shows the percentage of all local business units (LBU's) by broad industry groupings at UA level.

Table 6.1 Percentage of all Local Business Units by broad industrial groupings

Percentage of all local business units	Gwynedd	Anglesey	Wrexham	Wales
Agriculture	21	23.7	9.2	13.6
Construction	9.1	10.7	11.1	9.7
Education	3	3.1	3.2	2.9
Finance	1.2	1	1.2	1.9
Health	5.3	5.4	7.3	6.2
Hotels and Catering	11.1	8.1	6.7	8.1
Motor Trades	3	3.3	3.8	3.7
Post and Telecommunications	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.8
Production	5.2	5	8.4	6.1
Property and Business Services	12.3	12.6	19.8	19
Public Admin and Other Services	9.6	8.1	9	8.8
Retail	12.6	11.7	10.7	12
Transport	2.7	3.3	4.4	3.4
Wholesale	3.1	3.3	4.4	3.9

Source: ONS

As one would expect, Gwynedd and Anglesey have higher percentages of LBUs pertaining to agriculture compared to Wrexham and for Wales as a whole. Gwynedd, and to a lesser extent, Anglesey also report higher rates for Hotels and Catering reflecting the significance of tourism. In fact, almost a quarter of LBUs in Anglesey relate to agriculture. In contrast, Wrexham has comparatively higher percentages for Property and Business Services, Transport, Construction and indeed for Health.

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Property and Business Services, rates are particularly low for Gwynedd and Anglesey.

Based on the same ONS data for March 2008, the Table 6.2 shows the number of LBUs and their percentage breakdowns according to size (numbers employed).

Table 6.2 Numbers of Local Business Units according to size

	Gwynedd	Anglesey	Wrexham	Wales
Number of all local business units	6445	2895	4620	116630
% with 0-4 persons employed	71.3	71.8	65.8	68.3
% with 5-9 persons employed	15.1	14.3	15.3	15
% with 10-19 persons employed	7.4	7.9	9.3	8.2
% with 20+ persons employed	6.2	5.9	9.6	8.5

Source: ONS

Overall, Gwynedd has a higher number of all local business units (6445) compared to Anglesey (2895) and Wrexham (4620). As Table 6.2 shows Gwynedd and Anglesey have higher percentages of LBUs with 0-4 persons employed compared to Wrexham and Wales as a whole, but only by a few percentage points. The opposite trend is also true for percentage of LBUs with 10-19 and 20+ persons which are higher in Wrexham than elsewhere show in the table.

6.2 Focus in: LSOA data on key industries

Tables 6.1 & 6.2 can be supplemented with further data available at LSOA level. Tables 6.3 & 6.4 reports selected LSOAs in Anglesey and Wrexham which have a particular association with key industries. For example in *Llanfair-yn-Neubwll 2* (RAF Valley) 40.3% work in public administration. Whilst in *Queensway 2* (part of Wrexham's Caia Park Estate) 35.67% work in manufacturing.

Table 6.3 Selected Anglesey LSOA districts associated with key industries

LSOA Name	Code	Percentage Working in Industry
Llanfair-yn-Neubwll 2 (RAF Valley)	007E	40.3% public admin

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Morwawelon (Holyhead)	003E	31.5% manufacturing
Tudur (Llangefni)	006D	25.5% manufacturing
Cadnant	008B	22.8% education
Llangoed	005D	22.3% health & social work
Mechell	001E	20.4% motor vehicles
Holyhead Town	003A	15.0% transport
Porthyfelin 2 (Holyhead)	003G	14.7% transport
Kingsland (Holyhead)	003B	13.5% transport
Beaumaris	005A	11.9% hotels etc.
Llanbadrig (Wylfa)	001C	11.3% electricity, gas, water
Llannerch-y-medd	001D	11.05% agriculture
Llanbedrgoch	005C	10.6% real estate
Parc a'r mynydd (Nr Holyhead)	004B	10.1% real estate

Table 6.4 Selected Wrexham LSOA districts associated with key industries

LSOA Name	Code	Percentage Working in Industry
Queensway 2	10D	35.67% manufacturing
Llaw 1	3D	35.59% manufacturing
Cartrefle 2	10B	35.09% manufacturing
Brynffynnon 2	11B	26.35% health & social
Acton 2	9B	20.94% wholesale
Gwersyllt East and South 2	3C	20.15% wholesale
Borras Park 1	7A	16.09% health & social
Marford and Hoseley 2	2D	12.89% finance
Marford and Hoseley 1	2C	12.88% finance
Marford and Hoseley 1	2C	12.44% education
Marford and Hoseley 2	2D	11.85% education
Grosvenor 2	8C	10.0% hotels
Little Acton 1	8D	7.77% public admin
Wynnstay	10E	7.48% transport

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Section 7: Crime, Public Space and Policing

7.1. Crime: Recorded crime rate

Table 7.1 Rates of Police recorded crime per 1,000 people 2008-09

	Rate of recorded violence against the person offences	Rate of recorded sexual offences	Rate of recorded robbery offences	Rate of recorded burglary offences per 1,000 people	Rate of recorded offences against vehicles	Rate of recorded other theft offences	Rate of recorded criminal damage offences	Rate of recorded drug offences	Rate of total recorded offences
Isle of Anglesey	14.39	0.64	0.07	4.19	2.77	10.81	16.19	4.23	55.35
Gwynedd	16.84	0.95	0.11	4.72	4.33	12.56	18	3.63	63.35
Wrexham	19.28	0.92	0.34	9.38	9.4	17.3	19.01	3.78	82.97
Wales	15.91	0.82	0.41	8.61	10.84	15.98	19.02	4.47	79.4

Source: InfoBase Cymru/ Local Government Data Unit¹²

Table 7.1 summarises the rates of recorded crime per 1,000 people in 2008/9. The average rate of total recorded offences across Wales is 79.4 per 1000 people. Anglesey and Gwynedd clearly fall under that average, with Anglesey at 55.35 per 1000 and Gwynedd at 63.35 per 1000, highlighting the relative lack of reported crime in these UAs overall, though with some provisos (for example, see section 7.5 below for significant differences between LSOAs within UAs, and a closer examination of the statistics highlights that crime rates in specific areas are also relatively high in Gwynedd and Anglesey). Wrexham's total is higher than the national average, at 82.97 per 1000. Crimes against vehicles, burglary and other theft offences were significantly higher in Wrexham than in the other two UAs. However drug offences, violence against people and property (criminal damage), were more comparable between the UAs; while Wrexham generally remained the UA with the highest incidence in these variables, there is not much difference between rates of criminal damage in Gwynedd at 18 per 1000, and Wrexham at 19 per 1000. Interestingly, levels of recorded violence against persons in Gwynedd -16.84 per 1000- are higher than the Wales average of 15.91. Anglesey also has a higher rate of recorded drug offences than Wrexham, although all fall under the national average (albeit fractionally).

¹² Table 7.1 gives the total number of recorded offences and shows most, but not all, of the types of variables recorded

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Table 7.1 Crimes reported by the police, 2005/6 -2008/9

Name	Total number of recorded offences(FY 05-06)	Total number of recorded offences(FY 08-09)	Number of recorded burglary offences(FY 05-06)	Number of recorded burglary offences(FY 08-09)	Number of recorded offences against vehicles(FY 05-06)	Number of recorded offences against vehicles(FY 08-09)	Number of recorded criminal damage offences(FY 05-06)	Number of recorded criminal damage offences(FY 08-09)	Number of recorded drug offences(FY 05-06)	Number of recorded drug offences(FY 08-09)
Isle of Anglesey	4064	3819	270	289	291	191	1231	1117	251	292
Gwynedd	8224	7499	608	559	774	512	2111	2131	387	430
Wrexham	11296	10945	955	1237	1337	1240	3312	2508	467	499
Wales	258024	236613	26318	25637	42818	32298	64044	56693	9498	13326

Source: InfoBase Cymru/ Local Government Data Unit¹³

¹³ Table 7.2 gives the total number of recorded crime numbers for 05/6 and 08/9, and some key examples of the types of variables recorded

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7.2. Crime: Police recorded crime numbers

Table 7.2 shows that, in all three case study UAs, the total number of recorded offences fell between the years 2005-06 and 2008-09, reflecting the national trend. Rates in Anglesey are dramatically lower than rates in Wrexham, with 3819 recorded offences in 2008-09 in Anglesey compared with 10,945 in Wrexham. The breakdown of variables highlights some areas where different UAs mark slight rises during this timeframe: for example, recorded burglary rates on Anglesey rose from 270 in 2005-06 to 289 in 2008-09, with Wrexham showing an even greater increase from 955 recorded burglaries in 2005-06, to 1237 in 2008-09. In contrast, recorded burglaries in Gwynedd fell from 608 in 2005-06 to 559 in 2008-09. All three UAs also show increases in recorded drug offences between 2005-06 and 2008-09, whilst numbers of recorded vehicle offences are down in all three UAs in this timeframe (with the significant difference in 2008-09 between Anglesey with 191 recorded vehicle crimes and Wrexham with 1240, being worthy of note). Numbers of criminal damage offences fell in Anglesey and Wrexham between 2005-06 and 2008-09, whereas rates rose slightly in Gwynedd. These differences in the types of crimes reporting rises and falls in rates of occurrence in the different UAs are interesting, indicating different patterns of criminal behaviour within the localities.

7.3. Crime: Deliberate fires

Table 7.3 Number of deliberate fire attended by the fire and rescue service, 2004-06

	Number of fires attended by fire and rescue service; deliberate(2004)	Number of fires attended by fire and rescue service; deliberate(2005)	Number of fires attended by fire and rescue service; deliberate(2006)
Isle of Anglesey	74	40	46
Gwynedd	85	91	84
Wrexham	237	223	260
Wales	5595	4605	4391
Wales UA average	254.32	209.32	199.60

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Source: InfoBase Cymru/ Department for Communities and Local Government

In Table 7.3 there are some interesting differences and fluctuations in deliberately started fires within the UAs when set against an overall national picture of steady decline per annum. Anglesey performs the best out of the three UAs, dropping from 74 deliberate fires in 2004 to 46 in 2006, and well below the average for Wales of 199.60 in 2006; the Anglesey 2006 figure does however represent a slight increase from the low of 40 deliberate fires recorded in 2005. Gwynedd's trend is also generally down, from 85 deliberate fires in 2004 to 84 in 2006, recovering from a slight increase of 91 in 2005. Wrexham's incidents of deliberate fires are in a class of their own. While there was a relatively small decrease from 237 in 2004 to 223 fires in 2005, numbers rose to a high of 260 incidents in 2006, considerably more than the all Wales UA average.

7.4. Crime: Malicious fire alarms

Table 7.2 Malicious fire alarms, 2003 and 2006

	Number of malicious false alarms(2003)	Number of malicious false alarms(2004)	Number of malicious false alarms(2005)	Number of malicious false alarms(2006)
Isle of Anglesey	99	102	21	15
Gwynedd	249	186	78	45
Wrexham	162	177	33	30
Wales	5952	4707	1785	1755
Wales UA average	271			80

Source: Infobase Cymru/ Department for Communities and Local Government

Table 7.4 reports that there has been a dramatic fall across Wales between 2003 and 2006 in the number of malicious false alarms. This is reflected in the three UAs, which show a significant decline in incidents, apart from a small rise in Wrexham from 162 incidents in 2003, to 177 in 2004. This clearly bucked the trend, and shows a vast decrease in the following year 2005 to 33 incidents. All three UAs are well

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under the national Wales average in 2003 and 2006. Whether this dramatic reduction overall is the result of a national initiative, changes in reporting and recording criteria, or represents spontaneous decline in this type of activity is an interesting question.

7.5. Public space: Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2008 - Community safety domain

The 2008 WIMD community safety domain monitors deprivation as a composite of indicators covering police force recorded crime, youth offenders, adult offenders, primary fires and abandoned vehicle fires. This domain importantly thus depicts actual levels of crime rather than perceptions of crime. It is clear from use of the LSOA data that there is a very dramatic difference between LSOAs with relation to community safety, enabling a more nuanced understanding of the averages relating to crime provided at UA level (Tables 7.1- 7.4 above). As throughout the document, LSOA figures for North Wales focus on the three micro localities within the three UAs. In the Gwynedd micro locality of Arfon, the LSOA Communities First area *Marchog 2* is the worst performing, ranking 76th on the WIMD, followed by *Pebblig*, ranking 122 on the WIMD. The best performing LSOA in the Arfon micro locality site is *Bethel* and *Cwm y Glo 1*, ranking 1556. Many other LSOAs in Gwynedd *outside* the micro locality site perform extremely well, the safest LSOA in Gwynedd being *Dolbenmaen*, ranking 1782. The Wrexham town micro locality case study site contains 12 out of the top 15 (worst performing) LSOAs in the entire UA of Wrexham for community safety and there are some highly important figures here: *the micro locality LSOA Queensway 1 is in fact ranked 2nd on the WIMD*¹⁴ (highlighted for emphasis) with the LSOA Wynnstay not far behind, ranked 11th. However, again reflecting the finding of dramatic heterogeneity contained within the small geographical sites the micro localities represent, several LSOAs within the Wrexham micro locality are amongst the safest in Wales, the safest being *Marford* and *Hoseley 2* at 1781. The safest LSOA in the entire Wrexham UA is *Overton 1*, at 1809. The Anglesey micro locality site similarly demonstrates significant variation: firstly, the top 11 worst performing LSOAs in the entire UA are in the case study micro locality site, with the micro locality LSOA *Holyhead Town* the worst performing, ranked 38th. Again however several LSOAs within the micro locality in fact score very well on the WIMD for this domain, the best performing being *Brynteg* at 1688; this LSOA is in fact the best performing LSOA in the entire UA. The next best performing Anglesey micro locality LSOA is *Modffordd* at 1593.

¹⁴ The LSOA *Rhyl West 2*, also in North Wales in the UA Denbighshire, is the highest.

Section 8: Housing and Transport

8.1 Housing: Average House Price UA level

Infobase Cymru data shows that in February 2008, the average national Welsh house price was £139,795. In August 2009, this had dropped to £123,491. This dramatic fall provides confirmation of the effects of the credit crunch and the downward trend shows the end of the housing boom clearly. Drop off rates in Gwynedd were even more dramatic, with the average house price in February 2008 of £163,179 falling off in August 2009 to £137,030. Similar dramatic drop off rates are evident in Anglesey, where the average house price fell from £158,209 in February 2008 to £131,251 in August 2009. Wrexham almost exactly mirrors the Wales national average, with a less dramatic fall from £139,201 in February 2008 to an average of £126,014 in August 2009.

8.2 Housing: Average House Price Semi Detached House UA level

InfoBase Cymru breaks the average house price down further by type of house; namely detached, semi-detached, terraces and flats. The average price of a semi detached house has been provided for further comparison. In February 2008, the national (Wales) average price of a semi detached house was £127,386. This had fallen to £112,529 by August 2009. In Gwynedd in February 2008, the average semi detached house cost £163,490, which had dropped off to £137,814 in August 2009. Interestingly, these figures for semi detached properties on Gwynedd almost exactly mirror the average house price in Gwynedd. On Anglesey in February 2008 the average price of a semi detached house was £130,144; this had fallen off sharply by August 2009 to a low of £108,244. In Wrexham, the average semi detached property cost £119,754 in February 2008, which fell to £108,530 in August 2009.

8.3 Housing: Eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need: UA level

Infobase Cymru provides figures for the quarter April–June 2009 for those identified as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need. Across Wales as a whole for this quarter, there were 1,337 people in this category. In Gwynedd, there were 61 people in this category. On Anglesey, there were 31 and in Wrexham there were 81. For this quarter April-June for the previous year 2008, across Wales as a whole there were 1,581 in this category. In Anglesey there were 38, in Gwynedd 81, and Wrexham 103. There is thus a slight decline in the category of eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need when comparing the quarter April- June 2008 with the same quarter in the following year 2009, with all three North Wales UAs reflecting the national pattern.

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8.4 Housing: Total Number of Decisions Taken on Homelessness UA level

Infobase Cymru shows a slight decline from 2006 to 2009 in the total number of decisions taken on homelessness (homeless households) by UAs across Wales as a whole; from 14,875 in 2006-07 to 12,837 in 2008-09. This pattern of slight decline is identifiable in all three case study UAs. The number of decisions officially taken on homelessness in Gwynedd during 2006-07 was 683; in 2008-09 this had fallen to 565. In Anglesey, the number of decisions taken during 2006-07 was 367, falling to 296 for 2008-09. In Wrexham, 777 decisions were taken in 2006-07, falling to 684 in 2008-09. These show an interesting decline in the number of decisions officially taken on homelessness and as yet do not demonstrate any rise in people presenting as homeless at UA level which might be expected due to the recession.

8.5 Housing: Percentage of dwellings in Council Tax Band

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is responsible for valuing all domestic properties in England and Wales and placing property in one of nine property bands. The VOA calculated valuation band based on property prices as at 1st April 2003. In this section, Council Tax band A is taken as an example; the lowest property band for housing, for properties valued up to £44,000. This data is available at LSOA level and the last available figures given are for 31st March 2007. The top and bottom LSOAs within the three micro-locality case study areas within the UAs of Gwynedd, Anglesey and Wrexham are given, showing significant variation between LSOAs in each micro locality. The Welsh average percentage of dwellings in council tax band 'A' in 2007 is 15.15%. In the Anglesey micro locality case study area, several LSOAs have over 40% of housing in band A, the highest being the LSOA Holyhead Town at 51.49%. The LSOA in the Anglesey micro locality with the lowest percentage of houses in Band A is Valley 2 at 0.98% (just under 1%). In The Gwynedd micro locality site, the LSOA with the highest % of houses in Band A is Talysarn at 34.97%. Bethel + Cwm y Glo1 is the LSOA with the lowest % of houses in Band A, at 1.95%. In the Wrexham micro- locality case study area, six LSOAs had no houses in band A. including Gwersyllt East and South 3 and Marford and Hoseley 2. The Wrexham LSOA with the highest percentage of houses in band A in 2007 was Hermitage 2 at 35.01%.

8.6 Housing: LSOA WIMD 2008 for UA case study sites

Housing data is also available broken down to LSOA level; this is relatively recent data taken from the 2008 WIMD. The indicators used for the housing domain were:

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- Lack of central heating
- Overcrowding (excluding all student households)

Within the UA of Gwynedd in the micro locality case study area of Arfon, several LSOAs rank quite highly (i.e. with high levels of deprivation) for the housing domain. The LSOA *Marchog* ranks 14th highest (out of 1896 LSOAs across Wales) with the next LSOA in the case study Arfon area of Gwynedd, *Peblig*, ranking 34th. In the Arfon micro locality, there are also several LSOAs with quite low levels of deprivation for housing. The LSOA *Pentir* ranks 1115 and the LSOA *Lanrug* ranks 1040. In the case study micro locality within the UA of Anglesey, several LSOAs also have high levels of deprivation for housing, the most deprived being *Morawelon* at 37th out of 1896. The Anglesey micro locality case study also has some LSOAs with good scores for housing (low levels of deprivation), the least deprived LSOA being *Treaddur 2* at 1527 out of 1896. The Wrexham micro locality has several of the most deprived LSOAs for housing in the country, the most deprived, *Gwersyllt North 2*, ranking 4th highest out of 1896, the LSOA *Cartrefle 2* ranking 11th and the LSOA *Wynnstay* ranking 13th. Wrexham also has some of the very least deprived LSOAs for housing, with the LSOA *Manford* and *Hoseley 1* ranking 1880 and the LSOA *Manford* and *Hoseley 2* ranking 1838.

8.7 Transport: Percentage of roads in overall poor condition

This data is available at UA level. There are two categories: the percentage of A-roads in overall poor condition; and the percentage of non-principle roads in poor condition. Statistics are available on Infobase Cymru for 2008-2009. Taking A-roads first, the Welsh average percentage of roads in overall poor condition in 2008-9 is 4.4%. In Anglesey, 2.3% of A-roads are classified as in overall poor condition. This compares with Gwynedd at 3.6% and Wrexham at 2.4% making all three UAs under the Welsh average. For non-principle roads in 2008-9, the Welsh average percentage is 8.4%. 7.8% of roads in Anglesey are in this condition, compared with 9.2% in Gwynedd and 5.8% in Wrexham.

8.8 Transport: vehicle usage: Percentage of households with no cars or vans

This data is available at UA level and LSOA level and is quite out of date with figures on Infobase Cymru only available from 2001 Census data. In Anglesey in 2001, the percentage of households with no cars or vans was 21%. The percentage in Gwynedd is slightly higher at 24% and Wrexham is marginally higher at 25%. The Welsh average percentage is 26%.

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Using LSOA level data specifically in relation to the micro locality case study areas within the three UAs, it is possible to see a large and highly significant amount of variation within the LSOAs which is hidden in the all-Wales average and the overall averages of the three UAs. Again all figures are from the 2001 Census. The LSOA with the highest percentage of households with no cars or vans within the Anglesey micro locality case study site is *Morawelon* at 48.51%, nearly twice the national average. Other LSOAs in the Anglesey micro locality also have high percentages such as *Holyhead Town* at 45.45% and *London Road* at 43%. This contrasts sharply with *Llanddyfnan*, which at 9.26% of households with no cars or vans is the lowest in the micro locality. Within the Gwynedd micro locality the LSOA with the highest percentage of households with no cars or vans is *Deniol* at 51.6%, with other LSOAs also scoring highly, such as *Marchog 1* at 48.3, *Peblig* at 47.84%, and *Marchog 2* at 41.57%. The LSOA with the lowest percentage of households with no cars or vans locality is *Bethel & Cwm y Glo 1* at 11.63 % followed closely by *Bethel & Cwm y Glo 2* at 11.7%. In the Wrexham micro locality the LSOA with the highest percentage of households with no cars or vans is *Wynnstay* at 51.94%, with several other LSOAs also with high percentages such as *Queensway 2* at 44.75% and *Cartrefle 2* at 44.38%. Again as with the other micro localities there is a sharp contrast with other LSOAs with a very small percentage of households without cars or vans, the lowest being *Marford* and *Hoseley* at 4.4% closely followed by *Rhosnesni 2* at 5.1% and *Gwersyllt West 2* at 5.3%.

The percentage of households without a car or van is clearly an important indicator of poverty, as the LSOAs with the highest %s correlate with the LSOAs ranked as most deprived on the WIMD scale, such as *London Road* in Anglesey.

8.9 Transport: vehicle usage: percentage of households travel to work by car

This data is available both at UA level and also at LSOA level and is now quite out of date as figures are derived from 2001 Census. The all Wales average percentage of households who travel to work by car in 2001 was 70.2%. The Anglesey figures are very close to the national average, at 70.82%. This compares with 63.30% of households in Gwynedd in 2001 and 73.21% in Wrexham.

Using LSOA level data specifically in relation to the micro locality case study areas within the three UAs, the LSOA with the highest percentage of households travelling to work by car in the Arfon area of Gwynedd is *Penisarwaun* at 80.6%. The Gwynedd

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micro locality LSOA with the lowest percentage of households travelling to work by car is *Deiniol* at 37.55%. In the Anglesey case study micro locality, *Bryngwran* is the LSOA with the highest percentage of households travelling to work by car, at 78.3%. The Anglesey micro locality LSOA with the lowest percentage of households travelling to work by car is *Holyhead Town* at 45.76%. In the Wrexham micro locality, the LSOA with the highest percentage of households travelling to work by car is *Borras Park 1* at 84.46%, and the Wrexham micro locality LSOA with the lowest percentage is *Brynyffynnon 2* at 47.1%.

8.10 Transport: average travel time to (e.g.) GP surgery

This is an interesting indicator, as travel times to core facilities are an important indicator of a type of deprivation; access to services. Importantly, rurally situated LSOAs with quite high levels of affluence in other domains (employment, health, and housing) often score badly in this domain, whereas very deprived LSOAs can often score well. For those households without transport in relatively affluent rural areas, and even for those households with transport, the lack of access to services can therefore be an important contributor to a type of deprivation, and this is particularly significant for population groups such as the elderly and young mothers. The figures are available at LSOA level, the latest available data being from 2008, with a number of different indicators being available such as travel times to food shops, schools and GP surgeries. Here, travel time to GP surgeries has been chosen as an example indicator. In the Anglesey micro locality, the LSOA with the highest travel time to a GP surgery is *Llaneilian* at 63.3 minutes, by far the longest travel time in the case study. By contrast, the Anglesey micro locality LSOA with the lowest travel time to a GP's surgery was *Holyhead Town* at 3.5 minutes. The Gwynedd micro locality LSOA with the highest travel time to a GP's surgery in 2008 is *Pentir 2* at 54 minutes, while the LSOA with the lowest is *Hirael+ Garth 1* at 2.8 minutes. In the Wrexham micro locality the LSOA with the highest travel time to a GP surgery is *Little Action 1* at 22.4 minutes, with the *Offa* having the lowest travel time at 3.9 minutes.

Section 9: Environment and Tourism

9.1 Environment Overview: Policy and Available Data

There are several relevant policy documents. WAG (2009) '*One Wales, One Planet: The Sustainable Development Scheme of the Welsh Assembly Government*' sets out, for example, Wales's new (May 2009) commitment to ...*radically reduce by 80-90% our use of carbon-based energy, resulting in a similar reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions.*¹⁵ This document is important in combining a number of inter-related environment and Sustainable Development domains, targets and indicators into one policy arena. Another important policy document, The *Environment Strategy* was launched in May 2006, and sets out the Welsh Assembly Government's vision for the environment over the next 20 years.

Infobase Cymru provides a relatively small number of datasets which provide environmental indicators at UA level. Key to these is waste management datasets, provided in the subsections below. Stats Wales¹⁶ provides a broader range of more up to date indicators at UA level and thus data from Stats Wales has supplemented the datasets available in Infobase Cymru, also reported in the following subsections. A further available dataset broken down to UA level is the composite indicator of the 'ecological footprint', calculated on behalf of WAG by the Stockholm Institute¹⁷. Supplementary environmental datasets are also available at LSOA level, notably the WIMD 'physical environment' domain.

9.2 Percentage of municipal waste recycled or composted UA level

A key environmental indicator at UA level is the percentage of municipal waste which is recycled or composted. Data from Infobase Cymru shows that across Wales the percentage of municipal waste recycled during 2006-07 was 29.9%. All three of the North Wales UAs were lower than the national average in 2006-7. Gwynedd's average for 2006-07 was 26.3%, Anglesey's was 27%, and Wrexham's was 28.8%. In 2007-08, the Wales average had risen slightly to 33.4%. All three UAs show steady improvement in 2007-08, with Gwynedd at 33.6%. Anglesey shows a more marked improvement at 37.5% and Wrexham at 33.4% also shows a small improvement.

¹⁵ WAG (2009a) p17

¹⁶ <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk>

¹⁷ E. Dawkins, A. Paul, J. Barrett, J. Minx and K. Scott (2008) *Wales' Ecological Footprint - Scenarios to 2020* Stockholm Environment Institute

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9.3 Percentage of municipal waste recycled or composed: latest quarterly stats (Apr-Jun 09) UA level

StatsWales provides more recent data for the same indicator, broken down to quarterly returns. The StatsWales datasets show a steady, marked improvement in the percentage of municipal waste recycled or composted. The Wales national average for the quarter April - June 2009 was 41%. This pattern of steady improvement in the percentage of recycled municipal waste was repeated in the three UAs. Significantly, Anglesey's quarterly statistics for April - June 2009 are higher than the all- Wales average, at 53%. This represents a huge increase in the percentage of recycling undertaken in the last two years when compared with Anglesey's 29.9% figure for 2006-07. Gwynedd has also shown marked improvement, whilst not quite as dramatic as Anglesey's with the April - June 2009 quarterly stat of 40%. Wrexham's latest quarterly return also shows a marked improvement, at 43%.

9.4 Percentage of households served by a collection of two or more recyclables: UA level

In 2005-6 the Wales average was 78%. Infobase Cymru data shows a significant difference between the three North Wales UAs. Gwynedd was slightly better than the national average at 80%. This contrasts sharply with Wrexham at 44.9% and Anglesey at 54.3%. In 2007-08 the Wales average had risen dramatically to 91.99% and these rises are reflected in the three North Wales UAs. Gwynedd's performance rose 10 percentage points to 90% in 2007-08. Anglesey showed a dramatic increase to 89.35% in 2007-08. This impressive rise was bettered by Wrexham which rose from 44% in 2005-06 to having 100% of households served by two or more recyclables in 2007-08.

9.5 Number of Fly Tipping Incidents 2006-07 and 2008-09 UA level

Interestingly given the dramatic improvements in rates of recycling and recycling service availability, the number of fly tipping incidents recorded nationally has risen. The national number of incidents in 2006-07 was 54,841 which had risen in 2008-09 to 55,349. However Gwynedd, bucking this national trend, succeeded in almost halving its fly tipping incidents, from 1034 in 2006-07 to 541 in 2008-09. Anglesey's have risen from 1530 in 2006-7 to 1999 in 2008-09. Wrexham shows a shocking rise in fly tipping incidents, from 706 in 2006-07 to 2116 in 2008-09.

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9.6 Ecological Footprint: UA level

An important indicator used as a key WAG 'headline indicator' for environment/sustainable development is the 'ecological footprint'. This internationally comparable indicator is a composite made up of:

- Total Resource Use
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Waste arisings
- Household waste recycled or composted
- Mobility

Wales's ecological footprint for 2003 has been calculated at 5.16 global hectares (gha). The Stockholm Institute puts this in context:

*The world average is 2.2 gha per person, but the biological land actually available on a global level is 1.8 gha per person. This means that if everyone lived the same way as a person in Wales we would need another 1.8 planets to provide the resources that this would require.*¹⁸

Data is available from the SEI 2008 report at UA level. Both Gwynedd and Anglesey's ecological footprint for 2003 is 5.3 gha. Wrexham's is slightly lower, at 5.1 gha. This indicator is of course six years out of date and it will be interesting to see whether subsequent recalculations reflect the dramatic improvements in recycling and composting in recent years.

9.7 Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) Data: Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2008 : Physical Environment domain

With data available at LSOA level, physical environment is a composite indicator / domain of the 2008 WIMD, consisting of the following:

- air quality
- air emissions
- flood risk
- proximity to waste disposal and industrial sites

In the micro locality of Arfon in Gwynedd, the LSOA with the most deprived physical environment was *Ogwen* (ranked 297/1896) with the least being *Talysarn*

¹⁸ SEI (2008) p5.

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(1869/1896). Not surprisingly, many of the Gwynedd micro locality LSOAs scored extremely well for physical environment. In micro locality of Wrexham, the LSOA which was the most deprived for physical environment was *Queensway 1*, which ranked 58th. The least deprived Wrexham case study LSOA was *Gwersyllt West*, (ranked 1497). In the micro locality on Anglesey, the most deprived LSOA was *Amlwch Port* (ranked 219th) followed by *London Road* (ranked 307th). However this micro-locality also has LSOAs with some of the best physical environments in Wales such as *Valley 2* (1867); *Llanbedregoch* (1860) and *Valley 1* (1858).

9.8 Tourism Overview

Infobase Cymru provides no data broken down to UA level; the only data available are all-Wales national statistics. Stats Wales also predominantly provides national statistics not UA-level ones for important indicators such as visitor numbers, and this highlights a significant gap in available UA data available from these sources¹⁹. There are however some visitor number statistics available for top (numbers over 50,000 per annum) visitor attractions in specific UA across Wales, recordable over time, accessible via Stats Wales. Putting visitor numbers into descending order, the top ranking visitor attraction out of the North Wales UAs under study, is Portmeirion, Penrhyndeudraeth in Gwynedd, which in 2005 (the last year for which data is available) had 252,500 visitors. Portmeirion was the fifth ranked visitor attraction in the whole of Wales. Visitor numbers have stayed relatively stable for the recorded years for which data is available; visitor numbers in the first recorded year, 1981, were 215,100. Wrexham arts centre was ranked seventh highest attraction in Wales, with 220,100 visitors in 2005, showing a small but steady increase during the three years (2003-05) for which data is available. Several other visitor attractions in

¹⁹ There are however other measures of tourism data collated at UA level as the following text shows, and thus further UA data is available from this source and can be added to this baseline which is currently only focusing on available data from Infobase Cymru and occasionally Stats Wales: *The North Wales STEAM Initiative (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor) is a partnership of all North Wales Local Authorities and Tourism Partnership North Wales. Wrexham County Borough Council leads the initiative on behalf of the partnership, which was established in 1999. STEAM is a major research programme that monitors the volume and value of tourism. The North Wales STEAM Initiative records the volume and value within each County, marketing area and on a pan North Wales basis. Based on basic tourism business information, STEAM records everything from visitor numbers, days, expenditure, bednights, and employment. It is dependent upon the support and co-operation of tourism businesses, both accommodation and attractions. Currently over 500 businesses across North Wales actively participate in STEAM.*
<http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/tourism/steam.htm>

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Gwynedd rank very highly, such as Caernarfon Castle, with visitor numbers at 192,500 in 2005; this however marks a sharp decline from 1981 figures of 328,500. The only Anglesey tourist attraction to make the list of top visitor attractions is Plas Newydd, which had 73,100 visitors in 2003, the last year where stats were available. Several tourist attractions have clearly had an increase in visitor numbers over time; others fluctuate, and some mark a steep decline. However these figures only reflect available data up to 2005; the impact of the recession on visitor numbers can only be guessed at.