# Residents fear wildfire threat at popular Anglesey beach due to reckless camping



Residents living near the picturesque Traeth Llanddwyn beach and Newborough Forest on Anglesey are reportedly living in fear of a potential wildfire as illicit camping and reckless behaviour by visitors is on the rise during an unseasonably dry spell. The area, which encompasses over 2,500 acres of Corsican pine forest and has recently gained celebrity status, is experiencing heightened tensions due to the increased volume of campfires and other fire-related activities.

Photographic evidence shared by local residents illustrates a concerning situation, with a recent image showing the aftermath of improperly disposed of lit barbecues that resulted in the destruction of waste bins at the beach car park. Community members have expressed alarm over the rise in campfires on the beach, particularly as some of these fires are reported to be situated perilously close to the surrounding forest.

In response to the growing threat of fire, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the site management authority, has intensified patrols in the area. Over the previous weekend, wardens extinguished 15 campfires and instructed 16 groups of campers to relocate or leave the premises. As the rise in popularity of Llanddwyn continues—promoted through social media and highlighting its features in productions such as "House of the Dragon"—locals are increasingly apprehensive about the environmental and safety risks.

Cathy Sands, who manages a Facebook group dedicated to the Llanddwyn community with over 1,000 members, voiced her worries, citing conversations with a senior fire officer who raised concerns about the potential devastation a fire could wreak. "If the forest went up in flames, they would not be able to manage the fire even if they pulled in appliances from across the region," she reported. Cathy, who resides close to the forest herself, emphasised the threat not only to local flora and fauna but also to nearby homes and crops if a fire were to spread uncontrollably.

In addition to the fire risk, residents have pointed out issues with littering and unsanitary conditions, including human waste being improperly discarded in the area. Casualties of this behaviour were highlighted by Cathy, who described disturbing instances of campervans discharging chemical waste into the environment—actions that further threaten the integrity of this nature reserve.

To mitigate the risk of fire, NRW has implemented measures such as enlarging fire breaks and clearing debris from undergrowth. Dylan Williams, NRW operations manager for North Wales, mentioned the organisation's proactive approach to fire risks, stating that measures are adapted based on the severity of the current conditions and local patterns of use. Patrols during peak periods and times of high fire risk now include evening and night shifts aimed at advising and informing visitors about responsible behaviour.

Collaboration with local police is also in place, with the potential for prosecution of persistent offenders under discussion. While no prosecutions have yet occurred, the registration details of vehicles parked overnight are noted, and authorities are prepared to take further action against those disregarding the rules.

Despite the efforts made by local wardens, there is prevailing sentiment among residents that more comprehensive measures are necessary. Cathy expressed the need for additional resources and stronger deterrents to prevent repeat offenders, suggesting that penalties akin to those enforced in places like the New Forest might be effective in curbing illegal camping activities.

Overall, pressure on site management continues to grow across Wales as visitor numbers swell. Local residents, serving as the eyes and ears of the area, have documented various incidents involving circumventions of regulations, exacerbating concerns that a serious incident could occur if the current status quo is maintained. The challenge remains significant as NRW and local authorities navigate the balance between encouraging tourism and preserving the fragile natural ecosystem.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.northwalesfire.gov.wales/news/2025/04/the-wales-wildfire-board-are-encouraging-you-to-be-wildfirewise-this-spring-and-summer/> - This URL supports the claim of increased fire risk during dry periods, highlighting the need for vigilance and preventive measures against wildfires in Wales.
* <https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/places-to-visit/north-west-wales/newborough/?lang=en> - This URL provides information about Newborough Forest, noting its significance and the challenges it faces, which aligns with concerns about wildfire risks and environmental impacts in the area.
* <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/22/2024-07496/guidance-for-federal-financial-assistance> - Although indirectly related, this URL underscores environmental and management concerns, as seen in broader discussions about natural resource management and potential impacts on sensitive ecosystems.
* <https://www.courts.michigan.gov/492eca/siteassets/publications/benchbooks/evidence/evidbb.pdf> - This source does not directly relate to the specific situation but discusses legal considerations around evidence and incidents, relevant to broader discussions about enforcing regulations and prosecuting environmental offenses.
* <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Report-of-the-Impeachment-Inquiry-of-Joseph-R.-Biden-Jr.-President-of-the-United-States.pdf> - This URL does not directly support any claims in the article but represents a broader category of regulatory and legal discussions that might tangentially inform discussions about enforcement and governance.