# Barbecues banned at Traeth Llandwyn as fire incidents soar amid dry spell



Recent measures have seen barbecues officially banned at Traeth Llandwyn, one of Wales' most treasured beaches, following a concerning rise in fire-related incidents. This decision has been prompted by a distressing weekend in which 15 fire-related occurrences were reported, raising alarms amongst both the community and local wildlife authorities. Situated at the edge of the vast and ecologically significant Newborough Forest, Traeth Llandwyn not only offers stunning views but also bears the weight of environmental responsibility, especially during prolonged dry spells.

Residents of the nearby village of Newborough are increasingly vocal regarding the imminent threat posed by such activities. Their caution mirrors a broader trend in Wales, where the improper disposal of barbecues has directly contributed to significant fires in various regions. A notable incident highlighted a house and car in Gwynedd being destroyed due to discarded barbecue embers igniting a nearby wheelie bin, reinforcing the necessity for responsible behaviour among beachgoers. Cathy Sands, a concerned local, expressed her distress over the potential devastation, stating, "If the forest burns, so will crops in the fields and then our homes. It worries me sick, it really does."

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) oversees the area and has intensified its endeavours to discourage illegal camping and barbecue use. Past experiences have shown that visitors often disregard the established rules against open flames, prompting wardens to intervene late into the evenings to extinguish fires and educate the public. Despite these efforts, the presence of a designated barbecue area in the beach car park has raised alarms that it may inadvertently encourage reckless behaviour, leading to plans for its replacement with a picnic spot instead.

The increased risk of wildfire, especially during dry weather, has catalysed NRW to categorise Traeth Llandwyn and its surrounding land as a fire-free zone. "We're listening to local concerns and doing all we can to minimise risks," commented Justin Hanson, NRW's north west team leader. He further urged visitors to respect the rules, carry their litter away, and enjoy picnic meals rather than resorting to barbecues that may ignite hazards.

The implications of uncontrolled fires extend beyond mere property destruction; they pose a serious threat to local wildlife, which includes rare species like the red squirrel, great crested newt, and sand lizard. The recent crackdown on barbecue usage is a preventative measure aimed at safeguarding not just the beautiful landscape, but also the fragile ecosystem it supports.

In a larger context, similar warnings have emerged across Wales, highlighting the dangers of disposable barbecues and the severe burns that can result from their improper disposal. The RNLI and various councils have issued urgent reminders about these risks, coinciding with the heightened fire danger due to current weather conditions. The case of unattended barbecues leading to wildfires, as reported in Snowdonia, underlines an increasing concern that echoes across many Welsh natural sites. As these regions reopen and attract more visitors, the call for maintaining the delicate balance between enjoyment and environmental responsibility has never been more crucial.

The recent actions at Traeth Llandwyn represent both a local response to immediate threats and part of a broader, ongoing conversation about fire safety in natural areas. The bet is firmly on local cooperation, heightened awareness, and respect for the rules to preserve these cherished landscapes for future generations.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/uk-news/barbecues-banned-welsh-beach-after-31723490), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-53448721)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/uk-news/barbecues-banned-welsh-beach-after-31723490), [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/10254916)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://metro.co.uk/2022/07/28/wales-still-lit-barbecue-found-in-beauty-spot-at-risk-of-fire-17083040/), [[6]](https://snowdonia.gov.wales/ditch-the-disposable-barbecue-heatwave-sparks-warning-from-national-parks-wales/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.herald.wales/west-wales/swansea/rnli-and-swansea-council-issue-beach-bbq-warning/), [[7]](https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/rare-snowdonia-ponies-came-within-24896222)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/uk-news/barbecues-banned-welsh-beach-after-31723490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.herald.wales/west-wales/swansea/rnli-and-swansea-council-issue-beach-bbq-warning/> - The RNLI and Swansea Council have issued a warning about the dangers of disposable barbecues and beach fires, highlighting the risk of severe burns from hot embers left behind by beachgoers. They emphasise the importance of properly extinguishing and disposing of barbecues to prevent accidents and injuries.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/10254916> - A house and car were destroyed in Gwynedd, Wales, after barbecue embers were improperly discarded next to a wheelie bin. The fire spread, causing significant damage. The incident underscores the importance of safely disposing of barbecue remains to prevent accidental fires.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-53448721> - With the easing of lockdown measures, visitors to Welsh beauty spots are urged to avoid using disposable barbecues to prevent accidental grass fires. Improper disposal of barbecues has been a common cause of hard-to-control wildfires in Wales.
5. <https://metro.co.uk/2022/07/28/wales-still-lit-barbecue-found-in-beauty-spot-at-risk-of-fire-17083040/> - A lit barbecue was discovered at Llyn Geirionydd, a popular picnic spot in Snowdonia, Wales, posing a fire risk. The incident highlights the dangers of leaving barbecues unattended in natural areas and the importance of proper disposal to prevent wildfires.
6. <https://snowdonia.gov.wales/ditch-the-disposable-barbecue-heatwave-sparks-warning-from-national-parks-wales/> - National Parks Wales has urged visitors to avoid using disposable barbecues during a heatwave, citing the increased risk of wildfires in dry conditions. They recommend opting for picnics instead to protect the natural environment.
7. <https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/rare-snowdonia-ponies-came-within-24896222> - Rare Welsh ponies near Talacre, Flintshire, narrowly escaped a fire caused by an unattended disposable barbecue. The incident highlights the dangers of leaving barbecues unattended in natural areas and the potential threat to wildlife.