



**Cyfoeth  
Naturiol**  
Cymru  
**Natural  
Resources**  
Wales

**Opportunities for sustainably managing the Dyfi's natural  
resources...to benefit people, the economy and the environment**

**Vol 2 – Opportunity Maps – September 2016**





## **Vol 2 Dyfi vision, aims and opportunity maps**

### **Purpose and status of this document**

### **Vision and aims (including stakeholder's views)**

<b>Map No</b>	<b>Topic</b>
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- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Opportunities to connect people to the outdoors, help communities become more sustainable and support health and tourism</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Opportunities to maintain/ increase agricultural productivity, improve resilience and deliver public benefits</b>            |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Opportunities to connect and improve the natural environment</b>   |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Opportunities to improve the Historic environment</b>  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Opportunities to increase carbon storage, biodiversity and flood regulation</b>  |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Opportunities to increase woodland cover and deliver multiple benefits</b>   |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Opportunities to improve the water environment and deliver multiple benefits – detail view</b>                               |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Opportunities to improve biodiversity, recreation/access and the water environment in the coastal area</b>                   |

## The Purpose and status of the Document

Wales' natural resources provide our basic needs and give us energy, prosperity and security. They protect us and make us healthier and our lives better. A healthy resilient environment creates the conditions for a thriving and sustainable society. But evidence shows that our natural resources continue to be put under pressure from a variety of sources. We need to think and act differently, to manage our natural resources in Wales in a way which values and enhances them and the many benefits they provide. The Environment (Wales) Act and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act together create a modern legislative framework to bring this about. NRW is at the forefront of this with a new purpose under the Environment (Wales) Act to seek to achieve the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR) and apply the SMNR principles in exercising all our functions.

To help Wales prepare for this new legislation, in 2014 Natural Resources Wales set up three natural resource management trials; the Rhondda and Tawe in South Wales and **Dyfi** in Mid Wales. Trialling the application of SMNR allowed us to:

- Learn how to apply SMNR and the nine principles at a local scale;
- Explore Wales' emerging natural resources priorities, described in Welsh Government's Natural Resources Policy statement;
- Test engagement, evidence and planning approaches which might be used to develop Area Statements, which are a key element of the natural resources planning framework and a requirement of the Environment Act;
- By sharing our learning, inform the developing Environment Bill and NRW's ways of working.

We deliberately took an open and flexible approach. From the outset, we involved the people who live and work in these places to identify priorities, risks, and opportunities for better management of the area. Generally people responded positively to our approach because they felt part of developing solutions. The trials led us into working with partners on some of the significant issues, which in the past were considered either too challenging or not within our remit. Each trial was based on a river catchment and, to maximise learning, was selected because of its different environmental, economic and societal circumstances. Whilst the scale of Area Statements remains to be decided it is now expected that they will cover a larger area than those of the individual trials.

In the Dyfi, we produced this document to outline the priorities for sustainably managing the natural resources in the trial area. This information is based on two years of working with organisations, community groups and residents in the area, extensive evidence gathering and knowledge sharing.

These documents are not Area Statements and are non-statutory (as the work preceded the Environment (Wales) Act). However, they **provide a local framework for the Public Service Board, organisations, community groups, local business** and people to use and refer to. They can be **used by communities and organisations to work better together** and deliver outcomes which deliver multiple benefits. They can **encourage better working between partners by focussing resources on clearly identified opportunities** and can also be **used to support both local and landscape scale proposals for funding**.

## Meeting the Challenge – Vision

Having identified the key challenges the Dyfi faces the following vision was produced. We conducted a second workshop in autumn 2015 to agree the vision and key aims for the management of natural resources in the Dyfi.

**‘The Dyfi will be recognised for its natural beauty, thriving community, strong rural economy, linguistic and cultural identity and diversity of wildlife. Opportunities for tourism, recreation and education are well developed and managed within a robust environment that is able to withstand future change. The community recognises and supports the need to sustainably manage its natural resources for the benefit of people and environment of the Dyfi.**

We then produced **6 aims** that will help us meet the challenges described above.

- **Helping land based businesses become more resilient**
- **Connecting & improving the natural environment**
- **Improving the water environment**
- **Helping communities become more sustainable:**
- **Improving opportunities for people to connect with the outdoors**
- **Building capacity**

The figures below show why stakeholders supported these aims and their ideas for achieving them.

## Helping land based businesses become more resilient

We want to see resilient land based businesses that can withstand setbacks from economic or natural causes; are economically sound, environmentally responsible and contribute to thriving communities. **You said .....**





## Connecting & improving the natural environment

We want to see a better managed and more connected natural environment that can provide the range of benefits described above. **You said...**





## Improving the water environment

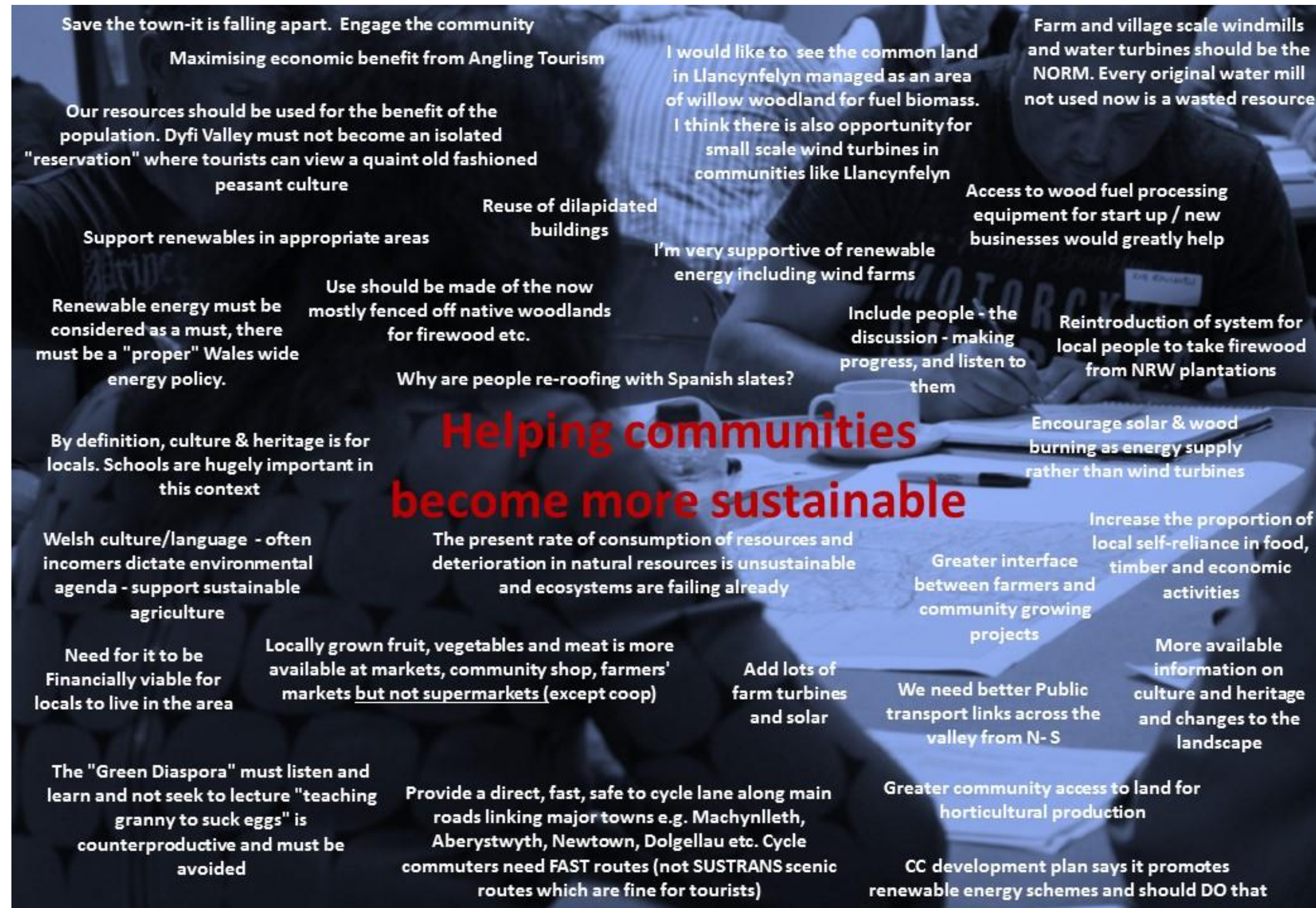
We want to see a reduction in pollution from land use activities and old mines; less flooding and a fewer barriers to fish migration. **You said....**





## Helping communities become more sustainable

We want to see healthy, thriving communities using their natural environment, taking more exercise, having with a lower carbon footprint and eating more local food.  
You said...





## Improving opportunities for people to connect with the outdoors

We want to see better, more and more diverse outdoor recreation, tourism, education and heritage opportunities for local people and visitors. **You said...**

**Improving opportunities to connect with the outdoors**

Create "soft" transport infrastructure such as cycle tracks

When people are immersed in an experience and are involved and have ownership in the process, they gain better understanding

Rebuilding the uplands should act as a large tourist draw

Tourist information presence back to the Dyfi Valley Area

Promote sustainable tourism.

More natural sites [available] for school visits, research projects, visitors, (especially children's) experience of wildlife/ natural world

Excessive tourism can cause problems in parts of the area

Provide more activities for multi-use off-road facilities ( e.g. develop horse riding events etc., biking / horse-riding routes)

Protect areas from over-use

Wales lags behind Scotland and other parts of the UK in offering fishing shooting, stalking. The Dyfi Valley could rival e.g. Exmoor for world class game shooting

Well maintained rights of way and permissive paths - support for landowners to keep them open.

Completion of cycle-way between Derwenlas and Glandyfi

I would like to see the Dyfi Valley promoted as an entity - I feel we suffer from being on the edge of 3 Counties

Get providers of outdoor recreation involved in consultation

Educational opportunities introducing people to the landscape, their roots and heritage. Encouraging a sense of responsibility

Improved access - trusting people who use the countryside for recreation to act responsibly

Keep a good footpath & access regime. Some are defunct and unlikely to be much used and might be better closed

Improved access to certain areas e.g. woodlands. More opportunities for educational activities

Improve opportunities for car free leisure, such as dedicated cycle tracks forming a network and clean comfortable buses with well publicised timetables and unobstructed footpaths

Reinstatement & sustainable management of rights of way (existing). Market area's scenic beauty, having reinstated existing rights of way add appropriate provision of new multi-use paths

Reinstate & improve / open bridleways and other rights of way in the area

Restoration and Re-Wilding' projects supported could bring increased visitors and tourists revenue

Open access agreement (similar to Scotland) where people using the area for recreation were trusted to act responsibly

Preserve and promote [place] names, more music, drama, art allowed and encouraged in the landscape and at historical sites

Problems over conflicting uses i.e. Tourism /Conservation/Flood defences

Would like to see more research into creating and improved cycle path network and clearing public rights of way, if this can be coordinated with the highways authority



## Building capacity to implement the vision

We want to see more collaboration between local people, landowners, third sector organisations and statutory organisations. **You said....**





**Please note the maps below are strategic in nature. More detailed work would be needed on any specific projects, based on these maps, to consider matters such as conflicts of interest between users, legal requirements and general suitability.**



**Opportunities to connect people to the outdoors, help communities become more sustainable and support health and tourism**

**Develop the Dyfi forest as a multi - activity location - biking, horse riding, walking, possible off road venue -**

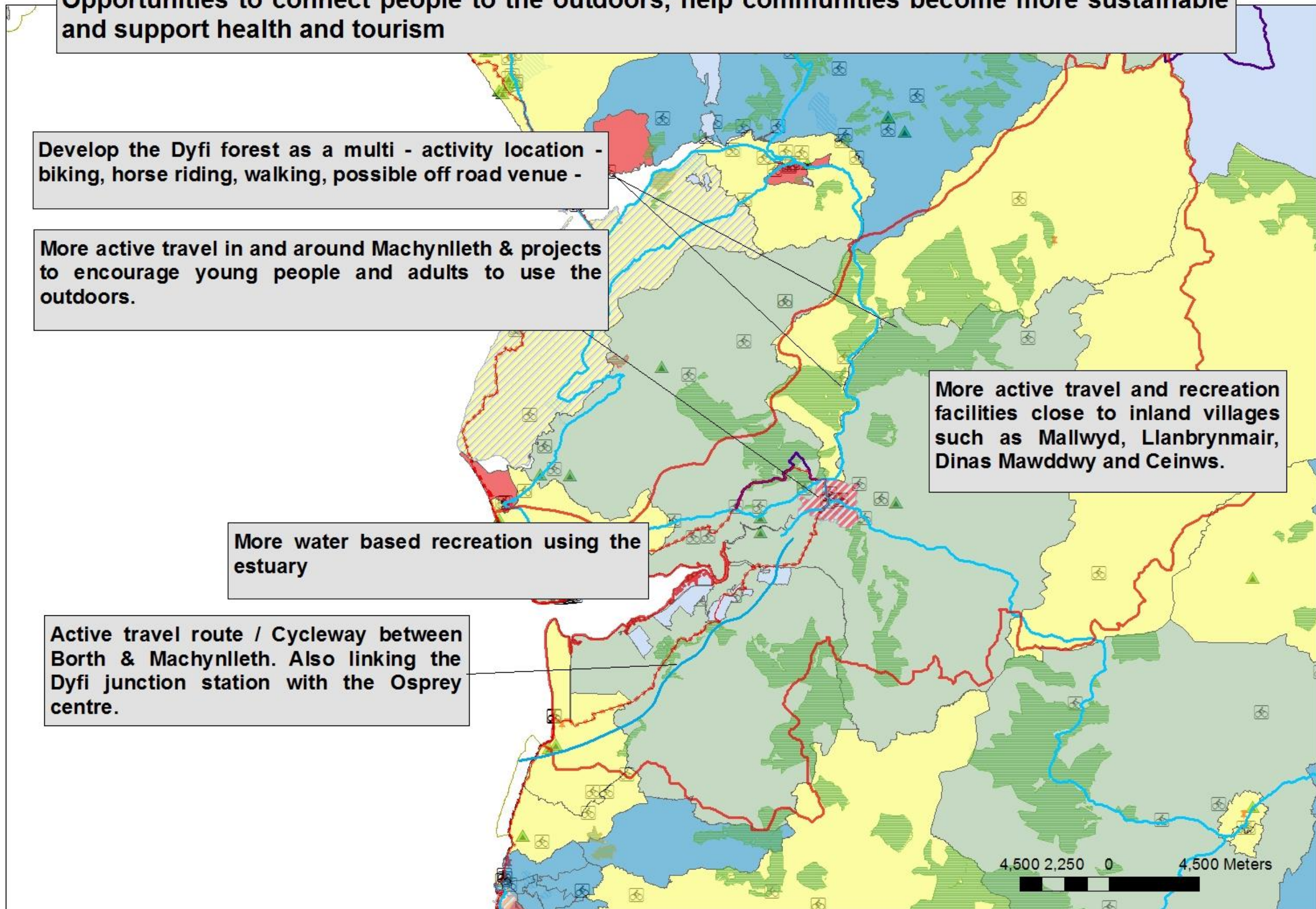
**More active travel in and around Machynlleth & projects to encourage young people and adults to use the outdoors.**

**More active travel and recreation facilities close to inland villages such as Mallwyd, Llanbrynmair, Dinas Mawddwy and Ceinws.**

**More water based recreation using the estuary**

**Active travel route / Cycleway between Borth & Machynlleth. Also linking the Dyfi junction station with the Osprey centre.**

4,500 2,250 0 4,500 Meters

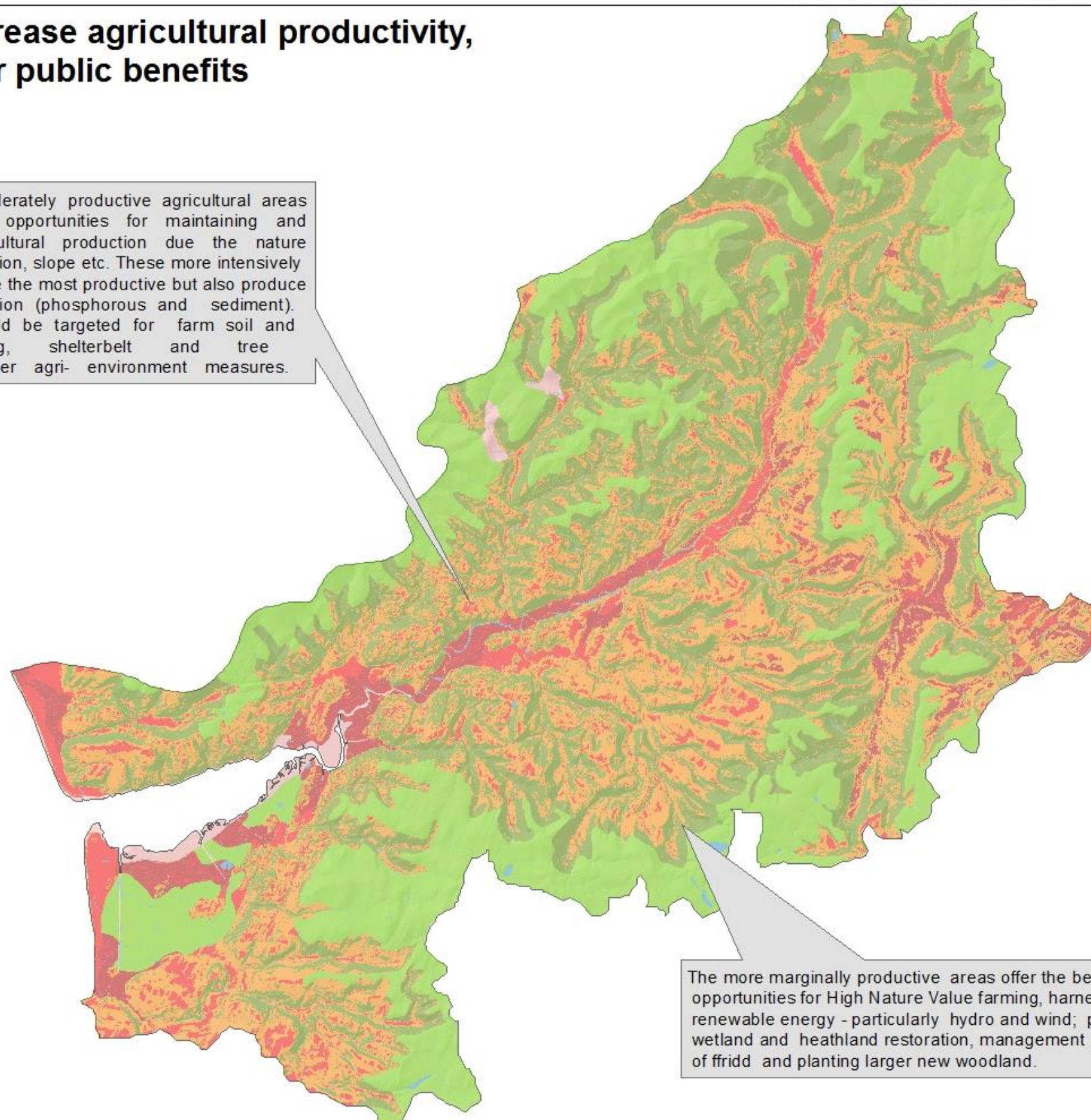
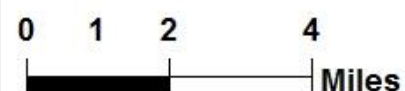






## Opportunities to maintain/ increase agricultural productivity, improve resilience and deliver public benefits

The high and moderately productive agricultural areas offer the best opportunities for maintaining and increasing agricultural production due to the nature of their soils, elevation, slope etc. These more intensively managed areas are the most productive but also produce more diffuse pollution (phosphorous and sediment). These areas should be targeted for farm soil and nutrient planning, shelterbelt and tree planting and other agri- environment measures.



The more marginally productive areas offer the best opportunities for High Nature Value farming, harnessing renewable energy - particularly hydro and wind; peatland, wetland and heathland restoration, management of ffridd and planting larger new woodland.



# Opportunities to connect and improve the natural environment

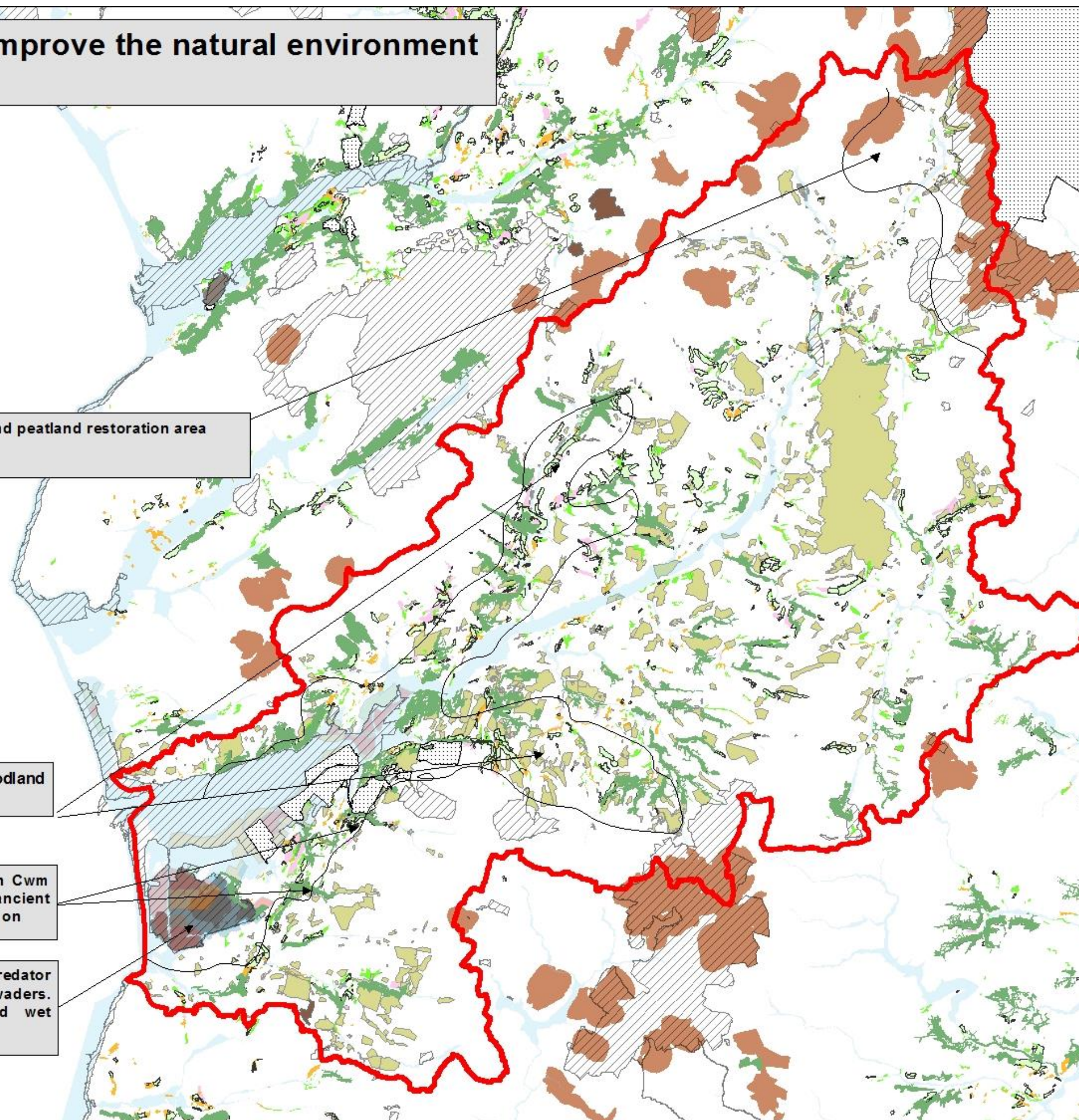


Key upland peatland restoration area

Key areas for grassland/ heathland and woodland restoration and expansion

Management and linking of woodland SSSI's in Cwm Einion and Cwm Clettwr and linking to other ancient woodlands through new planting and Plantation on

Peatland restoration and managemnt & predator control for waders. Identify new sites for waders. Riparian management, stock exclusion and wet woodland planting in the floodplain.







## Legend

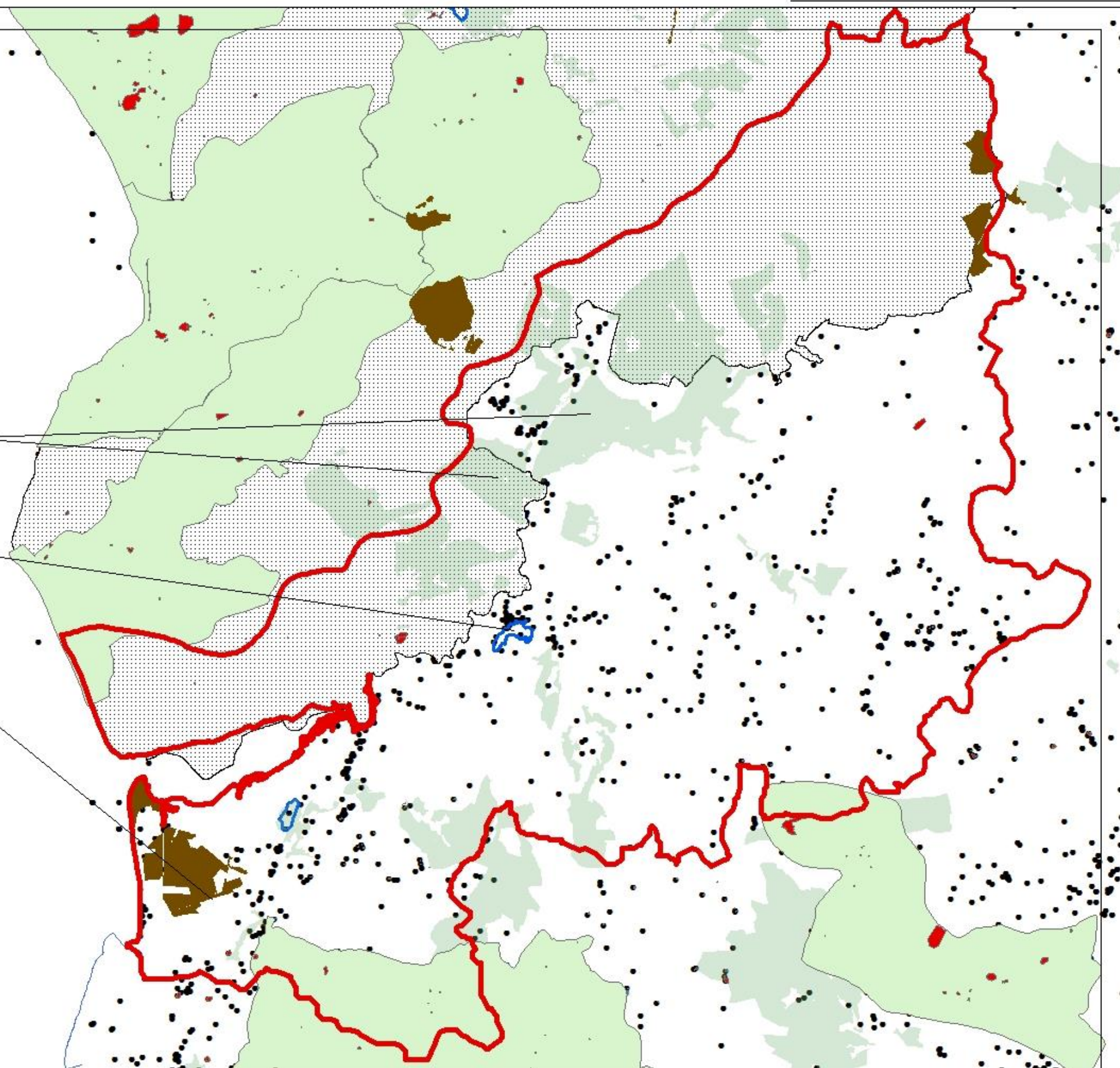
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments.lyr
- Ex-CCW Landholdings.lyr
- Historic Landscape Areas.lyr
- Ex-FCW Landholdings.lyr
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- National Parks
- Royal Commission Ancient Historic Monuments

Opportunities in NRW managed forest areas to interpret the historic environment as part of recreational trail development.

Opportunities for better management and interpretation of Scheduled ancient monuments, Ancient Historic monuments, Historic Parks and Gardens. Lots of opportunities to link to the Wales Coast Footpath, National trail & National Cycle trail.

Build on Hydro citizenship project and film to improve historic interpretation of Cors Fochno and the recently discovered Roman trackway. Improve interpretation of dolmens and stone circles, remains of forts, mines, ancient trackways & hitoric buildings.

0 1 2 4  
Miles





# Opportunities to increase Carbon storage, biodiversity and flood regulation

© Hawlfraint a hawliau cronfa ddata'r Goron 2014.  
Rhif Trwydded yr Arolwg Ordnans 100019741.



## Legend

### PEAT\_TOTAL\_PEA\_TLAND\_Clip

#### SOIL\_TYPE

- Deep peaty soil
- Modified deep peaty soil

#### cstockclass

##### Classified carbon stock

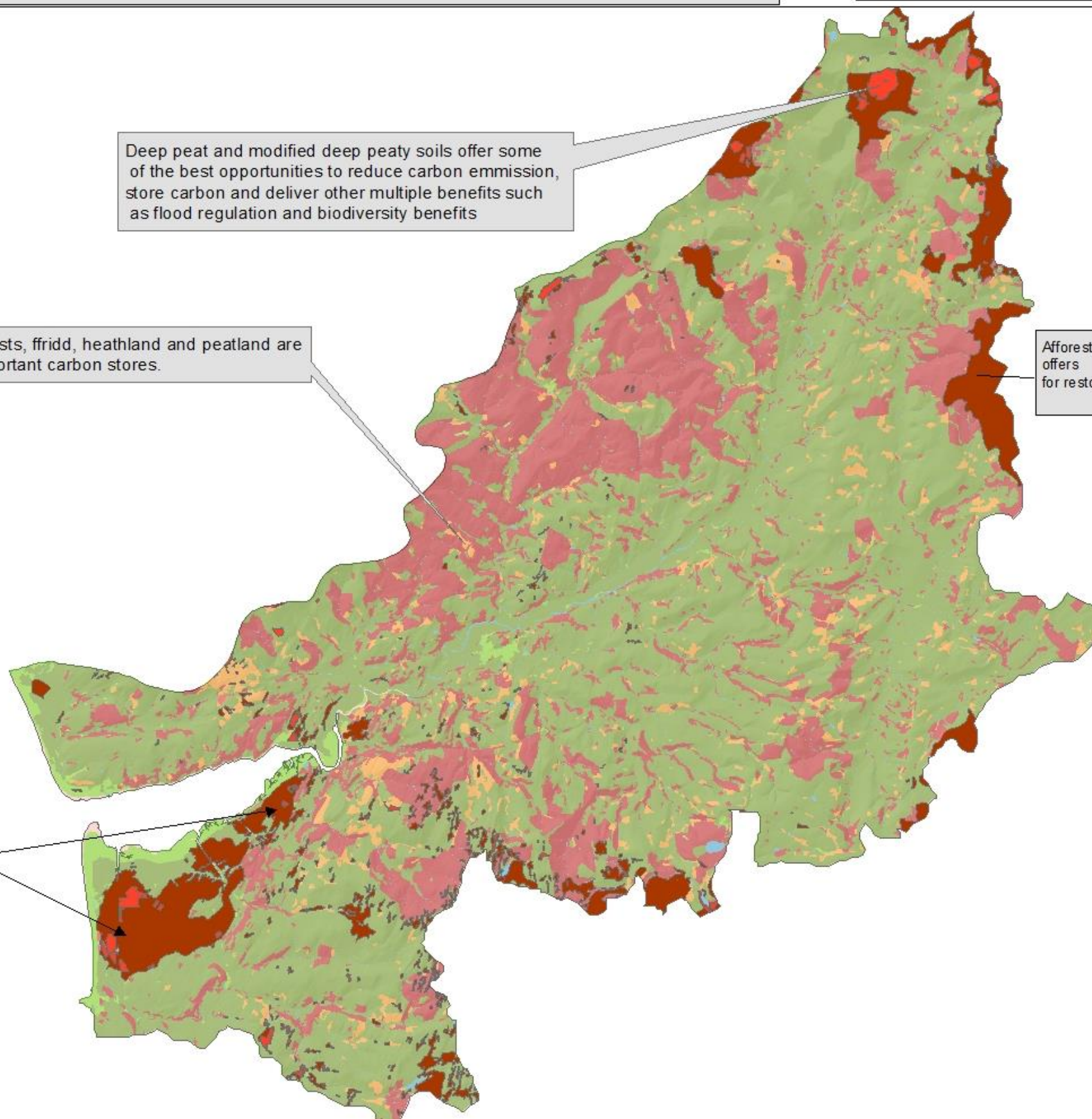
- Very high existing carbon
- High existing carbon
- Moderate existing carbon
- Low existing carbon
- Very low existing carbon
- Water bodies
- Dyfi\_Catchment

Forests, ffridd, heathland and peatland are important carbon stores.

Deep peat and modified deep peaty soils offer some of the best opportunities to reduce carbon emission, store carbon and deliver other multiple benefits such as flood regulation and biodiversity benefits

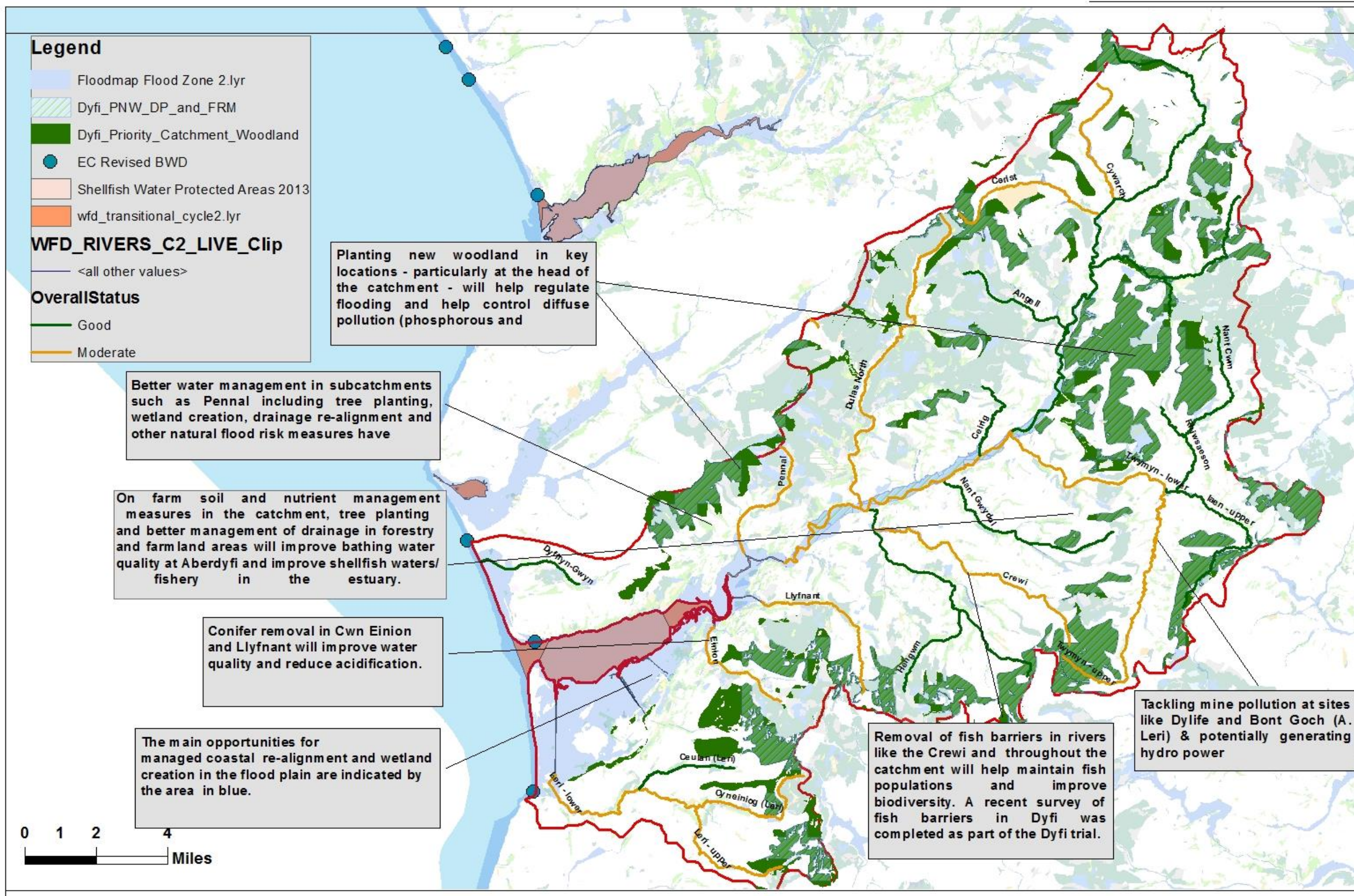
Afforested Deep peat offers opportunities for restoring peatland

The Lowland peatland of Cors Fochno and sites on the South side of the Dyfi are the priority areas for maintaining and improving carbon storage in the Dyfi.

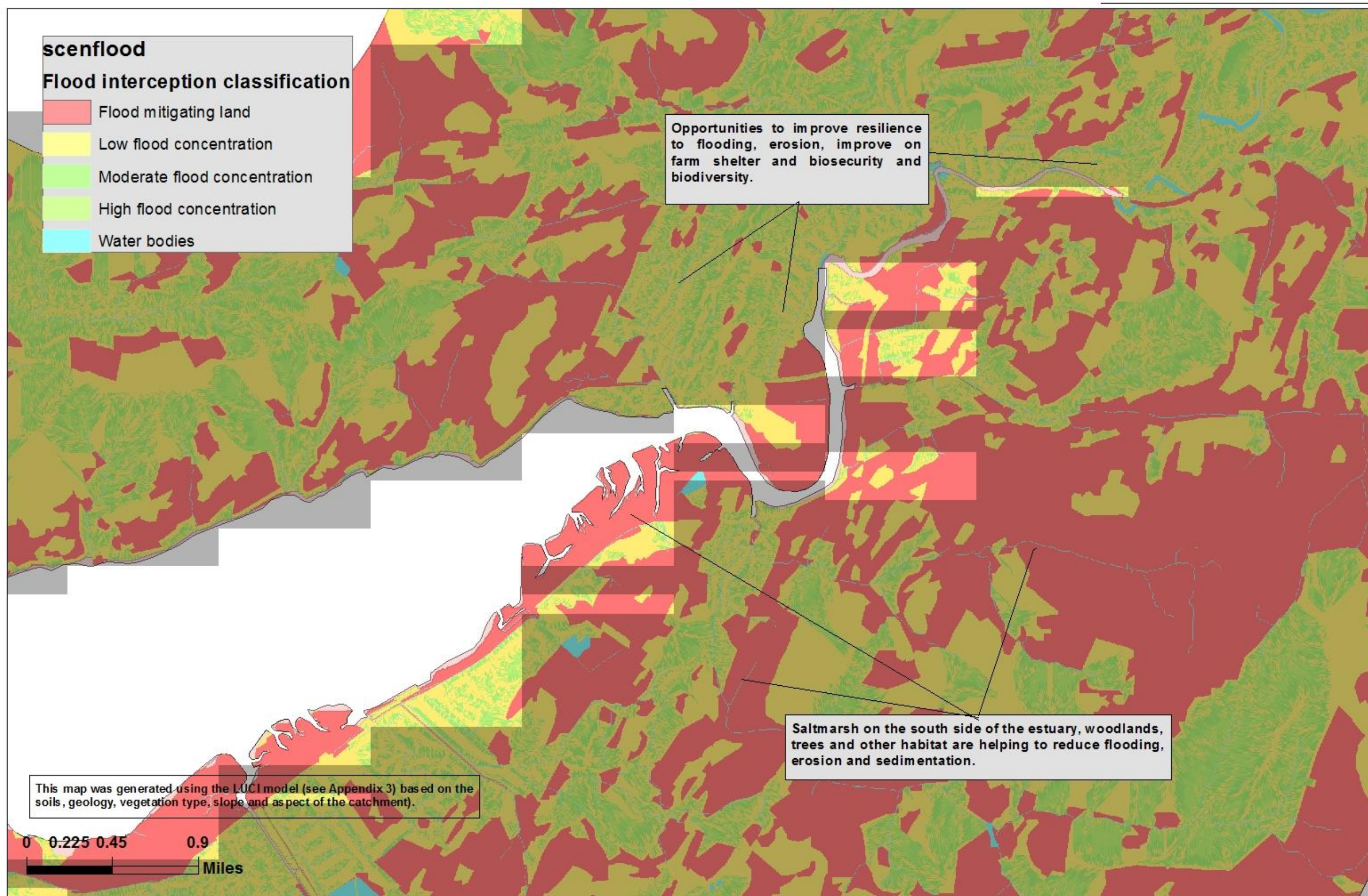
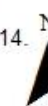




## Opportunities increase woodland cover and deliver multiple benefits











## Opportunities to improve biodiversity, recreation/ access and flood storage in the coastal area

### Legend

- Sustrans National Route.lyr
- Wales coastal path
- WOOD Lowland and upland core network
- <all other values>
- Species**
- Curlew
- Lapwing
- Redshank
- Snipe
- Ancient woodland inventory 2011**
- Category**
- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
- Restored Ancient Woodland Site
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
- Ancient Woodland Site of Unknown Category
- Dyfi\_Catchment

0 0.5 1 2  
Miles

Opportunities to extend loops from the national cycle trail into surrounding valleys such as the NRW managed Pennal forest.

Opportunities to enhance water based recreation such as canoe trails on the estuary & potentially using the railway line for return journeys. Access and associated agreements and infrastructure would be required.

Opportunities to enhance management for breeding waders, respore peat and improve interpretation of the Roman trackway discovered on the edge of Cors Fochno.

Ther south side of the Dyfi is a key area for ancient woodland restoration and connecting woodland areas to link protected sites such as CwmEinion SAC and Cwm Clettwr SSSI.

Opportunity for new active travel routes  
a) between Borth and Machynlleth  
b) between Dyfi junction station and the Osprey centre

