

Powys County Council

Local Toilet Strategy



Consultation Draft

January 2019

Table of Contents

How to Comment.....	3
What Happens Next?	3
Acknowledgments.....	4
Introduction	4
Context.....	4
Background	6
Strategy Development	7
Current Provision	9
Assessment and Findings	12
Strategy	22
Reviewing the Strategy	27
References	28
Appendices.....	30
Appendix 1 – Population Assessment.....	30
Appendix 2 – Health Impact Assessment.....	34
Appendix 3 – Engagement and Involvement	37
Appendix 4 – Location of Publicly Accessible Toilets in Powys (By Locality)	38
Appendix 5 – Data Tables.....	51

How to Comment

Powys County Council is consulting on a Local Toilet Strategy for the period from 18/1/2019 to 22/4/2019.

Comments on the draft strategy should be submitted by 5pm on 22/4/2019 in the following ways:

- online via www.powys.gov.uk/haveyoursay;
- in writing to: Powys Local Toilet Strategy, Planning Policy, Powys County Council, The Gwalia, Ithon Road, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6AA.
- by emailing consultation@powys.gov.uk.

What Happens Next?

After the consultation, Powys County Council will consider all the comments received and amend the strategy as appropriate. It will be approved by the Council and then implemented in June 2019. Data of existing toilet provision will be provided to Welsh Government who intend to place it on the Lle¹ online platform.

¹ Lle is the Welsh Government geo-portal serving as a hub for data and information covering a wide spectrum of topics. Lle will generate all Wales maps based on datasets provide by local authorities that can be configured to focus on either the national picture, or on more local areas, Lle can be found at <http://lle.gov.wales/home>.

Acknowledgments

Powys County Council acknowledge the previous work of Anglesey County Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council which has informed the production of this document.

Introduction

Purpose

The provision of public conveniences provides infrastructure necessary to facilitate the enjoyment of Powys by visitors; they can make a significant impact upon the comfort of individuals and families who visit public spaces in Powys and their perception of the county as a desirable place to visit. Wherever people live or visit, they expect to find good quality public toilets; and for some it is fundamental to their health and comfort.

Public toilets are also an important factor in delivering an open and inclusive environment, encouraging people to socialise, take exercise, and to be more physically active, as well as spend time in our town centres.

Toilets for public use are an important issue for everybody when they are away from home. However, their provision is even more important for certain members of society, including older people, people with disabilities, people with particular medical needs, and families with young children. Poor toilet provision can mean some are reluctant to leave their homes, which can contribute to social isolation, inactivity, and people's ability to maintain their own independence.

The purpose of the Powys Local Toilet Strategy is to review and assess toilet provision across Powys, by place, and by type. As a result of undertaking a population assessment, stakeholder engagement, and involvement, this document identifies gaps in toilet provision in Powys, before developing a strategy with actions/steps to address any identified issues/gaps with provision.

Context

Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 (Provision of Toilets) came into force on 31st May 2018 and places the responsibility on local authorities in Wales to:

- Assess the need for toilet provision for their communities;
- Plan to meet those needs;
- Produce a local toilet strategy; and
- Review the strategy, update, and publicise revisions.

It is important to note that the duty to prepare a local toilet strategy does not require local authorities to provide and maintain public toilets directly, but rather it compels local authorities to take a strategic view on how facilities can be provided by working in partnership with others and accessed by their local population.

The Powys Local Toilet Strategy has been prepared, reviewed, consulted, and published showing due regard to the five ways of working, as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The strategy has been prepared following the principles of co-production, as a wide range of potential user groups, providers and other stakeholders have been engaged with as part of its creation.

Aim and Objectives

The aim of this strategy is to meet the needs of residents and visitors to Powys by reviewing and accounting for the number of publicly accessible toilets in Powys, and to facilitate the provision of clean, safe, accessible, and sustainable toilets for residents and visitors where the need for such facilities has been identified. Broadly the strategy seeks to achieve:

- An identification of the provision of public toilets in Powys;
- A consideration of the needs of the general population, and particular user groups for toilet facilities in Powys;
- A unified holistic county wide approach for the provision of publicly accessible toilets, implemented and supported corporately;
- Provision of publicly accessible toilets within council owned/run buildings;
- Develop a partnership approach with the private sector to ensure an equity of publicly accessible toilets throughout the county;
- Greater use of technology leading to an increased awareness of the location of publicly accessible toilets in Powys;
- Set out the steps which Powys County Council proposes to take in order to meet the need for publicly accessible toilets in Powys.

Council's Role

Powys County Council currently owns and maintains two public conveniences, these are located at the Brecon and Ystradgynlais Transport Interchanges. In recent years a total of 56 public conveniences have been transferred to other organisations (five to community groups, two to private businesses, and 49 to Town/Community Councils). A further five public conveniences have been closed.

Although the Public Health Act, 1936, gives local authorities powers to provide toilets, the provision of public conveniences is not a statutory duty, and due to limited funding and pressures on resources Powys County Council faces a challenge to maintain toilet provision. This pattern repeats itself across Britain, with the British Toilet Association (BTA) estimating that 40% of the UK's toilets have closed in the last 10 years.

The historic role of Powys County Council in providing public conveniences has become less of an imperative, one contributory factor is the regulatory provision of toilet facilities in private businesses (for example cafes, supermarkets, public houses) which has reduced the demand for other facilities. These private businesses tend to provide facilities that have a high standard of cleanliness, accessibility, and safety.

All facilities provided by Powys County Council must be accessible to all residents and visitors to Powys, all facilities provided must comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, Part M, and guidance exists to support the Council and businesses in complying. As with other areas, public toilet facilities in Powys can suffer from vandalism, anti-social behaviour, and drug use.

Powys has a number of large events which attract many people, who often stay for the evening which can generate several night time local environmental quality concerns including urination and defecating in the street. In 2018 for the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, Powys County Council installed temporary quadrat urinals and portaloos in Builth Wells Town Centre. Although these do not enhance the street scene, and some negative reactions were received from residents and daytime visitors, they did reduce the issue of public urination and defecation making the area more hygienic and a more welcoming place in the evening. Historically in Powys the emphasis has been on

dealing with the effects of urination and defecation, through street cleansing following the event, by the Highways, Transport and Recycling Team.

Powys County Council is committed to achieving the ambitions of its corporate improvement plan, Vision 2025² and the Powys Local Toilet Strategy can contribute to this, by supporting a number of the key objectives raised in the plan. Due to the cross-cutting nature of public toilets, and the fact that their availability impacts on each and every resident and visitor to Powys, their provision touches on almost every aspect of the Council's work.

Background

Terminology

This strategy uses the following terms for different types of toilet facility:

Toilet(s): a toilet facility that the general public can use that may be in public or private ownership, within a variety of premises and which does not require the user to be a customer or make a purchase. Publicly accessible toilet is also used here.

Traditional public toilet(s): a purpose-built toilet facility provided for use by the public. Public toilet is also used here.

Gender neutral toilet(s): a toilet that is not designated for exclusively male or female use, but can be used by anyone.

Changing Place(s): these are fully accessible toilets with a height adjustable changing bench, a hoisting system, a peninsular toilet, and enough space for a person with a disability, his/her wheelchair and two carers.

Standard accessible toilet(s): these are specially designed cubicles in separate-sex toilets or a self-contained gender neutral toilet. These may also be known as 'disabled toilets'.

Toilet Providers

Traditionally, public toilets in Powys would have been provided by Powys County Council, however due to reducing budgets, this is no longer the case. Within Powys there are three main types of publicly accessible toilets in Powys, typically operated by one of the following methods:

Stand-alone Council Managed: these are the traditional public toilets, and are typically purpose built buildings providing a separate area for ladies, gentlemen, and a standard accessible toilet. Powys County Council is responsible for the maintenance, management and cleaning.

Within Council Facilities: with agreement from the relevant service area/building occupier, and where circumstances allow, toilets within some Powys County Council buildings may be used by members of the general public. For example, in libraries, leisure centres, and in the public facing area offices.

Town/Community Council/Community Managed: these tend to be traditional public toilets, but a town/community council/community group are responsible for the maintenance, management and cleaning.

² Vision 2025 is the Powys County Council Corporate Improvement Plan (2018 – 2023), and sets out the top priorities and milestones for the Council. The full plan can be read at: <https://customer.powys.gov.uk/corporateplan>.

Commercial Provision: many businesses provide toilets for the use of customers, and developments such as supermarkets have tended to make provision for toilet facilities for all visitors. Tourist attractions, entertainment venues and railway stations are also included in this category.

Strategy Development

A cross-service group was established to ensure that the strategy was developed taking into account the views of the full local authority. This approach enabled us to capture all available data, and to maximise internal engagement with all relevant council service departments to inform the strategy development.

Data on existing toilet provision has been obtained, mapped, and analysed from existing internal databases. This data is attached as Appendix 4 and 5, has been cross checked using a targeted public survey (see Involvement section below) and with local Elected Members. Some gaps in the data still exist, and we need help, as part of this consultation to complete this.

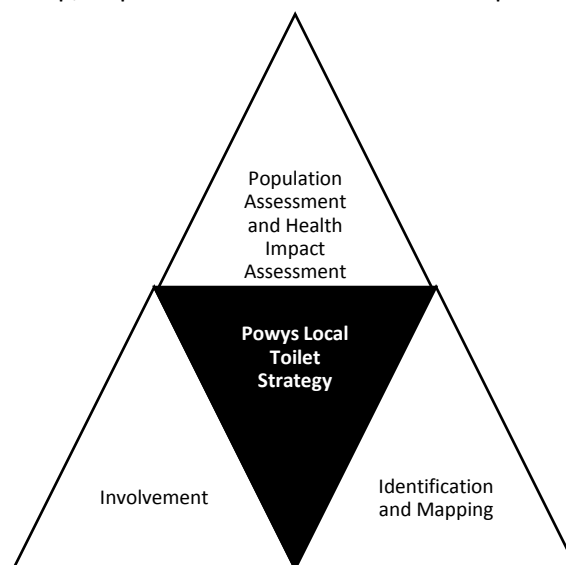


Figure 1: Development of the Powys Local Toilet Strategy

Involvement - Early Engagement, Focus Groups and Survey Feedback

In developing the strategy, the council has sought insight and feedback from various toilet providers, residents and some specific groups of people who are more likely to need to access a public toilet than the general population.

All residents were invited to complete a generic public survey which was available bilingually online. Paper copies were also available at all 18 branch libraries.

Focused face to face sessions were held with carers, older people, young people, parents of toddlers and parents of children with some additional needs. The findings and feedback have informed the actions of the Powys Local Toilet Strategy and are described here.

Stage 1 – Online form for external toilet providers

An online form was produced seeking relevant information from other toilet providers in the county around their provision, type, opening times and accessibility. 47 forms were completed and returned by the closing date. These were then cross referenced with the data held by Powys County Council and attempts made to clarify and correct any irregularities, queries and missing details.

The Welsh Government require each council to submit a detailed spreadsheet listing all public toilets so they can map them out. 94 toilets in total were identified during this process (this does not include those that are owned/operated by private businesses). The majority of these are toilets that were taken over by Town/Community Councils or a community group plus the two now maintained by the council at the Brecon and Ystradgynlais bus interchanges.

Stage 2 – Online public survey

To support the strategy and clarify needs and perception around the current toilet provision in the county an online survey was created and promoted via the council's website, social media pages and via the local media.

Questions were sought around usage of toilets in the county, their condition, any gaps, barriers to use, payment, toilets in tourist spots and the view around an interactive app for a smart phone.

By the closing date 127 responses had been received.

Respondents consisted of primarily Powys residents, however when asked to categorise themselves, responses were received from over 30 parents/carers of young children, 27 respondents with a long term health condition, 4 visitors to the county, a handful of adults who are caring for both children or adults with disabilities, a number of peripatetic workers, 4 Town/Community Councils and a handful of community type groups including Age Cymru, Welshpool Canoe Club and Sports Care Services.

The key findings from those responding were as follows:

- People were accessing a mix of toilet provision in a range of buildings including supermarkets, traditional type toilet blocks placed in car parks or in town centres – some council run/some now run by community groups or Town/Community Councils, restaurants and cafes, railway stations, leisure centres, village halls, community centres, craft centres, tourist destinations, hotels and public houses.
- Some of the problems identified by respondents were the condition of some toilets with a lack of toilet roll, paper towels, soap or dispensers and dryers being mentioned most frequently. Some respondents felt door locks were often poor or broken, lighting could be an issue, some toilets were dark and damp and unclean and had been vandalised. Not having the correct change to access provision where a charge was made was a frustration although a number of respondents understood why a charge was being made. A number felt a donation box was a better option to help sustain toilets being run by a community group especially if this was made clear in a notice on the facility.
- In terms of the type of provision and gaps, two key findings came out from the survey.
 - 1) baby changing facilities were often only located in the female toilets only and this was deemed unacceptable and old fashioned.
 - 2) there was a lack of adult changing facilities including items like hoists and space to change etc. One person stated that a shelf and hooks to hang a colostomy bag would be helpful.
- The majority of respondents (78%) who had used a toilet had done so for free with just over a fifth (22%) saying there had been a charge for those facilities used. Where a provider is seeking payment, in Powys, this appears to be 20p.
- 81% of respondents felt an interactive app showing a map of all Powys public toilets would be something they would use.

- 78 additional comments were given by respondents. The key themes given were around the need for good quality provision across the county, consideration for tourism and visitors, relevant opening times, the potential health risks that exist if provision is poor and several comments about funding and where the responsibility lies for the provision going forward. Another point raised by several residents was around those needing access to a toilet being afraid and less likely to venture out if they didn't know where to find a public toilet.

Stage 3 – Focus Groups with core stakeholders

Six focus groups were held during October and November 2018 to capture the views of specific stakeholders in Powys, including young people, parents of young children, carers, and older people.

Key findings of the six focus groups can be summarised as follows:

- Commercial premises tend to provide a high standard of toilet facility. This is particularly the case for those travelling through the county, who tend to use petrol filling stations. However, some do state that their toilets are for customers only. This signage is a barrier for some people who may be in need, and not have the confidence to ask.
- Some traditional toilet blocks are unwelcoming, deemed to be unhygienic, poorly maintained and/or vandalised. People are reluctant to use them at night due to safety reasons.
- Although people do not mind paying to use a toilet facility, this can become an issue if they do not have the correct change. A donation box rather than a set fee has been suggested.
- A number of people suggested that cosmetic improvements could be made to publicly accessible toilets in Powys, for example hooks, shelves, mirrors, and air fresheners.
- There is some confusion over which toilets in Powys, the public can use, and which are private/for customers only.
- Changing Places or larger accessible toilets are a large gap identified in the provision in Powys.
- Carers/those with additional needs tend to have to plan their journey carefully around publically accessible toilets.
- Toilets need to be promoted within town centres, and consideration could be given to using digital noticeboards.
- Good quality publicly accessible toilets are important to the visitor economy in Powys.

Current Provision

Mapping locations

Locations of the current provision of public toilets in Powys have been mapped (Appendix 4), so that people who need to visit a toilet can easily access information about the location, opening times, accessibility, and type of toilets available.

As per Welsh Government guidance, Powys County Council has produced, and made publicly available a dataset consisting of the location and specified characteristics of the identified toilets (Appendix 5). This information is available on the Powys County Council website, alongside this

strategy. This data will be joined by Welsh Government with information from other local authorities to produce a national dataset for the Lle map³.

All data is considered to be open data, that is it can be used by third parties, either directly from the Powys County Council website, or from the joint dataset forming the Lle map. The data is available in Welsh and English.

Figure 2 below, shows the location of all publicly accessible toilets in Powys mapped as part of this strategy, information on each facility is given in the data tables on pages 13 – 20:

³ Lle is the Welsh Government geo-portal serving as a hub for data and information covering a wide spectrum of topics. Lle will generate all Wales maps based on datasets provide by local authorities that can be configured to focus on either the national picture, or on more local areas, Lle can be found at <http://lle.gov.wales/home>.

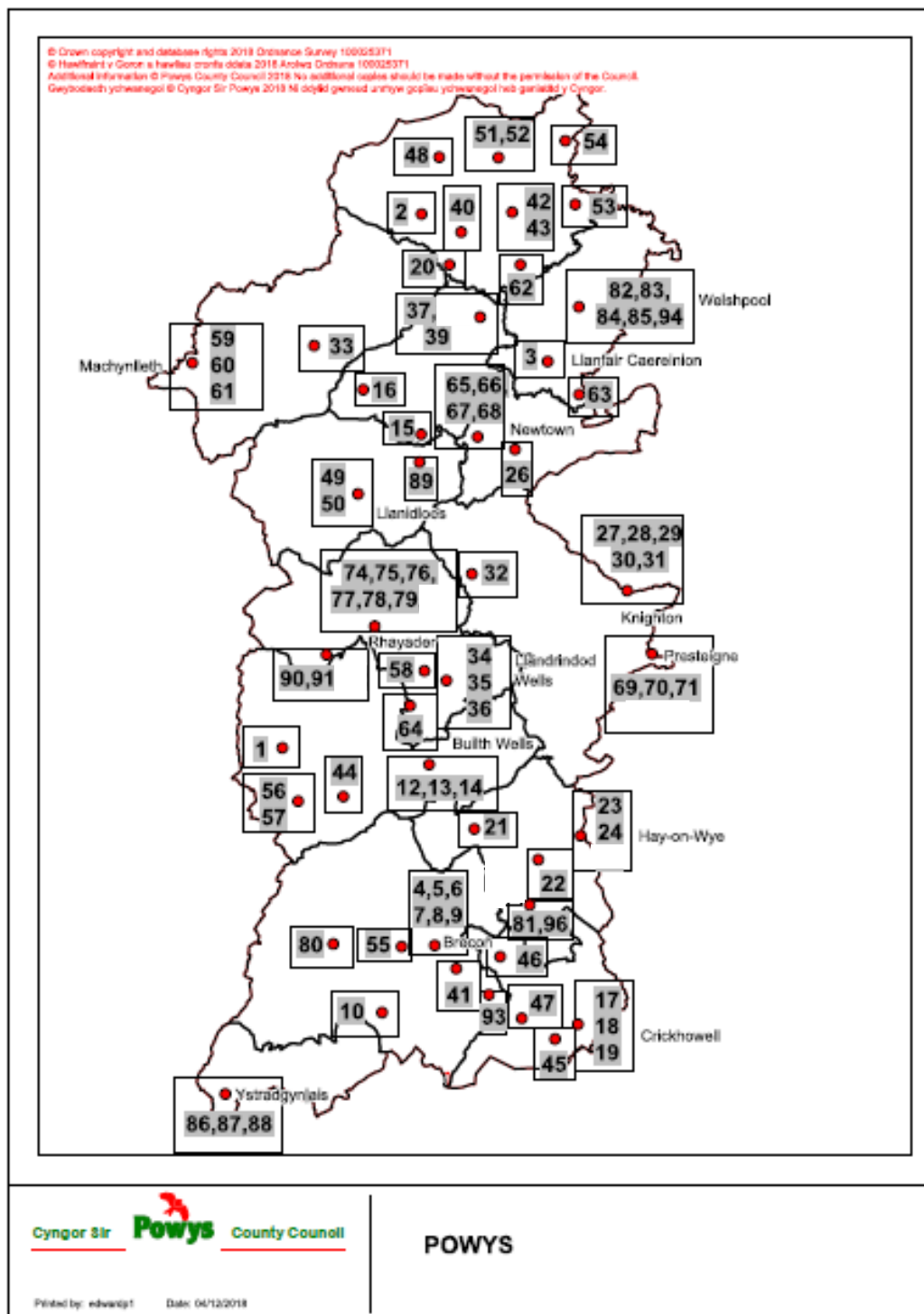


Figure 2: Location of publicly accessible toilets in Powys.

Stand-alone Council Managed Provision

Powys County Council directly provide toilet blocks at the following locations:

- Brecon Interchange (map location 8);
- Ystradgynlais Interchange (map location 88).

Powys County Council has responsibility for the maintenance, management and cleaning of these toilet blocks.

Provision within Council Facilities

Although not currently promoted toilet facilities within Powys County Council buildings are available to the general public where the individual location, access and circumstances allow. For example, within libraries. These facilities ensure that all services offered are accessible by all members of the community. The Powys County Council premises that provide toilet facilities are listed within this strategy.

Town/Community Council/Community Provision

Excluding the two toilet blocks directly provided by Powys County Council (listed above), all traditional public toilets within Powys are now operated by either by Town/Community Councils or by community groups. These groups are wholly responsible for these toilet blocks, and these are listed within this strategy.

Changing Places

According to the Changing Places Toilet Map⁴, there is only one changing place toilet in Powys that is based in the privately owned and managed Corris Craft Centre in Machynlleth⁵. It is however known that a Changing Place facility exists at Crickhowell Community Sports Centre (map location 17), although this is unregistered. Further provision is planned at Y Gaer, Brecon and Welshpool Town Council have secured funding to create facilities at the Berriew Street Car Park in the town.

Assessment and Findings

Existing Provision

The BTA recommend that publicly accessible toilets should be provided on both a population and distance basis. The BTA recommended level is 1 cubicle per 550 female population and 1 cubicle or urinal per 1100 male population, which is a ratio of 2:1 in favour of women. One accessible toilet and also one baby change facility should be provided for every 10,000 population.

The number of individual cubicles/urinals is not available; however, the data tables below describe the facilities available within each locality⁶ in Powys. Location maps for each locality are attached as Appendix 4.

⁴ <http://changing-places.org/>









⁵ For the purposes of this strategy only traditional public toilets, and those accessible within Powys County Council buildings have been mapped. Private facilities and those within commercial premises have been excluded.

⁶ Powys is broken down by different geographical areas. These geographical hierarchies are designed to improve reporting and understanding data in small areas. Postcodes are used to define these geographical areas. There are 79 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) in Powys, these made up the 19 Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOA) which in turn make up the Powys 13 localities.




















Question 1 – Data Accuracy

- What gaps exist in the data?
- Is any of our data inaccurate?
- Are there any publicly accessible toilets we do not know about?
- Can you provide us with any missing data?






Key

Male toilet 	Gender neutral toilet 	Baby changing (gender neutral) 	Baby changing (male) 
Female toilet 	Disabled toilet 	Baby changing (female) 	Changing place 










Welshpool and Montgomery













Map ID	Location	Postcode	Facilities
82	Berriew Street Car Park, Oldford Lane, Welshpool	SY21 7SQ	 
83	Church Street Car Park, Welshpool	SY21 7DD	  
84	Flash Leisure Centre, Welshpool	SY21 7DH	     
85	Welshpool Library	SY21 7PH	 
94	Town Hall, Broad Street, Welshpool	SY21 7JQ	 
63	Market Square Montgomery	SY15 6PH	 
3	Adjacent to The Lion, Berriew	SY21 8PQ	 

Newtown








































Map ID	Location	Postcode	Facilities
65	Back Lane Car Park, Newtown	SY16 2NZ	
66	The Gravel, Shortbridge Street, Newtown	SY16 1AB	
67	Newtown Area Library	SY16 1EJ	
68	Maldwyn Leisure Centre, Newtown	SY16 1LH	
26	The Gardens, Common Road, Kerry	SY16 4NX	




Brecon

Map ID	Location	Postcode	Facilities
4	Brecon Leisure Centre, Brecon	LD3 9SR	
5	Brecon Library	LD3 9AE	
UNMAPPED	Brecon Market Hall	LD3 7LF	
6	Lion Yard, Brecon	LD3 7BA	
7	Brecon Theatre	LD3 7EW	
8	Brecon Transport Interchange	LD3 7BL	
9	Upper Meadow, Brecon Promenade	LD3 9PG	
10	A470 Brecon Beacons, Storey Arms	LD3 8NL	
41	Llanfrynach	LD3 7AX	











53	Llansantffraed, West of Bwlch	LD3 7JQ	  
55	A40 Layby, Llanspyddid	LD3 8PB	  
80	High Street, Sennybridge	LD3 8PG	   
93	Henderson Hall, Talybont	LD3 7YQ	 

Llandrindod and Rhayader





























Map ID	Location	Postcode	Facilities
34	Llandrindod Library, The Gwalia	LD1 6AA	  
35	Lake Park, Llandrindod Wells	LD1 5HU	     
36	Station Crescent, Llandrindod Wells	LD1 5BB	     
58	Llanyre	LD1 6DY	 
64	Newbridge on Wye	LD1 6HU	 
74	Cemetery, Rhayader	LD6 5DH	 
75	Dark Lane Car Park, Rhayader	LD6 5DG	  
76	Rhayader Leisure Centre, Rhayader	LD6 5BU	    
77	Rhayader Library	LD6 5AB	 
78	Smithfield, Rhayader	LD6 5BU	  
79	The Groe, Cwmdeuddwr, Rhayader	LD6 5AP	 
90	Claerwen Dam, Claerwen Valley, Rhayader	LD6 5HP	  

91	Graig Goch Dam, Elan Valley, Rhayader	LD6 5HS	  
----	---------------------------------------	---------	--









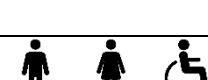
Ystradgynlais

Map ID	Location	Postcode	Facilities
86	Ystradgynlais Library	SA9 1JJ	  
87	Station Road, Ystradgynlais	SA9 1NT	   
88	Ystradgynlais Transport Interchange, Station Road, Ystradgynlais	SA9 1JJ	  





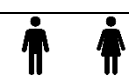
Knighton and Presteigne




Map ID	Location	Postcode	Facilities
27	Knighton Cemetery, Knighton	LD7 1HY	 
28	Behind Knighton Hotel, Knighton	LD7 1BL	   
29	Bowling Green Lane Car Park, Knighton	LD7 1DR	 
30	Offa's Dyke Centre, Knighton	LD7 1EN	   
31	Knighton Library	LD7 1DR	  
69	Hereford Street Car Park, Presteigne	LD8 2AR	  
70	Presteigne Library	LD8 2AD	  
71	Wilson Terrace, Presteigne	LD8 2BW	   
32	A483 Llananno	LD1 6TS	  

Llanfyllin






















Map ID	Location	Postcode	Facilities
42	High Street, Llanfyllin	SY22 5AA	
43	Llanfyllin Library & Community Centre	SY22 5DB	
2	Lake Vyrnwy Road, Llanwddyn	SY10 0LT	
20	Village Car Park, Mill Lane, Dolanog	SY21 0LQ	
40	Car Park, School Lane, Llanfihangel yng Ngwynfa	SY22 5JD	
48	Berwyn Street, Llangynog	SY10 0EX	
51	Market Square, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant	SY10 0JH	
52	Tan-Y-Pistyll, Waterfall Road, Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	SY10 0BZ	
62	Public car park, Meifod	SY22 6BZ	

Hay and Talgarth




















Map ID	Location	Postcode	Facilities
23	Nr Clock, Broad Street, Hay on Wye	HR3 5BX	
24	Oxford Road Car Park, Hay on Wye	HR3 5DG	
81	Town Hall, The Square, Talgarth	LD3 0AF	
96	Talgarth Library	LD3 0DQ	
21	Erwood on A470	LD2 3EZ	




22	Glas-Y-Bont, Glasbury	HR3 5NW	  
----	-----------------------	---------	--

Crickhowell








Map ID	Location	Postcode	Facilities
17	Crickhowell Community Sports Centre	NP8 1AW	   
18	CRIC Crickhowell	NP8 1AR	    
19	Crickhowell Library	LD3 1BN	  
45	Llangattock Recreation Ground	NP8 1PA	 
46	Llangorse Common, Llangorse Lake	LD3 7TR	    
47	Llangynidr	NP8 1HS	 

Builth and Llanwrtyd















Map ID	Location	Postcode	Facilities
12	The Groe, Builth Wells	LD2 3BG	     
13	Strand Street, Builth Wells	LD2 3AA	
14	Builth Library (Antur Gwy)	LD2 3BA	    
44	Llangammarch Wells	LD4 4BT	 
1	Village Hall, Abergwesyn	LD5 4TP	 
56	Riverside, Llanwrtyd Wells	LD5 4SP	  

57	Llanwrtyd Library	LD5 4RA	  
----	-------------------	---------	--











Llanidloes



Map ID	Location	Postcode	Facilities
49	The Gro, Llanidloes	SY18 6EW	  
50	Nr Town Hall, Llanidloes	SY18 6BN	  
89	A470 Llandinam	SY17 5BZ	

Llanfair Caereinion

Map ID	Location	Postcode	Facilities
37	Bridge Street, Llanfair Caereinion	SY21 0RZ	   
39	Llanfair Caereinion Library	SY21 0RY	 
15	Bridge Street, Caersws	SY17 5HH	   
16	Spar Car Park, Caersws Road, Carno	SY17 5LH	   









Machynlleth

Map ID	Location	Postcode	Facilities
59	Bro Ddyfi Leisure Centre, Machynlleth	SY20 8ER	    
60	Heol Maengwyn, Machynlleth	SY22 5AA	 
61	Machynlleth Library	SY20 8DY	  

33	Car Park, Llanbrynmair	SY19 7AA	 
----	------------------------	----------	---

Summary and assessment

The below table summarises the provision of publicly accessible toilets across Powys⁷, and the type of facilities that exist across each locality.

								
Welshpool and Montgomery	6	6	1	3	1	1	1	0
Newtown	5	5	0	2	1	0	0	0
Brecon	11	11	2	9	4	3	2	0
Llandrindod and Rhayader	11	11	2	8	3	3	2	0
Ystradgynlais	1	1	2	3	0	1	0	0
Knighton and Presteigne	8	8	1	7	2	1	0	0
Llanfyllin	8	8	0	6	3	2	2	0
Hay and Talgarth	5	5	0	3	0	0	0	0
Crickhowell	5	5	2	4	0	1	1	2
Builth and Llanwrtyd	6	6	2	5	1	0	0	0
Llanidloes	2	2	0	3	0	0	0	0
Llanfair Caereinion	3	3	2	3	0	2	0	0
Machynlleth	3	3	1	2	1	1	0	0

As demonstrated in the above tables, there are publicly accessible toilet facilities available throughout the county, with at least one facility in each of the main towns in Powys. In addition to this, taking the BTA recommendations, there is a sufficient number of standard accessible toilets available within each locality in Powys. Although town centres are well catered for, a clear gap in publicly accessible toilet provision can be seen in more rural areas, and along the vast road network in Powys. Although Powys County Council provides toilet facilities at the main bus interchanges in the county, no railway stations in the county have toilet facilities.

Although no guidelines or recommendations exist for changing places, there is a need for greater facilities of this kind to be developed in Powys. As stated previously, there is only one changing place toilet in Powys that is based in the privately owned and managed Corris Craft Centre in Machynlleth. It is however known that a Changing Place facility exists at Crickhowell Community Sports Centre, although this is unregistered. Further provision is planned at Y Gaer, Brecon and Welshpool Town Council has secured funding to create facilities at the Berriew Street Car Park in the town.

⁷ The data presented in the Powys Local Toilet Strategy is based on information currently held by Powys County Council, we are aware that there are a number of gaps in these findings, and this will be reviewed following public consultation.

The above summary table also demonstrates a lack of baby changing facilities in Powys with no such facilities being found in the Welshpool and Montgomery, Newtown, Hay and Talgarth, Llanidloes, and Machynlleth. Furthermore, in Llanfair Caereinion and Ystradgynlais baby changing facilities are only available within female toilets.

There is a considerable difference in type and quality of publicly accessible toilet facilities throughout the county, with levels of facilities and cleanliness varying. Users do not mind paying, should the facility be well maintained, however due to people often not carrying the correct change, it has been suggested that a donation box might be a more suitable way of collecting payment.

These conclusions are based upon BTA population related provision recommendations. However, Powys annually attracts 4.6. millions visitors (Powys County Council, 2017), a significant numbers of tourists, particularly during the summer month which places considerable additional demand on toilets in the county. This is especially so during large events in the county, such as the Royal Welsh Show, Brecon Jazz, and the Hay Festival. As such using a standard simply based on resident population is clearly not acceptable for Powys. The relevant population in an area when calculating toilet need should include commuters, tourists, visitors, as well as residents. However, this data as a whole is unavailable for Powys.

It is evident from the population assessment, involvement, and identification and mapping that provision of publicly accessible toilets is a significant concern for both residents and visitors to Powys. The provision of publically accessible toilets is essential to ensuring peoples wellbeing and their overall enjoyment of Powys, therefore long term solutions need to be developed in order to ensure future provision.

Strategy

The table below summarises the key findings and agreed actions as a result of the population assessment (Appendix 1), Health Impact Assessment (Appendix 2), engagement activities (Appendix 3), and mapping (Appendix 4). Where an action is marked as ongoing, a performance update will be given during each review of this strategy.

Question 2 – Actions

- Do you agree that our proposed actions will improve access to public toilets in Powys?
- Do you agree that our proposed actions will support the development of Changing Place facilities in Powys?
- Do you agree that our proposed actions will support the development of further baby changing facilities in Powys?
- Do you agree that working with other organisations will support and improve access to toilets in Powys?
- Do you agree that Lle will support and improve access to toilets in Powys?
- Do you have any further suggested actions?

Key finding	Action(s)	How will we know this has been achieved?	By when will this be achieved?	Who will be responsible for this
Publicly accessible toilets need to be better promoted throughout Powys, particularly in rural areas where availability is limited	Opening up of toilet facilities in Powys County Council buildings	The toilet facilities in Powys County Council buildings will be opened up and promoted to the public. (Except for schools, care homes, and other buildings where the facilities are located in areas not accessible to the public). Buildings will be signposted for public use, and the Welsh Government toilet logo displayed.	May 2020	Powys County Council
	Signposting of facilities	Awareness and knowledge of publicly accessible toilets will have been improved. Up to date information will have been provided on the Powys County Council website and Lle. Consideration will have been given to providing additional physical signposting/use of existing noticeboards to direct the public to facilities when they are in town centres and other locations.	May 2020	Powys County Council/Town/Community Councils

	Use of the Great British Toilet Map ⁸	The Great British Toilet Map will be promoted, and publicly accessible toilets in Powys will be registered on the Great British Toilet Map website (www.toiletmap.org.uk).	May 2020	Powys County Council/Toilet Providers
	Data sharing	Powys County Council will have shared any relevant and specific data that has been captured within the engagement and consultation exercises with relevant toilet providers where helpful to the improvement of their toilet facilities and with due regard to the General Data Protection regulations. Where data is inaccurate, or a situation changes, the toilet provider will have informed the Council.	May 2020	Powys County Council/Toilet Providers
	Participation in the 'Use Our Loos' Campaign ⁹	The 'Use Our Loos' campaign will have been promoted to businesses, encouraging them to open up their loos to the public. This will provide additional toilet facilities, whilst allowing businesses to benefit from increased footfall, and will help to develop stronger communities. Powys County Council will have promoted this scheme using a mix of channels including its own website and social media and where it can, encourage businesses to participate. In addition, the national toilet logo will have been made available on the Powys County Council website for businesses to download and display on their premises.	May 2020	Powys County Council/Town/Community Councils/Private Developers
	Development of commercial partnerships	Working with partners and businesses, the national toilet logo will have been made available on the Powys County Council website for businesses to download and display on their premises. These discussions will have included conversations around supporting those residents with long term health conditions who have a Carers or other card	Ongoing	Powys County Council/Town/Community Councils/Private Developers

⁸ The Great British Public Toilet Map is the UK's largest database of publicly-accessible toilets, with over 11000 facilities listed. The database can be viewed at www.toiletmap.org.uk.

⁹ The Great British Public Toilet Map in partnership with the BTA, and Domestos have launched a 'Use Our Loos' campaign, the first national community toilet scheme. This scheme asks businesses to sign up, and welcome customers and non-customers to use their toilets. Domestos, in return, provides free cleaning products.

		which will then allow them immediate access to a toilet with no questions asked.		
Lack of Changing Place/larger accessible toilet, and baby changing facilities	Publicly accessible, accessible toilet and baby changing facilities in future Powys County Council developments	Toilet facilities in any future Council building developments or redevelopment will have considered publicly accessible toilet and baby changing facilities included as part of their design and compliance.	Ongoing	Powys County Council
	Development of Changing Places	The possibility of installing Changing Place toilets in all Powys County Council buildings with a public function will have been considered. Changing Places will have been encouraged (where possible) in private developments, and working with partners potential funding sources will have been identified. Efforts to develop Changing Places will be focused on areas of high need, as identified in the Health Impact Assessment.	Ongoing	Powys County Council/Town/Community Councils/Private Developers
	Collaboration with toilet providers	The need for Changing Place facilities and improved baby changing facilities across Powys will have been promoted by Powys County Council. Where appropriate external toilet providers will have been given support/advice to apply for (external) grant funding in order to provide improved facilities.	May 2020	Powys County Council/Town/Community Councils/Private Developers
Ensuring future provision	Collaboration with Town/Community Councils	Engagement will have continued with Town/Community Councils in order to ensure that traditional public toilets are provided in as many locations as possible throughout the county.	Ongoing	Powys County Council
	Engagement with proposed Business Improvement Districts	If Business Improvement Districts are established in Brecon and Newtown, a portion of the funding raised could have been used to develop new/improve existing public toilet provision.	May 2021	Powys County Council/Business Improvement Districts

	Review of commercial letting policies	Powys County Council will have undertaken a review of its commercial lettings policies. The possibility of introducing an additional clause on Council let/leased commercial property will have been explored, so that the toilets within said premises are accessible to public.	May 2021	Powys County Council
	Planning recommendations	Large-scale commercial developments that are going to include cafes, bars, shops, or entertainment venues for example, could have been required, as a planning condition, to allow general public access to any toilet facilities that are being built in the premises.	Ongoing	Powys County Council/ Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
	Section 106 Agreements	Section 106 Agreements may have been explored as a one off way of funding additional public toilet provision within new or near new developments, on a need and demand driven basis.	Ongoing	Powys County Council/ Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
	Regulation	Where applicable Powys County Council will have used their powers under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 20 to mandate that any business which is classed as a place of entertainment, or any business that sells food or drink to the public for consumption on the premises, provide and maintain public toilets for public use.	Ongoing	Powys County Council
There is no specific need for rough sleepers in Powys	Monitor annual rough sleeper count	Working with the Homelessness Prevention and Housing Options Lead, rough sleeper numbers will have been monitored and where appropriate options will have been explored to ensure that there are adequate facilities for rough sleepers.	Ongoing	Powys County Council
Significant numbers of people visit Powys annually for tourism purposes to attend events.	Provision at events	Working with the newly formed Events Board and the relaunched Events Safety Advisory Group, as part of the Powys Events Portal, guidance will have been produced for event organisers around the provision of toilets at temporary events.	May 2020	Powys County Council/ Event Organisers

	Night time economy	Trailing of temporary quadrat urinals and portaloo toilets during large events will have continued. Feedback will be collected.	May 2020	Powys County Council
Lack of provision for those travelling through Powys	Transport Hubs	Discussions will have been held with Transport for Wales/Network Rail and Traws Cymru, to discuss the possibility of improving toilet facilities at key transport hubs in Powys.	May 2020	Powys County Council/Transport for Wales/Network Rail/Traws Cymru
	Trunk Road and overnight provision	Through working with the Welsh Government and North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTRA), Powys County Council will have looked to ensure that public conveniences currently provided at key points along the trunk road network in Powys continue to receive adequate funding to remain open.	May 2020	Powys County Council/NMWTRA
The quality/cleanliness of toilet facilities vary across the county	Collaboration with external toilet providers	Where appropriate external toilet providers will have been given support/advice to apply for (external) grant funding in order to provide improved facilities. Schemes such as the 'Use Our Loos' will be promoted in order to try and get providers to improve the quality of facilities.	Ongoing	Powys County Council/Toilet Providers
People are willing to give a donation where facilities are operated by community groups	Collaboration with Town/Community Councils and other community groups	Town/Community Councils and other community groups will have been informed of this finding.	May 2020	Powys County Council/Toilet Providers

Reviewing the Strategy

Powys County Council will prepare an interim progress report setting out the steps taken in line with their strategy every two years, commencing from the date of the last published strategy. The interim progress report will be published within six months of the end of end date of the two-year period.

The first Powys Local Toilet Strategy will be published in May 2019, therefore it will be reviewed before the end of May 2021, with the progress report published before the end of November 2021.

The Powys Local Toilet Strategy will also be reviewed within a year of each ordinary election for Powys. The next election is due to take place May 2022; therefore, a review will have been completed by May 2023. If no changes are made to the strategy following the post-election review, then an interim progress statement covering a two-year period commencing from the date of the last election will be published.

Powys County Council may review its strategy at any time, following which it must publish a statement of the steps which it has taken in accordance with the strategy. If following a review Powys County Council decides to revise the strategy, it will publish the revised strategy and then prepare an interim progress report covering the two-year period commencing from the date of publication.

A project management structure has been established within Powys County Council to oversee the development of the Local Toilet Strategy, this group will continue to meet quarterly to ensure the implementation of the actions contained in this strategy.

References

- All Wales Continence Forum (2011). The indignity of incontinence: Local information pack for Assembly Members. Available from: <http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s43157/Consultation%20response%20RC%2016%20-%20All%20Wales%20Continence%20Forum%20AWCF.pdf> [Accessed 6th December 2018].
- British Toilet Association (2010). BTA Summary of Best Practice in ‘Away From Home’ Toilet Provision. Available from: <http://www.btaloos.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/BTABestPracticeAdvice.pdf> [Accessed: 6th December 2018].
- Daffodil (2018). Continence. Available from: <http://www.daffodilcymru.org.uk/index.php?pageNo=1048&PHPSESSID=t8497but2pnpenmqi3c6sbhg77&at=a&sc=1&loc=1&np=1> [Accessed 6th December 2018].
- Help The Aged (2007). Nowhere to go – Public Toilet Provision in the UK. Available from: [https://www.ageuk.org.uk/documents/en-gb/professionals/research/nowhere%20to%20go%20public%20toilet%20provision%20\(2007\)_pro.pdf?dtrk=true](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/documents/en-gb/professionals/research/nowhere%20to%20go%20public%20toilet%20provision%20(2007)_pro.pdf?dtrk=true). [Accessed 6th December 2018].
- Help The Aged in Wales (2009). Public Toilet Closures. Available from: <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/cymru/professional-resources/facts-and-figures-about-older-people/public-toilet-closures/>. [Accessed 6th December 2018].
- National Assembly for Wales (2012). Public health implications of inadequate public toilet facilities – report of evidence. Available from: <http://senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=2572> [Accessed: 6th December 2018].
- Office for National Statistics (2015). Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Available from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/annualsurveyofhoursandearnings/2015provisionalresults> [Accessed 6th December 2018].
- Older People’s Commissioner for Wales (2014). Response from the Older People’s Commissioner for Wales to the Welsh Government consultation on proposals for a Public Health Bill. Available from: http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/Libraries/Consultation_Responses/140624_-_Response_from_the_Older_Peoples_Commissioner_for_Wales_to_the_Welsh_Government_consultation_on_proposals_for_a_Public_Health_Bill.sflb.ashx [Accessed 6th December 2018].
- Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (2015). Food Bank Overview. Unpublished report.
- Powys County Council (2017). Powys Wellbeing Assessment 2017: Economy Key Findings. Available from: https://en.powys.gov.uk/media/7090/4_Powys_Wellbeing_Assessment_en/pdf/4_Powys_Wellbeing_Assessment_en.pdf?m=1540808252177 [Accessed 6th December 2018].
- Public Health Wales NHS Trust (2016). Measuring Inequalities 2016. Available from: <http://www.publichealthwalesobservatory.wales.nhs.uk/measuring-inequalities-2016-files> [Accessed: 6th December 2018].
- Road Haulage Association (2018). Trucker’s Toilets. Available from: <https://www.rha.uk.net/policy-campaigning/the-road-haulage-industry/truckers-toilets> [Accessed 6th December 2018].

StatsWales (2018). Rough Sleepers by local authority. Available from: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Housing/Homelessness/Rough-Sleepers/roughsleepers-by-localauthority> [Accessed 6th December 2018].

Welsh Government (2014). WIMD 2014 local authority analysis. Available from: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2014/wimd2014localauthorityanalysis> [Accessed 6th December 2018].

Welsh Government (2015). Welsh Health Survey 2015. Available from: <https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/welsh-health-survey/?tab=previous&lang=en> [Accessed: 6th December 2018].

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Population Assessment

As part of the needs analysis to discover the requirements for public conveniences in Powys a community profile for the county has been produced. Unless otherwise stated all information in this section of the strategy has been developed from the Well-being Assessment, undertaken by the Powys Public Service Board, under the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015.

Powys's Demography

In 2015 the population of Powys was 132,642, covering 5180km² with just 26 persons per square kilometre, making Powys the sparsest and most rural county in Wales. The population of Powys peaked in 2011, and has been falling since. The latest projections for Powys has its population falling by 8% in 2029, the largest fall among authorities in Wales. In 2015, 15% of the Powys population was aged 15 or under, 59% were of working age, and 26% were aged 65 or over. There are a total of 59,138 households, of which 18,948 are single person households, with 19% of the population able to speak Welsh.

The number of residents in Powys aged 65 or over is expected to increase by 12,890 (36%) between 2017 and 2035 whilst those of working age is expected to decrease by 10,300 (14%) providing a number of key challenges to the county, one of which will be public toilet provision.

Travel Profile

Powys has 5,500km of roads, and relatively low traffic congestion. Most people use their own vehicles for regular travel, only 1% of the population use public buses and people are dissatisfied with the bus service. Powys has 2 railway lines (The Cambrian Line running through Welshpool and Newtown towards Aberystwyth, and The Heart of Wales lines running from Craven Arms to Llanelli) carrying 110,000 passengers a year. Due to the vast, and complex nature of the transport network in Powys, it would be impractical to provide facilities throughout the network, and the Powys Local Toilet Strategy will focus on the main transport routes in the county.

Powys sees an average of 4.6 million tourists per year, who in turn invest £615 million into the local economy. Tourism accounts for 12% of all employment in Powys, however it is more predominant in more rural areas. Food and drink (21%) has the largest economic impact on the tourism industry. Tourists visiting the county tend to stay overnight more in the north of the county (Montgomeryshire), whilst there are more day visitors to the South (particularly Brecon Beacons).

Deprivation Profile

Some areas of Powys are the most deprived areas of Wales according to Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), with Ystradgynlais being ranked in the lowest 10% in Wales, and Newtown South and Welshpool Castle being ranked in the worst 20% in Wales (Welsh Government, 2014).

Powys has a poor WIMD score in terms of employment. Whilst the majority of the population are in employment, many are in part time work and earn below average salaries. Young people, particularly males, are also struggling to find work. Fuel poverty is high in Powys as a result of its rural setting with lack of access to cheaper fuels such as gas and a high elderly population (Welsh Government, 2014). There is a growing divide between least and most deprived in terms of life expectancy, with long term health issues becoming more and more common in those less well off (Public Health Wales NHS Trust, 2016). Powys is also one of the most expensive places to buy a house. Fewer people are now owning a home outright or through mortgage. Instead, a large

proportion are renting. This may be linked to a below average weekly income. While it cannot be fully determined, the reform of the welfare system is expected to impact more than half of Powys' population, and as a result of benefit reductions or termination, see an average drop of 2% in Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) (ONS, 2015). Homeless presentations have increased by 107% in the Brecon area between 2014/15 to 2015/16 and in the same period the increases in Welshpool has been 39%, Newtown 30% and Llandrindod 13%. There has been a reduction of 3% in Ystradgynlais. The greatest number of homeless presentations are in Newtown and Welshpool, however, the 2017 National Rough Sleeper Count (Statistics for Wales, 2018) found that no persons were rough sleeping in Powys. Therefore, at the present time there is no specific need in any areas of Powys for publicly accessible toilets for the homeless. This assessment will be revisited upon review of the strategy.

Powys is ranked in the bottom 10% in terms of access to services, particularly in terms of access to services by foot or public transport (Welsh Government, 2014). The county also has a larger than average number of residents without access to a 2G signal. Lettings and waiting lists data shows that we do not have sufficient supply to meet demand particularly for small households. Over the previous 18 months there has been a rise in food banks in Powys, those now in existence are supporting more and more people who are in work but still struggling to make ends meet (Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations, 2015).

Powys Health Profile

Life expectancy in Powys is above the average for Wales and continues to improve. However, there has been a growing inequality gap appearing between genders, with females tending to outlive males, as well as between the least and most well off (not yet to levels of statistical significance). This gap is expected to widen over the next 10 years. A child born in the least affluent parts of Powys can expect to live 6 years less than a child born in the most affluent areas (Public Health Wales NHS Trust, 2016).

The Welsh Health Survey (2015) revealed that 15% of people in Powys are currently being treated for high blood pressure, 8% for heart conditions, 13% for respiratory illness, 10% for mental health issues, 9% for arthritis, and 6% for diabetes. Furthermore, according to the 2011 Census 21.4% of people in Powys have a long-term health problem of disability which limits their day-to-day activities a lot or a little, whilst 5% of working age people claim Disability Living Allowance. This data indicates a clear need for accessible toilets/change place facilities, throughout the county.

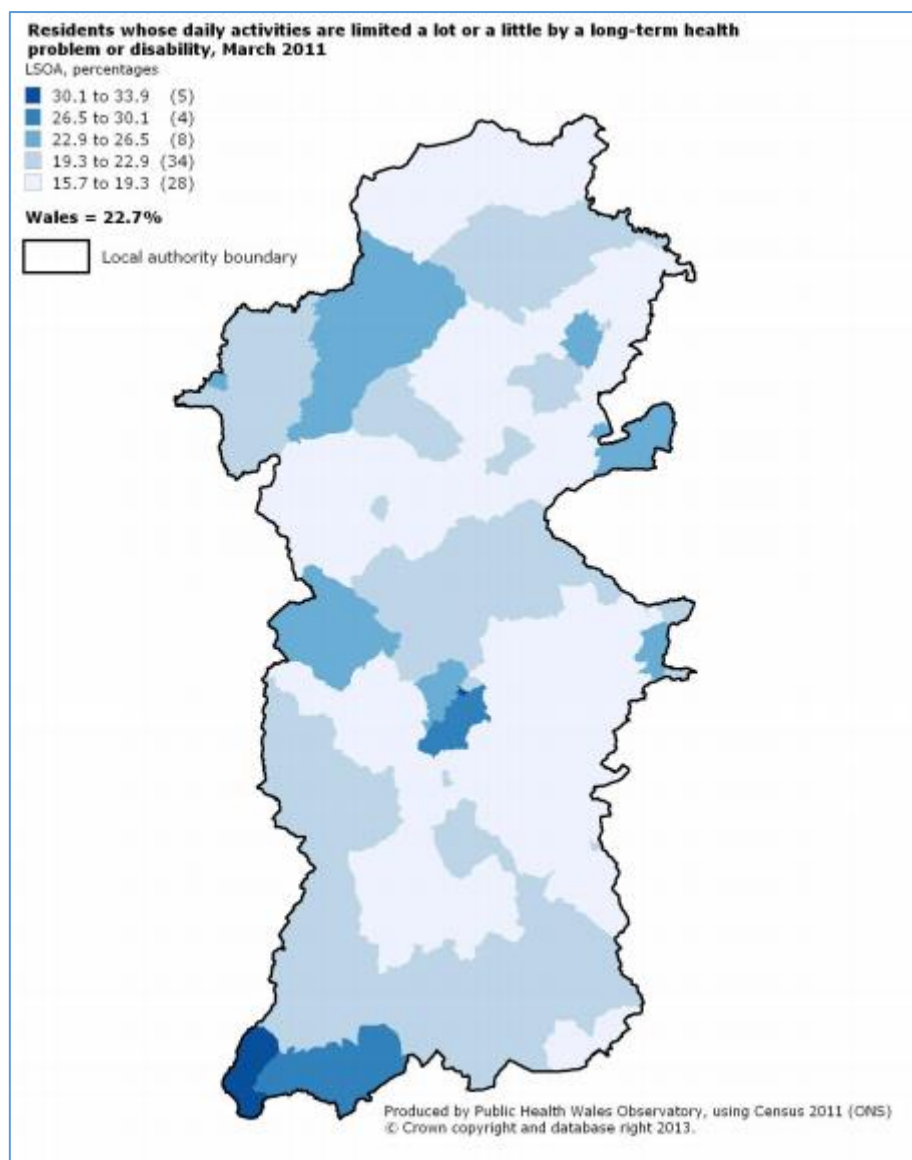


Figure 1: Residents whose daily activities are limited a lot or a little by a long-term health problem or disability, March 2011.

At a Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) there is a great variance in those whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot or a little by a long-term health problem. This ranges from 15.8% in Felinfach to 33.8% in Ynyscedwyn. Areas with the higher percentages are found in the Ystradgynlais, Llandrindod East/Llandrindod West, Cwmtwrch, and Ynyscedwyn.

It is anticipated that continence issues will be the most likely health condition to impact toilet usage according to figures obtained from Daffodil (2017) which state that a total of 5,876 people aged over 65 experience bladder problems at least once a week in Powys, with this figure expecting to rise to 8,510 by 2035. However, the All Wales Continence Forum suggest that continence issues tend to be underreported with suggestions that up to 46% of the population aged 40 plus experience regular Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS).

These statistics obviously do not identify those people specifically requiring more frequent toilet use, but they do include problems associated with old age such as reduced mobility, and it is expected that a significant needs approximation can be gathered from this data.

370 adults with learning disabilities are supported to live in the community in Powys, whilst from Powys County Council caseload data, 52% of children with disabilities live in north Powys. The number of people in Powys with dementia is expected to increase by 16% by 2020, and by 84% by 2035. 753 people in the county are known to have autism, 302 children, and 421 adults. It is expected that the percentage of people with learning disabilities is predicted to increase by 1.7% between 2015 and 2020.

More people are regularly active in Powys than in the rest of Wales, however nearly 58% adults are overweight or obese and this is predicted to continue to rise.

The number of children in Powys is expected to decrease over the next 10 years. There has been a drop in birth rates since 1991 and it is estimated that by 2035 there will be 20% fewer 0-2 year olds in Powys. In addition, many young people are choosing to leave Powys to attend education (college or university) or to seek employment elsewhere with only a small percentage returning.

Given that the proportion of people in Powys aged over 65 is expected to increase significantly, it is likely that a lack of adequate toilet provision will have a considerable impact on the sense of independence of this particularly group. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, if the All Wales Continence Forum figures were assumed accurate, approximately 46% of the Powys population aged over 40 may have some LUTS which would require regular access to toilet facilities, the prevalence of LUTS within the general population will have a significant bearing on the toilet needs of both residents and visitors to Powys.

Welsh Language

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 introduced the New Welsh Language Standards, and these list the way in which the Council is expected to provide services through the medium of Welsh and provide opportunities to use the language, to assess the impact of policies and decisions on the Welsh language in order to increase the number of Welsh speakers and its use within the county.

According to the 2011 census, 19% of citizens (23,990 people) said they could speak Welsh. There is a large difference in the percentage of Welsh speakers within the different localities in Powys, ranging from 53.8% in the Machynlleth locality and 39% in the Ystradgynlais locality to 8.6% and 9.8% in the Knighton and Presteigne, and Hay and Talgarth localities respectively. But it is also important to recognise that there are Welsh speakers and that the language is used within every community and locality in Powys. As part of the requirements of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 all signage will be bilingual, as will all website content, and promotion of publicly accessible toilets.

Appendix 2 – Health Impact Assessment

There is a significant body of evidence to indicate a strong link between public toilet closures and unintended health consequences, the Welsh Assembly’s Health and Social Care Committee (2012) found that:

- Effects of inadequate provision of public toilets may include stress, isolation, depression, reduced mobility, effects on bladder and bowel function, dehydration, urinary tract infections and spread of infection;
- There may be a consequential impact on the NHS and on other services;
- The effect of declining provision of public toilets is likely to be disproportionate affecting certain groups more than others, for example older people, those with certain health conditions, disabled people and parents or carers with young children;
- Inadequate provision may also have a negative effect on strategies intended to increase walking and other outdoor pursuits, and to allow older or disabled people to remain independent and mobile.

Vulnerable Groups

Current estimates suggest that there are 36,140 people aged 65 or over in Powys, the National Assembly for Wales (2012) reported that “holding on to a full bladder or bowel increases the heart rate and the blood pressure, and for very old, ill or vulnerable people this could cause a stroke or a heart attack or have other health implications”. As part of this National Assembly for Wales investigation Age Cymru and the Welsh Senate of Older People described some actions that people take to avoid needing to use the toilet when away from home. These included skipping essential medication (water tablets for example) that might exacerbate the need to urinate frequently, and limiting fluid intake, which may give rise to dehydration and associated health problems.

In 2007 Age Cymru published a report called ‘Nowhere To Go’, and discovered that 80% of elderly respondents found it difficult to find a public toilet, and 78% of people found that their local toilets were not open when they needed them to be. Respondents felt that toilets were rarely well signposted - they should be to enable residents and visitors to find them easily.

Those with learning, vision, or hearing disabilities may also face additional barriers to accessing toilets, it is likely that incidents of individuals feeling awkward about using toilet facilities in commercial premises relates to smaller establishments where patronisation is less discrete.

Homelessness and individuals on low incomes

Although homelessness presentations in Powys are low, and there are very few reports of people rough sleeping, public toilets are likely to be the only place where rough sleepers can address their toileting and hygiene needs. For those who do sleep rough, public conveniences not only provide a place for them to relieve themselves, but also a place to wash, clean their teeth, and their clothes.

For those people on low incomes, needing to pay to access a public toilet, or thinking that they need to make a purchase with a local business to use their facilities could be prohibitive. Any strategy including the use of business premises will need to ensure that business owners/employees and members of the public are aware that they can use the facilities in the premises free of charge.

During the 2017 National Rough Sleeper Count no persons were found to be rough sleeping in Powys, however it was estimated that three people were sleeping rough in the county over the two-week period between 16th and 29th October 2017 (Statistics for Wales, 2018). Therefore, at the

present time there is no specific need in any areas of Powys for publicly accessible toilets for the homeless. This assessment will be revisited upon review of the strategy.

Social and community influences of health (isolation and loneliness)

According to the Older People's Commissioner for Wales (2014) the reduction of public toilets in Wales is a key concern, and the closure of publicly accessible toilets impacts upon physical health (older people are more likely to suffer from bladder or bowel incontinence, leading to an increased risk of heart attacks and strokes due to a temporary increase in blood pressure caused by not being able to empty one's bladder), mental health (the fear of being unable to access toilets can lead to social isolation and depression), and environmental health (the risk of infection from street fouling increases with the closure of public toilets). As such it can be said that the publicly accessible toilets are a key public health issue, and should they not exist they can lead to older people being housebound, and some areas effectively becoming no-go areas. This inevitably has a knock on economic impact with residents and visitors not wanting to visit an area due to lack of facilities.

Access and quality of services (reduction in amenities alternative provision by private business and use of IT)

According to findings from Help The Aged Wales whether public toilet facilities are stand-alone, publicly accessible in public buildings, or private facilities is of little relevance. The same survey (2009) found that 84% of respondents had safety concerns that made public toilets unappealing, and that 87% of people believe that shops and businesses should make more effort to provide public toilet facilities. Based on this evidence, the key issue is the availability of publicly accessible toilets at locations where members of the public spend time out in their communities being it working or undertaking leisure facilities. At the same time these facilities should be of a good standard, accessible to all, and open for the times when the public are likely to be present.

In many urban centres, although the local authority toilet provision is declining, this is to an extent being replaced by provision within commercial premises, these tend to be modern with disabled access, and of far greater quality than any local authority stock. However, in Powys due to a smaller number of national organisations, this is not always the case, and Powys County Council will need to work in partnership with a large number of businesses and transport operators in order to significantly improve the number of facilities that are available.

One area needed to be considered is the impact that accessibility of public toilets has on peripatetic workers. Often peripatetic workers have to plan their day around possible rest stops, a situation that is exacerbated should these workers be ill or suffering from a long term health issue. The impact that publicly accessible toilets can have on driving should not be underestimated. The need for drivers to use public toilets can have a big impact, particularly for HGV/coach drivers, often they plan their rest stops around the availability of toilets.

According the Road Haulage Association lack of toilets discourages drinking, and can lead to dehydration. Drivers who only consume 25ml of water per hour (around five sips) make twice as many errors than those drivers who stay hydrated throughout their journey. They also report that drivers are often refused access to facilities by depots that they are visiting/dropping goods off at, which further exacerbates this issue.

Being able to access a toilet is a fundamental need for any visitor to Powys, they need local information, and clear signposted facilities. Unlike people who know the area, they cannot simply go home, into work, or a local pub to use the toilet. All visitors choose their destinations carefully, drawing upon their previous impressions of an area, and public toilets are a key part of this.

Powys County Council is potentially able to influence public access to toilets through the planning process. When commenting on applications, Planning Officers could recommend that any toilet facilities within large public accessible developments are signposted, and listed on the toilet finding websites/applications.

Living and environmental conditions affecting health

Anecdotal evidence from Highways, Transport and Recycling staff has suggested an issue with fouling in key towns following busy periods and night time activities. This is particularly an issue when large events are attracted to Powys.

There is also an indication that people are using laybys in Powys as makeshift toilets, as they journey through the county. This is particularly the case during the hours when any traditional public toilets may be closed.

Micro-economic, environmental and sustainability

This strategy document has been completed under the requirements of Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017, and is written following the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This Act places a responsibility on public bodies in Wales to consider the impact of their decisions on the well-being goal in order to improve the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales.

HIA Conclusion

The HIA undertaken as part of the wider Powys Local Toilet Strategy, has demonstrated that traditional public toilets are not the key element in a local toilet strategy, but rather publicly accessible toilets. Regardless of whether they are operated by a local authority or private organisation, the main issue is that facilities are of a good standard, and that they are open when the public need them.

Based upon the literature review conducted and stakeholder engagement, this HIA supports the conclusion that there are profound health consequences for individuals if they are unable to address their toileting needs when away from home. As demonstrated here, and in the Powys County Council Impact Assessment, should there not be sufficient publicly accessible toilet facilities within Powys it will not be possible to meet the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Despite an extensive literature review, information on public toilet provision is fairly scarce, and tends to be undertaken by charities or organisations that might have their own bias. This information has been carefully reviewed and only used when appropriate. This HIA demonstrates a clear need for publicly accessible toilets, but it does not follow that these need to be provided by Powys County Council. The findings of this HIA have been used to inform the Powys Local Toilet Strategy.

Appendix 3 – Engagement and Involvement

YOUR FEEDBACK

127 RESPONSES



SPENDING A PENNY

- 78% of respondents hadn't paid to use a public toilet
- 22% were charged
- 54% of people find it difficult to locate a toilet when visiting another town
- 72% feel more commercial outlets should offer customer toilets for free



MOBILE APP

- 81% would use the mobile app to find a toilet



CHANGING FACILITIES

- There were gaps in both baby & adult changing facilities



CONDITION OF PUBLIC TOILETS

- Lack of working dryers, soap, toilet roll and sanitary products were key concerns raised

FOCUS GROUPS HELD WITH:



- Powys Youth Forum
- Powys Carers Group
- Powys Older People's Forum
- Play Radnor Session
- Age Cymru's Engage Group
- Mother & Toddler Session

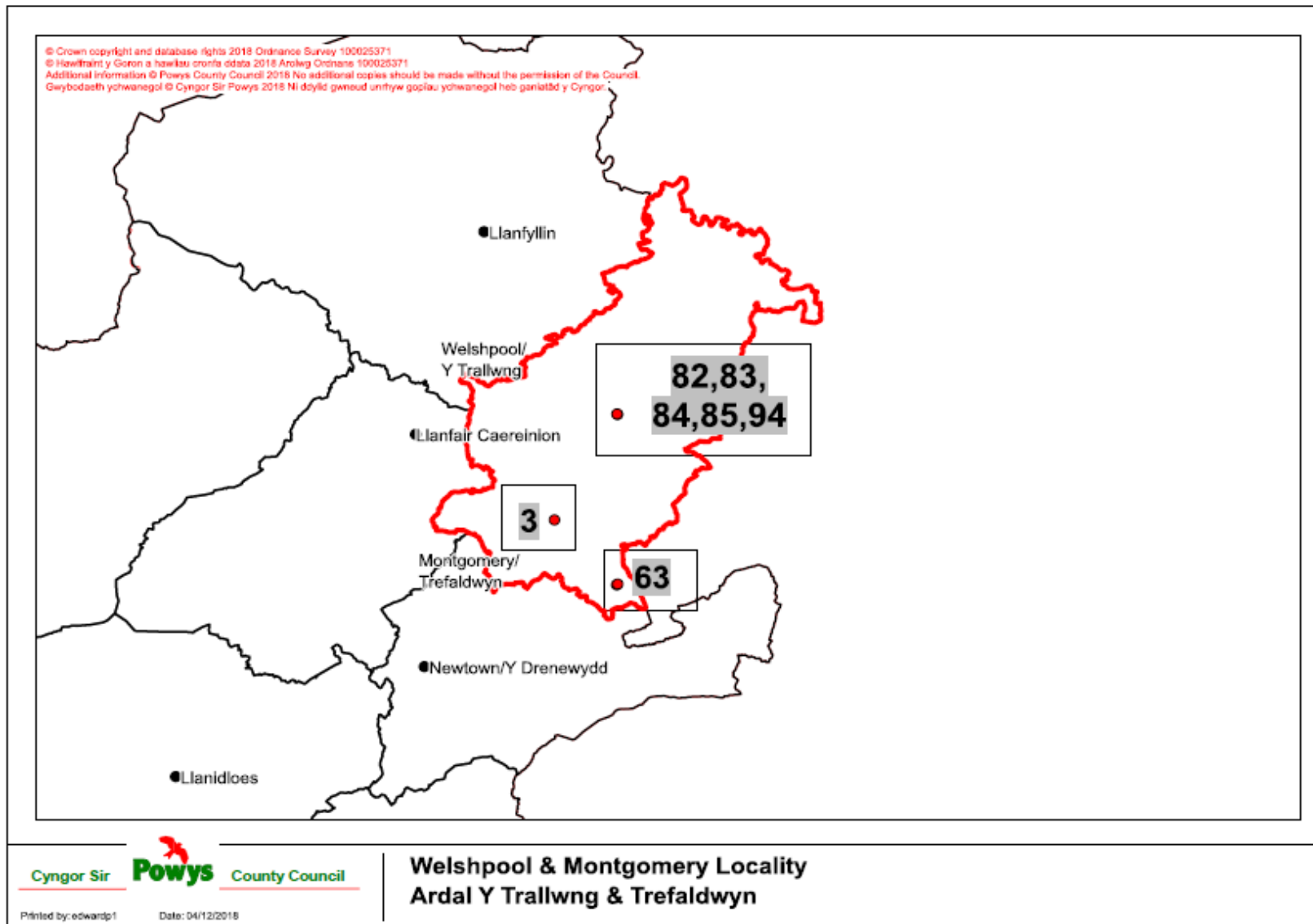
I still do not think it is fair to ask private business owners to make their toilets readily available to non customers.

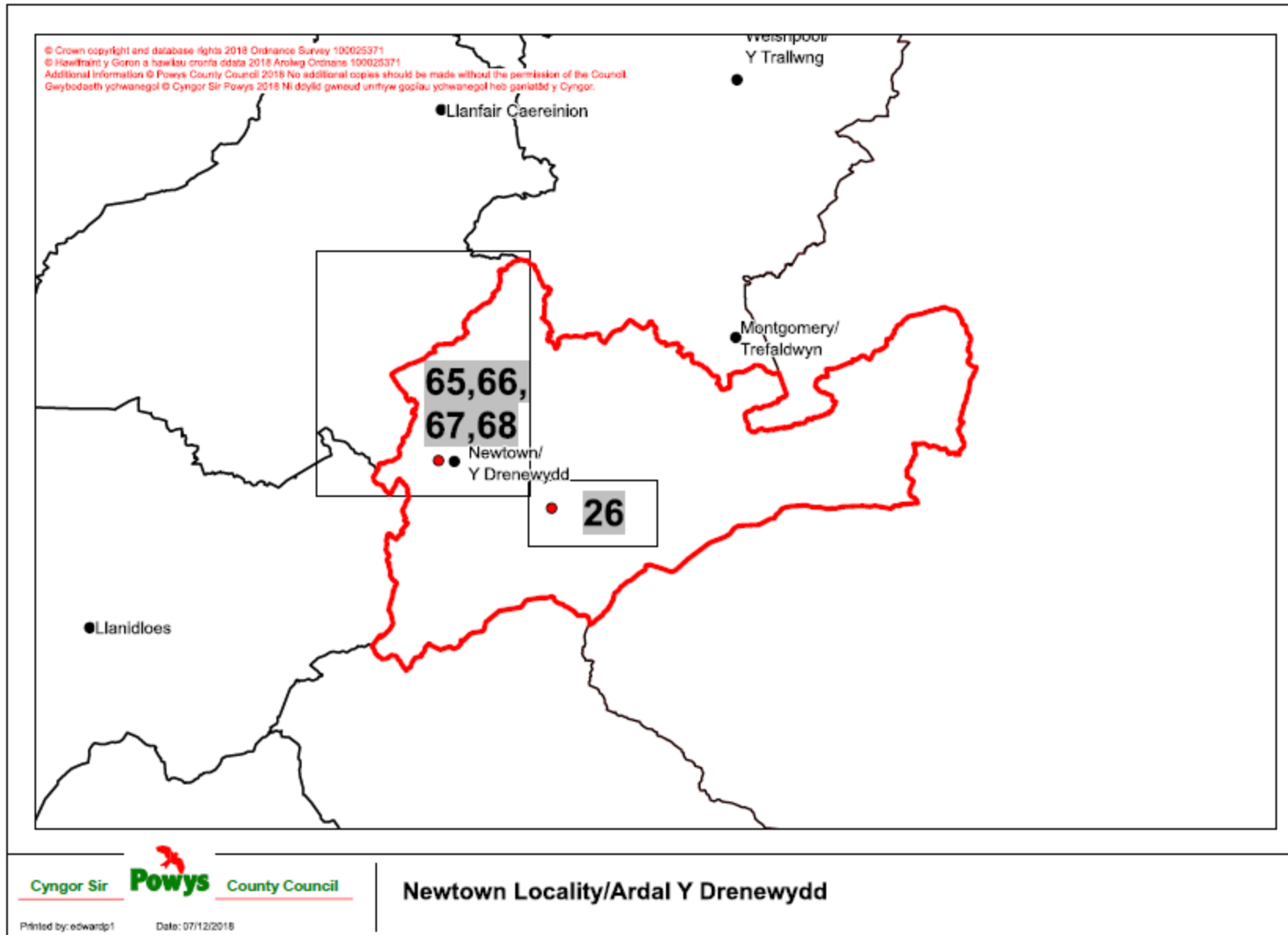
It would be really good if there was a way you could pay with your card, and an app would be a brilliant idea.

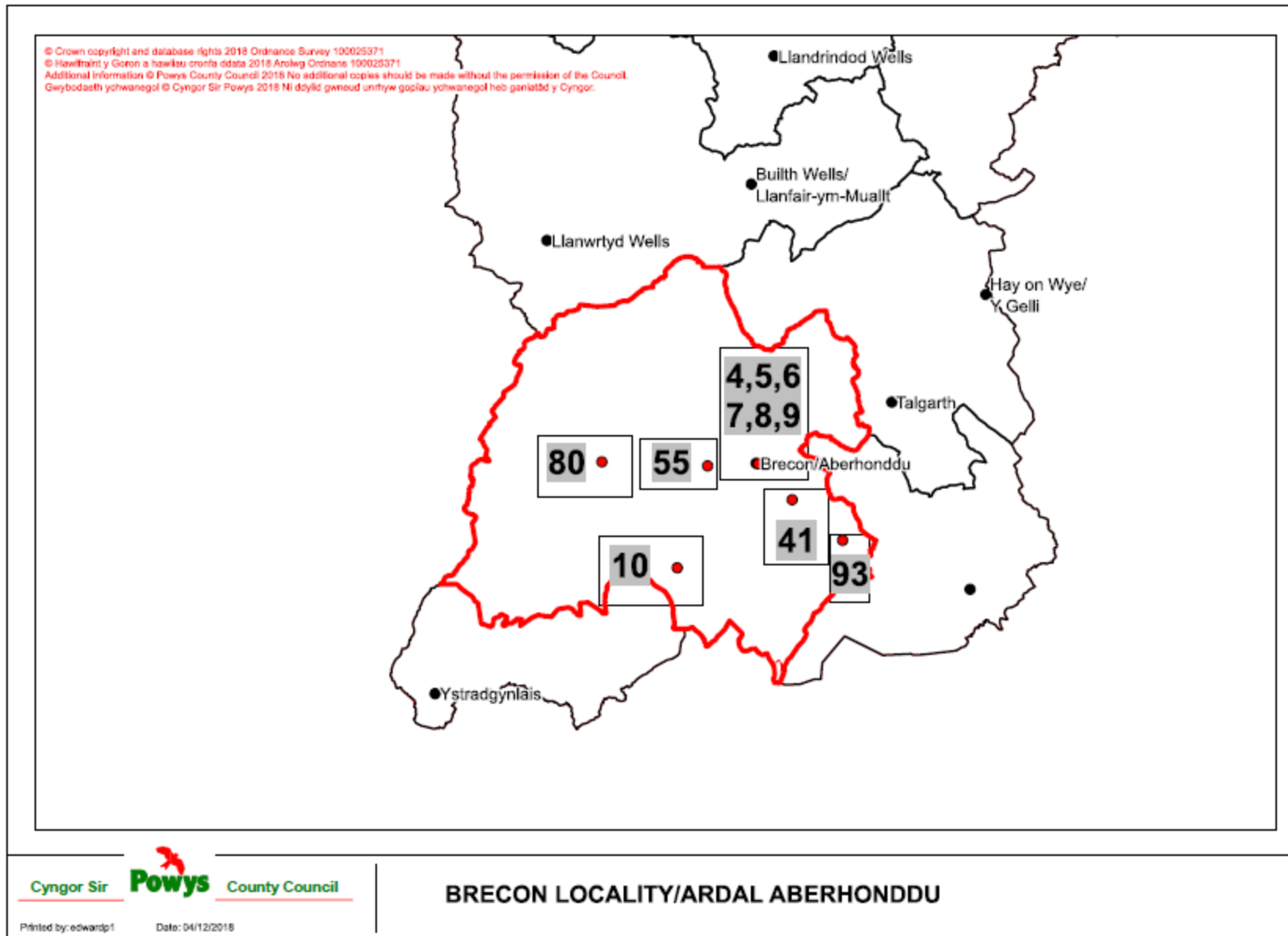
Powys used to pride itself on the facilities and the welcome we offered to visitors. Standards are NOT what they used to be.

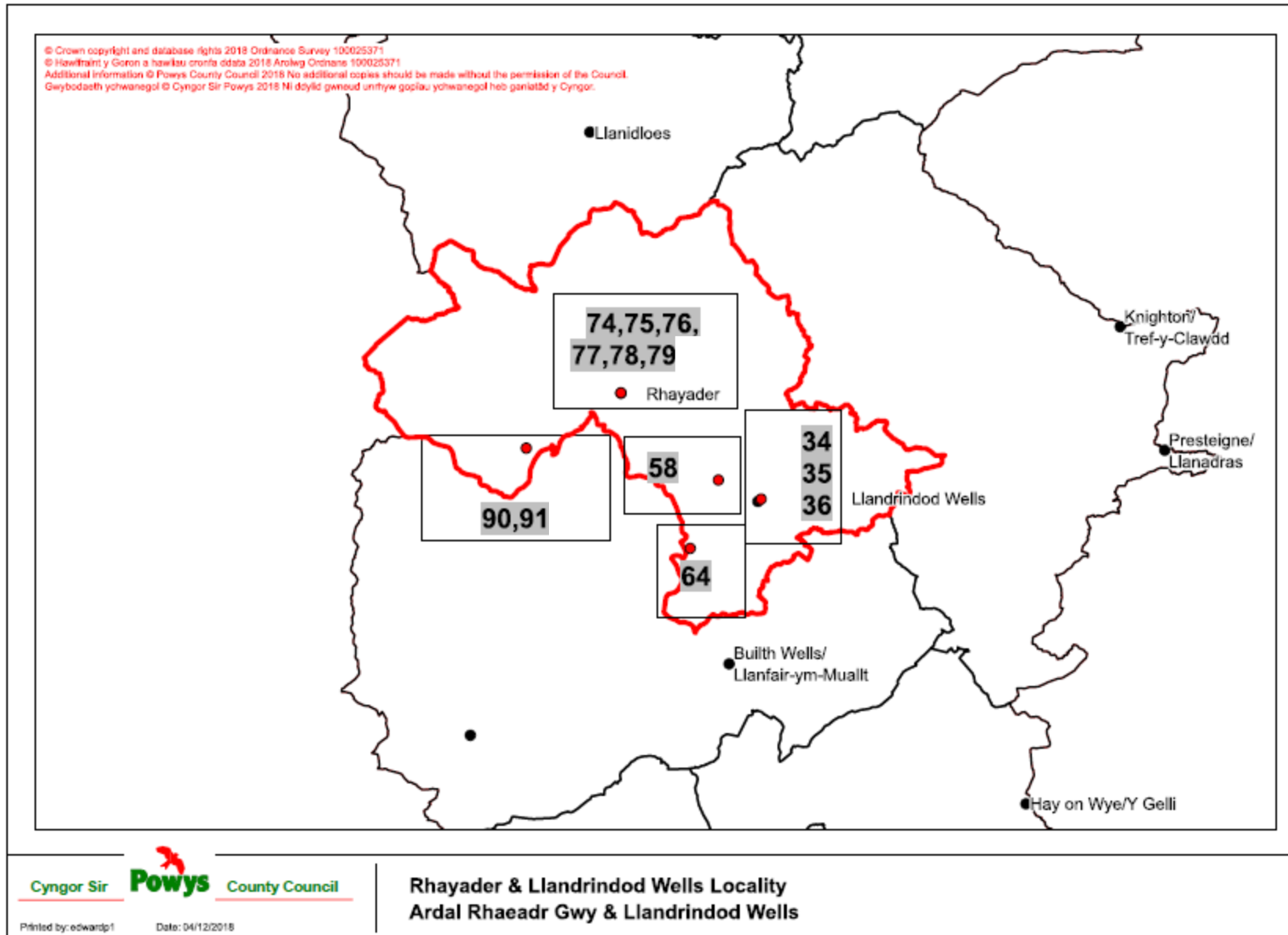


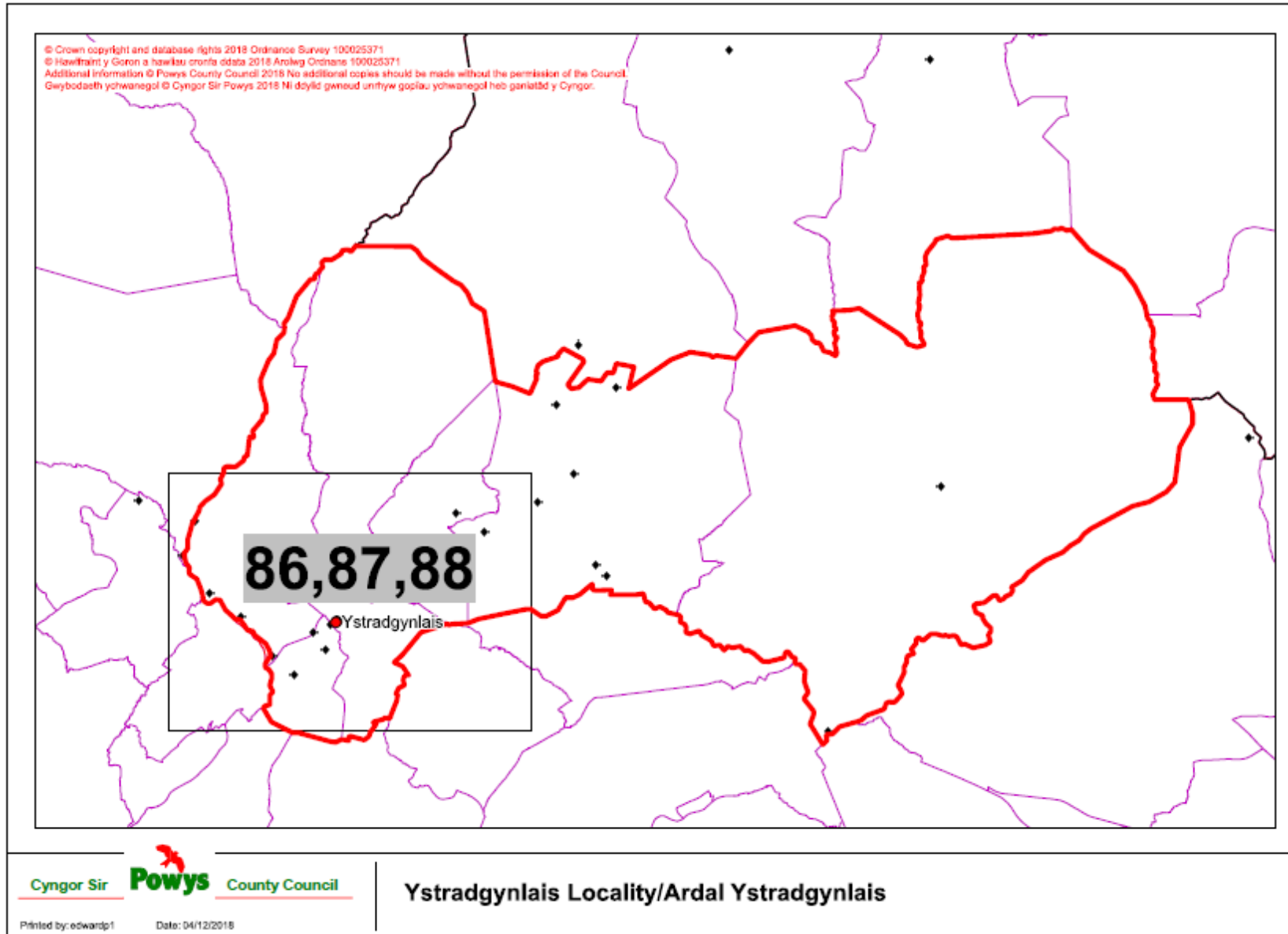
Appendix 4 – Location of Publicly Accessible Toilets in Powys (By Locality)

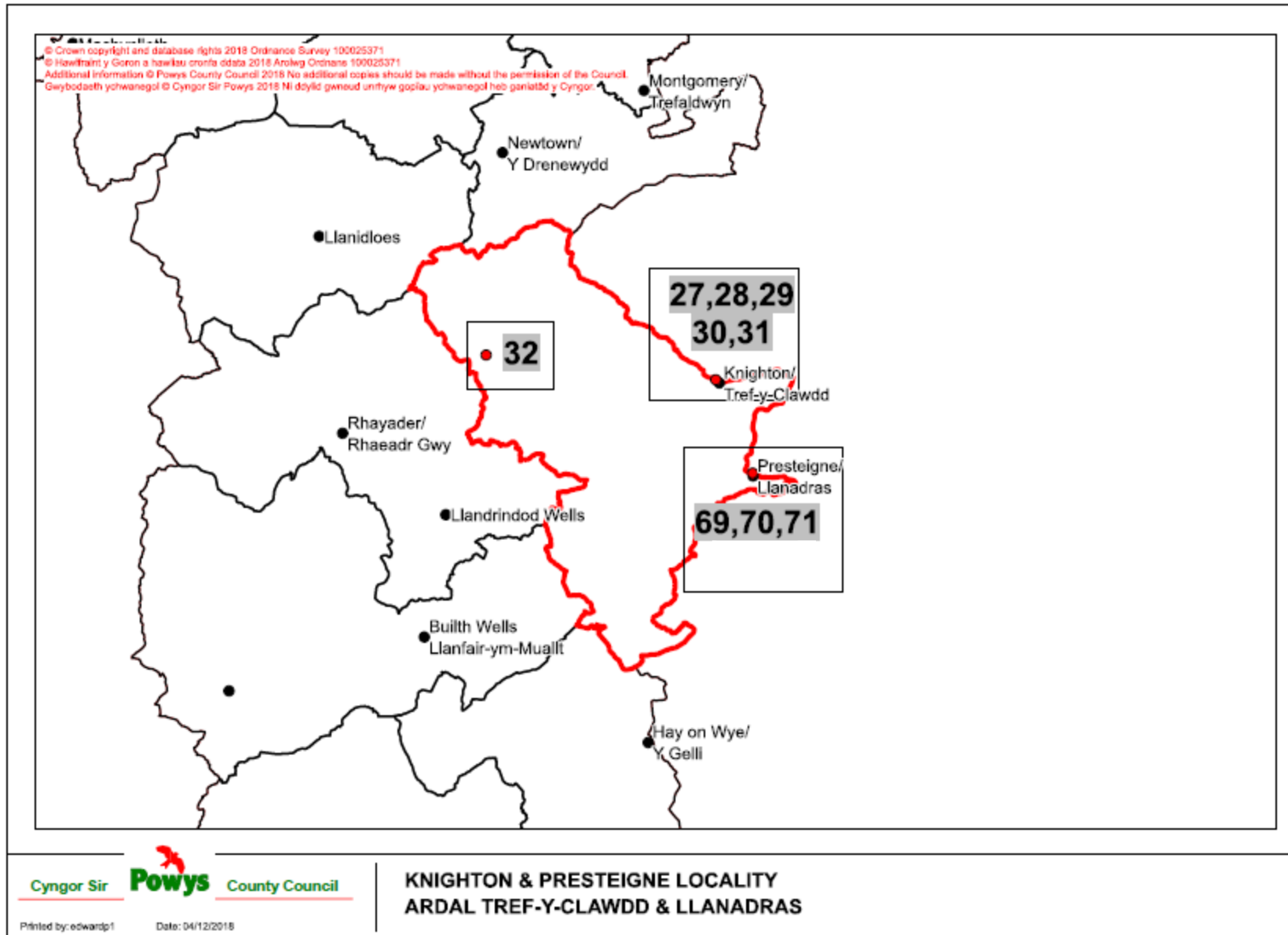


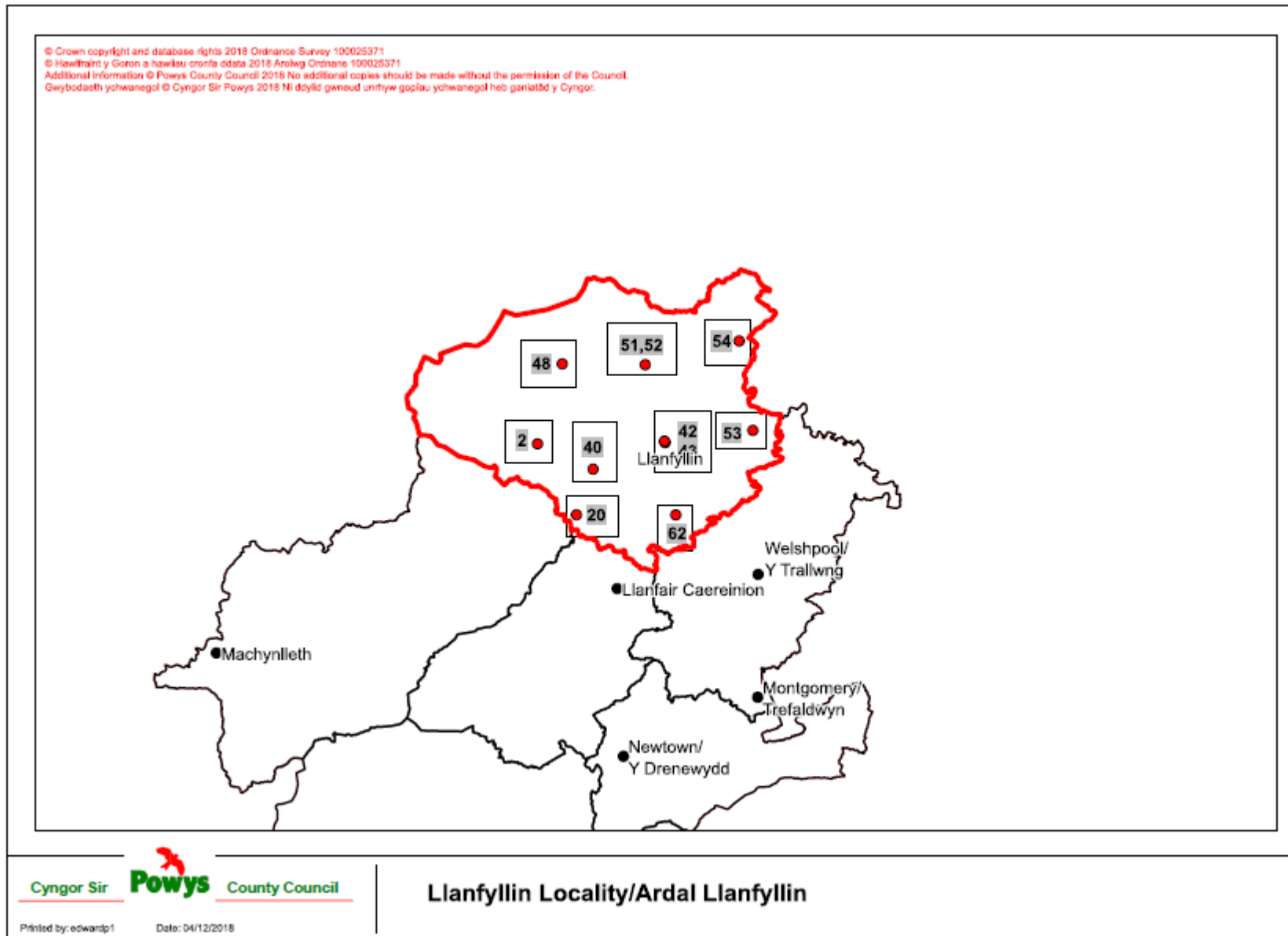


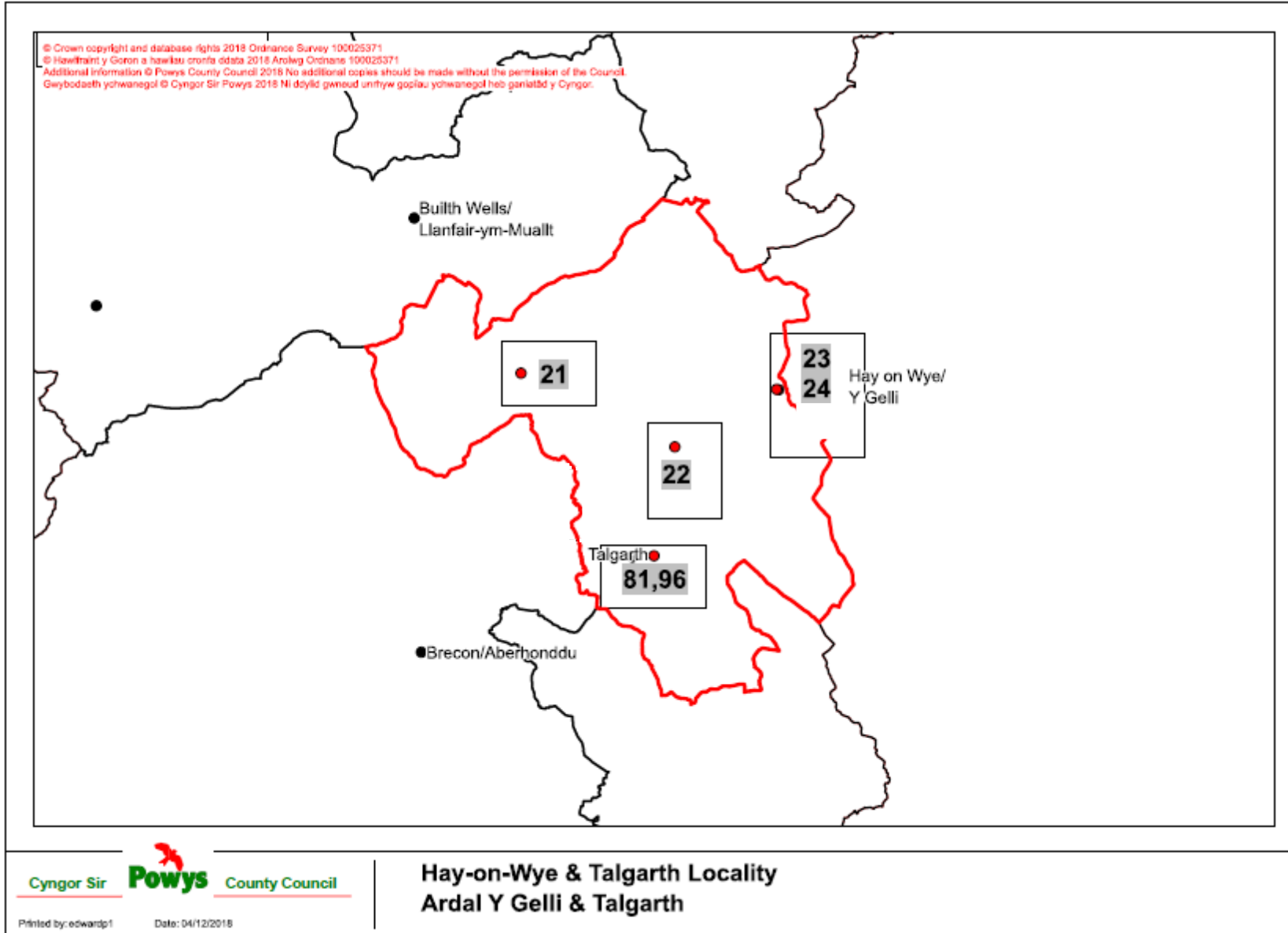


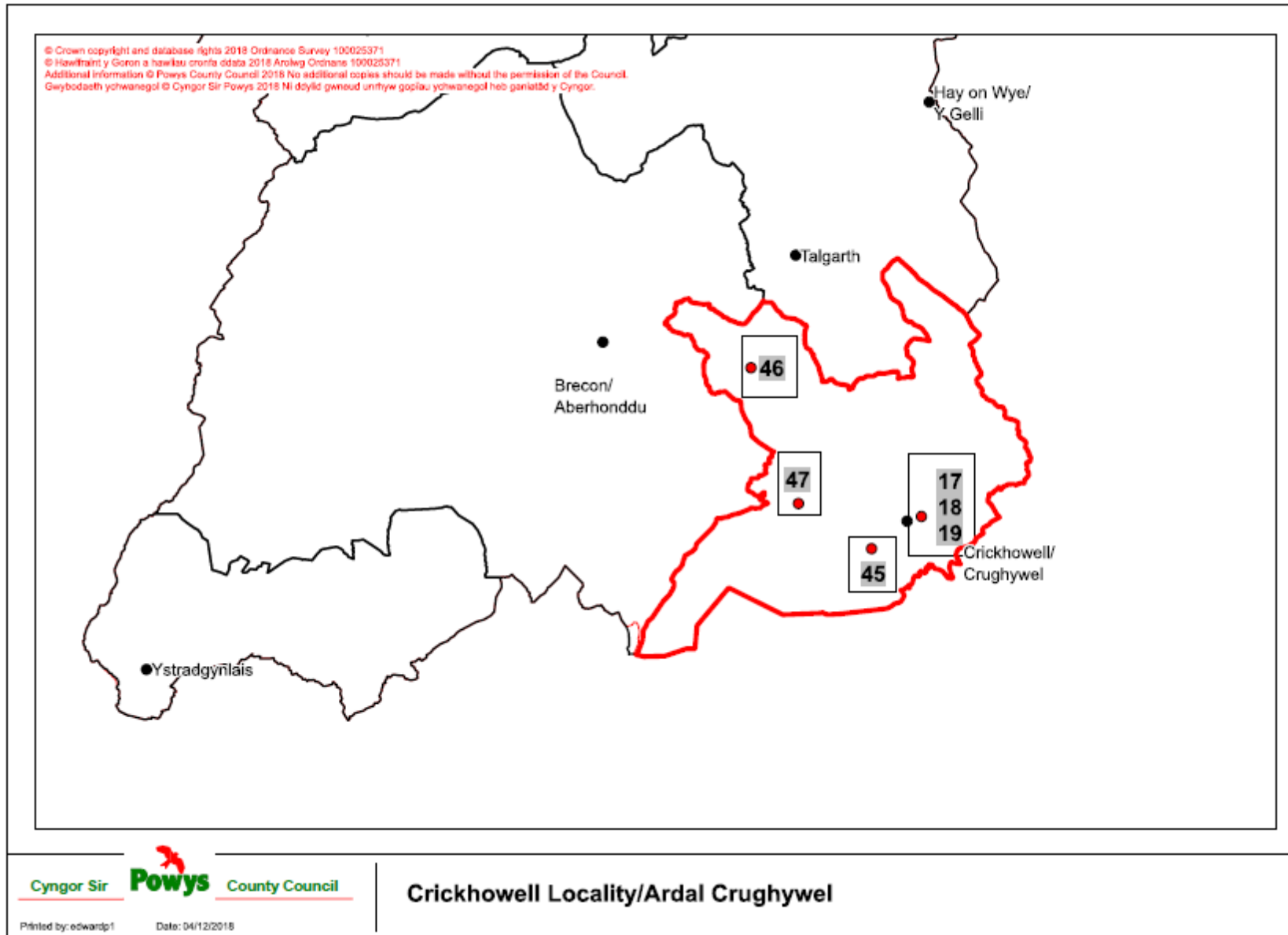


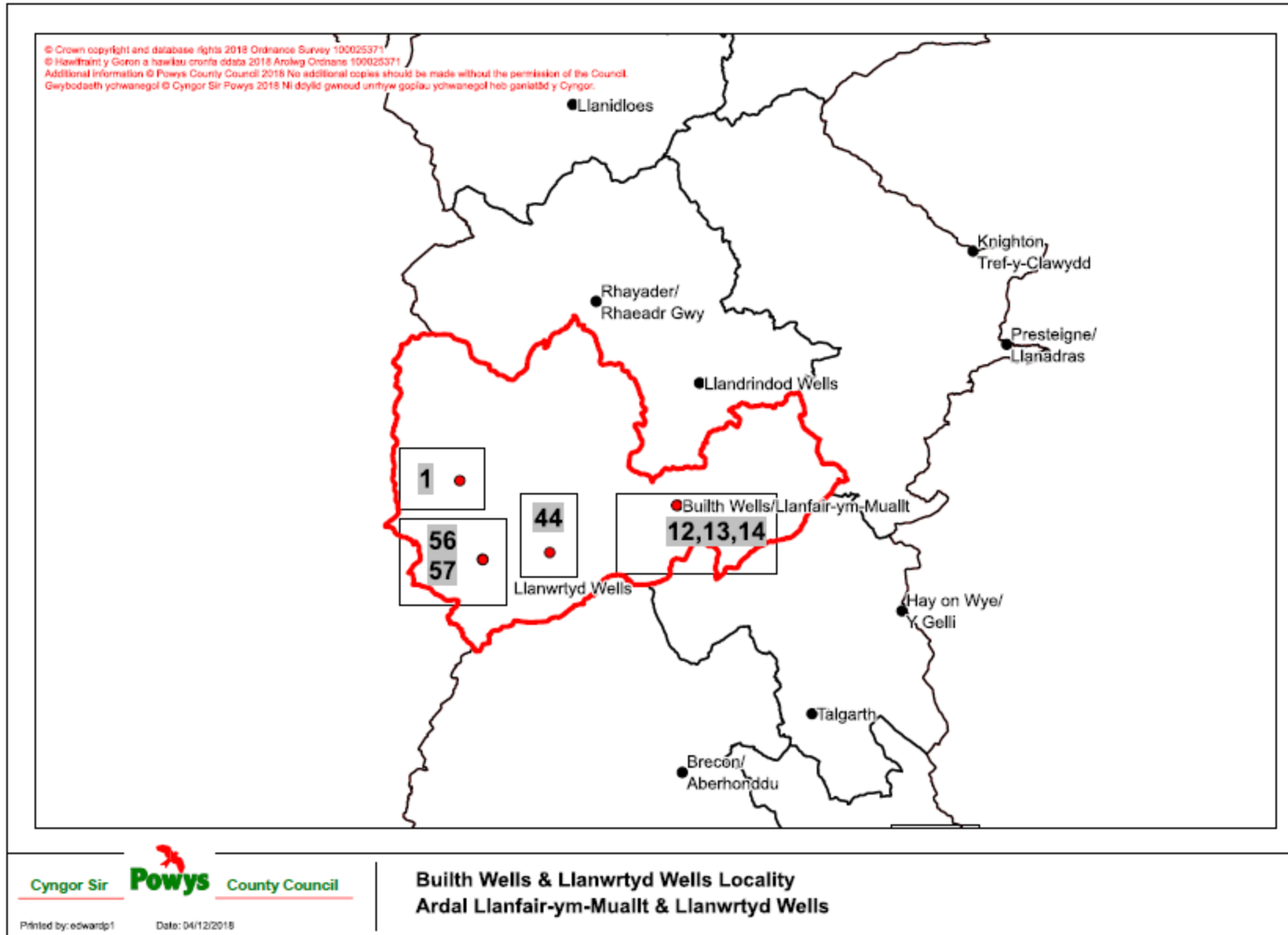


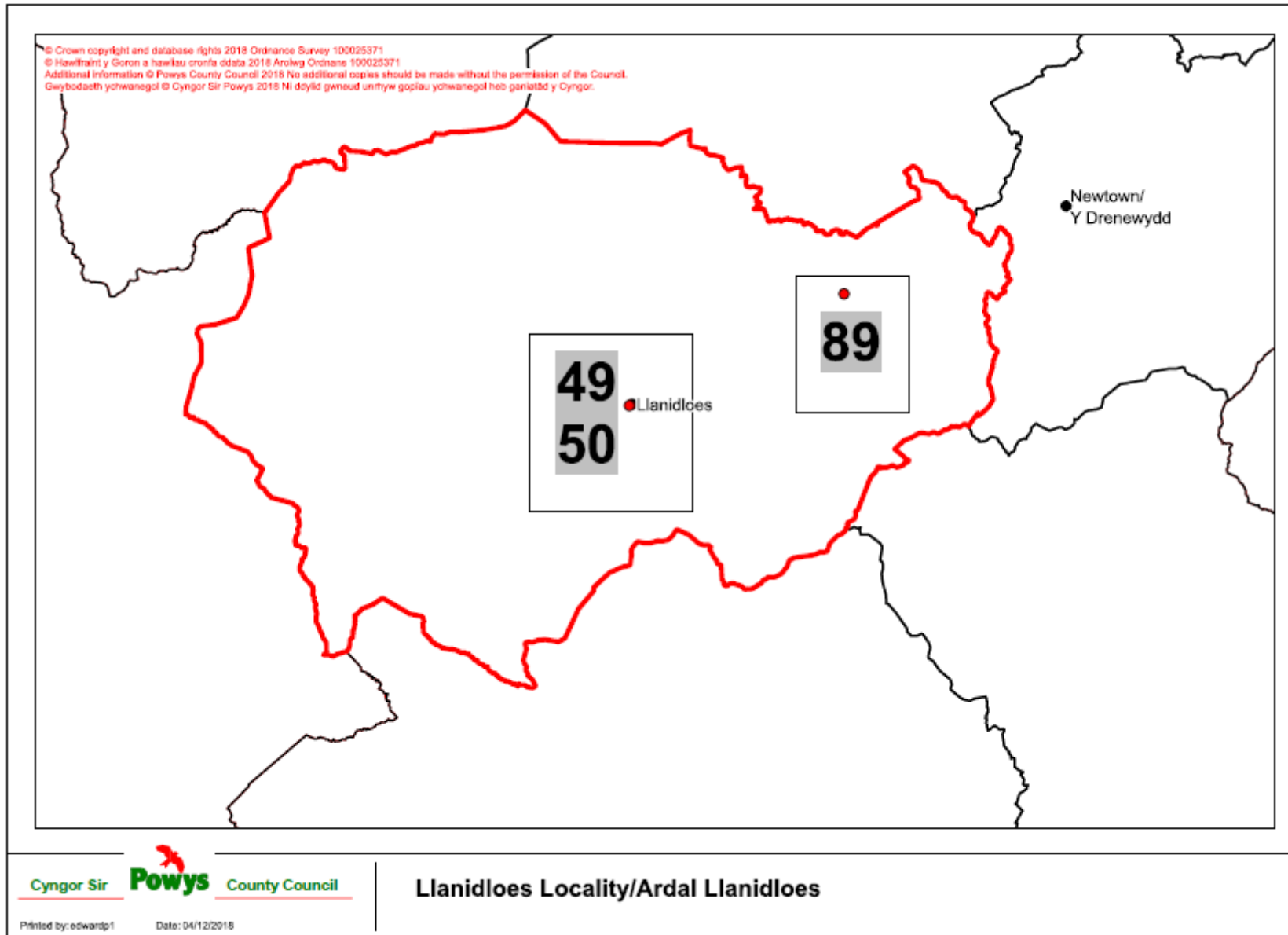


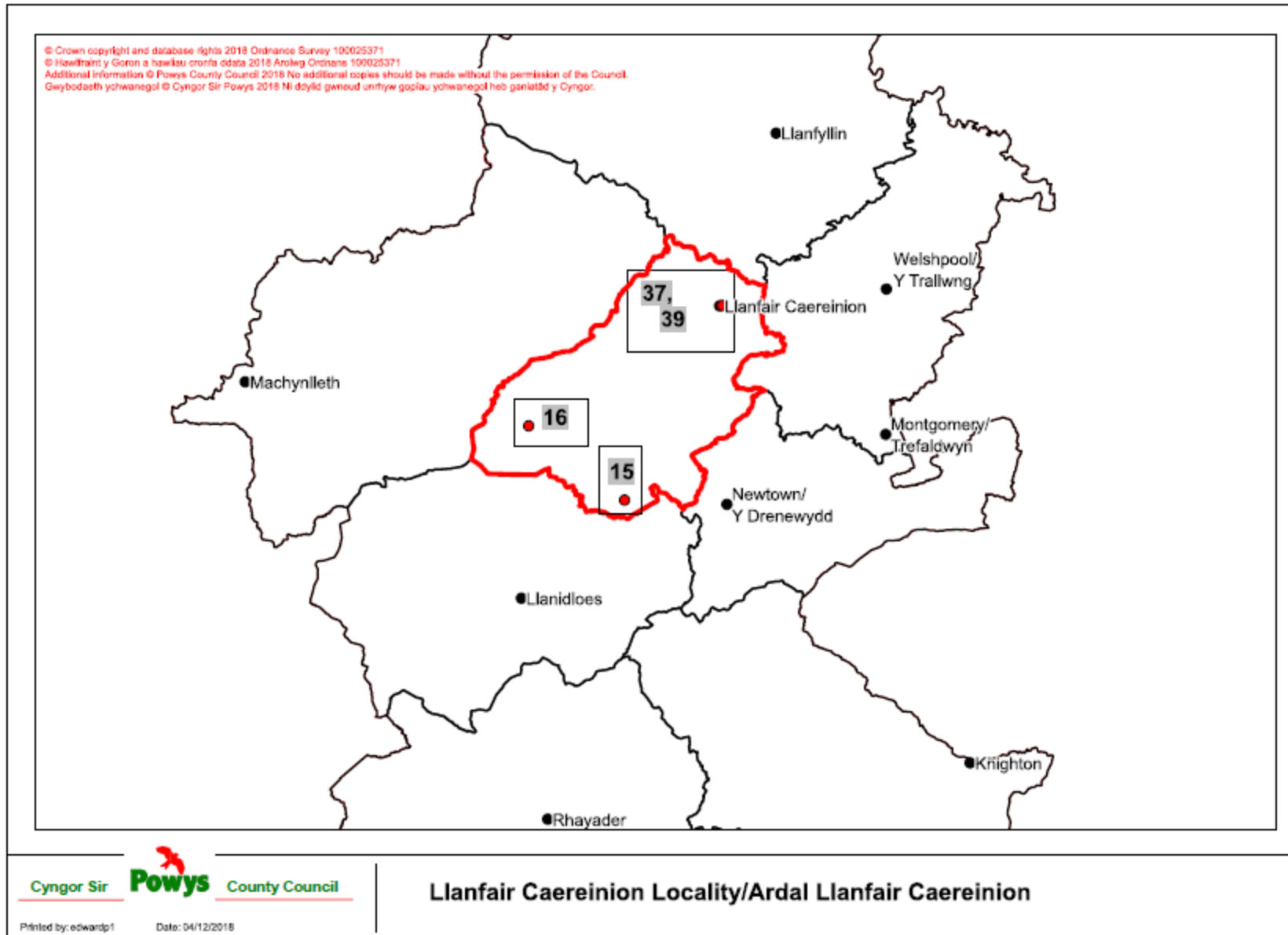


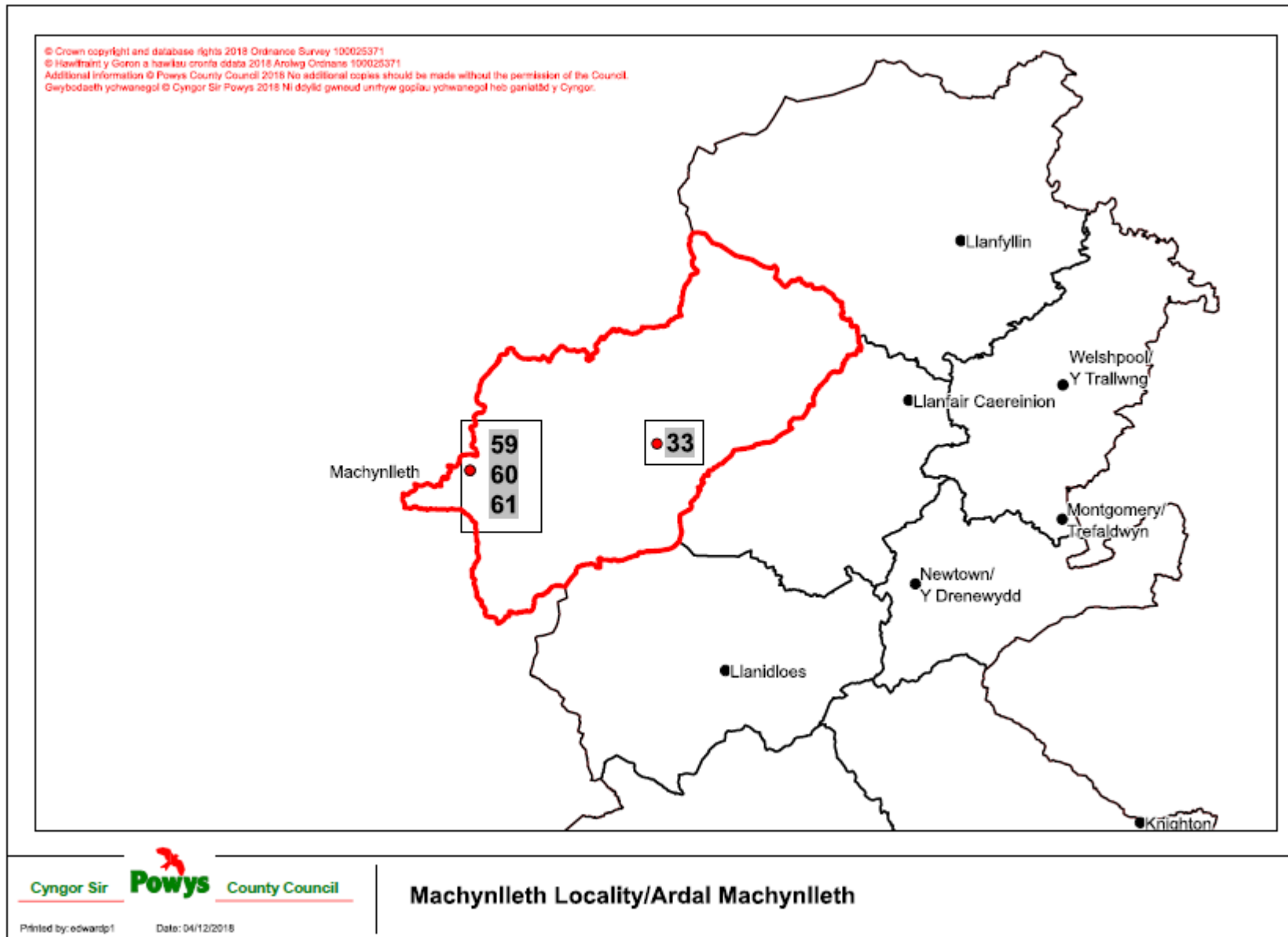












Appendix 5 – Data Tables

Please see the Public Toilet Data Table spreadsheet (embedded below). This is also available alongside this strategy on the Powys County Council website, and upon request at libraries.



3. Appendix 5 -
Data Tables (ENG).xl: