

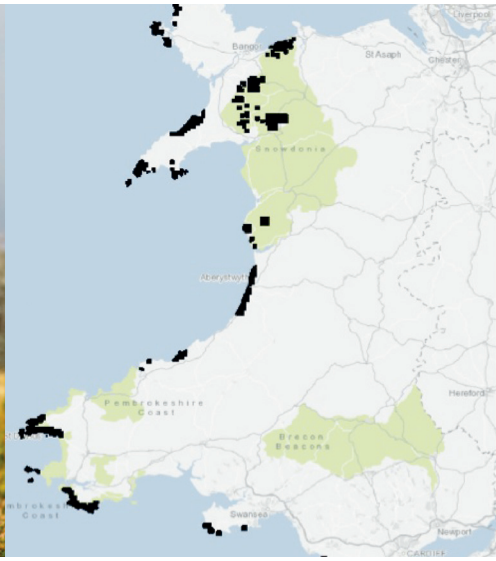

Species Champion



Rhun ap Iorwerth MS
Party: Plaid Cymru
Region: Ynys Môn

More information

- www.rspb.org.uk/chough

Lead members

rspb giving nature a home

Chough (Red-billed)

Description and status

Wales is home to more than half of the UK population of this rare and remarkable bird. They are very charismatic members of the crow family, but with much more specialised habitat requirements than many of their near relations. Choughs inhabit our rocky western coasts and less commonly inland mountain habitats, breeding in nooks and crannies on cliffs, and in abandoned buildings.

They require very short vegetation amongst which to search for invertebrate food. They will energetically probe the ground for food, and will also (less appealingly!) search the dung of livestock for beetle grubs. They are sociable birds that form lasting pair bonds, and their populations will include a proportion of birds that are not breeding.

They form flocks in the autumn/winter months, feeding together within short vegetation (grassland and heather) returning in the evenings to communal roosting sites.

Threats

Choughs need safe, enclosed nest sites and access to well grazed cliff slopes or hillsides to feed on. Livestock has been moved away from some of these areas, which leads to the vegetation becoming too tall for the birds to feed. Loss of appropriate grazing in key areas is a major threat for chough.
Disturbance; even now choughs are persecuted – sometimes as they are mistaken for other birds in the crow family – and egg theft still takes place.

Actions required

- Ensure existing Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for chough are managed favourably for this species and accelerate the designation of additional SPA area to ensure the full range (ie breeding and wintering) of choughs is represented within the SPA network in Wales, especially inland and mountain sites.
- **Glastir** – continue to support areas where choughs occur or could be expected to implement favourable management for chough as part of their farm business (either retention of existing favourable management (grazing) at risk of being lost, or reinstatement of previously lost management to make key sites attractive).

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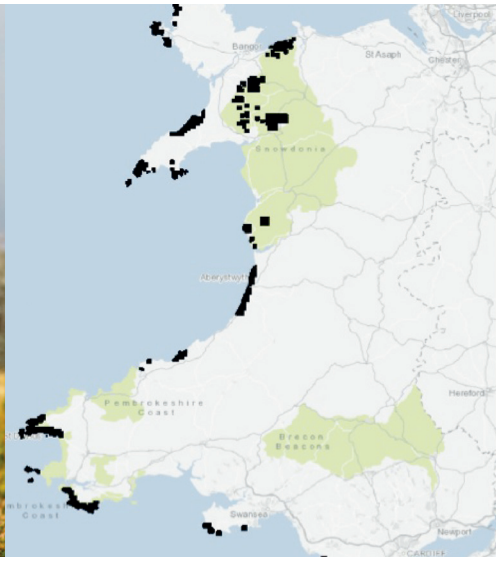

Brân goesgoch (Big-goch)

Pencampwr Rhywogaeth



Rhun ap Iorwerth AS
Plaid: Plaid Cymru
Bro: Ynys Môn

Disgrifiad a statws

Mae Cymru'n gartref i dros hanner poblogaeth y DU o'r aderyn prin a rhyfeddol hwn. Aelod llawn cymeriad o deulu'r frân yw hon, ond mae ganddi anghenion cynefin llawer mwy arbenigol na llawer o'i pherthnasau agos. Mae brain coesgoch yn byw ar ein harfordiroedd creigiog gorllewinol yn ogystal â chynefinoedd mynydd i mewn i'r tir, er nad yw mor gyffredin yno, ac yn nythu mewn cilfachau ar glogwyni ac mewn hen adeiladau.

Maen nhw angen llystyfiant byr iawn ar gyfer chwilio am fwyd ar ffurf infertebratau, ac yn tyrchu'n egnïol yn y ddaear ac mewn baw da byw am gynrhon chwilod. Yn adar cymdeithasol, maen nhw'n ffyddlon i'w partner, a bydd eu poblogaethau'n cynnwys canran o adar nad ydyn nhw'n nythu.

Maen nhw'n ffurfio heidiau yn ystod misoedd yr hydref a'r gaeaf i fwydo gyda'i gilydd mewn llystyfiant byr (glaswellt a grug), gan ddychwelyd gyda'r nos i fannau clwydo cymunedol.

Bygythiadau

Mae angen safleoedd nythu diogel ac amgaeedig ar y frân goesgoch a mynediad i lethrau clogwyni neu fryniau wedi eu pori'n dda i fwydo arnyn nhw. Mae da byw wedi eu symud o rai o'r ardaloedd yma, a'r llystyfiant o ganlyniad wedi tyfu'n rhy uchel i'r adar fwydo. Mae colli pori priodol mewn mannau allweddol yn brif fygythiad i'r frân goesgoch. Aflonyddwch; hyd yn oed rŵan mae brain coesgoch yn cael eu herlid – weithiau am fod pobl yn meddwl mai aelodau eraill o deulu'r brain ydyn nhw – ac mae rhai'n dal i ddwyn eu hwyau.

Gweithredu angenrheidiol

- Sicrhau bod Ardaloedd Gwarchodaeth Arbennig (AGA) ar gyfer brain coesgoch yn cael eu rheoli'n ffafriol ar gyfer y rhywogaeth hon a dynodi ar frys ardaloedd eraill o AGA i sicrhau bod ystod gyfan (hy ar gyfer nythu a gaeafu) brain coesgoch yn cael ei gynrychioli o fewn y rhwydwaith o AGA yng Nghymru, yn enwedig safleoedd i mewn i'r tir ac ar y mynyddoedd.
- **Glastir** – parhau i gynnal mannau lle mae brain coesgoch yn bodoli neu lle gellir disgwyl iddyn nhw fyw i roi rheolaeth ffafriol ar waith ar gyfer y frân goesgoch fel rhan o'u busnes fferm (un ai cadw rheolaeth ffafriol sy'n bodoli eisoes (pori) sydd mewn perygl o gael ei golli, neu ail sefydlu rheolaeth flaenorol sydd wedi dod i ben er mwyn sicrhau bod safleoedd allweddol yn ddeniadol).

Mwy o wybodaeth

- www.rspb.org.uk/chough

Prif aelod

rspb yn rhoi cartref i fyd natur

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