

# EASY DOES IT

Andrew Ditton finds activity and culture aplenty within easy reach of a delightfully laid-back Club site



Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 114

**U**PON ARRIVAL at the delightful Cae Mawr site in Anglesey, the sign on the reception door just about says it all. Opening times are suffixed with the phrase '-ish'. It was a case of settling in at an available pitch and returning to check in at about four-ish. Or possibly the next day if that wasn't convenient, when the office was to open at nine. Ish.

Such an ethos radiates a feeling of calm and relaxation throughout the entire site. Pitches are arranged over two levels, and offer a choice of grass or decadently-spacious hardstanding. Mature trees surround the site, although rolling fields may be seen through the gaps. To further emphasize the laid-back atmosphere of Cae Mawr, there is no facility block (the full-facility site at

Penrhos is just up the road for those who would rather benefit from all mod cons). One concession to modern living is the availability of high-speed internet via the Club's spanking new Wi-Fi system. By all means you can surf the net, but most members visit the site with just one thing in mind, and that is absolutely nothing.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Anglesey is home to two colonies of red squirrels



Pitched on site at Cae Mawr

**MEMBERS' VIEW**  
Angela and Tony Mulroney, from Atherton near Manchester, were enjoying a week's break at Cae Mawr. "This is our first visit to Anglesey, and for us the relaxing site and the friendly wardens have absolutely made our holiday," says Angela. "The site is well situated for the beaches, but we love the walks on the island. We've done a lot of circular walks this week, but one of our favourites was between the Britannia Bridge and the Menai Bridge, where there are proper walkways through forest and along the coast. We also enjoyed Beaumaris Castle and the old gaol."



**INFORMATION**  
**SITE**  
Full site details can be found on p230 of the *Sites Directory & Handbook 2011/12*. To book, call 01342 327490 or see [caravanclub.co.uk/searchandbook](http://caravanclub.co.uk/searchandbook).  
**TOURISM**  
■ **Llanfairpwll TIC** – call 01248 713177 or see [visitanglesey.co.uk](http://visitanglesey.co.uk)  
**CYCLING**  
The nearest National Cycle Network route to this site is number 5, Bangor to Conwy. The Hebog cycle tour on minor roads runs from near the site and southwards to link to route 5 at Bodowen, a mile south of Capel Coch. See [sustrans.org.uk](http://sustrans.org.uk).

Seriously, if the stresses of life are starting to take their toll and you need somewhere to park up and wind down, Cae Mawr is the place. Fortunately, when the urge to venture beyond the site's perimeter eventually emerges, there is plenty to see and do. Being an island, it's no surprise to discover that beaches are what Anglesey does best. One of the most impressive is at Red Wharf Bay, an enjoyable 30-minute stroll from Cae Mawr. So vast is the massive, moon-shaped crescent of sand that, if you walk far enough from the car park, you will always be able to find a place to put down your towel and relax with your nearest neighbours nothing more than distant specks on the horizon. Facing north, Red Wharf is also sheltered from the prevailing south-westerly wind. But if it's wind and waves you're after, be it for sailing, surfing or kayaking, the renowned hotspot of Rhosneigr is situated conveniently on the opposite side of the island. Windsurfers and kitesurfers alike reckon that Rhosneigr's waves and ramps are among the best in the UK. For many visitors to Cae Mawr, it's the superb walking on offer that brings them back year after year. Headlining the countless walks on offer is the Coastal Path. At 125 miles long, it's a little more than you would want to do in an afternoon, but of course you can dip in

and out and simply do a little each day. Visit the island over the Spring Bank Holiday and you can even participate in the Walking Festival. If you miss the event itself, it's still worth visiting the website ([angleseywalkingfestival.com](http://angleseywalkingfestival.com)) to draw inspiration for your own, unguided walks. Should the heavens open at some point during your stay – and the chances are they will – make a beeline for Oriel Ynys Môn at Llangefni, a 15-minute drive from the site. Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2011, Anglesey's museum and gallery provides a fascinating insight into the history and

evolution of the island, as well as a gallery paying homage to celebrated local artist Kyffin Williams. Entry is free, there is a super café/restaurant on site and, if that wasn't enough, the lovely receptionist, Enid, is a fellow Club member. Another absolute 'must visit' on the island is Plas Newydd, ancestral home of the Marquess of Anglesey. Its art collection (heavily featuring Rex Whistler), gardens and views are exceptional. Phil and Gwenda, Cae Mawr's popular and welcoming Wardens, tell me that the RSPB South Stack Cliffs visitor centre near Holyhead is a major draw for visitors. Spring and summer are the most rewarding times to visit, where you will see guillemots, razorbills and puffins raising their young. You may also find the spatulate fleawort, a plant that grows nowhere else in the world. Finally, no trip to Anglesey is complete without a visit to Beaumaris, the jewel in the island's crown. The town itself is perfect for a holiday afternoon stroll, boasting a diverse array of independent shops, galleries and eateries. However, Beaumaris' principal draw is what is described as technically the most perfect medieval castle in Britain. After all that walking, surfing, culture, shopping, eating and birdwatching, you'll certainly need a jolly good rest. And I know just the place... ■

Opposite and below: the sandy beach at Rhosneigr is a hit with both watersports enthusiasts and young children

**ATTRACTIONS**

- **Anglesey Walking Festival** – held late May/early June. Call 01248 725718 or see [angleseywalkingfestival.com](http://angleseywalkingfestival.com)
- **Funsport** – one-stop shop in Rhosneigr to hire surf kit or buy buckets and spades. Call 01407 810899 or see [buckys.co.uk](http://buckys.co.uk)
- **Beaumaris Castle** – open daily, times vary. Call 01248 810361 or see [cadw.wales.gov.uk](http://cadw.wales.gov.uk)
- **Plas Newydd Country House and Gardens** – check for opening dates. Call 01248 715272 or see [nationaltrust.org.uk/plasnewydd](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/plasnewydd)
- **RSPB South Stack Cliffs** – visitor centre open daily, 10am to 5pm. Call 01407 762100 or see [rspb.org.uk/southstack](http://rspb.org.uk/southstack)
- **Pili Palas Nature World** – great for the kids; plenty of hands-on experiences with exotic animals. Open daily from 10am. Call 01248 712474 or see [piliipalas.co.uk](http://piliipalas.co.uk)
- **Foel Farm Park** – check for opening times and dates. Call 01248 430646 or see [foelfarm.co.uk](http://foelfarm.co.uk)
- **Oriel Ynys Môn** – showcase of Anglesey's heritage, open daily 10.30am to 5pm. Call 01248 724444 or see [visitanglesey.co.uk](http://visitanglesey.co.uk)

