

Proposal for emoji: Orange Cymraeg speech bubble which represents the Welsh language and helps identify Welsh speakers

Submitter: Welsh Language Commissioner ([Contact Us](#))

Date: 01/07/2026

1. Identification

The official name of the symbol is Iaith Gwaith (Working Welsh), however it is now used to represent Cymraeg (the Welsh language) in general. It is to this end that we are making the current application.

- a. **Keywords:** Cymraeg; Welsh; Iaith Gwaith; Working Welsh; Welsh-language service; Welsh-speaker; Welsh-speaking (we could provide Welsh-language equivalents for all of the above on request).
- b. **Category:** [other-symbol](#)

2. Images:

- a. **Colour and black & white example images:**



- b. **License:** We can confirm that the Welsh Language Commissioner owns any and all IP Rights in the images: [Copyright and Re-use of Materials](#).

3. Factors for Inclusion:

- a. **Expresses multiple concepts:** It represents three closely related concepts: the Welsh language, Welsh speakers, and the availability of Welsh-language services.

- b. **Can be used with other emoji to convey additional concepts:**

(Please note that the list below is not exhaustive, and the symbol could be added to any number of emojis to convey opportunities to live through the medium of Welsh.)

- It can be combined with the speaking-head emoji to convey the act of speaking Welsh:



- It can be combined with any emojis in the [person-role](#) category to convey a worker's ability to speak Welsh. For example, to convey a Welsh-speaking Judge you could use:



- It can be combined with emojis which convey means of communication to promote opportunities to communicate in Welsh. For example, to advertise a Welsh-language phonenumber you could use:



- It can also be combined with any emojis in the [person-sport](#) category to promote opportunities to use Welsh in sports. For example, to convey a Welsh-medium swimming lesson you could use:



- c. **Breaks new ground:** Yes. It is a unique symbol specially developed to represent the Welsh language, a minoritised but official language in Wales. This technical advice note explains it is not appropriate to use the Welsh national flag to this end: [Technology, websites and software: Welsh language considerations](#):

Using flags to denote languages is an example of the inappropriate use of images, particularly where a country is bilingual or a language is spoken in more than one country. For instance, an English (St. George) flag does not correlate to the English language for English speaking Americans, Australians, Welsh, etc. Therefore, it is strongly advised that national flags are not used to denote language choice.

This is in line with the Welsh Government [Bilingual technology toolkit for good user experience](#), which notes that national flags or other metaphors for language should not be used, other than this Working Welsh/laith Gwaith symbol.

Introducing this emoji would strengthen multilingual digital communication by giving Welsh speakers a clear and recognisable way to identify themselves online. It would also increase the visibility of a minority and lesser-used language in digital spaces. In doing so, it could encourage similar initiatives by other language communities in comparable positions to the Welsh language.

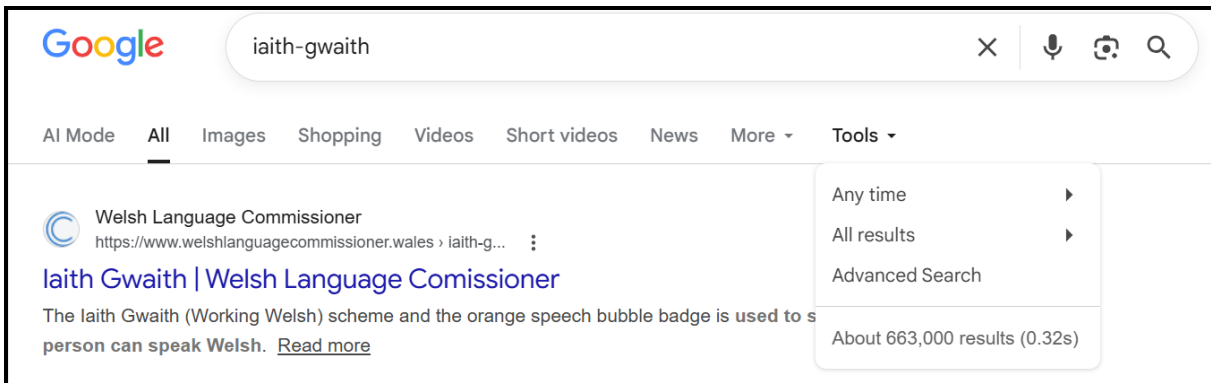
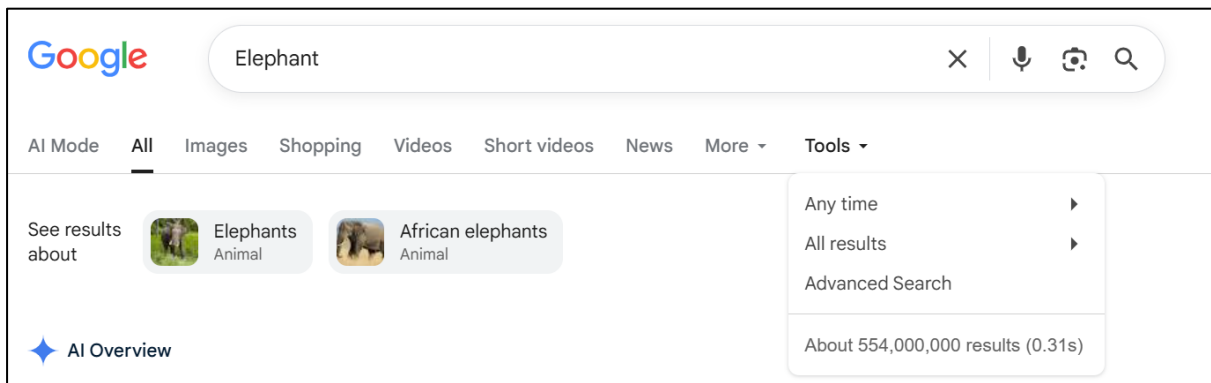
- d. **Is legible and visually distinctive:** The laith Gwaith (or Cymraeg) symbol was established over 20 years ago in 2005 and can be seen in all parts of Wales, particularly in workplaces or places offering public services. It is used by Welsh speakers to show that they can speak Welsh and to invite

others to speak Welsh with them. For further information see: [laith Gwaith | Welsh Language Commissioner](#).

e. Has a high usage level: The Welsh Language Commissioner distributes over 50,000 goods (badges, lanyards etc) every year. The symbol is also used extensively electronically, in e-mail signatures, digital platforms and organisational branding. Almost 8,500 users have visited the laith Gwaith page on our website this year. The Commissioner also offers licenses for organisations to be able to produce their own merchandise, for example it is embroidered onto uniforms in the healthcare sector or printed on hard hats in the construction industry.

i. Frequency (Results for 'laith Gwaith', 'Cymraeg' and 'Welsh' are shown below)

1. Google search:



Google search for "cymraeg". The search bar contains "cymraeg". The navigation bar includes "AI Mode", "All", "Images", "Videos", "News", "Short videos", "Shopping", "More", and "Tools". The "Tools" dropdown menu is open, showing options: "Any time", "All results", "Advanced Search", and "About 69,100,000 results (0.21s)". The search results show a snippet for "Cymraeg" with the text "Cymraeg is the native Celtic language of the Welsh people,". A Wikipedia link is visible on the right.

Google search for "Welsh-language". The search bar contains "Welsh-language". The navigation bar includes "AI Mode", "All", "Images", "News", "Videos", "Short videos", "Forums", "More", and "Tools". The "Tools" dropdown menu is open, showing options: "Any time", "All results", "Advanced Search", and "About 138,000,000 results (0.62s)". The search results show a snippet for "Welsh (Cymraeg)" with the text "Welsh (Cymraeg) is a thriving Celtic language native to Wales. Spoken by over 1 million people—roughly 18% of the Welsh population—it is an official language where you will find it routinely used on bilingual road signs, public services, an education." A Wikipedia link is visible on the right.

2. Google video search:


Google search for "elephant" in the "Videos" tab. The search bar contains "elephant". The navigation bar includes "AI Mode", "All", "Images", "Shopping", "Videos", "Short videos", "News", "More", and "Tools". The "Tools" dropdown menu is open, showing options: "Any duration", "Any time", "Any quality", "All videos", "Any source", "Advanced Search", and "About 80,000,000 results (0.21s)". The search results show a video titled "The Elephant Herd Loving the First Spring Rains" with a thumbnail image of elephants and a duration of 11:22. The video is from "HERD Elephant Orphanage South Africa" and was uploaded on "3 Nov 2025". Another video snippet is partially visible below.

Google

AI Mode All Images **Videos** News Shopping Forums More Tools

www.facebook.com › Colegsirgarandceredigion › posts

For 20 years, the laith Gwaith badge has helped people to ...



For 20 years, the laith Gwaith badge has helped people to ... can speak Welsh - let's celebrate its birthday together! # ...

Facebook · Coleg Sir Gâr and Ceredigion · 2 Dec 2025

www.facebook.com › ITECskills › videos › new-series-i...

- Any duration
- Any time
- Any quality
- All videos
- Any source
- Advanced Search

About 13,000 results (0.30s)

Google

AI Mode All Images **Videos** News Short videos Shopping More Tools

www.youtube.com › cymraeg

Cymraeg

Cymraeg · Fancy free Welsh translation for your business? Just say helo to Blod. · Cymraeg A/Welsh A Level · Meddwl am addysg Gymraeg i dy blentyn? · Helo ...

www.youtube.com › channel

Cymraeg

Cymraeg Lefel A/Welsh A Level · Trafferth mewn Tafarn 2024 · Amserlen: Hanes yr Iaith | His...

- Any duration
- Any time
- Any quality
- All videos
- Any source
- Advanced Search


About 1,190,000 results (0.17s)

Google

AI Mode All Images News **Videos** Short videos Forums More Tools

www.youtube.com › watch

Basic Welsh Language Greetings explained



Greetings are something anyone who learns a language need to know. In this video, we look at the Welsh Language and many other things you need to know.

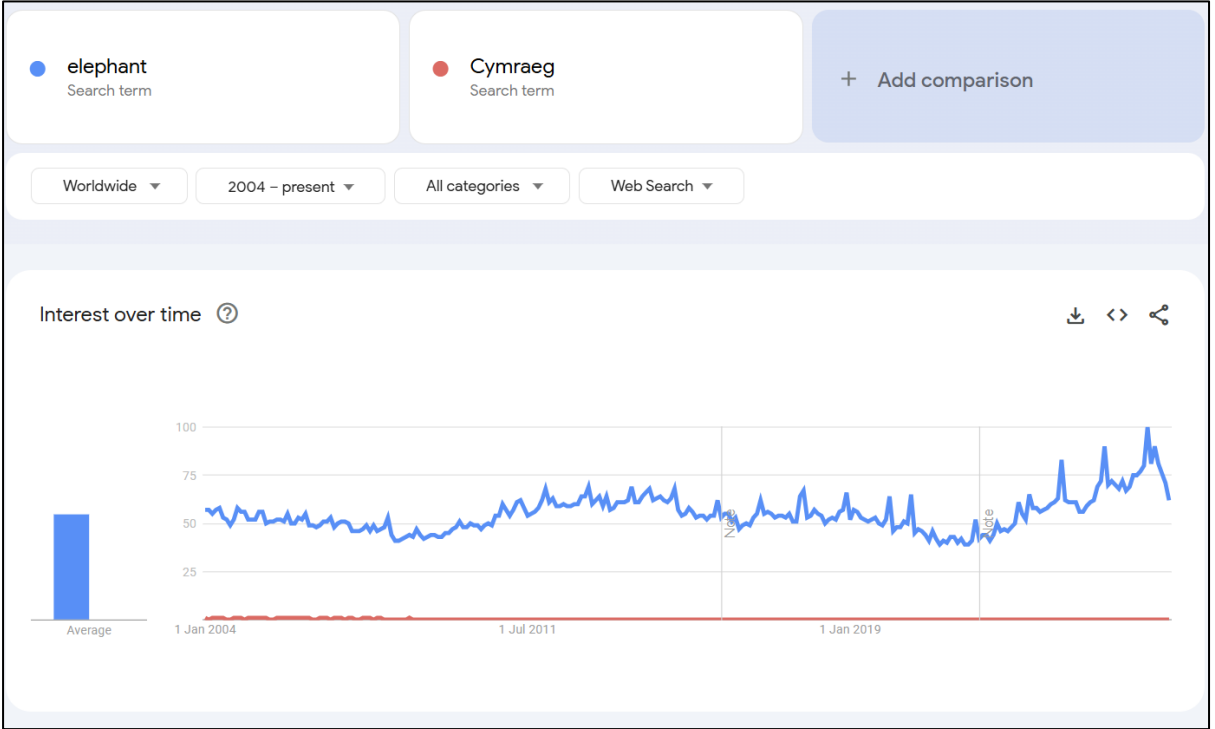
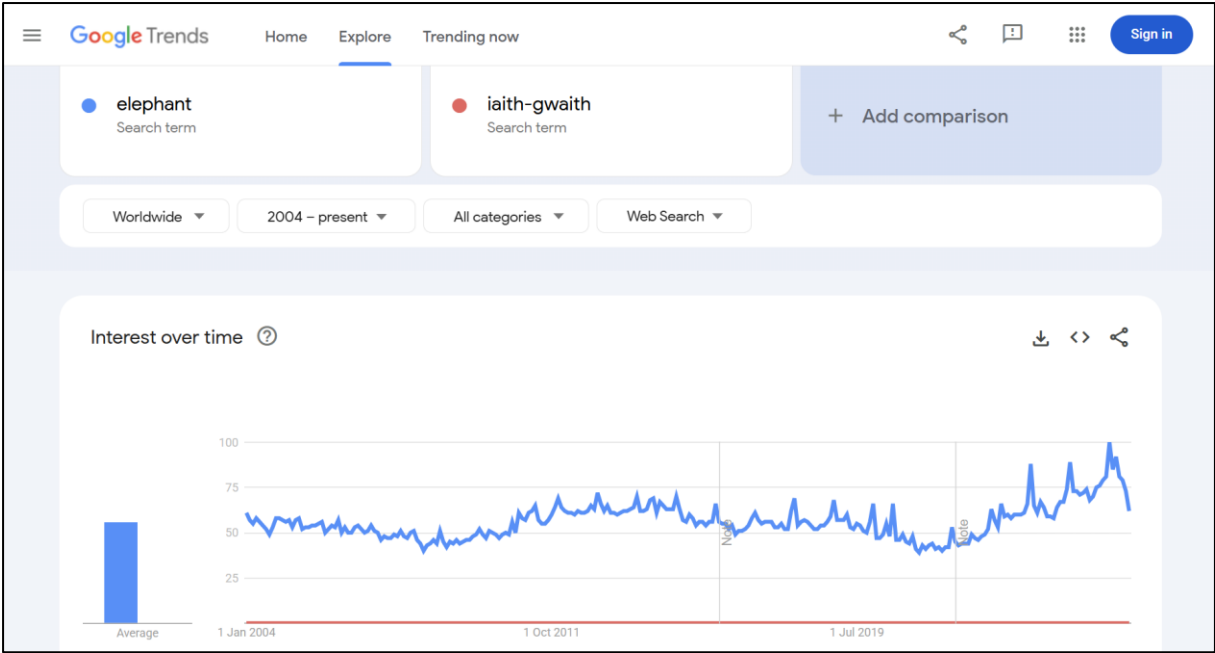
YouTube · BenjaminAngwin · 8 Sept 2024

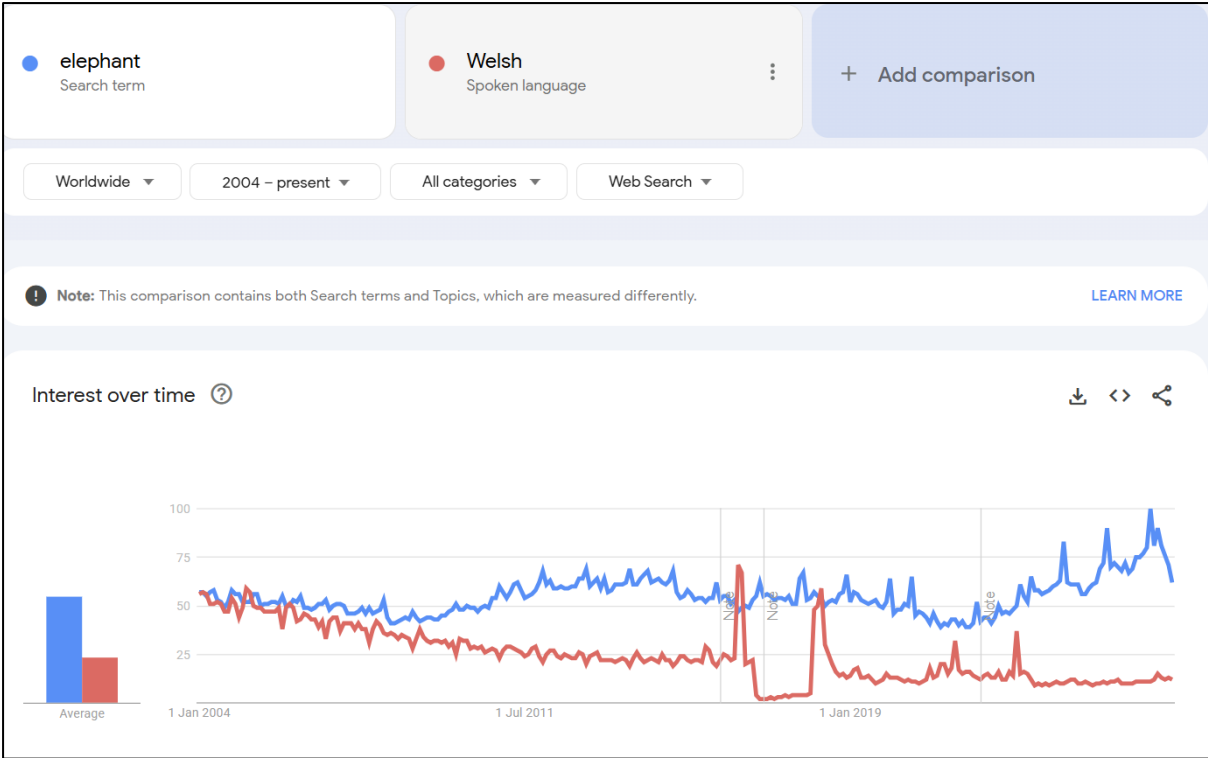
4 key moments in this video

- Any duration
- Any time
- Any quality
- All videos
- Any source
- Advanced Search

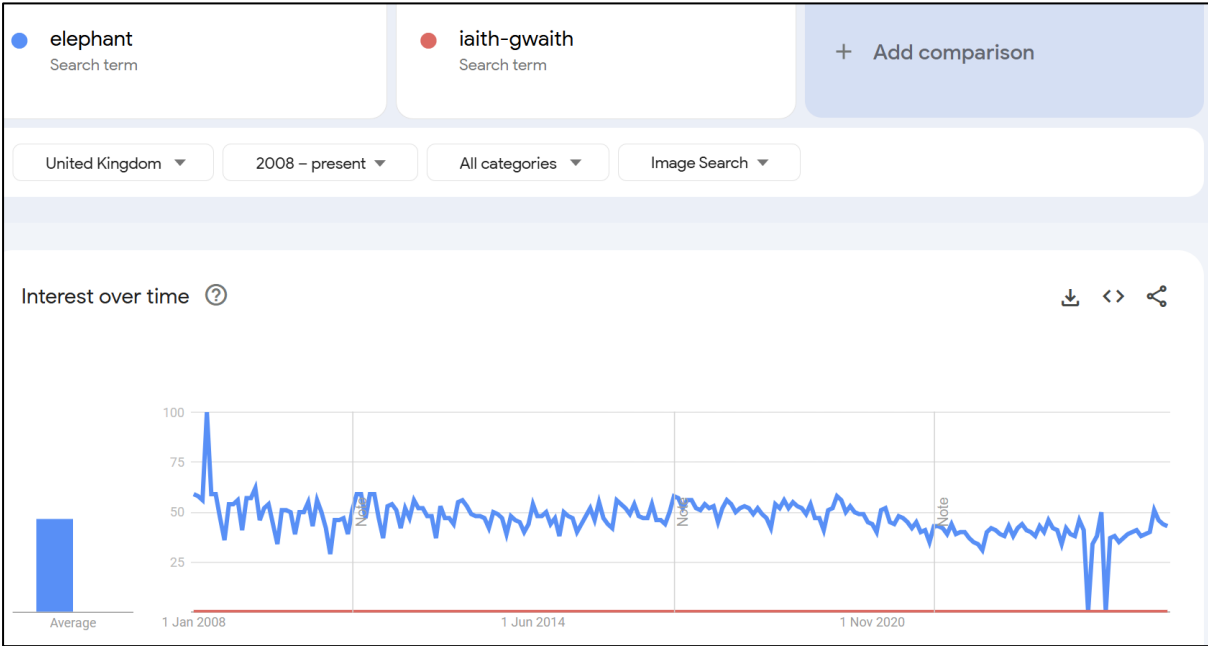
About 3,870,000 results (0.26s)

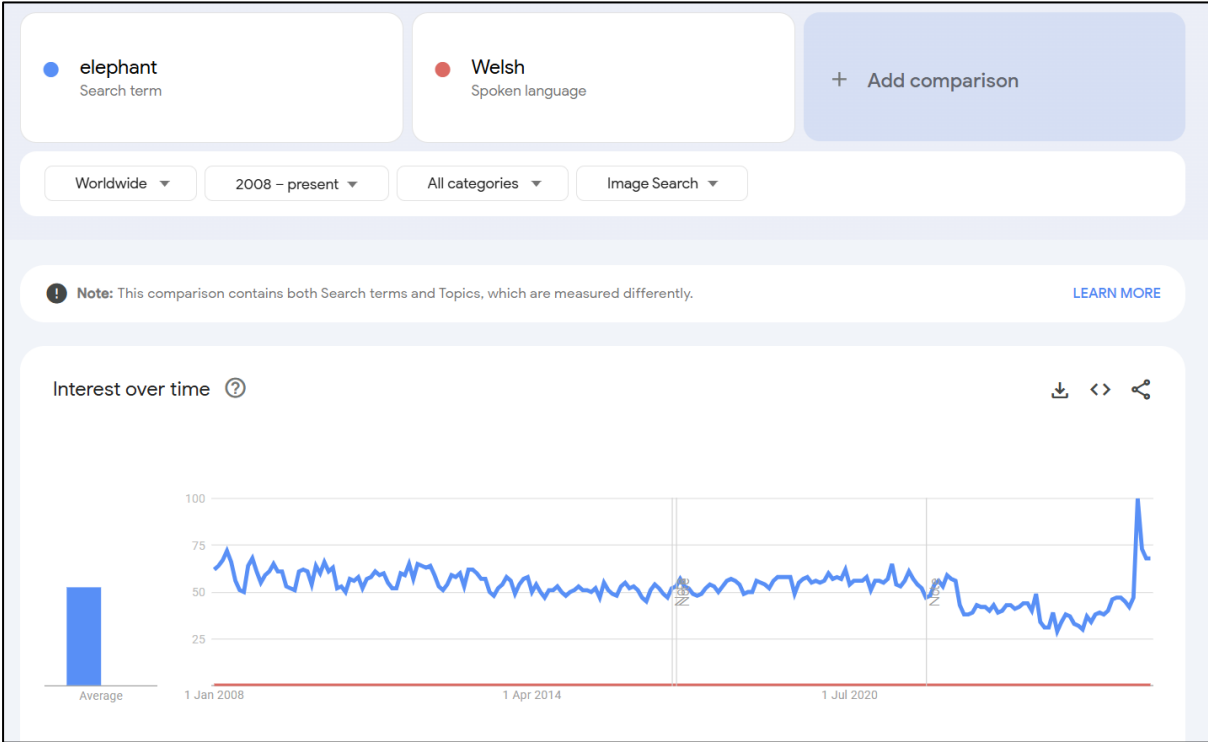
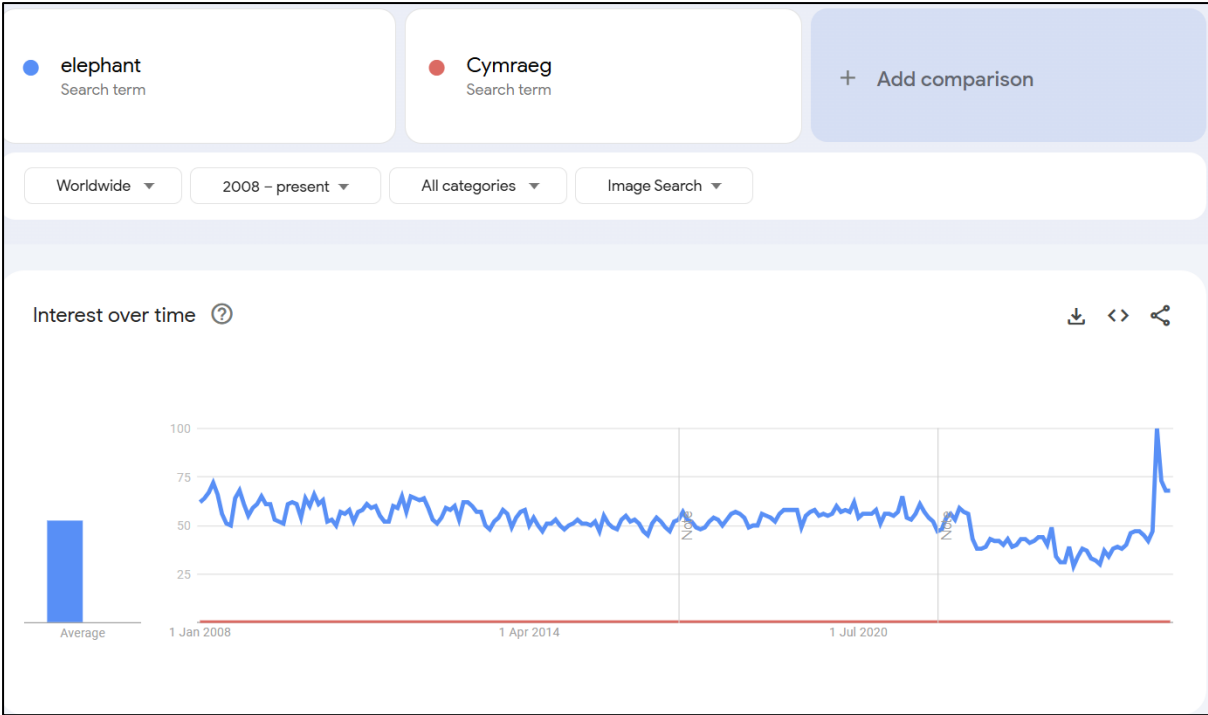
3. Google Trends: Web Search:



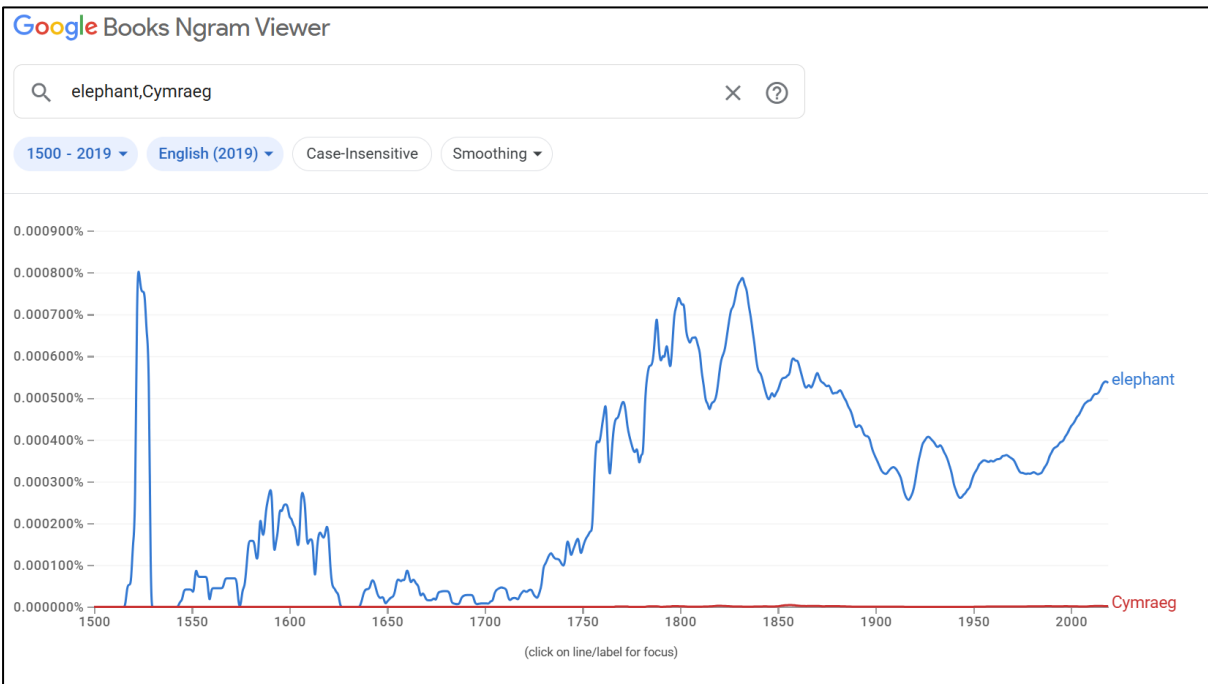
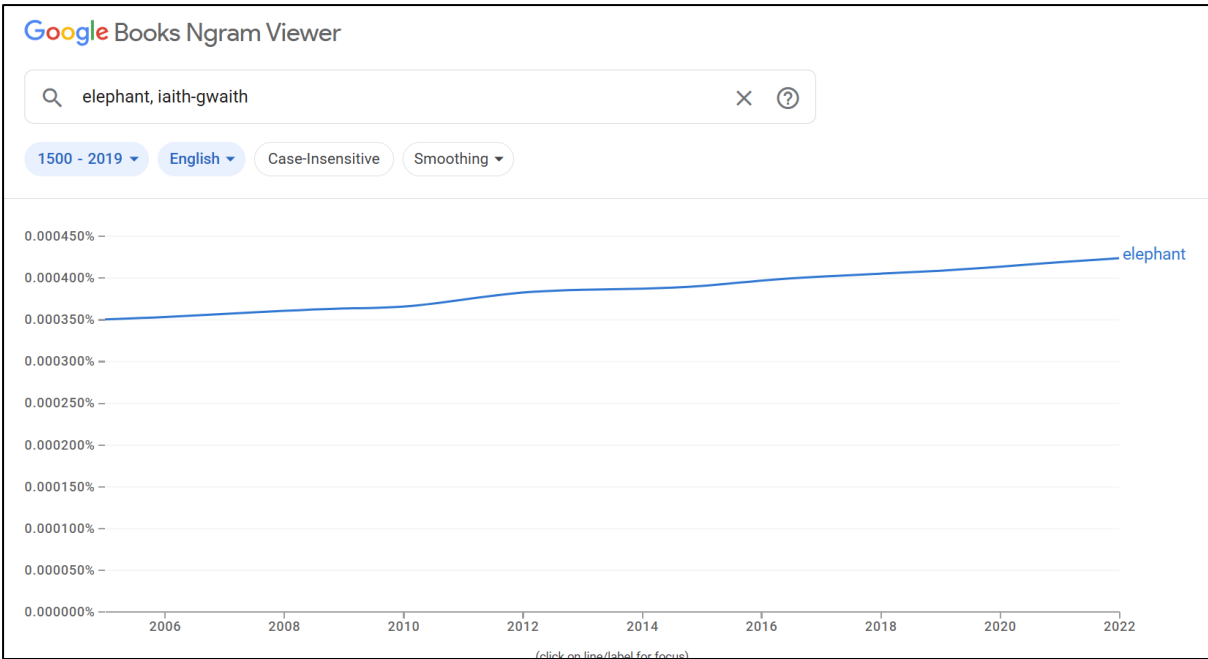


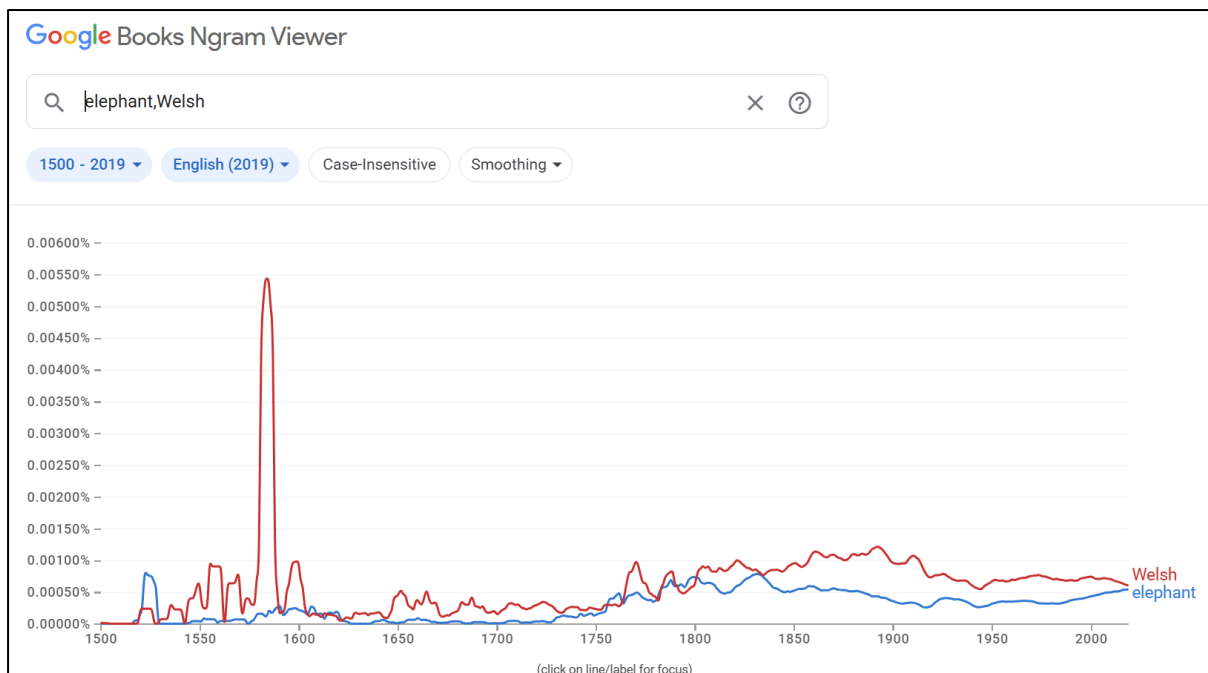
4. Google Trends: Image Search





5. Google Books Ngram Viewer:





f. **Completes an incomplete category:** N/a.

g. **Is needed for compatibility with popular existing systems:** N/a.

4. Factors for Exclusion

- a. **Already represented:** There are no emojis that represent the Welsh language or Welsh speakers. We have already explained above why the Welsh national flag is not suitable for that purpose.
- b. **Overly specific:** It is general enough to convey the Welsh language, Welsh speakers or a Welsh-language service.
- c. **Open-ended:** There will be no need to add another emoji to identify Welsh speakers or the Welsh language. This image is sufficient to convey all Welsh speakers, from all parts of Wales, regardless of dialect.
- d. **Transient:** The symbol is well-established and has been in circulation for over 20 years. All evidence we have point to the fact that its use, and awareness of its meaning, is on the increase.
- e. **Justified by an existing emoji:** We are not aware of similar emojis for other minority languages and are therefore not attempting to make a faulty comparison.

5. Other information:

Welsh is one of Europe's oldest living languages but is officially classified by UNESCO as *vulnerable*, meaning it may decline without active protection – particularly in the digital sphere. The Welsh Government has a long-term ambition to reach a million Welsh-speakers by 2050 and to double the daily use

of Welsh: [Cymraeg 2050: Welsh language strategy | GOV.WALES](#). Developing this emoji would contribute directly to that aim. It would enable Welsh speakers to identify one another – especially in online environments – thereby supporting the active use of Welsh in digital communication.

Increasing the visibility of the laith Gwaith symbol in digital contexts has also been identified by the Welsh Government as a strategic priority: [Welsh language technology and AI | GOV.WALES](#).

The core design is the orange speech bubble symbol. While the word ‘Cymraeg’ is commonly used in the current design, the symbol alone is sufficiently recognisable if it’s not possible to include text as part of an emoji design.

Diolch yn fawr (thank you very much) for considering this request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of it, please contact Dr Eleri James (eleri.james@cyg-wlc.cymru).