

A Management Plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park 2015-2020

*'Putting Well-being at the Heart of
Managing our National Park'*





Front cover, Dark Skies © Michael Sinclair

Inside front cover, Brecon Jazz Festival

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FOREWORD

Foreword



I am delighted to introduce the first update to the National Park Management Plan '*Managing Change Together*' which was produced in 2010. The ground breaking plan was the result of a massive consultation exercise with the numerous individuals and organisations who have an interest in the management of the 520 square miles of the Brecon Beacons National Park. Reflecting the myriad of demands and objectives we received was a complex task which has resulted in the production of a substantial plan and supporting documents which clearly indicate where responsibilities lay for delivering the actions outlined.

The Environment Act 1995 requires that the plan, which covers the next 20 years, is reviewed every five years and the document you are now reading is the first review of progress. It shows that the Management Plan is being successfully delivered and as we continue to work on some actions, it shows good progress is being made towards achieving the Park vision.

Considering the extent of the consultation undertaken when preparing '*Managing Change Together*' along with consultations undertaken since it was published, it is pleasing that the Park's Special Qualities and aims and objectives are still relevant and remain the same.

Chapter Two contains six sections, each corresponding directly to the six themes identified in '*Managing Change Together*'. Information and relevant actions are provided and challenges faced within the Park are identified, with a reporting mechanism for measuring success. Each section also considers how the actions address the needs of residents and the goals set by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 for the wellbeing of the wider population. We propose that this Plan will be a working document and the point of reference for organisations, groups and individuals with an interest in the Park. It is a statutory document, to which interested parties must pay due regard.

We were early adopters of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which set out seven goals for how we want to see Wales both now and in the future. This Plan sets out how the work of the Authority will address each of the seven goals. It also explains how the Authority is responding to Natural Resource Wales advice on incorporating an ecosystem approach into protected landscapes management and the steps taken to use an area based approach.

I hope you find the plan interesting and informative and that you will recognise your own particular concerns described within its pages, along with the actions being taken to address them. The next review will be in 2020 when I am confident we will be reporting even more achievements in reaching our collective goals for the Brecon Beacons National Park.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Doel". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Melanie Doel

Chairman, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

CHAPTER I - INTRODUCTION



Chapter I - Introduction

1.1 National Parks

1. National Parks are internationally recognised protected areas which contain some of our most beautiful, spectacular and dramatic areas of countryside. They are landscapes of national and international importance and their designation gives them the highest status for the conservation of landscape and scenic beauty. They contain fantastic opportunities for recreation and millions of visitors from across the World enjoy them every year.
2. The statutory purposes of UK National Park Authorities are set out in Section 61 of the Environment Act 1995. These are:
 - First Purpose:** *To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the National Parks;*
 - Second Purpose:** *To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities (of National Parks) by the public.*
3. The purposes are underpinned in law by the ‘Sandford Principle’. This makes it clear that the first purpose should take precedence over the second in cases of irreconcilable conflict.
4. National Parks continue to be a home to communities and industry, as they have done for thousands of years. National Park Authorities, therefore, also have a duty under Section 62(1) of the Environment Act 1995:
 - Duty:** *In taking forward the National Park purposes, [to] seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.*

1.2 Brecon Beacons National Park

5. The Brecon Beacons National Park was designated in 1957. It is one of fifteen National Parks in the UK and one of three in Wales. The majority of its land is in private ownership (approximately 65%), though the Brecon Beacons is unique to other National Parks in the significant amount of land owned by the National Park Authority (approximately 15% or 200 square kilometres) in addition to the high proportion that is owned by other public or non-governmental organisations (20%).
6. The Park covers 1,347 square kilometres (520 square miles) and lies between rural Mid Wales and the industrial South Wales Valleys. It is a diverse landscape, where sweeping uplands contrast with green valleys, dramatic waterfalls, ancient woodland, archaeological sites, caves, forests, reservoirs and vibrant communities. The Park forms the northern boundary of the Cardiff Capital Region.
7. Further information about the Park can be found on the Authority’s website (www.beacons-npa.gov.uk), the destination website: <http://www.breconbeacons.org> and in the recently published State of the Park Report (2014)¹, which has been used to provide evidence in the preparation of this Management Plan review.

1.3 Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan

8. Formulation of the Management Plan is an iterative process where knowledge gained from evaluating previous Plans informs future policies and priorities. ‘*Managing Change Together 2010-2015*’ was a ground-breaking document for the National Park. Widespread public consultation, evidence gathering and direct involvement of a range of individuals, groups and organisations were used to prepare a 20 year vision.
9. This Management Plan develops the previous Plan by reviewing the policy context and updating actions reported under the six themes identified in ‘*Managing Change Together 2010-2015*’, repeated in Table 1 and considered further in Chapter 2.

Management Plan Themes

Theme 1: Managing Park Landscapes to Maximise Conservation and Public Benefits	1st Purpose
Theme 2: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity	
Theme 3: Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Access and Recreation	2nd Purpose
Theme 4: Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park	
Theme 5: Building and Maintaining Sustainable Communities, Towns and Villages	Duty
Theme 6: Sustainable Economic Development	

Table 1: Management Plan Themes

10. The policy context for Management Plan preparation is predominantly set by Section 66(1) of the Environment Act 1995, which requires each National Park Authority to publish a National Park Management Plan. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 strengthens existing governance arrangements for improving the well-being of Wales to ensure that present needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs². The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 will reform the planning system in Wales to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development.
11. Other relevant Bills being taken forward by the Welsh Government that are expected to become Acts within the timeframe of this Management Plan have been given due consideration. They include:
 - The Environment (Wales) Bill – This will put in place the legislation needed to plan and manage Wales’ natural resources in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up way.
 - The Historic Environment (Wales) Bill will provide the legislation necessary to ensure the sustainable management of the Welsh historic environment.
12. In September 2014 the Welsh Government commissioned an independent review of the Designated Landscapes of Wales to ensure that they are best equipped to meet current and future challenges while building upon their internationally recognised status. The review examined the function and governance of Wales’ designated landscapes. A final report with recommendations was published in October 2015³.
13. Guidance for Management Plan preparation in Welsh National Parks is set out in ‘National Park Management Plans Guidance (Natural Resources Wales 2007)’. A supplementary guidance note was published in 2014 by Natural Resource Wales, ‘Ecosystem Approach for Protected Landscapes Management Plan Reviews’.
14. The link between the six Management Plan themes and the Park’s Purposes and Duty aligns with the Strategic Environmental Assessment, the management principles for Category V Protected Areas (Appendix 1) and the 12 principles for an ecosystem approach to decision-making set out under the Convention on Biological Diversity (Appendix 2).
15. There is a statutory duty to review the National Park Management Plan “at intervals of not more than five years” (s66 of the Environment Act 1995). This document provides the required review of ‘Managing Change Together’. A review of actions has also been undertaken⁴, which demonstrated good progress toward achieving the Park Vision.

16. Separate consultations undertaken since *'Managing Change Together'* was published have also demonstrated support of the Special Qualities and Park Vision. Therefore the aims and objectives, which provide the framework for action setting and are located in Appendix 3, are still relevant and remain the same.
17. Chapter 2 contains supporting text and summary actions relating to the six Management Plan themes. Each section demonstrates how it addresses the aims and objectives identified in Appendix 3, which also provides a detailed list of actions, lead organisations and how the actions will be delivered. Each section in Chapter 2 addresses the needs of residents and the goals set by The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 for the well-being of the wider population, which can be found in Table 2. Each public body in Wales is required to work towards objectives designed to maximise its contribution to the well-being goals, which reflect how we want to see Wales both now and in the future. The work of the Authority and its partners addresses each of the 7 goals.

Well-being of Future Generations Goals	Description of the Goal
A prosperous Wales	An innovative and productive, low carbon emission economy that makes more efficient and proportionate use of resources, and which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities for a skilled and well-educated population.
A resilient Wales	A biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.
A healthier Wales	A society in which peoples' physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh Language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation.
A globally responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

Table 2: Well-being Goals

18. An Engagement and Consultation report⁵ identifies consultation undertaken in preparing this Management Plan. The report documents the responses received during the public consultation process, the Authority's response and proposed changes.
19. The Management Plan sets the framework for various strategies and action plans to be taken forward, guided by the Management Plan vision, aims and objectives to ensure a consistent approach.

1.4 Delivering Wales' Needs

20. This Management Plan addresses outcomes identified within the four broad themes of the agenda for Wales⁶: 'Growth and sustainable jobs'; 'Health and well-being'; 'Educational attainment'; and 'Supporting children, families and deprived communities'.
21. A key issue facing the Park is its demographic structure. National Parks generally have an older age structure compared to the nation as a whole. The average age of National Park residents in Wales is 50, 11 years older than Wales as a whole. It also shows that between 2001 and 2011 the Brecon Beacons National Park had the largest percentage increase of 15-29 year-olds of any National Park in Wales and England. Therefore providing appropriate infrastructure, which includes care, housing, schooling and work opportunities, is crucial to the well-being of Park residents and economic vibrancy.
22. The Wales Spatial Plan identifies Brecon as a primary key settlement and focus for tourism, while Crickhowell, Hay-on-Wye and Talgarth are identified as key settlements. Through the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, a National Development Framework will supersede the Wales Spatial Plan. The Authority will engage in the preparation of the development framework. The Welsh Government have designated Brecon as a 'Local Growth Zone'.
23. This Plan promotes regeneration as there is a genuine need to build communities that are resilient to future environmental and energy change, economically competitive, socially inclusive and places where people want to live, work, invest and enjoy their leisure.
24. Through Place Plans, residents are able to prioritise how resources are used locally and plan for future change. This enriches and empowers the community and improves social resilience. This is considered further in Chapter 2.
25. Groups can encourage business initiatives which help keep money in the local area. Communities may apply to grant schemes to fund local regeneration projects. The Authority plays a valuable role in helping to create and maintain vibrant and viable places, reflecting the Park's purposes, duty and special qualities. For example, the Authority match funds community based projects through the Sustainable Development Fund, leveraging in additional resources. Ultimately, many options are available to local communities to enhance the sense of place and well-being. This Plan builds a solid foundation for doing so.
26. The Local Development Plan integrates policies for new housing allocations, affordable housing, employment land requirements and planning obligations which contribute to environmental, social and economic initiatives consistent with the National Park designation.
27. The National Park contributes directly to the South East Wales City-Region as a provider of natural resources such as drinking water and flood risk management upon which biodiversity, including the human population, is dependent. A city-region encourages local authorities and others to work together and collaborate on projects and plans for the area.
28. In March 2014 the National Park Authority worked with Town and Community Councils to discuss the key issues to ensure the well-being of future generations and what the Authority need to do to help tackle these issues. The results can be found at Appendix 5.

1.5 Natural Resource Management

29. The Welsh Government's 'Living Wales' programme aims to integrate the demands on our natural resources in a way that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. It sets out proposals for managing and regulating Wales' land and water in accordance with principles for ecosystem health and productivity set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity (Appendix 2). Natural Resources Wales have identified the requirement for a more effective and joined up approach to natural resource management through area-based approaches that take account of how ecosystems operate:

'The protected landscapes are to be places where a clean and green environment enhances the life experience of people, who in turn conserve the resource for future generations. Their health is bound to the development of surrounding landscapes. The extensive nature of the protected landscapes can secure the sustainable management of healthy, resilient and productive ecosystems. They represent important components of the network of 'ecosystem service hotspots' across Wales. An understanding of the special qualities, and the forces affecting them, defines the difference the plan must make. An appreciation of the Convention on Biological Diversity principles sets a framework to assess the benefits the plan can deliver'.⁷

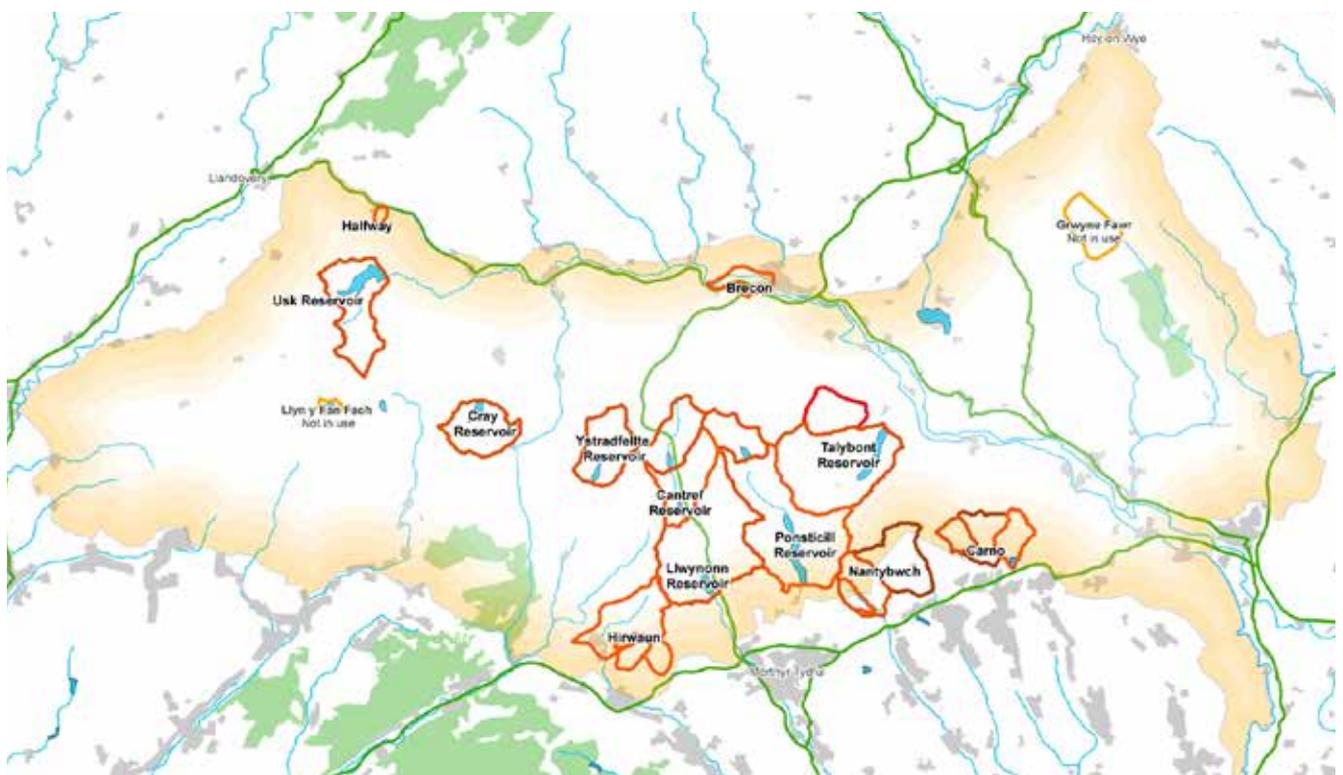
30. This Management Plan prioritises four geographic areas within the Park (see Appendix 7). The Park's Landscape Character Assessment and the focus on area based improvements are examples of how the Authority is using an area-based approach to guide management.
31. The objectives of this Management Plan are consistent with the 12 principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The National Park Authority will seek to work across boundaries and encourage organisations to do so where appropriate to address the issue of spatial scale. For example the National Park Authority is currently working with Natural Resources Wales and other Authorities and organisations on a pilot project in the Tawe catchment area.

CASE STUDY

Drinking Water Catchments within the Brecon Beacons National Park

There are 23 drinking water sources in the National Park including reservoirs, rivers, springs and boreholes. 36% of Cardiff's drinking water is sourced directly from the Brecon Beacons National Park area, and if water from the River Usk (which has over half of it's watershed within the National Park) is included, the figure is over 90%.

78% of Swansea's drinking water is from catchments within the National Park area, with the remainder sourced from the River Tywi which has a small area of its watershed in the National Park (map and figures from Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water).



32. Ecosystem services are the direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human well-being⁸. They support directly or indirectly our survival and quality of life. According to 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity' (TEEB⁹), ecosystem services can be categorised in four main types:
- Provisioning services are the products obtained from ecosystems such as food, fresh water, wood, fibre, genetic resources and medicines.
 - Regulating services are defined as the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes such as climate regulation, natural hazard regulation, water purification and waste management, pollination or pest control.
 - Supporting habitat services highlight the importance of ecosystems to provide habitat for migratory species and to maintain the viability of gene-pools.
 - Cultural services include non-material benefits that people obtain from ecosystems such as spiritual enrichment, intellectual development, recreation and aesthetic values.
33. The ecosystem services provided by the Park are extremely valuable in their own right. Humans are entirely dependent on the environment to provide us with air, food, water, clothing and shelter as a minimum. Thereafter, much of our amenities are products of existing or pre-existing organisms and their functions.
34. Ecosystem services contribute directly to social and economic well-being. Table 3 is a basic illustration of ecosystem services with examples of how they are provided by the Park.

Ecosystem Services		
Provisioning Services	Regulating Services	Cultural Services
Food through farming/agriculture	Mental and physical well-being	Recreation
Clean water through reservoirs and groundwater storage	Climate regulation, upland water storage and carbon sequestration	Spiritual and historic heritage value
Supporting/Habitat Services		
Pollination and nutrient cycling.		

Table 3: Ecosystem Services provided by the Park

1.6 Links to Other Plans and Policies

35. The Management Plan links broad-scale policies with local decision-making processes. It ensures that the Authority, in cooperation with its partners, contributes and adds value to national policy objectives. As a result, the Plan sets the framework for the Authority's Business Plan and detailed strategies and programmes.
36. This Plan sets out how objectives will be delivered either through specific actions or by setting the framework for strategies to be developed. The Visitor Management Plan, for example, seeks to establish a long-term approach aimed at improving the sustainability of the enjoyment of the National Park and sets out the short and medium term actions that will deliver this¹⁰.
37. The Management Plan serves as a mechanism by which priorities are set, actions are monitored and outcomes are evaluated and provides a foundation for assessing the State of the Park's resources. These assessments are summarised in the State of the Park Report, which uses indicators for each of the Management Plan themes to provide a snapshot of the health of the Park.
38. The Local Development Plan has a central role in maintaining the character of the Park and fostering the social and economic well-being of Park communities. The Authority has developed its land allocations, policies and design guidance using an environmental capacity approach consistent with Management Plan objectives. The findings of the Environmental Capacity approach as set out in the Local Development Plan are subject to continuous monitoring and review.
39. Planning is the principal process for achieving sustainable development in the National Park. It has the statutory functions of controlling development and producing a development plan for the Park. The National Park Authority, as with other local planning authorities, is subject to planning legislation, guidance and regulations. In most cases, these apply in the same way both inside and outside National Parks, for example in planning for residential development whilst protecting the countryside.
40. The spatial approach of the Landscape Character Assessment¹¹ provides a clear geographic reference for landscape character, special qualities and issues of landscape change across the National Park. It is intended to be used in a number of ways, including:
 - Assessing the qualities of wildness, tranquillity and remoteness across the National Park to develop a policy related to the impacts of recreation and development on these qualities.
 - Contributing to the development of policies with regard to large-scale developments on the fringes of the National Park.
 - Use as Supplementary Planning Guidance, supporting emerging policies in the Local Development Plan which aim to protect the special qualities of the National Park.
 - Forming baseline evidence in the development of a visitor management strategy.
41. The Landscape Character Assessment informs community development, Place Plans, Glastir, countryside management priorities, education and information through its contribution to understanding of sense of place. The map at Appendix 6 shows the 15 landscape character areas identified in the assessment.
42. The Management Plan commits organisations to addressing the issues of climate change and energy change. For example, small scale hydroelectric schemes demonstrate how using renewable resources improve community and energy resilience and reduce carbon emissions without necessarily adversely affecting the special qualities of the National Park. By undertaking renewable resource schemes the Park's communities will be more resilient, while benefitting from the ecosystem service of clean energy provided by the landscape.

¹⁰ <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/communities/tourism-new/visitor-management-plan-1/>

¹¹ Brecon Beacons Landscape Character Assessment: <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/planning/draft-strategy-and-policy/landscape-character-assessment/>

1.7 The Research Prospectus

43. The Research Prospectus is a key tool for developing understanding of the National Park. The Authority collaborates with universities and research institutions to develop research and teaching programmes. These assist the National Park and its communities in meeting the challenges identified in Chapter 2.
44. The Research Prospectus is structured using the six Management Plan themes. Examples of research are listed in Table 4 which provides a good indication of potential future projects.

Project	Partners	Timeline
Catchment hydrological monitoring project	Welsh Water, Natural Resources Wales, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Aberystwyth University	From 2012
Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships - studentship	Swansea University, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	From 2011
Natural History MSc (two students in 2011)	Glamorgan University	Annual
PhD: Factors affecting the ecology of Carabidae in a modified riverine environment	Cardiff University	Until 2014
Field spectroscopy on the Black Mountain; using GIS, remote sensing and fire simulation to assess wildfire damage	Leicester University, Aberystwyth University, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, NERC hyperspectroscopy specialists	From 2011
Biodiversity audits of key settlements	Brecknock Wildlife Trust, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	2011-2012
Education	Some work between Welsh National Parks	From 2011
PhD: Low Carbon Planning Innovation and Management: Brecon Beacons	Cardiff University	From 2015

Table 4: Examples of Research Projects underway or completed in the National Park.

1.8 Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

45. The National Park Authority facilitates, coordinates and adds value to the work of others in the Park. It also delivers its own programme of work, frequently in collaboration with others, in fulfilment of the Authority's purposes and duty. Stewardship of the National Park is not the sole responsibility of the Authority and other public bodies, but also those who reside, work or pursue their leisure interests in the Park.
46. The Authority is made up of 24 Members and approximately 100 staff. More than 150 volunteers work with the Authority and many more work with organisations that have an interest in the Park.
47. The Authority's headquarters are in Brecon and smaller centres are located throughout the Park. The Park, as an administrative area, covers parts of 7 of Wales' 22 Unitary Authorities which further emphasises the need to work together in a collaborative and cooperative fashion.

CASE STUDY

Volunteers

Over 150 volunteers work with the Authority and in 2014/15 the National Park Authority benefited from over 10,000 hours of volunteer time. Volunteers do invaluable work across the National Park on a variety of activities including working with wardens on site-based work and at the Visitor Centres and Craig-y-nos Country Park.

Volunteers are not limited to those working with the Park Authority. Volunteers work with a variety of organisations to achieve the Park Purposes and Duty. For example, the Brecon Beacons Park Society's Guided Walks Programme of more than 200 walks per year directly supports the Park's Second Purpose and their work on the Welsh Government's Legislation Programme directly supports the First Purpose. These two activities contribute at least 4,500 hours annually to National Park Purposes.

There are significant benefits for the volunteers themselves including health benefits that come with working in protected landscapes, learning and discovering new skills, developing social networks with like-minded people, and simply the feeling of 'giving something back' to nature and/or their community, often leading to increased feelings of well-being.



1.9 Special Qualities

48. The following list provides the special qualities identified during the preparation of *'Managing Change Together'*. Management activity must take into consideration the potential effects on the special qualities which are specific to a given locality: A National Park offering peace and tranquillity with opportunities for quiet enjoyment, inspiration, relaxation and spiritual renewal.

- A feeling of vitality and healthfulness that comes from enjoying the Park's fresh air, clean water, rural setting, open land and locally produced foods.
- A sense of place and cultural identity - "Welshness" - characterised by the use of the indigenous Welsh language, religious and spiritual connections, unique customs and events, traditional foods and crafts, relatively unspoilt historic towns, villages and family farms. The continued practices of traditional skills developed by local inhabitants to live and earn a living here, such as common land practices and grazing.
- A sense of discovery where people are able to explore the Park's hidden secrets and stories such as genealogical histories, prehistoric ritual sites, medieval rural settlements, early industrial sites, local myths, legends and geological treasures.
- The Park's sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty observed across a variety of harmoniously connected landscapes, including marvellous gorges and waterfalls, classic karst geology with caves and sink holes, contrasting glacial landforms such as cliffs and broad valleys carved from old red sandstone and prominent hilltops with extensive views in all directions.
- A working, living "patchwork" of contrasting patterns, colours, and textures comprising of well-maintained farmed landscapes, open uplands, lakes and meandering rivers punctuated by small-scale woodlands, country lanes, hedgerows, stone walls and scattered settlements.
- Extensive and widespread access to the Park's diversity of wildlife and richness of semi-natural habitats, such as native woodlands, heathland and grassland, natural lakes and riparian habitats, ancient hedgerows, limestone pavement and blanket bogs including those of international and national importance.
- In the context of the UK, geographically rugged, remote and challenging landscapes.
- Enjoyable and accessible countryside with extensive, widespread and varied opportunities to pursue walking, cycling, fishing, water-based activities and other forms of sustainable recreation or relaxation.
- An intimate sense of community where small, pastoral towns and villages are comparatively safe, friendly, welcoming and retain a spirit of cooperation.



I.10 Vision

49. The following vision statements describe the overarching ambitions for the Park for the next 20 years. These statements were identified through the preparation of *'Managing Change Together'*.

In 20 years' time the Brecon Beacons National Park will be:

- Recognised internationally and nationally for its value as a protected area, whose character continues to be shaped by the long-standing interactions between people and the processes of nature.
- Widely acclaimed for its natural beauty, geodiversity, biodiversity and cultural heritage while being a sought-after destination, providing an outstanding variety of sustainable opportunities for all to understand, enjoy and benefit from its tranquillity, rural character, Welsh way of life, sense of remoteness and other special qualities.
- Resilient, open and responsive to change - particularly climate change - and its stakeholders proactive in mitigating and adapting to the effects of undesirable change through local action.
- Less dependent upon external supply chains leading to increased food and energy security locally, improved quality of life, community cohesion and conservation of natural capital.
- A living landscape where people can earn a living from the land in an innovative and sustainable manner, for example through farming, but also in new ways such as through renewable energy production, for the benefit of the environment, economy and local communities.
- Managed sustainably (respecting the limits of the planet's natural resources, its environment and its biodiversity whilst having regard for social and economic concerns such that all actions taken to meet our needs today do not compromise the needs of future generations) through active partnerships. This will ensure it continues to be a source of inspiration and enjoyment for future generations.
- Monitored over the long term to improve future policy and management practice.



1.11 Guiding Principles

50. National Park Management Plans should clearly distinguish between the ambitions for the Park, defined in a vision and supporting aims and objectives, and how the vision and objectives will be delivered.¹² The following are guiding principles for the National Park:
- Sustainability
 - Community Engagement
 - Social Inclusion
 - Cohesive Partnerships
 - Integrated management including Science and Evidence
 - Regeneration
51. These guiding principles were fundamental to the development of the Park's Vision and special qualities. They are the central threads running throughout the Management Plan and address the delivery process and the proposed outcomes. The guiding principles are being carried through in full to this Management Plan as are the commitments to public involvement as required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
52. With approximately 65% of the National Park in private ownership, local people are at the heart of the delivery of many of the Management Plan objectives. Actions within this Plan require delivery organisations to help and encourage people to achieve those objectives.
53. This Plan identifies the key strategic objectives that will be implemented by a range of organisations. It also lists the main bodies that will contribute to its delivery. The objectives in the Plan include measurable targets that will allow progress to be meaningfully assessed and publicly reported.

1.12 Sustainability Appraisal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment) and Habitats Regulations Assessment

54. The preparation of '*Managing Change Together*' was subject to a Sustainability Appraisal which included a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This tests the implications of the objectives and makes recommendations on their potential impact on sustainable development, including any impacts on the environment. These impacts were considered in drafting final objectives.
55. A Habitats Regulations Assessment was also undertaken to assess whether any objectives might impact on conservation sites designated under the European Habitats Directive, which, as part of a European Network (Natura 2000), are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species.
56. The Local Development Plan, adopted in December 2013, was also subject to Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment and environmental outcomes of both the Management Plan and Local Development Plan will be monitored. This will ensure that significant adverse effects continue to be avoided. A monitoring framework has been developed to monitor the implementation of the Local Development Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Management Plan.
57. As this plan does not propose significant alterations to '*Managing Change Together*' any changes in this plan are minor modifications to the existing Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment and will be reported accordingly.

1.13 Monitoring, Review and Reporting Process

58. We will use the National Park Authority website (www.beacons-npa.gov.uk) to provide regular updates of progress in implementing objectives in this Management Plan. The health of the Park is affected by many factors outside the scope of this Management Plan, but the State of the Park Report will be used to measure the health of the Park and will be developed over time to ensure it continues to be an invaluable monitoring resource.
59. The Authority uses the six Management Plan themes for reporting progress through Business Improvement Plans (specific to the Authority and submitted to the Wales Audit Office) and the State of the Park Report (a Park wide report). Progress could potentially be measured using Area Statements provided by Natural Resources Wales and there are other objective measures of Management Plan success, such as the Annual Monitoring Report of the Local Development Plan and reporting through the Visitor Management Plan.
60. There will also be anecdotal measures of success which, though difficult to quantify, can be gathered through regular and positive engagement with communities, for example through the Authority's Scrutiny Reviews and a visitor survey, proposed to be undertaken in 2016.
61. This is both a strategic document and a dynamic Management Plan, to be used and re-used. It will be used to hold delivery organisations (including the Authority) to account and is capable of adjustment, where necessary, to reflect significant changes due to unforeseen circumstances.
62. A consultation and engagement report and a full description of the Management Plan review process are available on the Authority's Management Plan review web page: (<http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-Authority/who-we-are/npmp/management-plan-review/>).



Chapter 2 - Management Plan Themes

2.1 Theme 1 – Managing Park Landscapes to Maximise Conservation and Public Benefits

Background

63. The National Park has the highest level of protection available in the UK as a Category V Protected Area according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature¹³. This means the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value. Safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.
64. The Park's first purpose is to conserve the landscape - along with its ecology, biodiversity and cultural heritage including the built and archaeological environment. The landscape has a value in its own right, while also providing valuable benefits to local communities, businesses and visitors. The competing demands of each require management.

Delivering Wales' Needs

65. The National Park provides a great diversity of landscapes, which have been documented in the Park's Landscape Character Assessment¹⁴. The landscape is a valuable asset and the primary reason for National Park designation.
66. Appreciation of this landscape provides a shared identity and a sense of place in Park communities which facilitates community resilience. Accessing the health and well-being benefits of the natural environment and landscape features of National Parks are considered in Chapter 2, Themes 3 and 4.
67. The Category V designation recognises the landscape's relationship with human beings over time. The landscape has been farmed for generations, providing employment and food to its communities. The well-being of the farming community is fundamental to the future of the landscape and communities of the National Park (Theme 5). The landscape attracts visitors thereby also making it an important economic asset (Theme 6).

Challenges

68. Managing the landscape means confronting change. Active management is required to control competing processes and optimise the success of conservation efforts and the delivery of public benefits. This responsibility is shared across individuals, groups and organisations concerned with the future of the Park and its diverse landscapes, its complexity emphasises the need for an integrated and cohesive approach to landscape management. A cooperative approach will increase the likelihood of continued success.
69. The visitor economy aspires to play an important role in managing these competing processes. It can help locals, businesses and tourists understand the landscapes varied character and the processes that influence it. It aspires to support the conservation and enhancement of many of the Park's special qualities, including the sense of tranquillity, peace and remoteness.
70. The impact of development on the Park's special qualities was highlighted as a key issue throughout the preparation of the Local Development Plan. Theme 5 considers the environmental capacity approach to spatial development demonstrated in the Local Development Plan. This approach is consistent with the vision and objectives set out in '*Managing Change Together*'.

¹³ www.iucn.org

¹⁴ <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/planning/draft-strategy-and-policy/landscape-character-assessment/>

71. The document 'Landscape Character Assessment' proposes management guidelines based on the special qualities of the Park's 15 landscape areas. It has been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the Authority and provided the framework for the Park's Visitor Management Plan. The Landscape Character Assessment provides the flexibility for an area based approach to land management. The Authority has prioritised the following four geographic areas within the Park (see Appendix 7): Mynydd Du; Waterfall Country; Llangasty Caeau-ty-Mawr (Llangorse Lake) and The Black Mountains.
72. Prioritising these four areas for improvement will allow the Authority to focus its resources so that conservation, visitor impacts and other Park-wide issues will experience positive changes during the life of this Plan and its vision. The National Park Authority and partner organisations will continue to conduct conservation works elsewhere in the Park, but we hope to make a concerted effort to tackle outstanding issues and enhance the special qualities of the four selected areas.
73. In line with Section 4 of the Environment Bill - the principles of sustainable management of natural resources (see Appendix 8), the National Park Authority and its partner organisations are increasingly adopting the principles of sustainable management of natural resources as the most effective way to achieving conservation management. These are consistent with the IUCN Guidelines for the Management of Category V Protected Areas.
74. Communities within the National Park have a long and colourful history, and a rich and varied cultural heritage. We can see the legacy that past people have left to us in the archaeological heritage and historic buildings across the National Park. The National Park is home to a wealth of archaeological remains from prehistoric stone circles and burial chambers, Iron Age hillforts, Roman camps, medieval castles and the remains of our industrial past. Within the National Park there are archaeological sites of local, regional, national and international significance, including 358 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (as of October 2015) and eight landscapes on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales that are wholly or partly within the Park boundary. Many of the Scheduled Ancient Monuments are exceptionally well preserved, surviving as visible features in the landscape.
75. The National Park is home to a wide range of impressive and important architecture, from fine rural buildings to historic townscapes. There are 1,950 Listed Buildings in the Park, 17 Registered Parks and Gardens and 4 Conservation Areas. The heritage of the National Park has survived for many hundreds or thousands of years; it is a valuable but finite resource, which needs to be carefully managed and conserved to ensure that it survives for future generations to enjoy. The National Park Authority plays a key role in understanding, managing and conserving the cultural heritage of the Park, working in partnership with Cadw, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts (WAT).
76. The long-term monitoring and exchange of data through joined up survey, investigation and analysis will benefit the historic environment. The important economic benefits of a cherished historic environment needs to be highlighted to visitors as well as potential adverse impacts on the environment. This can be achieved through a programme of literature, panels and events working in partnership with the organisations identified above.
77. Other designations recognise the importance of the landscapes in and around the National Park. The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape was inscribed as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site (WHS) in November 2000. As noted by UNESCO, "the area around Blaenavon is evidence of the pre-eminence of South Wales as the world's major producer of iron and coal in the 19th century. All the necessary elements can still be seen - coal and ore mines, quarries, a primitive railway system, furnaces, workers' homes, and the social infrastructure of their community". The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and its surrounding area is one of the most significant examples of industrial growth during and after the Industrial Revolution. For this reason, it serves as an exemplar and gateway to the wider Heads of the Valleys area, which collectively fuelled the fires of development for Great Britain and the international community during this era.

78. The visitor economy plays an important role in the understanding of society's connection to geodiversity resources and processes, without which people are likely to lose sight of their importance and, in turn, damage or destroy them.
79. 'Managing Change Together' identified the key elements requiring management for Theme 1 as:
- Landscape
 - Farming
 - Historic Environment (Built and Archaeological environment)
 - Geodiversity
 - Woodlands

CASE STUDY

Brecon Beacons Young Archaeologists Club

The Brecon Beacons Young Archaeologists' Club provides opportunities for children and young people aged 8-16 to engage with the archaeology and heritage of the National Park, and beyond. The Club aims to inspire and excite its young members, and to empower them to help shape its future. During 2014 the Club investigated the life of local soldiers fighting in the First World War; explored the forgotten lime heritage of the National Park; scaled the heights of Pen-y-Crug hillfort to learn about the life of our Iron Age ancestors; and took part in its first archaeological excavation (an opportunity that isn't often available to under 16s).

The Club is run by a group of 10 leaders under the overall management of the National Park Authority's Heritage Officer, all of whom give their time to the Club on a voluntary basis. The Club's membership currently stands at over 30, and is growing. The membership is drawn from a large geographic area, from Herefordshire in the east, as far West as Lampeter, from the Heads of the Valleys in the south and Builth Wells in the north. The Club attracts members from a wide range of backgrounds, including those not in main stream education and children with learning difficulties or other special educational needs.



How progress will be reported against Management Plan actions

80. The State of the Park Report records data under each of the six Management Plan themes and demonstrates trends that indicate how well the Management Plan is being delivered. Using the indicators identified in the table below this theme is currently in 'good' condition. The current indicators report on the success factors decided for the theme.

Indicator (State of the Park Report)	Trends/Direction
Landscape Character Assessment.	Maintaining and where possible improving each of the 15 landscape character areas.
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and Listed Buildings (LBs) at Risk.	Improving the condition of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and reducing the number of Listed Buildings at risk.
Condition of Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites.	Improving the condition of Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites.



Actions Theme I

Managing Park Landscapes to Maximise Conservation and Public Benefits

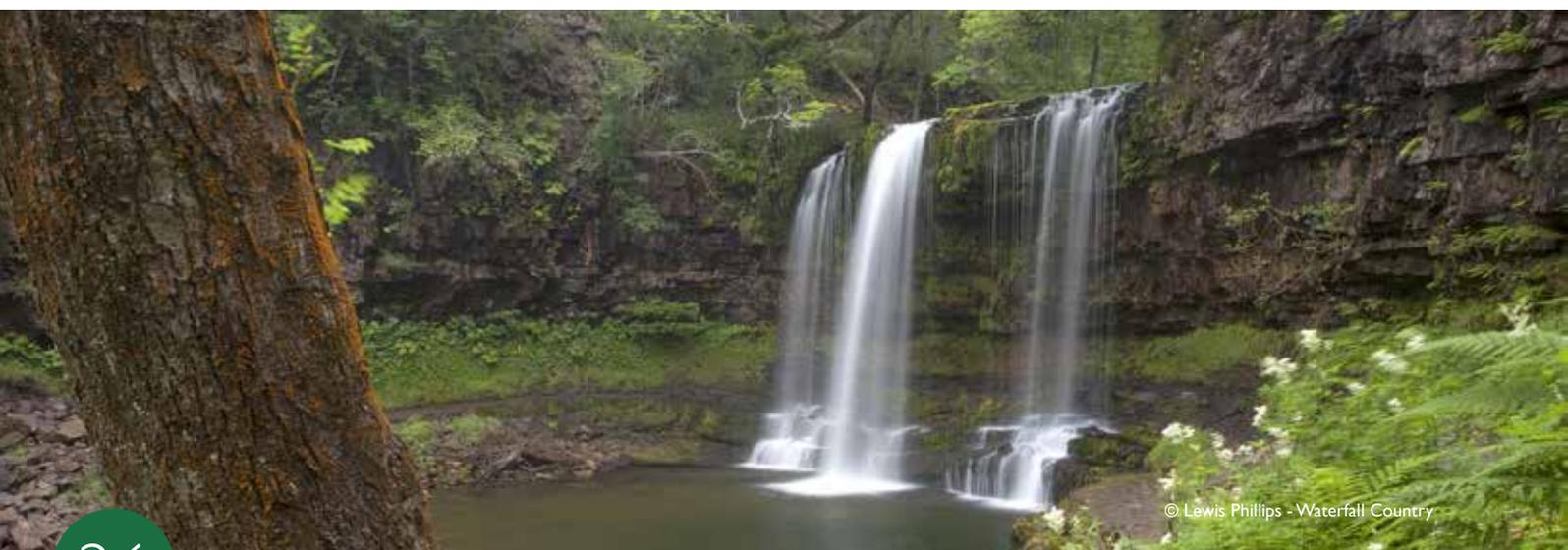
81. The following list provides specific actions required to deliver the aims and objectives. A more detailed table is located at Appendix 3 which describes lead partners and how the action will be achieved.

1: Research, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
2: Conserve and enhance archaeology.
3: Conserve Buildings at Risk.
4: Develop a monitoring framework for Heritage Sites at Risk.
5: Produce guidance for built heritage.
6: Organise a biennial Heritage Day.
7: Develop a Heritage Strategy.
9: Provide public benefits in the countryside through farming.
10: Attract new investment to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
11: Increase public recognition of the value of farming to achieving the Park's purposes.
12: Deliver the Rural Development Plan and promote benefits of high nature value farming.
13: Educate farmers and public officials about the issues facing the future of farming.
14: Develop codes of conduct for priority activities.
15: Review Rights of Way Improvement Plan and the Upland Erosion Strategy.
16: Prioritise and plan management of the four focal areas.
17: Plan and undertake conservation work on sites of geological importance.
18: Manage Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Areas of Conservation (SSSI/SAC) with geological importance to ensure their favourable conservation status.
19: Implement a variety of education, information and interpretation strategies.
20: Deliver the environmental education programme.
21: Enhance the visitor experience of the Parks wildlife, farming, landscape and environment.
22: Expand native woodlands.
23: Maintain forests.
24: Restore internationally recognised habitats.
25: Practice continuous cover forestry techniques.
26: Facilitate community woodland agreements.

2.2 Theme 2 – Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity

Background

82. Biodiversity encompasses the whole range of living organisms, living together in a variety of diverse, dynamic and interrelated ecosystems ranging from simple to highly complex. The value of ecosystems – both their living and non-living elements - is becoming increasingly apparent as humans discover the fundamental importance in the provision of the services ecosystems provide and on which all life depends.
83. Further to the intrinsic value it holds the natural world provides enjoyment, inspiration and spiritual benefits essential to our physical and mental well-being. National Park managers conserve and enhance our biological resources. National and international policies, such as the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Bill, ensure that biodiversity and managing resources sustainably are prime considerations across all sectors of National Park management.
84. Old Red Sandstone and Carboniferous Limestone cliffs support trees and other plants as well as arctic-alpine species and communities often at their southern limit. Due to the Carboniferous Limestone and often calcareous Old Red Sandstone underlying extensive tracts of upland, the Brecon Beacons is particularly rich in habitats which support many uncommon or geographically restricted species. Headline features include:
- at least 70% of Wales' Limestone Pavement;
 - southern-most areas of blanket bog in Britain;
 - geographically restricted species on limestone cliffs and ledges;
 - southernmost breeding populations of Golden Plover in UK – there are also breeding populations of Red Grouse;
 - largest breeding population of Lesser Horseshoe Bat in western Europe;
 - largest population of Red Deer in Wales;
 - deepest and largest cave system in the UK;
 - largest concentration of waterfalls and humid temperate rainforest in UK
85. Habitat loss and degradation is one of the most important issues facing those tasked with conserving and enhancing biodiversity. Eroding peat bog is a particular feature of the National Park with the largest concentration of this degraded habitat in Wales. Reversing this is an important contribution to mitigating the effects of climate change through land management. When we convert wild areas to use for agriculture, forestry, urban development or water, it usually stops them being a habitat for other species. Climate change increases habitat decline and fragmentation, and the arrival of invasive non-native species further undermines ecological resilience.



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Delivering Wales' Needs

86. The National Park Authority is a signatory to the Sustainable Development Charter and 'Early Adopters' of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Sustainability is at the heart of the Management Plan. The Local Development Plan was prepared using an environmental capacity approach to sustainable development and addresses land use planning for the National Park. The Local Development Plan has two fundamental principles:
- Maintaining and enhancing the National Park's natural resources and ecosystem services in accordance with Strategic Policy 1 (National Park Policy) and Strategic Policy 3 (Environmental Protection).
 - Providing opportunities for our communities to become more self-sufficient in terms of both fuel and food production, in line with Spatial Policy E LPI.
87. Biodiversity provides numerous benefits to the National Park. Agriculture relies on soil formation, nutrients, water flow and pollination. The uplands play a significant role in water storage, quality and release, providing a natural defence against both drought and flood. As long as they are free from the effects of heavy grazing, upland peat bogs store carbon and combat atmospheric pollution and illegal fires. They capture atmospheric carbon which helps mitigate the effects of climate change. Improved biodiversity enhances enjoyment and recreational opportunities. All of these services contribute to the social and economic well-being of the Park.
88. Limited resources are available to directly conserve the Park's biodiversity. Increasingly we are turning to the visitor economy to find innovative solutions to environmental challenges. Investing in education and interpretation aimed at preventing biodiversity loss not only enriches the visitor experience but also improves the knowledge of natural processes which increases the opportunities to develop innovative solutions.

CASE STUDY

Black Mountains Land Use Partnership

The partnership brings together key representatives and landowners from the Black Mountain Graziers Association and farming community, the National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales, Glanusk Estate, Natural England, Welsh Water, Tregoyd Estate, Bal Mawr/Bal Bach Estate, Duke of Beaufort Estate, Michaelchurch Estate and Ffawyddog Estate to agree on the decision making and future management of the Black Mountains. The newly formed partnership will provide the driving force behind the restoration and sustainable management of the iconic and protected area.



Challenges

89. 'Managing Change Together 2010-2015' describes how we proposed to take forward a landscape-scale approach to conservation in the National Park. Such an approach requires the co-operation of all of the National Park's partners to make sure that the needs of individual species and habitats are met. At the same time, managers can take a broader view of each habitat's position in the landscape, their relationships and interconnectedness. Partners will work on a Local Biodiversity Action Plan for the Park which will link Biodiversity Action Plans which cross the Park's boundary when it is appropriate to do so.
90. One of the current major issues is the fall-out from *Phytophthora ramorum*, a fungus like disease which attacks trees and other plants but not animals or people. The disease has spread from the South towards mid/North Wales unexpectedly quickly, larch trees are particularly prone to infection and many larch plantations become infected¹⁵. Felling of infected Larch has already taken place at Afan Forest Park in South Wales and at the Natural Resources Wales' visitor centre site at Garwnant in the National Park, as well as other forestry plantations. See the Natural Resource Wales website for guidance and details.
91. In 2011 the UK wide National Ecosystem Assessment¹⁶ published a variety of key findings about the state of the natural environment in the UK. It included six key messages, which can be found in Appendix 4. The assessment raises two key issues. First, habitats are being converted into intensive farmland and agricultural use. Secondly, the natural world is consistently undervalued in conventional economic analyses and decision making. In Wales, enclosed farmland is vital for food production, recreation and cultural benefits but it imposes important disadvantages in terms of emissions of greenhouse gases, water pollution and losses of wild habitat. Suitable space for wildlife is ever scarcer and we are not doing enough to mitigate negative impacts.

How progress will be reported against Management Plan actions

92. The State of the Park Report records data under each of the six Management Plan themes and demonstrates trends that indicate how well the Management Plan is being delivered. Using the indicators identified in the table below, it currently identifies this theme as being in 'good' condition.

Indicator (State of the Park Report)	Trends/Direction
Condition of Biological Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Increase the percentage and area of biological features that are in a favourable condition.
Water Quality.	Improve water quality so that all relevant water bodies in the Park are classified as being in 'good' condition.
Phase I Habitat Data.	Manage and identify habitat trends.

93. The Plan aims to develop community based projects such as volunteer activities targeted at delivering local actions, as well as larger strategic partnerships. A key aim is to research and monitor the populations of particular species and habitats. This will help establish what is happening to them over time and the impact of any interventions made to try and improve their ecological condition. It also aims to raise awareness and understanding of the Park's biodiversity for both residents and visitors. An example of a community based project is the Mynydd Du Glastir Commons Work (See Mynydd Du – Glastir case study).

CASE STUDY

Mynydd Du - Glastir

The Park Authority has collaborated with the Mynydd Du graziers for a long time under the Meithrin Mynydd partnership. Most recently this has borne fruit through assisting graziers, Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government Glastir Contract Officers to identify several “Glastir Commons” for which separate Glastir Commons Associations have been established.

The Park Authority has helped to delineate project areas on the ground, undertake initial habitat condition assessments, identify useful landscape and habitat restoration projects, including restoration of sheep folds, undertaking controlled heather and *Molinia* burning, heather seed harvesting, bracken control and bare peat protection works. This work helps to restore formerly over-grazed or poorly managed habitats, which protect biodiversity, improve carbon storage and sequestration and grazing quality for livestock. In turn this helps to maintain livelihoods and enhance the special qualities of the mountain.



Actions Theme 2 – Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity

94. The following list provides specific actions required to deliver the aims and objectives. A more detailed table is located at Appendix 3 which describes lead partners and how the action will be achieved.

27: Report and promote biodiversity conservation work using the Biodiversity Action Reporting System.
28: Positively influence policies to enhance the rich biodiversity of the Park.
29: Champion an awareness and understanding of biodiversity.
30: Undertake site monitoring work.
31: Develop monitoring of key habitats, soils and water.
32: Develop Research Partnerships.
33: Establish fixed point photography and remote sensing.
34: Ensure biodiversity information is made available.
35: Implement an area-based land management project.
36: Restore and enhance habitat connectivity along river valleys.
37: Manage the Authority's land assets for biodiversity.
38: Implement a living landscapes approach to landscape, habitat and wildlife management.
39: Establish the environmental pollution baselines in the National Park.
40: Prioritise understanding of water and carbon resources management.



2.3 Theme 3 – Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Access and Recreation for the Benefit of Health and Well-being

Background

95. Opportunities for outdoor access and recreation are at the heart of the Park's second purpose. Everyone has the right to enjoy health and well-being benefits from the National Park. The Park contributes directly to the health and well-being of the nation, not only through its inspirational beauty, but also from the wide range of activities the unique landscape enables.
96. The Park offers a wide variety of walking possibilities - both upland and low level - with more than 2,000km of public rights of way offering hidden waterfalls, farmlands, rivers and woodlands. The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal is one of the most visited features in the National Park, linking the Park with regional hubs like Cwmbran and Newport. An objective in Theme 5 is that businesses and land managers along the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal will work together to maximise opportunities for visitors whilst conserving the attractive setting.
97. The Beacons Way, created by the Brecon Beacons Park Society, is a 152km linear walk across the National Park. It provides benefits to the health and well-being of visitors and residents and contributes to the sustainable economic development of communities through supporting local businesses.
98. Many people enjoy quiet contemplation of Park landscapes which they can only find by visiting remote areas. The Park is increasingly used for adventurous activities such as cycling, mountain biking and horse riding. The most popular activities for residents, demonstrated through the Residents' Survey 2013 (see paragraph below), remain 'walks through the lowland' and 'upland walking'. The success of the SPLASH project¹⁷ passport scheme has offered more people than ever access to appropriate areas to enjoy water sports such as the Beacons Reservoir.
99. In 2013, the National Park Authority undertook a Residents' Survey, the resulting data provides a baseline in the State of the Park Report 2014. Indicator 14 of the State of the Park Report relates to health and well-being and uses the results of two data sets from the Residents' Survey to identify what activities Park residents enjoyed doing most, what activities residents undertook in the Park and how often they did them. This information has been used to develop actions for Theme 3. A Visitors' Survey is due to be undertaken in 2016.

Delivering Wales' Needs

100. The National Park provides the setting in which activities that promote health and well-being can take place. These include 'active' benefits such as walking and 'passive' benefits such as enjoying the tranquillity or the inspirational scenery. It also provides the good quality environments that are essential to produce clean air, water and land. The quality of the setting has been recognised internationally with designations such as an International Dark Sky Reserve and Fforest Fawr Geopark status.
101. The work of the Authority offers substantial opportunities to improve health and well-being, from providing the opportunity to volunteer in the Park to ensuring sustainable access to inspirational environments (see case study – Eastern and Central Brecon Beacons Upland Volunteer Group).
102. Good human health depends upon a good quality environment made possible by a flourishing and diverse ecosystem. The three National Park Authorities in Wales are actively engaged in unlocking the health benefits of the countryside to support the good health of people in Wales and beyond. As described in 'Our Health Future'¹⁸ there is a move by public health and social care sectors in Wales to tackle some of the root causes of ill health to deliver health and social care beyond the traditional service models. National Parks have a part to play in the promotion of both physical and mental health.

¹⁷ <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/press-and-news/archive/2013-2/march-2013/minister-makes-a-new-splash-with-funding-announcement/>

¹⁸ Welsh Assembly Government 2009 : Our Health Future : Technical Working Paper

CASE STUDY

Eastern and Central Brecon Beacons Upland Volunteer Group

The Black Mountains Upland Volunteer project was set up in 2012 to help the Authority monitor and maintain the large network of mountain paths. It has been enormously successful and the Authority decided to build on this and to establish further groups in areas under high visitor pressure.

The Eastern and Central Brecon Beacons is the next location for a further project with a group of upland volunteers. On land owned mainly by the Honourable Artillery Company and the Pencelli Estate, volunteers will help the Park Authority undertake practical tasks to maintain the paths such as clearing drains, pitching of loose material and repairing slab and stone work. Volunteers will also be asked to take part in monitoring activities and in promotion by actively engaging with members of the public on the mountains to highlight their work.



103. The three National Park Authorities in Wales are collaborating closely on the preparation of a joint ‘Health and Well-being Action Plan’. The action plan sets out a joint position statement on health and well-being and identifies the following priority actions:
- Raise awareness of the health and well-being benefits and opportunities of the National Park.
 - Maximise opportunities for all people in Wales to access the health and well-being benefits arising from Wales’ National Parks.
104. Census data (2011) tells us that those living in National Parks perceive themselves to be in better health than those living in the rest of the country, yet the average age of residents within National Parks is eleven years higher than in England and Wales as a whole (50 compared to 39). Furthermore the case studies examined for the 2012/2013 Scrutiny Study¹⁹ undertaken by the Authority (*‘Communities are inspired by and recognise the benefits of where they live’*) show that the National Park Authority delivers clear benefits from its services to local people.
105. Contemporary medicine increasingly uses expensive and complex interventions such as surgery and pharmaceuticals for prevention and treatment of many conditions such as obesity, heart disease and cancer. These conditions are often experienced disproportionately by those most disadvantaged by poverty in our society.
106. National Parks and their administrating Agencies play a part in addressing poor health and associated well-being issues. There is much evidence that National Parks play a vital role in health and well-being in two key ways:
- National Parks provide the settings where activities that promote good health and well-being can take place, including ‘active’ benefits such as walking and ‘passive’ benefits such as those gained through enjoying the ‘tranquillity’ or the inspirational scenery.
 - National Parks support good quality environments essential to maintaining clean air, water and land. The role National Parks have in environmental ‘health protection’ relates to maintaining and improving public health.
107. National Parks are ‘health assets’: resources which enable individuals, communities and populations to maintain their health and well-being.

Challenges

108. Activities for outdoor access and recreation require careful management to ensure that the Park’s special qualities are preserved and enhanced and that the purposes and duty of the National Park are met (see case study Offa’s Dyke upland erosion project). The challenge is to maintain the attractiveness of the landscape and protect the special qualities of the areas that people come here to benefit from.
109. Not all activities are sustainable in all areas nor can they be practised with the same level of intensity everywhere. This affects the responsibilities placed on those accessing the Park. People who are out and about enjoying the Park need to take account of their legal responsibilities, follow the Countryside Code and respect the habitats, wildlife and people they encounter. The various individuals and organisations who manage land in the Park need to work together to manage the rights of way and path network for enjoyment of the Park’s special qualities and the benefit of local communities and visitors.
110. With public sector cuts constantly reducing the funds available, managing the rights of way network is a serious challenge. The visitor economy (tourism businesses) could directly benefit the Park by helping to improve the provision of information with regards to public access. It could provide a supporting role in the management of the rights of way network, using external funding to improve public access, improve access to and on water and work constructively with partners to reduce and resolve conflicts.
111. The Management Plan identifies actions in order to manage the public rights of way network and implement the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Continued success in managing rights of way will maintain opportunities for walking, horse riding, cycling and other forms of open air recreation, whilst identifying opportunities to improve access for people with mobility or visual impairment. The Plan aims to improve access to the countryside and provide information on what recreational activities are available.

CASE STUDY

Rights of Way Improvement Grant

The Authority's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP), published in June 2007, is a strategic plan setting out needs, priorities and actions for improving access to the countryside. A requirement of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the responsibility for producing a Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the National Park was delegated to the Authority by those highways authorities within the Park.

Since 2008 the Welsh Government ROWIP Funding Programme (RFP), administered by Natural Resources Wales, has provided each local authority in Wales as well as the Park Authority with an annual grant, partially based on the length of its rights of way network. Since 2008 that grant has funded a variety of projects to improve access including bridges, steps, signage, furniture, surfacing, drainage, upland erosion management and network management. Hundreds of kilometers of rights of way have been improved since 2008.



CASE STUDY

Offa's Dyke Upland Erosion Project

The National Park Authority flew in more than 400 tonnes of crushed stone by helicopter to restore an eroded footpath on Offa's Dyke National Trail in 2014. Within the Park, the Trail lies between Hay-on-Wye in Powys and Pandy in Monmouthshire and is one of the most popular trails used by walkers who visit the area. The material was deposited on Hay Bluff which is 677m (2,220ft) above sea level. The stone was used to improve more than two miles of path - to limit further damage.

The sections of worn and eroded footpath were only accessible by foot or by helicopter, and carrying 400 tonnes of stone on foot was not practical. The crushed stone was selected because of its durability and compatibility with the existing stone along the footpath. Wardens and staff from the National Park Authority were helped by Black Mountains Uplands Volunteers during the operation. Most of the upland area in the Black Mountains is protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its upland habitats so great care was needed while undertaking this work. The area is also important economically for farming and tourism, which brings important income to the area, but clearly there is a cost to ensuring that the resource the visitors value is maintained.

The project was funded by Natural Resources Wales, Natural England and the National Park Authority.



Photo © Chas Breton Photography

How progress will be reported against Management Plan actions

112. The State of the Park Report records data under each of the six Management Plan themes and demonstrates trends that indicate how well the Management Plan is being delivered. Using the indicators identified in the table below, it currently identifies this theme as being in 'good' condition.

Indicator (State of the Park Report)	Trends/Direction
% of Rights of Way that are easy to use.	Make rights of way easier to use.
Erosion on upland paths.	Decrease (manage) upland erosion.
Visitor satisfaction.	Maintain high levels of visitor satisfaction.

Actions Theme 3 – Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Access and Recreation for the benefit of Health and Well-being

113. The following list provides specific actions required to deliver the aims and objectives. A more detailed table is located at Appendix 3 which describes lead partners and how the action will be achieved.

41: Increase awareness of and provision for people with disabilities and easier access requirements.
42: Provide access information in a variety of formats.
43: Communicate information on safety and ecosystems.
44: Maintain access to water.
45: Link promoted routes and public transport.
46: Increase the health and well-being benefit by excluded groups.
47: Develop and maintain access on Wildlife Trust-owned reserves.
48: Maintain the Public Rights of Way network which is easy to use at 65% or above.
49: Continue bringing the Definitive Map and Statement up to date.
50: Review the statutory Rights of Way Improvement Plan.



2.4 Theme 4 - Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park

Background

114. The National Park is a major natural and cultural resource for everyone's well-being. Managing it successfully relies on raising awareness of what is special so people can understand its importance including the benefits it creates, care about it and want to take an active role to manage it in partnership.

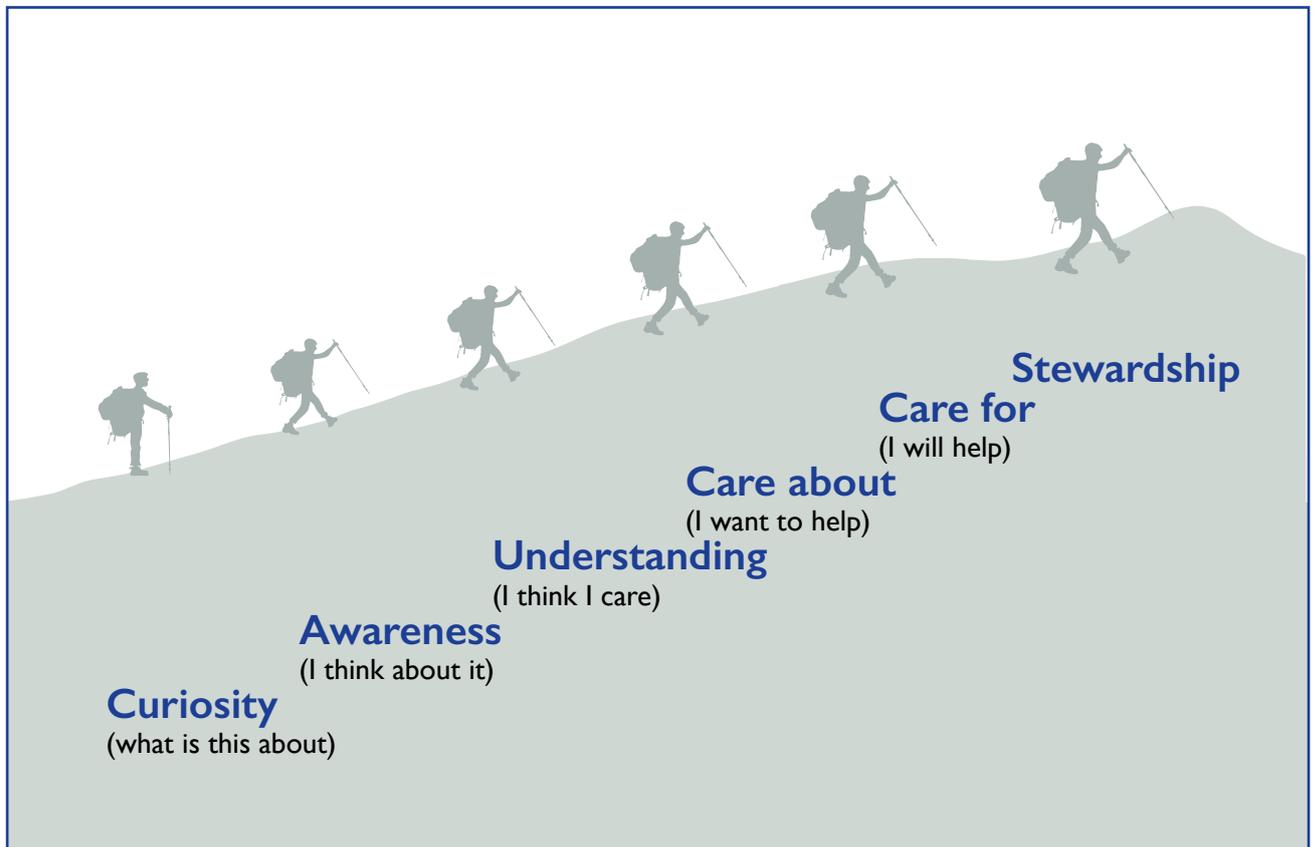


Illustration I: The connections made through interpretative experiences can lead people to take action

115. People connect to National Park landscapes and townscapes through positive and memorable visitor experiences. By working in partnership to provide these experiences and tell the Park's stories we are most likely to be successful in raising awareness understanding and ultimately encouraging more people to behave in a responsible manner and take an active role in managing the Park.
116. Communities and businesses within the National Park play an important role in creating memorable visitor experiences and are well placed to raise awareness and understanding of the area.
117. The National Park Authority provides learning experiences that support the statutory purposes of the National Park, working within the Welsh curriculum (see case study Ambassador School). School age children are offered courses at various outdoor education centres and sites within the Park. These centres provide jobs for local people thus supporting the rural economy. In addition, a large number of outdoor providers who are not based in the Park bring groups in to use the National Park for their businesses/learning.
118. National Park Authority education staff and their partners also provide services to schools, colleges, outdoor education centres, public organisations, home educators, universities, youth groups, adult learners and others.

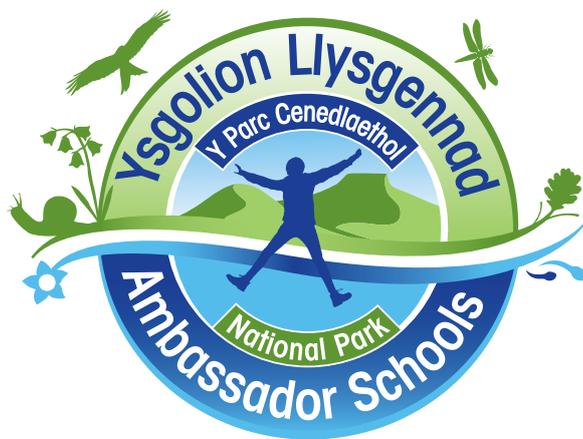
CASE STUDY

National Park Schools Ambassadors

Working in partnership with local primary school teachers, the National Park Authority Education Service has developed new resources for teachers to use out and about in the Park. The new lessons are based around encouraging children and their teachers to develop confidence in learning outdoors.

The lessons are carefully planned to meet curriculum requirements and will support Eco Schools, Healthy Schools and the participation of the John Muir Award scheme. Crickhowell Community Primary, Talgarth Community Primary and Mount Street Junior Schools are already up and running with the scheme.

Please view their short film on our website www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/learning to find out more about the National Park Ambassador Schools.



Delivering Wales' Needs

119. Raising awareness and understanding of the Park contributes to delivering a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Awareness and understanding encourages participation in cultural, sporting and recreational activities in the Park. It encourages take up of access opportunities outlined in Theme 3, contributing to a healthier Wales, while also delivering a Wales of more vibrant culture – a goal of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.
120. The National Park Authority's Education Service works with partners across the Park. The team delivers outdoor learning in line with national curriculum policy. Providing unique, Park-focused learning experiences will improve understanding of some of the factors involved in managing the landscape among a population who will become future stewards of the landscape in general and this National Park in particular.
121. The facilities, information and interpretation used to enhance peoples' experiences of the Park will exceed their expectations. A full range of interpretation, education and communication tools will be used. An example is the International Dark Sky Reserve status and the observatory at the Mountain Centre. These are assets which can raise awareness and understanding of the National Park's night skies.
122. Educating and involving the public, both adults and school groups, is an important aspect of the National Park Authority's work. There are many organisations within and around the National Park that offer educational opportunities for a wide variety of audiences. Natural Resources Wales, for example, delivers educational programmes and materials to audiences ranging from primary school groups to adults.

123. Over 150 volunteers work with the Authority and in 2014/15 the National Park Authority benefited from over 10,000 hours of volunteer time. Volunteers do invaluable work across the National Park on a variety of activities often working with wardens on site-based work and at the Visitor Centres and Craig-y-nos Country Park. Volunteers work with a variety of organisations. For example, the Brecon Beacons Park Society's Guided Walks Programme offers more than 200 volunteer led walks per year and directly supports the Park's Second Purpose and the Park Society's work on the Welsh Government's Legislation Programme, directly supports the First Purpose. These two activities are managed independently of the National Park but contribute at least 4,500 hours annually to National Park Purposes. There are significant benefits for the volunteers themselves - including health benefits that come with working in protected landscapes, learning and discovering new skills, developing social networks with like-minded people, and simply the feeling of 'giving something back' to nature and/or their community, often leading to a sense of well-being.
124. The National Park Authority's Social Inclusion and Child Poverty Strategy delivers a range of initiatives designed to address barriers facing excluded individuals, groups and families. These initiatives offer previously excluded people the chance to gain awareness and understanding of the resources the Park offers them and the chance to participate in cultural activities and recreation in the Park (see Case Study – Inspironment).
125. The National Park Authority works collaboratively and supports locally led delivery (for example through the Sustainable Development Fund). Further to supporting individual projects, the Sustainable Development Fund has funded a National Park Authority Marquee which is loaned to communities across the Park for shows and events, supporting the continuation of local traditions (see Case Study below – Community Marquee). The Sustainable Development Fund supports the Welsh Language and participants must demonstrate their commitment to delivering their project bilingually when applying.

CASE STUDY

Inspironment



The project focuses on addressing the barriers which prevent disadvantaged communities from visiting and gaining inspiration and benefit from the good quality environment the Park offers. It builds on the feedback from previous inclusion programmes and from the National Park Authority's consultation on Social Inclusion. Inspironment delivers training to familiarise community leaders with the National Park and how they can get the most out of it for their group's health and well-being needs. Leaders then make return visits with their groups. Inspironment's action research approach is designed to measure the different health and wellbeing benefits delivered. Groups from the Valleys areas to the south of the National Park with both physical and mental health and well-being issues have taken part, including: Torfaen & Blaenau Gwent Social Services, Hafal, SANDS, Kaleidoscope, Change Step, Young Carers and Aneurin Bevan Health Board.



CASE STUDY

Community Marquee – Supported by the National Park Authority Sustainable Development Fund

The Community Marquee has supported 16 events across the National Park since April 2015.

Events have included a selection of local shows, such as Llanfrynach, Gwynfe, Ystradowen, Groesffordd and Llangattock allotment and charities, such as Lluest Horse & Pony Trust, Big Skill, events, such as Promfest, Geopark Fest, Stargazing and Hay Renewables.

The Community marquee proves itself invaluable to many local events. Current hire charges for the equivalent size marquee are in the region of £400 - £600. Many small events unable to afford commercial marquee charges would not continue without the scheme. Feedback from groups using the marquee identified;

- 60% would not be able to run their event without the availability of the marquee.
- An average of 16 volunteers support each event.
- An average of 224 volunteer hours go into each event.

The community marquee supports the network of local community events and enables the continuation of smaller traditional events by reducing their event expenditure.

Local events support local producers, businesses and their products. Through the community marquee communities benefit from reduced spend on organising such events. Shows and events stimulate the local economy by attracting residents and visitors.



Challenges

- 126.** Continuing the delivery of high quality, coordinated information, interpretation and education is vital in encouraging opportunities for enjoyment. It enables people to make the most of the benefits the Park has to offer while keeping themselves safe and engaging with stories that encourage positive behavioural change.
- 127.** The Management Plan sets out actions which aim to:
- Coordinate resources to improve awareness and understanding of, and benefit from, the National Park.
 - Enable tourism operators to deliver a service to visitors that exceeds their expectations. For example offering training courses to tourism businesses such as the Park Ambassador Scheme or star gazing for businesses which leads to enhanced visitor experiences.
 - Promote and develop a sense of shared responsibility for the National Park and its relevant statutory designations, the European designated Fforest Fawr Geopark and the International Dark Sky Reserve.
 - Develop a coordinated approach for providing information and interpretation to visitors and residents.
 - Develop innovative ways of engaging and interacting with visitors and residents including those excluded by actual or perceived barriers.
- 128.** Achievements so far include the National Park Authority's work with school teachers to help deliver modules on the Park, the Park Ambassador Scheme including Ambassador Schools, the Green Valleys Initiative (which encourages the development of carbon neutral, financially secure and sustainable communities by promoting hydro power and community managed woodlands and allotments), using the results of the resident's survey in 2013 to influence policy and developing the research network. Interpretation, information and education are essential tools for encouraging the public to maximise the opportunities for enjoyment
- 129.** Tourism operators and the wider visitor economy are able to enhance visitor experiences and provide a first class welcome. The provision of high quality experiences can promote awareness and understanding, which could encourage positive behaviour in relation to conservation, for example.
- 130.** The provision of orientation and visitor focused information at appropriate locations is a key component of the visitor experience. It can enhance a visit and encourage visitors to explore more widely, thus encouraging longer stays and higher spending which benefits the local economy. The National Park Authority and tourism operators will work together to increase awareness of environmental sensitivity and sustainability issues, provide a range of information on the National Park, its recreational opportunities and its special qualities.
- 131.** Interpretation is delivered by a wide variety of statutory bodies, charities, organisations, communities, clubs and societies. By working together the Authority and its partners can create a high quality, seamless visitor experience that raises awareness of the area's special qualities.



CASE STUDY

Romans in Carmarthenshire - making our heritage accessible

The challenge was to make the earthworks at Y Pigwn physically, but more importantly intellectually, accessible to a wider range of visitors. The project has meant that you can take a tour of the Roman Marching camp at Y Pigwn with the aid of CGI animations, listen to a first-hand account of Roman life while following an audio trail, and take a guided tour of earthworks with a GPS App on your smartphone. These projects were developed as part of the 'Romans in Carmarthenshire' partnership project, which aimed to improve the visitor experience and encourage visitors to 'follow the story' to other Roman visitor attractions in Carmarthenshire, as part of the Cadw Pan Wales Interpretation Plan.

The project is a partnership between the lead body National Trust Wales, Carmarthenshire County Council and the National Park Authority. It has improved the visitor experience at Y Pigwn, Garn Goch, Dolaucothi goldmines, Carmarthen Museum and Amphitheatre. It is funded through the Heritage Tourism Project managed by Cadw, which is backed by the European Regional Development Fund. The Heritage Tourism Project aims to maximise the economic value of Wales's outstanding heritage and to open it up to a wider audience by making it more enjoyable. Match funding is also provided by Fforest Fawr Geopark and National Grid. As part of this project, a further project was developed called 'Walking with Romans' which aims to encourage new visitors to a remote Roman Marching Camp and Fortlet in the Park. The project won a 2015 Discover Heritage award for excellence in interpretation of cultural and natural heritage.



How progress will be reported against Management Plan targets

132. The State of the Park Report records data under each of the six Management Plan themes and demonstrates trends that indicate how well the Management Plan is being delivered. The new indicators identified in the table below currently identifies this theme as being in 'fair' condition.

Indicator (State of the Park Report)	Trends/Direction
Number of Outdoor Education Centres.	Monitor the number of Outdoor education centres.
Number of settlements benefitting from interpretation and/or information panels.	An increase in number and quality of community interpretation.
Ratio of staying visitors and day visitors.	Increase the number of staying visitors.

CASE STUDY

Maen Llia - Raising Awareness of our Heritage

Following defacement of this Scheduled Ancient Monument the National Park Authority wanted to raise awareness and appreciation of Maen Llia, the largest and possibly best known standing stone in the National Park.

We can't be sure of the purpose of the stone so the interpretation panel aims to present a number of theories to inspire the reader to come to their own conclusions. The innovative design for this interpretation panel echos the physical shape and ethereal nature of the Standing stone whilst also sensitively fitting within the wild and bleak landscape setting.



© Matt Botwood - Maen Llia

Actions Theme 4 - Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park

133. The following list provides specific actions required to deliver the aims and objectives. A more detailed table is located at Appendix 3 which describes lead partners and how the action will be achieved.

51: Educate the educators.
52: Increase opportunities for volunteering.
53: Increase opportunities for excluded groups to derive health and well-being benefits.
54: Monitor and evaluate the health and well-being benefits of accessing the Park.
55: Create memorable visitor experiences.
56: Raise awareness of and contributions to decision making and delivery of actions by minority and ethnic sectors.
57: Provide training and development for businesses and information providers.
58: Deliver an attractive destination website and social media presence.
59: Support communities in telling their stories.
60: Encourage and promote sustainable uses.
61: Interpret climate change and encourage behavioural change.
62: Engage with local communities regarding climate change.
63: Improve visitor confidence.
64: Develop Education efforts to achieve the 'Wales We Want' and curriculum targets.
65: Undertake a review of earth science research.
66: Promote links to tertiary educational bodies with earth sciences interest.



Y Pigwn Orientation and Interpretation Panel

2.5 Theme 5 - Building and Maintaining Sustainable Communities, Towns and Villages

Background

134. The National Park is designated for its landscape quality. It is an area where the interaction of people and nature over time has created a distinctive character with significant aesthetic, ecological and cultural value. National Parks are living landscapes where people have lived, worked and farmed over many generations and National Park Authorities have a duty to foster the economic and social well-being of their local communities.
135. The Park is home to approximately 33,000 people and has a strong Welsh heritage along with a rich economic, social and cultural life. The largest settlement within the boundaries of the Park is the cathedral town of Brecon. Together with Brecon, the settlements of Crickhowell, Gilwern, Hay-on-Wye and Talgarth account for approximately 46% of the Park's inhabitants. Other larger settlements like Abergavenny, Merthyr Tydfil, Llandeilo and Llandovery lie on the border and are gateways in to the Park.
136. Living in a striking landscape such as the National Park conveys considerable positive benefits for well-being, for example clean air, opportunities to see the stars at night, an abundant array of biodiversity and access via a wide range of upland and lowland paths. There are also business opportunities from the considerable numbers of visitors who specifically come to this protected area to enjoy recreational activities.
137. Farming, the community and the landscape are all interdependent. The challenge is to maintain a viable farming community to ensure the protection of the traditional landscape whilst meeting the growing demands imposed by food security (the state of having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food). As mentioned in the report "Sustainable Farming and Environment: Action Towards 2020," the need for change is easy to recognise but harder to deliver. Nevertheless, the need for sensitive land management by and for the local farming community must be a priority, as is the requirement to establish new links and roles with local communities and economic development.
138. The National Park Authority is the Local Planning Authority for all the communities within the National Park boundary and adopted its Local Development Plan in December 2013. The Local Development Plan identifies the need to work with Community and Town Council's to produce a series of community, village or town plans to aid its delivery at the local level.
139. A Place Plan is a place-based action plan derived through comprehensive engagement by and with community groups. The plan is intended to ensure the future well-being of the community and on completion will become a statement of how a community sees itself working towards sustainable development; it has a wider focus than land use planning alone. A plan could be wide ranging in its ambition, covering energy (efficiency, generation and purchasing), local food growing, leisure and recreation, local biodiversity and landscape management, community facilities and/or transport.
140. While National Parks across Britain have an older population age structure than the national average for England and Wales, the Brecon Beacons National Park is unique in having the largest percentage increase of 15 to 29 year-olds (9.0%) of any National Park in England and Wales. This has implications for the current and future provision of infrastructure, for example care, schools, housing and job opportunities. So it is vitally important that these implications are reflected in the policies of the local authorities tasked with planning for people's well-being. It is equally important that the landscapes providing people's ecosystem services are cared for properly to ensure their continued prosperity and well-being.

CASE STUDY

Community Planning – Place Plans

Place Plans are a means of a community coming together to decide on what people want to maintain, improve or achieve in their areas. The end result of a Place Plan is usually an action plan that sets out how the community intends to maintain or make improvements to the local area. The actions may be for the community to do or with a partner. The number of communities with an adopted Place Plan will be a good indicator of commitment to social resilience in the National Park because getting as far as an agreed community plan is itself indicative of the ability and willingness to do things differently and act collaboratively. A Place Plan pilot project is currently being taken forward with Hay-on-Wye Town Council. It is proposed that the National Park Authority will assist with setting up more Place Plans. An update on the outcomes from this will be provided in future iterations of the State of the Park Report.



Hay Greengrocers

Delivering Wales' Needs

141. The Local Development Plan is the land use planning tool to deliver the aspirations of the Management Plan²⁰. It directly addresses issues of sustainable growth and jobs which are essential to the delivery of local needs, including promoting the natural growth of rural villages to support community vitality and quality of life. It also identifies the need for local employment opportunities, links this with housing provision and the requirement to provide a mix of dwelling types, in particular to provide affordable housing. Supplementary Planning Guidance on Affordable Housing was adopted by the National Park Authority in September 2014. By establishing requirements for contributions to affordable housing, it reinforces the Authority's contribution to the affordable housing need set by Unitary Authorities.
142. The Local Development Plan identified an appropriate site for travellers, which respected the interests of the existing community.
143. The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF), through the provision of Development Officer support and advice and allocation of grants to locally led projects facilitates community resilience. SDF levers substantial resources into the area, for example in 2014/2015 each £1 of SDF grant attracted nearly £3 of external funding. SDF is often acting as 'seedcorn funding', supporting development of a pilot project which then attracts bigger external funds, for example Myddfai attracted £435k Lottery Village SOS funds, following an initial SDF support grant.
144. Sustainable tourism can be used to create a real sense of place in communities and facilitate community development. The Fforest Fawr Geopark, for example, provides a shared identity for communities to the west of the Park. The National Park Authority conserves cultural heritage in many ways, for example through the SDF which has awarded grant funding for cultural projects as well as energy efficiency and other types of project.
145. The visitor economy can take full advantage of the Park's culture and traditions to promote cultural heritage as an attraction which supports the lives and livelihoods of the people who work here, creating a richer experience for all. This can be done through developing an understanding of the value of the intangible aspects of cultural heritage. Social history and local culture are ever-changing facets of this heritage. The National Park Authority and partner organisations within the tourism sector can identify where traditions and culture still play an active and valuable role in modern life. The aim is to enable local communities to identify, record and share local history and culture.
146. It is an objective of the Management Plan that in the next twenty years, the National Park will be home to increasingly self-sufficient communities that, amongst other achievements, have increased the amount and quality of locally produced food, generated a high proportion of their energy needs from renewable sources, implemented highly efficient building designs, developed sustainable and effective means of meeting transport needs and have enhanced biodiversity. Tourism and the visitor economy are well placed to support this objective through enhancing local production and supply chains and building resilience to climate change and fossil fuel depletion. Partnership working, particularly between the National Park Authority and Unitary Authorities, will be necessary to develop and market services with the needs of visitors in mind to provide transport to those attractions and outdoor activity locations that would especially benefit.
147. Organisations involved in the visitor economy can play a major role in developing sustainable travel marketing and working with transport generators on Green Travel Plans. It is essential that any mechanism is attractively and consistently marketed to the visiting public with a view to educating and persuading the use of non-polluting modes of transport.
148. Together with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and Torfaen County Borough Council, the National Park Authority successfully applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund to provide 12 year-long salaried conservation traineeships for each of the next three years 2014-2017, which equate to 36 in total (see Heritage Lottery Fund case study in Theme 6).

149. The following projects are either proposed or underway to open up the National Park to the neighbouring communities of the South Wales Valleys:

- Linking tourism projects in the Valleys Regional Park with opportunities for access into the National Park through information and signage. The National Park Authority has also supported projects and attended events to promote the opportunities for recreation to Valleys communities.
- Working with the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership, increasing access opportunities and linkages through all the local authority areas. In particular linkages have been developed between the countryside sections across Monmouthshire County Council, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and the National Park Authority to make sure there are good linked routes with standardised signage.
- Heads of the Valleys road widening scheme: On balance we believe that the scheme itself will improve road access. Also, pre and during construction we have improved links from Brynmawr to Clydach Gorge and carried out community consultations to make sure we get this right for local residents. We are also involved in interpretation projects which will highlight opportunities for recreation.
- Physical access improvements have been completed on the Brynore tramroad, we have improved access around Penderyn and there have also been a number of projects undertaken throughout Waterfall Country.
- Sport Wales are funding a Geocaching Project to help address non-physical barriers to the Park (including information provision and improving perceptions) focusing on young people from areas of deprivation and low levels of sport participation in four Unitary Authorities in the Valleys: Blaenau Gwent, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Torfaen and Merthyr Tydfil.

150. The Welsh Government has identified social inclusion and the eradication of poverty as essential factors in improving the health of the Welsh population. Social inclusion is an integral part of social policy development including that of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The three Welsh National Parks have prepared a joint Social Inclusion and Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan (2014-16)²¹. It states:

'To promote social inclusion in the exercise of their purposes, duty and delivery of services, the Welsh National Parks will:

- Adopt a cross-cutting theme across all National Park Authority activities that recognises the complex and multi-dimensional nature of social exclusion, and seeks to promote social inclusion in all the National Park Authority's work.
- Foster the economic and social well-being of local communities and seek to reduce social exclusion due to poverty, lack of employment, lack of services, poor health, disability, lack of education, psychological and cultural barriers, lack of access to a high quality natural environment, or other disadvantage and work specifically with excluded groups and with partner organisations to these ends;
- Broaden access for the wider community of people of Wales, the UK and beyond, who may be excluded from the understanding or enjoyment of the special qualities of the Parks as a result of the barriers listed above'.

151. One project - National Park Champions - aims to develop 'Champions' from among leaders of child focused organisations. This is a social inclusion project developed for the National Park to meet the agenda and priorities for children and families in poverty (see case study – National Park Champions).

CASE STUDY

National Park Champions

The National Park Champions project (supported by National Resources Wales) develops, among leaders of child focused organisations, 'Champions' for what the National Park can offer in meeting the agenda and priorities for children and families in poverty.

The project:

- Increases individuals' skills, enabling them to be inspirational figures in their groups.
- Supports the delivery of replicable low cost activities.
- Promotes the benefits the National Park offers to groups.
- Improves involvement of financially disadvantaged children in outdoor learning and activity.

Key to the project is recruitment of four 'Champions' from a previous programme, supported with additional National Award training to become project Peer Mentors - enabling peer to peer transmission of information. Evaluation discussion with participants revealed:

- 100% stated they had learnt at least one new activity that would be appropriate to their group and at least one new 'place or area of interest' for their group to visit with little or no cost implications.
- 100% thought their training and activities in the National Park would be beneficial to their group.

Sixteen different groups participated, including four Youth Services, Housing Associations, mental health groups, complementary education, domestic abuse support, carers groups and leaving care teams.



Challenges

152. There are challenges to maintaining balanced and vibrant communities in the Park. Challenges facing Park residents include high house prices, low wages, an aging population but also with relatively high growth in the age category 15-29, restricted job opportunities and inconsistent, often poor access to services. A high priority for most resident communities is the provision of affordable, local-needs housing. There is also a role for the Local Development Plan with its integrated policies for new housing allocations, affordable housing and employment land requirements. It includes policies for the use of planning obligations which can contribute to environmental, social and sustainable economic initiatives as long as they are compatible with the National Park designation.
153. The State of the Park Report uses Census data, and the latest employment figures show farming to be in steady decline with only 5.9% of total employment in the National Park (Census 2011).
154. The development of a shared identity is the basis of a sense of community. Community-led planning should encourage the vitality and viability of the National Park's communities, towns and villages with sustainable development as the end result. The Welsh Government's vision for the National Parks of Wales encourages National Park Authorities to work closely with their communities to explore new and innovative ways to live.
155. Within the Park there are high domestic heating and energy costs, especially the high reliance on oil and gas. Private transport is necessary for most journeys to and within the National Park, for both residents and visitors. The Park is particularly dependent on road transport for both people and goods. There are no railway stations within the Park's boundaries (although several serve its periphery), and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal is restricted to pleasure use. Cycling and horse riding are primarily recreational activities, and public transport is inadequate to serve most needs.
156. The Authority is concerned with transport issues because of the very high impact they have not only in terms of carbon footprint, but also in terms of the provision of parking and visitor numbers on local communities etc. However the Authority's influence in this area is limited as it is not the Highway Authority for the Park. The relevant powers and resources rest with the National Assembly and Highway Authorities. Nevertheless these bodies are expected to have regard to National Park purposes and ensure mutual cooperation across Park boundaries, particularly in planning and highway matters.
157. The National Park Authority works in partnership with the constituent Highway Authorities. If it is appropriate to do so, when a planning application is received the Authority's planners will negotiate S106 payments to be spent on necessary highways improvements. The Authority only coordinates work for this; the main burden for the delivery of sustainable transport is with the Local Authorities and Welsh Government. It is essential (especially since the highways through the National Park cross many administrative boundaries) and a requirement of the Active Travel Act, that public bodies work together toward a common aim and take a joined up partnership approach. The National Park Authority will continue to contribute to the preparation of relevant Local Transport Plans, which facilitate and support the development of a modern, accessible, integrated and sustainable transport system in Wales. The Mid Wales Joint Local Transport Plan 2015-2020, the Monmouthshire Local Transport Plan 2015-2020, the Joint Transport Plan for South West Wales (the result of joint working between Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea and Pembrokeshire) and the South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan were all adopted in 2015.
158. Additionally, there are those both within and outside the Park whose mobility is limited by a lack of transport, and there is an unmet demand for access via public transport to destinations either side of the Park boundary. Promoting access for all to the Park is important, but a difficult objective for the National Park Authority.

159. The Management Plan sets out actions which aim to:

- Encourage and support community-led initiatives that build awareness of and resilience to climate change, fossil fuel depletion and carbon emissions and assure the well-being of communities in the future.
- Continue to deliver the Sustainable Development Fund which meets the strategic priorities laid out in the National Park Management Plan and supports delivery of Well-being Goals in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. It's funding support can be used to develop the marketing of sustainably produced local food for example.
- Support initiatives which enhance community pride in and benefit from being within the National Park, for example promoting vocational training such as learning traditional farming and land management skills and work with the Arts Council to promote sustainable projects.
- Monitor the adopted Local Development Plan.

How progress will be reported against actions in the Management Plan:

160. The State of the Park Report records data under each of the six Management Plan themes and demonstrates trends that indicate how well the Management Plan is being delivered. The indicators identified in the table below show that this theme is in 'good' condition.

Indicator (State of the Park Report)	Trends/Direction
Flood risk, river levels and climate change.	Maintain the relatively low risk of flooding in the Park.
Health and Wellbeing.	Maintain perceived feelings of well-being of residents and increase and support activities undertaken by residents.
Communities with a village/town plan and open space assessment.	Increase the number of village plans prepared and develop the Open Space assessment.



CASE STUDY

Dragon's Teeth Micro Hydro Scheme

The National Park Authority has supported communities to develop renewable energy projects. On two occasions the Sustainable Development Fund has supported the Forgotten Landscapes Project (FLP) partnership to develop its community plans for small scale hydro electricity generation. Initially a grant was awarded towards the purchase of the turbine for the Dragon's Teeth Hydro project. The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership applied for financial support to install a 20kw Ossberger crossflow turbine on the Afon Lwyd at Blaenavon. Proceeds from electricity sales are being used to fund community led heritage projects which reconnect local people with their important heritage landscape, conserving heritage features and helping to increase visitor numbers to the area.



A second grant was awarded towards a project where a skilled consultancy identified potential new sites for hydro across the Forgotten Landscapes area. These sites were assessed for their viability and to establish precise costs of installation and expected annual incomes.

Actions Theme 5

Building and Maintaining Sustainable Communities, Towns and Villages

161. The following list provides specific actions required to deliver the aims and objectives. A more detailed table is located at Appendix 3 which describes lead partners and how the action will be achieved.

67: Provide outreach programmes to local groups.
68: Implement and monitor conservation and community benefits revenue streams.
69: Provide a sustainable transport network.
70: Explore sustainable travel plans for schools in the Park.
71: Promote cycling as a means of everyday travel and develop safe cycle routes.
72: Assist the development of appropriate renewable energy and energy efficiency schemes.
73: Support community based sustainable transport initiatives.
74: Develop awareness and understanding of sustainability issues related to energy. Develop measures to reduce ecological impact.
75: Deliver outreach programmes that increase the value of and benefit from the National Park designation.
76: Implement renewal initiatives that promote local distinctiveness, a sense of community and place.
77: Encourage projects that promote a sense of community and place, emphasising local distinctiveness, culture and history.
78: Facilitate the prevention and removal of litter.
79: Investigate options to remove unnecessary street furniture.
80: Provide outreach programmes relating to external lighting.
81: Promote the use of recycled, secondary and waste materials.
82: Implement and Monitor the Local Development Plan.
83: Support allotments development.

2.6 Theme 6 - Sustainable Economic Development

Background

162. The well-being of the Park is dependent upon the vitality of local communities and the support of people who live, work in, and visit the National Park. Many businesses within the Park derive economic benefits from their unique location and relationship with its landscapes and built heritage. It is this relationship that the Plan seeks to foster and build upon.
163. The National Park designation should benefit the local economy and local communities in ways that are sustainable and which work to conserve and enhance the Park's special qualities. Businesses in the Park are considering the potential impacts of many changes including climate change and fossil fuel depletion in an effort to become more resilient to future changes. These forces can be seen as opportunities for innovation such as micro-generation of renewable energy, creating niche markets for sustainable agricultural products, capitalising on National Park branded products or designing or retro fitting more sustainable buildings. An aspiration of the Plan is for there to be a diversity of thriving businesses supporting and contributing to the economy.
164. Economic activity within the national park is predominantly made up of farming, land management, manufacturing, accommodation and retail sectors and much of the employment within the park is in the public sector. Tourism helps people appreciate the special qualities of the Park and is a major contributor to the economy. The Sustainable Tourism team of the National Park Authority and partner organisations in the tourism sector will continue to work together to improve the understanding of tourism trends and market behaviour.
165. A destination brand has been developed for businesses within the Park to market their association with the area. Widespread adoption of the brand will help improve tourist's perceptions of the National Park and define what makes the National Park a unique destination. This shared identity will be available for businesses wishing to promote their direct relationship with the Park. The Sustainable Tourism team of the National Park and its partners will seek to develop collaborative marketing activities based upon the Brecon Beacons brand. The visitor economy supports the rural economy by providing both additional income and a market for local produce and services. The brand can be used in the promotion of sustainable tourism. Use of this brand image can capitalise on opportunities created by all partners communicating consistent messages about 'our National Park', as well as those created by being part of tourism in Wales. The success of the Fforest Fawr Geopark, for example, can at least in part be attributed to the major role that the visitor economy has played in developing information and interpretation.
166. The Beacons Way contributes to both the health and well-being of visitors and residents and also sustainable economic development, working with local businesses to improve visitor experience. Likewise, the Crickhowell Walking Festival, which takes place in early March each year, consists of a number of guided walks and supporting events, and relies completely on volunteers and a variety of skilled staff and local businesses and individuals that contribute to the Festival, either financially or in kind.
167. Whilst geological and climatic factors have had profound impacts on the landscape of the Park, in more recent times the Park's landscape has been altered predominantly by farming. This can be seen in a variety of ways, including walls, hedges, improved grassland and historic buildings (from ancient times to the modern day).
168. Rapid changes in the international economy (globalisation, communications, transport and non-farm activities in rural areas which comprise the majority of the National Park) present rural regions with obvious threats on the one hand, but also with significant opportunity on the other. While the Management Plan is limited in its ability to influence such global processes, it is able to support rural innovation and diversification locally. The Authority hopes to develop the relationships between Rural Alliances (see case study Rural Alliances) and farming communities with the aim of creating groups that work together to produce an action plan for visitor management and tourism development in their area.

CASE STUDY

Rural Alliances

The power of the Rural Alliances movement is exemplified in the community transport initiative to provide a bus service between Hereford and Hay-on-Wye. Local Authority budget cuts meant a reduction in rural transport services. Hay's Chamber of Trade, the Hay Tourism Group, Rail Herefordshire and Herefordshire Ramblers responded to the cuts by working in partnership to raise money from donations to keep the bus service going.

The National Park Authority – through Rural Alliances, funded by the EU's Interreg programme and Welsh Government - commissioned a study to show how a community bus service could be started, financed and operated. The bus charges fares but the initial donations were key to keeping this important tourism and local service in operation, a true partnership between the rural community and local businesses. The new community bus service improves on the original one, as the bus synchronises its arrivals and departures with the train services in Hereford. Neighbouring communities are in discussions about following this community led approach to public transport cuts.



169. From 2012 to 2015 the work of developing tourism in the Brecon Beacons has been enhanced by the Rural Alliances project, funded by the EU's Interreg IVB NWE programme, Welsh Government and the National Park Authority. It has worked to bring businesses and communities together, to increase rural vibrancy as a means of counteracting the negative impacts of demographic change. The project has now finished but some of the groups it funded continue to work together.
170. The National Park Authority plays a role in shaping and delivering Glastir, the Welsh Government's agri-environment scheme, intended to enable farms and other estate businesses to diversify. Securing an economic return from environmental goods and services plays a key role in this.

- 171. The National Park Authority also plays a similar role in relation to the Welsh Government's LEADER programme under the Rural Development Plan. The National Park Authority is active in Local Action Groups delivering LEADER in Powys, Monmouthshire and Carmarthenshire, providing resources for pilot projects, pre-commercial development and innovation.
- 172. The National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund supports the development of community led innovative activity with Development Officer Support and funding. In 2014/2015 SDF funding attracted match funding at a ratio of almost £3 match for every £1 of SDF funding. Over 50% of projects supported contributed to 'A Wales of Prosperous Communities' a Welsh Government programme which provides funding for Communities First Clusters to narrow the economic gap between our most deprived and our most affluent areas and 16 jobs were directly created or safeguarded.

Delivering Wales' Needs

- 173. National Park Authorities oversee the conservation of National Parks, guiding their future protection and identifying appropriate development. The report of the Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery (Williams Commission - January 2014), described Wales' National Parks as important national assets, generating £557 million in tourist revenue each year. Research published in 2013 estimated that Wales' National Parks contributed £1 billion to Wales' overall economy, the greatest proportion of this coming from visitor spending.
- 174. The National Park Authority is a signatory to the Welsh Government Sustainable Development Charter. Through collaboration the Authority supports and assists small businesses with good ideas, helping them transfer ideas into economic benefit.

Challenges

- 175. Given the changing face of agricultural policy, economics and practice, farmers are interested in maximising market opportunities by adding value to goods produced in rural areas, for example using niche marketing, branding and diversification. Farmers can add significant value to their products through marketing and promotion based on local and regional branding. Farmers can use marketing to derive greater benefit from being within a protected landscape and thereby continue to contribute to its management. The visitor economy can benefit the farming community through development of local supply chains and support for locally branded products.
- 176. Furthermore, sustainable woodland and upland management are at the heart of creating and maintaining thriving and accessible locations for people while contributing to a vibrant rural economy. Economic opportunities are available from managing ecosystems and biodiversity in the uplands and lowlands through high nature value farming. Integrated land management can bring additional training, employment and service opportunities through agriculture, the visitor economy, wildlife, archaeological interpretation, habitat restoration, farm and estate management, carbon, soil and water conservation and local grazing schemes. Whether alone or in combination with other "new" enterprises i. e. wood fuels, fishing, local food production and renewable energy infrastructure, these opportunities all add up to a more diverse economy with the potential to attract suitable inward investment.
- 177. Tourism provides an essential component of the local economy in the Park which hosts 4.1 million visitors each year spending 5.1 million days and £206 million here²². Compared to the other two National Parks in Wales, the Brecon Beacons is unusual in the high proportion of visits that last no more than a day (74% of visitor days) compared to staying visitors. This means that the total number of visitor days (a good measure of the contribution and impacts that visitors bring) is significantly less than the two other Welsh National Parks and many in England.
- 178. Tourists can create pressures on Park resources and local communities such as increased footpath erosion and carbon emissions.
- 179. Local tourism businesses already work with the National Park Authority and the Fforest Fawr Geopark and have been making great strides in creating local supply chains, investing in local communities and promoting sustainable economic development.

180. In 2013 the National Park was awarded International Dark Sky Reserve status due to its internationally exceptional dark skies and a commitment from local partner groups to preserve and enhance the dark skies in the future. It is hoped that the designation will prevent further light pollution and enhance recognition for this aspect of the National Park's offer. The status will stimulate the tourism economy and promote understanding and enjoyment of this key feature, leading to future conservation. Local partner organisations gathered specialist data to support the application for its status, creating a set of lighting guidelines to prevent light pollution and enhance our current night skies and determining the quality of the night sky in the National Park. Within the context of a lighting management plan, the partner group audited current domestic, commercial and street lighting in the National Park and have developed projects to counter light pollution and conserve and enhance the quality of the night sky.

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CASE STUDY

International Dark Sky Reserve Status

In 2013 the Brecon Beacons National Park was awarded Dark Sky Reserve status. This was the result of a two year collaboration between the National Park Authority and Brecon Beacons Park Society. The project has drawn attention to the growing encroachment of light pollution into the National Park and invited communities to consider the adverse effects of existing light pollution.

The designation attracted substantial national press coverage which has raised awareness and appreciation of the quality of the National Park's dark skies helped more people enjoy the night sky. Tourism businesses in the Park have embraced its Dark Sky status and promote the opportunity to star gaze at the accommodation they offer. Annual dark skies events are growing in popularity – for example in 2015 more than 2,000 people will enjoy events in the National Park through more than 20 dark sky events. So far the National Park Authority and its partners have trained 50 dark sky tourism ambassadors. The partnership includes University of South Wales, Campaign for Dark Skies, Astronomical Societies and has been embraced by local communities. The project won the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales Award in 2015. Photo below copyright Michael Sinclair.



Photo Langorse Lake © Michael Sinclair

181. Dark sky status has influenced lighting improvements in the National Park in a number of ways. The Local Development Plan, for example, operates within the strategic framework of the Management Plan and sets the overarching policy guidance for development in the National Park and Dark Sky Reserve. The importance of preserving the night sky is recognised in this document. An astronomical observatory has been established as an educational tool and communities across the Park have embraced the designation by organising Dark Sky events. The Management Plan is committed to ensuring that the lighting management plan continues to influence lighting improvements in the National Park.
182. Large areas of the National Park remain free from light pollution, though the gradual encroachment of street, house and security lights puts this at jeopardy. There are many things that can help prevent light pollution and residents living within the National Park are encouraged to get involved in the dark sky initiative, to save them money on their energy bills and enhance views of the night sky.
183. In 2012, working through the Sustainable Destination Partnership, the Authority commissioned a Sustainable Tourism Strategy which is now being used to guide the promotion and management of tourism in the National Park. The Sustainable Tourism Strategy, due for review in 2017, sets out specific actions that work towards the overall vision for the National Park. These can be found at Appendix 9.
184. The Visitor Management Plan fits between the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and the Landscape Character Assessment by focussing on the relationships between visitors, their enjoyment of the National Park and their impact on its special qualities. The Visitor Management Plan seeks to establish a long-term approach to improving the sustainability of the enjoyment of the National Park, especially in the context of tourism, and sets out the short and medium term actions to deliver this. It is an example of how the Landscape Character Assessment has been used to set limits of acceptable change and aid management within the Park.
185. In order to develop a strong, successful and sustainable economy, the Management Plan sets the following objectives:
- The Park will realise its full potential for visitors within limits of acceptable change, for example the businesses and land managers along the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal will work together to maximise the opportunities for visitors whilst conserving the attractive setting.
 - The economic impact of sustainable tourism will be made greater with a greater proportion of staying visitors. Their environmental impact will be mitigated through the use of sustainable transport.
 - More businesses within the Park will work in partnership.
 - Collaborating with others to offer support, for example through Rural Development Plan programmes etc.
186. Actions in this Plan will develop these objectives over the next five years.

How progress will be reported against actions in the Management Plan:

187. The State of the Park Report records data under each of the six Management Plan themes and demonstrates trends that indicate how well the Management Plan is being delivered. Using the indicators identified in the table below as of 2014 this theme is in 'fair' condition.

Indicator (State of the Park Report)	Trends/Direction
Affordable Housing Provision.	Meet Affordable Housing Targets.
Economic Activity.	Improve Economic Activity.
Employment by Type of Industry.	Improve Employment Potential.

Actions Theme 6 - Sustainable Economic Development

The following list provides specific actions required to deliver the aims and objectives. A more detailed table is located at Appendix 3 which describes lead partners and how the action will be achieved.

84: Work with farmers to capitalise on the National Park's status.
85: Support farmers in changes to farm practices.
86: Research and support options for local food/produce marketing.
87: Identify on-farm, sustainable energy projects.
88: Implement activity tourism strategies.
89: Promote the use of local food to businesses and visitors.
90: Realise the tourism potential of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.
91: Realise the tourism potential of the International Dark Sky Reserve.
92: Work with locality and themed businesses clusters/alliances.
93: Maintain and develop business training programmes.
94: Implement environmental certification Ambassador & Charter Part 2 programmes.
95: Encourage day visitors to spend more.
96: Develop and implement a marketing strategy.
97: Monitor sustainable tourism indicators.
98: Organise Visitor Transport Partnership.
99: Maintain commitment to supporting community led transport initiatives.
100: Encourage visitor use of public transport.
101: Organise Sustainable Destination Partnership & Tourism Conference.
102: Organise Geopark Management Group.
103: Apply for revalidation of European Geopark status.
104: Apply to Europarc for renewed Charter status.
105: Establish and operate an International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) Management Board.
106: Develop a new Sustainable Tourism Strategy.
107: Secure success in the International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) re-evaluation in 2018.
108: Promote business opportunities and regeneration strategies.
109: Develop new funding streams and signposting to external funding for sustainability projects.
110: Provide work placement, volunteer, workshadow and other skills programmes.
111: Promote an increase in vocational training opportunities.

CASE STUDY

Heritage Lottery Fund Skills in Action

The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded funding to National Park Authority to provide 12 year-long, salaried, conservation traineeships per year for three years between 2014-2017. The 'Skills for the Future' grant was for the 'Skills in Action' partnership which includes Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities and Torfaen County Borough Council. It provides individuals with hands-on work based experience in conservation and estate management. This combines the attainment of a Level 2 City and Guilds qualification in conservation management with the opportunity to learn new skills and acquire knowledge by working as part of the estate and conservation management teams. The traineeship is aimed at those interested in pursuing a career in practical conservation and estate management or similar work. The project recruits primarily from local populations and the placements are awarded to those who seem most likely to benefit from the opportunity. Skills in Action trainees are working alongside wardens undertaking a range of practical conservation management work throughout the year.



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Appendix I:

I2 Management Principles for IUCN Category V Protected Areas

Phillips, A (2002) *Management Guidelines for IUCN Category V Protected Areas* IUCN. The World Conservation Union'

- Principle 1:** Conserving landscape, biodiversity and cultural values are at the heart of the Category V protected area approach.
- Principle 2:** The focus of management should be on the point of interaction between people and nature.
- Principle 3:** People should be seen as stewards of the landscape.
- Principle 4:** Management must be undertaken with and through local people, and mainly for and by them.
- Principle 5:** Management should be based on co-operative approaches, such as co-management and multi-stakeholder equity.
- Principle 6:** Effective management requires a supportive political and economic environment.
- Principle 7:** Management of Category V protected areas should not only be concerned with protection but also enhancement.
- Principle 8:** When there is an irreconcilable conflict between the objectives of management, priority should be given to retaining the special qualities of the area.
- Principle 9:** Economic activities that do not need to take place within the Protected Landscape should be located outside it.
- Principle 10:** Management should be business-like and of the highest professional standard.
- Principle 11:** Management should be flexible and adaptive.
- Principle 12:** The success of management should be measured in environmental and social terms.

Appendix 2:

12 Principles for an Ecosystem Approach I²³

- Principle 1:** The objectives of management of land, water and living resources are a matter of societal choices
- Principle 2:** Management should be decentralised to the lowest appropriate level.
- Principle 3:** Ecosystem managers should consider the effects (actual or potential) of their activities on adjacent and other ecosystems.
- Principle 4:** Recognising potential gains from management, there is usually a need to understand and manage the ecosystem in an economic context.
- Principle 5:** Conservation of ecosystem structure and functioning, in order to maintain ecosystem services, should be a priority target of the ecosystem approach.
- Principle 6:** Ecosystem must be managed within the limits of their functioning.
- Principle 7:** The ecosystem approach should be undertaken at the appropriate spatial and temporal scales.
- Principle 8:** Recognising the varying temporal scales and lag-effects that characterise ecosystem processes, objectives for ecosystem management should be set for the long term.
- Principle 9:** Management must recognise that change is inevitable.
- Principle 10:** The ecosystem approach should seek the appropriate balance between, and integration of, conservation and use of biological diversity.
- Principle 11:** The ecosystem approach should consider all forms of relevant information, including scientific and indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices.
- Principle 12:** The ecosystem approach should involve all relevant sectors of society and scientific disciplines.

Appendix 3: Actions, Aims and Objectives

Actions Theme I

Managing Park Landscapes to Maximise Conservation and Public Benefits

Sub-theme	Action	Lead organisation/s
Historic environment.	1: Develop and implement a plan of positive project works to research, conserve and enhance the historic environment.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	2: Deliver archaeological conservation and enhancement within the Planning Service.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	3: Continue to deliver the buildings at risk conservation function within the Planning Service.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	4: Develop and establish monitoring framework for Heritage Sites at Risk within the National Park.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	5: Produce a suite of guidance for built heritage.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	6: Organise a biennial Heritage Day to promote and celebrate the heritage of the National Park.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	7: Develop a heritage strategy to identify the key objectives for the sustainable management of the historic environment and cultural heritage of the National Park.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	8: Develop a Historic Environment Research Framework for the National Park.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
Maximise inward investment for land management.	9: Work closely with Welsh Government and Agri-Environment Scheme Project Officers to improve the chances for the Park's farmers to provide public benefits in the countryside, including the delivery of environmental goods and services as well as food.	Welsh Government, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	10: Attract new investment for managing the Park's landscape to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Landowners, graziers associations.

Key partners	How will this be achieved?
Cadw, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, World Heritage Site, Unitary Authorities, Universities, Local Communities.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners.
	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners.
Cadw, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Unitary Authorities.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners.
Cadw, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Welsh Archaeological Trusts.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners.
Cadw, Welsh Archaeological Trusts.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners.
Cadw, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, World Heritage Site, Unitary Authorities, universities, Local Communities.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners.
Cadw, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, World Heritage Site, Unitary Authorities, Local Communities.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners.
Cadw, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, World Heritage Site, Unitary Authorities, Universities, Local Communities.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners.
Farming Organisations, Natural Resources Wales, World Heritage Site.	Glastir advanced schemes in the east of the park.
Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW), graziers associations, National Trust, World Heritage Site, private estates.	Support Local Glastir partnerships + develop Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes in the Park. Indirectly through Village Plans.

Sub-theme	Action	Lead organisation/s
Rural resilience.	I 1: Create a partnership to increase public recognition of the value of farming to achieving the National Park's purposes.	Countryside and Land Association Cymru, Farmers' Union of Wales, National Farmers Union, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	I 2: Develop working partnerships to deliver integrated land management and rural resilience using the Rural Development Plan and other structural and national financial instruments. Promote benefits of high nature value farming.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Landowners, graziers associations.
	I 3: Develop and implement methods for educating farmers and public officials in the Park about the issues facing the future of farming and their potential solutions.	Countryside and Land Association Cymru, Farmers' Union of Wales, National Farmers Union, Natural Resources Wales.
Visitor impacts.	I 4: Develop codes of conduct for priority activities within the context of the Visitor Management Plan.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	I 5: Review Rights of Way Improvement Plan and the Upland Erosion Strategy.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	I 6: Prioritise and plan management of the four focal areas: Mynydd Du; Waterfall Country; Llangasty Caeau-ty-Mawr; Black Mountains.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, graziers associations, Landowners, Natural Resources Wales.
Geodiversity.	I 7: Plan and undertake site-based conservation project work on sites of geological importance.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Fawr Geopark.
	I 8: Monitor Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Areas of Conservation (SSSI/SAC) with geological importance and take action to ensure their favourable conservation status.	Natural Resources Wales.

Key partners	How will this be achieved?
Local Farmers, Landowners.	Externally funded partnership.
Local Farmers, Landowners.	Externally funded partnership.
Local Farmers, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	Tourism Strategy seeks to engage more actively with farming community.
Natural Resources Wales, Tourism Businesses, User Groups.	Implement Visitor Management Plan.
Highway Authorities, Farming Organisations, Cadw, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Natural Resources Wales, Local Communities, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Tourism and Other Businesses.	Survey work, project management.
Tourism Businesses, User Groups.	Mynydd Du; Waterfall Country; Llangasty Caeau-ty-Mawr; Black Mountains.
World Heritage Site, South Wales RIGS Group.	Site improvements undertaken by RIGS group eg; litter picking and vegetation clearance, reported in the State of the Park Report.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, World Heritage Site.	Various measures as required.

Sub-theme	Action	Lead organisation/s
Raise awareness and understanding.	19: Implement education, information and interpretation strategies to raise awareness and understanding of the Park's wildlife, farming, landscape and environment.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	20: Deliver the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority's Environmental Education Programme annually.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	21: Work in partnership to enhance the visitor experience of the Parks wildlife, farming, landscape and environment.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Cadw, Natural Resources Wales, National Trust, Local Authorities.
Woodlands.	22: Expand native woodlands including farm woodland habitats towards the higher slopes, where existing forests lie.	Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales.
	23: Maintain forests in appropriate areas whilst integrating them into the landscape through sustainable forest design principles.	Natural Resources Wales.
	24: Restore internationally recognised habitats currently in woodlands, such as upland blanket bogs, upland heathland and upland oakwoods, where the environmental benefit from restoration is greater than leaving the area wooded, and where the viability and potential exists.	Natural Resources Wales.
	25: Practice continuous cover forestry techniques in suitable forests where appropriate tree species, aspect, age, past management prescriptions and soils permit.	Natural Resources Wales.
	26: Facilitate community woodland agreements within easy access of existing and future towns and villages to contribute to local Gross Domestic Product and to an improved sense of health and well-being.	Natural Resources Wales.

Key partners	How will this be achieved?
Wildlife Trusts, Natural Resources Wales, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Canal and River Trust, World Heritage Site, Brecon Beacons Tourism, Local Authorities.	Education Strategy, Interpretation Strategy and Information Plans.
Brecknock Wildlife Trust, Youth Hostel Association (YHA), Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, World Heritage Site.	Education Strategy.
Local Communities, Dwr Cymru, Canal and River Trust, World Heritage Site, Wildlife Trusts, BBT, Brecon Beacons Park Society.	Interpretation strategy and information plan.
Local Landowners, Farmers, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	Implementation of Management Plans.
Local Landowners, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	Natural Resources Wales prepare Forest Design Plans which are circa 20 year plans - Brecon Beacons National Park Authority are consulted on them.
Local Landowners, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Wildlife Trusts, World Heritage Site.	
Local Landowners, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	
Local Councillors, Local Businesses, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	

Aims Theme 1

Managing Park Landscapes to Maximise Conservation and Public Benefits

The vision of the Park will be pursued through the following aims:

No.	by 2030
1	The beautiful and varied character of the landscape will continue to be well-managed and cared for. Landscape change will be managed to benefit the Park's biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural heritage.
2	The upland commons will be managed for the benefit of habitat conservation, grazing productivity, archaeological features, hydro-electric energy, public accessibility and for the provision of other public benefits.
3	Woodlands will be integrated with other aspects of countryside management. They will be extended and diversified where possible and as appropriate. They will be well-managed for their landscape, economic, ecological and social values and as a renewable resource.
4	Experimentation with novel approaches to sustainable development and environmental conservation on National Park Authority-owned lands will provide examples of best practice.
5	The traditional pattern of farmed land and its characteristic, historic features and habitats will be conserved and enhanced, providing the basis for a thriving agricultural economy.
6	The Park's internationally-renowned geological and geomorphological features will be conserved and interpreted.
7	The Park's historic settlement patterns and buildings will be conserved and enhanced. New development will adhere to sustainable design principles and complement the existing built heritage of the Park.
8	Historic landscapes and archaeological features will be protected, conserved and enhanced.
9	Local traditions, community events and the Welsh language will flourish and evolve as part of a living culture that cherishes the past and embraces the future.
10	The Park's internationally recognised night sky quality will be conserved and utilised for recreational, educational, and commercial purpose.

Objectives Theme I

Managing Park Landscapes to Maximise Conservation and Public Benefits

The following objectives set the framework for detailed lists of actions:

No.	Strategic objectives
1	Conserve and enhance the sense of tranquillity, peace and remoteness experienced throughout the National Park.
2	Conserve and enhance the beautiful and varied character of the landscape via sustainable, integrated management.
3	Prevent degradation of the Park's landscape and enhance derelict land.
4	Develop understanding and awareness of landscape's varied character and the processes that influence it.
5	Conserve and enhance designated geological sites.
6	Identify and protect other significant sites of geological importance and/or nature conservation value, such as limestone pavements.
7	Improve the understanding and enjoyment of the Park's outstanding geodiversity.
8	All heritage assets and their settings will be conserved and enhanced, whether or not they are officially designated.
9	Awareness, understanding and appreciation of the historic environment of the National Park will be increased.
10	All heritage assets worthy of designation will be appropriately designated.
11	All heritage management work will be managed in a structured and co-ordinated manner, the NPA working effectively with partner organisations.
12	Support the Park's cultural life and traditions through partnership working.
13	Record and monitor the Park's cultural heritage.
14	Promote the use of the Welsh language.
15	Promote cultural heritage as an attraction for people.

No.	Strategic objectives
16	Develop understanding and awareness of cultural life and traditions.
17	Reduce the damage done to the Park by mineral working whilst fulfilling the National Park Authority's obligation as a Mineral Planning Authority.
18	Apply Welsh Government's policies against mineral working in National Parks to the Brecon Beacons National Park's identified sand and gravel deposits.
19	Explore more local and sustainable options to supplement or replace the need for mineral resources.
20	Help achieve national targets for greater renewable production through community and domestic scale schemes.
21	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by minimising energy use.
22	Assist the development of community energy initiatives.
23	Develop the capacity for a localised energy grid.
24	Integrate renewable energy into building and settlement design.
25	Maintain and enhance viable and productive farming businesses within the uplands so that they are able to deliver private and public objectives to enhance the special qualities of the Park.
26	Integrate and promote public support for sustainable farming.
27	Develop communications and collaboration among farmers, land managers, statutory agencies, non-governmental organisations, communities and other interests.
28	Encourage innovative marketing of farm products, for example through the development of local supply chains and landscape branded products.
29	Minimise waste, energy use and pollution from all agricultural activities.
30	Advocate for programmes that reward people for providing public benefits in the countryside, particularly the delivery of environmental goods and services such as energy generation, water capture, carbon storage and biodiversity gain.

No.	Strategic objectives
31	Support the sustainable management of commons within the National Park including the working of Commons Councils.
32	Capture the existing values of the lower valley native farm woodlands in the National Park and expand these habitats towards the higher slopes where existing forests lie.
33	Manage forests at higher elevations to maintain a sound commercial presence as coniferous forests, contributing to the rural economy whilst offering the opportunity to improve landscape design and create new upland open space via felling.
34	Restore internationally recognised habitats in woodlands, such as upland blanket bogs, upland heathland and upland oakwoods, where the environmental benefit justifies these actions, and where the viability and potential exists.
35	Practice continuous cover forestry techniques in suitable forests where appropriate tree species, aspect, age, past management prescriptions and soils permit.
36	Integrate where possible the adoption of sustainable woodland management into the Local Development Plan.
37	Facilitate community woodland agreements within easy access of existing and future towns and villages to contribute to local gross domestic product (GDP) and to an improved sense of health and well-being.
38	Identify priority areas for organic soil and wetland management.
39	Reduce the extent of invasive species.
40	Achieve sustainable farming.
41	Maximise opportunities for growing the local economy while managing the environment.
42	Demonstrate integrated, sustainable landscape scale conservation by securing large scale, long term funded projects across the Park.
43	Ensure that uplands management is conducted through an integrated approach whilst utilising, retaining and developing local skills and knowledge.
44	Restore and enhance the habitat connectivity across the Park's contiguous upland commons.
45	Conserve and improve the quality of the night sky and increase the understanding and appreciation of this special quality of the BBNP.

Actions Theme 2 – Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity

Sub-theme	Action	Lead organisation/s
Awareness and understanding.	27: Report and promote the biodiversity conservation work undertaken in the National Park using the Biodiversity Action Reporting System.	Local Biodiversity Action Plan partners.
	28: Influence policies to ensure that future development proposals do not harm the rich biodiversity of the National Park in any way.	Local Biodiversity Action Plan partners.
	29: Champion an awareness and understanding of biodiversity through our education, information and interpretation partnership projects.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
Monitoring and research programmes.	30: Undertake site monitoring work on key sites.	Local Biodiversity Action Plan partners.
	31: Develop monitoring of key habitats, soils and water.	Natural Resources Wales, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Universities.
	32: Develop Research Partnerships.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	33: Establish a monitoring framework for fixed point photography and remote sensing.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
Protect and manage.	34: Ensure biodiversity information from the development control process is made available.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	35: Secure funds and implement one large, area-based land management project.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, landowners, graziers associations.
	36: Restore and enhance habitat connectivity along river valleys.	Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales.
Continue the research and management agenda for the natural environment.	37: Manage the Authority's land assets for biodiversity.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	38: Implement a living landscapes approach to landscape, habitat and wildlife management.	Wildlife Trusts.
	39: Establish the environmental pollution baselines in the NP in accordance with the Wales Environment Strategy. Publish updates in each successive State of the Park Report.	Natural Resources Wales, Unitary Authorities.
	40: Prioritise understanding of water and carbon resources management in the National Park.	Natural Resources Wales, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Other Water Utilities, Welsh Government.

Key partners	How will this be achieved?
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Local Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group.	Biodiversity Action Reporting System, Various.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	Through continued responses to consultations ie: Glastir, Rural Development Plan etc.
As per project.	Education Strategy, Interpretation Strategy and Information Plans.
Landowners, Wildlife Trusts, Natural Resources Wales, Unitary Authorities.	Annual monitoring programme.
Landowners, Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partners, Unitary Authorities.	Annual monitoring programme.
Universities.	Research Projects and themes.
Wildlife Trusts, Biodiversity Information Service, Natural Resources Wales, Universities.	Fire damage monitoring; Ongoing, successive monitoring reports.
Biodiversity Information Service.	Build data into the local recording data set; circulate biodiversity information to Planning Officers.
Natural Resources Wales, Non-Governmental Organisations.	External funding; area-based Land Management Partnership.
Landowners, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, National Trust, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Canal and Rivers Trust, Biodiversity Information Service.	
Local Farmers, Neighbouring Landowners, Natural Resources Wales, Local Communities.	Identify sites and features that are core to our Purposes and Duty.
Farming organisations, Cadw, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, National Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Local Communities, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, The Green Valleys, tourism and other businesses.	Inherent in the work of the Wildlife Trusts.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales.	Natural Resources Wales evidence pack - ongoing successive monitoring reports. NRW and Local Authorities will be required to consider wider implications of any permissions given for emissions.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Unitary Authorities.	Catchment management plans; Payment for Ecosystems Services schemes (albeit these are currently a long way off).

Aims Theme 2 – Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity

The vision of the park will be pursued through the following aims:

No.	by 2030
1	The Park's stakeholders will encourage biodiversity to flourish and adapt to climate change. Improved habitat connectivity and exemplary management of all statutory and non-statutory designated nature conservation sites will enhance the condition and diversity of species and habitats in the Park.
2	Air, water and soil resources will be used sustainably to integrate the needs of wildlife with the demands from human use. Their quality will be brought up to and maintained at a high standard as appropriate.



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Objectives Theme 2 – Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity

The following objectives set the framework for detailed lists of actions:

No.	Strategic objectives
1	Utilise a landscape-scale approach to biodiversity conservation, built on good management of soil, air and water quality.
2	Deliver these strategic objectives through partnerships with appropriate bodies including the National Park Authority, farmers and farming groups, Unitary Authorities, Welsh Government, Government bodies, community groups, charities, voluntary bodies and recreational users.
3	Integrate effective biodiversity conservation into economically viable agricultural and arboricultural systems.
4	Maintain the extent and quality of priority habitats and the range and/or population of priority species.
5	Ensure that sustainable management of designated sites maintains habitats and species populations at a favourable conservation status.
6	Ensure that non-designated areas across the Park also contain sufficient habitat in favourable condition to provide a high quality, interconnected landscape to conserve and enhance priority species.
7	Meet and, if possible, exceed the local biodiversity targets for the restoration and expansion of habitats and the expansion of species' distribution patterns and population sizes.
8	Seek innovative solutions to environmental challenges which integrate biodiversity conservation with education, interpretation, other resource management priorities, and social, economic and cultural sustainability.
9	Maintain and, where possible, improve the Park's air quality.
10	Maintain or improve the quality of the Park's groundwater, rivers and lakes.
11	Ensure that water resources are used sustainably across all sectors in the National Park.
12	Encourage a coordinated approach to national and regional policy on biodiversity so that they are consistent and complementary.
13	Achieve sustainable conservation management of all existing wetlands, rivers and streams within the National Park.
14	Optimise the Park's capacity for water storage, sustainable, small-scale hydroelectric power and irrigation of locally grown food.
15	Implement objectives within the River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) to achieve good ecological status for resilient aquatic ecosystems within the Park.
16	Halt the continued acidification of upland soils and waters within the Park.
17	Protect the Park's soils from degradation and erosion.
18	Improve collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders managing soil and peat resources.

Actions Theme 3 – Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Access and Recreation

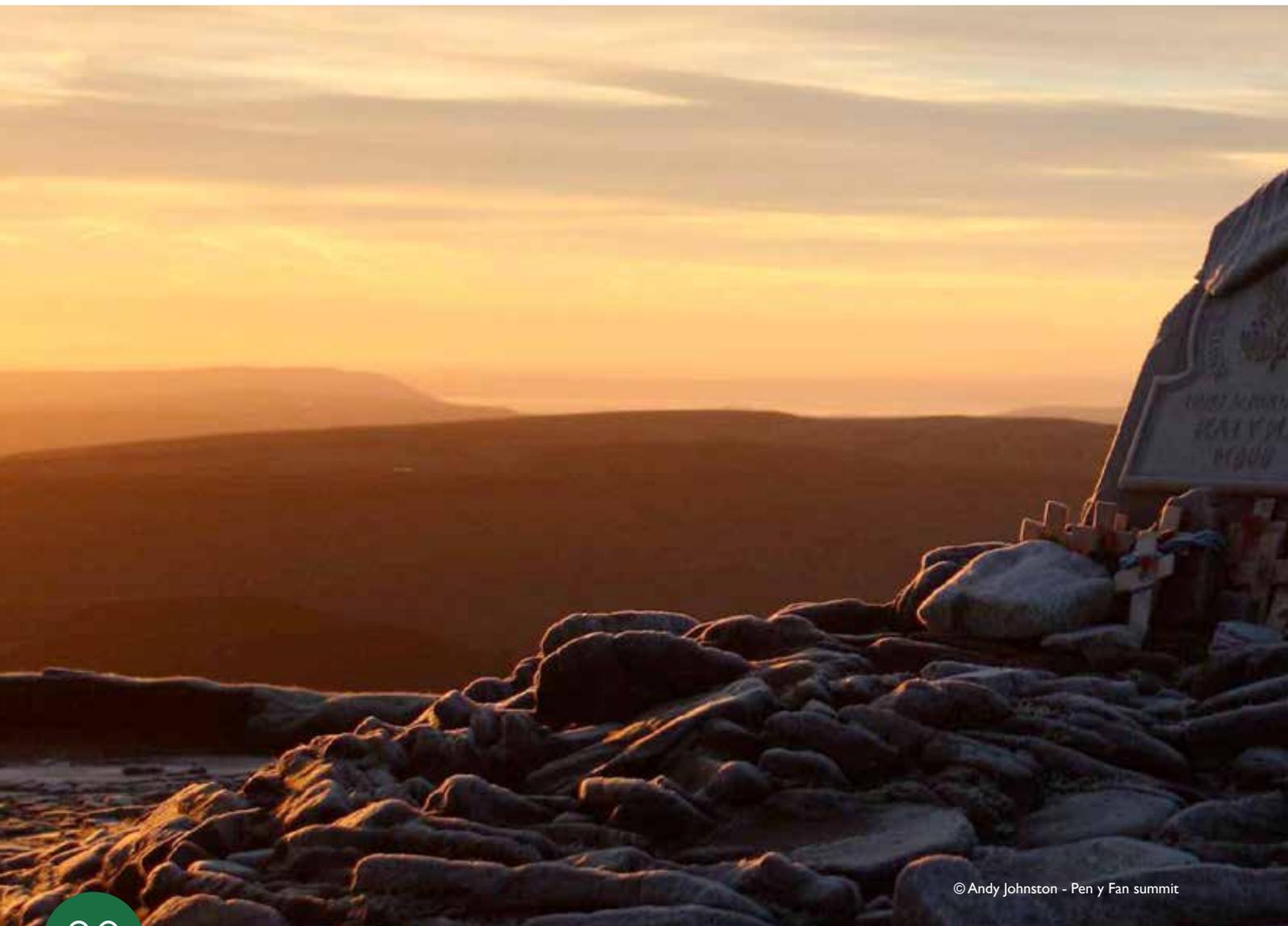
Sub-theme	Action	Lead organisation/s
Information to improve visitor experience.	41: Increase awareness of and provision for people with disabilities and easier access requirements.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	42: Provide targeted countryside access information in a wider variety of accessible formats.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	43: Communicate information on safety and ecosystems to visitors effectively.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
Countryside access.	44: Maintain access to water.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	45: Link Brecon Beacons National Park Authority promoted routes and public transport.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	46: Increase health and well-being benefit from the National Park by excluded groups.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	47: Develop and maintain access on Wildlife Trust-owned reserves.	Wildlife Trust.
	48: Maintain at 65% or above the % of the Public Rights of Way network which is easy to use.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
Public rights of way.	49: Continue bringing the Definitive Map and Statement up to date.	Unitary authorities.
	50: Review statutory Rights of Way Improvement Plan following guidelines to be published by Welsh Government.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

Key partners	How will this be achieved?
Natural Resources Wales, Local Access Groups, landowners, user groups.	Miles Without Stiles project, seek funding to initiate by 2017.
Natural Resources Wales, user groups, Local Access Forum, Unitary Authorities, communities, tourism organisations, World Heritage Site.	Website, Conservation advice.
Natural Resources Wales, Mountain Rescue Team, South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group.	On-going work.
Natural Resources Wales, Local Communities, Unitary Authorities, Wye and Usk Foundation, Canal and River Trust, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water.	Maintain, monitor and manage the work of the Splash project.
Unitary Authorities, Public Transport Providers, World Heritage Site.	Action in VMP regarding Sustainable Transport.
Natural Resources Wales, Sport Wales, other delivery partners & funders.	Collaborative projects with groups focusing on health & well-being needs.
Unitary Authorities.	Carry forward.
Unitary Authorities, Landowners, User Groups, Local Access Forum.	Rights of way work, Definitive Map, ROWIP projects; undertake survey and legal and practical works.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	Ongoing work.
Unitary Authorities, Landowners, User Groups, Local Access Forum.	Take forward recommendations from the new ROWIP guidelines, anticipated for later in 2016.

Aims Theme 3

Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Access and Recreation

No.	by 2030
1	The sense of tranquillity, peace and remoteness experienced throughout the National Park will be conserved and enhanced.
2	People will come to the Park to enjoy a wide range of sustainable activities. They will understand and practice responsible behaviour.
3	The Park will be much-admired as a place to pursue healthy lifestyles, relaxation and spiritual renewal as “One of Britain’s Breathing Spaces”.
4	Everyone will have equal opportunity to enjoy and understand the Park’s natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage via an integrated network of routes. Public confidence as to where to enjoy their recreation will be high.

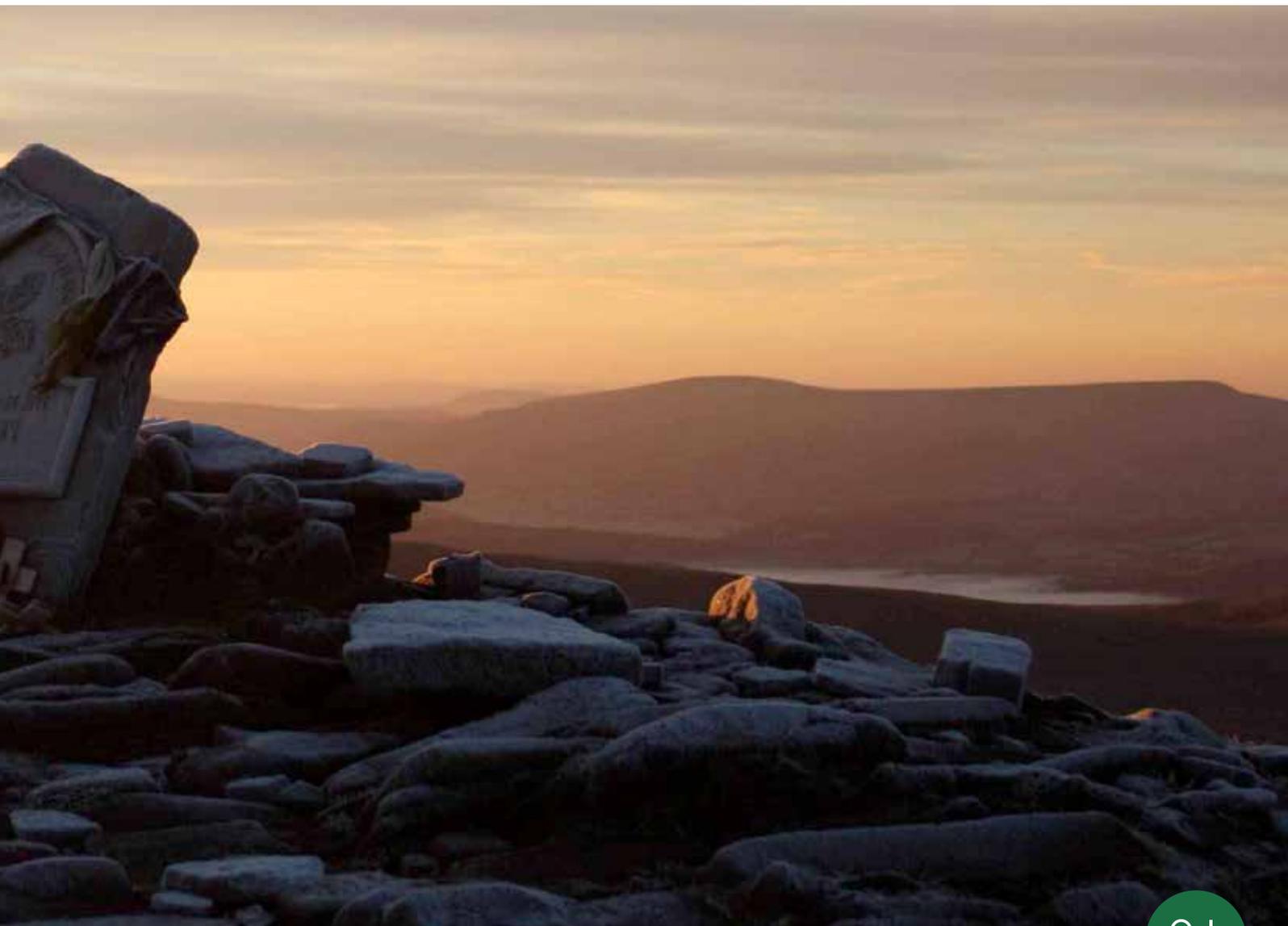


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Objectives Theme 3

Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Access and Recreation

ID	Strategic objectives
1	Strategically manage the rights of way network.
2	Improve the provision of information with regard to public access.
3	Make the best use of external funding and resource opportunities to improve public access.
4	Improve access to and on water.
5	Continue to work constructively with partners to reduce and resolve conflicts and improve access and recreation provision.



Actions Theme 4 - Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park

Sub-theme	Action	Lead organisation/s
Use funding and resource opportunities to raise awareness and understanding.	51: Educate the educators.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	52: Increase opportunities for volunteering.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	53: Increase opportunities for excluded groups to participate in culture and recreation and derive health and well-being benefits.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	54: Monitor and evaluate the health and well-being benefits of accessing the Park.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	55: Create memorable visitor experiences within the National Park and Geopark.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	56: Raise awareness of and contributions to NP decision making and delivery of actions by minority and ethnic sectors.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales.
	57: Provide training and development for businesses and information providers to ensure delivery of a first class welcome, high quality information, interpretation and interaction.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Geopark Management Group, International Dark Sky Reserve Management Board.
	58: Work in partnership with Tourism business representatives to deliver an attractive destination website and social media presence which enhances destination marketing messages while delivering National Park Authority messages.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Brecon Beacons Tourism.
	59: Support communities in telling their stories and engage them as stakeholders in the National Park, the Geopark and the International Dark Sky Reserve.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, International Dark Sky Reserve Management Board.

Key partners	How will this be achieved?
Outdoor Education Centres, Schools, Brecknock Wildlife Trust, World Heritage Site, Canal and River Trust.	Initial Teacher Training and Teacher Training days.
Natural Resources Wales, Dyfed-Powys Police, Wales Council for Voluntary Action.	Develop what is appropriate.
Sport Wales, Natural Resources Wales, other funding partners, Community Groups.	Deliver social and child poverty inclusion action plan. External funding for outreach and capacity building to develop group capacity for awareness of & benefitting from the Park.
Sport Wales, Natural Resources Wales, other funding partners, Community Groups	Monitoring and evaluation of programme delivery
Unitary Authorities, Natural Resources Wales, National Trust, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, Brecknock Wildlife Trust, Brecon Beacons Park Society, Archaeological Trusts, Cadw, Wildlife Trusts World Heritage Site, Canal and River Trust, Community Groups, History Societies.	Coordinate with partners resourcing, delivery and maintenance of interpretation, information and education. Education & Interpretation Strategies, Information provision, Destination Information Plan, Pan Wales Interpretation Plan.
Campaign for National Parks.	Work with minority group representatives - Mosaic & Black and Minority Ethnic Champions.
World Heritage Site.	Tourism Strategy.
Brecon Beacons Tourism, Welsh Government, Tourism Providers, Unitary Authorities, World Heritage Site, Canal and Rivers Trust, Wildlife Trusts, Geopark Management Group.	Tourism Strategy.
Local Authorities, Community groups, World Heritage Site, History Societies, Canal and Rivers Trust.	Interpretation/Geopark teams and Sustainable Development Fund.

Sub-theme	Action	Lead organisation/s
<p>Deliver a visitor experience which exceeds expectations.</p>	<p>60: Encourage and promote sustainable use of the National Park and Geopark.</p>	<p>Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.</p>
	<p>61: Interpret climate change and encourage behavioural change.</p>	<p>Geopark Management Group.</p>
	<p>62: Engage with local communities and demonstrate how they can adapt to and help mitigate the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, The Green Valleys, Geopark Management Group.</p>
<p>Promote and develop a sense of shared responsibility for both the National Park, Geopark and International Dark Sky Reserve.</p>	<p>63: Improve visitor confidence.</p>	<p>Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Geopark.</p>
	<p>64: Maintain and develop existing National Park and Geopark Education efforts to achieve the 'Wales We Want' and targets on literacy and numeracy.</p>	<p>Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Geopark Management Group.</p>
	<p>65: Undertake a review of earth science research and identify further priorities for engagement with research institutions.</p>	<p>Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Geopark Management Group.</p>
	<p>66: Promote links to tertiary educational bodies with earth sciences interest.</p>	<p>Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Geopark Management Group.</p>

Key partners	How will this be achieved?
Natural Resources Wales, Unitary Authorities, Transport Providers, Tourism Providers, World Heritage Site, Canal and Rivers Trust.	Tourism Strategy, Interpretation Strategy, Education Strategy.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	Use the Geopark's geological record. Geopark events and walks.
Natural Resources Wales, Delivery Partners.	Work with local initiatives.
World Heritage Site, Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water.	Providing welcome and orientation signage and interpretation and information in communities and key locations. Interpretation strategy, Information plan, Tourism Strategy.
Natural Resources Wales.	Education Strategy.
British Cave Research Association.	Research Prospectus.
British Cave Research Association.	Research Prospectus.

Aims Theme 4 - Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park

The vision of the Park will be pursued through the following aims:

No.	by 2030
1	Everyone will have abundant opportunities to learn about and experience the Park's special qualities. They will understand why this living landscape is an internationally important protected area and sustainable tourism destination.
2	People will better understand the contributions geodiversity and biodiversity make to the landscape, economy and environment.
3	The historic environment will be better understood and valued as an important link among past, present and future generations.
4	The facilities, information and interpretation used to enhance peoples' experiences of the Park will exceed their expectations. A full range of interpretation, education and communication tools will be used.
5	People will better understand the implications of climate change on their daily lives and how they can mitigate and adapt to its effects.

Objectives Theme 4 - Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park

The following objectives set the framework for detailed lists of actions:

ID	Strategic objectives
1	Information, interpretation and education will be at the heart of all projects to ensure the long term support, understanding and commitment for the National Park from visitors and the local populations.
2	Promote opportunities to connect people to the National Park.
3	Ensure that the National Park can be enjoyed by all and that services and facilities do not deliberately or inadvertently exclude people.
4	Provide a first class visitor experience and welcome to anyone interacting with and enjoying the National Park and its special qualities.
5	Provide an holistic and networked dissemination of information which gives visitors the confidence to explore the National Park safely, by working with National Park Authority centres, tourism providers and agencies operating within the Park.
6	Increase awareness of environmental sensitivity and sustainability issues to positively influence behaviour.

7	The National Park Authority will provide a range of information on the National Park, its recreational opportunities and its special qualities to provide a holistic understanding to a range of audiences.
8	Raise awareness and promote understanding of National Park purposes, policies and activities.
9	Provide a unique, park-specific outdoor experience that is not available through any other source.
10	Provide learners with the opportunity to have an experience relating to the National Park purposes face-to-face, in the Park, on-line or through written or audio materials.
11	Ensure the health and safety of all learners/participants, retaining the Adventurous Activities Licensing Scheme (AALS) status as a minimum standard.
12	Provide learners with an enjoyable experience of the National Park.
13	Create learning opportunities for all, including those who have not traditionally had such opportunities in the National Park.
14	Demonstrate the principles of sustainability through learning materials and in practice and by supporting Eco-Schools and attaining and maintaining Eco-Centre status for National Park Authority centres.
15	Work with internal and external partners to promote and implement the effective and safe use of the National Park for learning.
16	Meet the needs of learning providers through the continued development and provision of learning services, including those in Welsh.
17	Enable educators to learn how to utilise the National Park as a place for learning (i. e. through training days).
18	Incorporate national and international education efforts into the Education Strategy as they arise.
19	Encourage partnership working between those involved in interpreting the National Park to ensure greater coordination and better use of limited resources.
20	Raise the profile of interpretation and the promotion of good practice to improve its quality and effectiveness within the National Park.
21	Encourage thematic interpretation based on the key themes outlined in the Authority's Interpretative Strategy.
22	Provide enjoyable interpretative services that will greatly enhance the quality of a visit to the National Park.
23	Enable and support local communities in defining and presenting their cultural heritage.

Actions Theme 5

Building and Maintaining Sustainable Communities, Towns and Villages

Sub-theme	Action	Lead organisation/s
Community-led initiatives that build awareness of and resilience to climate change, fossil fuel depletion and carbon emissions.	67: Provide outreach programmes to local groups to increase awareness and use of local opportunities for recreation, reducing travel and associated carbon emissions.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, The Green Valleys.
	68: Implement and monitor conservation and community benefits through the Planning Obligations Strategy funding.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	69: Provide an affordable, accessible and effective sustainable transport network that meets the needs of residents and visitors.	Unitary Authorities.
	70: Explore sustainable travel plans for all schools in the Brecon Beacons National Park.	Unitary Authorities.
	71: Promote cycling as a means of everyday travel and develop safe cycle routes.	Unitary Authorities.
	72: Assist the development of appropriate renewable energy and energy efficiency schemes that produce mutually beneficial outcomes for local communities and the local environment.	The Green Valleys, Local Communities, Landowners.
	73: Develop and support by way of the Sustainable Development Fund community based sustainable transport initiatives designed to reduce the carbon footprint.	Communities, Businesses including Social Enterprises.

Key partners	How will this be achieved?
Community Groups, Natural Resources Wales, Unitary Authorities, Tourism Providers.	Social Inclusion and Child Poverty Action Plan.
Local Communities, Unitary Authorities.	Through the adopted SPG.
Community Groups, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	UA sustainable strategies; Sustainable Tourism Powys Project; Visitor Transport Plan (Brecon Beacons National Park Authority); Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Residents' Survey.
Local Schools, Community Groups, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	
Community Groups, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	Manage Govilon Line cycleway; Support Powys County Council in phased development of Ystradgynlais to Brecon cycle way & Canal Towpath; Work with Powys County Council to extend achieved routes.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales, World Heritage Site.	Service Level Agreement targets: Woodfuel production, Hydro installation, Feasibility studies.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales, Other Agencies.	Using Sustainable Development Fund to promote sustainable transport initiatives.

Sub-theme	Action	Lead organisation/s
Sustainable development fund.	74: Use the Sustainable Development Fund to develop and support greater awareness and understanding of sustainability issues related to renewable energy and energy efficiency. Develop innovative measures designed to reduced communities' ecological impact across the National Park.	Communities, Businesses.
	75: Deliver community based outreach programmes such as Crossing Park Boundaries, Champions and Geocaching Project that increase the value of and benefit from the National Park designation.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	76: Design and implement community renewal initiatives that promote local distinctiveness, a sense of community and a sense of place.	LEADER Local Action Groups, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	77: Encourage projects that promote a sense of community and a sense of place, emphasising local distinctiveness, culture and history.	Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Cadw, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority; Brecon Beacons Trust.
	78: Improve and facilitate the prevention and removal of litter through community action, particularly from rivers.	Local Communities, Keep Wales Tidy.
		Local Communities, Unitary Authorities.
Sustainable development Fund.	80: Provide outreach programmes to local communities and businesses on the benefits of reducing unnecessary external lighting.	Brecon Beacons Park Society.
Community pride.	81: Promote the use of recycled, secondary and waste materials to supply the need for local building stone where compatible with the statutory conservation objectives of the National Park and its relevant planning policies.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
Local development plan.	82: Implement and Monitor the Local Development Plan (LDP).	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
Local food production.	83: Support allotments development.	Local Communities.

Key partners	How will this be achieved?
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales, Other Agencies, Arts Council Wales.	Using Sustainable Development Fund to promote food marketing, local produce and transport initiatives.
Natural Resources Wales, World Heritage Site, other delivery partners.	Visits by groups and capacity building for group leaders.
	Sustainable Development Fund.
Local Communities, Unitary Authorities, Rural Development Plan, Geopark, World Heritage Site; International Dark Sky Reserve Management Board.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Community, Marquee and Sustainable Development Fund.
Unitary Authorities, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	Llangattock Green Valleys; Litter pickers.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	Ongoing Cable burying project - Western Power.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	Lighting Management Plan and Dark Sky 5 year Plan.
Brecon Beacons Park Society, Walls of Llangynidr.	Design and Access at planning application stage. TAN 12 requirement.
	Annual Monitoring Reports, Review of LDP.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, The Green Valleys, Rural Development Plan, Unitary Authorities.	Sustainable Development Fund and The Green Valleys support to local growing initiatives.

Aims Theme 5 - Building and Maintaining Sustainable Communities, Towns and Villages

The vision of the Park will be pursued through the following aims:

No.	by 2030
1	The Park's people, Welsh language, heritage and rich economy will continue to thrive, supporting healthy communities and the environment whilst providing a welcome for visitors.
2	The Park's communities will have pride in their place and a sense of ownership of the Park.
3	Sustainable transport initiatives will enhance accessibility across the Park whilst reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.
4	Good quality, well designed and sustainable affordable housing of all types will be accessible to the Park's communities.
5	Local communities and businesses will experiment with and adopt new approaches to waste reduction, localised food production through market gardens, effective recycling, reduced energy consumption and renewable energy generation and use.
6	The Park's communities and businesses will reduce their reliance on fossil fuels whilst minimising their contributions to global climate change.
7	New development and regeneration projects within the Park will provide exemplars of best practice for Wales with regard to climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
8	Local communities and businesses will understand and appreciate how the planning process helps to achieve the Park's purposes and duty.
9	All those with an interest in the National Park will understand and embrace the vision of this special place and work together to sustain it.

Objectives Theme 5 - Building and Maintaining Sustainable Communities, Towns and Villages

The following objectives set the framework for detailed lists of actions:

ID	Strategic objectives
1	Prepare the National Park communities for climate change and fossil fuel depletion by building resilience to ensure minimised economic and social impact.
2	Reduce direct and indirect production of greenhouse gases by the National Park's communities.
3	Support and enhance local production and local economic supply chains.
4	Address and breakdown actual and perceptual barriers experienced by socially excluded groups.
5	Ensure that all sectors of the Park's communities are able to contribute to development of, appreciate the benefits of, and play a part in the delivery of NPMP objectives.
6	Promote the National Park as an exemplar of sustainable living.
7	The NPA will be a facilitator of economic development which supports and sustains local communities with increased job opportunities in skilled occupations.
8	Prepare an LDP which is responsive to drivers of change and enables development to meet identified needs.
9	Provide a first class planning service.
10	Ensure that there is sufficient land for market and affordable housing to meet the identified need.
11	Allocate sufficient land for the provision of a variety and mix of employment opportunities to encourage a better link between the provision of employment and housing.
12	Maintain and encourage the vitality and viability of the Park's communities and town centres.
13	Improve the physical quality, energy efficiency, accessibility and sustainable design and construction of all development throughout the Park.
14	Minimise light and noise pollution and develop the excellent work undertaken to achieve International Dark Sky Reserve status.
15	Reduce the need for travel by controlling the location and design of development.
16	Provide an integrated transport system that encourages healthy and active lifestyles and supports local communities.
17	Encourage the development of new and existing services aimed at the visitor market.
18	Facilitate sustainable, long distance transport to the National Park.
19	Work with Transport Generators on Green Travel Plans.
20	Support working practices and behaviour change initiatives that reduce the Park's greenhouse gas emissions and reduce people's dependency on fossil fuels for transport.
21	Develop Sustainable Travel Marketing.
22	Promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle across all sectors of the National Park.
23	Minimise the amount of waste generated in the National Park.

Actions Theme 6 - Sustainable Economic Development

Sub-theme	Action	Lead organisation/s
Changes affecting the future of farm practices and businesses.	84: Work with interested farmers to develop products and services that capitalise on the National Park's status.	Countryside and Land Association Cymru, Farmers' Union of Wales, Farming Connect, National Farmers Union, YFC, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, LEADER LAGS.
	85: Support farmers in changes to farm practices, especially where it involves development of specialist local products (e.g., traditional organic breeds farm processing).	Farmers, Young Farmers Clubs, Local Communities, LEADER LAGS.
	86: Research and support options for local food/produce marketing.	Unitary Authorities, LEADER LAGS.
	87: Collaborate with Farming Connect to identify on-farm, sustainable energy projects and promote these as examples of best practice.	Countryside and Land Association Cymru, Farmers' Union of Wales, Farming Connect, National Farmers Union, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
Visitor experience.	88: Implement activity tourism strategies within environmental sensitivity.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, PCC, Sustrans, BHS, Business Clusters.
	89: Promote the use of local food to businesses and visitors.	AgriFood Partnership, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Adventa, Gallu, Glasu.
	90: Realise fully the tourism potential of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal whilst its attractive setting is conserved and enhanced.	Canal and River Trust.
Visitor experience.	91: Realise fully the tourism potential of the International Dark Sky Reserve whilst enhancing the dark skies.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Brecon Beacons Park Society.
Partnership working with businesses.	92: Work with locality and themed businesses clusters/alliances under previous EU funded programmes.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Brecon Beacons Tourism, Business Clusters.
	93: Maintain and develop business training programmes.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Gallu.
	94: Implement environmental certification Ambassador & Charter Part 2 programmes.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

Key partners	How will this be achieved?
Local Farmers, Local businesses, Tourism providers.	Rural Development Plan and indirectly through the involvement of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Unitary Authorities, Farming Unions (Farming Union Wales - FUW/National Farming Union - NFU), PONT.	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.
Farming Unions, Local Businesses, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, World Heritage Site.	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.
Local Farmers.	Eg Aberbran Fawr Demonstration Farm.
World Heritage Site.	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.
Farming Unions, Local Businesses.	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Unitary Authorities, Sustrans, World Heritage Site.	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.
	Lighting Management Plan, Dark Sky 5 year plan, Tourism Strategy.
	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.
World Heritage Site, International Dark Sky Reserve Status Management Board	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.
Fforest Fawr Geopark	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.

Sub-theme	Action	Lead organisation/s
Sustainable economic impact of tourism.	95: Encourage day visitors to stay longer and spend more.	Brecon Beacons Sustainable Destination Partnership.
	96: Seek funding to develop marketing strategy and implement.	Brecon Beacons Tourism, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Unitary Authorities.
Tourism impacts.	97: Monitor agreed sustainable tourism indicators.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Geopark Management Group, Brecon Beacons Sustainable Destination Partnership.
Sustainable transport by visitors.	98: Organise Visitor Transport Partnership.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Visitor Transport Partnership.
	99: Maintain commitment to supporting community led transport initiatives.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Visitor Transport Partnership.
	100: Encourage visitor use of public transport.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Visitor Transport Partnership.
Partnership working.	101: Organise Sustainable Destination Partnership & Tourism Conference.	Brecon Beacons Sustainable Destination Partnership.
	102: Organise Geopark Management Group.	Geopark Partnership.
	103: Apply for revalidation of European Geopark status.	Geopark Partnership.
	104: Apply to Europarc for renewed Charter status.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	105: Establish and operate an IDSR Management Board of key partners.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	106: Develop new Sustainable Tourism Strategy to implement National Park Management Plan objectives.	Brecon Beacons Sustainable Destination Partnership.
	107: Secure success in the IDSR re-evaluation in 2018 with Lead Organisation the NPA and Key Partners the BBPS, the University of South Wales, Local Astronomical Societies, and Local Authorities and Communities.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	108: Promote business opportunities and regeneration strategies to increase the number of good quality jobs for local people.	Unitary Authorities, Local Communities.
Economies to become more resilient to change.	109: Develop new funding streams and signposting to external funding for use by businesses pursuing sustainability projects.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Rural Development Plan, County Regeneration Partnerships for Powys, Monmouthshire, Merthyr and Valleys Regeneration Partnership.
	110: Provide work placement, volunteer, workshadow and other skills programmes in the National Park.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
	111: Promote an increase in vocational training opportunities to improve local knowledge and skills, such as traditional low impact farming, land management skills, local culture and history.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

Key partners	How will this be achieved?
World Heritage Site, Valleys Regional Park, Heads of the Valleys.	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.
World Heritage Site, Valleys Regional Park, Heads of the Valleys.	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.
	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.
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	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	Meet 3 times per year. Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.	Apply for status, successful in 2012, new application in 2016. Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.
	Application in 2017. Following actions in the Tourism Strategy.
Brecon Beacons Park Society, The University of South Wales.	Lighting Management Plan and Dark Sky 5 year plan.
	Develop Strategy to commence in 2017.
Brecon Beacons Park Society, The University of South Wales, local astronomical societies, local authorities and communities.	Lighting Management Plan and Dark Sky 5 year plan.
Welsh Government, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, World Heritage Site.	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy. Rural Development Plan.
World Heritage Site.	Sustainable Development Fund projects with businesses, signposting business to external funding.
Youth & Youth Offending Services, Accredited Training Providers.	Volunteer development work, workshadowing and work experience schemes.
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Torfaen Council.	Deliver the Heritage Lottery Fund funded Skills in Action paid traineeship programme.

Aims Theme 6 - Sustainable Economic Development

The vision of the Park will be pursued through the following aims:

No.	by 2030
1	The Park will be supported by an exemplar sustainable tourism industry which contributes to the public's enjoyment of the area's special qualities and to the local economy.
2	A mixture of farming, small rural businesses, traditional land-use businesses, land management organisations, local services and sustainable tourism industries will maximise the economic potential of the Park's special qualities whilst promoting resource conservation.
3	Individuals will have access to employment opportunities and modern amenities appropriate to the context of the Park's purposes and duty.
4	The contributions that historic landscapes, local distinctiveness and vernacular buildings make to the economy and environment will be recognised and promoted.
5	Local communities will establish collaborative projects for food production, income generation, energy generation and travel that maximise social, economic and environmental benefits for all.

Objectives Theme 6 - Sustainable Economic Development

The following objectives set the framework for detailed lists of actions:

ID	Strategic objectives
1	Invest in well researched, planned and coordinated product development based on the natural strengths and culture of the area.
2	Continue to improve the understanding of tourism trends, market behaviour and the business of tourism in and around the National Park.
3	Refine the tourism organisational structure to help create a stronger partnership approach involving all key stakeholders.
4	Encourage collaborative marketing activities based upon the Brecon Beacons brand.
5	Enhance the National Park experience for all people, residents and visitors alike.
6	Manage the impacts of tourism.
7	Realise fully the tourism potential of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal whilst its attractive setting is conserved and enhanced.
8	Develop landscape-scale conservation of geodiversity, bio-diversity and related cultural heritage.
9	Improve the visitor experience, particularly by developing information and interpretation of its special qualities.
10	Support sustainable tourism and other forms of sustainable economic development.
11	Act as a focus for environmental/earth education and research.
12	Engage local communities in new ways of working towards sustainable development.

Appendix 4:

The Key Messages of the UK National Ecosystem Assessment

The natural world, its biodiversity and its constituent ecosystems are critically important to our well-being and economic prosperity, but are consistently undervalued in conventional economic analyses and decisions making. Ecosystems and the services they deliver underpin our very existence. We depend on them to produce our food, regulate water supplies and climate, and breakdown waste products. We also value them in less obvious ways: contact with nature gives pleasure, provides recreation and is known to have a positive impact long-term health and happiness.

Ecosystems and ecosystem services, and the ways people benefit from them, have changed markedly in the past 60 years, driven by changes in society. During the second half of the 20th Century, the UK's population grew by roughly a quarter to nearly 62 million, living standards greatly increased and technological developments and globalisation had major effects on behaviour and consumption patterns. The production of food from agriculture increased dramatically, but many other ecosystem services, particularly those related to air, water and soil quality, declined.

The UK's ecosystems are currently delivering some services well, but others are still in long-term decline. Of the range of services delivered in the UK by eight broad aquatic and terrestrial habitat types and their constituent biodiversity, about 30% have been assessed as currently declining. Many others are in a reduced or degraded state, including marine fisheries, wild species diversity and some of the services provided by soils. Reductions in ecosystem services are associated with declines in habitat extent or condition and changes in biodiversity, although the exact relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem services it underpins is still incompletely understood.

The UK population will continue to grow, and its demands and expectations continue to evolve. This is likely to increase pressures on ecosystem services in future where climate change will have an accelerating impact both here and in the world at large. The UK's population is predicted to grow by nearly 10 million in the next 20 years. Climate change is expected to lead to more frequent severe weather events and alter rain patterns, with implications for agriculture, flood control and many other services. One major challenge is sustainable intensification of agriculture increasing food production while decreasing the environmental footprint.

Actions taken and decisions made now will have consequences far into the future for ecosystems, ecosystem services and human well-being. It is important that these are understood, so that we can make the best possible choices, not just for society but also for future generations. Contemporary economic and participating techniques allow us to estimate values for a wide range of ecosystems services. Applying these to scenarios of plausible futures show that allowing decisions to be guided by market prices alone forgoes opportunities for major enhancements in ecosystem services, with negative consequences for social well-being. Recognising the value of ecosystem services more fully would allow the UK to move towards a more sustainable future, in which benefits of ecosystem services are better realised and more equitably distributed.

A move to sustainable development will require an appropriate mixture of regulations, technology, financial investment and education, as well as changes in individual and societal behaviour and adoption of a more integrated, rather than conventional sectoral, approach to ecosystem management. This will need the involvement of a range of different actors - government, the private sector, voluntary organisations and civil society at large - in processes that are open and transparent enough to facilitate dialogue and collaboration and allow necessary trade-offs to be understood and agreed on when making decisions.

Appendix 5:

Town and Community Council Liaison Meeting (March 2014)

What are the key issues we need to tackle to ensure the well-being of future generations?

Better Broadband in Rural areas.

Need to know where Superfast Cymru will reach, for business education and access to services.

Flooding and insurance issues for both properties which flood and those perceived to be at risk (by insurers).

Lack of mobile phone signal in many rural areas.

Education quality & loss of schools.

Population trends; increasing 0-10yrs and incoming over 50's.

Ageing population.

Jobs and skills training.

Jobs potential at Rassau.

Cost of living and energy resilience.

Biodiversity.

Water-availability.

Weather fluctuations.

Loss of land.

Food production.

Jobs-where will people work & what as.

Infrastructure for employment-for National Park area higher value (lower volume) processing and microbusinesses more appropriate (lower volumes to transport).

Tourism-some benefits but employment tends to be seasonal.

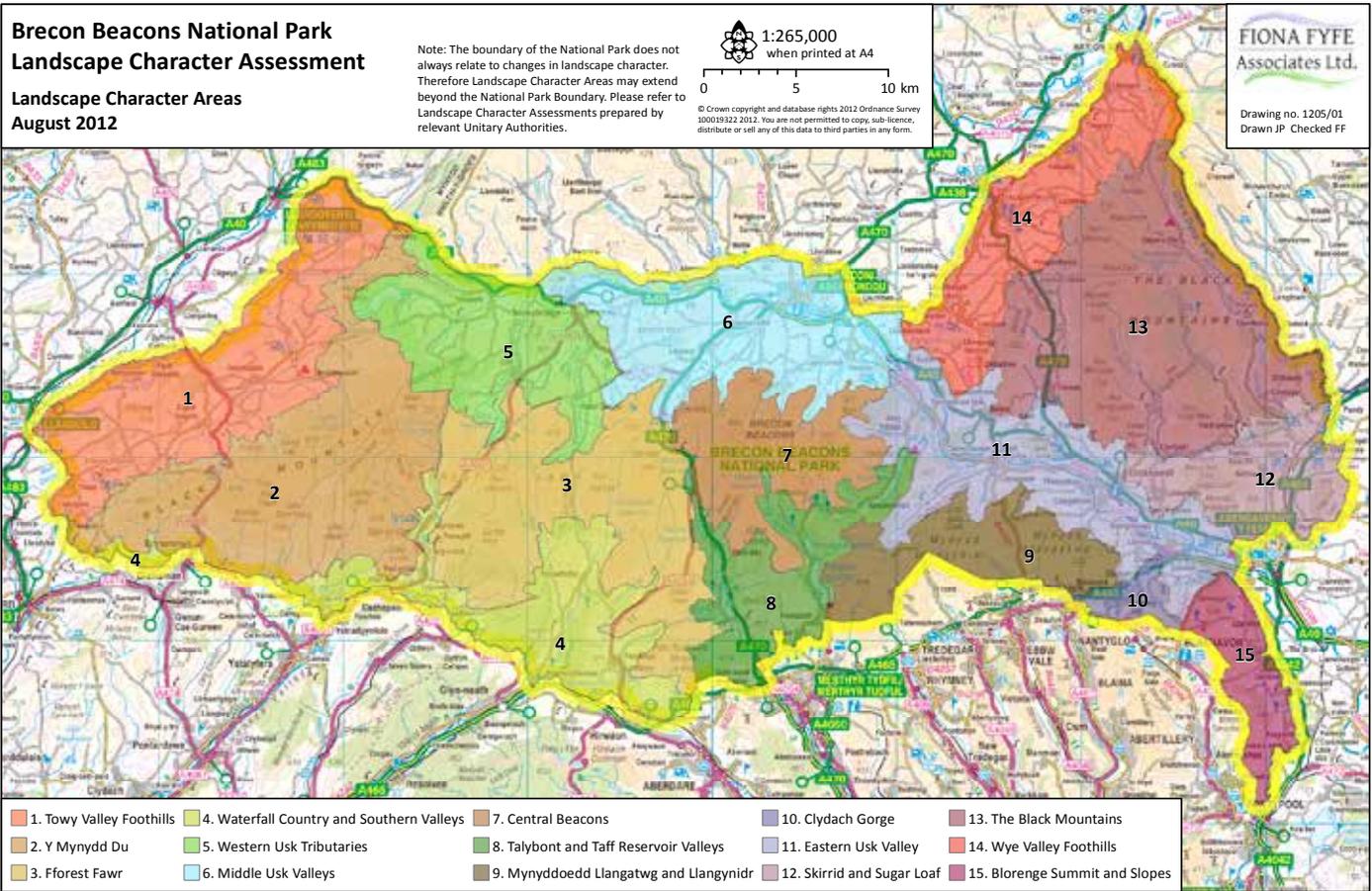
High business rates contributing to decline of town centres.

Town and Community Council Liaison Meeting (March 2014): Wellbeing and Future Generations Bill

What do we need to do between now and 2050 to tackle these issues?
Ensure Broadband coverage in Rural areas.
Identify & address mobile phone blackspots.
Identify flooding hotspots and manage to mitigate flooding and flooding impact (eg hedge cutting management which can result in blocked drains).
Invest in young people.
Plan schools for increase in children and to address sustainability of long bus commutes to school.
Skills training.
Support food producers.
Invest in local distinctiveness and brand promotion.
Develop quality markets/totally locally/(reduce food miles).
Scrap Severn Bridge Toll.
Plan services for increasing elderly population, including those unable to drive.
Plan housing provision for increasing numbers of smaller households. Plan parking in housing.
National Park Authority support to local development & infrastructure to enable work in the area.
National Park setting attracts some higher value employers - build on this.

Appendix 6:

15 Landscape Character Areas of the Brecon Beacons National Park



Old Croftau

Appendix 7:

Focal Area Justification

The four focal areas were identified following the 2011-2012 Audit and Scrutiny Review on the Improvement Objective for minimising damage to the Park's environment, in particular the recommendation to broaden the area of the Park that is the focus of improvement projects for the Park's environment. This review presented us with an opportunity to evaluate the land management services we provide so that we could target limited resources effectively, as well as develop effective partnerships. At that time there was a range of corporate spending priorities which included developing an upland management strategy and implementing the Waterfall Country Management Plan. Also, the Glastir Common Land Scheme was emerging and we judged that this presented a once in a generation opportunity to secure agri-environment funding on upland commons, for the very first time. Additionally, the Minister's Strategic Grant Letters had repeatedly instructed the Authority to focus on management of designated sites.

The four focal areas emerged from this process, providing a geographic spread of areas, encompassing examples of most of the Park's habitats of principal importance to Wales, operating within a mixture of open common land and enclosed lowlands and aiming to deliver work through a range of partnership approaches:

Mynydd Du SSSI: existing Meithrin Mynydd Partnership, Waun Figen Felen Management Forum, collaborating with Glastir Commons Graziers Associations (partnerships between graziers, Welsh Government officials and the Park Authority), supporting the Calch Project at Herbert's Quarry (run by Cambria Archaeology)

Waterfall Country (includes Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC): implementing the Waterfall Country Management Plan in partnership with Natural Resources Wales, as well as user groups and the local community; improving footpaths, way-marking and interpretation; establishing the Waterfall Country Volunteers and working closely with the South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group to reduce the principal adverse impact on the SAC features, namely people and entering a Service Level Agreement with NRW to provide a warden patrol service on the NRW parts.

Llangasty (part Llangors Lake SAC) and Caeau Ty Mawr SSSI: the Park Authority's only significant lowland land holding, with a draft management plan awaiting completion. The site's ecology and strategic importance in terms of landscape and visitor management, as well as bringing the management plan to a point of implementation were key issues. Interpretation projects, bird hide, easy access route to the bird hide, water vole reintroduction, habitat management, partnership with tenants, ringing group and Llangors Lake Advisory Group are all examples of recent and ongoing management work.

Black Mountains SSSI: the easternmost part of the Park, with the SSSI crossing into England, a range of previous cross-border visitor management projects, the concentration of severely eroded and damaged peatlands (biodiversity losses, carbon dioxide emissions), very high visitor pressure, the Offa's Dyke National Trail, and the Black Mountains Land Use Partnership have kept the Black Mountains at a high level of importance. There has been a long history of attempting to establish cross-border land management projects, culminating in the Nature Fund project (eroded peat protection, footpath establishment, bracken and gorse management, heather and *Molinia* management, peat surveys, establishing a land management partnership) and the RDP Wales presents opportunities for lasting integrated land management projects by the Partnership.

Appendix 8:

Principles of sustainable management of natural resources (Environment Bill)

a) Manage adaptively, by planning, monitoring and reviewing action.
b) Consider the appropriate spatial scale for action.
c) Promote and engage in collaboration and co-operation.
d) Take account of all relevant evidence and gather evidence in respect of uncertainties.
e) Take account of the benefits and intrinsic value of natural resources and ecosystems.
f) Take account of the short, medium and long term consequences of actions.
g) Take account of the resilience of ecosystems, in particular the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Diversity between and within ecosystems.ii) The connections between and within ecosystems.iii) The scale of ecosystems.iv) The condition of ecosystems.v) The adaptability of ecosystems.

Appendix 9:

Sustainable Tourism Strategy Actions

Strategic area	Actions	Lead
Effective Marketing.	Strengthen understanding of target market profiles and perceptions.	BBMCG Lead: Brecon Beacons Tourism.
	Establish and disseminate the Brecon Beacons brand values.	BBMCG Lead: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Communications Team.
	Establish and maintain a high quality web presence for the destination.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Communications Team & Brecon Beacons Tourism.
	Maintain a creative PR, communications and social media programme.	BBMCG: Lead: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Communications Team & Brecon Beacons Tourism.
	Focus on seasonal and off-peak images, themes and offers.	BBMCG Lead: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Communications Team.
	Ensure full synergy with Visit Wales and partner marketing programmes.	BBMCG.
	Make positive use of designations, without confusing the brand.	BBMCG.
	Obtain exposure for the Brecon Beacons at major generative events.	BBMCG.
Coordinated information and Interpretation.	Develop and implement strategies for information and interpretation.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Visitor Services & Tourism Teams.
	Consolidate the Information Centre network, strengthening stakeholder engagement and support.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Centres Team & Local Authorities.
	Pursue redevelopment of the National Park Visitor Centre.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Centres Team.
	Expand the individual delivery of information and interpretation through the Ambassadors scheme and more widely.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Visitor Services & Tourism Teams.
	Seek improved broadband coverage and opportunities for further use of IT in information delivery.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Welsh Government & Local Authorities.
Environmental Responsibility.	Support all actions to maintain a quality environment.	BBSDP Board.
	Clarify and pursue spatial visitor management policy across the Park.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism & Conservation Teams.
	Extend access codes for specific areas and activities.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism & Conservation Teams.

Strategic Area	Actions	Lead
Environmental responsibility.	Ensure best possible integrated public transport services, supported by information and promotion.	Visitor Transport Partnership Lead: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team.
	Encourage tourism enterprises to strengthen sustainability management.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team.
	Encourage visitors to contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the National Park and its environment, financially and by behavioural change.	BBSDP Board.
Product diversity	Maintain high quality walking experiences and general countryside access at all levels.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Conservation Team.
	Provide a range of cycling experiences matched to differing markets and terrain.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team.
	Further establish the Brecon Beacons as the primary destination for horse riding in Wales.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team.
	Develop more opportunities for visitors to experience the wide range of supported outdoor activities where capacity allows.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team & SWOAPG.
	Strengthen the awareness, accessibility and appeal of the area's historical sites.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism & Visitor Services Teams.
	Make more of the industrial heritage of the area and links to The Valleys.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism & Visitor Services Teams.
	Maximise on the opportunities presented by the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.	CRT.
	Bring out the area's living cultural heritage as part of the visitor appeal.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism, Heritage & Visitor Services Teams; CADW.
	Promote awareness and use of local produce.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team.
	Provide a creative range of opportunities to experience the area's wildlife and geology, particularly but not only in the Geopark.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team.
	Promote and strengthen the range of events in the area.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism & Communications Teams & Brecon Beacons Tourism.
	Develop specific initiatives to promote and deliver accessible and socially inclusive tourism.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism & Community Teams.
Communities and place making.	Create a framework and programme for Brecon Beacons level guidance and support for community action in tourism.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team.

Strategic Area	Actions	Lead
Communities and place making.	Assess and strengthen the level of awareness amongst communities of tourism and its contribution.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team.
	Establish or strengthen community based structures for tourism management.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team with community groups.
	Clarify community tourism visions, priorities and programmes.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team with community groups.
	Identify needs and implement actions to improve appearance, amenities and security in towns, villages and the wider countryside.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team with community groups.
	Ensure effective visitor orientation in each community and implement local projects to engage the interest of visitors and residents.	Community groups with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team.
	Seek to engage more actively with the farming community.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Conservation & Tourism Teams.
Supporting Businesses.	Strengthen membership and resources of Brecon Beacons Tourism as the lead and umbrella private sector body.	BBSDP Board.
	Maintain and support enterprise clusters where appropriate.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team & Brecon Beacons Tourism.
	Pursue opportunities for businesses from EUROPARC Charter Part 2.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team.
	Strengthen the overall quality of tourism services in the Brecon Beacons.	BBSDP Board.
	Promote access to, and uptake of business support, advice and skills training for tourism enterprises and staff.	BBSDP Training Group.
	Encourage investment in new or improved tourism accommodation, attractions and services in line with market opportunities, gaps and sustainability principles.	BBSDP Board.
	Encourage positive dialogue between tourism enterprises, landowners, investors, communities and planners.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Conservation, Planning & Tourism Teams.
Partnership Management.	Develop, adapt and monitor key Sustainable Tourism Indicators.	BBSDP Board Lead: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team.
	Develop, manage and review Partnership structures.	BBSDP Board Lead: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team.
	Apply for Europarc Charter status in 2017.	BBSDP Board Lead: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team.

Appendix 10:

List of Acronyms

AALS	Adventurous Activities Licensing Scheme	RCAHMW	Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales
BBNPA	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	RDP	Rural Development Plan
CPRW	Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales	RIGS	Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites
DCWW	Dwîr Cymru Welsh Water	ROWIP	Rights of Way Improvement Plan
FLP	Forgotten Landscapes Project	SA	Sustainability Appraisal
FUW	Farming Union Wales	SAC	Special Area of Conservation
HA	Highway Authority	SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (World Conservation Union)	SDF	Sustainable Development Fund
LDP	Local Development Plan	SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
LPA	Local Planning Authority	SEWTA	South East Wales Transport Alliance
MOD	Ministry of Defence	SOPR	State of the Park Report
NA	National Assembly	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities	TAN	Technical Advice Note
NFU	National Farming Union	TGV	The Green Valleys
NNR	National Nature Reserve	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
NPA	National Park Authority	WG	Welsh Government
NPMP	National Park Management Plan	WATs	Welsh Archaeological Trusts
NRW	Natural Resources Wales	WFD	Water Framework Directive
NT	National Trust	WHS	World Heritage Site
ORS	Old Red Sandstone	WTs	Wildlife Trusts
PROW	Public Right of Way	YHA	Youth Hostel Association