

Brecon Beacons National Park
State of the Park Report (Draft)
2014

Version: 0.4 (~~CMT comments~~); (~~Working Group Comments~~); (~~Comms Comments~~); (National Park Authority)
Author: MS
Date: 23 June 2014

*'The world's protected areas, currently covering over 12 percent of land surface in the form of national parks and nature reserves, provide the largest single source of secure ecosystem services alongside their more recognized roles of biodiversity conservation and recreation. The natural ecosystems in protected areas provide food security; regular, clean water supplies; disaster mitigation; carbon sequestration; and a wealth of cultural and spiritual services. Yet discussions about protected areas rarely focus on the ecosystem services they provide and from which they could benefit financially.'*¹

¹ National Parks with Benefits: How Protecting the Planet's Biodiversity Also Provides Ecosystem Services (<http://www.thesolutionsjournal.com/node/1008>)

<u>Contents</u>	Page
Indicator Table	3
Introduction	4
About the Park	6
Land Ownership	7
Park Profile	7
Indicators:	
<i>Theme 1: Managing Park Landscapes to Maximise Conservation and Public Benefits:</i>	14
1. Landscape Character Assessment	
2. Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings at Risk	
3. Condition of Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites	
<i>Theme 2: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity:</i>	25
4. Condition of Biological Sites of Special Scientific Interest	
5. Water Quality	
6. Phase I Habitat Data	
<i>Theme 3: Providing Everyone with Opportunities for Outdoor Access and Recreation:</i>	36
7. % of Rights of Way that are easy to use	
8. Upland Erosion on Paths	
9. Visitor Satisfaction	
<i>Theme 4: Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park:</i>	48
10. Number of Outdoor Education Centres	
11. Number of Settlements Benefitting from Interpretation and/or Information Panels	
12. Ratio of Staying Visitors v Day Visitors	
<i>Theme 5: Building and Maintaining Sustainable Communities, Towns and Villages:</i>	55
13. Flood Risk, River Levels + Climate Change	
14. Health and Wellbeing	
15. Communities with a Village Plan and Open Space Assessment	
<i>Theme 6: Sustainable Economic Development:</i>	67
16. Affordable Housing Provision	
17. Economic Activity	
18. Employment by Type of Industry	
Appendices	79

Indicator Table

1st Purpose	Theme 1: Managing park landscapes to maximise conservation and public benefits			Theme 2: Conserving and enhancing biodiversity		
	Indicator 1	Indicator 2	Indicator 3	Indicator 4	Indicator 5	Indicator 6
	Landscape character assessment	Scheduled ancient monuments and Listed Buildings at risk	Condition of regionally important geodiversity sites	Condition of biological sites of special scientific interest	Water quality	Phase I habitat data

2nd Purpose	Theme 3: Providing everyone with opportunities for outdoor access and recreation			Theme 4: Raising awareness and understanding of the park		
	Indicator 7	Indicator 8	Indicator 9	Indicator 10	Indicator 11	Indicator 12
	% of Rights of Way that are easy to use	Upland erosion on paths	Visitor satisfaction	Number of outdoor education centres	Number of settlements benefitting from interpretation and/or information panels	Ratio of staying visitors v day visitors

Duty	Indicator 13	Indicator 14	Indicator 15	Indicator 16	Indicator 17	Indicator 18
	Theme 5: Building and maintaining sustainable communities, towns and villages			Theme 6: Sustainable economic development		
	Flood risk, river levels and climate change	Health and wellbeing	Communities with a village plan and open space assessment	Affordable housing provision	Economic activity	Employment by type of industry

Introduction

The purpose of the State of the Park Report (SOPR) is to provide a picture of the overall health of the Brecon Beacons National Park and report on the progress in delivering the 2010-2015 National Park Management Plan. Like the Management Plan, it is a report for the National Park and the people who live, work and visit the Park, as well as for the work of the National Park Authority.

Just as important as knowing the current condition of a given National Park resource or parameter is the ability to discern long and short term trends and therefore an important goal is to determine whether the National Park is, in crude terms, getting better or worse. Contained within this report are data sets supplied by various levels of government, business and different types of research.

Some of the future indicators and sub-indicators will be derived from university research, and the National Park Authority has entered into research prospectus agreements with academic bodies which we hope will be fruitful in providing indicators for future iterations of this report. These on-going monitoring projects will enable future updates to be produced while developing methods suitable for providing State of the Park Report data.

This State of the Park Report uses indicators structured in line with the six themes of the Management Plan, which have been derived from the Park Authority's Purposes and Duty. This is shown in Table Intro I below:

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 Intro I: Management Plan Themes and Purpose/Duty

Three headline indicators have been chosen per Management Plan theme, providing a total of 18 headline indicators covering the First and Second Purpose, and Duty, of the National Park Authority.

This aligns the Management Plan more closely with the 12 Category V Protected Area Principles² (appendix 1) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the current Management Plan.

The report is constantly evolving and the addition of indicators or sub-indicators in future iterations will make for richer and more detailed understanding of the health of Management Plan themes.

Table Intro2 below identifies the condition of each theme based on the data derived from the indicators in this report. The scoring system currently ranges between Poor, Fair, Good and Excellent. This provides crude information on the overall state of a given Management Plan theme. More information is given through specific indicators/sub-indicators.

The scoring system is currently quite subjective and it is our intention that future iterations of the State of the Park Report will develop a scoring system which is more scientific and consistent across each of the indicators.

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

Table Intro2: Management Plan Theme and Condition

It is proposed to publish updates of the report at least once every three years, the next report will be in 2017. Not every indicator will be updated within this time frame as some indicators are subject to more periodic review than others.

² A protected area is a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. (IUCN Definition 2008)

About the Park

The Brecon Beacons National Park contains some of the most spectacular and distinctive upland landform in southern Britain. Despite its name, the National Park is much more than the just the Brecon Beacons and includes Y Mynyddoedd Duon (The Black Mountains), Y Mynydd Du (The Black Mountain) and Fforest Fawr (the Great Forest).

The Park covers 520 square miles (1346 square kilometres) 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, caves, forests and reservoirs. The bulk of the Park is underlain by Old Red Sandstone rocks of Devonian age.

The Park was glaciated during the last Ice Age and the value of the Park's Earth science heritage has been acknowledged by the European/UNESCO Geopark Network who granted Geopark status to the Fforest Fawr Geopark in October 2005. The Geopark includes the whole of the western half of the Brecon Beacons National Park. It became the first Geopark in Wales, and the first Geopark in any UK National Park.

In 2013 the quality of the night skies above the National Park was recognised by the International Dark Sky Association when it was granted the accolade of becoming the fifth Dark Sky Reserve in the world. This status indicates a lack of light pollution and a high percentage of clear skies. The application for the status was made through a partnership between the National Park Authority and the Brecon Beacons Park Society (an independent membership group). Many tourism businesses across the Park have embraced the concept and offer stargazing packages and information to their guests.

The National Park has many rich habitats for wildlife but no part of the Park is unaffected by the intervention of mankind. Most of the land within the National Park is agricultural including hedged fields and the upland commons (the remaining being predominantly a combination of reservoirs, lakes and woodland). The history of human influence can be seen everywhere, from Neolithic long cairns, Iron Age hillforts, Roman roads and Norman castles, to disused quarries and ironworks, managed woods and forest plantations, former railways, a canal and reservoirs, as well as the many farmsteads, villages and small market towns.

The Park is home to more than 33,000 people and has a strong Welsh heritage and rich economic, social and cultural life. The largest settlement is the cathedral town of Brecon with a population of 8,250 (Census 2011), a 4.4% increase from 2001 data (7,904). Brecon is a busy market town which is an important administrative centre for Powys County Council and the Ministry of Defence as well as the National Park Authority.

Approximately 4.1 million visitors every year³ come to the Brecon Beacons National Park to enjoy this unforgettable landscape. The mountains, uplands and valleys are all excellent walking country, and other activities include horse riding, cycling and mountain biking and water-based activities. There are major tourist attractions and festivals and celebrations of locally produced food.

Land Ownership

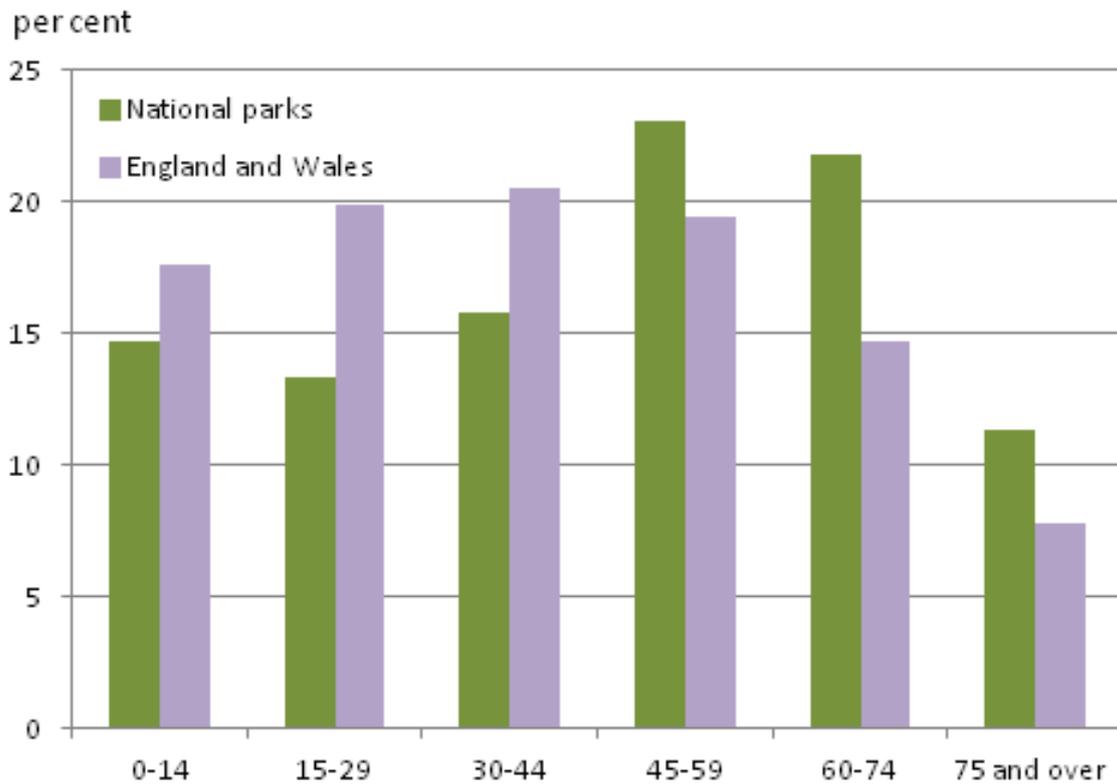
Most land in the National Park is privately owned by estate owners, farmers and householders, but there are several large public and charitable landowners too. The National Park Authority itself owns 14% of the land, mainly upland common land purchased with the help of grants to conserve it for the benefit of the public, this land has historic grazing rights attached and many of those with land bordering the commons have the right to put stock on the uplands.

Park Profile

Demography:

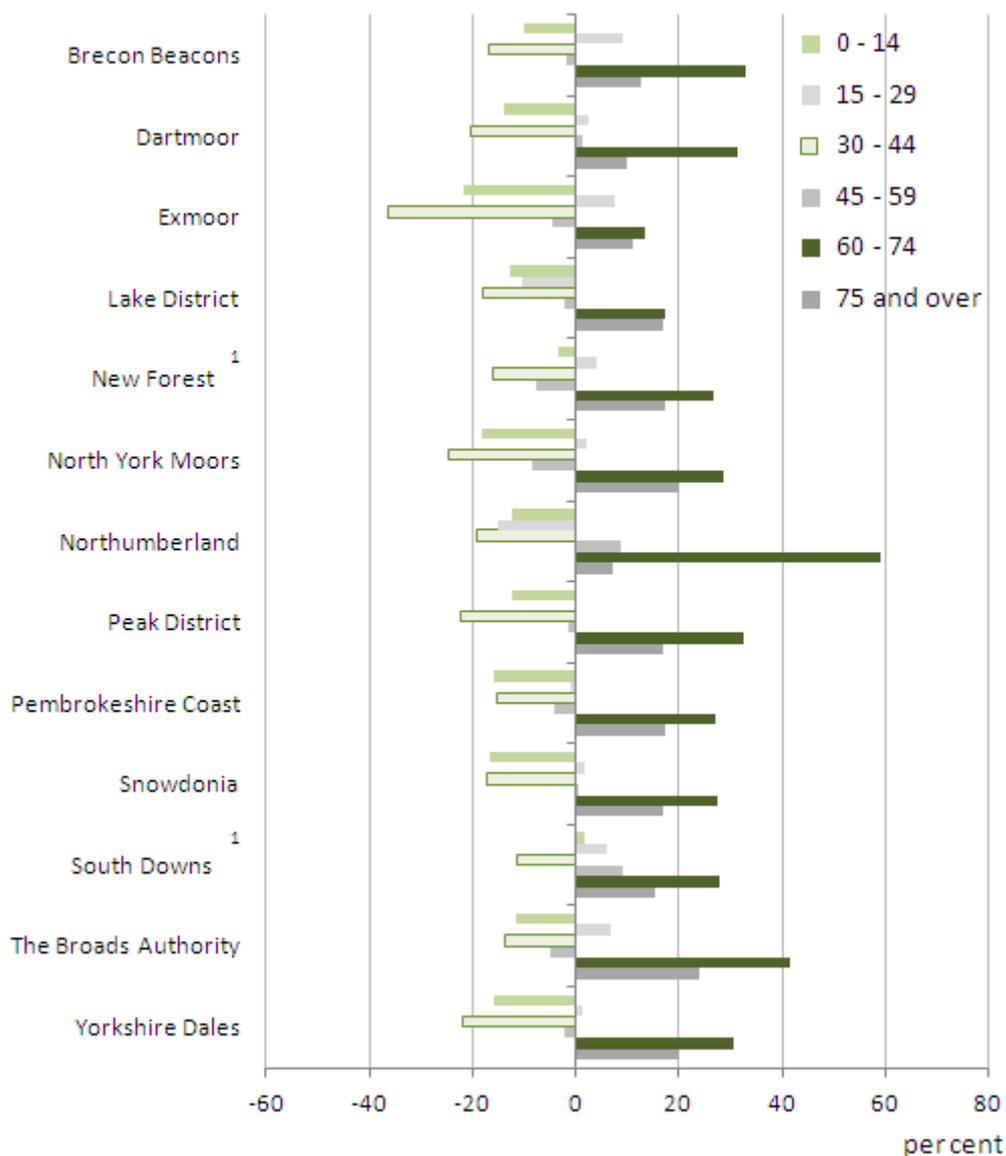
Graph Profile I below shows that in 2011 National Parks in England and Wales had a smaller proportion of their total population in the under 45 year age groups, and a greater proportion in the over 45 year age groups than for England and Wales. These figures are indicating an older population age structure for the resident population in national parks than nationally with a median age of 50 years, 11 years higher than the national median age at 39 (Census – Office for National Statistics).

³ <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/working-in-partnership/tourism-new/visitor-management-plan-draft>



Graph Profile 1: Age of usual residents (Source ONS Census data 2011)

Graph Profile 2 below shows that over the period 2001 to 2011, only one National Park in England and Wales had an increase in the 0 to 14 year age group. Brecon Beacons National Park had the largest percentage increase of 15 to 29 year-olds (at 9.0 per cent).

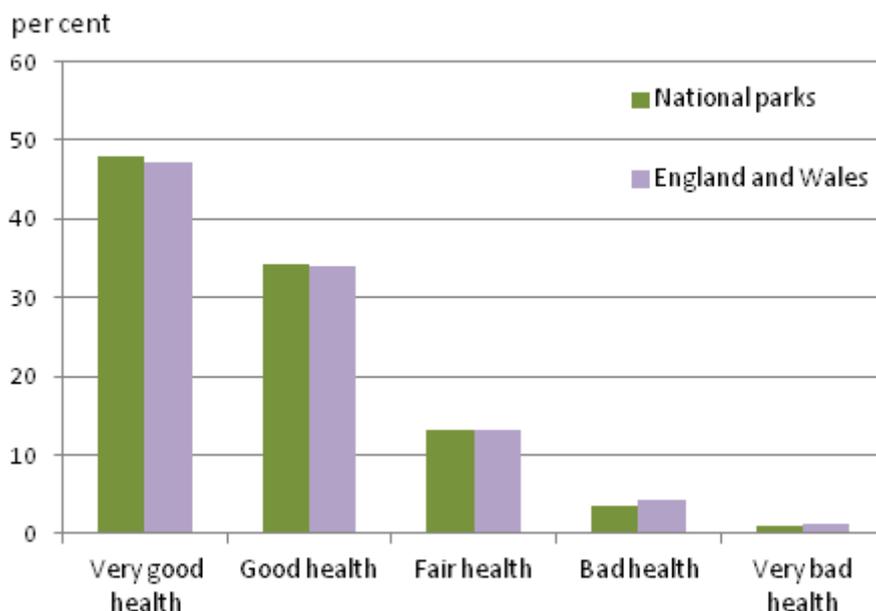


Graph Profile2: Percentage change in size of usual resident population by age (Source ONS Census data 2011)

Brecon Beacons National Park population is projected to increase from 32,700 in 2008 to around 33,300 in 2023, an increase of 2.0 per cent. The projected increase in population in National Parks in Wales is driven by in-migration from other parts of Wales and the UK. The number of deaths is projected to exceed the number of births (negative natural change) throughout the projection period and in each National Park. This is due to the older age profiles of the populations in National Parks compared to other areas. All the National Parks in Wales are projected to see significant increases in the population aged 65 and over and a decrease in the population aged under 65⁴.

⁴ <http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/population-projections-national-parks/?lang=en>

Usual residents⁵ were asked as part of the Census (2011) to assess their general state of health on a five point scale: very good, good, fair, bad or very bad. Graph Profile3 below shows that the majority of national park residents, 82%, described themselves as being in good, or very good health. This percentage is slightly higher than for England and Wales overall. Given that the national parks have an older age structure than nationally, and that generally, health deteriorates with age, this indicates that people residing in national parks perceive themselves as in better health than do those living in the rest of the country (Census - Office for National Statistics).



Graph Profile3: General Health (Source ONS Census data 2011)

A review of house prices in National Parks was undertaken by Lloyds Bank in 2012⁶. It tracked house price movements in 12 National Parks across England and Wales and was based on data from the Land Registry. It shows that the average price for homes located in the Brecon Beacons National Park is 8% higher than the average price for the rest of the County (down 10% on the corresponding figure for 2011).

⁵ A person's place of usual residence is generally the address in the UK at which they spend the majority of time. For most people this will be their permanent or family home (Final Population Definitions for the 2011 Census – October 2009).

⁶ http://www.lloydsbankinggroup.com/globalassets/documents/media/press-releases/lloyds-bank/2012/0408_parks.pdf

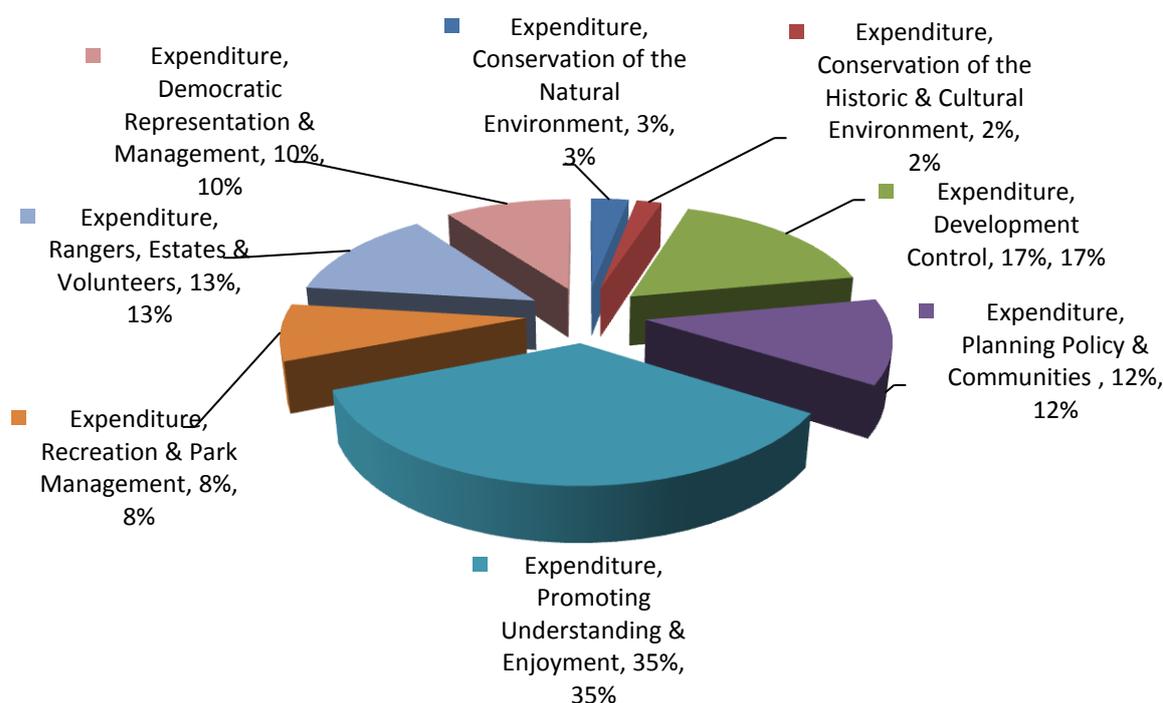
	Average national park price (£)	Average county price (£)	Difference %
2011	210,356	177,962	118
2012	193,658	178,860	108

Table Profile I: Brecon Beacons National Parks Premium to County House Prices

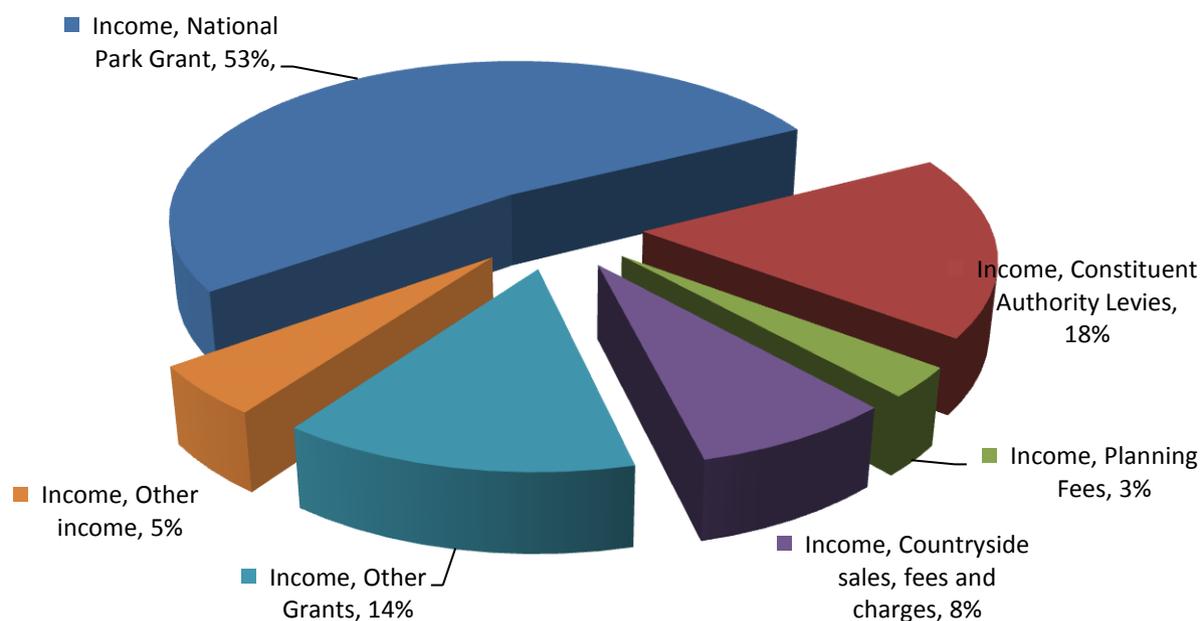
The Authority:

The Brecon Beacons National Park as a geographical area falls within the administrative areas of 9 of Wales' 22 Unitary Authorities. The National Park Authority is the planning and rights of way authority for the National Park area, while the constituent Unitary Authorities retain responsibility for all other local government services within 'their' areas of the Park. The National Park Authority therefore works in close partnership with these authorities and all those who have population within the geographical boundaries of the National Park appoint Members to serve on the Authority.

The following charts (Pie Chart Profile I and Profile 2) show a financial summary of the National Park Authority's expenditure.



Pie Chart Profile I: National Park Authority Expenditure (2012/2013)



Pie Chart Profile2: National Park Authority Income (2012/2013)

In pursuit of its purposes and duties the National Park Authority works with a variety of communities, people (resident and working) in the National Park and Visitors to the area. The National Park has a warden team which looks after the Authority's own land and the rights of way across the Park. The wardens are often the most visible staff to the public and perform a variety of services including working with other land owners and farmers, with school groups and visitors. Those servicing communities with more Welsh language speakers offer their service in Welsh. The Authority provides four visitor centres in partnership with other organisations and Councils. It has an Education outreach service working in schools in both English and Welsh language.

The tourism team work in partnership with businesses which engage with Visitors – their work includes a partnership with the local tourism organisation to produce a website promoting local businesses. It includes training programmes intended to help tourism businesses to improve their marketing and to work as sustainably as they can. It also includes a popular Ambassador training scheme to enable individuals to learn more about various aspects of the National Park and to offer their visitors a more knowledgeable reception.

The National Park Authority benefits from xxx hours a year of volunteer time. Volunteers do invaluable work across the National Park on a variety of activities including working with wardens on the ground and at the Visitor Centres and Craig-y-Nos Country Park.

As the Planning Authority for the National Park the Authority's Development Control team has made substantial improvements in its service and over the last 12 months has successfully moved from the bottom of the Welsh Government's league table to the upper quartile. The Authority has developed its resource for Heritage. The Authority's Policy and Strategy Department have produced, consulted upon and in 2013 adopted a new Local Development Plan (a statutory device which the Authority uses to guide development decisions).

Theme I: Managing Park Landscapes to Maximise Conservation and Public Benefits

Summary

Overall:

GOOD

The indicators representing this theme are:

- Indicator 1: Landscape Character Assessment
- Indicator 2: Scheduled ancient monuments and Listed Buildings at risk
- Indicator 3: Condition of regionally important geodiversity sites

The Landscape Character Assessment assesses 15 landscape character areas. As would be expected in a Category V protected landscape area, the overall condition for the majority of character areas is very good.

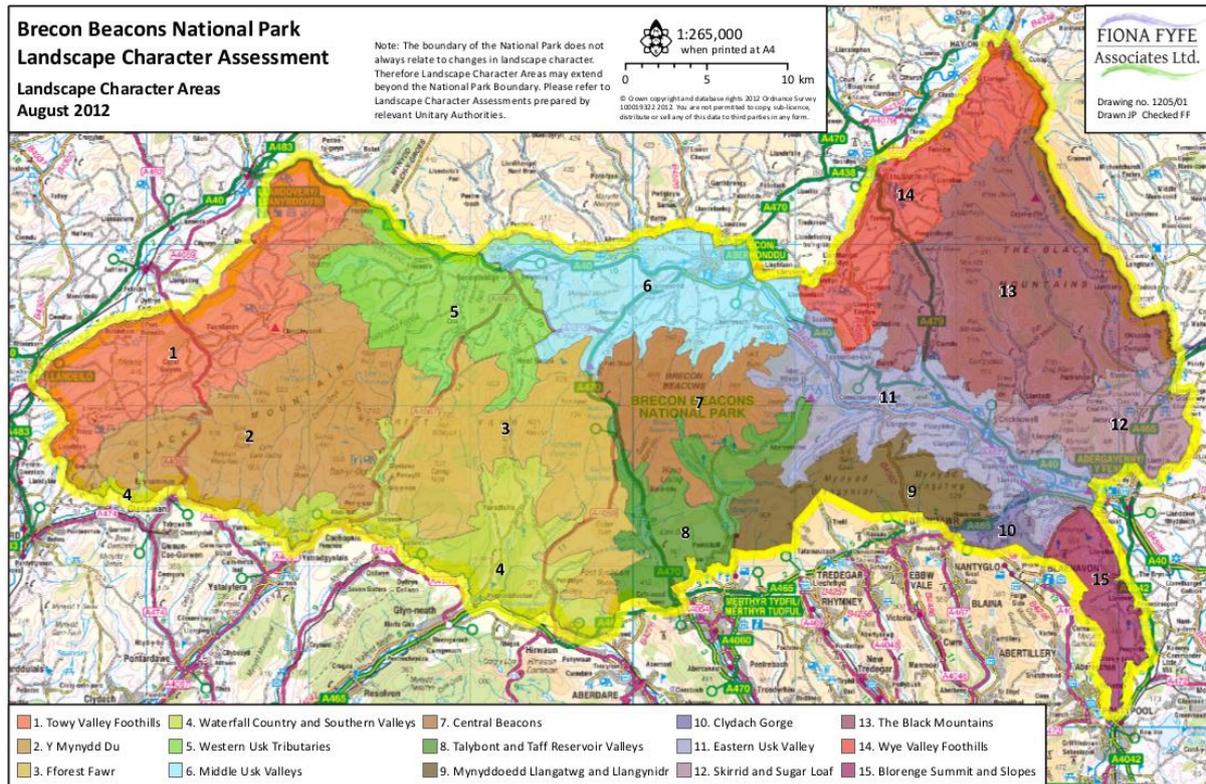
Built Heritage in the Park has improved considerably since 2006. The number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings in the Park that are at risk has decreased, while the total number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings in the Park has increased significantly. The condition of built heritage in the park is therefore good.

Regionally important geodiversity sites in the Park have increased significantly since 2006. The condition of the sites is generally very good and an active group has been set up to monitor the sites to ensure their long term preservation and assist in their maintenance as required.

Using these three indicators to assess overall condition (Poor, Fair, Good or Excellent), the state of the park in the context of Management Plan Theme I is GOOD.

Indicator I: Landscape Character Assessment

The primary objective of Category V protected landscapes is to protect and sustain important landscapes and the associated nature conservation and other values created by interactions with humans through traditional management practices. The Landscape Character Assessment identifies five broad landscape types and 15 Landscape Character Areas in the Brecon Beacons National Park⁷. The areas can be seen on Map LCAI.



Map LCAI: Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Areas

Each Landscape Character Area is described in terms of its location and context, historical development, distinctive characteristics, settlements, key views, special qualities, sensitivities, contribution to ecosystem services and green infrastructure and forces for landscape change. Each Landscape Character Area profile identifies aspect areas and ends with a management strategy and recommended management guidelines to protect and strengthen its landscape character.

⁷ For further information visit <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/>

This is a new indicator for the 2014 State of the Park Report and uses LANDMAP Visual and Sensory data⁸, taken from the Landscape Character Assessment, which ranks each aspect area using the following criteria:

- O – Outstanding: of international importance
- H – High: of regional or county importance
- M – Moderate: of local importance
- L – Low: of little/no importance

This report ranks each aspect area as follows:

- O – 4 points
- H – 3 points
- M – 2 points
- L – 1 point

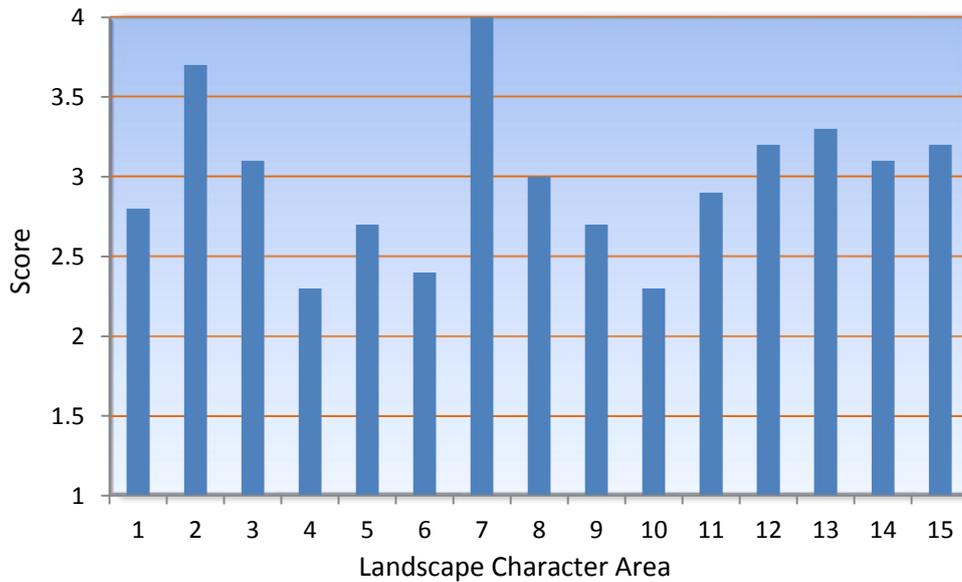
An average score is provided for each Landscape Character Area as demonstrated in Table I.

Area	Score
Area 1 – Towy Valley Foothills (lowlands)	2.8
Area 2 – Y Mynydd Du (Uplands)	3.7
Area 3 – Fforest Fawr (Uplands)	3.1
Area 4 – Waterfalls Country and Southern Valleys (upland Valleys)	2.3
Area 5 – Western Usk Tributaries (Upland Valleys)	2.7
Area 6 – Middle Usk Valleys (Settled Valleys)	2.4
Area 7 – Central Beacons (Uplands)	4
Area 8 – Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys (Upland Valleys)	3
Area 9 – Mynyddoedd Llangatwg and Llangynidr (Uplands)	2.7
Area 10 – Clydach Gorge (Settled Valleys)	2.3
Area 11 – Eastern Usk Valleys (Settled Valleys)	2.9
Area 12 – Skirrid and Sugarloaf (Mountains and Valleys)	3.2
Area 13 – The Black Mountains (Mountains and Valleys)	3.3
Area 14 – Wye Valley Foothills (Lowlands)	3.1
Area 15 – Blorenge Hills and Slopes (Mountains and Valleys)	3.2

Table I: Landscape Character Area and Score

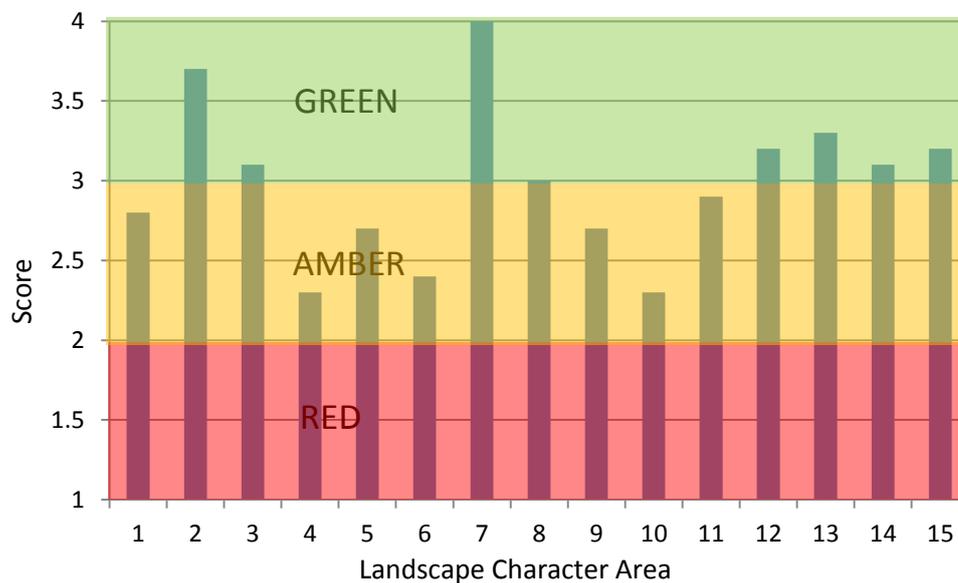
⁸ LANDMAP – A consistent data set across Wales prepared by Natural Resource Wales - visit <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landmap>

Graph 1 shows the results in graphical form.



Graph 1: Landscape Character Area and Score

Graph 2 below superimposes a traffic light model over the graph. A Landscape Character Area with a score of between 1-1.9 scores RED, between 2-2.9 scores AMBER and between 3-3.9 scores GREEN.



Graph 2: Landscape Character Area and Traffic Light Ranking

Graph 2 shows that 8 Landscape Character Areas are green, 7 are amber and happily 0 are red. Encouragingly, the majority of areas fall within the green traffic light ranking.

The overall landscape score for the Brecon Beacons National Park is green because the Landscape Character Assessment details it as being in very good condition. The management strategies

identified in the Landscape Character Assessment will assist in maintaining it in this condition and should raise the individual scores attributed by the Visual and Sensory LANDMAP classification scheme, as seen in Table I.

Indicator 2: Built Heritage

The Brecon Beacons National Park has a long and colourful history and a rich and varied cultural heritage. While many would imagine that the landscape of the Brecon Beacons is unspoilt and natural, in fact people have shaped and changed this landscape over many thousands of years.

We can see the legacy that past peoples have left to us across the National Park in our rich archaeological heritage and our historic buildings and settlements.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

A Scheduled Ancient Monument is an archaeological site that is of national importance which is protected from unmanaged or unlicensed change. Scheduled Ancient Monuments sometimes referred to as SAMs, can survive as above ground archaeological remains such as earthworks or ruins, as entirely below ground archaeological remains, or as a mixture of both.

Archaeology does not have to be a particular age to be scheduled, and sites have been scheduled that come from the prehistoric period right through to examples from the Second World War. SAMs come in all different shapes and sizes from individual Bronze Age burial cairns to very large industrial complexes. Only the best examples of each type of monument is scheduled, and sites are chosen based on criteria such as condition, rarity, extent of survival, vulnerability and group value.

Not all archaeological sites that are of national importance are scheduled, an archaeological site will only be scheduled if that is the best method of protecting the site. Most archaeological sites within the Brecon Beacons National Park are not scheduled. This does not mean that these sites are not important, and they need to be well understood, and carefully managed and conserved for current and future generations to enjoy.

SAMs have been monitored by Cadw since 1975. More information about Scheduled Ancient Monuments and how they are protected is available on <http://cadw.wales.gov.uk>. The status of the SAM relates to its change in condition since the last report.

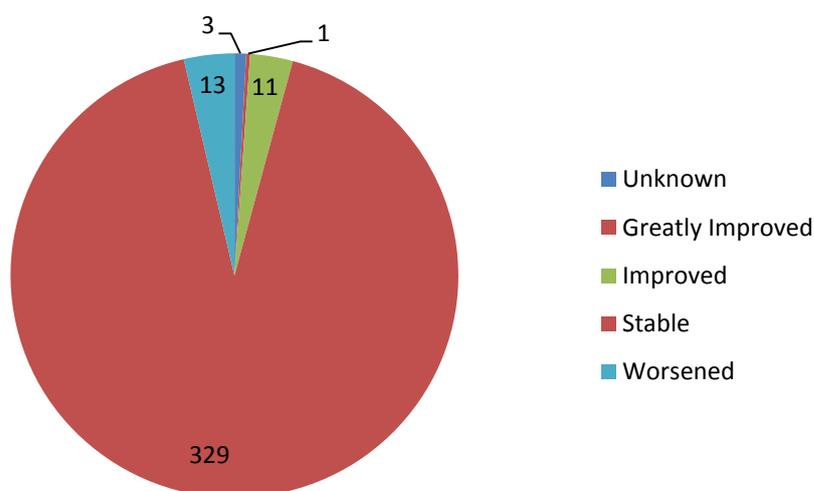
In **2006** there were 268 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the Park. Of these, 95.9% were in either a stable or favourable condition (257).

In **2014** there are 357 SAMs in the Park – an increase of 89 since 2006. Of the 357 SAMs in the Park, 95.5% are in a stable or favourable condition (341).

2014 statistics:

- 329 (92%) of these are in a 'Stable' condition

- 11 SAMs (3.0%) are in an 'Improved' condition
- 1 SAM (0.3%) is in a 'Greatly Improved' condition
- Therefore there are 341 SAMs (95.5%) in either stable or favourable condition
- There are 3 SAMs (0.8%) whose condition is currently unknown. This could be due to a variety of reasons which include poor weather hindering the ability to undertake a survey or even not being able to find the site.
- 13 SAMs (3.6%) are in a 'Worsened' condition



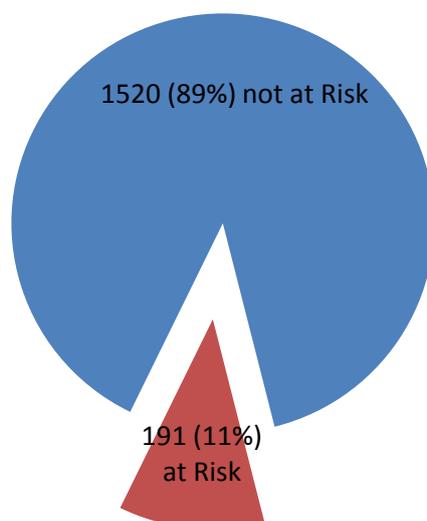
Pie Chart BHI: condition of Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the National Park in 2014

In 2014 there is a smaller percentage (0.4%) of SAMs in stable or favourable condition. While this figure is not large, it is worth noting that 89 ancient monuments have been scheduled since 2006 which means there is now a greater total number of SAMs in either stable or favourable condition.

Listed Buildings

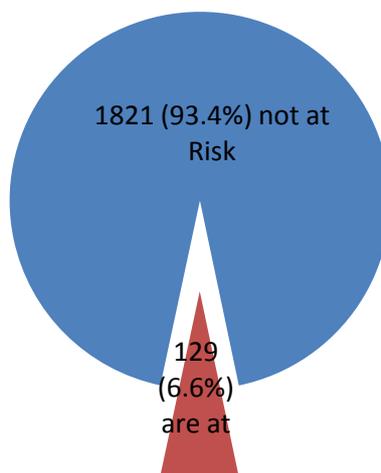
A listed building is a building that has been placed on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. These buildings can only be demolished, extended, or altered with special permission from the local planning authority. In order to decide whether permission should be granted the relevant planning Authority typically consults the appropriate central government agency – in the case of Brecon Beacons National Park this is Cadw. Most structures appearing on the lists are buildings, though many other types of structure can be listed – such as bridges, monuments, sculptures, war memorials and even milestones and mileposts.

Pie Chart BH2 shows that **in 2006** there were 1,711 listed buildings. Of these 1,520 were not at risk, and 191 were at risk (11%).



Pie Chart BH2: Listed Buildings that were at Risk in the Brecon Beacons National Park in 2006

Pie Chart BH3 shows that in **2014** there are 1,950 Listed Buildings. Of these 1821 are not at risk and 129 (6.6%) are at risk. Therefore in 2014 there are 239 more listed buildings than there were in 2006 however, the number of listed buildings at risk has reduced by 62 since 2006.



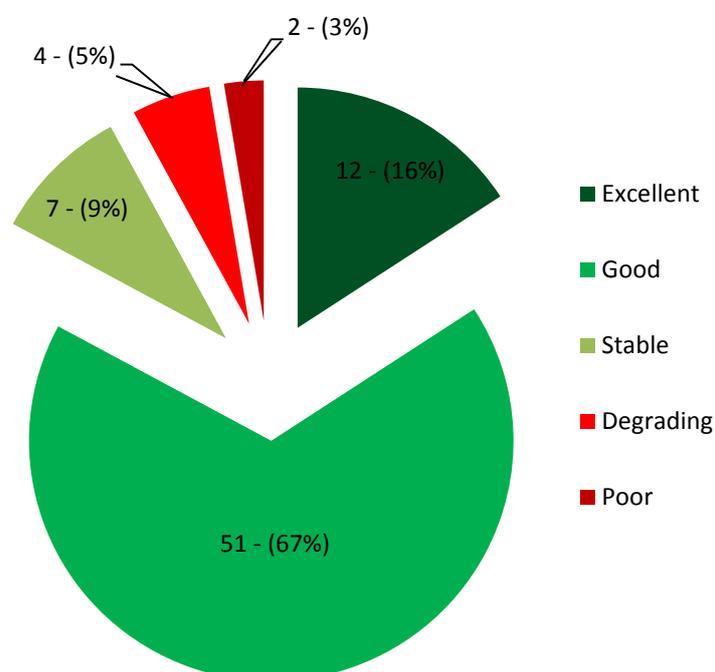
Pie Chart BH3: Listed Buildings that are currently at Risk in the Brecon Beacons National Park

Indicator 3: Geological Heritage

Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites are locally designated sites of local, national and regional importance for geodiversity (geology and geomorphology). There are a total of 76 Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites in the Park, which has increased from 11 in 2006.

The majority of sites are in good condition (67%), with 83% of sites in either good or excellent condition. 92% of sites are at least in a stable condition and 8% of sites are in either poor or degrading condition. Pie Chart GHI provides a visual breakdown of the condition of these sites.

Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites condition data 2014:



Pie Chart PHI: Regionally Important Geodiversity sites condition (2014)

Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites condition data 2006:

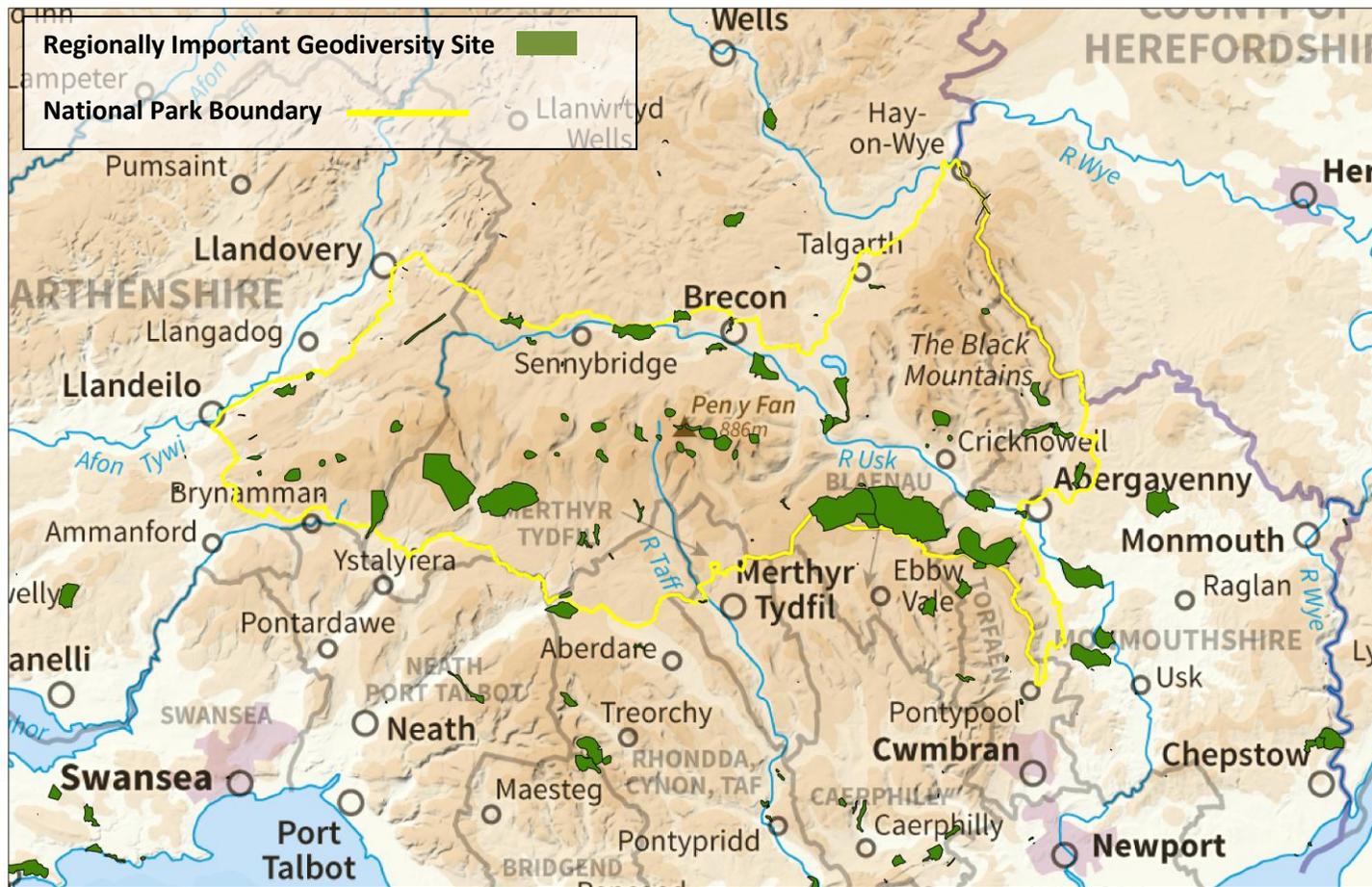
Excellent	0
Good	11
Stable	0
Degrading	0
Poor	0

NB: All 11 Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites identified in 2006 in the National Park remain in 'Good' condition in 2014

The data, which was commissioned by the Welsh Government through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund for Wales, represents a baseline on the state of the identified Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites at the time of survey (2011 - 2012). It is intended that in the near future, the South-east Wales Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites group will be in a position to undertake a rolling programme of monitoring Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites to ensure their long term preservation and assist in their maintenance should that monitoring identify any potential issues.

As an active process, additional geodiversity sites may also come to the Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites group's attention and these could result in the designation of further Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites within the National Park area.

Map Geo1 below shows the location of all Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites in the National Park. Appendix 2 identifies all of the sites and their current condition.



Date: 14/05/2014 Scale: 1:280,000

© Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog,
 Plas y Ffynnon, Ffordd Cambrian, Aberhonddu, Powys, LD3 7HP
 © Hawfrainc y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2014
 Ardalwg Ordnans 100019322. Ni chaniateir i chi wneud gopïo, tan-dryddieddu,
 dosbarthu neu werthu y data yma i unrhyw drydydd parti mewn unrhyw fflurf.

© Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
 Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7HP
 © Crown copyright and database rights 2014
 Ordnance Survey 100019322. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence,
 distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.



Map Geol: Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites in the National Park

Theme 2: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity

Summary

Overall:

GOOD

The indicators representing this theme are:

- Indicator 4: Condition of biological sites of special scientific interest
- Indicator 5: Water quality
- Indicator 6: Phase I habitat data

The number of biological features of importance has doubled since 2006. Of these features, the percentage in unfavourable condition has reduced significantly and the percentage in favourable condition has increased significantly. The majority of features of biological importance in the Park are now in favourable condition, which demonstrates that this indicator is in good condition.

The quality of water bodies in the Park (rivers, groundwater and lakes) varies but is generally either good or moderate condition. This is a baseline classification which will be assessed in 2015, 2021 and 2027 with the aim being to reach 'Good' status across the board by 2027. It is unlikely that good status will be achieved by 2015 so the indicator cannot be considered in good condition at the moment, but overall the quality of the water in the Park is fair.

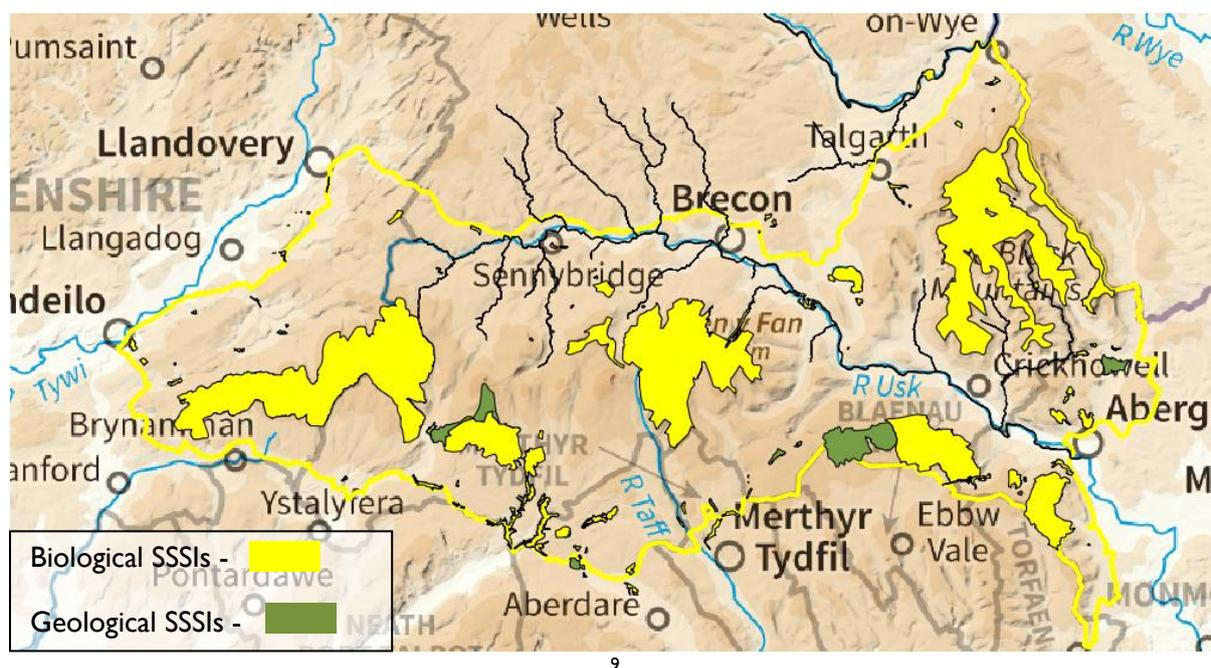
The updated Phase I Habitat data requires further investigation regarding the detail of the updated data. However, the changes in principal habitat type over a significant period of time are relatively low (5% or less) which demonstrates a level of consistency. While there has not been a significant improvement in principal habitat type, neither has there been a significant decline. Considering the various drivers of change including climate change, development pressure, farming methods and energy demand, this can be considered to be positive.

Using these three indicators to assess overall condition (Poor, Fair, Good or Excellent), the state of the park in the context of Management Plan Theme 2 is GOOD.

Indicator 4: Condition of Biological SSSIs

A biological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (commonly described as a 'triple S I') is an area of land which has been designated as special interest because of flora or fauna found there.

There are 65 biological SSSIs wholly or partly in the National Park boundary with a total of 163 individual biological features (NRW 2014). Together they cover approximately 19% of the National Park and range in size from 0.1 hectares to 6,765 hectares. Approximately 10% of all biological SSSI in the National Park are under appropriate conservation management (NRW).



Map Bio1: SSSIs in the National Park

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority owns or manages 9 SSSIs across the Park, many of which cover large expanses of land. These sites are

1. Mynydd Du SSSI
2. Carreg Cennen Woodlands SSSI
3. Waun Ddu SSSI
4. Illtyd Pools SSSI
5. parts of Dyfrynoedd Nedd a Mellte a Moel Penderyn SSSI (also a Special Area of Conservation¹⁰)
6. Caeau Ty Mawr SSSI,

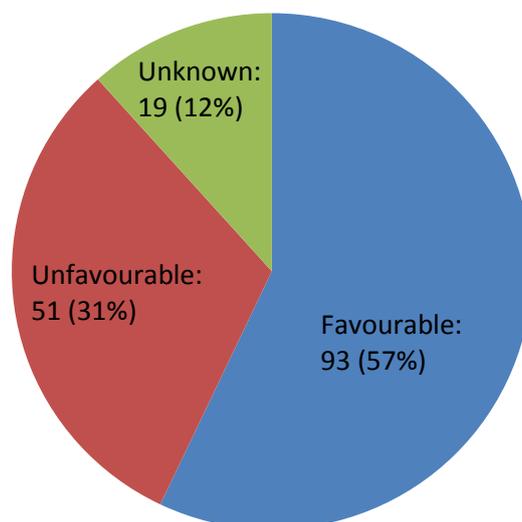
⁹ The map on this page is covered by © Crown copyright and database rights 2014. Ordnance Survey 100019322. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form

¹⁰ An area which has also been given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive

7. parts of Llangors Lake SSSI (also SAC)
8. parts of The Blorenges SSSI
9. Henallt Common SSSI (Section 9 common (no known owner), for which the National Park Authority has a duty of protection).

Pie Chart Bio1 shows that **in 2014** there are 163 biological features of importance in the National Park, 93 (57%) of which are currently in favourable condition, 51 (31%) are in unfavourable condition and for 19 (12%) the condition is unknown¹¹.

In 2014, of the 51 biological features in unfavourable condition, 12 (24%) of these are recovering, 5 (10%) are declining and for 34 (67%) the trend is unknown.



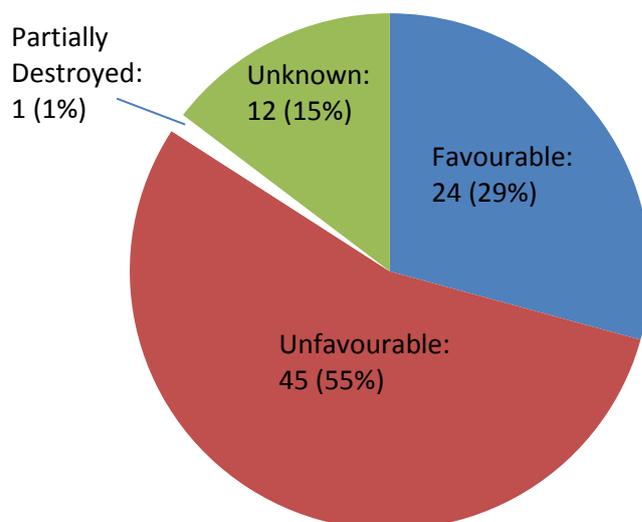
Pie Chart Bio1: Biological SSSIs (individual features) in 2014

Pie Chart Bio2 shows that, as last reported in the **2006** State of the Park Report, there were 82 biological features of importance in the National Park. 24 (29%) of these were in favourable condition, 45 (55%) were in unfavourable condition, one (1%) was partially destroyed and 12 (15%) were unknown¹².

In 2006, of the 45 biological features in unfavourable condition, 11 (24%) of these were recovering, 11 (24%) were declining and for 23 (50%) the trend was unknown.

¹¹ Natural Resource Wales's Rapid Review of Brecon Beacons National Park 2014

¹² Countryside Council for Wales's Rapid Review of Brecon Beacons National Park 2005



Pie Chart Bio2: Biological SSSIs (individual features) in 2006

Although there are more biological features in unfavourable condition in 2014 than there were in 2006, the total number of biological features has doubled since 2006. Therefore the percentage of features in unfavourable condition has reduced significantly and the percentage of features in favourable condition has significantly increased, which demonstrates a very positive trend since 2006. Management measures are in place to ensure that this trend continues.

Indicator 5: Water Quality

As of 1 April 2013, Natural Resources Wales became the Competent Authority in Wales for implementing the Water Framework Directive.

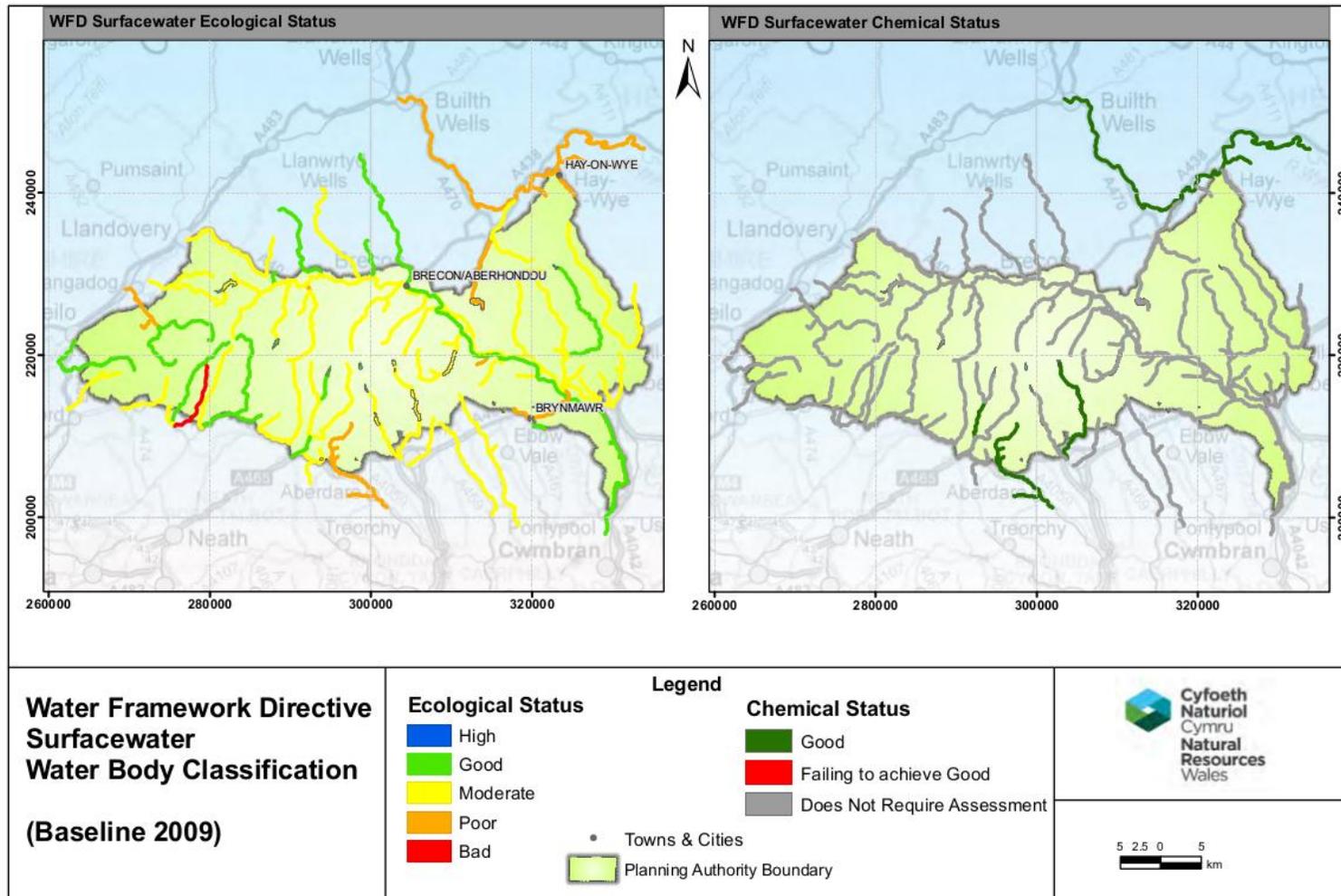
The Water Framework Directive establishes a framework for the protection of surface waters (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) and groundwaters. Its purpose is to prevent deterioration and improve the status of aquatic ecosystems, promote sustainable water use, reduce pollution of groundwater and contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. The Water Framework Directive requires us to achieve good status in all of our water bodies by 2027. This means that we must protect and improve the quality of our water bodies so that they can support natural biological communities and are free from pollution.

The following maps show the baseline classification of water bodies covered by the Water Framework Directive. The Water Framework Directive requires there to be no deterioration from this baseline and the overall aim is to achieve at least 'Good' status by 2015. Where this is not possible and subject to the criteria set out in the Directive, the aim is to achieve Good status by 2021 or 2027.

Map Water1 shows the ecological and chemical status of rivers within the Park boundary. Currently there are a significant amount of rivers which are not achieving good ecological status. All rivers which require assessment for their chemical status are in good condition.

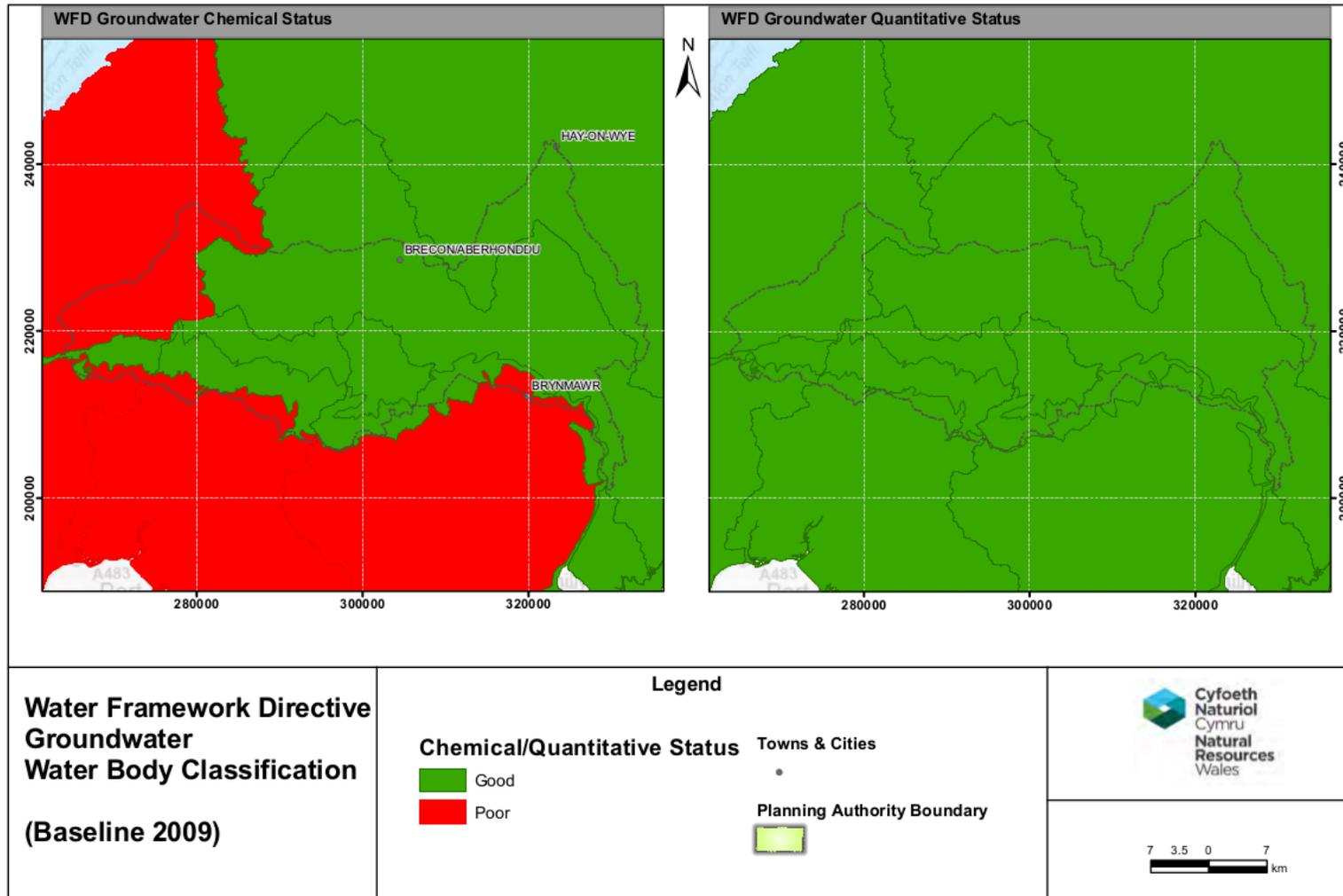
Map Water2 shows the chemical and quantitative status of what are known as groundwater bodies in the Park boundary. Currently the vast majority of groundwater bodies in the Park are achieving good chemical status and relatively few are in poor condition. All of the groundwater bodies in the Park are achieving good quantitative status.

Map Water3 and table Water1 show the ecological status of lakes (including reservoirs) within the Park boundary. They show that of the 19 lakes in the Park, 11 are in good condition (58%) and 8 (42%) are in moderate condition. None of the lakes require assessment for chemical status.



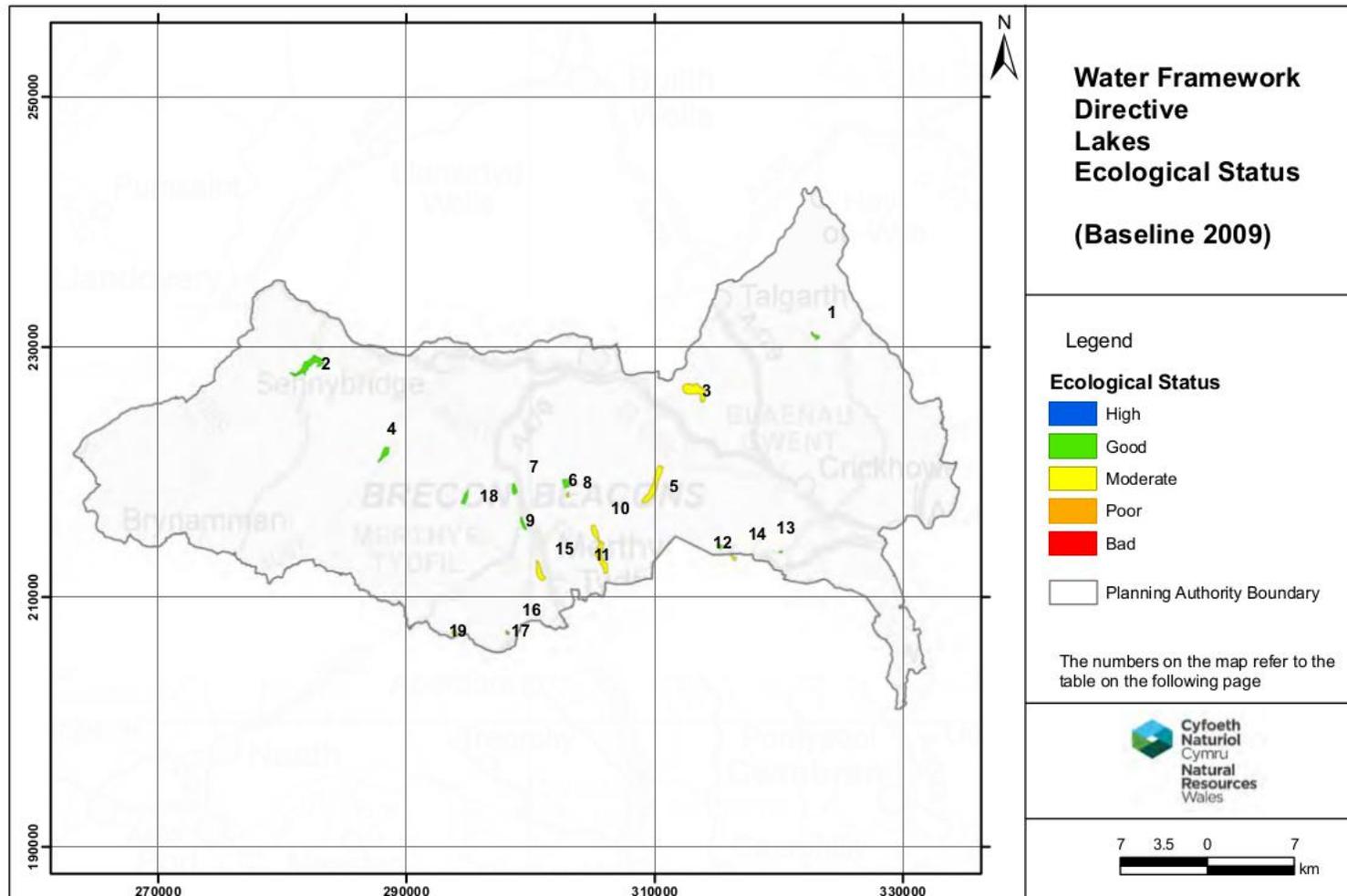
© Crown Copyright and database right 2013. Ordnance Survey licence number 100019741. © Hawlfraint a hawliau cronfa ddata'r Goron 2013. Rhif Trwydded yr Arolwg Ordnans 100019741
© Natural Resources Wales copyright and/or database right 2013. All rights reserved © Hawlfraint a/neu hawl cronfa wybodaeth Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru 2013. Cedwir pob hawl.
© Database Right/Copyright NERC – Centre for Ecology & Hydrology. © Hawlfraint a/neu hawl cronfa wybodaeth NERC – Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

Map Water I: Surfacewater Water Body Classification



© Crown Copyright and database right 2013. Ordnance Survey licence number 100019741. © Hawlfraint a hawliau cronfa ddata'r Goron 2013. Rhif Trwydded yr Arolwg Ordnans 100019741
 © Natural Resources Wales copyright and/or database right 2013. All rights reserved © Hawlfraint a/neu hawl cronfa wybodaeth Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru 2013. Cedwir pob hawl.
 © Database Right/Copyright NERC – Centre for Ecology & Hydrology. © Hawlfraint a/neu hawl cronfa wybodaeth NERC – Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

Map Water2: Groundwater Water Body Classification



© Crown Copyright and database right 2013. Ordnance Survey licence number 100019741. © Hawlfraint a hawliau cronfa ddata'r Goron 2013. Rhif Trwydded yr Arolwg Ordnans 100019741
© Natural Resources Wales copyright and/or database right 2013. All rights reserved © Hawlfraint a/neu hawl cronfa wybodaeth Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru 2013. Cedwir pob hawl.
© Database Right/Copyright NERC – Centre for Ecology & Hydrology. © Hawlfraint a/neu hawl cronfa wybodaeth NERC – Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

Map Water 3: Lakes Ecological Status

Water Framework Directive: Lakes - Ecological Status (Baseline 2009)			
Label No.	Lake	Ecological Status	Chemical Status
1	Grwyne Fawr Reservoir	Good	Does Not Require Assessment
2	Usk Reservoir	Good	Does Not Require Assessment
3	Llangorse Lake	Moderate	Does Not Require Assessment
4	Cray Reservoir	Good	Does Not Require Assessment
5	Talybont Reservoir	Moderate	Does Not Require Assessment
6	Upper Neuadd Reservoir	Good	Does Not Require Assessment
7	Beacons Reservoir	Good	Does Not Require Assessment
8	Lower Neuadd Reservoir	Moderate	Does Not Require Assessment
9	Cantref Reservoir	Good	Does Not Require Assessment
10	Pentwyn Reservoir	Moderate	Does Not Require Assessment
11	Pontsticill Reservoir	Moderate	Does Not Require Assessment
12	Llangynidr Reservoir	Good	Does Not Require Assessment
13	Caim Mound Reservoir	Good	Does Not Require Assessment
14	Camo Reservoir	Moderate	Does Not Require Assessment
15	Llwyn-on Reservoir	Moderate	Does Not Require Assessment
16	Nant-moel Reservoir	Good	Does Not Require Assessment
17	Nanthir Reservoir	Good	Does Not Require Assessment
18	Ystradfellte Reservoir	Good	Does Not Require Assessment
19	Penderyn Reservoir	Moderate	Does Not Require Assessment

Table Water I: Lakes – Ecological Status

Indicator 6: Updated Phase I Habitat Data

Countryside Council for Wales's (now Natural Resource Wales) Phase I Habitat Survey (1979-1997) identified the principal habitat types across the National Park as Grassland (62%), Woodland (14%) and Heathland (11%).

Over half (55%) of the grassland habitats were improved grassland. Just over 1% of the National Park was built environment. 57,347 hectares of the Brecon Beacons National Park are under statutory ownership. Of these 57,347 hectares 39% is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or SSSI, 33% is owned by the National Park, 15% is owned by the Forestry Commission, 7% is owned by the National Trust, 4% is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), 2% is National Nature Reserve and less than 1% is owned by Brecknock Wildlife Trust.

Natural Resources Wales have recently updated and released updated Phase I habitat mapping of Wales through the use of satellite imagery. The data was collected over the course of many years. Analysis of habitat change over time may now be conducted as long as certain caveats are considered when comparing the data.

After an initial assessment of the updated Phase I data using the mapping software QGIS, Table PH1 shows that Grassland now accounts for 57% of the principal habitat type across the National Park which shows a reduction of approximately 5%. Woodland now accounts for 17% of the principal habitat types, an increase of approximately 3%. Heathland now accounts for 10% of the principal habitat types across the park, a decrease of 1%.

Phase1 Principal Habitat Types			
	1997	2013	%Change
Grassland	62%	57%	-5%
Woodland	14%	17%	3%
Heathland	11%	10%	-1%

Table PH1: Change in Phase I Principal Habitat Type

More detailed assessment will continue to be undertaken and this indicator will be updated in due course. The reduction in Grassland could be seen as a positive trend if it turns out that the type of grassland that has decreased is improved grassland. However, if grassland has decreased at the expense of heathland, then this would be a negative trend. The increase in woodland could be seen as positive trend bearing in mind the Welsh Government's desire to increase woodland across Wales, but again it depends on the type of woodland that has increased. It is important that the right habitat type is provided in the right location.

Potential Sub-Indicator: Bat

Data being prepared

Potential Sub Indicator: Birds

Data being chased

Potential Sub-Indicator: Weathering Study

Potential survey regarding 'Weathering' with links to the research prospectus + Cardiff University–
awaiting news on funding

Theme 3: Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Access and Recreation

Summary

Overall:

GOOD

The indicators representing this theme are:

- Indicator 7: % of Rights of Way that are easy to use
- Indicator 8: Upland erosion on paths
- Indicator 9: Visitor satisfaction

The percentage of rights of way that are easy to use was slightly lower in 2013 than in 2006, however there were 26km more rights of way. The number of rights of way that are easy to use has increased since 2010/2011 and this trend is expected to continue with the 2014 (due to be published shortly). Overall the general condition of this indicator is good.

According to upland path erosion survey work that has already taken place, the majority of paths are in good condition. The survey work is near completion and due to be published later in 2014. Some paths in the west of the Park have yet to be surveyed, but their condition is historically very good, so the general condition of upland paths is expected to remain as good.

The visitor satisfaction indicator uses the results of 2 questions from the annual Brecon Beacons Visitor Survey. The questions relate to expectation and overall perception. Generally the response is very good for both questions.

Using these three indicators to assess overall condition (Poor, Fair, Good or Excellent), the state of the park in the context of Management Plan Theme 3 is GOOD.

Indicator 7: The % of Rights of Way that are easy to use

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority is required to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The Plan involves an assessment of the extent to which rights of way meet present and likely future needs of the public. This includes opportunities for walking, horse riding, cycling and other forms of open air recreation as well as looking at how accessible these activities are for people with mobility or visual impairment.

The production of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan provided the opportunity to assess the condition of the rights of way network, the resources available to improve it and progress towards a future that will offer improvements for all users. The opportunity to go walking has repeatedly been identified as the key attraction of the Brecon Beacons National Park, while the popularity of off road cycling is increasing. The accessibility of the public rights of way network is therefore critical to the 'enjoyability' of the Park as tourism based on walking, cycling and horse riding.

In 2012/13, 15km of rights of way were improved. The Park's public rights of way therefore saw good improvement in terms of the percentage of the network being physically easy to use.

Table ROW1 shows the breakdown of rights of way across the Park between 2006 and 2013. It shows that in 2013 the rights of way network was longer in terms of total distance than in 2006.

<i>in km</i>	2006	2013
Footpaths	1,415	1,472
Bridleways	367	344
Byways	200	193
Total	1,983	2,009

ROW1: Distance (km) of Rights of Way between 2006 and 2013

The previous State of the Park Report (2006) identified 62.18% of rights of way within the Park that were easy to use.

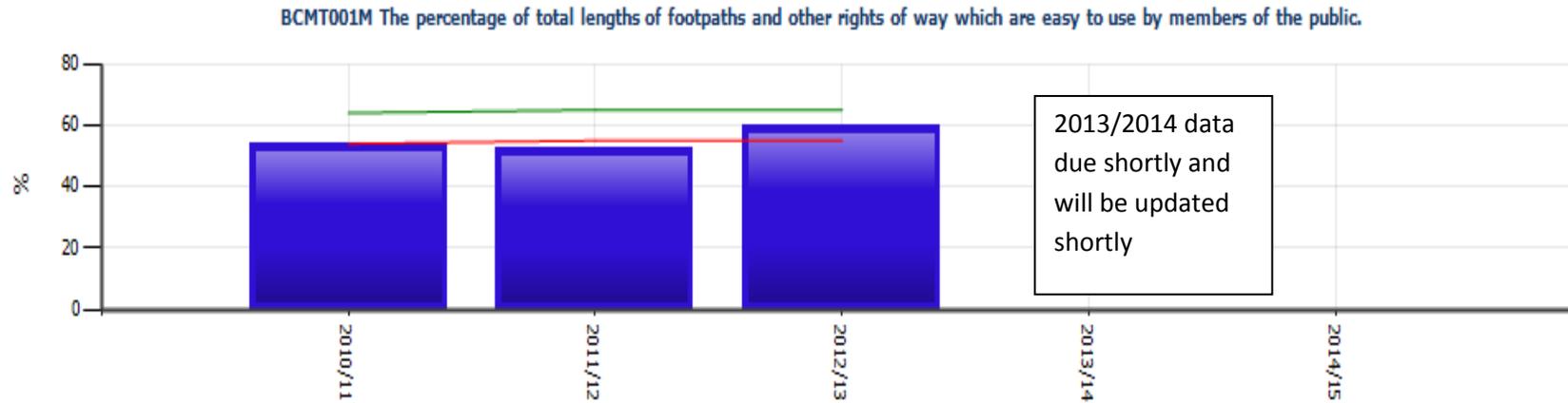
Graph ROW1 shows that in 2011 54% of rights of way were easy to use. In 2012 this decreased to 52.45%. **In 2013 the % of rights of way that were easy to use was 59.54%**. Data for 2014 is due to be published shortly and will be accompanied by actual distances in km for direct comparison with the 2006 data. The trend over recent years however is that access to rights of way is improving.

Map ROW1 identifies the linear access routes within the park and Map ROW2 identifies open area access within the park (2007 Rights of Way Improvement Plan).

In 2006 62.2% of rights of way were easy to use, 73.1% were open and 66.7% were signposted.

In 2013 59.5% of rights of way were easy to use, 85.5% were open and 81.3% were signposted.

Positive progress has been made over the past eight years as more rights of way are accessible now than previously. While the longer term trend suggests that there has been a decrease in the percentage of rights of way that are easy to use (from 62.2% in 2006 to 59.5% in 2013), the short term trend since 2011 shows that the rights of way network is steadily improving. It is worth noting that there is also a higher total number in kilometres of rights of way today than in 2006. The data for 2014 is expected shortly and will hopefully demonstrate further improvement in easy to use rights of way.

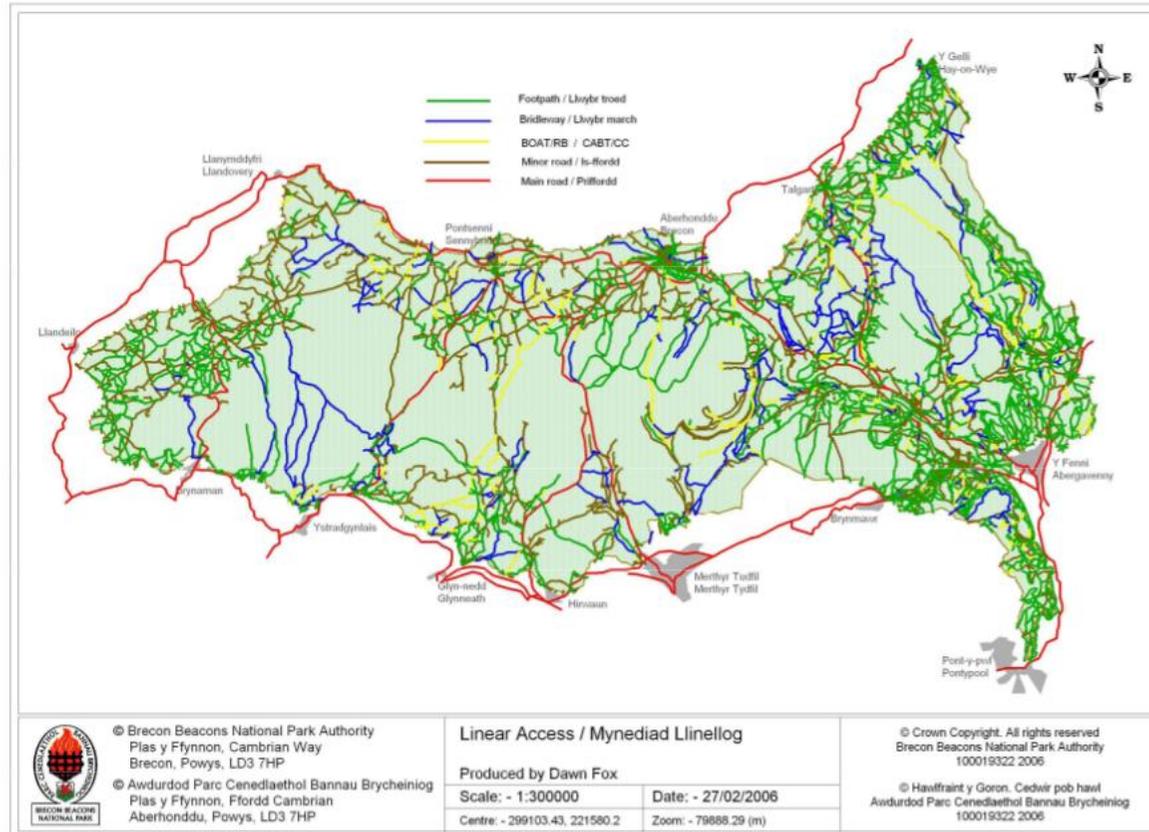


Graph ROWI: The % of total lengths of footpaths and other rights of way which are easy to use

The green line in Graph ROWI relates to the internal target set by the authority each year and the red line relates to the intervention level set by the authority.

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Map 1 - Linear Access

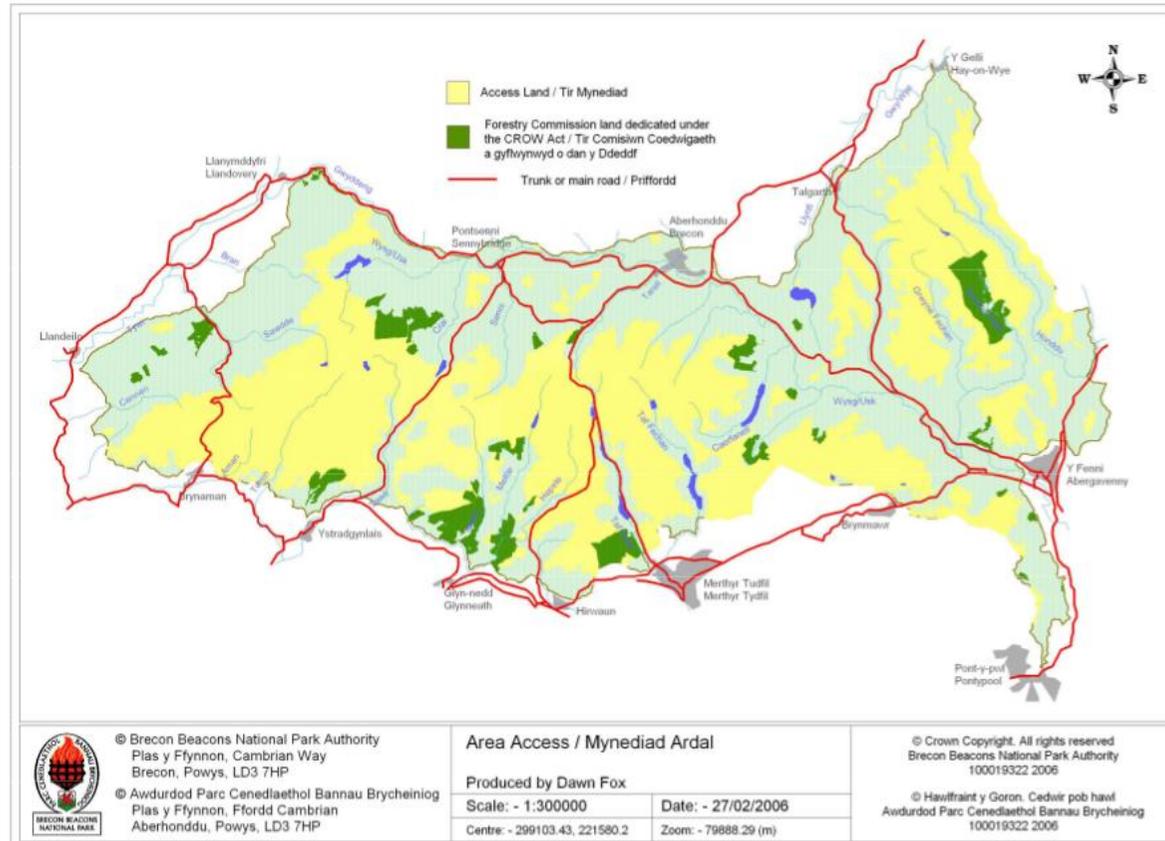
Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007



Map ROW1 – Linear Access in Brecon Beacons National Park

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Map 2 - Area Access

Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007



Map ROW2 – Area Access in Brecon Beacons National Park

Indicator 8: Upland Erosion on Paths

A number of path repair projects have been completed over the past 10 years designed to minimise erosion to paths in the uplands. However, upland path erosion in the National Park remains a significant problem.

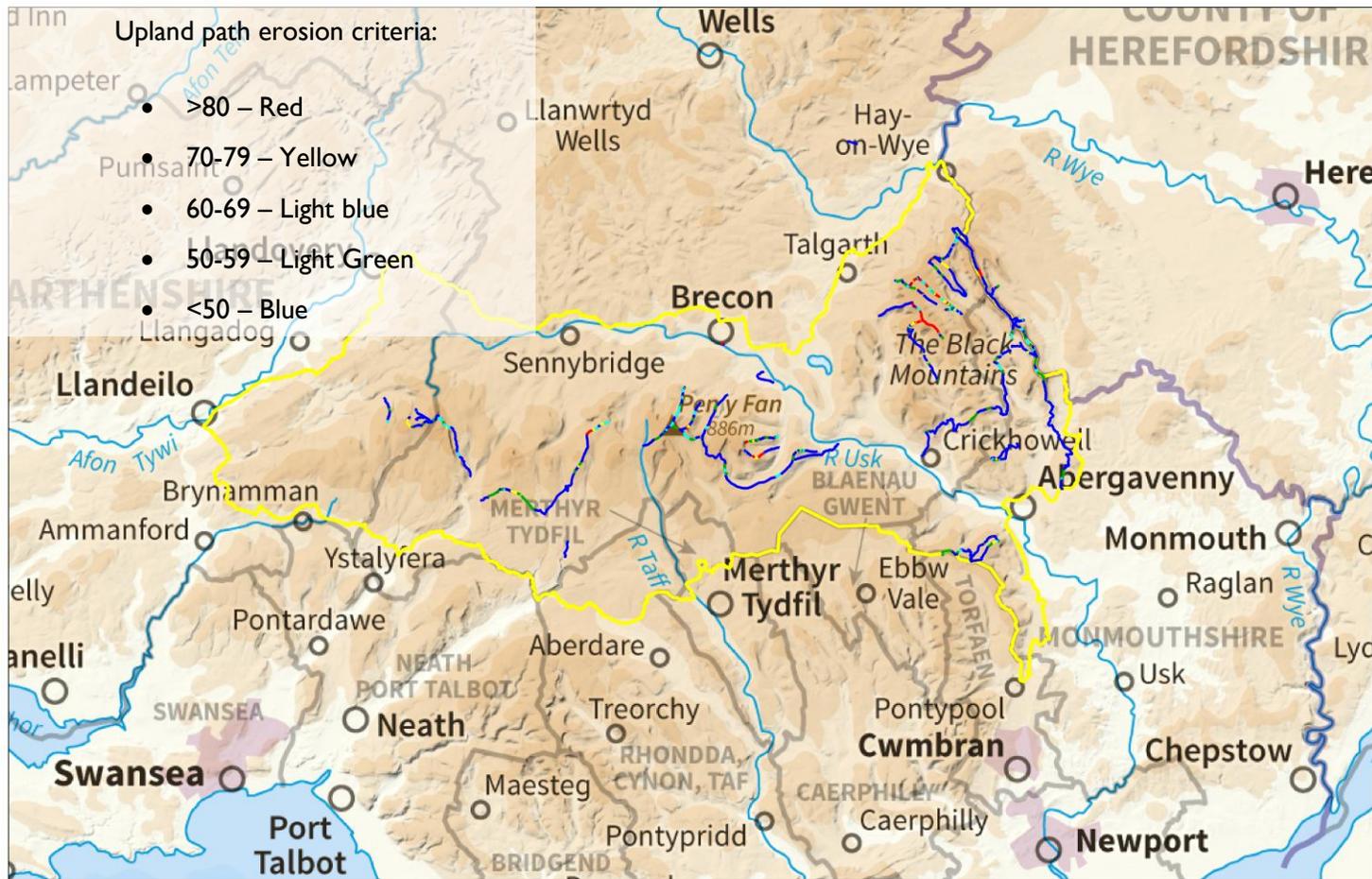
In 2006, the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority carried out a condition survey of 155km of mountain paths throughout the National Park. The aim of the survey was to collect impartial information about path condition to inform a strategy intended to address and manage upland erosion. Copies of the Upland Erosion Strategy which was produced can be downloaded from the [National Park website](#).

A new review of upland erosion is currently underway (2014) and the results will be published in future iterations of this report. The review will include total lengths of pathways in the categories identified below. Map UE1 shows the extent of the work that has already been undertaken. Each upland path is given an erosion score and categorised using the Scottish National Heritage Criteria for reviewing upland erosion on paths, as follows:

- >80 – Red
- 70-79 – Yellow
- 60-69 – Light blue
- 50-59 – Light Green
- <50 – Blue

Where a path is categorised as either red or yellow, this indicates that repair work is required. Any other score indicates that the path is in at least an acceptable condition and is not a priority for repair.

Map UE2 shows a zoomed in screen shot of Pen-Y-Fan, taken from Map UE1, which provides greater visual detail on the results of the current survey.



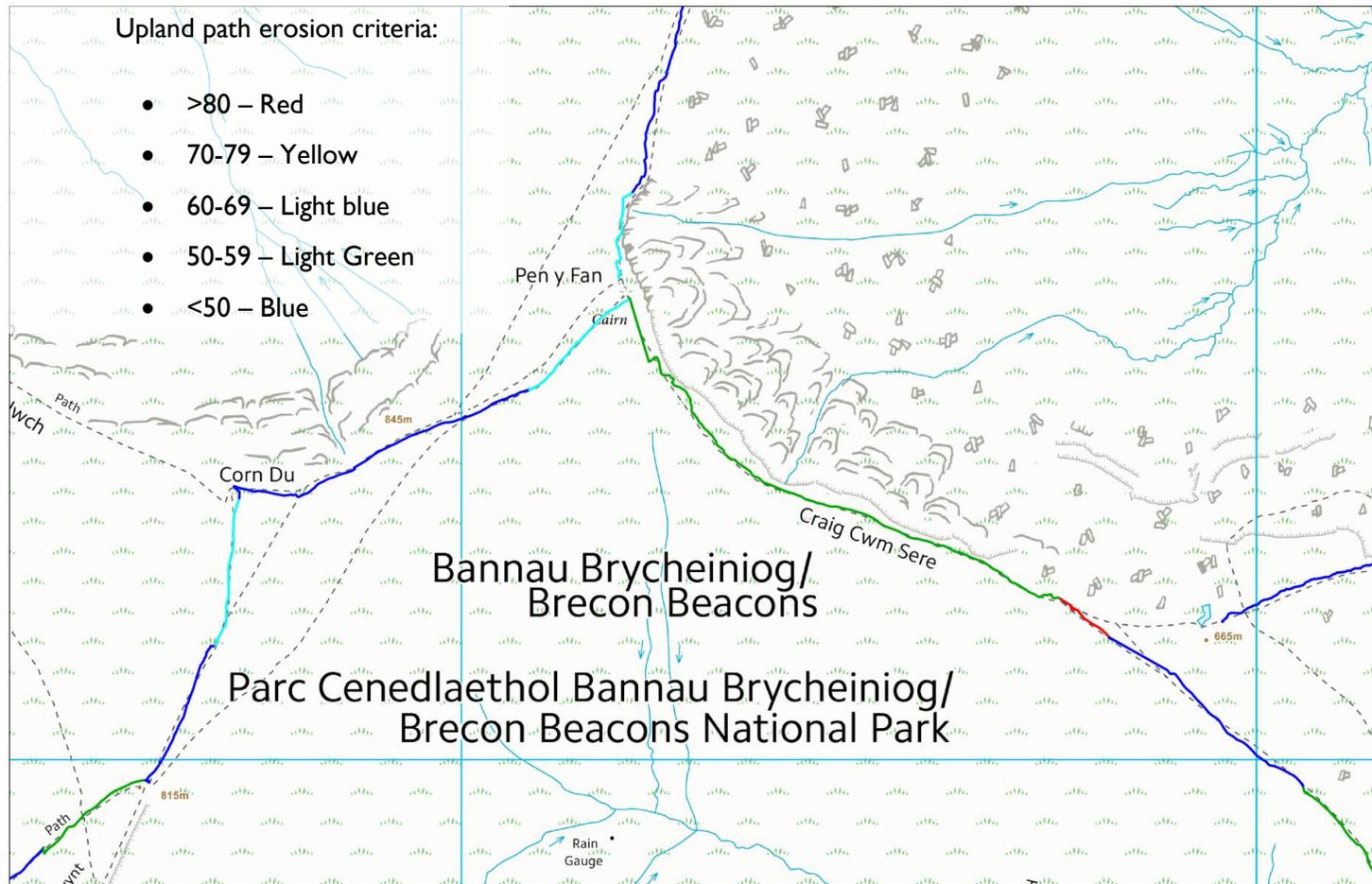
Date: 15/05/2014 Scale: 1:280,000

© Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog
Plas y Ffynnon, Ffordd Cwmbran, Abergavenny, Powys, LD3 7HP
© Hwlffraze y Goron a hawliau croeso ddata 2014
Ordnance Survey 100019322. Ni chawsaer i cheir gopio, tan-drewyddeda,
dosbarthu neu werthu y data yma i unrhyw drydydd parti mewn unrhyw ffurf.

© Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Plas y Ffynnon, Cwmbran Way, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7HP
© Crown copyright and database right 2014
Ordnance Survey 100019322. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence,
distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.



Map UE1: Upland Erosion Review 2014 (Brecon Beacons National Park Authority)



Date: 15/05/2014 Scale: 1:4,375

© Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog,
Plas y Ffynnon, Ffordd Cambrian, Aberhonddu, Powys, LD3 7HP
© Hawŵraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2014
Arolwg Ordnans 100019322. Ni chaniateir i chwi gopïo, tan-drwydddedu,
dosbarthu neu werthu y data yma i unrhyw drydydd barti mewn unrhyw ffurf.

© Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7HP
© Crown copyright and database rights 2014
Ordnance Survey 100019322. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence,
distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.



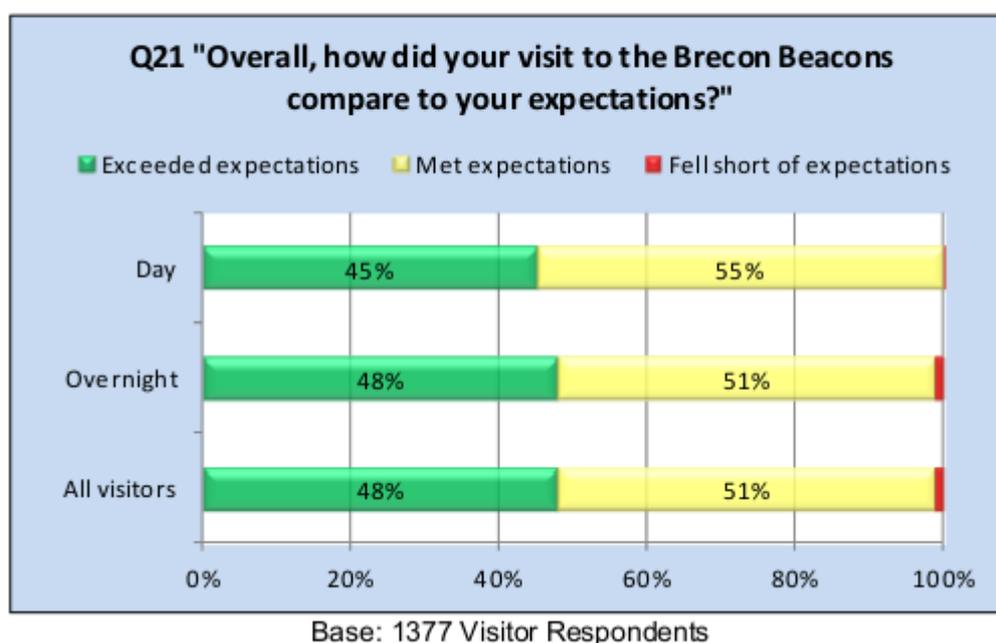
Map UE2: Upland Erosion Review 2014 zoomed in (Brecon Beacons National Park Authority)

Indicator 9: Visitor Satisfaction

In November 2013, the Brecon Beacons Marketing and Coordination Group published the results of the annual Brecon Beacons Visitor Survey. Further information on the Visitor Survey can be found [here](#).

Question 21 of the Visitor Survey asked respondents 'Overall, how did your visit to the Brecon Beacons compare to your expectations?' The results to this question can be seen in Graph Vis1 below.

Experience exceeds expectations for many

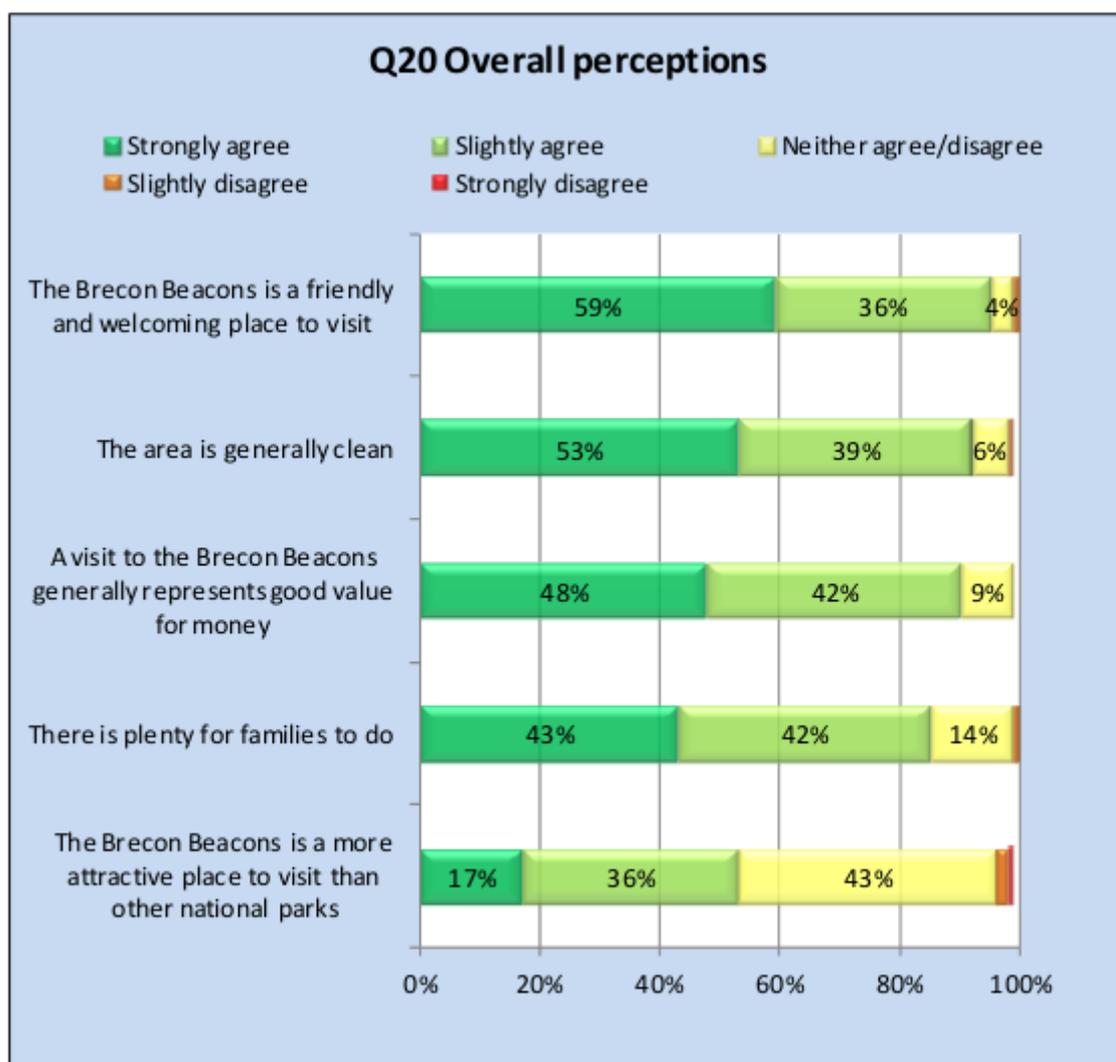


Graph Vis1: Visitor Satisfaction

Overall, the visit experience is good and almost half (48%) of visitors said it exceeded their expectations and 51% said it met them. Just 1% said that their experience fell short of expectations. This year's Visit Wales visitor survey shows similar results for Wales as a whole (49% exceeded and 49% met expectations). There is little variation amongst day and overnight visitors. The highest ratings come from new visitors 56% of which say the visit exceeded their expectations. This is encouraging for potential future return visits. Visitors from some areas are slightly more impressed by the area than others. Over half

of the visitors coming from London & South East (53%) and overseas (52%) said that expectations were exceeded¹³.

Question 20 of the Visitor Survey related to overall perceptions of visitors to the park. The results can be seen in Graph Vis2 below.



Base: Varies according to rating; 1135-1297 Visitor Respondents

Graph Vis2: Overall Perceptions

The impressions visitors have of a destination influence potential recommendations to family, friends and colleagues. To gauge how the Brecon Beacons is perceived, respondents were asked about a number of aspects of their visit including value for money, friendliness and welcome, availability of family activities, cleanliness and attractiveness as a national park.

¹³¹³ <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/working-in-partnership/tourism-new/Visitor%20Satisfaction%20Surveys/brecon-beacons-visitor-survey-2013>

Perceptions of the area are good overall, with the best ratings for the 'welcome' visitors receive (95% positive) and cleanliness (92%). Negative opinions are few and far between and mainly relate to attractiveness compared to other national parks (3% negative).

Over half (52%) of those travelling in family groups with children 'strongly agreed' that there is plenty for families to do with a further 39% 'slightly agreeing' (91% positive). Just 1% disagreed and the remaining 8% had no strong opinion either way. These ratings are better than average where 85% slightly or strongly agree - other groups have more neutral responses possibly reflecting lack of experience of these types of activities. However, it is encouraging that those with the most relevant experience of family activities give a positive response.

Cleanliness in the area is generally good with only a few respondents suggesting otherwise but some visitor groups are more positive than others. Almost six in ten new visitors (59%) strongly agree that the area is generally clean compared with 53% overall and just under half of lapsed visitors (49%). Visitors from Wales and London & South East are most positive about the cleanliness of the area (60% and 57% respectively strongly agree).

Almost all visitors feel that the Brecon Beacons is a friendly and welcoming place to visit (95%) and almost six in ten (59%) strongly agree.

There are slight variations by location with visitors from London & South East feeling most welcome (63% 'strongly agree') compared to those from Wales (60%), South West/M4 corridor (57%), overseas (58%) and other areas of England/Scotland slightly lower (56%). Lapsed visitors are a little less enthusiastic about the welcome they received (53% strongly agree).

Theme 4: Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park

Summary

Overall:

FAIR

The indicators representing this theme are:

- Indicator 10: Number of outdoor education centres
- Indicator 11: Number of settlements benefitting from interpretation and/or information panels
- Indicator 12: Ratio of Staying visitors v day visitors

As the number of outdoor education centres is a new indicator, the figure of 12 provides a baseline against which future reports will be considered. With no previous data against which to be considered, it is difficult to assess how well this indicator is performing. It is fair to say though that outdoor education in the Park has historically been very popular. There are also a number of outdoor education providers whose centres lie just outside the Park boundary, yet regularly use the Park as an education resource.

The number of settlements benefitting from interpretation and/or information panels is another new indicator and the figure of 30 provides a baseline against future data will be measured. Again with no previous data against which to be considered, it is difficult to provide detailed assessment of this indicator. It is fair to assume that interpretation and/or information panels are useful for both tourists and residents and 30 settlements is a significant amount. Therefore it is generally considered that the state of this particular indicator is good.

The Brecon Beacons National Park is unusual in the high proportion of day visitors (74% of visitor days) compared to staying visitors. This means that the total number of visitor days, which is a good measure of the economic contribution of visitors, is generally lower than other National Parks. The Visitor Management Plan seeks to address the issue of enhancing visitors' contributions to the local economy through converting day visitors into staying visitors (amongst other actions). This indicator is currently classified as fair, but with potential for improvement.

Using these three indicators to assess overall condition (Poor, Fair, Good or Excellent), the state of the park in the context of Management Plan Theme 4 is FAIR.

Indicator 10: Number of Outdoor Education Centres

Outdoor education refers to organised learning that takes place outdoors. Outdoor education programs involve residential or day experiences where students participate in outdoor activities. Many organisations encourage and provide opportunities for outdoor learning.

Outdoor education draws upon the philosophy, theory, and practices of experiential and environmental education¹⁴. Experience suggests that moving participants out of their usual environment and stripping away many of the conveniences of modern life enables them to become more aware of their environment. They can become more attuned to themselves as part of a greater ecosystem and are less bound by social customs and norms. Outdoor work often involves team activities with participants encouraged to take advantage of the freedom offered by the situation to become more able to see others as people regardless of race, class, religion etc. Working and living together and relying on others, promotes all-round personal development.

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority provides learning experiences that support the statutory purposes of the National Park. This is provided at three outdoor education centres:

- The National Park Visitor Centre
- The YHA Dannywennallt National Park Study Centre
- Crag-y-Nos Country Park

There are a variety of external education providers based within the Brecon Beacons National Park boundary:

- Plas Pencelli Outdoor Education Centre
- Royal Navy Outdoor Leadership Training Centre
- Hampshire Outdoor Centre - Argoed Lwyd
- Cwmllynfell
- Storey Arms Outdoor Education Centre
- Dolygaer Outdoor Education Centre
- Maes Lade Outdoor Education Centre
- Pendarren House Outdoor Education Centre
- Gilwern Outdoor Education Centre

There are, in total, 12 outdoor education centres within the Park, both residential and day centres. The number will be monitored over time and reported. The varying quantity of outdoor education centres is a general quantitative indicator of education services being delivered in the park.

¹⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outdoor_education

(Centres to be shown on map)

Indicator 11: Number of Settlements Benefitting from Interpretation and or Information Panels

The interpretation of tourism attractions, products, stories and history is an important part of providing a positive experience for visitors and for residents as well as an educational tool. Information is delivered through a range of methods including informative brochures, guided or self-guided tours, interactive displays, signage, media displays, audio information or interpretive information boards.

Interpretation is the process of communicating the meaning and significance of an object, a place or an area to people. It's story-telling, bringing a place or object alive to share what makes it special with others and help them enjoy and understand it better. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority is keen to help local communities to develop interpretation in their area because of the advantages it can bring to everyone concerned. The National Park Authority employs a member of staff, the Interpretation Officer, to co-ordinate all the interpretation in the Park.

The National Park Authority is involved with two levels of interpretive planning. There is an Interpretation Strategy for the whole National Park and there are some Local Interpretive Plans for individual sites, features or areas such as a village trail, a castle or the waterfalls area.

Monitored over time, the number of settlements benefitting from interpretation and information panels will provide a qualitative indication of how widely national park stories and history are being communicated, how widely the education message is being communicated and, how widely they are contributing to a positive visitor experience.

There are currently 30 settlements benefitting from interpretation or information panels, as follows:

1. Storey arms
2. Pont yr Daf
3. Carreg Cennen Castle Carpark
4. Pontneddfechan
5. Llanthony Priory
6. Llansantffraed layby
7. Talgarth
8. Llanspyddid layby
9. A40 Llandovery entrance to NP
10. Lynn Onn reservoir layby
11. Penderyn Whisky distillery carpark
12. Craig y nos Country Park
13. Crai reservoir layby

14. Herberts quarry
15. Afon Llia
16. Penderyn
17. Pont ar Wysg
18. Crickhowell carpark
19. Gospel Pass
20. Cwmyoy, Queens Head
21. Pengefordd
22. Filter House, Neuadd
23. Mynydd Du Forest, Blaen y Cwm
24. Llangors common
25. Hay town carpark
26. Clun Gwyn
27. Gwaun Hepste
28. Cwm Porth
29. Pont Melin Fach
30. Craig y Ddinas

(Map to be provided)

Indicator 12: Ratio Staying Visitors: Day Visitors

The Brecon Beacons Visitor Management Plan (2013)¹⁵ states that the National Park hosts a total of 4.1 million visitors who spend 5.1 million days in the Brecon Beacons each year. 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 economic contribution and any impact that visitors bring) is lower than in other National Parks in Wales¹⁶. Table VisI shows a comparison of 7 other National Parks in the UK.

The large number of day visitors is a reflection of the high proportion coming from nearby urban areas in Wales and the West of England. In contrast, a high proportion of staying visitors come from the South East of England. The Brecon Beacons' close proximity to much of Wales' urban population creates both opportunities and challenges for the National Park. These will need careful management to realise potential benefits and contain negative impacts.

While there are negative impacts related to an increased number of visitors, it is widely considered that the positive benefits that visitors bring outweigh the negative impacts and that the tourism sector should be supported.

Generally, National Parks in Wales attract a high proportion of staying visitors, averaging 2.26 tourist days per visitor compared to 1.59 for National Parks in England and Scotland¹⁷. However, Pie Chart VisI shows that in 2011 74% of visitors (as a percentage of total visitors) were day visitors. In 2012 the number of day visitors had increased to 76%.

By monitoring the ratio of staying visitors: day visitors we will be able to determine trends and manage the potential impacts accordingly.

Table VisI provides comparative data for day/staying visitors between the Brecon Beacons National Park and a random selection of other National Parks in the UK.

¹⁵ <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/working-in-partnership/tourism-new/visitor-management-plan-draft>

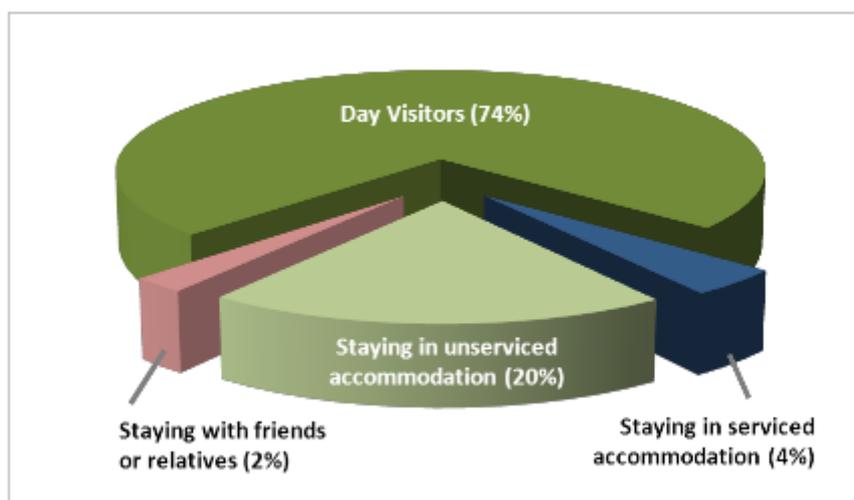
¹⁶ The numbers collated by the Association of National Park Authorities are as follows: Brecon Beacons 4.1 M visitors and 5.0 M visitor days; Pembrokeshire Coast 4.2 M visitors and 13 M visitor days; Snowdonia 4.27 M visitors and 10.4 M visitor days.

¹⁷ http://npw.nationalparks.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/389727/Valuing-Wales-National-Parks-.pdf

National Park (UK)	Day Visitor	Staying Visitor
Peak District (2012 data)	91%	9%
Dartmoor (2003 data)	82%	18%
Brecon Beacons (2012 data)	76%	24%
Yorkshire Dales (2011 data)	67%	33%
New Forest (2005 data)	60%	40%
Cairngorms (2008 data)	54%	46%
Exmoor (2009 data)	53%	47%

Table Vis1: Comparative data day/staying visitor

Figure 2.1. Breakdown of types of visitors, by overall visitor days, 2011



Source: STEAM 2011

Pie Chart Vis1: Breakdown of types of visitors, by overall visitor days, 2011

Theme 5: Building and maintaining Sustainable Communities Towns and Villages

Summary

Overall:

GOOD

The indicators representing this theme are:

- Indicator 13: Flood risk, river levels and climate change
- Indicator 14: Health and wellbeing
- Indicator 15: Communities with a village plan and open space assessment

Very few areas of the Park are currently threatened by flooding and the majority of the Park is at relatively low risk from flooding. This indicator is in relatively good condition.

The indicator 'health and wellbeing of Park residents' is also in good condition, which has been demonstrated in the introduction to this report by comparing census data to the rest of Wales. The indicators used here identify the most popular and most frequent activities which Park residents undertake.

There are currently no communities benefitting from a village plan and open space assessment, therefore it is difficult to assess how this indicator is performing. It should however be noted that steps are underway to prepare both a village plan and an open space assessment which in itself is a positive thing.

Using these three indicators to assess overall condition (Poor, Fair, Good or Excellent), the state of the park in the context of Management Plan Theme 5 is GOOD.

Indicator 13: Flood risk, river levels and climate change

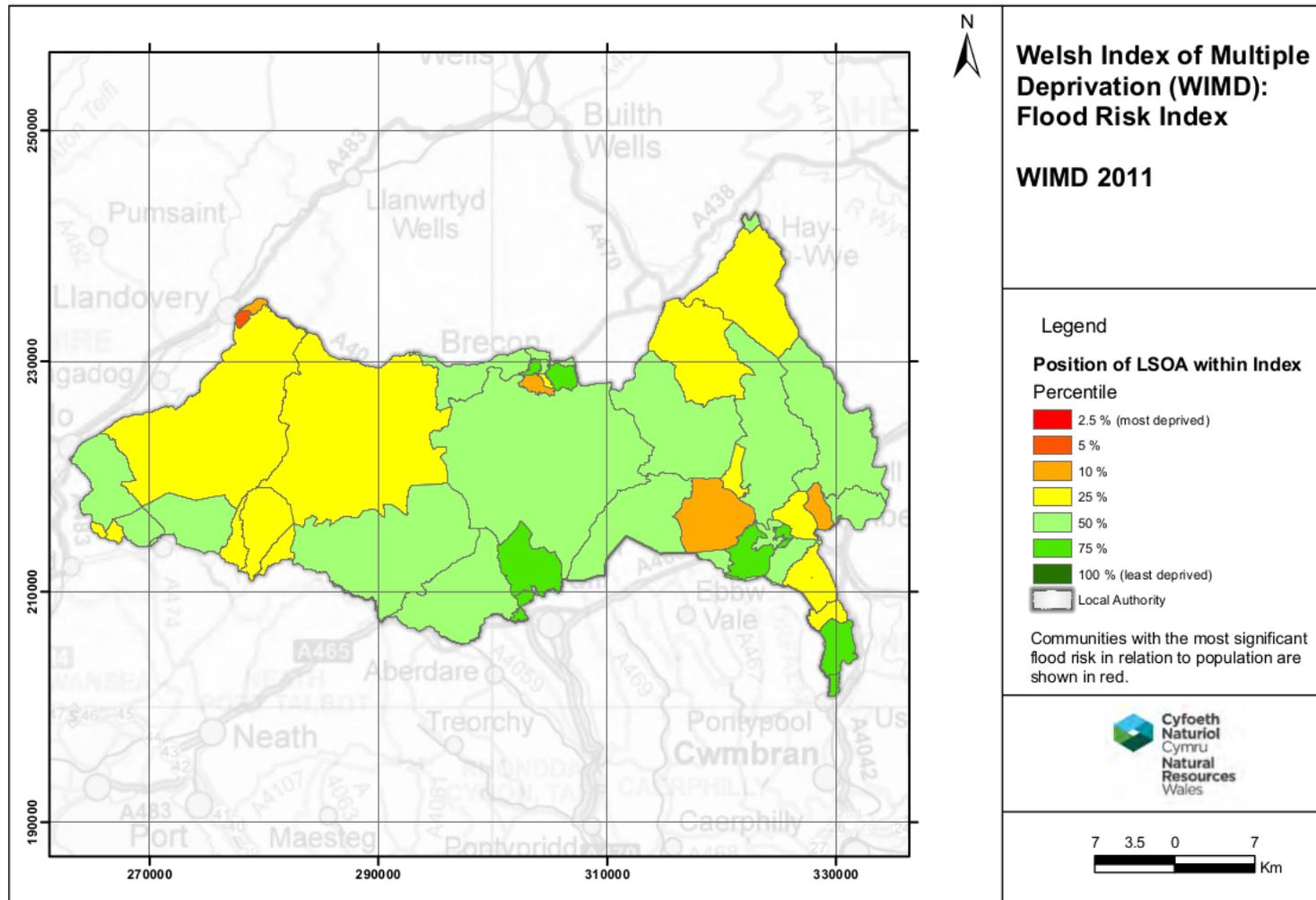
Flood risk

Map Flood1 is taken from the Natural Resource Wales Evidence Pack for the Brecon Beacons National Park. It shows how the lowest geographical level at which census estimates are provided (output areas) in the National Park are ranked using the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation for Flood Risk. Low ranking corresponds to a relatively high risk. The map shows that the majority of land within the National Park falls within the 50% percentile and is therefore at a relatively low risk from flooding. Significant areas of land fall within the 25% percentile and smaller areas fall within both the 10% and 75% percentiles. There is one very small area to the north west of the park near Llandovery which falls within the 2.5% percentile and is therefore one of the most likely places in Wales to suffer from flooding.

Map Flood2 is a more detailed flood map that shows the potential risk of flooding. Flood Zone 2 provides a best estimate of the areas of land with a 1000 to 1 chance of flooding in any year. It includes those areas defined in Flood Zone 3, which provides a best estimate of the areas of land with a 100 to 1 chance (or greater) of flooding each year from rivers.

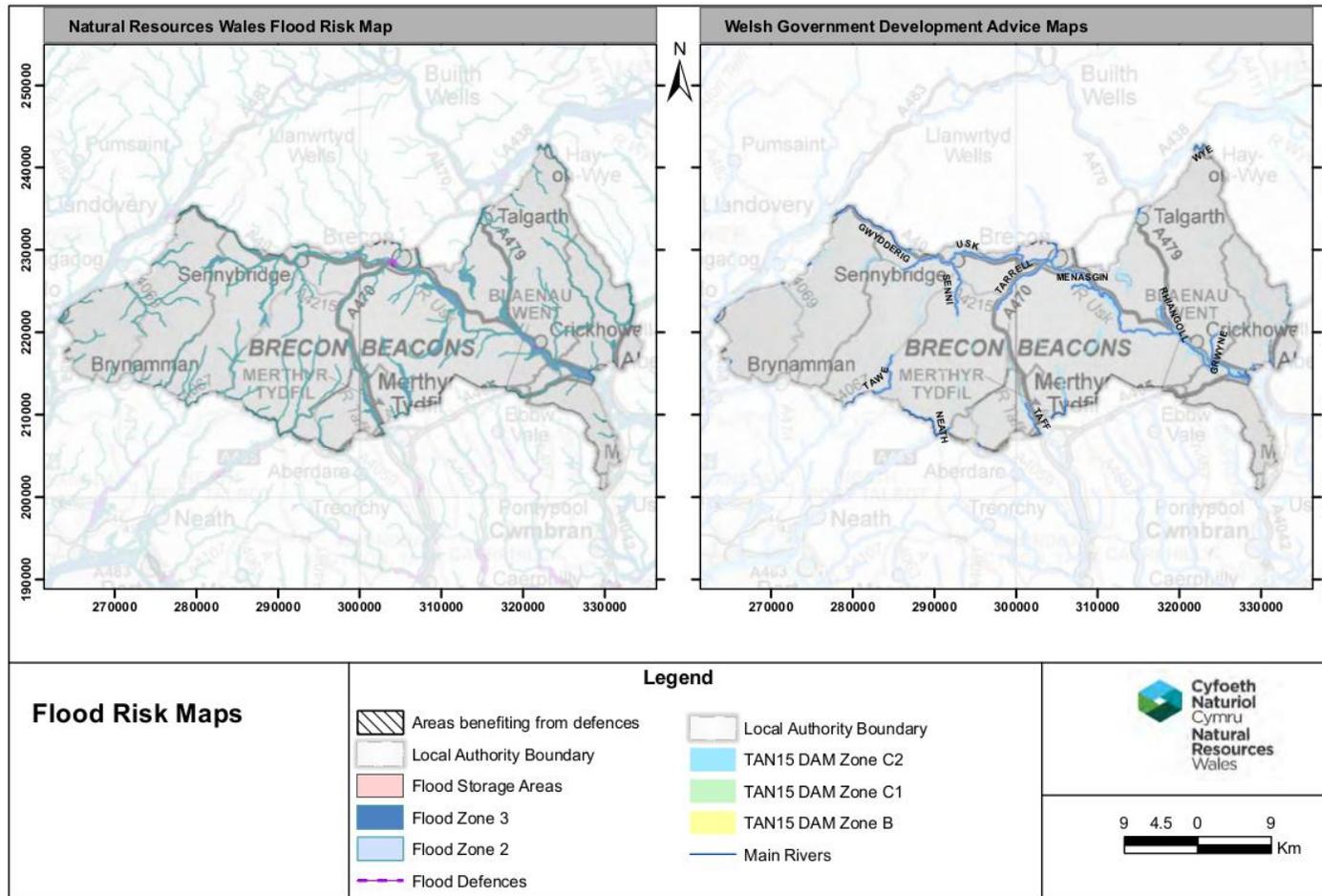
Monitoring over time will require knowledge of flood defence systems. The map shows that flood defence systems are located at Brecon and Crickhowell, with some other flood defences just outside the Park Boundary (for example Llandovery, Three Cocks and various ones to the south of the Park). Zone C2 identifies areas of the floodplain without significant flood defence infrastructure.

These maps provide a baseline figure which future iterations of the State of the Park Report will compare against new data.



© Crown Copyright and database right 2013. Ordnance Survey licence number 100019741. © Hawlfraint a hawliau cronfa ddata'r Goron 2013. Rhif Trwydded yr Arolwg Ordnans 100019741
© Natural Resources Wales copyright and/or database right 2013. All rights reserved © Hawlfraint a/neu hawl cronfa wybodaeth Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru 2013. Cedwir pob hawl.

Map Flood1: Flood Risk Index (WIMD 2011)



© Crown Copyright and database right 2013. Ordnance Survey licence number 100019741. © Hawlfraint a hawliau cronfa ddata'r Goron 2013. Rhif Trwydded yr Arolwg Ordnans 100019741
© Natural Resources Wales copyright and/or database right 2013. All rights reserved © Hawlfraint a/neu hawl cronfa wybodaeth Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru 2013. Cedwir pob hawl.

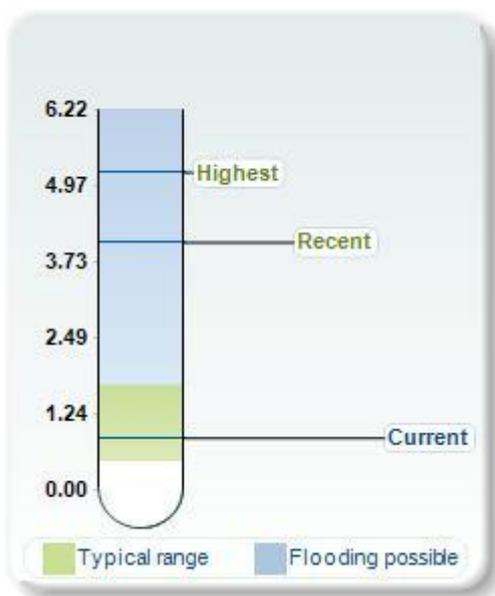
Map Flood2: Flood Risk Maps

River Levels

The Environment Agency (which has now been incorporated into Natural Resource Wales) measures river levels across England and Wales by collecting data from monitoring stations along the rivers.

One such monitoring station is located on the river Usk at Llandetty (see Graph Riv1). The typical river level range for this location is between 0.46m and 1.68m. The highest river level recorded at this location is 5.18m (*date been requested*) and the highest recent river level reached 4.04m on 23 December 2013. On the 15 May 2014, the river level was 0.84m.

Monitoring river level change is important because of the potential impacts it has on park management, biodiversity and directing the location of homes and buildings. It could be one of the concrete indicators of how global warming is affecting the Brecon Beacons National Park.



Graph Riv1: data from the river Usk monitoring station at Llandetty

Climate change

Climatic conditions have always changed on both local and global scales. In the past, change was predominantly a result of natural causes. The most recent changes, however, are proving to be the result of human impact, mainly from the emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and other greenhouse gases. There are now major concerns about future changes in the climate that will ultimately have significant effects on people's daily lives. There is no doubt that climate change will continue. However, the degree of change will be influenced by the level of global carbon emissions that continue to be discharged into the atmosphere. Various scenarios have been developed by the UK Climate Impacts Programme to examine regional effects. Climate change will provide a serious challenge in the future and have wide ranging implications for most aspects of life, from wildlife to planning decisions such as building development in flood plain areas. This change in climate will have serious implications for all sectors of the Park. Biodiversity could be affected with some habitats becoming extinct and others altered, at best this could result in some species moving to more suitable areas. The risk of flooding caused by an increase in rainfall will have an adverse effect on areas built on the flood plains, with flooding becoming a bigger issue. Farmers may also be affected as they see a change in the crops they can grow, where they can grow them and the efficiency of grazing land. Archaeological resources and other components of the historic environment may be affected significantly by changes in climate, too.

The exact changes in climate are difficult to assess, especially for individual sites such as the Brecon Beacons National Park. However, scientists are predicting an overall increase in temperature in the UK, primarily in the summer when high temperatures are expected to become more frequent. South Wales is expected to have amongst the highest increases in summer temperatures for the UK. The pattern of rainfall is also expected to change, with summers becoming drier and winters becoming wetter. Winter rainfall is also predicted to fall in more intense storms than at present.

As well as reacting to these challenges the communities of residents and visitors who come to the National Park can adopt proactive approaches to reducing the local "carbon footprint". Sustainable travel by public transport can reduce vehicle CO₂ emissions whilst encouraging enjoyment of the Park by visitors. Schemes such as The Green Valleys hydroelectric scheme demonstrate how using renewable resources need not adversely affect the special qualities of the National Park. By undertaking renewable resource schemes the Park will be in a stronger position to adapt if the climate changes as predicted.

Indicator 14: Health and Wellbeing

National Parks have special qualities found in their unique environments. The Brecon Beacons National Park is rich in natural and historic heritage and is a unique health and wellbeing resource for both residents and visitors alike. It has already been established in the introduction to this report that the majority of national park residents, 82%, described themselves as being in good, or very good health. This percentage is slightly higher than for England and Wales overall. Given that the national parks have an older age structure than nationally, and that generally, health deteriorates with age, this indicates that people residing in national parks perceive themselves as in better health than do those living in the rest of the country¹⁸.

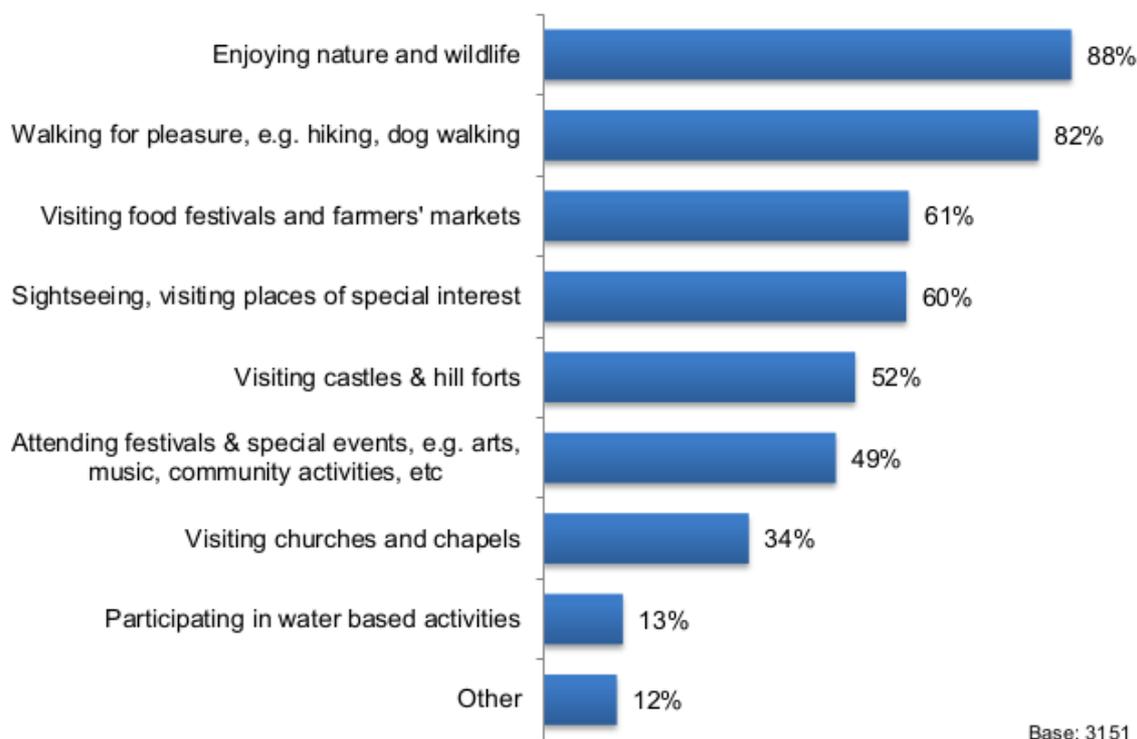
The Welsh Government makes clear links between the social and economic wellbeing of the nation with social inclusion and good health. We can understand more about the health and wellbeing of park residents through the residents' survey. The residents' survey was undertaken in 2013 and delivers data that is useful in terms of setting a baseline and for future improvements, thereby supporting state of the park reporting. A number of questions were asked under 8 broad themes. This report focuses on the following 2 questions, which are most directly related to health and wellbeing:

- What activities residents in the park enjoyed doing most
- What activities residents undertook in the Park and how often they did them

Residents were asked which activities they enjoyed doing in the Brecon Beacons National Park.

¹⁸ Census - Office for National Statistics

Figure 8: Activities enjoyed in the Brecon Beacons National Park



Graph Heat: Activities enjoyed in the Brecon Beacons National Park (Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Residents' Survey 2013)

The most popular activity is 'enjoying nature and wildlife' with over four fifths (88%) of residents indicating they participate in this activity within the National Park. This is followed by 'walking for pleasure', with some eight in ten residents (82%) indicating this.

Between five and six in ten residents also enjoy sightseeing and visiting places of special interest, including food festivals and farmers markets and visiting castles and hill forts. Attending festivals and special events (e.g. arts, music, community activities, etc) appeals to almost one half of residents, while almost two-fifths enjoy visiting the areas churches and chapels.

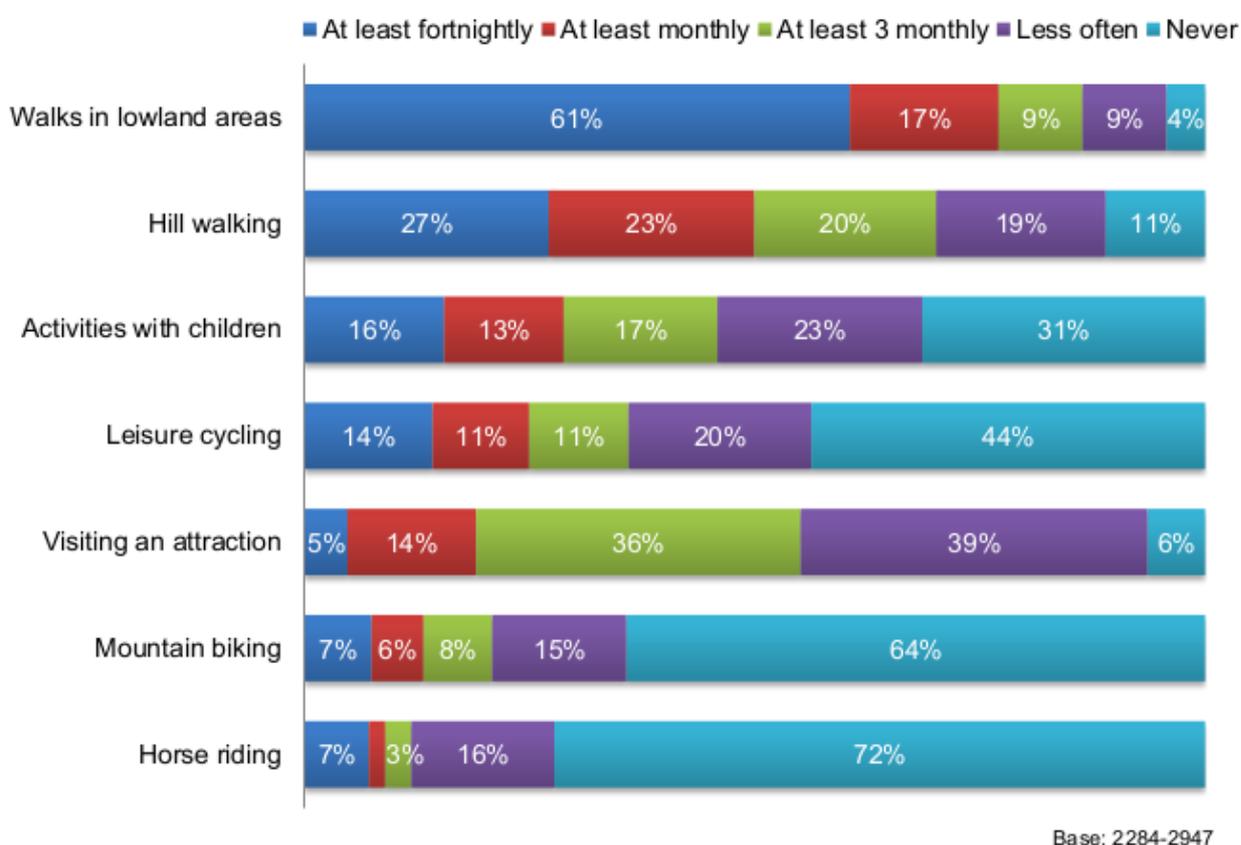
Fewer residents said they were interested in 'participating in water based activities'; with over one in ten residents indicating they do this. Perhaps unsurprisingly, this type of activity holds greatest appeal to younger residents and those with children in their household; 21% of those aged 44 and under indicate they participate in water based activities, as do 19% of those with children in their households.

- 'Walking for pleasure', 'Enjoying nature and wildlife' and 'Food festivals and food markets' are all activities that are enjoyed by a significantly greater proportion of those aged 16-44.

- Visiting churches and chapels’ is enjoyed more by those in the older age group of 65+ than those aged 16 to 44; 45% vs. 24%, respectively.
- Linked to age, households with children are also more likely to enjoy, ‘visiting food festivals and farmers’ markets’. By comparison, a greater proportion of those without children enjoy ‘visiting churches and chapels’.

Residents were asked which activities they undertook in the Brecon Beacons Park and how often they did them. Graph Hea2 shows the results.

Figure 9: Leisure activities undertaken in the National Park



Graph Hea2: Leisure Activities Undertaken in the Park

‘Walking in the lowlands’ is by far the most popular past-time with over three-fifths (61%) of residents participating in this activity at least fortnightly. ‘Hill walking’ is the next most popular activity with over one-quarter (27%) of residents doing this at least fortnightly and over a fifth (23%) doing this at least monthly.

The least frequently undertaken activities for residents are 'horse riding' and 'mountain biking', with over six in ten residents indicating they have never undertaken these activities within the National Park.

There are a small number of differences in the activities undertaken, at least once a month, depending on the profile of residents.

- Proportionally fewer of those aged 65 and over participate, at least monthly, in hill walking compared to younger residents.
- Leisure cycling, mountain biking and horse riding on a monthly basis attracts a greater proportion of those with children in their household and those under 44, compared to others.
- Visiting an attraction, such as a castle or museum, appeals to proportionally more of those that have lived in the area for ten years or less.
- Undertaking monthly activities in the National Park with children is highest amongst those aged 16 to 44.

Some 13% of residents (418 residents) indicate a range of additional activities they participate in within the Brecon Beacons National Park, including; fishing, golf, swimming, canoeing/kayaking, sailing, other sport activities, photography, bird watching and various other leisure based activities (e.g. pubs, restaurants, etc). Around one-half (51%) suggest that they participate in the activity they have indicated at least once per month.

Indicator 15: Communities with a Village Plan and Open Space Assessment

Community Plan

Community Plans are a means of a community coming together to decide on what they want to improve or achieve in their areas. The end result of a Community Plan is usually an action plan that sets out how the group intend to make improvements to the local area. The actions may be for the group to do or with a partner. The number of communities with an adopted Community Plan will be a good indicator of which communities have made a commitment to social resilience in the National Park.

A Community Plan pilot project is currently being taken forward with Hay Town Council. If successful, it is proposed that the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority will assist with setting up at least one Community Plan per year and an update on the outcomes from this will be provided in future iterations of the State of the Park Report.

Open Space Assessment

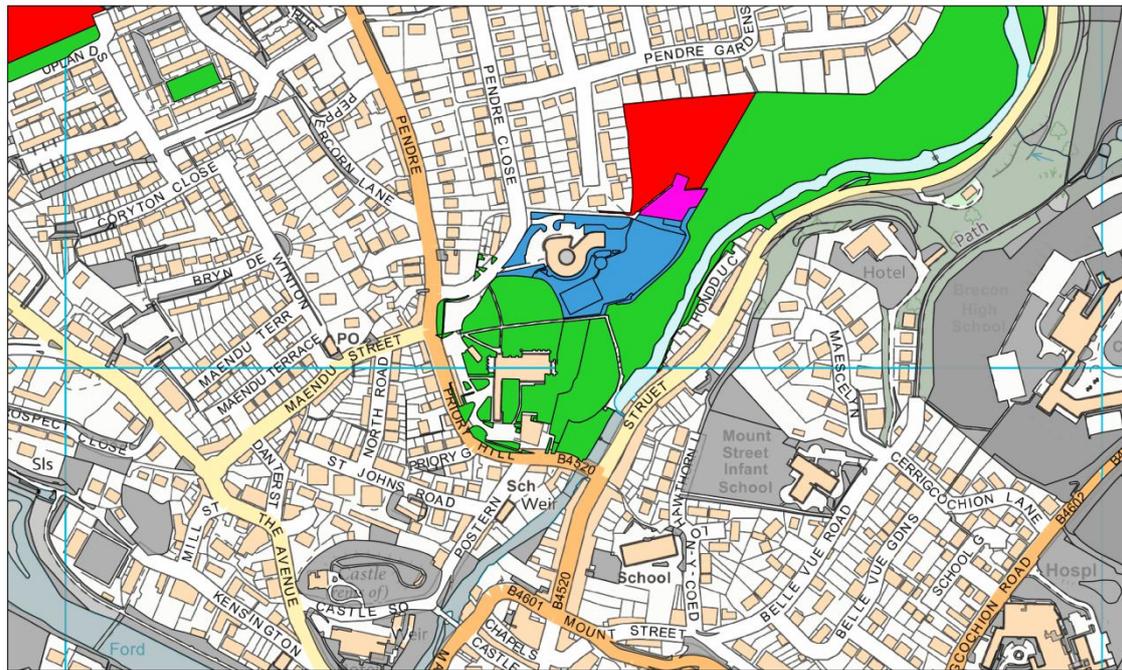
An Open Space Assessment will assist in the protection and provision of open space within communities.

Recreational open space is defined as an open area, whether in public or private ownership, which is available for sport, informal recreation or children's play. Recreational open space includes equipped children's play areas, informal play spaces and formal recreation areas, such as pitches, greens, athletic tracks, courts and educational land where it is laid out to accommodate formal recreation. An appropriate open space assessment will allow the National Park Authority to consider how any development proposals received would affect the provision of recreational open space in the local area and also the wider implications of it would cause a deficiency of open space.

An open space assessment is currently being prepared and results will be documented in future iterations of the State of the Park Report. Monitoring over time will provide an indication of the levels of different types of open space within communities. It is proposed that Supplementary Planning Guidance will be prepared using the assessment and this will be used to provide detailed guidance on the way in which the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority will assess development proposals which would involve the loss of open space or impact on it in some way.

Map OSI shows a screen shot of the draft Open Space assessment which is currently being prepared. The red polygons represent informal open space, pink polygons represent children's play

areas, green polygons represent amenity open space (this is an area which does not have a defined recreational value but has particular value to the amenity of the surrounding area) and blue polygons represent education open space. A figure indicating the amount of all types of open space will be provided on completion of the assessment. This will be compared to the Fields in Trust requirement (the six acre standard) and the required amount of open space to be provided in hectares per 1,000 population.



Date: 15/05/2014 Scale: 1:3,956

© Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog, Plas y Ffynnon, Ffordd Cambrian, Aberhonddu, Powys, LD3 7HP

© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2014 Arolwg Ordnans 100019322. Ni chaniateir i chi gopïo, tan-dwyddedu, dosbarthu neu werthu y data yma i unrhyw ddyfnydd barti mewn unrhyw ffurf.

© Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7HP

© Crown copyright and database rights 2014 Ordnance Survey 100019322. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.



Map OSI: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Open Space Assessment

Theme 6: Sustainable Economic Development

Summary

Overall:

FAIR

The indicators representing this theme are:

- Indicator 16: Affordable housing provision
- Indicator 17: Economic activity
- Indicator 18: Employment by type of industry

The recently adopted Local Development Plan has policies in place to ensure affordable housing targets are met (and draft supplementary planning guidance in the pipeline as well) and the Park continues to deliver more affordable housing than other National Parks in Wales. Therefore the condition of affordable housing provision in the Park is generally good.

There are both positives and negatives to the current condition of economic activity in the Park; therefore the current condition is fair. On the one hand, there are a higher percentage of economically active people in the Park when compared to Wales as a whole. This figure increased by 3.5% between 2001 and 2011. There are also fewer economically inactive people in the Park when compared to Wales as a whole (this figure decreasing by 3.5% between 2001 and 2011). However, the percentage of students in the Park decreased between 2001 and 2011 (while the corresponding percentage for Wales showed an increase) and the percentage of retired people in the Park is growing at a faster rate than in Wales as a whole.

There are also positive and negatives with regards to employment type. There were decreases in agriculture, fishing and manufacturing but increases in construction and a new category 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles' was formed which employs a very significant element of employment. There continues to be a high number of self-employed people in the Park. Generally this indicator is considered to be in fair condition.

Using these three indicators to assess overall condition (Poor, Fair, Good or Excellent), the state of the park in the context of Management Plan Theme 6 is FAIR.

Indicator 16: Additional Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is provided for households who are unable to rent or buy on the open market. It is defined in the Local Development Plan as Social Rented Housing, Intermediate Housing and of a mix and tenure commensurate with local needs. The number of net additional affordable dwellings built in the National Park is included as an indicator in the Annual Monitoring Report for the Local Development Plan.

Additional affordable housing includes those housing units leased to provide accommodation for homeless families where the lease is for more than a year. Table AH1 shows the total additional affordable housing provision in Wales between 2007/8 to 2014/15.

It shows that within the National Park areas, the highest number of additional affordable housing units delivered are usually within Brecon Beacons National Park, however in 2012-13 provision was highest in Snowdonia (39 out of 56 units). As in 2011-12, no affordable housing was delivered in Pembrokeshire National Park. The level of provision will be influenced by each National Park's affordable housing target¹⁹.

The Brecon Beacons National Park mirrors the national trend regarding the percentage of additional affordable housing units delivered being at its lowest point in 2012/3 since data collection began in 2007/8, which reflects the continuing fall in wider new house building activity. The figure for the Park is planned to fall again in 2013/2014, with 15 additional affordable dwellings provided, and not pick up again until 2014/5 when 20 additional affordable dwellings are proposed.

In order to meet targets, the recently adopted Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan (LDP) sets out that the Authority will require development in the defined settlements to make a contribution towards affordable housing. In order to provide detail as to the implementation of this policy position, the Authority has produced draft Supplementary Planning Guidance to Policy 28 of the Local Development Plan 'Affordable Housing'.

¹⁹ Affordable Housing Provision in Wales 2012-2013 - Revised

Table 1 - Additional affordable housing provision in Wales, 2007-08 to 2014-15 (a)

	Delivered:						Planned (b)		Proposed (b)	
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Numbers	
Isle of Anglesey	77	116	79	85	49	110	41	37		
Gwynedd	85	93	53	110	37	66	63	106		
Conwy	26	49	60	76	32	45	186	128		
Denbighshire	78	134	87	154	60	61	22	0		
Flintshire	61	74	24	115	71	57	126	125		
Wrexham	73	10	41	83	95	15	74	64		
Powys	41	55	56	27	38	105	0	0		
Ceredigion	45	34	38	47	(r) 119	15	52	136		
Pembrokeshire	82	67	123	105	26	59	28	159		
Camarthenshire	86	80	186	86	92	87	40	150		
Swansea	102	299	124	104	297	129	401	450		
Neath Port Talbot	35	81	138	100	83	140	152	90		
Bridgend	127	110	101	140	120	30	123	183		
The Vale of Glamorgan	18	11	68	140	48	73	42	204		
Cardiff	256	459	488	362	417	329	233	217		
Rhondda Cynon Taf	89	117	103	86	40	84	97	106		
Merthyr Tydfil	21	50	65	73	31	66	52	25		
Caerphilly	95	203	170	160	108	144	140	276		
Blaenau Gwent	11	70	33	75	122	116	41	54		
Torfaen	99	71	92	88	92	58	183	153		
Monmouthshire	76	101	26	167	191	85	91	205		
Newport	109	259	215	103	264	168	36	26		
Wales	1,692	2,543	2,370	2,486	(r) 2,432	2,042	2,223	2,894		
Of which, total delivered in:										
Snowdonia National Park	6	14	16	8	5	39	22	26		
Pembrokeshire National Park	8	15	12	3	0	0	0	0		
Brecon Beacons National Park	16	25	35	20	27	17	15	20		
Total National Parks	30	54	63	31	32	56	37	46		
Total outside National Parks	1,662	2,489	2,307	2,455	2,400	1,986	2,186	2,848		
Wales	1,692	2,543	2,370	2,486	(r) 2432	2,042	2,223	2,894		

Source: Affordable Housing Provision data collection, Welsh Government

Table AHI: Additional Affordable Housing Provision in Wales (Source: Affordable Housing Provision data collection, WG)²⁰

²⁰ <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/statistics/2013/131106-affordable-housing-provision-2012-13-revised-en.pdf>

Indicator 17: Economic Activity

As well as delivering their role as environmental stewards, the National Parks in England and Wales simultaneously have a duty to 'seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities within the National Parks'. National Parks are vital economic assets that make a significant contribution to prosperity and well-being, sustaining jobs in the management of the natural environment, supporting businesses involved in farming, food, forestry, tourism, and the production and marketing of locally distinctive and nature based products and services and providing attractive locations for people and businesses.

National Parks deliver ecosystem services on which our wider economy and society depends, such as providing clean water, influencing water supply and flood risk, regulating climate and air quality, and providing attractive semi-natural landscapes in which people can relax and exercise, helping to improve our health and well-being. They also play an important social and cultural role, supporting education, contributing to our sense of place, and providing a focus for community engagement and volunteering.

Environmental protection and economic wellbeing are often considered to be conflicting aims. However, there is increasing recognition that large parts of the modern economy are dependent on the quality and sustainable use of the environment²¹.

Table EAI below identifies employment in the environmental sector within Wales' National Parks. Some of these sectors may not be wholly attributed to the environment and therefore in order to understand their contribution to the statistics on employment in the Environmental section it is necessary to estimate the proportion of activity within different sectors which is dependent on the environment.

Pie Chart EAI identifies the contribution of the National Park's environment to employment in Wales and Graph EAI provides a profile of the Welsh National Park Economies.

Graph EAI compares Welsh National Park and Wales data. It shows that there are significant differences by proportion of jobs per sector in each of the National Parks. However, Brecon Beacons National Park and Wales are the most comparable data sets with the major differences being that the National Park provides slightly more employment in wholesale, retail, hotels and restaurants and noticeably more employment in primary industries and utilities. The National Park as an area provides slightly fewer jobs in public administration, defence, transport, communications and manufacturing and construction.

²¹ Valuing Wales' National Parks (September 2013)

Table EA2 develops the indicator used in the 2006 State of the Park Report. It compares economic activity data from the 2011 Census making comparisons between Wales and the Brecon Beacons National Park. It is particularly useful because it provides comparative data from 2001. It shows a higher percentage of economically active people in the Brecon Beacons National Park than in Wales as a whole. The percentage figure for self-employed people that live in the National Park is almost double that in Wales and there are a significantly lower percentage of unemployed people in the Park. There are, however a higher percentage of students and employees in Wales as a whole compared to National Parks.

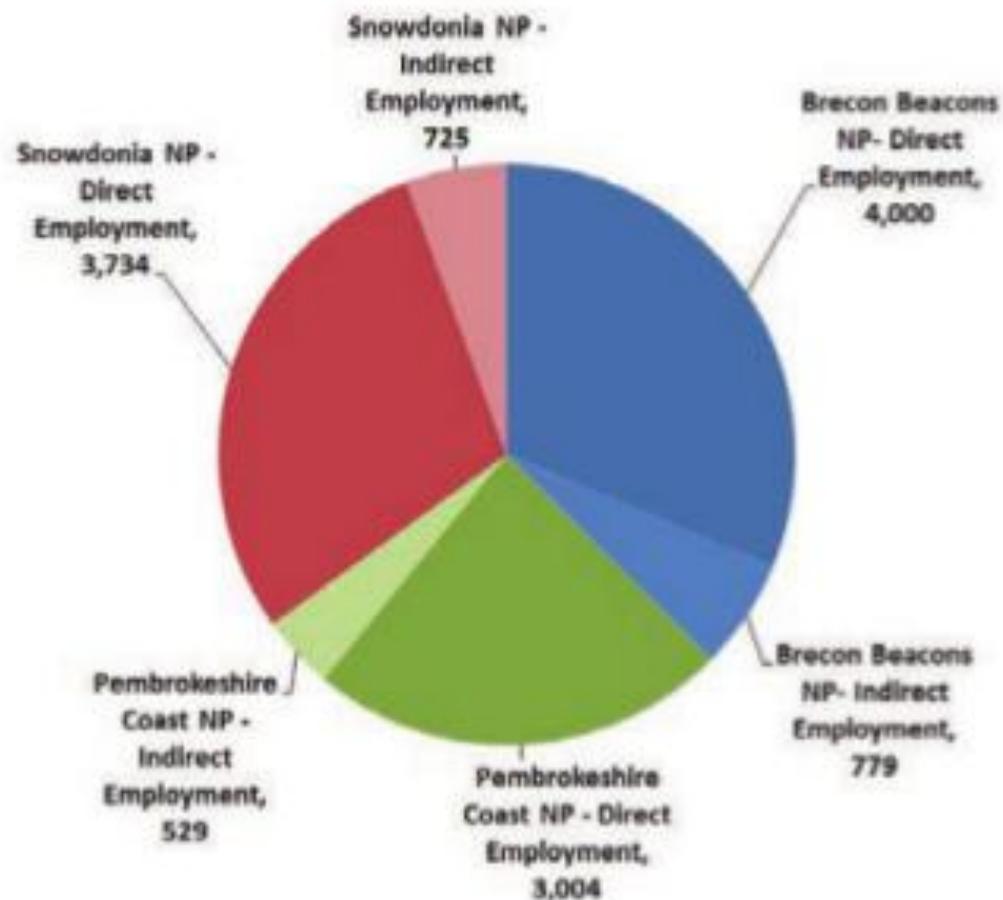
Table EA2 shows a smaller percentage of people in the Brecon Beacons National Park that are economically inactive yet there is a higher percentage of retired people in the Park (retired people are classed as economically inactive). The number of retired people in the Park increased between 2001 and 2011 and the number of students slightly decreased. The number of retired people in Wales as a whole also increased, although this was not as pronounced as the equivalent Park figure. The number of students in Wales as a whole increased between 2001 and 2011.

Table 2.2: Employment in the Environmental Sector within Wales' National Parks

	Brecon Beacons National Park	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park	Snowdonia National Park	Total
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and mining	1,445	1,018	1,539	4,001
Electricity	83	77	54	215
Retail trade	726	474	406	1,606
Accommodation and travel agents	586	831	1,072	2,489
Restaurants and bars	370	619	382	1,371
Recreation and culture	688	238	273	1,199
Water, sewerage and waste	133	22	356	511
Land transport	43	47	43	133
Public administration and defence	705	206	334	1,246
Total	4,779	3,532	4,459	12,771

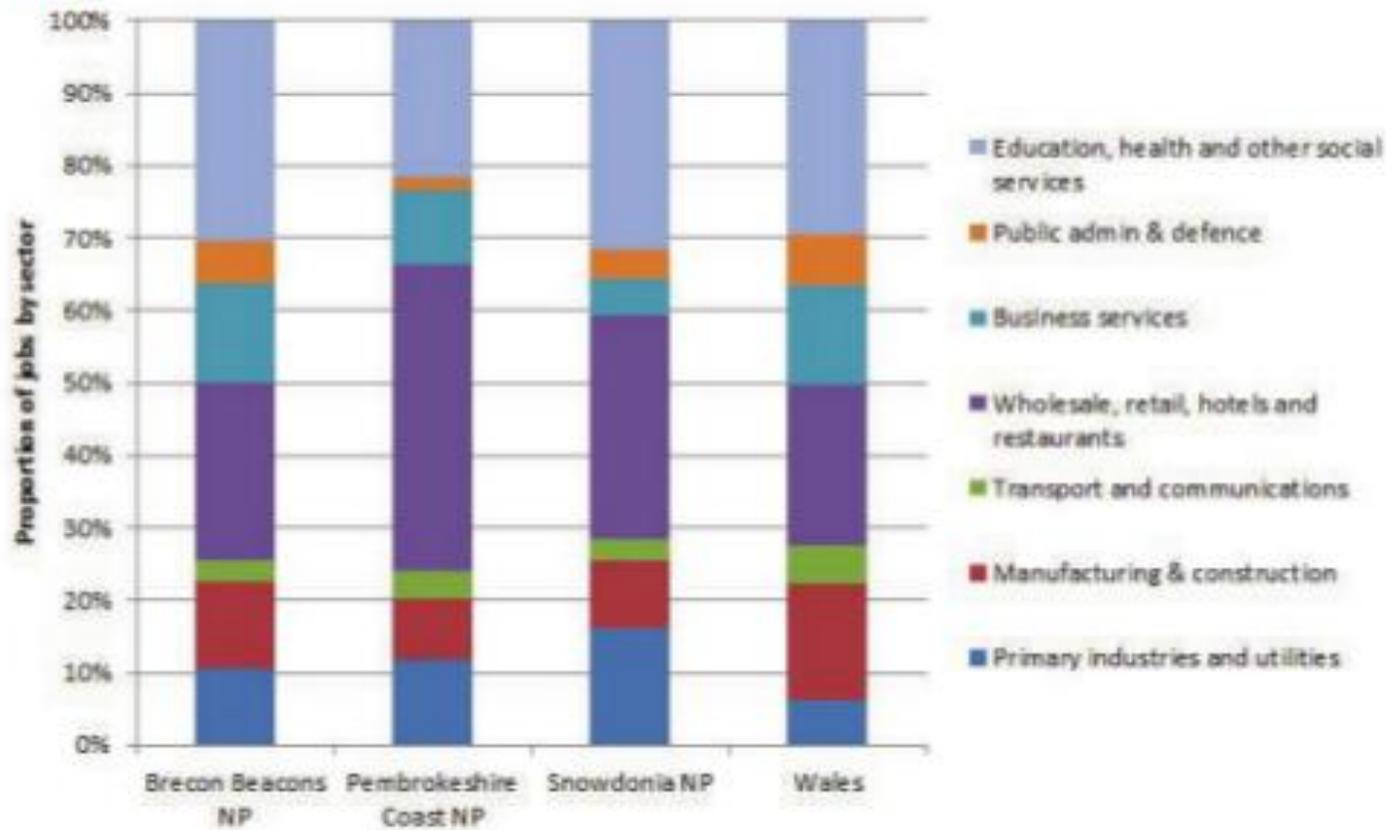
Table EAI: Employment in the Environmental Sector within Wales' National Parks

Figure 2: The Contribution of the National Park's Environment to Employment in Wales



Pie Chart EA1: The Contribution of the National Park's Environment to Employment in Wales (Source Valuing Wales National Parks (September 2013))

Figure 4: Profile of National Park Economies



Graph EAI: Profile of National Park Economies (Source – ONS data)

<i>all figures in %</i>	BBNP		Wales	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
Economically Active	65.2	68.7	61	65.8
Employees	45.7	47.4	47.5	49.5
Self Employed	15.2	16	7.7	8.6
Unemployed	2.7	3.1	3.5	4.3
Full time Student	1.6	2.2	2.3	3.3
Economically Inactive	34.8	31.3	39	34.2
Retired	16	18.8	14.8	16.1
Student	4.3	4.2	5.1	6
Looking after the home/family	5.2	2.7	6.4	3.8
Permanently Sick/Disabled	6.8	4	9.2	6.3
Other	2.5	1.6	3.5	2

Table EA2: Economic Activity BBNP / Wales

Indicator 18: Employment by Type of Industry

Table ETI identifies employment by type of industry in the National Park between 1991 and 2001. Data from the 2011 Census is offered below for comparison. The categories of employment industry have changed over time but provide useful trend data for types of employment of residents of the National Park.

Table ETI identifies the Employment by type of Industry data that was used in the 2006 State of the Park Report. Future Census data and mid-year forecasts will enable this indicator to be updated using a consistent data set.

Generally the data shows that there have been further decreases in employment in agriculture and fishing (including forestry in 2011 data) and a decrease in manufacturing employment following an increase between 1991 and 2001. There has been a further increase in construction employment. It is difficult to identify a trend in accommodation and food services as it is a new category. However, going forward this change will provide valuable trend data in an important employment category for Park residents.

The Park's main employment categories have been divided further since the 2006 State of the Park Report was produced but generally continues to show greatest employment in public administration, defence and education with two new categories identified in 2011 Census of the wholesale and retail trade and human health and social work. This is probably the result of a number of larger employers based in the National Park Powys County Council have offices in Brecon (in the National Park) along with the divisional headquarters of Dyfed-Powys Police, the Ministry of Defence and the National Park Authority itself. There are three secondary schools and a number of primary schools in the Park and several nearby plus the Brecon War Memorial Hospital and other hospitals nearby.

2011 Census Data:

- Total Persons working – 15,889
- Agriculture Forestry and Fishing – 5.9%
- Manufacturing – 6.5%
- Construction – 8.2%
- Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles – 13.4%
- Transport and Storage – 2.5%
- Accommodation and food services – 7.5%
- Information and Communication – 1.9%

- Financial and insurance activities – 1.5%
- Real Estate – 1.4%
- Professional , scientific and technical – 5%
- Administrative and support services – 4.2%
- Public administration and defence, compulsory social security – 9.7%
- Education – 10.6%
- Human Health and social work – 14.6%
- Other – 5.3%

Between 1991 and 2001 the number of people employed in agriculture and fishing decreased from 10.2% to 7.3%. By 2011 this number had reduced further to 5.9% (including forestry).

Between 1991 and 2001 the number of people employed in manufacturing had increased from 10.1% to 10.8%. By 2011 this number had decreased to 6.5%.

Between 1991 and 2001 the number of people employed in construction had increased from 6.4% to 7.1%. By 2011 this number had increased further to 8.2%.

The category for 'Transport and Communication' changed in 2011 to 'Transport and Storage'. The numbers employed in this category decreased from 4.1% to 3.7% between 1991 and 2001 and decreased further by 2011 to 2.5%.

The numbers employed in the category 'Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants' increased between 1991 and 2001 from 17.8% to 20.9%. In 2011 the category changed to 'Accommodation and Food Services' (losing the distribution element of the category) and numbers decreased to 7.5%. It is worth noting that 2011 Census data includes a new category 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles' which wasn't included in the 2006 SOPR yet forms a significant part of employment in the National Park at 13.4%.

It is worth noting that there are a variety of other changes in the categories used between 1991, 2001 and 2011 Census data which provide minor employment in the Park. The SOPR picks up major changes in employment trends.

Proportion of people aged 16-74 working in:	1991	2001
Agriculture and fishing*	10.2%	7.3%
Energy and water	2.6%	1.2%
Manufacturing	10.1%	10.8%
Construction	6.4%	7.1%
Distribution, hotels and restaurants**	17.8%	20.9%
Transport and communication***	4.1%	3.7%
Banking, finance and insurance	7.5%	10.5%
Public administration, education and health†	-	33.1%
Other services††	37.4%	5.3%
Not stated†††	2.0%	-
Total	98.1%	99.9%

Sources: 1991 Census; 2001 Census in Digest of Welsh Local Area Statistics 2004

- * Includes forestry in 1991. Forestry not mentioned in 2001
- ** Distribution and catering in 1991
- *** Transport only in 1991
- † Not specified in 1991, but presumably included in Other services
- †† Presumably 1991 figure includes public administration etc.
- ††† No category for Not stated in 2001

Table ET1: Employment by Type of Industry

Appendices

Appendix 1: Twelve principles for the management of Category V protected areas

Appendix 2: Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites

Appendix I:

Twelve principles for the management of Category V protected areas

The following twelve principles apply **in particular** to the management of Category V protected areas. While some of these may also apply in other protected area situations, they take on an added significance in the management of Protected Landscapes²².

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.*

¹See especially [WCPA Economics Task Force, 2000](#). *Financing Protected Areas: Guidelines for Protected Area Managers*, IUCN Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

²For further guidance see: [Hockings M., Stolton S. and Dudley N. 2000](#). *Evaluating Effectiveness: A Framework for Assessing the Management of Protected Areas*, IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

²² <http://www.iucn.org>

Appendix 2:

Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites

No.	Name of RIGS	Condition
1	Mynydd Myddfai Tilestones	Good
2	Maes-y-ffin Cwm	Good
3	Nevill Hall	Good
4	Darren Cwmyoy Landslide	Good
5	Bloodstone	Good
6	The Hermitage	Degrading
7	Llanfelltte	Good
8	Llanfrynach	Good
9	Ffrwdgrech Moraine	Good
10	Cradoc Moraine	Good
11	Cefn Crai	Good
12	Aberbran Abercamlais	Good
13	Llywel Twyn-y-felin	Good
14	Craig y fro	Good
15	Priory Groves	Good
16	Dyffryn Mawr	Good
17	Llandetti Moraine	Good
18	Stanton Fluvio-glacial Terrace	Good
19	Fan Dringarth Landslide	Stable
20	Cwm Coed (Spillway)	Good
21	Carn Pen Clogau	Good
22	Tair Carn Uchaf	Excellent
23	Blaen Caerfanell	Good
24	Blaen Senni	Good
25	Blaen Pig	Good
26	Carno Addit	Stable
27	Carreg Cennen	Excellent
28	Cefn Cul	Good
29	Craig Cwm-Du	Good
30	Cwm Crew	Good

31	Cwm Cynwyn	Good
32	Cwm Oergwm	Good
33	Cwm Pwllfa	Good
34	Dan Yr Ogof	Excellent
35	Dinas Silica Mines	Stable
36	Fan Bwlch Chwyth	Good
37	Fan Gyhirych	Good
38	Henllys Vale	Good
39	Hepste a Melte	Excellent
40	Herberts Quarry	Good
41	Llygad Lluchwr	Good
42	Mynydd Llangatwg & Clydach Gorge	Stable
43	Mynydd Llangynidr	Good
44	Ogof Draenen and Siambre Ddu	Excellent
45	Ogof Ffynnon Ddu	Degrading
46	Pen Milan	Good
47	Porth-yr-Ogof	Excellent
48	Allt Troedrihwfelen stream section	Good
49	Pwll Calch	Poor
50	Cil-maen-llwyd Quarry	Degrading
51	Carreg-yr-Ogof	Excellent
52	Abercriban Quarry	Good
53	Tramway below Darren Ddu	Degrading
54	Craig-y-Gaer	Stable
55	Drum and Monkey Quarry	Stable
56	Coed Pantydarren	Good
57	Penlan Quarry	Good
58	Dyffryn Crawnnon	Good
59	Table Mountain and Darren	Good
60	Blaen Onneu Quarry	Excellent
61	Clydach Halt	Excellent
62	Gilwern Quarry	Excellent
63	Craig Derlwyn	Good
64	Blaen Taf Fawr Landslide	Good

65	Primrose Hill	Poor
66	Pen Cerrig Calch	Good
67	Crwcas Quarry	Good
68	Tremynfa	Good
69	Pantymaes	Good
70	Breinant	Stable
71	Coed Duon	Good
72	Garn Goch	Excellent
73	Afon y waen	Excellent
74	Pwll y Wrach	Good
75	Corn Du and Pen Y Fan	Good
76	Ysgyryd Fawr	Good