

BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK

The Impacts of Leisure and Tourism on the Brecon Beacons National Park

Colette Mooney, Education Officer

National Parks in the United Kingdom Living landscapes and communities

There is a family of 14 National Parks in Wales, England and Scotland. Their two major purposes, as amended in the Environment Act 1995, are to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of their areas' special qualities by the public. They also have a duty to foster the well-being of the local community.

National Parks can be described as **living landscapes that are ever changing**. As such, National Park Authorities (NPAs) must consider the needs of the people, living and working in the communities, within the National Park (NP) as well as the special features of these areas.

Brecon Beacons National Park

The Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) covers an area of 1347 square kilometres. It includes the towns of Brecon, Crickhowell and Hay-on-Wye. There are approximately 32,000 people living within the Park.

The Park is on the edge of the South Wales coalfield. Its landscape is dramatic and varied, with gentle upland slopes, steep escarpments (the highest point is Pen-y-Fan at 886 metres), glaciated valleys, peat bogs and heather moorland.

Two-thirds of the area is comprised of old red sandstone rocks. The sandstone forms four distinct blocks of hills – the Black Mountains in the east, the Brecon Beacons in the centre of the Park, and Fforest Fawr and the Black Mountain in the west.

Along the southern edge of the Park the geology alters, and outcrops of limestone and millstone grit occur. The Upper Swansea Valley and the Llangattock hillside are famous for their cave systems. Spectacular waterfalls are found in the gritstone areas such as Ystradfellte.

Water features widely in this striking landscape, with many rivers, lakes, waterfalls and reservoirs. The River Usk flows through the Park and the sources of the rivers Tawe, Nedd and Taff are found within the Park.

The biodiversity (or wildlife) of the BBNP is varied. A vast array of habitats and species are found, from the common to the rare. Upland and lowland habitats provide refuges for many species such as lapwing, curlew, marsh fritillary butterfly, otters and water voles. On the crags are rare plants, such as Ley's whitebeam.

The man-made features of the area include remains from many different periods of history. These range from prehistoric cairns and hillforts to castles and churches. Remnants of more recent industrial times also survive, including quarries, tram roads and ironworks.

The area has a rich "cultural heritage". By this we understand "culture" to mean everything that people make or do. "Heritage" comprises everything that was done or thought in the past and which remains today.

It is this diverse landscape with scattered towns and villages that gives the area its distinctive character.

Management of the Brecon Beacons National Park

The body responsible for managing the BBNP is the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA or NPA). The NPA works with many organisations and agencies to meet its statutory purposes and duty as fully as possible.

The BBNPA is not the only decision maker in the management of the National Park. Nine Unitary Authorities cover the area. Many groups and individuals including residents, visitors, farmers and business people have key roles in its management. Much of the NPA's work therefore involves partnerships. Public and statutory bodies have a duty, under the 1995 Environment Act, to have regard to the statutory purposes of National Park designation.

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority is divided into four sections:

COUNTRYSIDE: This section includes:

Warden Service, Estate Team, Access and Rights of Way, Visitor Services (including visitor centres, information centres, information, interpretation, and education).

STRATEGY & POLICY: This section includes:

Local/Forward Planning & Unitary Development Plan, Communications and PR.

CORPORATE SERVICES: This section includes:

Human Resources, Finance, ICT, Legal, & Office Services.

CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY: This section includes:

Development Control & Enforcement, Community Development and Conservation

(ecology/biodiversity, landscape design, archaeology, farm liaison, building conservation, woodland management, sustainable tourism).

The NPA has to ensure that the areas within the Park which have been identified as having particular interest are managed correctly. Various designations exist, which have specific implications for the management of a site. They include the following:

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) – are identified by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW). They represent a sample of the best sites by virtue of their habitats, populations of species, geology and geomorphology.

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) – are declared by local authorities, in consultation with the Countryside Council for Wales, on land that either they own, lease or have some other legal agreement on. They are declared where local authorities wish to set aside land for nature conservation, wildlife education, access and enjoyment, or a combination of these.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) – are historic sites or features of national importance which are protected by law.

Appropriate land and habitat management within the National Park can prove challenging at times as, like all British National Parks, the majority of the land (70%) is privately owned. The BBNPA owns some 13% of the land. Other landowners include bodies such as utilities companies, the Forestry Commission and the National Trust account for 16%. Agriculture accounts for approximately 80% of the land use in the area.

Visitors

The BBNP attracts visitors from near and far. Within just one hour's drive of the Brecon Beacons are the 2 million (approx) people who live in South Wales and the population of Bristol. The large urban conurbations of the West Midlands, including Birmingham, are within 2 hours drive. The BBNP is the closest mountainous area to London.

Millions of people live within easy driving distance of the BBNP. Visitors to the area include:

- Day trippers
- People on holiday and staying within the Park boundaries
- People on holiday, staying outside of the Park and making a day visit.

According to the findings of a survey conducted in 1994, the estimated number of visitor days to the BBNP is 3.6 million. It is impossible to calculate exactly how many visitors the Park receives because there are so many roads leading into the Park and no gated entry points. The Park is an area of land with a range of attractions rather than a particular attraction that can count the number of visitors it receives.

However, it is possible to obtain information about visitor numbers to particular places in the BBNP. This is one method by which trends in visitor numbers to the Park can be obtained.

Visitor numbers are collected at the National Park Visitor Centre, Libanus and Craig-y-nos Country Park, both of which are managed by the BBNPA. They record their visitor numbers on a monthly and annual basis.

Over the last 10 years the visitor numbers have been:

Year	Visitors to Brecon Beacons National Park Visitor Centre, Libanus
1994	151,184
1995	162,558
1996	161,124
1997	156,875
1998	179,297
1999	194,901
2000	165,801
2001	31,114 (year of foot & mouth)
2002	159,521
2003	155,963
2004	169,817

Year	Visitors to Craig-y-nos Country Park
1994	77,020
1995	82,231
1996	131,205
1997	111,202
1998	63,801
1999	79,172
2000	82,692
2001	61,621
2002	64,876
2003	73,098
2004	66,119

Visitor surveys are carried out to gather information on the types of tourists that visit the National Parks and to obtain details of their stay. Most of the day visitors to the Park visit more than once and some visit on a regular basis. The majority of visitors are in family or other small groups.

Activities and Attractions

The BBNP contains a range of attractions and there are activities for visitors who enjoy a variety of outdoor recreation activities. The area can be explored by car and on foot, bike or horse. Popular activities include walking, mountain biking, abseiling, caving and hang-gliding. There are many facilities and residential centres within the Park catering for visitors' requirements.

Activities

Walking is the most popular of active pursuits. A large number of signposted walks are available which vary in terms of length and difficulty. National Park Guides, available free from Information Centres, provide details of walks. Publications can be purchased providing ideas for additional walks. A number of routes are suitable for those with limited mobility, including wheelchair users. In the summer months, walkers are encouraged to make use of the Beacons Bus scheme that operates within the National Park.

Cycling is an increasingly popular leisure activity. Cyclists can choose to get away from the crowds on quiet country roads or to head for the hills on mountain biking trails. There are a number of special 'waymarked' cycle paths, catering for all ages and abilities. There are also long distance cycle tracks crossing the Brecon Beacons and guidebooks giving details of these are available.

The Brecon Beacons is one of the oldest **pony trekking** areas in Britain. Trekking and riding centres within the National Park offer trail riding and trekking holidays as well as full-day and half-day rides.

There are many opportunities to participate in **water-based** activities in the area. Canoeing, kayaking, rafting and angling are all popular. The rivers Usk and Wye are ideally suited to canoeing, and canoes can be hired locally. Llangors Lake and Pontsticill Reservoir also provide opportunities for sailing and windsurfing, with hire and tuition available. There are many sites for angling within the Park.

The 7 **golf** courses within the BBNP are set in contrasting environments from the wooded Glyn Neath Golf Club to the moorland course at Palleg.

Attractions

The variety of attractions within the BBNP can be categorised as follows:

natural attractions such as mountains, waterfalls, rivers and caves. Visitors are attracted by the wide variety of **wildlife** in the National Park. Birds such as the red kite, peregrine falcons and buzzards can be found amongst the crags. Otters, salmon and kingfishers can be spotted along streams and rivers. Wild lily-of-the-valley can be seen in its limestone pavement habitat, at Ogof Ffynnon Ddu National Nature Reserve (NNR), together with birds such as peregrine falcons, red grouse or wheatears. Ring ouzels and purple saxifrage are found at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad NNR. Large numbers of birds, including tufted ducks, wigeon and pochard gather at Llangors Lake;

built attractions including the castles, hill forts, historic houses and towns and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. The canal has been restored between Pontypool and Brecon and narrow boats can be hired, or day trips taken, from a number of locations;

purpose built attractions, such as the National Park Visitor Centre at Libanus and Craig-y-nos Country Park.

Historic towns and features

There are several interesting historic towns within the Park. **Brecon** and **Crickhowell** have impressive buildings and were particularly important during Georgian times. The area's proximity to the South Wales valleys means it is rich in industrial archaeological remains such as the World Heritage Site at Blaenavonl.

Brecon is a pretty market town offering attractions such as its 12th century Cathedral, Brecknock Museum, the South Wales Borderers Museum, Theatr Brycheiniog, the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal and a leisure centre.

Crickhowell has a number of excellent pubs and hotels famed for their cuisine. Walkers using it for a base have a wide choice of routes at hand. Adventurous outdoor activities are also available in the area.

Llangors is an attractive village with good facilities and a beautiful 15th century church. Its most obvious feature is the lake with its Crannog (a royal palace from the Dark Ages). Although a protected wildlife site, the lake is a centre for watersports with rowing and sailing boats for hire. Pony trekking, climbing and assault course facilities are close by.

Hay on Wye is famous for its second-hand bookshops. There is a range of galleries, antique and gift shops. In early summer, the annual Hay Festival is held. Hay Bluff gives spectacular views over the Brecon Beacons, Radnorshire and Herefordshire.

More detailed information on these areas can be found at the various museums, visitor and heritage centres in and around the Park.

The Role of the BBNPA in relation to Leisure and Tourism

The BBNPA recognises that tourism is an essential industry in the area. It generates an annual income of £66,000,000. In employment terms, tourism within the National Park has some 1900 jobs associated with it. The NPA therefore considers that the successful integration of tourism and the management of its impacts are critical to the economic and social future of the area.

NPA Managed Facilities

The NPA offers a comprehensive service to local residents and visitors in the National Park. This service to 'external customers' is provided, predominantly, at the Visitor and Information Centres operated by the National Park Authority. These include the following:

The National Park Visitor Centre, Libanus

The Centre receives around 168,000 visitors per year. It is situated in the heart of the National Park and has superb views of the central Beacons (including Pen y fan). Visitors can learn about the National Park, find information about walks, activities and places to visit in the area, go for a walk on the common, visit the sensory Millennium Garden, enjoy a meal in the tea rooms or buy maps, local books and souvenirs in the shop. A range of festivals and events are organised at the Centre throughout the year. The Centre is a focal point for many of the tourists and day-trippers who visit the National Park. Other education and business groups visiting the site make use of the 60-seat lecture and conference room.

Craig-y-nos Country Park

The Country Park lies at the top of the Swansea Valley and provides services for a range of customers. It is open every day of the year except Christmas Day and offers a variety of walks, guided and self-led. Environmental activities are provided for school groups. The Country Park's visitor centre contains an interactive exhibition area, a shop, classroom and activity areas. A number of public events are also held at the Country Park.

YHA Danywenallt National Park Study Centre

At YHA Danywenallt National Park Study Centre near Talybont-on-Usk, the NPA runs residential education programmes for a wide range of education groups throughout the year. The Centre is also used to host Interpretative Walking Courses, training courses and wildlife events.

Information Centres

The NPA's three centres are located at Abergavenny, Brecon and Llandovery. These advise visitors on the local countryside and heritage, and opportunities for recreation. They operate under the same roof as Tourist Information Centres that are concerned mainly with accommodation, attractions and touring. Visitors can benefit from these complementary services.

At all the NPA-managed centres the products and services provided are related to the aims and objectives of the National Park. They aim to inform the visitors about the purposes of the BBNPA.

Marketing and Promotion by the BBNPA

It is important to remember that the NPA is not a tourism promotion agency. This is the role of the Wales Tourist Board and the local councils. Accommodation providers, outdoor centres and private attractions within the National Park are all involved in the marketing of their own businesses. However, the NPA may be involved in cross-promotion at times.

The NPA promotes the centres it manages and produces a range of material for visitor information. It also markets activities relating to events and festivals held at the centres.

The information produced by the NPA explains to visitors the importance of the National Park and why landscapes and habitats have to be protected. It also explains why certain activities are not in keeping with the environment and character of the area.

This could be argued to be a special form of 'marketing' in which the character and environment of the area are promoted rather than the facilities within the area. It aims to change people's behaviour and attitudes and to promote the concepts of sustainable lifestyles.

Working with others

The NPA is an organisation connected to the leisure and tourism industries and providers. As such it works with many groups including:

- Local residents
- Landowners
- Tourist boards
- Farmers
- Local Authorities
- Tourism businesses such as accommodation providers and organisations involved in outdoor activities
- Businesses in the National Park
- Transport providers
- Environmental protection agencies, such as the Countryside Council for Wales
- Voluntary organisations, such as the National Trust

These organisations could be said to represent the 'internal customers' of the NPA. They may seek advice, support or co-operation when developing initiatives.

Impacts of Tourism

Whether people are sightseeing by car or taking part in more active pursuits, their activities have a range of positive and negative impacts on the landscapes and communities of the National Park. These are variously social, economic and cultural. One of the functions of the BBNPA is to implement initiatives to manage and minimise the potential conflicts of different user groups within the National Park.

Economic

A significant number of businesses in the Park rely directly on tourism. For example, there are over 100 outdoor pursuits centres/operators within the National Park. Pubs, caravan park operators, attraction managers and event organisers all receive a proportion of their income from tourists. Shops and other retail outlets in the Park also rely on the trade they receive from visitors. Such businesses provide vital services to the communities within the National Park. Some 6.5% of the people employed in the National Park area work in hotels and catering.

Like other National Parks, there are areas within the BBNP where local communities are affected by the number of second homes/holiday lets. With so many people living within driving distance of the National

Park, it is not surprising that there are many second homes/holiday lets in the area. In many areas house prices have risen sharply. As a result first-time buyers within local communities are unable to afford houses in their area.

Social/cultural

It is as important to maintain the culture and heritage of the communities within the Park as it is to maintain the natural environment. Possible negative impacts of tourism may occur if many of the homes in a village are owned by people living outside the National Park. If this is the case, and a considerable number of the properties are second homes, it could result in businesses being unsustainable and schools and amenities closing. The Welsh language may also suffer as property prices increase and are no longer within reach of local people. The BBNPA has a responsibility to the communities lying within the Park and must take into account social and cultural impacts of tourism on the lives of local people.

With so many recreational activities taking place within the National Park some conflicts of interest and culture between visitors and local residents may occur.

Environmental

In the upland areas of the National Park one of the most common and highly visible impacts of tourism is erosion caused by walkers on footpaths. Walkers cause erosion in two ways. The soles of walking boots rip up the vegetation and walkers compact the top soil. This means that the soil cannot absorb as much rainfall. When rain water collects in puddles in the paths, walkers tend to move to one side making the path wider. In periods of heavier rainfall water flows along the paths dislodging vegetation and causing increased rates of erosion. In the more popular areas, footpaths have been repaired or pitched so that further erosion is reduced and regeneration of plants is facilitated.

Newer activities, such as mountain-biking, have caused considerable damage to footpaths. A system of 15 new mountain biking routes has been developed and will be promoted so that sensitive areas can be avoided. Mountain bikers are encouraged to keep to the tracks provided for them.

The single most popular activity for visitors to the Park is sightseeing by car. Many sites of interest within the Park, such as those for birdwatching and archaeology, are only accessible by car.

At busy times visitors and their cars have an impact on the environment and quality of life of local residents. In popular areas parked cars cause congestion and frustration for local residents and damage to vegetation. Car parks are provided throughout the National Park to minimise environmental impact.

Within the National Park there are a number of schemes which encourage visitors to use public transport. A number of buses operate which provide transport for walkers and other visitors. These schemes involve partnerships between a number of bodies, for example the BBNPA produces a Discover the National Park by public transport leaflet. This gives details of timetables, travel routes, places to go and suggestions for day trips.

The BBNPA adopts visitor management strategies which ensure that visitors to an area do not have a detrimental effect on the area they are visiting.

Llangors Lake – a case study of visitor management

Llangors Lake is a unique site. It is the largest natural lake in South Wales covering some 160 hectares, but is only 8m at its deepest point. The resulting shallow, nutrient rich water has provided a good habitat for a range of aquatic plants, invertebrates, fish and birds. The lake is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its aquatic plants, and is a proposed European Special Area for Conservation.

The lake also has a long history as a visitor attraction. In the first half of the 20th Century, the nearby railway connections meant it became a popular day trip and fishing destination for workers from the South Wales valleys. In the second half of the century other activities developed including sailing, windsurfing and water skiing, and road traffic replaced the railway.

The growth of these recreational activities was largely uncontrolled. This, combined with the discharge of sewerage from the surrounding caravan sites and Llangors village, led to a major reduction in plant and bird life in the 1970s. The recreational congestion on the lake also reduced the enjoyment for many users and created safety problems. At this time the National Park Authority tried to legislate for control through by-laws, but was unsuccessful.

During the 1980s some control was exerted when the lake owner brought in launching charges. In the early 1990s the National Park Authority acquired much of the southern lakeshore, further restricting launching and disturbance.

More recently, an advisory group has been set up comprising conservation bodies (NPA, CCW, Wildlife Trust) and representatives of all the major user groups. This advisory group has set up voluntary zoning arrangements on the lake which, although not solving all the problems, have gone a long way to producing a more sustainable balance of recreation and conservation. Water quality has improved in recent years but there are still concerns over the current levels of plant and bird life.

Sustainable Tourism

The BBNPA is aware that the principles of **Sustainable Development** are particularly relevant to tourism. **Sustainable** means that something is viable and can be continued in the long term benefitting people equally and not harming them. **Development** refers to the interaction between the environment, economy and society. Sustainable Development is about ensuring a better quality of life for present and future generations.

There is a growing international awareness that tourism has responsibilities towards its host communities and the local environment. The ways in which the tourism industry develops requires consideration both of the environment and local sensitivities. If appropriate control is lacking then the area is in danger of being damaged in any number of ways.

The vision is that the BBNP becomes widely known as lead exemplar for sustainable tourism with key partners from the statutory, commercial, voluntary and community sectors working together to develop the tourism industry.

The aims of sustainable tourism within the BBNP include:

- To encourage and promote tourism within and around the Park in a way that protects and enhances environmental and cultural resources, whilst contributing maximum benefit to the local economy.
- To manage visitors in a way that minimises damage to the Park whilst promoting sustainability and visitor enjoyment.
- To enhance the enjoyment of visits to the Park by developing and encouraging high quality tourism infrastructure.
- To develop tourism facilities and resources in a way that confers maximum benefit to local communities.
- To develop projects that enhance the contribution tourism can make to environmental objectives.
- To develop the Brecon Beacons as a discrete brand with high sustainability and quality values.

These aims are contained within the BBNPA's **Sustainable Tourism Strategy** which is based on the principle of protecting and developing the economy, community and environment together.

The BBNPA is involved in a number of schemes to promote and raise awareness about sustainable tourism to visitors and to businesses within the Park (see Appendix).

In conclusion, the BBNPA aims to achieve widespread understanding, and support for, the National Park as a protected landscape, which will be recognised as a valuable local, national and international asset. The BBNPA's vision is that the Park's landscape is managed sustainably with widespread appreciation of

its special qualities and where local communities benefit from its designation. Leisure and tourism are an integral part of this.

Appendix

Outline Case Studies of Sustainable Tourism initiatives:

Case Study 1 - Brecon Beacons Green Dragon Group

What is Green Dragon?

Green Dragon is the new scheme for Welsh tourism businesses. The BBNPA has identified that tourists, particularly from Europe, are asking about how environmentally-friendly the places they are staying in are. The Green Dragon scheme gives visitors an idea of how committed their hosts are to their local environment. The aim of the scheme is to give visitors the reassurance they need before booking. Green Dragon hopes to promote a more environmentally aware culture and help businesses make more money through waste reduction. The BBNPA has teamed up with environmental specialists *Arena Network* on this innovative scheme. The NPA area covers 9 Local Authority and 3 Regional Tourism Partnerships.

Brecon Beacons Green Dragon Group is made up of:

- 3 YHA hostels
- 3 activity providers
- 1 campsite/caravan park
- 6 self catering accommodation providers
- 1 Bed & Breakfast
- 1 bunkhouse

The BBNPA has been involved from the outset. The NPA is committed to developing and encouraging sustainable tourism within the Brecon Beacons. The Brecon Beacons Green Dragon Group will market themselves through specialist magazines e.g. *RSPB, National Trust, Country Living, Country Walking*. All of these have a holiday advertisement section which would attract new customers.

Case Study 2 - Brecon Beacons National Park Environmental Charter

What is the Environmental Charter?

The charter sets out a commitment from activity centres, education centres and other activity providers, regarding the sustainable use of areas within the Brecon Beacons National Park. Charter group members have made a commitment to the following guidelines:

1. Recognise that their use of the National Park brings with it a responsibility to encourage those in their care (students, clients, colleagues) to learn something of the Park's special qualities, and the ways in which it can be looked after.
2. Make a commitment to good practice for the sustainable use of the National Park.
3. Always carry out activities in a manner which maintains good relationships.

As a member of the Charter Group the BBNPA:

1. Recognises that support, care and enthusiasm for the National Park can be generated by outdoor activities, undertaken within the terms of this charter.
2. Will consult with members of the Charter Group over management and policy development on all issues, within the framework of this charter.

Conservation

The Charter Group members:

1. Recognise the great potential to encourage a commitment to conservation in their clients. The very memorable and intense nature of the outdoor experience of the National Park provides an excellent opportunity to appreciate the Park's special qualities.

2. Encourage colleagues, clients and students to enjoy and respect the wildlife, landscape and cultural heritage of the Park.
3. Recognise that many sites, plants and animals are protected by law and are fragile or vulnerable to disturbance. They will manage their groups to avoid disturbance.
4. Will not leave any permanent features in the countryside e.g. belay stake or cairns. If anything like this is essential, they will first discuss it with the Charter Group, the National Park Authority or landholder.
5. Will place any temporary marks or fixings so as to avoid damage or interference with others.
6. Will observe accepted good practice for the collection of geological and biological specimens.

Access

The Charter Group members:

1. Understand that all land is owned by someone, and if using a site they will follow existing access arrangements, local agreements or bylaws.
2. Will secure the agreement of landholders and consult the NPA whenever they wish to extend activities into new sites or areas where existing permissions do not exist.
3. Will respect the guidance of the Charter Group for vulnerable or sensitive sites where there are specific issues and problems.

Consideration for others

The Charter Group members:

1. Will show consideration to landowners, residents and others when driving, parking and setting up equipment, e.g. keeping lanes, paths and gateways clear.
2. Will ensure that their activities do not spoil other peoples' enjoyment, in particular avoiding unreasonable noise and overcrowding.
3. Will encourage their colleagues, students and clients to understand and respect the needs of the resident community. In particular, peoples' safety, property, work and livelihoods.

The Charter group has been supported by the BBNPA's Sustainable Development Fund to provide training for members, the development of its website and publication of a promotional/information leaflet.

Case Study 3 - Action for Tourism Newsletter

This newsletter is sent out to tourism businesses to inform them of the sustainable tourism issues and initiatives being addressed by the BBNPA.

Action for Tourism invites businesses to find out about:

1. Training days for tourism businesses.
2. Accommodation grading and the benefits it could bring to tourism business.
3. New projects within the BBNPA.
4. Tourism Growth Area.

The newsletter outlines the opportunities to meet fellow accommodation and activity providers and learn something new that will help sustain tourism and develop tourism business. Some of the new initiatives include outdoor activities such as:

Cycling

Businesses are invited to explore some of the routes for themselves with experienced guides and find out about the new cycling initiatives in the Brecon Beacons, which includes 5 new cycle rides aimed at leisure cyclists in the BBNP all following quiet country lane routes and differing in distance from 16-52 miles.

Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is rapidly developing as an activity within the BBNP and new routes will be signed and promoted soon in the following areas:

1. Crickhowell
2. Talybont on Usk
3. Talgarth

4. Sennybridge
5. Brecon

Walking

The BBNPA informs tourism businesses of its intention to develop a Walking Tourism Strategy. The NPA realises how important it is to get its walking tourism product, and its marketing, right. Through 'Action for Tourism' it invites tourism businesses to contribute and become involved in the Walking Tourism Strategy.

Sustainable Transport

'Action for Tourism' informs businesses of the BBNPA's sustainable transport initiative. The initiative was a result of BBNPA recognising local communities and residents concern about the effects that visitors and their cars have on the quality of their lives and the global environment.

The NPA has provided a 'Beacons Bus' that:

1. Brings people from 6 urban areas into the Park on high summer Sundays and Bank Holidays.
2. Has an interchange in Brecon from which people can access a wide variety of countryside activities and attractions.

There is also:

A free Beacons Bus Walks booklet.

The National Park Public Travel Guide.