

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Introduction and Acknowledgements

2.1.1 This project was commissioned by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) in March 2012, and was undertaken between March and September 2012. It has been prepared by Fiona Fyfe Associates, in association with Julie Martin Associates, Alison Farmer Associates and Countryside. The project team also included Lepus Consulting, who advised on ecosystem services, and Robin Lines, who assisted with the fieldwork. The author would like to acknowledge and thank all members of the project team for their contributions, the project Steering Group for their help and advice, CCW staff, and the National Park Warden Service for assisting with practical issues of access into the most remote areas. She would also like to thank the many National Park Authority staff and members of other organisations who contributed to the consultation workshops and shared their knowledge and understanding of the area and its issues. All photographs in this document have been taken by Fiona Fyfe unless stated otherwise.

2.2 Purposes of the Project

2.2.1 The purpose of the Landscape Character Assessment is to support the National Park Authority's role and that of its partners in managing the landscape of the National Park by way of implementation of the policies in the National Park Management Plan and Local Development Plan. The Landscape Character Assessment will provide the National Park Authority and relevant partners with a tool to identify and address pressures causing landscape change, and specify management guidance to address these likely pressures. Its spatial approach provides a clear geographic reference for landscape character, special qualities and issues across the National Park. Key uses of the Landscape Character Assessment will be:

- Assessing the qualities of wildness, tranquillity and remoteness across the National Park to develop a policy related to the impacts of recreation and development on these qualities.
- Contribute to the development of policies with regard to large-scale developments on the fringes of the National Park.
- Use as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), supporting emerging policies in the Local Development Plan which aim to protect the special qualities of the National Park.
- Form baseline evidence in the development of a visitor management strategy, as referenced in the Environment Minister's Strategic Grant Letter to the Welsh National Parks.

In addition it will inform community development; village plans; Glastir-targeted elements; countryside priorities; education and information, together with an understanding of sense of place.

2.3 Contents of the Report

2.3.1 Following this introduction, Section 3.0 provides background information on the designation and purposes of the Brecon Beacons National Park, and a short introduction to the process of Landscape Character Assessment. A summary methodology for the project is provided in Section 4.0 (the full methodology with technical detail is presented in Appendix 2). Section 5.0 contains a summary of the development of the Brecon Beacons landscape, and the natural and cultural processes which have influenced it. The Forces for Change which continue to impact on the National Park are summarised in Section 6.0. Section 7.0 presents the findings of the Landscape Character Assessment, and contains maps and a series of profiles, one for each of the fifteen Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the National Park. Potential future uses of the Landscape Character Assessment are given in Section 8.0. A series of technical appendices include a glossary, detailed methodology, technical information relating to LCA boundaries, perceptual qualities and LANDMAP components, and a reference list.