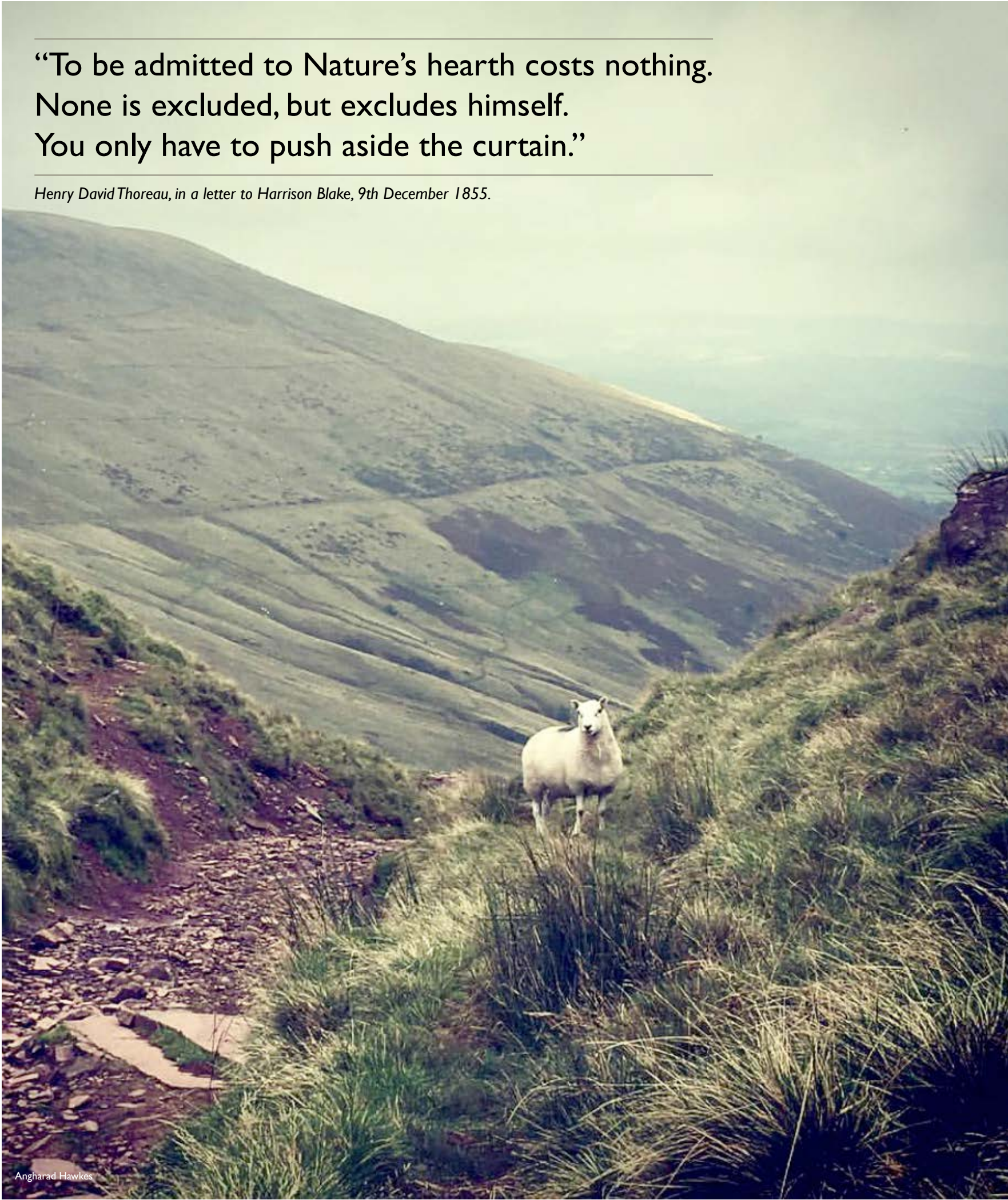


# A FUTURE WITH **NATURE** AT ITS HEART

A Nature Recovery Action Plan for  
the Brecon Beacons National Park  
2019-2024







“To be admitted to Nature’s hearth costs nothing.  
None is excluded, but excludes himself.  
You only have to push aside the curtain.”

*Henry David Thoreau, in a letter to Harrison Blake, 9th December 1855.*



# FOREWORD

Its wonderful natural beauty is part of what makes the Brecon Beacons National Park so special. Relying on nature-friendly land management and enriching the lives of those who live and work here, the National Park’s natural environment also attracts thousands of visitors each year. However, in Wales and globally, biodiversity continues to undergo dramatic declines. This plan is set in the context of a number of strategic and legislative drivers, aiming to reverse this trend. It outlines key actions to set about nature recovery by putting biodiversity at the heart of decision making, increasing the resilience of our natural environment and taking specific action for habitats and species.

The National Park is a place where big things can and do happen. Many of the opportunities for nature recovery in the Park are set within ecosystems and habitats of exceptional size, scale and quality. Yet the challenges are too big for any single government agency, non-governmental organisation, community or landowner to handle alone. Nature recovery on a meaningful scale can only happen by working together, across geographic boundaries, across different land uses, involving all peoples, over years and sometimes generations.

This means all partners and stakeholders have to come to the table and work together. It is this approach – considering all lands and listening to all voices, which helps define the landscape-scale approach to nature recovery to which this plan aspires.

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# Who is the Nature Recovery Action Plan for?



The Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) is primarily intended to guide the work of the Brecon Beacons National Park Local Nature Partnership (LNP), a new collaboration which is open to all who want to contribute.

A desire and commitment to help deliver the plan is the only requirement to be involved. Current partners include representatives from a wide range of organisations, groups and individuals who all have a common interest in protecting and strengthening the National Park's ecosystems.

A list of LNP partners involved to date are listed in Appendix I.

It is hoped that subsequent abridged versions of the plan will be of interest to other audiences, including:

- Organisations, for example community and volunteer groups looking for opportunities to help deliver initiatives that will help biodiversity
- Land managers seeking guidance, ideas or partners for nature recovery through land management and/or support measures
- Anyone who wants to find out how nature recovery is being addressed in the National Park
- Tourism providers operating within the National Park who may wish to learn more about the National Park's biodiversity and/or support nature recovery initiatives
- Planning applicants and agents
- Partners, researchers and consultants undertaking projects and surveys within the National Park
- National Park Officers and Members, the National Park Policy Forum, National Park Authority Working Groups and the Member Champion for Landscape and Biodiversity
- Learners of all ages wishing to know more about the National Park and nature recovery

## SUPPORT US!

The success of the Nature Recovery Action Plan will depend upon the sustained input of the Brecon Beacons National Park Local Nature Partnership. Many partners are operating in challenging times, with significant demands upon both time and financial resources. However, by working together, the impact of partners and ultimately the gains for biodiversity can be maximised.

The NRAP aims to be dynamic and adaptive. The LNP has the potential to be a forum for innovative, free-thinking, and well-evidenced debate and delivery, making the most of its expertise and responding effectively to opportunities for joint working as and when they arise.





# Why do we need a Nature Recovery Action Plan?



## 2.1 Biodiversity in Brecon Beacons National Park in 2019

The Brecon Beacons National Park is home to an array of nationally and internationally important habitats and species, as well as species found nowhere else. From over 75% of Wales' limestone pavement to the internationally important freshwater systems of the Rivers Usk and Wye, to the various unique, endemic plant species (e.g. Ley's Whitebeam<sup>1</sup> and Attenborough's Hawkweed<sup>2</sup>), the Park is of demonstrable ecological value.

These habitats and species are a vital part of what underpins our natural environment. The National Park's dynamic natural ecosystems provide a multiplicity of benefits and services to people, from the provision of food, to water regulation and purification, pollination and erosion control. We as humans also benefit from a variety of cultural services provided by healthy ecosystems, including spiritual enrichment and recreational experiences. The natural environment plays a fundamental role in our quality of life, our health and our well-being. It is our natural habitat too.

### THE BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK SUPPORTS:

**64** biological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

covering

**25,540** hectares of land

The largest natural lake in South Wales, at Llangorse, supporting the largest breeding population of **two-tone reed beetle** in Wales

One of only a handful of locations in the UK which is home to the **rare Silurian moth**



**8** National Nature Reserves (NNR's)

A range of **rare and endemic plant species** found only in the Brecon Beacons National Park

Some of the richest **waxcap fungi** communities in Europe, for example on the slopes of the Bloreng



**Over 75%** of Wales' limestone pavement habitat

The southernmost known site for the scarce **Welsh clearwing moth**



The largest breeding population of **lesser horseshoe bat** in Western Europe

Wales' southernmost breeding populations of **red grouse** and **golden plover**

**11** Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

covering

**3,211** hectares of land

Figure 1: Some biodiversity highlights of the Brecon Beacons National Park<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Sorbus leyana*

<sup>2</sup> *Hieracium attenboroughianum*

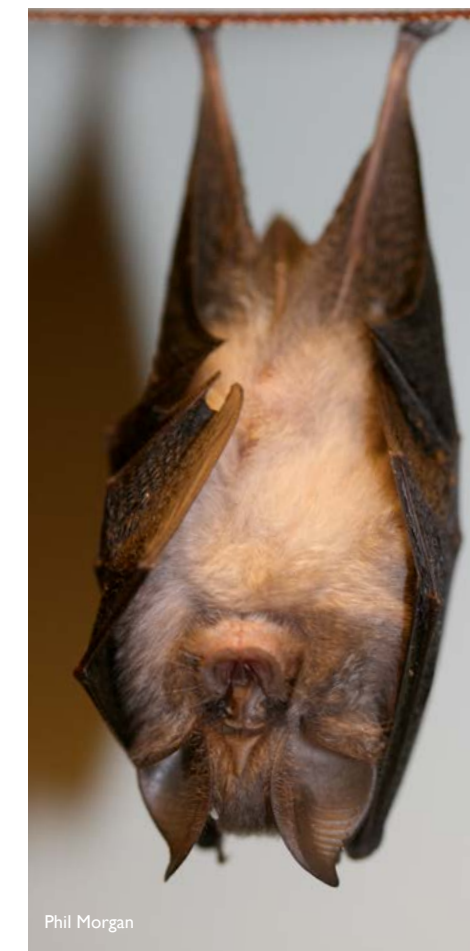
<sup>3</sup> Figures provided by the Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and the Brecon Beacons (BIS), August 2018



Ben Mullen



Liz Lewis



Phil Morgan





Peter Fry ARPS



The Brecon Beacons National Park supports a variety of important habitat types. Those listed below were identified as 'Priority 1 Action Areas' for the BBNP Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) by the Countryside Council for Wales, following the Habitat Survey of Wales in the 1990s. These include habitats for which the National Park supports a significant proportion of the remaining resource in Wales.

Limestone pavement

Blanket bog

Upland calcareous grassland

Ponds

Rivers

Native woodland

Upland heathland



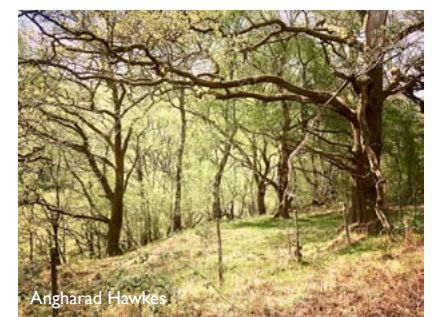
*Discussion and prioritisation with LNP partners is required to agree whether this list still represents the key habitats on which to focus nature recovery action. All are Section 7 Habitats.\* A list of National Park ecosystems and their constituent habitat types are listed in Appendix 6.*

\* Habitats of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales. Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. <https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Environment-Wales-Bill>

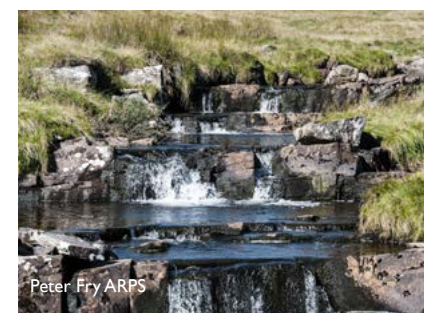
**Figure 2:** Potential habitats on which to focus Nature Recovery Action in the Brecon Beacons National Park



Black Mountains Land Use Partnership

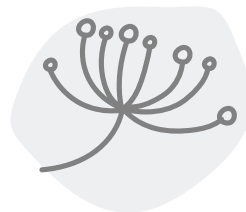


Angharad Hawkes



Peter Fry ARPS





## 2.2 Local nature recovery challenges and opportunities

It's a stark fact that biodiversity continues to decline internationally<sup>4</sup>. This is a trend from which the UK's Protected Landscapes, including the Brecon Beacons National Park, are sadly not exempt.

**“Between 1970 and 2013, 56% of UK species declined. Of the nearly 8,000 species assessed using modern criteria, 15% are threatened with extinction. This suggests that we are among the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Of the 218 countries assessed for ‘biodiversity intactness’, the UK is ranked 189, a consequence of centuries of industrialisation, urbanisation and overexploitation of our natural resources.”**

Figure 3: Excerpt from the State of Nature Report, 2016<sup>5</sup>

We are in a period of ongoing resource constraints when biodiversity faces increasing pressures from agricultural change, local development, climate change and the spread of invasive non-native species. These and other factors, including potential departure from the European Union, present some very real challenges for nature conservation and land management within the National Park.



Liz Lewis



Graham Morley

Only 10% of SSSIs in the Park are under appropriate management<sup>6</sup> and 55% of SSSIs are in unfavourable condition. However, the largest losses to biodiversity are endured outside of the designated sites network, in the wider countryside<sup>7</sup>.

As Welsh Government determines what Wales' new (post-Brexit) land management schemes<sup>8</sup> will look like, there is a real opportunity for the NRAP, through the expertise of the LNP to help guide the proposed new economic resilience and public goods schemes. The biggest gains for nature recovery will depend upon well-designed schemes that are implemented at a landscape scale.

A particular challenge is the gaps in our knowledge and understanding of the National Park's ecosystems, and the habitats and species that are integral to them<sup>9</sup>. What are the distribution, extent, status and condition of the Park's ecosystems and their components? What are the best key indicator species, habitats, and ecosystems to monitor across the National Park to give us a good understanding of ecological health? What is the current distribution of nature-rich 'hotspots', and where are potential habitat restoration networks?

Ecological survey, monitoring and surveillance programmes often suffer most when resources are constrained. Yet without this information, we are left (at best) using informed guesswork to determine how ecological systems are performing, and to inform work priorities and programmes. Thus a significant part of this Plan and its delivery will be evidence gathering and sharing.

<sup>6</sup> Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

<sup>7</sup> State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) 2016.

<sup>8</sup> Welsh Government are developing new land management schemes to replace the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and Glastir. First stage proposals were open for consultation until October 30th 2018.  
[https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-07/brexit-and-our-land-consultation-document\\_0.pdf](https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-07/brexit-and-our-land-consultation-document_0.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> State of Nature Wales 2016 Report and The State of Natural Resources Report offer a useful overview in terms of biodiversity status and trends, pressures and opportunities at a national scale but not at a local level.

<sup>4</sup> Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005. <https://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/Condition.html#download>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.wtwales.org/sites/default/files/files/chapter-1-introduction-to-sonarr-final-for-publication.pdf>



Answers to questions such as those on page 11 will help us to target time and resources to develop and deliver projects at the appropriate scale to maximise nature recovery. In turn supporting healthy, functioning ecosystems and the associated multiple benefits.

Such evidence gaps are by no means unique to our National Park yet it is an area where the LNP could be leading the way by better utilising its unique access to a variety of specialists, visiting naturalists, links with researchers and the expertise of partners. There is also the vast potential 'citizen science' resource with the Park's visitors and local communities. On this basis we are also in a strong position to nurture the next generation of specialist ecological field skills<sup>10</sup>.

Despite the pressures, as an LNP for one of Wales' three National Parks, the partners are in a strong position to deliver nature recovery. In recent years Wales has remodelled its approach to the management of the natural environment to reflect the need to look at how it works as an integrated system when making decisions. This progressive approach has been embedded within a refreshed legislative and policy framework aiming to ensure Wales' natural resources are managed in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up way (See Appendices 2 & 3).

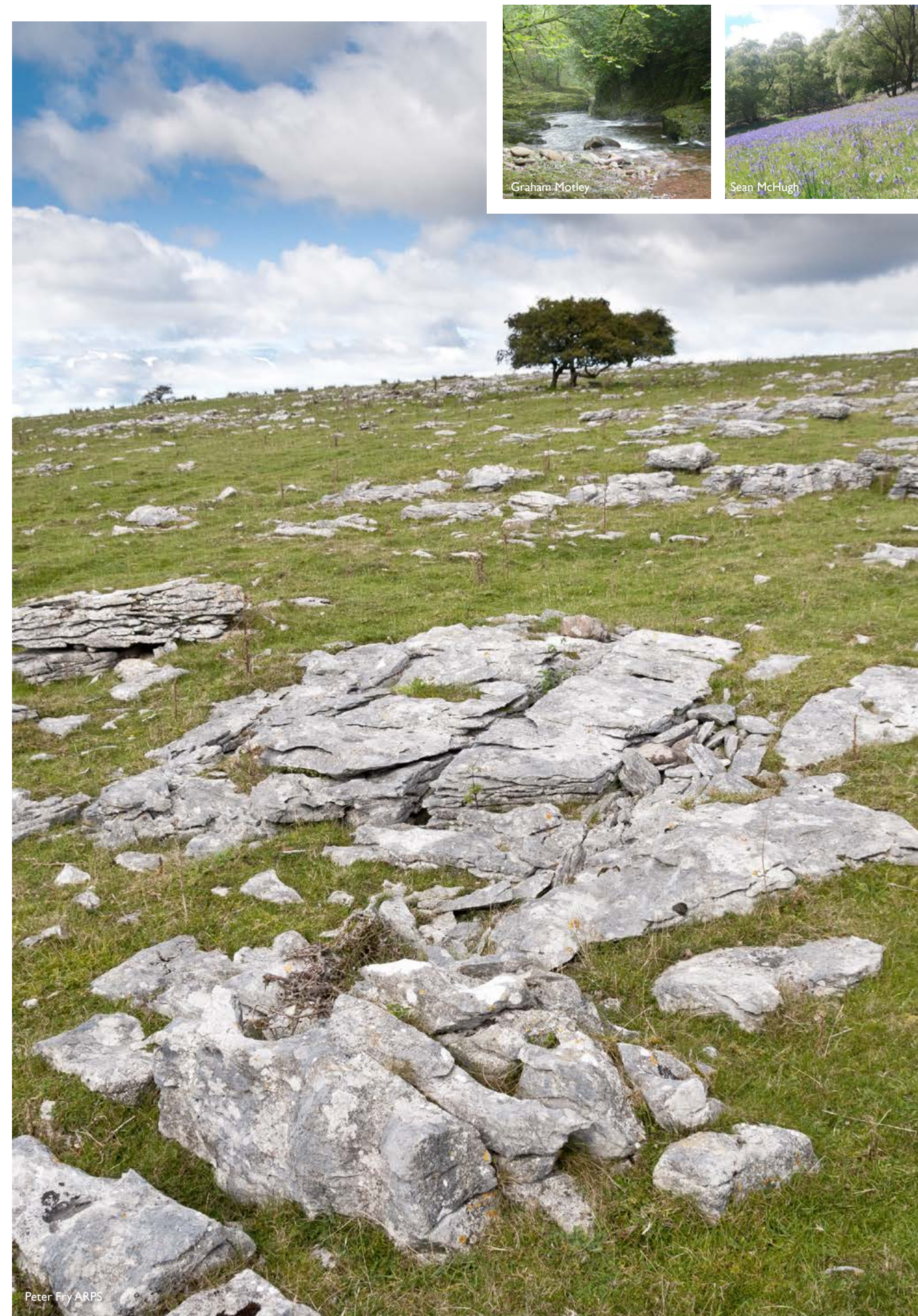
Welsh Government want National Parks in Wales to be exemplars in the sustainable management of natural resources<sup>11</sup>, the Brecon Beacons National Park supports a rich mosaic of different habitats and landscapes which are the product of decades of human activity and land management practices. Managing the varying (and sometimes conflicting) demands on natural resources between those who live and work in the Park and those who visit it, is an important part of the challenge facing the National Park Authority and its delivery partners.



Chris O'Brien



Nicky Davies



Peter Fry ARPS

<sup>10</sup> Closing the gap: Rebuilding ecological skills in the 21st Century. IEEM. 2011.

<sup>11</sup> Written Statement – Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for AONBs and National Parks. 27 July 2018.





### 2.3 Ambition

The core ambition of this Plan is to:

**Help reverse the decline in biodiversity by focussing on developing resilient ecological networks (in other words “*nature recovery networks*”) which are more diverse, greater in extent, in better ecological condition and better joined up<sup>12</sup>.**

We need to help people understand and connect with the idea of a healthier natural environment and the many benefits it provides when in good condition. We must celebrate and share our knowledge of the Park’s natural assets, explain the potential for nature recovery and adapt our message to the audiences we’re working with, to demonstrate nature’s relevance to everyone.

The LNP has adopted a working ethos of “**connectivity**” (ecological, physical and intellectual/spiritual) to guide its delivery. This encompasses an aspiration to build more resilient, better-connected nature recovery networks as well as improve the connectedness of research and surveillance efforts. In addition, there’s a desire to improve information sharing with land practitioners and both understand and further nurture connectedness between communities, individuals, professionals and the natural environment. All these elements are themselves interconnected.



### 2.4 The Plan’s role and strategic context

Biodiversity underpins our natural environment and the multiple benefits that healthy, functioning ecosystems provide such as clean water, pollination and carbon sequestration. Furthermore biodiversity has incalculable, intrinsic value. Given the aforementioned challenges facing biodiversity and our dependence on the natural world for our physical and mental wellbeing, it has been suggested that we have reached a tipping point beyond which reversing nature’s decline is unlikely. As a result, our very existence is threatened and immediate action is required<sup>13</sup>.

The NRAP has a strong mandate and is aligned with current national policy relating to nature recovery, and the sustainable management of natural resources. Wales leads the way with a forward-thinking legislative and policy framework which aims to redress the decline in biodiversity and associated degradation of ecosystems. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 enacts an **Ecosystems Approach** through seven principles for the **Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR)**<sup>14</sup>. These principles **recognise the fundamental role which biodiversity plays** in the health of our natural environment and peoples’ health and well-being.

Wales’ Protected Landscapes<sup>15</sup>, being well aligned with the delivery of natural resource management on a landscape scale, have a significant role to play in delivering the Environment (Wales) Act. Indeed landscape-scale conservation is something that National Parks do well. Consequently, constituent partners and stakeholders in the Brecon Beacons National Park LNP have a vital role to play in supporting delivery of the priorities within Wales’ **Natural Resources Policy**<sup>16</sup> (summarised in Appendix 2) and in delivering Welsh Government’s ambitions for protected landscapes (see footnote 11).

The NRAP is intended to guide nature recovery efforts within the National Park. It is **one part of the jigsaw to deliver an Ecosystem Approach** and enact the principles for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources. It will inform the work of LNP partners and complement other existing or emerging partner strategies, as well as those governing the management of the National Park and its Special Qualities<sup>17</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> A Peoples Manifesto for Wildlife. 2018. <http://www.chrispackham.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Peoples-Manifesto-Download.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Defined in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 as “*using natural resources in a way and at a rate that maintains and enhances the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide. In doing so, meeting the needs of present generations of people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, and contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.*”

<sup>15</sup> Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and National Parks in Wales

<sup>16</sup> Natural Resources Policy, Welsh Government. 2017. <https://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/170821-natural-resources-policy-en.PDF>

<sup>17</sup> For example: National Park Management Plan review, Rights of Way Improvement Plan review, Local Development Plan review

<sup>12</sup> Based upon the five component attributes of ecological/ecosystem resilience; diversity, extent, condition, connectivity, adaptability. As described in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.





## 2.5 Geographical coverage

The Brecon Beacons National Park borders England and is situated across or abuts ten Local Authority Areas. The Plan primarily covers the Brecon Beacons National Park but aims to align with and complement Nature Recovery Action Plans prepared by neighbouring Local Authorities.



Figure 4: Extent of the Brecon Beacons National Park and constituent and neighbouring Local Authority Areas

## 2.6 How has the Nature Recovery Action Plan been developed?

The Plan has been prepared by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority in consultation with the LNP. Discussions have been facilitated through the LNP to agree a set of key priorities for nature recovery action within the National Park over the next five years. As the local evidence base<sup>18</sup> is limited, the action priorities within this Plan have primarily been formed through the judgement of LNP partners.

Delivery of the Plan will depend on consensus, collaboration, and long term commitment and resources. By working together to maximise resources, knowledge and experience, we have the greatest chance of success.

<sup>18</sup> State of Nature Wales 2016 Report and The State of Natural Resources Report offer a useful overview in terms of biodiversity status and trends, pressures, and opportunities at a national scale but not at a local level.





## Policy and Legislative Context

The Plan is a key mechanism for helping prioritise, deliver and monitor nature recovery in the National Park. It provides a local delivery framework for compliance with Wales' unique environmental legal and policy drivers and the all-Wales Nature Recovery Action Plan, guiding the actions of the LNP as well as assisting partners in delivering their own organisational priorities.

This Plan is underpinned by a variety of specific Welsh legislation and policies, plans and strategies. A summary is given below. Further detail is provided in Appendix 2.

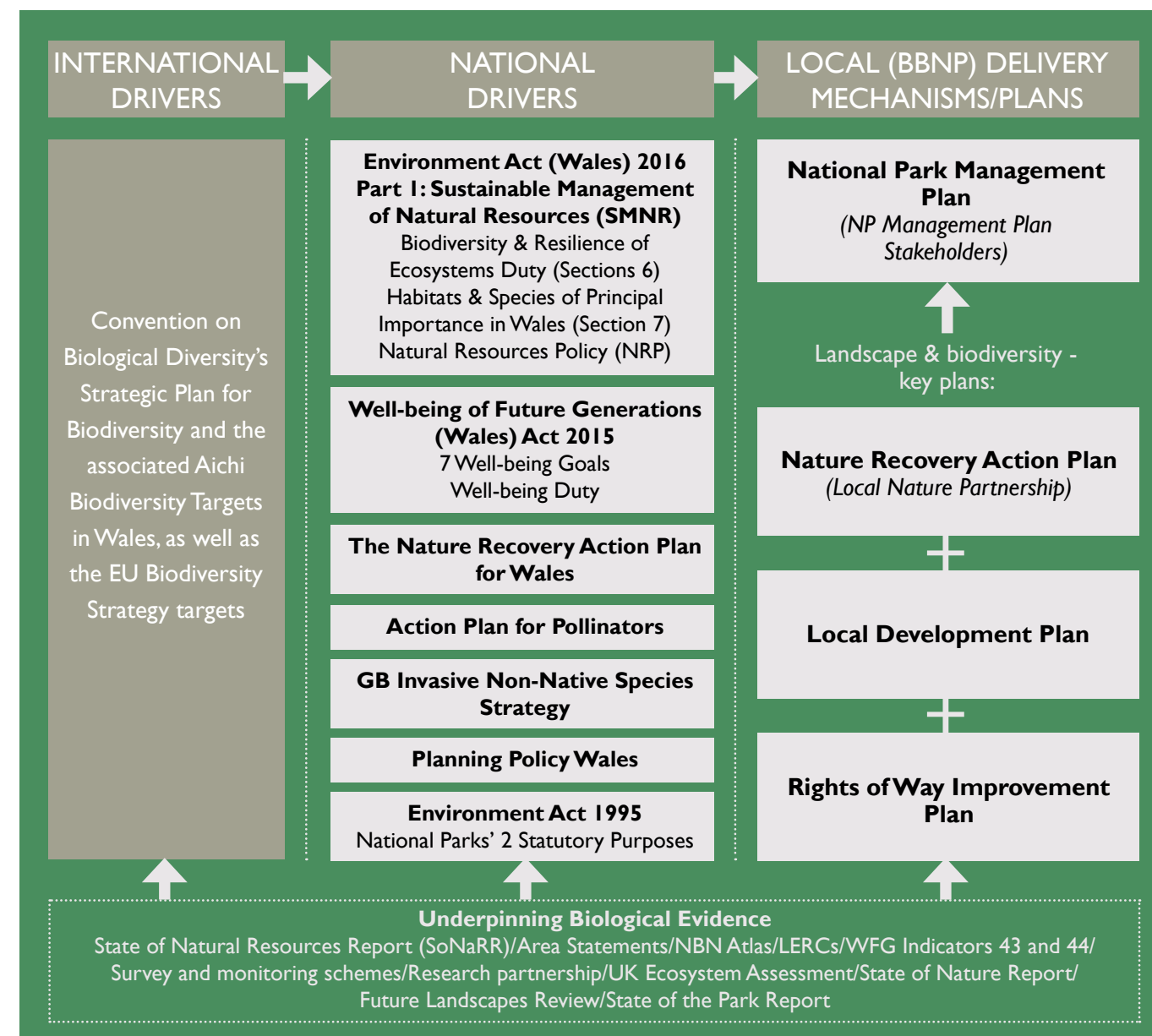


Figure 5: Key environmental legislative and policy drivers underpinning the Nature Recovery Plan



# What are we going to do to aid Nature Recovery?



The following objectives provide the framework for actions identified in Chapter 5 and will guide our efforts for nature recovery across the National Park. They are mindful of the principles within Wales’ key environmental legislative and strategic drivers (see Section 3) and thus will aid partners in the delivery of their associated goals given below. Further detail is provided in Appendix 2.

## 4.1 Nature Recovery Action Plan Objectives

The five key objectives for the Nature Recovery Action Plan are as follows:

NATURE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES
<b>Improve evidence gaps</b> <b>Objective 1:</b> To improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring of ecological resilience within the National Park <sup>19</sup> .
<b>Collaboration and co-operation</b> <b>Objective 2:</b> To work with partners at all levels to unify local action for nature recovery and ensure integration with relevant natural resources plans and strategies.
<b>Protection, restoration and creation of habitats</b> <b>Objective 3:</b> To increase the resilience of our natural environment by protecting existing semi-natural habitats, restoring degraded habitats and creating new areas of habitat <sup>20</sup> .
<b>Deliver action for focal species and habitats</b> <b>Objective 4:</b> To identify and deliver targeted action for key species and habitats as part of a wider, integrated nature recovery action programme.
<b>Inclusive and well communicated</b> <b>Objective 5:</b> To engage with a diversity of audiences about nature recovery using different language and techniques to highlight nature’s relevance to us all and thus build engagement and action at all levels.

<sup>19</sup> Based on the key facets of ecological resilience; diversity, extent, condition, connectivity, adaptability  
<sup>20</sup> Semi natural habitats used as proxy for ecosystems



Black Mountains Land Use Partnership



# Nature Recovery Action Plan Actions and Key Partners



## 5.1 Background to Nature Recovery Action Tables

The following five Action Tables list actions that have emerged from a series of LNP discussions. The Action Tables do not encompass all nature recovery activity within the National Park, but they represent priorities held in common by a majority of partners, directing activity over the next five years<sup>21</sup>. A variety of nature recovery action is already underway by many partners, building upon the significant work to date of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership<sup>22</sup> and contributing to the overarching goal of this plan.

The Action Tables are intended to be dynamic and will evolve in response to ongoing developments related to the NRW Area Statements process<sup>23</sup> and other drivers and opportunities.

Delivery plans will be developed by the LNP for each action, to include details of timescales, funding requirements, targets and monitoring indicators.

Notes to accompany the Action Tables:

- An indication of LNP member support for each action is as follows:  
Lead Partner (**in bold**), confirmed support (standard text) and potential support - to be confirmed (*in italics*). This does not exclude the involvement of other partners due to the Plan being an evolving document and as such; it is expected that this will change as momentum for LNP inclusion increases. Abbreviations are used, with full partner names given in Appendix 1.
- An indication of priority is provided in the tables, from priority 1 (highest priority) to 3 (lowest priority). Priorities are based upon synergy with SMNR principles and LNP partner feedback (see Appendices 3 and 4).
- The Local Nature Partnership's overall top five priorities for implementation are highlighted in peach.
- Some actions overlap and contribute to multiple objectives.
- The 'critical links to projects' column is provided to give an indication of cross over with existing/planned partner-led initiatives.

<sup>21</sup> A full list of all the suggested actions which emerged from LNP discussions is available from the National Park Authority.

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Biodiversity-in-the-NP-Vol-1.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/area-statements/?lang=en>





5.1 Nature Recovery Action Tables

1. Improve evidence gaps

Objective 1: To improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring of ecological resilience within the National Park				
Action	Outcome	Priority (1-3)	Major Partners (Lead, Confirmed, Potential)	Critical Links to Projects/Notes
<b>1.1</b> Undertake a Brecon Beacons National Park State of Nature Report, to include interrogation of State of Natural Resources Report and all-Wales State of Nature Report and identify primary evidence needs.	<b>Increased knowledge of the state of the Park's ecosystems<sup>24</sup>, helping to inform project development and target survey and monitoring programmes</b>	<b>1/2</b>	<b>BBNPA, BIS, NT, NRW, DCWW, WT, FHT, PW, SWTRA, WTSWW</b>	National Park Priority species and habitats list, Local Development Plan (LDP) review, Ecological Networks Mapping
<b>1.2</b> Commission and carry out surveys on the extent, status, condition and connectedness of the Park's major ecosystems. Compile existing relevant data/commission customised data sets from partners.		<b>2</b>	<b>NRW, All</b>	
<b>1.3</b> Continue to support the Brecon Beacons Research Partnership, to encourage researchers to improve the BBNP nature recovery and ecosystem resilience evidence base.		<b>2/3</b>	<b>BBNPA</b>	
<b>1.4</b> Ecological Networks (and Resilience) Mapping: Develop a suite of ecological network maps (including compilation of existing partner data) to establish a baseline for ecosystem resilience planning and translation into policy within the National Park.	<b>Support mechanism in place for identifying key opportunities for conserving, enhancing and restoring ecological networks</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>BBNPA, BIS, DCWW, KWT, WT, FHT, PW, SWTRA, NT, WTSWW, NRW, PONT</b>	Area Statement process, National Park Priority habitat and species list, LDP review, Clean Water for Wildlife, Mega-Catchment Project, Wildlife in a Changing Climate
<b>1.5</b> Apply SMNR principles to the ecological networks mapping – to identify priorities for bolstering resilience and support opportunities for working at various geographic scales.		<b>2</b>	<b>BBNPA, BIS, DCWW, KWT, WT, FHT, PW, SWTRA, NT, NRW, PONT</b>	
<b>1.6</b> Develop a long-term BBNP nature survey and monitoring programme that assesses the resilience of ecosystems and which links with the BBNPA Research Partnership and serves as a means of guiding action.		<b>2</b>	<b>BBNPA, FHT, BIS, USW, PW</b>	Evidence Gaps, National Park Priority species and habitats list, LDP review, Vital Signs project
<b>1.7</b> Secure a budget for a LNP Survey & Monitoring Ecologist, to assist with the above.		<b>3</b>	<b>BBNPA, FHT, BIS, USW, PW</b>	Vital Signs project
<b>1.8</b> Compile a simple inventory of previous, current and planned nature recovery projects and data by LNP partners, to identify potential overlap, gaps in expertise and organisational priorities, and determine opportunities for collaborative project development.		<b>2</b>	<b>BBNPA, DCWW, SWTRA, WT, FHT, PW, NRW, NT</b>	Evidence Gaps, National Park Priority species and habitats list, Ecological Networks Mapping

<sup>24</sup> Semi-natural habitats may need to be used as a proxy

2. Collaboration and co-operation

Objective 2: To work with partners at all levels to unify local action for nature recovery and ensure integration with relevant natural resources plans and strategies				
Action	Outcome	Priority (1-3)	Major Partners (Lead, Confirmed, Potential)	Critical Links to Projects/Notes
<b>2.1</b> Seek funding to recruit a LNP Implementation Officer to coordinate Local Nature Partnership delivery and evaluate the Plan's progress.	<b>An ability to measure the impact of NRAP delivery on the facets of ecological resilience and maintain Partnership impetus</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>BBNPA, All</b>	
<b>2.2</b> Develop appropriate indicators to monitor the Plan's progress.		<b>2</b>	<b>NRW, BBNPA</b>	
<b>2.3</b> Develop appropriate indicators to monitor stakeholder engagement with reporting to be done on an annual basis.		<b>2</b>	<b>NRW, BBNPA</b>	
<b>2.4</b> Use the requirements of the National Park LDP review to inform any Ecological Networks Mapping undertaken.	<b>LNP working in synergy with other relevant nature-based Partnerships, to deliver a common approach to Nature Recovery where opportunities arise</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>BBNPA, SWTRA, NRW</b>	Ecological Networks Mapping, Area Statement process

### SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

Two-tone Reed Beetle *Donacia bicolora*



Graham Motley

Two-tone reed beetle *Donacia bicolora*. Llangorse Lake supports the largest breeding population of this rare beetle in Wales.

### SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

Welsh Whitebeam *Sorbus cambrensis*



Graham Motley

The National Park is home to several plant species which only live here and nowhere else in the world. These include six species of Whitebeam tree.



3. Protection, restoration and creation of habitats

Objective 3: To increase the resilience of our natural environment by protecting existing semi-natural habitats, restoring degraded habitats and creating new areas of habitat				
Action	Outcome	Priority (1-3)	Major Partners (Lead, Confirmed, Potential)	Critical Links to Projects/Notes
3.1 Informed by the outcomes of other relevant actions (e.g. Ecological Networks Mapping); agree primary ecosystems and/or geographic areas for NRAP focussed project development and funding (to support the goal of ‘bigger, better and more joined up’ nature recovery networks).	A better understood and more resilient ecological network embracing a diversity of habitats at a variety of scales	I	All	
3.2 <b>Woodlands focus:</b> Ancient woodlands, trees, fridd and their management, renewal and expansion. Develop a project surrounding the safeguarding of ancient woodland, ancient trees, wood-pasture, fridd/coed-cae and parkland, to include their management, restoration, renewal and expansion. Also to determine their extent and quality. Seek capital works funding.		2	WT, DCWW, PW, BBNPA, CC, VWT, NT, GWT, WTSWW	Usk Woodlands Project
3.3 <b>Multiple ecosystems:</b> Develop a Local Sites project (reinvigorating BBNP Local Wildlife Sites project) to establish a comprehensive suite of sites. Use as a means to gain up to date field information on the state of historically “nature-rich” sites outside of the Statutory Protected Sites network and engage with landowners to both celebrate and bolster the Park’s ecological network, and to secure policy protection as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).		I/2	WTSWW, GWT, BBNPA, SWTRA, WT, FHT, PW	Magnificent Meadows of Wales, LDP review
3.4 <b>Multiple ecosystems:</b> Continue to support the Protected Sites network (SSSIs, SACs) through the development of pragmatic site objectives and appropriately funded projects to implement these.		I	NRW, All	Many LNP stakeholders manage Protected Sites within BBNP.
3.5 <b>Uplands focus:</b> Raise awareness and understanding of our upland habitat networks in order to foster greater connectivity between local people and the uplands and encourage more nature-friendly management practices.		I	BBNPA, NT, All	Black Mountains Land Use Partnership. Meithrin Mynydd Graziers Association, Major upland landowning partners projects.

4. Deliver action for focal species and habitats

Objective 4: To identify and deliver action for key species and habitats as part of a wider, integrated nature recovery programme				
Action	Outcome	Priority (1-3)	Major Partners (Lead, Confirmed, Potential)	Critical Links to Projects/Notes
4.1 National Park Priority Species and Habitats list: Refresh the current BBNP priority species and habitats list (former Local Biodiversity Action Plan list) to include species and habitats that are characteristic of BBNP (to be aligned with All-Wales Section 7 list).	Priority list of species and habitats reflects BBNP priorities	I	BIS, WTSWW, BBNPA, DCWW, KWT, WT, FHT, PW, NRW, VWT	Area Statement process, Long Forest Wales Project
4.2 Identify BBNP specific threats and opportunities to address nature recovery on physical, political, and climatic scales, and feed these into the Ecological Networks Mapping and Wales Area Statement process with a view to review it after 5 years.		I	BBNPA, SWTRA, NRW, VWT, All	Area Statement process, Evidence Gaps
4.3 Develop a comprehensive Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) control programme for the whole of the BBNP (building upon the current 2-year project) recognising that ecological connectivity can also hinder INNS control.		3	BBNPA, FHT, DCWW, SWTRA, NRW, WBP	BBNP INNS Project



Peter Fry ARPS



## 5. Inclusive and well communicated

<b>Objective 5:</b> <b>To engage with a diversity of audiences about nature recovery; using different language and techniques to highlight nature's relevance to us all and thus build commitment and action at all levels</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Priority (1-3)</b>	<b>Major Partners (Lead, Confirmed, Potential)</b>	<b>Critical Links to Projects/Notes</b>
<b>5.1</b> Develop a National Park 'Nature Recovery Advice Hub', to offer a single contact point for communities, landowners, public, etc. seeking advice on species, habitats and its sensitive management.	<b>Diversity of audiences engaged with and acting for Brecon Beacons National Park nature recovery</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Lead TBC,</b> BBNPA, KWT, PW	
<b>5.2</b> Determine viability and interest in a National Park Nature Recovery Farming Champion's scheme, building upon existing efforts, with appropriate partners to promote SMNR principles and nature friendly practices.		<b>3</b>	<b>Lead TBC,</b> BBNPA, KWT	
<b>5.3</b> Make available and interpret NRAP data and research findings to inform policy and decision making at all levels (e.g. land planners as well as grassroots conservation organisations and local communities).		<b>1</b>	<b>BIS,</b> research partners	
<b>5.4</b> Develop a website/other web based presence for the LNP stakeholders to promote nature recovery activities and key messages, as well as celebrating and informing about nature in the Park.		<b>2</b>	<b>Lead TBC,</b> All	
<b>5.5</b> Develop a programme with the Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and the BBNP for supporting recording, training and recruiting the next generation of biological recorders and taxonomists.	<b>Increased engagement of non-specialists with wildlife recording resulting in enhanced recording and knowledge</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>BIS, WTSWW,</b> FHT, KWT, WT, PW, BBNPA	Evidence Gaps National Park Priority species and habitats list, Magnificent Meadows of Wales
<b>5.6</b> Harness the specialist biological recorder network to help improve our knowledge of agreed priority species and habitats in the Park, as well as bolster recording skills through nature identification training and mentorship programme (linked to above).		<b>3</b>	<b>BIS,</b> KWT, WT, BBNPA, FHT, GWT, WTSWW	National Park Priority species and habitats list
<b>5.7</b> Use hedgerows (and associated priority species) as a way to raise awareness of the importance of ecological connectivity and resilience. Other elements to include Network Connectivity Mapping, field verification, targeted management advice, restoration and planting.		<b>2</b>	<b>KWT,</b> BIS, BBNPA, WT, VWT, NT	Ecological Network Mapping, Area Statement process, Long Forest Wales project

### Further details of projects within Critical Links part of Action Table:

- **Area Statement process** – NRW initiative that identifies priorities and opportunities for the management of natural resources on an area basis based upon a collaborative approach.
- **BBNP INNS Project** – Working with other projects and organisations to develop an invasive species partnership approach and looking at how invasive species can be managed long term. Pilot project for surveying and controlling Invasive Non-native Plant species in the Usk and Tawe river catchments.
- **Black Mountains Land Use Partnership (BMLUP)** – A pioneering partnership delivering continued improvement and management of the upland areas in the Black Mountains.
- **Clean Water for Wildlife** – Freshwater Habitats Trust led survey to locate and survey freshwater habitats using a volunteer network.
- **LDP Review** – Review of the plan and policy framework that sets out the Brecon Beacons National Park Strategy for the sustainable development and use of the area. This entered the review phase in December 2017 with adoption anticipated May 2022.
- **Local Sites review** – A review of non-statutory sites designated for their nature conservation interest, led by Wildlife Trusts. Sites are afforded protection through the Local Development Plan policies.
- **Long Forest Wales Project.** KWT initiative delivering practical action – Recruiting thousands of volunteers to plant 100,000 trees and improve around 120,000m of hedgerow.
- **Magnificent Meadows of Wales** – Plantlife (Wales) led project engaging people across Wales to raise awareness of the value of meadows.
- **Mega Catchment Project** – DCWW led project working with stakeholders recognising how much the catchment area in and around the Brecon Beacons National Park provides to the wider community of South Wales at a landscape scale rather than working on single issue projects within boundaries Nature doesn't recognise. Purpose to co-create a common vision which will deliver the best possible outcomes for everyone who lives, works and benefits from the greater areas surrounding the National Park.
- **MOREwoods Project** – Woodland Trust incentive scheme providing advice, trees and funding assistance.
- **Usk Woodlands Project** – in development stages. Led by Vincent Wildlife Trust, with Keep Wales Tidy and The Woodland Trust as partners.
- **Vital Signs Project** – potential project to develop surveillance and monitoring programme with partners for the National Park. Awaiting outcome of funding bid for development from Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being Grant.
- **Wildlife in a Changing Climate (WICC)** – collaborative Interreg application by Vincent Wildlife Trust, NRW and the Waterford Institute of Technology. Aims to protect vulnerable species of coastal and hinterland habitats against pressures of global change. At the heart of the approach will be engagement with citizen scientists, cutting-edge DNA technologies, and computer-based ecological modelling.



# Appendices



## 6.1 Appendix 1: Glossary of Local Nature Partnership Partners

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC)
Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and the Brecon Beacons (BIS)
Blaenau Gwent County Council
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA)
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT)
Carmarthenshire County Council
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW)
Freshwater Habitats Trust (FHT)
Gwent Wildlife Trust (GWT)
Keep Wales Tidy (KWT)
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Monmouthshire County Council
National Trust (NT)
Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Neath Port Talbot Council
Plantlife Wales
PONT (Pori, Natur a Threftadaeth – Grazing, Nature and Heritage)
Powys County Council
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
South Wales Trunk Road Agents (SWTRA)
Torfaen County Borough Council
Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT)
Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) (Support role)
Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (WTSWW)
Woodland Trust (WT)



Liz Lewis



Clive Williams



Angharad Hawkes



Black Mountains Land Use Partnership



## 6.2 Appendix 2: Policy and Legislation Summary

### 6.2.1 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is concerned with improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act places a duty on public bodies listed in the Act to carry out sustainable development. In order to do this public bodies are required to work towards the following

**seven well-being goals:**

- A globally responsible Wales
- A prosperous Wales
- **A resilient Wales**, referring in particular to ecological resilience
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

All public bodies listed in the Act must set up and publish well-being objectives with an accompanying statement and take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives. The Act has also established Public Services Boards (PSBs) for each local authority area in Wales. Their role is to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area by strengthening joint working across all public services in Wales. This legislation applies to several members of the LNP but not necessarily all of them. However, the principles of the Act, apply to all that we are trying to achieve through the NRAP.

### 6.2.2 Natural Resource Management and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 puts in place the legislation needed to plan and manage Wales' natural resources in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up way.

#### i) Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Section 6 under Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (Section 6 Duty) for public bodies. The duty requires that public bodies must seek to **maintain and enhance biodiversity** so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so **promote the resilience of ecosystems**. This is a profound shift toward not just the sum of the parts, but the functionality of the system that is important. It reinforces the message that helping nature to thrive will require concerted action by a range of organisations in Wales, including Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and other government agencies, as well as regulated businesses.

#### ii) Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) Framework

Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets out Wales' approach to planning and managing natural resources at a national and local level with a general purpose linked to statutory Principles of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) defined within the Act (see Appendix 3).

There are three main components to the associated SMNR framework:

#### Part 1: The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR)

The Report (produced by Natural Resources Wales, NRW) sets out the state of Wales' natural resources. It assesses the extent to which natural resources in Wales are being sustainably managed, and recommends a proactive approach to building resilience. For the first time the Report links the resilience of Welsh natural resources to the well-being of the people of Wales.

#### Part 2: Natural Resources Policy (NRP)

Produced by Welsh Government, it sets out the priorities, risks and opportunities for managing natural resources sustainably. The Policy takes into account the findings of the State of Natural Resources Report.

The focus of the NRP is the sustainable management of Wales' natural resources, to maximise their contribution to achieving goals within the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**. The policy sets out the following three **National Priorities**:

- Delivering nature-based solutions,
- Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency,
- Taking a place-based approach.

Extracted from the Natural Resources Policy, as being of particular relevance to the focal ambition of this Nature Recovery Action Plan:

**“Delivering nature-based solutions, with a particular focus on the following which have been identified in SoNaRR and the Natural Resources Policy as delivering the greatest benefit for both building ecosystem resilience and delivering wider benefits across the well-being goals.**

*Developing **resilient ecological networks**. Resilient ecological networks are about linking up Wales' protected sites with other biodiversity hotspots and the wider countryside, so that species are able to move within them as required for all stages of their life cycles. Developing networks will involve targeted habitat restoration and the development of landscape-scale projects and nature-based solutions.”*

Figure 6: Extract from Welsh Government's Natural Resources Policy



### Part 3: Area Statements

Area Statements are currently being produced by NRW to implement one or more of the priorities and opportunities outlined in the Nature Recovery Policy at an appropriate spatial scale. Area Statements will translate the high level strategic priorities while taking account of local need, opportunities and pressures, such as listed in this NRAP. An area profile will identify potential opportunities and priorities at a local level and possible collaboration opportunities for different bodies to work.

The Brecon Beacons National Park falls within the following four Area Statements (counties in **bold** coincide with or abut the National Park boundary):

- **Mid Wales** – (**Powys** and Ceredigion)
- **South East Wales** – (**Monmouthshire**, Newport, **Torfaen**, **Blaenau Gwent**, **Caerphilly**)
- **South West Wales** – (Pembrokeshire, **Cardmarthenshire**, Swansea, **Neath Port Talbot**)
- **South Central Wales** – (Cardiff, The Vale of Glamorgan, **Merthyr Tydfil**, **Rhondda Cynon Taff**, **Bridgend**)



Clarissa Price

## Area Statement areas and Unitary Authority boundaries

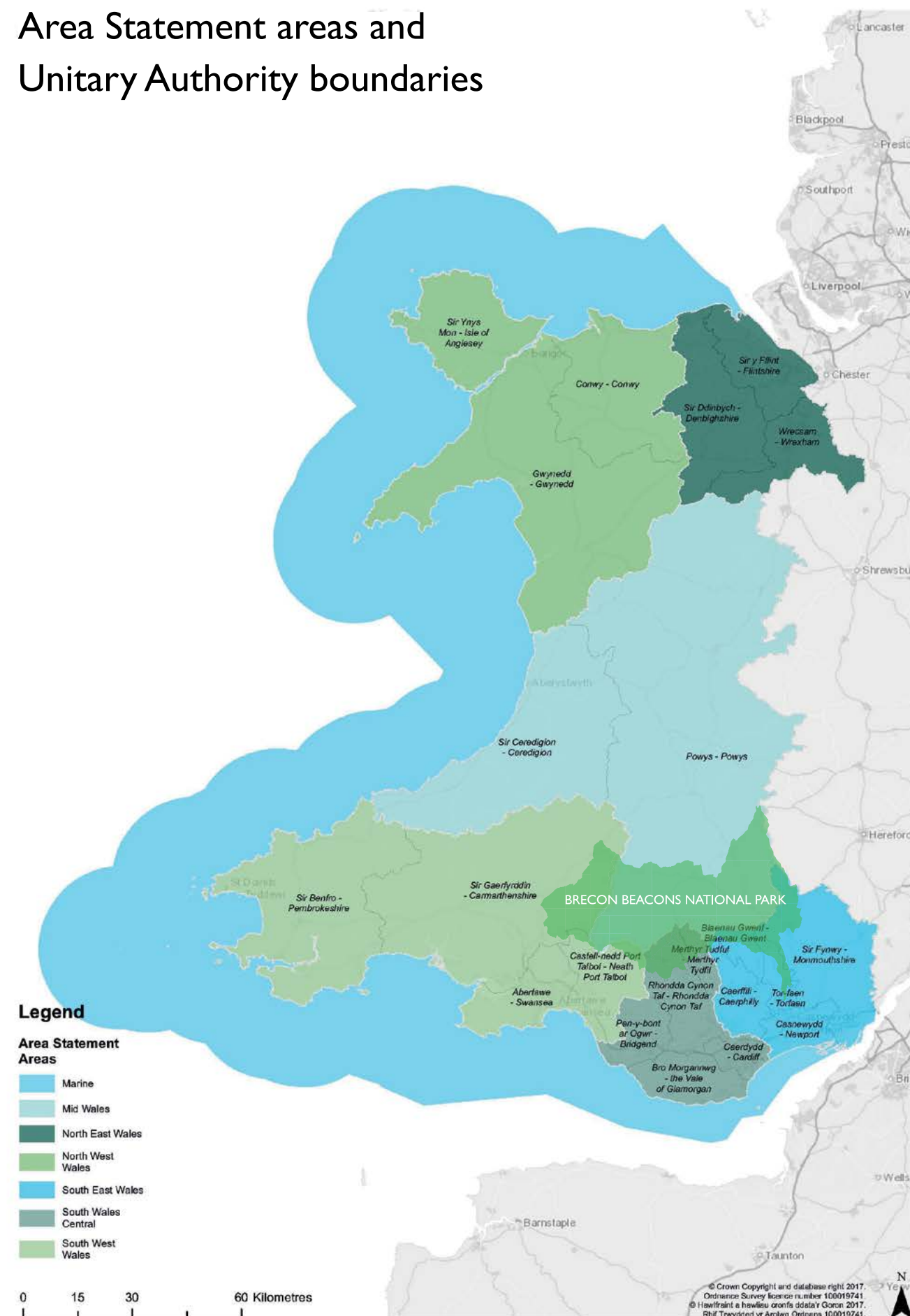


Figure 7: Area Statement coverage in Wales



6.3 Appendix 3: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) Principles<sup>25</sup>

SMNR PRINCIPLES
<b>Building resilience</b> A resilient ecosystem* is one that is healthy and functions in a way that is able to address pressures and demands placed on it, and is able to deliver benefits over the long term to meet current social, economic and environmental needs. Biodiversity underpins this resilience.
<b>Managing for multiple benefits</b> Our ecosystems provide us with a wide range of services and benefits. We need to take all of these, including biodiversity, into account when we make decisions about how we use them, so that they provide multiple benefits for the long term. This includes taking into account their intrinsic value.
<b>Adaptive management</b> Ecosystem processes and functions are complex and variable, and our approach will be adaptive with a focus on active learning derived from monitoring and outcomes and taking into account the time lags and feedback times for ecosystems to respond to interventions. It is about ‘learning by doing’.
<b>Long term</b> It is also important to take account of the short, medium and long term consequences of actions.
<b>Evidence</b> This means gathering information and considering all the social, economic and environmental evidence (including evidence in respect of uncertainties) from a wide range of experts and stakeholders at the local, regional and national level as appropriate, both to identify priorities and opportunities for their management and also in delivering the management actions.
<b>Collaboration and co-operation</b> It is about having a two-way communication across local, regional, national and international levels and being interconnected between policy, process and people to break down silo ways of working. This approach supports the development and implementation of the new, innovative solutions that are needed.
<b>Working at the right scale</b> An ecosystem is a functioning unit that can operate at any scale depending on the problem or issue being addressed.

\*The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets out the following attributes of ecosystem resilience:

- **Diversity** – generally speaking, more diverse ecosystems are more resilient to external influences and their impacts. This includes biological, geological and physical diversity
- **Connectivity** – within and between ecosystems
- **Scale and Extent** – the bigger the ecosystem extends, without fragmentation, the more resilient it is likely to be
- **Condition** – ecosystems need to be in a healthy condition to function effectively, to deliver a range of important ecosystem services
- **Adaptability** – the ability of ecosystems to adapt to events, understanding that ecosystems are not static and will change over time.

<sup>25</sup> Taken from the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales: Setting the Course for 2020 and beyond. December 2015. Welsh Government.



Carol Williams



6.4 Appendix 4: Quick assessment of the synergy between NRAP actions and SMNR principles, alongside an indication of the top priorities amongst LNP partners

The table below gives broad consideration of the NRAP actions against each of the SMNR Principles. It also highlights those actions considered to be particular delivery priorities by a variety of LNP partners<sup>26</sup>. The results are given in the final column:  
1 = lowest priority, 7 = highest priority, \* = considered to be a high priority amongst multiple LNP partners.

1. Improve evidence gaps

NRAP Objective 1: Improve evidence gaps										
Action	SMNR Principle							Partner Priorities	Overall Priority 'Score'	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
1.1 Undertake a BBNP State of Nature Report, to include interrogation of State of Natural Resources and all-Wales State of Nature Report and identify primary evidence needs.								*	4*	
1.2 Commission and carry out surveys on the extent, status, condition and connectedness of the Park's major ecosystems. Compile existing relevant data/commission customised data sets from partners.									4	
1.3 Continue to support the Brecon Beacons Research Partnership, to encourage researchers to improve the BBNP nature recovery and ecosystem resilience evidence base.									4	
1.4 Ecological Networks (and Resilience) Mapping: Develop a suite of ecological network maps (including compilation of existing partner data) to establish a baseline for ecosystem resilience planning and translation into policy within the National Park.								*	5*	
1.5 Apply SMNR principles to the ecological networks mapping – to identify priorities for bolstering resilience and support opportunities for working at various geographic scales.									5	
1.6 Develop a long-term BBNP nature survey and monitoring programme that assesses the resilience of ecosystems and which links with the BBNPA Research Partnership and serves as a means of guiding action.									7	
1.7 Secure a budget for a LNP Survey & Monitoring Ecologist, to assist with the above.									2	
1.8 Compile a simple inventory of previous, current and planned nature recovery projects by LNP members, to identify potential overlap, gaps in expertise and organisational priorities, and determine opportunities for collaborative project development.								*	5*	

<sup>26</sup> During one to one interviews between Nicola Davies (BBNPA Ecologist) and LNP partners, 2018.

2. Collaboration and co-operation

NRAP Objective 2: Collaboration and co-operation										
Action	SMNR Principle							Partner Priorities	Overall Priority 'Score'	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
2.1 Seek funding to recruit a LNP Implementation Officer to coordinate Local Nature Partnership delivery and evaluate the Plan's progress.								*	4*	
2.2 Develop appropriate indicators to monitor the Plan's progress.									3	
2.3 Develop appropriate indicators to monitor stakeholder engagement to be done on an annual basis.										
2.4 Use the requirements of the LDP review to inform any Ecological Networks Mapping undertaken.									5	

PARK PRESSURES



Peat erosion is a key issue for the National Park's upland peatlands. Organisations have been working in partnership on upland restoration projects to help safeguard peatlands and their long term role as a critical biodiversity and carbon storage resource.

PARK PRESSURES



The invasive non-native plant species Cotoneaster – one of the biggest threats to our rarest plant species in the National Park. Unfortunately, its liking for limestone means it occupies the very habitat where some of our rarest plants grow.



3. Protection, restoration and creation of habitats

NRAP Objective 3: Protection, restoration and creation of habitats											
Action	SMNR Principle							Partner Priorities	Overall Priority 'Score'		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
3.1 Informed by the outcomes of other relevant actions (e.g. Ecological Networks Mapping); agree primary ecosystems and/or geographic areas for NRAP focussed project development and funding (to support the goal of 'bigger, better and more joined up' nature recovery networks).								*	7*		
3.2 Woodlands focus: Ancient woodlands, trees, ffridd and their management, renewal and expansion. Develop project surrounding the safeguarding of ancient woodland, ancient trees, wood-pasture, fridd/coed-cae and parkland, to include their management, restoration, renewal and expansion. Also to determine their extent and quality. Seek capital works funding.									4		
3.3 Multiple ecosystems: Develop a Local Sites project (reinvigorating BBNP Local Wildlife Sites project) to establish a comprehensive suite of sites. Use as a means to gain up to date field information on the state of historically "nature-rich" sites outside of the Statutory Protected Sites network and engage with landowners to both celebrate and bolster the Park's ecological network, and to secure policy protection as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).								*	5*		
3.4 Multiple ecosystems: Continue to support the Protected Sites network (SSSIs, SACs) through the development of pragmatic site objectives and appropriately funded projects to implement these.									3		
3.5 Uplands focus: Raise awareness and understanding of our upland habitat networks in order to foster greater connectivity between local people and the uplands and encourage more nature-friendly management practices.									5		

4. Deliver action for focal species and habitats

NRAP Objective 4: Deliver action for focal species and habitats											
Action	SMNR Principle							Partner Priorities	Overall Priority 'Score'		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
4.1 National Park Priority Species and Habitats list: Refresh the current BBNP priority species and habitats list (former Local Biodiversity Action Plan list) to include species and habitats that are characteristic of BBNP (to be aligned with all-Wales Section 7 list).								*	3*		
4.2 Identify BBNP specific threats and opportunities to address nature recovery on physical, political, and climatic scales, and feed these into the Ecological Networks Mapping and Wales Area Statement process with a view to review it after 5 years.								*	7*		
4.3 Develop a comprehensive Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) control programme for the whole of the BBNP (building upon the current 2-year project) recognising that ecological connectivity can also hinder INNS control.									4		

HABITAT HIGHLIGHTS

Lakes

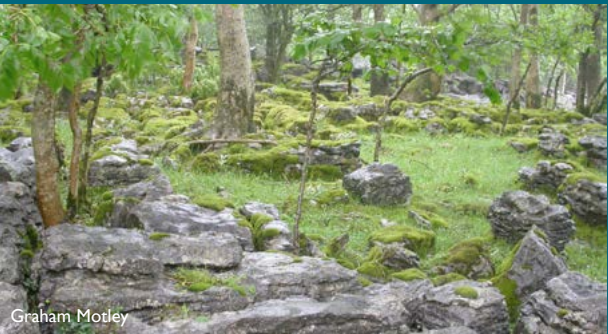


Graham Motley

Llangorse Lake in winter months when surrounding farmland becomes flooded for long periods creating interesting 'flood-plain' vegetation, where rare plants and other damp meadow species thrive.

HABITAT HIGHLIGHTS

Limestone pavement



Graham Motley

Ogof Ffynnon Ddu N.N.R. – a limestone pavement in the upper Swansea Valley (Cwm Tawe) which supports several rare plant species including South Wales' only Hairy Greenweed *Genista pilosa* population.

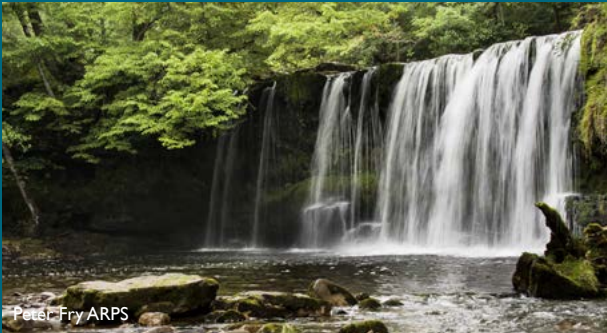


5. Inclusive and well communicated

NRAP Objective 5: Inclusive and well communicated										
Action	SMNR Principle <sup>27</sup>							Partner Priorities	Overall Priority 'Score'	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
5.1 Develop a National Park 'Nature Recovery Advice Hub' to offer a single contact point for communities, landowners, public, etc. seeking advice on species, habitats and its sensitive management.									1	
5.2 Determine viability and interest in a National Park Nature Recovery Farming Champion's scheme, building upon existing efforts with appropriate partners, to promote SMNR principles and nature friendly practices.									2	
5.3 Make available and interpret NRAP data and research findings to inform policy and decision making at all levels (e.g. land planners as well as grassroots conservation organisations and local communities).								*	5*	
5.4 Develop a website/other web based presence for the LNP stakeholders to promote nature recovery activities and key messages, as well as celebrating and informing about nature in the Park.									3	
5.5 Develop a programme with the Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and the BBNP for supporting recording, training and recruiting the next generation of biological recorders and taxonomists.									5	
5.6 Harness the specialist biological recorder network to help improve our knowledge of agreed priority species and habitats in the Park, as well as bolster recording skills through nature identification training and mentorship programme (linked to above).									2	
5.7 Use hedgerows and associated priority species as a way to raise awareness of the importance of ecological connectivity and resilience. Other elements to include Network Connectivity Mapping, field verification, targeted management advice, restoration and planting.									4	

<sup>27</sup> SMNR Principles; Principle 1 – Building Resilience, Principle 2 - Managing for multiple benefits, Principle 3 - Adaptive management, Principle 4 - Long term, Principle 5 – Evidence, Principle 6 – Collaboration, Principle 7 - Working at the right scale

HABITAT HIGHLIGHTS  
Waterfalls



The Waterfalls country near Ystradfellte is one of the more important biodiversity hotspots in the National Park. Its unique combination of geology, woodland types, deep valleys and frequent waterfalls means a host of lichens and mosses thrive here.

HABITAT HIGHLIGHTS  
Craig Cerrig-Gleisiad a Fan Frynych



The cliff ledges across the National Park support some fantastic alpine plant species. These can include Purple Saxifrage which is found below Pen y Fan and in Craig Cerrig Gleisiad NNR.

HABITAT HIGHLIGHTS  
Stone walls



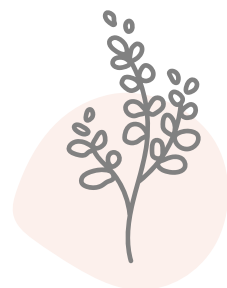
Stone walls are fine landscape features in some areas but are also important habitats in their own right.

HABITAT HIGHLIGHTS  
Fungi-rich grasslands



Important concentrations of fungi-rich grasslands occur in the National Park.





## 6.5 Appendix 5: Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts

### A Place-based approach

Identifying projects that are important in the context of a particular place, for example in the National Park this might include a settlement, community or, perhaps, a landscape character area.

### Biodiversity

“The diversity of living organisms, whether at the genetic, species or ecosystem level” (as defined in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016).

### Ecosystem approach

An ecosystem approach provides a framework for looking at whole ecosystems in decision making and for valuing the services they provide, to ensure society can maintain a healthy and resilient natural environment. It can operate at a range of spatial scales to ensure that the right actions are taken to deliver the right, lasting outcomes. In general terms, an ecosystem approach is designed to deliver biodiversity action at a larger scale than a single species or habitat and takes account of the needs of people at the same time.

### Ecosystem resilience

A resilient ecosystem is an ecosystem that is healthy and functions in a way that is able to address pressures and demands placed on it. There are five attributes of resilience:

- 1) **increasing diversity**
- 2) **increasing ecosystem extent through reducing fragmentation**
- 3) **increasing connectivity within and between ecosystems**
- 4) **improved condition**
- 5) **increasing adaptability**

Biodiversity underpins this resilience.

### Ecosystem services

The services that humans gain from the natural world.

- **Supporting services** – necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services, such as soil formation, nutrients cycling and primary production. These are all underpinned by biodiversity.
- **Provisioning services** – such as crops, fish, timber and genetic material. These comprise natural fluxes of energy.
- **Regulating services** – such as water and air purification; noise regulation, flood risk management, waste assimilation, carbon sequestration and pollination.
- **Cultural services** – provide a source of aesthetic, spiritual, religious, recreational or scientific enrichment, health and wellbeing benefits.

### Landscape-scale approach

Operating across a geographical area that is recognised by a variety of communities and organisations as a landscape. The identity of a landscape arises through historical, social, cultural and environmental factors. Landscapes tend to be large scale (crossing river catchments and administrative boundaries)<sup>28</sup>. The Brecon Beacons National Park includes 15 Landscape Character Areas<sup>29</sup>.

### Local Development Plan

An integrated plan for new housing allocations, affordable housing, employment land requirements and planning obligations which contribute to environmental, social and economic initiatives consistent with the National Park designation.

### Multiple benefits and biodiversity

Biodiversity underpins a healthy natural environment. The natural world, its biodiversity and constituent ecosystems are essential to human well-being both directly and indirectly through the multiple benefits provided in supporting the functioning of ecosystems.

### Nature Recovery

Addressing underlying causes of biodiversity loss by putting nature at the heart of our decision-making, by increasing the resilience of our natural systems (ecosystems), and by taking specific action for habitats and species.

### Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales

The Nature Recovery Plan for Wales sets out how Wales will address the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the associated Aichi<sup>30</sup> biodiversity targets in Wales. The Nature Recovery Action Plan will identify actions that can be delivered in the short term and set a course to deliver longer term commitments beyond 2020. The actions in the Plan will be kept under regular review, ensuring they continue to meet objectives and achieve the ambition of nature recovery in Wales.

### ‘Priority’ species and habitats

All native species and habitats are important, in terms of their contribution to biodiversity, ecosystem health and their intrinsic value. However, to aid targeted biodiversity conservation, experts have identified a list of species and habitats that are considered to be rare or are in marked decline in extent, number and/or distribution. These are Wales’ species and habitats of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity<sup>31</sup>. Where possible the LNP’s efforts will consider the potential benefits for these species and habitats when implementing nature recovery activities.

<sup>28</sup> See Figure 7.

<sup>29</sup> Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Landscape Character Assessment. 2012. <https://bit.ly/2somyPT>

<sup>30</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 for all contributing countries and stakeholders consisting of 20 targets.

<sup>31</sup> Identified under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and thus sometimes referred to as Section 7 Habitats and Species.



6.6    **Appendix 6: Ecosystem and habitat types in Wales and their resilience “connectivity” value of relevance to the National Park (Taken from SoNaRR, 2016)**

Ecosystem Type	Habitat Type	SoNaRR connectivity value
<b>Enclosed Farmland</b>	Improved grassland	<b>High</b>
	Arable	<b>Low</b>
	Hedgerows	<b>High</b>
	Orchards	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Freshwater wetlands and floodplains</b>	Rivers and streams	<b>Medium</b>
	Lakes and standing water	<b>Medium</b>
	Floodplains	<b>Low</b>
	Lowland fens and bogs	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Lowland grassland and heathland</b>	Lowland heathland	<b>Medium:</b> Clustered resource, reasonable in patch concentrations, poor elsewhere
	Semi-natural grassland	<b>Low</b>
<b>Woodlands</b>	Semi-natural broadleaf woodland	<b>Medium</b>
	Planted woodland (Native / non-native mixed)	<b>High</b>
<b>Urban and brownfield</b>	No information available	
<b>Moorland and heathland</b>	Upland (Includes wetland, grassland, heathland and mountain habitats managed as continuous units)	<b>Medium</b>
	Ffridd	<b>High</b>



Alice Thorne





# Acknowledgements

The Nature Recovery Action Plan is primarily intended to guide the work of the Brecon Beacons National Park Local Nature Partnership. This is a new collaboration which is open to all who want to contribute. A desire and commitment to help deliver the Plan is the only requirement to be involved. Current partners include representatives from a range of organisations and groups who all have a common interest in protecting and strengthening the National Park's ecosystems.

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Caerphilly County Borough Council
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Carmarthenshire County Council
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
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Gwent Wildlife Trust
Keep Wales Tidy
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Monmouthshire County Council
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Natural Resources Wales
Neath Port Talbot Council
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Wales Biodiversity Partnership
Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales
Woodland Trust

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Wales Biodiversity Partnership website: [www.biodiversitywales.org.uk](http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk)