

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Local Development Plan

May 2015 (amended June 2019)

Supplementary Planning Guidance

Policy CYD LPI: Enabling Appropriate Development in the
Countryside

Version 4

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (the Authority) is a special purpose Local Planning Authority and therefore holds the responsibility of carrying out the statutory planning function for the National Park Area.
- 1.2 The Local Development Plan was adopted by the Authority on 17th December 2013 and on that date became the development plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park. It sets out key policies and land use allocations that will shape the future of the National Park area and guide development up to 2022.
- 1.3 The purpose of this supplementary planning guidance is to clarify the application of Local Development Plan Policy CYD LPI: Enabling Appropriate Development in relation to the following types of development:
 - Conversion of farm and other buildings to dwellings
 - Replacement dwellings
 - Extensions to dwellings
 - Reinstatement of former dwellings

2.0 Spatial Strategy

- 2.1 The Local Development Plan’s Spatial Strategy is the spatial expression of the Environmental Capacity Approach to development - this underpins the Local Development Plan. The Environmental Capacity Approach seeks to ensure that future development enabled through the Local Development Plan complies with the National Park Statutory Purposes and Duty. As such the Environmental Capacity Approach seeks to enable development where it will not have an adverse impact on the natural beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage, natural resources, or community infrastructure of the National Park, taking into consideration the need to mitigate for the future likely and predicted effects of climate change. The Spatial Strategy has been developed through application of the Environmental Capacity Approach to the consideration of the scale and distribution of future development.
- 2.2 In setting out the Spatial Strategy the Local Development Plan has taken direction from the Vision for Central Wales as set out by the Wales Spatial Plan. In achieving this vision the Wales Spatial Plan sets out a Hub and Cluster approach to spatial development, identifying Key Settlements which act as service centres to the region.

The “Brecon Beacons Cluster” Settlement Hierarchy

Level 1	Primary Key Settlement (Brecon)
Level 2	Key Settlements (Hay-On-Wye, Crickhowell, Sennybridge and Defynnog and Talgarth)
Level 3	Settlements
Level 4	Limited Growth Settlements
Level 5	Countryside

- 2.3 This Supplementary Planning Guidance relates to development in the (Level 5) Countryside which is identified in the Settlement Hierarchy as “Places with no potential to accommodate any level of growth. Development here will be limited to that which is proven essential in accordance with National Planning Policy”.
- 2.4 Moreover, Policy CYD LPI: Enabling Appropriate Development states that proposals for development within countryside locations will be required to contribute positively to their countryside setting and enhance the quality of the landscape without adverse impact on the wildlife, natural beauty, cultural heritage, environmental assets or biodiversity of the area. All proposals for development within countryside locations must demonstrate how they respond to the identified issues set out at paragraph 4.9 of the LDP and how the scheme will contribute to achieving the Countryside 15 year Future Vision.

3.0 The Conversion of Farm and Other Buildings to Dwellings

3.1 The Local Development Plan Policy

3.1.1 Policy CYD LPI enables proposals to re-instate redundant buildings to the following beneficial uses:

- Commercial, Sport, Tourism or Recreation use OR
- Affordable Housing to serve an identified need OR
- The proposal will provide a Rural Enterprise Dwelling to serve an evidenced essential need

3.1.1 Only in cases where evidence can be provided to the Authority that the need for conversion to the above uses does not exist within the locality will the Authority consider proposals to reinstate redundant buildings for use as open market housing.

3.1.3 Policy CYD LPI reflects the Authority's intention to restrict the change of use of redundant buildings in the Countryside to open market residential use when they may be suitable for beneficial uses that respond to the identified issues set out in paragraph 4.9 of the LDP.

3.2 Alternative Proposals

3.2.1 There may, however, be material planning considerations (such as issues relating to heritage, ecology, etc.) that outweigh the policy presumption against the open-market conversion of redundant buildings when the possibility of conversion to all other beneficial uses has been tested. In such instances, the onus will be on the applicant to provide a robust justification for any departure from planning policy and a financial viability assessment will be required to demonstrate that all alternative beneficial uses are unviable.

3.2.2 A flow chart is provided at Appendix I to illustrate the consideration process of a planning application relating to redundant buildings.

3.2.3 If it can be reasonably demonstrated in writing by the applicant to the satisfaction of the NPA that there are significant factors which mean that the scheme is unviable at the target affordable housing contribution, the Authority will seek to verify this using the 3 Dragons Development Appraisal Toolkit (DAT) (or equivalent process in operation with the NPA at the time) with a final recourse to the District Valuer or equivalent viability assessor.

3.2.4 Disputes of viability referred to an independent valuer will be charged at cost to the Developer. Affordable housing will still be required at a level proven to be viable through the above verification process.

3.3 Application Requirements

3.3.1 In order to comply with Policy CYD LPI, all applications relating to the conversion of farm and other buildings where the proposal will result in a net gain of 1 or more dwellings must be accompanied by the following evidence and detail:

1. Marketing

3.3.2 Applicants will be expected to market the application building for sale for **Commercial, Sport, Tourism, Recreation and Rural Enterprise Dwelling use** for a continuous period of at least 6 months prior to submitting a planning application. In addition, applicants may also consider marketing the application building for lease.

3.3.3 The NPA will expect a marketing exercise to comprise the following:

- Active marketing through a recognised and independent commercial property agent covering South and Mid-Wales (to include Monmouthshire, Powys, Carmarthenshire, Torfaen, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Herefordshire);
- Notify other organisations that may have an interest in promoting the site (for example, Economic Development departments of Unitary Authorities).

3.3.1 The results of the marketing exercise must be detailed in a supporting statement that includes evidence of the following:

- The extent of marketing, including copies of all adverts (with dates), when and for how long the advert was in the agent's window, websites etc.;
- The price at which the property has been marketed (which should reasonably reflect its value as a premises for each of the beneficial uses referred to);
- Written details of enquiries received, including any firm offers (conditional or unconditional); and
- A written statement of the commercial property agent's view as to the viability of the property for the beneficial uses referred to.

3.3.2 Prior to issuing any consent for the conversion of a farm (or other) building to an open market dwelling, the Authority will need to be satisfied that genuine attempts have been made to market the property. The evidence submitted may be scrutinised by an independent body, such as the District Valuer, to ensure that the property has been marketed at an appropriate price.

2. Identified Need for Affordable Housing

3.3.3 The remaining beneficial use identified in CYD LPI is Affordable Housing to serve an identified need.

3.3.4 It is set out in the Local Development Plan that there is a presumption of need in all areas of the National Park. Where an applicant challenges the Authority's evidence of need the onus is on the applicant to prove to the satisfaction of the Authority, by way of an evidenced written statement, that there is not a need for Affordable Housing in the area.

3.3.5 The key evidence sources of need include (but are not limited to):

- The appropriate Local Housing Market Assessment;
- Affordable Housing Needs Register;
- Registered Social Landlord and constituent Unitary Authority Waiting Lists; and
- Local Housing Needs Surveys conducted by the relevant Rural Housing Enabler.

3.3.6 Applicants will also be expected to demonstrate that they have engaged with the constituent Unitary Authority's Affordable Housing Officer to establish the current levels of need.

- 3.3.7 Where it is determined that there is a level of need in the area, applicants will be expected to engage with the Registered Social Landlords to determine whether they would be interested in utilising the property for Affordable Housing.
- 3.3.8 In cases where a need has been identified but the relevant Registered Social Landlords are not prepared to utilise the property, a commuted sum equal to the proportion of the Acceptable Cost Guidance less the contribution normally paid by the Registered Social Landlord would be payable (Acceptable Cost Guidance is derived by the Welsh Government and is provided as guidance on the likely acceptability of scheme costs for grant purposes). Any commuted sum payable shall be held in an earmarked reserve by the Authority to facilitate the provision of Affordable Housing in the National Park.
- 3.3.9 The Authority's intention under Policy CYD LPI is to restrict changes of use to open market dwellings when there may be more appropriate beneficial uses. Indeed, the aim of requiring a commuted sum contribution is to secure **equivalent benefit** in the form of an Affordable Home. Clearly, any reduction in the commuted sum would not achieve this and would be contrary to Policy CYD LPI and, accordingly, would result in the refusal of the application.
- 3.3.10 **It will often be the case that farmers/landowners may wish to convert these buildings in order to provide accommodation for family members. Accordingly, in instances where a converted barn would provide a dwelling for a child (including spouse and residing dependents) of the farmer, the Authority would delay the requirement for the relevant commuted sum payment until such time that the converted barn is sold on the open market.**

3.4 Curtilage Area

- 3.4.1 A key characteristic of farmsteads is the way the landscape around it often flows up to the immediate edge of the buildings without any form of curtilage definition. This characteristic needs to be respected whilst meeting the needs of any new use.
- 3.4.2 Ideally the curtilage needs to be kept as minimal as possible. Any enclosed private areas need to be carefully sited and contained, particularly in relation to public views and the surrounding landscape. Extending gardens into what has been farming land requires planning permission and should be avoided if possible. New walls or planting, which can be used to screen parking and garden areas, must follow the local vocabulary. In particularly sensitive landscape settings a ha-ha may be the most discreet form of definition.
- 3.4.3 With any conversion and in particular domestic conversions, care needs to be given to the siting of paraphernalia such as refuse bins, oil tanks and sheds.

3.5 Pre-application Discussions

- 3.5.1 Applicants and/or agents are advised to discuss with Authority's Planning Officers the likelihood of the building being suitable for the beneficial uses listed above and the content of any necessary statement. It is advised that this is achieved through the Authority's formal pre-application advice procedure.
- 3.5.2 Where it is proposed to convert a Listed Building, applicants and/or agents should also consider the relevant guidance produced by Cadw (available at cadw.wales.gov.uk).

3.6 Development Management Issues

3.6.1 *Technical Advice Note 23: Economic Development* (Welsh Government February 2014) provides National Policy Context for the re-use and adaptation of existing rural-buildings. The following section sets out how the NPA will apply this guidance in the determination of planning applications as relates to the design of future conversions. Whereas this document relates to development outside of settlement boundaries, the guidance set out below will be of relevance to the conversion of traditional buildings in all areas of the National Park including settlements. The proposal should satisfy the following appropriate development control considerations:

- i. The building should be structurally sound and of substantial traditional construction and materials, and capable of re-use without substantial reconstruction;
- ii. Extensions or modifications will not normally be acceptable but may be considered where they are essential to a scheme proceeding and are of a scale and nature which do not detract from the character and appearance of the original building;
- iii. Any external features of architectural or historic interest should be retained, particularly those that signal the building's former use. For listed buildings; the treatment of the interior and retention of features of historic interest will also be a key consideration;
- iv. Any commercial re-use would not be harmful to the amenity of nearby residents or other sensitive land uses through noise, light, etc, emissions or additional traffic generation;
- v. The access to the building and the local highway network are adequate to cater for the nature and volume of traffic likely to be generated;
- vi. Sufficient parking and manoeuvring space is available within the site;
- vii. The existence of all necessary services or the capability of their ready and economic provision. The proposal should not overload or disrupt existing services and the impact of any new overhead services on the landscape will be considered. Alternative forms of provision could be considered;
- viii. The site should provide adequate private amenity space to meet the needs of the intended use;
- ix. Boundary treatments should be appropriate for the context of the area and should ensure that the area remains open in character where this was traditionally the case. Where boundary treatments such as gates, walls or native hedges already form part of the traditional character of the countryside location, these should be incorporated into any scheme. Opportunities for the repair of boundary structures where necessary will be favoured over their replacement;

3.6.2 Any planning permission granted for a conversion scheme will usually have conditions attached to ensure that the development is carried out during the construction phase and in operation, in a way that satisfies planning policies. Whilst this is not an exhaustive list, typically conversions of rural buildings will have conditions relating to the following matters:

- Removal of permitted development rights for future alteration, extension, outbuildings and enclosures;
- Samples of materials for any new walling, roofing, windows and doors, to be used in construction to be submitted and approved;
- Method statements and sample panels for restoration of existing stone walls
- Method statements for the protection of protected species (where appropriate); and
- Landscaping scheme and implementation timescale.
- A program of building recording
- Archaeology recording as necessary.
- Restrictions on the uses of the buildings

- 3.6.3 It is essential that these conditions are complied with before, during and after the works to convert the rural building. If they are not, the Authority has enforcement powers to rectify the breach of planning control. Failure to comply with pre- commencement conditions, for example, could render the whole development unauthorised, necessitating the submission of a further planning application which may not be acceptable, depending on the nature of the breach.
- 3.6.4 Many buildings in the countryside provide a suitable habitat for a number of protected species including bats, barn owls and nesting birds. The LDP has policies specifically relating to developments which affect protected species and further advice is available in the Biodiversity and Development SPG.

Building Regulations

- 3.6.5 Building regulations are separate issue to planning permission and listed building consent. The requirements of building regulation for insulation, natural lighting and ventilation might not be achieved without the loss of the building's essential features, if so alternative uses should be considered. Early consultation with the Building Control department of the relevant local authority is encouraged. Fire safety requirements which form part of the building regulations will be particularly important. There is flexibility in applying Part L of the Building Regulations (Conservation of Fuel and Power) where listed buildings are concerned and the requirements of the regulations would harm the historic or architectural interest of the building.

General Design Principles

- 3.6.6 The following principles generally applies to the conversion of traditional stone built buildings where traditional materials and building techniques will need to be utilised. The principles are intended as a general guide to the renovation and conversion of rural buildings and should not be regarded as an exhaustive design checklist as each building will have its own unique character and will present different design opportunities and constraints.
- 3.6.7 The character of a rural building is derived from its original function and every effort should be made to retain the original simplicity of scale and form, and to alter as little as possible both internally and externally.

A) Setting

- 3.6.8 Minimising the impact on the setting should be the most important aspect of a project. It is therefore important that rural developments do not result in the domestication or urbanisation of their countryside setting.

- 3.6.9 Farm Buildings are often found within farmyards in a functional setting with simple surfaces and an absence of 'accessories' such as gardens, fences, car parking areas, lighting, waste bins etc. This can easily lead to a domesticated setting which the Authority will aim to mitigate through landscaping conditions on planning consents.



- 3.6.10 Rural chapels usually have a church yard associated with them and this can be particularly sensitive if there are burials, some of which may be in unmarked graves. You are always advised to consult with an archaeologist in relation to development of Rural chapels.

3.6.11 Hard landscaping should be sympathetic to the rural setting, avoiding tarmac surfaces, formal drives and modern kerbs. Gravel or bonded aggregate surfaces create a 'softer' appearance and can be successful in the rural context. If possible, highway standards requiring large visibility splays, turning circles and street lighting should be avoided.

- Where possible, anything that divides the farmyard in terms of car parking, gardens, amenity spaces and associated fences should be resisted and ideally be on the outside of the farm group;
- Obtrusive rainwater goods, indiscreet services and unnecessary overflow pipes and soil pipes on the outside of the building (page 23).

3.6.12 Boundary treatments should be appropriate for the context of the area and should ensure that the area remains open in character where this was traditionally the case. In particular landscape settings, a ha ha may be the most discreet form of definition. Opportunities to repair boundary structures or provide natural screening measures where necessary will be favoured. Existing trees, hedgerows and walls should be retained and protected, wherever possible. All planning applications should be accompanied by a fully detailed landscaping scheme. Where there is a conflict between the need to retain hedgerow features and the provision of safe highway vision splays then an appropriate balance will be sought

3.6.13 The addition of ancillary structures and outbuildings can cause the domestication or urbanisation of the setting of rural buildings and will therefore be strictly controlled. Such structures include garden buildings and garages. The siting of these structures needs to be carefully considered to retain the character of the area and may be resisted. Necessary permitted development rights for such development will be removed to protect the rural character of the site. With any conversion, and particularly domestic conversions, care also is needed to be given to the siting of refuse bins, and structures such as oil or gas tanks. If it can be achieved without significant alteration, existing outbuildings may be able to provide storage or garaging, avoiding the need for new structures.

B) Roof

3.6.14 The roof profile, form and materials should be retained. Applicants should avoid raising the roof, altering the pitch or installing windows in the roof. Traditional farm buildings have long unbroken roof profiles and it is essential that these remain undisturbed. Dormers will almost always be inappropriate, particularly where the existing building has no dormers, unless there is a clear precedent for their use on buildings in the locality. Natural stone or Welsh slate roof coverings should be retained and any new tiles matched with the existing where re-roofing or repairs are required. Traditional corrugated iron can be a useful alternative to replace modern and inappropriate roofing materials.



- 3.6.15 The number of roof lights should be kept to a minimum and should be flush with the roof surface and not overly large in proportion in relation the roof and should be of the conservation type.

Vent pipes and flues protruding from the roof should be avoided. However, a single flue pipe may be acceptable if carefully positioned and with a matt black or dark grey finish. Ventilation should be as discrete as possible and a modern ridge vent or tile vent may be an appropriate solution in certain situations. New brick or stone chimneys are generally unacceptable.



Architectural and Historic Features

- 3.6.16 Where possible, features of particular architectural interest should always be preserved and not removed or concealed and should be integrated into the proposed conversion. Such featured can include dressed stones, flagged flooring, coping or string courses, arches, decorative brickwork, slating pattern, ventilation slits, owl holes, date stones, fixed machinery etc. The subdivision of internal space where it forms an integral part of the building's character, will not be appropriate.

Walls

- 3.6.17 Local sandstone was frequently used for the construction of farm buildings and other rural buildings. Although less prevalent, there are examples of brick buildings and sometimes it was in combination with stone for detailing such as around windows and doors. Render over underlying masonry is also found. Should the walls of the proposed building require necessary repair, the existing stone and coursing pattern must be matched. The external walls often retain distinctive features that should be retained, the most common being ventilation holes or slits, and date stones.



- 3.6.18 The mortar used in the construction of solid walls was traditionally lime mixed with a local aggregate. Lime mortar is beneficial for traditional buildings for both technical and aesthetic reasons. Lime mortar should be used if sections of masonry need to be re-built and also for re-pointing. New pointing should match the original lime mortar and pointing style. The mortar should always be softer than the material it is binding. It is essential that the mortar mix used is aesthetically as well as technically compatible. The existing original lime mortar mix for pointing provide the best guide as to what mix and colour is the most appropriate.



- 3.6.19 Limewash is a traditional wall finish for vernacular and rural buildings. Layers of limewash creates an authentic external finish and provides the building with a breathable sealant to protect it from the elements, and this is why it is often seen in the uplands. Lime render is also used to protect the underlying stone work.

- 3.6.20 On listed buildings existing limewash or lime render should never be stripped to reveal bare stone or brick. The lime render should be complete, neither stopping short of the base nor artificially cut back to reveal stonework beneath.
- 3.6.21 Fascia boards and bargeboards should be avoided on barn conversions since these are domestic features, detracting from the simple, agricultural appearance of the barn. Typically, roofs of farm buildings are characterised by a simple verge over the gable ends with a slight over-sail of the tiles / slates, and no bargeboards. Rafter ends are generally exposed rather than covered by fascia boards.

Openings – Windows and Doors

- 3.6.22 There is presumption in favour of maximising the use of existing openings, and limiting new ones. Internal layouts of the buildings should be designed around existing openings to enable sufficient natural light, to avoid inserting new openings which would seriously damage its existing character. New openings will only be permitted if there is a robust justification and they are designed to complement the character of the building. The re-opening of former doors or windows that have been blocked up would be preferable to the creation of new ones.



- 3.6.23 Farm buildings often have large cart doors that can provide an excellent source of light to interiors and should be utilised to the maximum. Additional light may be also achieved by the glazing of ventilation slits. New windows and doors should preserve the character of the original openings and should be sympathetic in design, proportions and materials. Standard domestic style window and doors will not be appropriate. Door and window openings should retain their original proportions.
- 3.6.24 Timber is preferable for any new window frames; however, steel frames will be appropriate for some buildings. The choice of timber or steel will depend on the building and the original window materials. Where timber is used, oak in a natural finish is preferable. If softwood timber is used, it should normally be painted rather than stained. Upvc or composite windows or doors or modern up and over garage doors will not be acceptable.
- 3.6.25 The glazing of every door opening and removal of timber doors should be avoided. Timber doors should be retained or replaced if in poor condition, or there is use of inappropriate modern replacements. Where additional natural light is justified, it is usually possible to glaze behind the timber doors. The door remains functional and can be held open or closed as required.

Rainwater Goods

3.6.26 Where rainwater goods are used they should either be cast iron or aluminium. A half-round profile is usually the most appropriate. Upvc will not be acceptable.

Internal Features

3.6.27 If the building is listed, internal features such as exposed beams, roof timbers, original fittings and tiled, wooden or stone floors, should be retained and incorporated in the conversion. Applicants for conversions of unlisted buildings are encouraged to follow the same principle.



3.6.28 Interior heights of rural buildings may be too restricted to allow for two floors. If adequate headroom cannot be achieved on the first floor, the design of the conversion should be revisited instead of cutting the roof trusses.

External Features

3.6.29 A sensitive conversion minimises the impact of domestic features on the exterior by positioning those that are necessary as discreetly as possible, and utilising those of a suitably simple style. Inappropriate detailing to the exterior of the building should be avoided. External features such as satellite dishes and television aerials, alarm boxes and inappropriate wall mounting lighting, should be avoided where possible and if necessary, should be kept to a minimum and positioned discreetly.

3.6.30 External lighting should be kept to an absolute minimum and ideally should be motion censored and should be kept simple. Energy efficient conversions are encouraged; installation of renewable energy generating technologies must be undertaken in a sympathetic manner with an aim to mitigate any impact on the character of the building.

Heating and Ventilation

3.6.31 The introduction of heat and insulation for human occupation has to be carefully considered. Where roof insulation is required, breathable felt should be used. Breathable Roof Membranes (BRM) are unsuitable in buildings where bat roosts are present. In situations where bats will continue to have access to the roof space, a licence is unlikely to be granted by Natural Resources Wales. Bitumastic felt to BS747 can be used as an alternative in such locations or a breathable membrane can be covered with sarking board.

3.6.32 There are modern ventilation systems that have minimal impact on historic character which can avoid the need for trickle vents and other prominent ventilators. Extractor vents and ventilation for the roof can often be successfully achieved with slate or ridge vents. When installing a boiler it is best to opt for a system that can vent through the wall that is not a primary or prominent elevation. It is best to avoid those that require venting through the roof but where this has to be done stainless steel flues should be kept as short as possible and painted black to make them less obtrusive.

3.6.33 It is usually not appropriate to introduce a chimney to buildings that were not designed to have one. Wood burning or multi-fuel stoves may be acceptable following the advice above.

Under floor heating can be effective, although care should be taken to re-instate stone flagged floors. Consideration should be given to sustainable sources of heat such as a ground / air source heat pumps, provided that the necessary equipment and machinery can be incorporated sensitively within the scheme of conversion.

Utilities

- 3.6.34 The provision of service such as electricity, water and gas for many rural buildings may not be convenient however they must have a minimal visual intrusion on the surrounding countryside. Underground cables are encouraged to minimise their visual impact. Rainwater gutters and downpipes should be kept to a minimum, in black finished cast iron or aluminium and external pipework such as soil and vent pipes should be positioned internally.
- 3.6.35 Disposal of waste water and sewerage may also pose a challenge in rural areas, therefore environmentally acceptable and sustainable methods should be utilised wherever possible. If installations such as septic tanks or cesspits are necessary, these should be located where they have minimal visual impact through undergrounding or appropriate screening.

Alterations / Extensions

- 3.6.36 The emphasis in any conversion scheme is that the building in its present form is suitable for the intended use. At the time of considering a conversion scheme, minor extensions will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, where they are genuinely required to facilitate a conversion, rather than just for the purpose of adding additional rooms. Where an extension is fully justified, it will be required to be ancillary in scale and in keeping with the character and appearance of the building and setting. In general, large or two-storey extensions will not be acceptable.
- 3.6.37 Where new buildings or extensions are permitted, they should reflect their surroundings and traditional character of the building. For example, using an agricultural design such as open fronted byres, to inform the design of garaging. Extensions should follow the existing traditional character of the building and be subservient to the existing building in every respect.
- 3.6.38 Conservatories, porches, dormers, sheds, pools and other extensions that are inherently domestic in design will be resisted. To avoid later extensions which are out of character, the National Park Authority is likely to remove permitted development rights for alterations to the building.

4.0 Replacement Dwellings

4.1 The LDP Policy

4.1.1 Policy CYD LPI makes provision for the appropriate demolition and replacement of buildings in the countryside where this action would result in the net increase of no more than 30% of the original dwelling size. Policy 26 deals specifically with the demolition and replacement of habitable dwellings and states that this will only be permitted where:

- The existing dwelling is of no particular architectural and/or historic and/or visual merit, for which it should be conserved; and
- The design, size, and siting of the replacement dwelling is sympathetic to the setting.

4.1.2 The Authority wishes to conserve dwellings that are of particular architectural, historic and/or visual merit. Proposals for replacement of such buildings will be resisted. However, for all other dwellings, a proposal for replacement presents an opportunity to make an improvement to the visual appearance of a building and its relationship to its setting in the National Park landscape. The Authority therefore requires that the design, size, siting and curtilage of all proposed replacement dwellings are sympathetic to the setting of the National Park.

4.1.3 Policy SPI aims to incorporate the National Park purposes and duty, as set out in the Environment Act 1995, into the policy framework of the LDP. Whereas Policy 1 sets out the necessary detailed criteria by which the BBNPA will ensure that development does not impact on the National Park's ability to deliver its statutory purposes and duty.

4.1.4 In addition to consideration given to the physical impacts of replacement dwellings on the natural beauty of the National Park, the Authority will also give due consideration to the impact such proposals can have on the housing market, specifically, the range of dwelling sizes that are available on the open market in countryside locations. This issue is extremely important in relation to proposals which seek to replace an existing building with a significantly larger dwelling (for example the replacement of a 2 bedroom property with a 4 bedroom property). The Authority aims to ensure that the existing housing stock within countryside locations provides a range of options to meet all incomes and support a sustainable community (a living and working countryside as envisioned by the LDP), this is especially true at the lower end of the housing market, where house prices and rural wages are more likely to be commensurate. As such, in determining applications for replacement dwellings in the open countryside, the Authority will consider how the planned changes will impact on the existing housing market. In instances where the replacement dwelling is over the established threshold of 30% and has a significant impact on the housing range within the area the application will be refused.

4.2 Permitted Development Rights

4.2.1 Proposals for a replacement dwelling in excess of an increase of 30% of the cubic content of the original dwelling **over and above that allowed under permitted development rights** (for extensions to dwellings) would be considered contrary to CYD LP 1, SPI, SP3, Policy 1 and 26.

4.2.2 It should also be acknowledged that the householder permitted development rights were changed on 30th September 2013. In certain circumstances this allows for much larger extensions than the 50 cubic metres allowed under the 1995 Order.

4.3 Application Requirements

4.3.1 Firstly, householders should seek to ensure that their proposed replacement dwelling is within the CYD LPI requirement of being an increase of no more than 30% of the original dwelling size (over and above that allowed under permitted development).

4.3.2 Secondly (and more importantly), applicants will be expected to demonstrate as part of their Design and Access Statement how their proposal will maintain or enhance the quality and character of the Park's Natural Beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage and built environment. Applicants may also need to submit one or more of the following documents (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Planning Statement
- Sustainability Statement
- Code for Sustainable Homes Pre-Assessment
- Landscaping Details
- Heritage Statement
- Lighting Assessment
- Tree Survey
- Biodiversity Survey Report

4.3.3. For the avoidance of doubt, in instances where it is considered that the proposed replacement dwelling would be inappropriate in terms of its scale, form, design and appearance, yet it would be within the 30% allowance prescribed by CYD LPI, an application will be refused against the requirements of SPI, SP3, Policy I and 26.

4.3.4 The Authority will expect any replacement dwelling to be located on the site of the existing dwelling. A re-siting would only be considered acceptable by the Authority where there would be resulting environmental or road safety benefits. In such cases the applicant would be required to demonstrate that there would be no increase in overall visual impact of the building in the landscape.

4.3.5 The Authority would expect that the curtilage of a replacement dwelling is no larger than that of the existing dwelling.

4.3.6 Proposals for replacement dwellings will be required to be of a high quality of design. Proposals should take account of local and traditional elements of design and materials and, where appropriate, be in keeping with any surrounding buildings of merit.

5.0 Extensions to Dwellings

5.1 The LDP Policy

5.1.1 CYD LPI requires proposals for the extension of residential dwellings, appropriate in scale and design to the countryside location, to be no more than a net increase of 30% of the original dwelling size.

5.1.2 The primary consideration in assessing proposals to extend a traditional dwelling in the countryside is that its inherent character is retained, so that the appearance of the National Park's rural landscape is not harmed by the loss of its vernacular buildings. To this end, Policy 27 states that house extensions (and ancillary buildings) will be permitted where:

- the proposal is appropriate to the scale and design and setting of the original dwelling;
- no loss of on-site parking space will result, and adequate on-site parking provision can be provided for the extended dwelling;
- an area of private amenity space is retained that is reasonably proportionate to the proposed size of the dwelling; and
- there is no significant loss of privacy to an adjoining property.

5.1.3 In practice, this means that to conform to the respective planning policies in the Local Development Plan, all proposals to extend dwellings in the countryside must therefore:

- Be considerably smaller than the existing dwelling;
- Be lower than the existing dwelling in relation to ridge height; and
- Be subordinate to the existing dwelling with the original form of the dwelling being clearly recognizable when the new works are completed.

5.2 The Size of Extensions

5.2.1 The provision and retention of a mix of dwelling sizes is an important part of this Local Development Plan's strategy. Extensions to dwellings have the potential to affect the balance of dwelling sizes available. The policy position seeks to ensure that a range of dwellings sizes are available to support a living working landscape. This issue is extremely important in relation to proposals which seek to significantly extend a smaller dwelling (such as a two bedroom property). The disparity between rural wages and rural house prices is well documented (Wales Rural Observatory, November 2005[1]; Wales Rural Observatory, June 2006[2]; Joseph Rowntree Foundation, June 2008[3]). The Authority aims to ensure that the existing housing stock within countryside locations provides a range of options to meet all incomes and support a sustainable community (a living and working countryside as envisioned by the Local Development Plan), this is especially true at the lower end of the housing market, where house prices and rural wages are more likely to be commensurate. As such in determining applications for extensions to houses in the open countryside, the Authority will consider how the planned changes will impact on the existing housing market. In instances where the extension is over the established threshold of 30% and has a significant impact on the housing range within the area the application will be refused.

- 5.2.3 Dwelling extensions also have the potential to reduce parking and amenity areas. Inappropriate extensions may also have a detrimental visual impact on the National Park's landscape. The Authority will therefore seek to ensure that extensions are the subordinate part of the overall finished structure and are not dominant or intrusive. The provision of a private amenity area must be appropriate to the scale of the dwelling as existing and/or proposed.
- 5.2.4 The Authority consider that a 30% increase over the size of the original dwelling would ensure that the extension be subordinate and of appropriate scale. To clarify, this 30% will be an increase in the overall volume of the original dwelling. A larger volume will not be permitted in the National Park area unless it can be clearly demonstrated that no harm will be caused to the character and appearance of the original dwelling
- 5.2.5 An exception to the size limits set out above may be considered appropriate where the existing dwelling is relatively small (ie. usually less than 250 cubic metres). In such circumstances a larger percentage increase may be negotiated.

6.0 Reinstatement of Former Dwellings

6.1 The LDP Policy

6.1.1 CYD LPI enables proposals that capitalises on improving the existing building stock and/or utilises previously developed land and/or re-uses redundant buildings. In certain circumstances, the Authority will support the renovation of former houses where the use as a dwelling has been abandoned.

6.1.2 Policy 25 states that the renovation of former dwellings in the Countryside will be permitted where:

- at the time of the application, the existing building is demonstrated to possess the fundamental characteristics of the former dwelling in that
 - the original wall structure is substantially intact and sound without the need for major or extensive demolition and/or rebuilding works and clearly shows the size, number and location of all original window and door openings; and
 - the building shows evidence of the original roof height, shape and features;
- any renovation required, where appropriate, retains or faithfully reproduces the size, number and location of original door and window openings and roof structure;
- the proposal, including any extension and the provision of services and changes within the curtilage, is appropriate to the scale and design of the original building and its setting;
- no new or enlarged curtilage is required; and
- any new or enlarged access and parking can be provided without significant damage to the setting of the proposal or surrounding landscape.

6.1.3 Maintaining the character of the dwelling and its setting are important elements of this policy and therefore permitted development will be removed if planning permission is to be granted.

6.2 Application Requirements

6.2.1 Former dwellings often provide suitable habitats for bats. Survey work may therefore be required prior to submission of an application. All proposals must comply with Policy 7 Protected and Important Wild Species.

6.2.2 Where necessary a structural survey will be required and the Authority may consult with the building control service on any proposals submitted under this policy. All proposals must also comply with Policy 23 Sustainable Design in the adaption and re-use of buildings.

6.2.3 The Authority would expect that the curtilage of a reinstated dwelling is no larger than that of the original dwelling.

6.2.4 Applicants will also be expected to demonstrate as part of their Design and Access Statement how their proposal will maintain or enhance the quality and character of the National Park's Natural Beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage and built environment. In addition, the Design and Access Statement must detail how low and zero carbon technologies have been investigated. Where such technologies are found to be applicable they must be employed within the scheme in line with the requirements of Policy 23.

6.2.5 Applicants may also need to submit one or more of the following documents (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Planning Statement
- Sustainability Statement
- Landscaping Details
- Heritage Statement
- Lighting Assessment
- Tree Survey

Appendix 1: Process Flow Chart



