
A Management Plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park

2015-2025

‘Putting Well-being at the Heart of Managing the Landscape’

This is a consultation document. The consultation period runs until 24 April 2015. If you would like to respond to the consultation, please send your comments to the Management Plan officer, Matt Scanlon, at the following email address: matthew.scanlon@beacons-npa.gov.uk. You can also call on 01874 620465 (direct line) or 01874 624437 (National Park Authority).

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If you have any questions then please feel free to contact the Management Plan officer using these details.

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Chapter I - Introduction

I.1 National Parks

1. National Parks are internationally recognised protected areas which contain the most beautiful, spectacular and dramatic areas of countryside in Wales, the UK and beyond. They are landscapes of national and international importance and their designation gives them the highest status for the conservation of landscape and scenic beauty. They also contain fantastic opportunities for recreation and millions of visitors from across the World enjoy them every year.
2. The statutory purposes of UK National Park Authorities are set out in Section 61 of the Environment Act 1995. These are:

First Purpose: *To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the national parks;*

Second Purpose: *To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities (of National Parks) by the public.*

3. The purposes are underpinned in law by the 'Sandford Principle'. This makes it clear that the first purpose should take precedence over the second in cases of irreconcilable conflict.
4. National Parks continue to be home to communities and industry, as they have done for thousands of years. National Park Authorities, therefore, also have a duty under Section 62(1) of the Environment Act 1995:

Duty: *In taking forward the national park purposes, [to] seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.*

I.2 Brecon Beacons National Park

5. The Brecon Beacons National Park was designated in 1957. It is one of fifteen National Parks in the UK and one of three in Wales. The majority of its land is in private ownership (approximately 65%), though the Brecon Beacons is unique to other National Parks in the significant amount of land owned by the National Park Authority (approximately 15% or 200 square kilometres) in addition to the high proportion that is owned by other public or non-governmental organisations (20%).
6. The Park covers 1,347 square kilometres (520 square miles) and lies between rural Mid Wales and the industrial South Wales Valleys. It is a diverse landscape, where sweeping uplands contrast with green valleys, dramatic waterfalls, ancient woodland, archaeological sites, caves, forests, reservoirs and vibrant communities. More detailed information about

the Park can be found on the Authority's website (www.beacons-npa.gov.uk), the website which promotes the National Park as a destination: <http://www.breconbeacons.org/> and in the recently published State of the Park Report (2014)¹, which has been used to provide evidence in the preparation of this Management Plan review.

7. National Parks generally comprise Britain's highest, lowest, wettest, driest, warmest and coldest areas and as such are among the most vulnerable, but with the right management they are also the most resilient places to the effects of climate change.

1.3 Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan

This Management Plan does not propose any significant alterations to the previous plan, 'Managing Change Together 2010-2015'. It simply focuses on reviewing the policy context and updating actions where necessary. The actions will continue to be reported under the six Management Plan themes. These are considered in detail in Chapter 2.

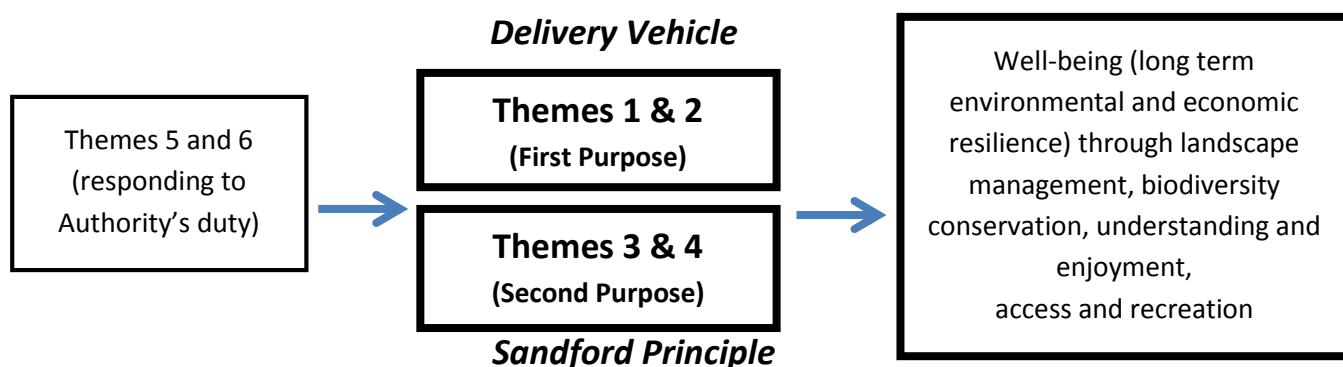
8. The most recent statutory guidance for Welsh National Parks is set out in 'National Park Management Plans Guidance (Natural Resources Wales 2007)'. A supplementary guidance note was published in 2014 by Natural Resource Wales, called '*Ecosystem Approach for Protected Landscapes Management Plan Reviews*'.
9. The Management Plan for the Park '*Managing Change Together 2010-2015*' was a ground-breaking document for the Brecon Beacons National Park. Widespread public consultation, evidence gathering and direct involvement of a range of individuals, groups and organisations were used to prepare a new 20 year vision for the National Park.
10. Six themes emerged which provided a new framework for managing the Park, these are identified in Table I below. The National Park Authority adopted these six themes as Corporate Goals which it uses for reporting progress in the annual Business Improvement Plan and the State of the Park Report.
11. The six themes, shown in Table I, develop the two Statutory Purposes and Duty of the Authority. By contrast to previous Management Plan frameworks, they are more closely aligned with the Strategic Environmental Assessment, the management principles for Category V Protected Areas (Appendix 1) and the 12 principles for an ecosystem approach to decision-making set out under the Convention on Biological Diversity (Appendix 2).

¹ <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/who-we-are/npmp/state-of-the-park-report-2/>

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

Table 1: Management Plan Themes

Model 1 illustrates how Themes 5 and 6 (Authority Duty), achieve well-being *through* the implementation of projects under the Authority’s two Purposes (Themes 1–4).



Model 1: Well-being Delivery Vehicle

12. There is a statutory duty to review the National Park Management Plan “at intervals of not more than five years” (s66 of the Environment Act 1995). A review of ‘*Managing Change Together*’ has been undertaken², which showed that the Management Plan was being successfully delivered as good progress had been made on achieving the Park vision, therefore actions have been rolled forward into this Plan where possible. Some actions have

² <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/who-we-are/npmp/management-plan-review/>

not been taken forward - they may have been completed or it is not practicable for them to be taken forward.

- 13.** This Management Plan rolls forward these actions for the next 10 years (until 2025) and, consistent with the requirements in the Environment Act 1995, a further review will be undertaken in five years (2020). This is more reflective of the longer term nature of the special purpose objectives of the Authority.
- 14.** Considering the extent of the recent consultation undertaken when preparing '*Managing Change Together*' along with consultations undertaken since it was published (such as the resident's survey in 2013), it is no surprise that the Vision of the Park (1.8), its Special Qualities (1.9) and the aims and objectives are still relevant and remain the same.
- 15.** Chapter 2 of this Plan therefore contains six sections, each corresponding directly to a Management Plan theme. Information about each theme is provided and challenges faced within the Park are identified, with a reporting mechanism for measuring the success of the Plan. Each section also considers how the actions address the needs of residents and the goals set by the 'Well-being of Future Generations' Bill.
- 16.** At the end of each section in Chapter 2 the actions relevant to the Theme are summarised. It is proposed that this Plan will be a working document and the point of reference for organisations, groups and individuals with an interest in the Park. It is a statutory document, to which interested parties must pay due regard.
- 17.** The preparation of an Engagement and Consultation report³ was an important part of the review. This document describes how the Authority consulted and engaged on '*Managing Change Together*' and the extent of consultation and engagement undertaken since it was approved. Part 2 of the Engagement and Consultation Report documents the responses received during consultation.
- 18.** Actions will be rolled forward from the previous Management Plan where practicable. Where new strategies and plans have emerged since the previous Plan was approved, actions identified within these will be taken forward. As strategies and plans often operate on different timescales to the 5 year cycle of the Management Plan, they are subjected to their own reviews and updates and guided by the vision and objectives set by the Management Plan. Updates will be reported in future reviews of the Management Plan. The Management Plan therefore sets the framework for strategies and action plans to be taken forward.

³ <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/who-we-are/npmp/management-plan-review/>

I.4 Delivering Wales' Needs

- 19.** In March 2014 the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority worked with the Town and Community Councils to discuss the key issues we need to tackle to ensure the well-being of future generations and what we need to do between now and 2050 to tackle these issues. The results can be found at Appendix 5.
- 20.** A key issue facing the Park is its demographic structure. National Parks are well known to have an older age structure than the nation as a whole. Census data (documented in the State of the Park Report 2014) shows that the average age of National Park residents is 50, 11 years older than Wales as a whole. It also shows that between 2001 and 2011 the Brecon Beacons National Park had the largest percentage increase of 15 to 29 year-olds of any of the National Parks in Wales (and also England). Therefore providing appropriate infrastructure, which includes care, housing, schooling and work opportunities, is crucial to the future well-being of Park residents and economic vibrancy.
- 21.** Management Plan actions identified in Chapter 2 relate both directly and indirectly to outcomes identified within four broad themes of the agenda for Wales⁴. These are:
- Growth and sustainable jobs
 - Health well-being
 - Educational attainment
 - Supporting Children, families and deprived communities
- 22.** This plan seeks to promote the principles of regeneration, with many of the different sections contributing strategies and/or actions that support regeneration within the context of the National Park designation. There is a genuine need to build communities that are resilient to future environmental and energy change, economically competitive, socially inclusive and a place where people want to live, invest and enjoy their leisure.
- 23.** The Authority's planning team has recently facilitated the preparation of a pilot project, Hay-on-Wye Town Plan. Through community plans, people are able to prioritise how resources are used locally as well as help create a sense of place by promoting locally distinctive events. This all adds to an area's appeal, enriches the community and improves social resilience. The Hay Town Plan is considered in further detail in Chapter 2, Theme 5.
- 24.** Community groups can also encourage business initiatives which help greatly with the regeneration of an area by creating jobs with any outsourcing often done locally, keeping money in the area. Communities may also choose to apply to grant schemes sponsored by government departments and other agencies to fund local regeneration projects. Ultimately,

⁴ <http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/?lang=en>

many options are available to local communities that will enhance the local sense of place and their well-being. This Plan helps build a solid foundation for doing so.

25. The Heads of the Valleys Strategic Regeneration Area (as identified by the Welsh Government) includes the communities in the south of the Brecon Beacons National Park. The Wales Spatial Plan, in setting a strategic context for development and regeneration activity, recognises Brecon as a primary key settlement to be developed and as a tourism focus, while Crickhowell, Hay-on-Wye and Talgarth are also identified as key settlements.
26. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority plays a valuable role, reflecting the Park’s purposes, duty and special qualities. For example, the Authority already funds small community based projects through the Sustainable Development Fund.
27. The Local Development Plan integrates policies for new housing allocations, affordable housing and employment land requirements. It includes policies for the use of planning obligations which can contribute to environmental, social and sustainable economic initiatives as long as they are compatible with the National Park designation.
28. As a public body, National Park Authorities in Wales are required to consider the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill, introduced in July 2014. The Bill strengthens existing governance arrangements for improving the well-being of Wales to ensure that present needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs⁵. The Bill sets out 6 goals, shown below, which reflect how we want to see Wales both now and in the future. This Plan sets out how the work of the Authority will address each of the 6 goals.
29. Each public body has to pursue the common aim by seeking to achieve the well-being goals listed and described in Table 2 below:

Goal	Description of the Goal
A prosperous Wales	An innovative and productive , low carbon emission economy that makes more efficient and proportionate use of resources, and which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities for a skilled and well-educated population
A resilient Wales	A biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change

⁵ <http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2014/8995356/?lang=en>

A healthier Wales	A society in which peoples physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh Language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation

Table 2: Well-being Goals

I.5 Natural Resource Management

- 30.** The Welsh Government’s ‘Living Wales’ programme aims to integrate the demands on our natural resources, such as air, water, landscapes and wildlife in a sustainable manner. It sets out proposals for managing and regulating Wales’ land and water in accordance with principles for ecosystem health and productivity set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity (Appendix 2). The programme created a single body to take over the duties of the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency in Wales and Forestry Commission in Wales in 2013. This single body, called Natural Resources Wales, has issued advice on incorporating the ecosystem approach into management plans for protected landscapes.
- 31.** The document, titled ‘Ecosystem Approach for Protected Landscapes Management Plan Reviews’ sets out The Welsh Government’s desire for a more effective and joined up approach to natural resource management through **area-based approaches** that take account of how ecosystems operate.
- 32.** It states that:
- ***‘The protected landscapes are to be places where a clean and green environment enhances the life experience of people, who in turn conserve the resource for future generations. Their health is bound to the development of surrounding landscapes. The extensive nature of the protected landscapes can secure the sustainable management of healthy, resilient and productive ecosystems. They represent important components of the network of ‘ecosystem service hotspots’ across Wales. An understanding of the special qualities, and the forces affecting them, defines the difference the plan must***

make. An appreciation of the Convention on Biological Diversity principles sets a framework to assess the benefits the plan can deliver.⁶

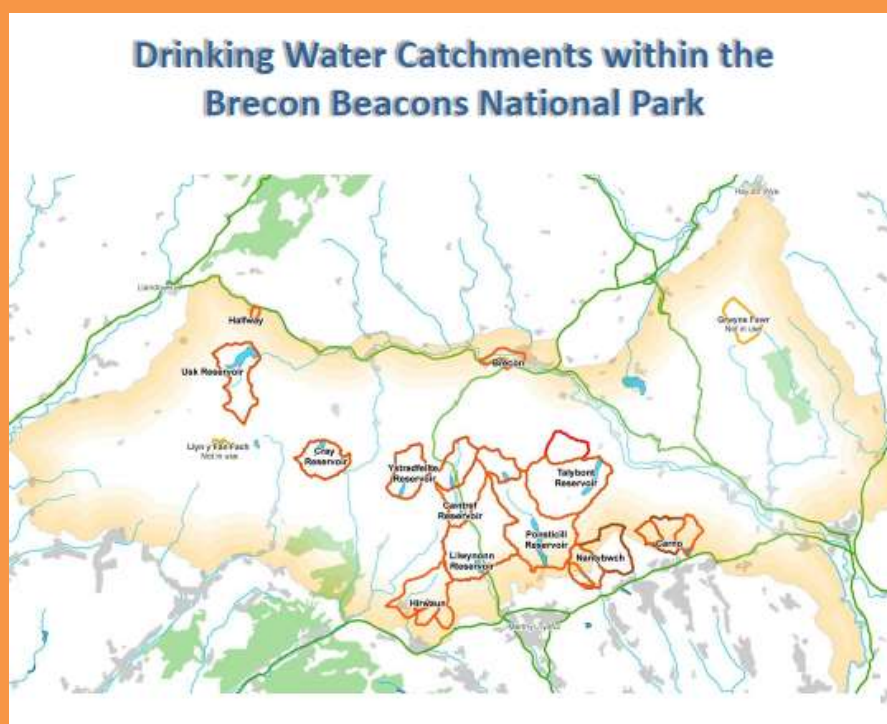
- 33.** The Landscape Character Assessment prepared by the Park and the focus on area based improvements are examples of how the Authority is using the area-based approach to guide management. Further information can be found at paragraph 45 and Theme 1, Chapter 2.

CASE STUDY I

Drinking Water Catchments in the Brecon Beacons National Park.

There are 23 drinking water sources in the National Park including reservoirs, rivers, springs and boreholes. 36% of Cardiff's drinking water is sourced directly from the Brecon Beacons National Park area, and if water from the River Usk (which has over half of it's watershed within the Brecon Beacons National Park) is included, the figure is over 90%.

78% of Swansea's drinking water is from catchments within the Brecon Beacons National Park area, with the remainder sourced from the River Tywi (which has a small area of its watershed in the National Park (map and figures from Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water).



⁶ Ecosystem Approach for Protected Landscapes Management Plan Reviews – NRW March 2014

34. Ecosystem services are the direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human well-being⁷. They support directly or indirectly our survival and quality of life. According to ‘The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity’ (TEEB⁸), ecosystem services can be categorized in four main types:

- **Provisioning services** are the products obtained from ecosystems such as food, fresh water, wood, fibre, genetic resources and medicines.
- **Regulating services** are defined as the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes such as climate regulation, natural hazard regulation, water purification and waste management, pollination or pest control.
- **Supporting/Habitat services** highlight the importance of ecosystems to provide habitat for migratory species and to maintain the viability of gene-pools.
- **Cultural services** include non-material benefits that people obtain from ecosystems such as spiritual enrichment, intellectual development, recreation and aesthetic values.

35. The ecosystem services provided by the Park are extremely valuable in their own right. Humans are entirely dependent on the rest of the living world to provide us with air, food, water, clothing and shelter as a minimum. Thereafter, much of our amenities are products of existing or pre-existing organisms and their functions.

36. Ecosystem services also contribute directly to social and economic well-being and they would be prohibitively expensive to replace if they were lost. Table 3 is a basic illustration of the different types of ecosystem services and how they are provided by the Park.

Ecosystem Services		
Provisioning Services	Regulating Services	Cultural Services
Food through farming/agriculture	Mental and physical well-being	Profound Recreational experiences
Clean water through reservoirs and groundwater storage	Climate regulation and carbon sequestration	Spiritual and historic heritage value
Supporting/Habitat Services		
Pollination and nutrient cycling		

Table 3: Ecosystem Services provided by the Park

⁷ TEEB <http://www.teebweb.org/>

⁸ <http://www.teebweb.org/resources/ecosystem-services/>

1.6 Links to Other Plans and Policies

- 37.** The Management Plan links broad-scale international and national policies with Park-specific decision-making processes. It ensures that the Authority, in cooperation with its partners, contributes and adds value to national policy objectives. As a result, the Plan sets the framework for the corporate Business Plan and detailed Park strategies and programmes, such as the Sustainable Tourism Strategy.
- 38.** This Plan does not attempt to catalogue everything that might happen in the Park in the next ten years. It attempts to set out how objectives will be delivered either through specific actions or, where actions to meet objectives are already contained in supporting strategies by setting the framework for strategies to be developed. The Visitor Management Plan, for example, seeks to establish a long-term approach aimed at improving the sustainability of the enjoyment of the National Park and sets out the short and medium term actions that will deliver this⁹.
- 39.** The Management Plan serves as a mechanism by which priorities are set, actions are monitored and outcomes are evaluated. To this end, the Management Plan provides a firm foundation for assessing the state of the Park's resources. These assessments are summarised in the State of the Park Report, which uses three indicators for each of the Management Plan themes (18 in total) to provide a snapshot of the current health of the Park. The indicators report on the state of each Management Plan theme. These are identified in Chapter 2 below.
- 40.** The land use planning dimension of the National Park Management Plan is delivered through the Local Development Plan, which was adopted by the National Park Authority in December 2013. The Authority has developed its land allocations, policies and design guidance using an environmental capacity approach that is consistent with the Management Plan, aiming to save energy and reduce waste, pollution and the need to travel.
- 41.** Planning is the principal process for achieving sustainable development in the National Park. It has the statutory functions of controlling development and producing a development plan for the Park. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, as with other local planning authorities, is subject to planning legislation, Government guidance and regulations. In most cases, these apply in the same way both inside and outside National Parks, for example in planning for residential development whilst protecting the countryside.
- 42.** In addition, Government planning guidance for Wales requires National Park Authorities to give great weight to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty within their Parks. It states that developments which are of national rather than local significance will not be

⁹ <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/communities/tourism-new/visitor-management-plan-1/>

permitted in the National Park except in exceptional circumstances that are deemed to outweigh the protections laid down in the National Park designation.

- 43.** A key tool for developing understanding of the National Park will be the implementation of the Research Prospectus. The Authority seeks collaboration with universities and research institutions to develop applied research and teaching programmes to assist the National Park and its communities in meeting the challenges identified in Chapter 2.
- 44.** Like the Management Plan and the State of the Park Report, the Research Prospectus is structured using the six Management Plan themes. It identifies research needs within each theme to develop research questions to be addressed by undergraduate and postgraduate students. Current research already underway in the Park, as documented in the Research Prospectus, is seen in Table 4. Since the Prospectus was launched in 2014, additional research projects have commenced and some have been completed. While it is not a definitive list, it provides a good indication of what research has been undertaken in the Park and the how future research ideas could be taken forward.

Project	Partners	Timeline
Catchment hydrological monitoring project	Welsh Water, Natural Resources Wales(Natural Resources Wales), Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Aberystwyth University	From 2012
KESS studentship	Swansea University, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	From 2011
Natural history MSc (two students in 2011)	Glamorgan University	Annual
PhD: Factors affecting the ecology of Carabidae in a modified riverine environment	Cardiff University	Until 2014
Field spectroscopy on the Black Mountain; using GIS, remote sensing and fire simulation to assess wildfire damage	Leicester University, Aberystwyth University, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, NERC hyperspectroscopy specialists	From 2011
Biodiversity audits of key settlements	Brecknock Wildlife Trust, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	2011-2012
Education	Some work between Welsh National Parks	From 2011

Table 4: Research Projects underway in the National Park

- 45.** The spatial approach of the Landscape Character Assessment¹⁰ provides a clear geographic reference for landscape character, special qualities and issues of landscape change across the National Park. It is intended to be used in a number of ways, including:

¹⁰ Brecon Beacons Landscape Character Assessment; <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/planning/draft-strategy-and-policy/landscape-character-assessment/>

- *Assessing the qualities of **wildness, tranquillity and remoteness** across the National Park to develop a policy related to the impacts of recreation and development on these qualities.*
- *Contributing to the development of policies with regard to **large-scale developments on the fringes** of the National Park.*
- *Use as **Supplementary Planning Guidance**, supporting emerging policies in the Local Development Plan which aim to protect the special qualities of the National Park.*
- *Forming baseline evidence in the development of a **visitor management strategy**.*

46. In addition it will inform community development, village plans, Glastir, countryside priorities, education and information through its contribution to understanding of sense of place. The map at Appendix 5 shows the 15 landscape character areas identified in the assessment.

47. Formulation of the National Park Management Plan is an iterative process. Knowledge gained from evaluating the Plan's progress and through monitoring the state of the Park and other strategies informs the Plan's future policies and priorities.

1.7 Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

48. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority's role is to facilitate, coordinate and add value to the work of others in the Park whilst delivering its own programme of work in fulfilment of Park purposes and the Authority's duty. It is not the responsibility of the Authority to duplicate work or assume others' responsibilities except where it has been previously agreed. To this end, responsible stewardship of the National Park rests not only upon the shoulders of the Authority and other public bodies but also upon the shoulders of all who reside, work, recreate and/or otherwise have a vested interest in the Park.

49. The Authority is made up of approximately 100 staff. Its headquarters are in Brecon and smaller centres are located through the Park. Over 150 volunteers work with the Authority and in 2013/14, the National Park Authority benefited from over 10,000 hours of volunteer time. Volunteers do invaluable work across the National Park on a variety of activities including working with wardens on site-based work and at the Visitor Centres and Craig-y-Nos Country Park.

50. There are significant benefits for the volunteers themselves including health benefits that come with working in protected landscapes, learning and discovering new skills, developing social networks with like-minded people, or simply the feeling of 'giving something back' to nature and/or their community often leading to increased feelings of well-being.

51. The Park, as an administrative area, covers parts of 7 of Wales' 22 Unitary Authorities which further emphasizes the need to work together in a collaborative and cooperative fashion.

1.8 Vision

52. The following **vision statements** describe the overarching ambitions for the Park from those responsible for managing it, for the next 20 years. These statements are the result of an extensive consultation process which investigated the Park's current state and its desired future condition. The vision and aims are based on the collective views of the participants as well as policy directives and ambitions from governing bodies. They answer the question, 'What should the Brecon Beacons National Park be like in 20 years' time?' In 2030 the Brecon Beacons National Park will be:

- Recognised internationally and nationally for its value as a protected area, whose character continues to be shaped by the long-standing interactions between people and the processes of nature.
- Widely acclaimed for its natural beauty, geodiversity, biodiversity and cultural heritage while being a sought-after destination, providing an outstanding variety of sustainable opportunities for all to understand and enjoy its tranquillity, rural character, Welsh way of life, sense of remoteness and other special qualities¹.
- Resilient, open and responsive to change – particularly climate change - and its stakeholders proactive in mitigating and adapting to the effects of undesirable change through local action.
- Less dependent upon external supply chains leading to increased food and energy security locally, improved quality of life, community cohesion and conservation of natural capital.
- A living landscape where people can earn a living from the land in an innovative and sustainable manner, for example through farming, but also in new ways such as through renewable energy production, for the benefit of the environment, economy and local communities.
- Managed sustainably¹ through active partnerships among the Park's stakeholders so that it continues to be a source of inspiration and enjoyment for future generations.
- Monitored over the long term to improve future policy and management practice.

1.9 Special Qualities

53. The following list captures the most common themes identified as **special qualities** through detailed consultation during the preparation of *'Managing Change Together'*. Management activity must take into consideration the potential effects on special qualities specific to a given locality:

- A National Park offering peace and tranquillity with opportunities for quiet enjoyment, inspiration, relaxation and spiritual renewal.
- A feeling of vitality and healthfulness that comes from enjoying the Park's fresh air, clean water, rural setting, open land and locally produced foods.
- A sense of place and cultural identity - "Welshness" - characterized by the use of the indigenous Welsh language, religious and spiritual connections, unique customs and events, traditional foods and crafts, relatively unspoilt historic towns and villages and family farms. The continued practices of traditional skills developed by local inhabitants to live and earn a living here, such as common land practices and grazing.
- A sense of discovery where people are able to explore the Park's hidden secrets and stories such as genealogical histories, prehistoric ritual sites, medieval rural settlements, early industrial sites, local myths and legends and geological treasures.
- The Park's sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty observed across a variety of harmoniously connected landscapes, including marvellous gorges and waterfalls, classic karst geology with caves and sink holes, contrasting glacial landforms such as cliffs and broad valleys carved from old red sandstone and prominent hilltops with extensive views in all directions.
- A working, living "patchwork" of contrasting patterns, colours, and textures comprising well-maintained farmed landscapes, open uplands, lakes and meandering rivers punctuated by small-scale woodlands, country lanes, hedgerows and stone walls and scattered settlements.
- Extensive and widespread access to the Park's diversity of wildlife and richness of semi-natural habitats, such as native woodlands, heathland and grassland, natural lakes and riparian habitats, ancient hedgerows, limestone pavement and blanket bogs including those of international and national importance.
- In the context of the UK, geographically rugged, remote and challenging landscapes.
- Enjoyable and accessible countryside with extensive, widespread and varied opportunities to pursue walking, cycling, fishing, water-based activities and other forms of sustainable recreation or relaxation.
- An intimate sense of community where small, pastoral towns and villages are comparatively safe, friendly, welcoming and retain a spirit of cooperation.

1.10 Guiding Principles

54. The instructions on the production of National Park Management Plans states that they should clearly distinguish between the ambitions for the Park, defined in a vision and supporting aims and objectives, and how the vision and objectives will be delivered (National Park Management Plans Guidance – NRW 2007). *‘Managing Change Together’* identified the following guiding principles for the National Park:

- Sustainability
- Community Engagement
- Social Inclusion
- Cohesive Partnerships
- Integrated management including Science and Evidence
- Regeneration

55. These guiding principles were fundamental to the development of the vision and special qualities identified in this Plan. These are the central threads running throughout the Management Plan that bind it together and should be reflected in the delivery of the outcomes. They address the delivery process just as much as they do the proposed outcomes.

56. Approximately 65% of the National Park is in private ownership. Therefore local people will be at the heart of the delivery of many of the objectives set out in this Plan. The actions within this plan require the delivery organisations to help and encourage people to achieve those objectives.

57. This Plan identifies the key strategic objectives that will be implemented by a range of organisations. It also lists the main bodies that will contribute to its delivery. The objectives in the Plan include measureable targets that will allow progress to be meaningfully assessed and publicly reported (see below).

1.11 Sustainability Appraisal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment) and Habitats Regulations Assessment

58. The preparation of *‘Managing Change Together’* was subject to a Sustainability Appraisal which included a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This tested the implications of the objectives and made recommendations on their potential impact on sustainable development, including any impacts on the environment. In turn, these impacts were taken into account in drafting the final objectives.

59. A Habitats Regulations Assessment was also completed as part of the original plan. This was undertaken to assess whether any of the objectives might have an impact on conservation sites designated under the European Habitats Directive, which, as part of a European Network (Natura 2000), are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species.
60. The Local Development Plan, adopted in December 2013, was also subject to Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment. The outcomes of this Management Plan on the environment will be monitored to ensure that significant adverse effects continue to be avoided. A monitoring framework has been developed that incorporates measures that have already been developed by the National Park Authority to monitor the implementation of the Local Development Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment of the National Park Management Plan.
61. As this plan does not propose any significant alterations to ‘*Managing Change Together*’ any changes in this plan are minor modifications to the existing Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment and will be reported accordingly.

1.12 Monitoring, Review and Reporting Process

62. The Authority uses the six Management Plan themes for reporting progress through Business Improvement Plans (specific to the Authority and submitted to the Wales Audit Office) and the State of the Park Report (a park wide report). There are however, many other objective measures of Management Plan success, such as the Annual Monitoring Report of the Local Development Plan and reporting through the Visitor Management Plan.
63. There will also be anecdotal measures of success which, though difficult to quantify, can be gathered through regular and positive engagement with communities.
64. We will use the National Park Authority website (www.beacons-npa.gov.uk) to provide regular updates of progress in implementing objectives in this Management Plan. The State of the Park Report will be used to measure the health of the Park and will be developed over time to ensure it continues to be an invaluable monitoring resource.
65. This is both a strategic document and a dynamic Management Plan, to be used and re-used. It will hold delivery organisations (including the Authority) to account and is capable of adjustment, where necessary, to reflect significant changes due to unforeseen circumstances.
66. A consultation and engagement report and a full description of the Management Plan review process are available on the Authority’s Management Plan review web page: (<http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-Authority/who-we-are/npmp/management-plan-review/>).

Chapter 2 – Management Plan Themes

2.1 Theme 1 – Managing Park Landscapes to Maximise Conservation and Public Benefits

Background

- 67.** The Brecon Beacons National Park is a Category V Protected Area according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature¹¹. This means it is an area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value. Safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.
- 68.** This status is the highest level of protection available for landscapes and areas of scenic beauty in the UK. It is described in the Park's first purpose, to conserve the landscape - along with its ecology, biodiversity and cultural heritage including the built and archaeological environment. The landscape has a value in its own right, while also providing valuable benefits to local communities, businesses and visitors. The competing demands of each require management.

Delivering Wales' Needs

- 69.** The Brecon Beacons National Park provides a great diversity of landscapes, which have been documented in the Park's Landscape Character Assessment¹². The quality of landscapes contributes to the quality of life of both residents and visitors. The landscape is a valuable asset and the primary reason for National Park designation.
- 70.** The landscape provides a shared identity and a sense of place in Park communities which facilitates community resilience.
- 71.** One of National Park Wales' three priority actions is to maximise opportunities for all people in Wales to access the health and well-being benefits of the natural environment and landscape features of National Parks. This is considered further in Themes 3 and 4 later in this document.
- 72.** The Category V designation recognises the landscape's relationship with human beings over time. The landscape has been farmed for generations, providing employment and food to its communities. The well-being of the farming community is fundamental to the future of the landscape and communities of the National Park. This is considered further in Theme 5.

¹¹ www.iucn.org

¹² <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/planning/draft-strategy-and-policy/landscape-character-assessment/>

- 73.** The landscape attracts visitors thereby also making it an important economic asset. This is considered further in Theme 6.

Challenges

- 74.** Managing the landscape means confronting change, which could be the result of the impact of climate change or of balancing large numbers of visitors. As a result, active management is required to control competing processes and optimise the success of conservation efforts and the delivery of public benefits. This is a responsibility which is shared across individuals, groups and organisations concerned with the future of the Park and its diverse landscapes, and its complexity emphasises the need for an integrated and cohesive approach to landscape management. A cooperative approach will increase the likelihood of continued success.
- 75.** The effect of development on the Park's special qualities was highlighted as a key issue throughout the preparation of the Local Development Plan. Theme 5 of this Plan considers the environmental capacity approach to spatial development demonstrated in the Local Development Plan. This approach is consistent with the vision and objectives set out in '*Managing Change Together*'.
- 76.** The Landscape Character Assessment for the National Park provides management guidelines based on the special qualities of the 15 landscape areas. It has been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the Authority, it provided the framework for the Park's Visitor Management Plan to be taken forward and it is used to inform Glastir schemes.
- 77.** Importantly, the Landscape Character Assessment provides the flexibility for the National Park Authority to take forward an area based approach to land management. Accordingly the Authority has prioritised four geographic areas within the Park:
- Mynydd Du;
 - Waterfall Country;
 - Llangasty Caeau-ty-Mawr;
 - Black Mountains
- 78.** The spatial approach provides a clear geographical reference for landscape character, special qualities and Park-wide issues. Prioritising these four areas for improvement will allow the Authority to focus its resources so that conservation, visitor impacts and other Park-wide issues will experience positive changes during the life of this Plan and its vision. The National Park Authority and partner organisations will continue to conduct conservation works elsewhere in the Park, but we hope to make a concerted effort to tackle outstanding issues and enhance the special qualities of these areas.
- 79.** The National Park Authority and its partner organisations are increasingly adopting a landscape scale approach as the most practical way to achieving conservation management.

80. The Brecon Beacons National Park has a long and colourful history, and a rich and varied cultural heritage. We can see the legacy that past peoples have left to us in the rich archaeological heritage and our historic buildings and settlements across the National Park. The National Park is home to a wealth of archaeological remains from prehistoric stone circles and burial chambers, Iron Age hillforts, Roman camps, medieval castles and the remains of our industrial past. Within the National Park there are archaeological sites of local, regional, national and international significance, including 357 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Many of these are exceptionally well preserved, surviving as visible and upstanding features in the landscape, contributing to the National Park's special qualities and its sense of place. The wide range of impressive and important architecture that you find in the Brecon Beacons National Park, from our fine rural buildings to our historic townscapes, also bears witness to the National Park's important cultural inheritance. There are 1,950 Listed Buildings in the Park, as well as 17 Registered Parks and Gardens and four Conservation Areas. The heritage of the National Park has survived for many hundreds or thousands of years; it is a valuable but finite resource, which needs to be carefully managed and conserved to ensure that it survives for future generations to enjoy. The National Park Authority plays a key role in understanding, managing and conserving the cultural heritage of the Park, working in partnership with Cadw, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts.

81. '*Managing Change Together*' identified the key elements requiring management for Theme I as:

- Landscape
- Farming
- Historic Environment (Built and Archaeological environment – see Case Study Brecon Young Archaeologists Club p23)
- Geodiversity
- Woodlands

82. These set the framework for the actions which can be found on page 25. The vast majority of issues identified in the rest of this Management Plan will also have some impact on Theme I, as many are inextricably linked.

CASE STUDY 2

Brecon Beacons Young Archaeologists Club

The Brecon Beacons Young Archaeologists' Club provides opportunities for children and young people aged 8-16 to engage with the archaeology and heritage of the National Park, and beyond. The Club aims to inspire and excite its young members, and to empower them to help shape its future. During 2014 the Club investigated the life of local soldiers fighting in the First World War; explored the forgotten lime heritage of the National Park; scaled the heights of Pen-y-Crug hillfort to learn about the life of our Iron Age ancestors; and took part in its first archaeological excavation (an opportunity that isn't often available to under 16s). The Club is run by a group of 10 leaders under the overall management of the National Park Authority's Heritage Officer, all of whom give their time to the Club on a voluntary basis. The Club's membership currently stands at over 30, and is growing. The membership is drawn from a large geographic area, from Herefordshire in the east, as far West as Lampeter, from the Heads of the Valleys in the south and Builth Wells in the north. The Club attracts members from a wide range of background, including those not in main stream education and children with learning difficulties or other special educational needs.



How progress will be reported against Management Plan actions

- 83.** Further to the monitoring, reporting and review process identified at 1.12, the health of this particular theme will be monitored, analysed and reported in the State of the Park Report (2014) and subsequent updates to it.
- 84.** The State of the Park Report records data under each of the six Management Plan themes and demonstrates trends that indicate how well the Management Plan is being delivered. Using the indicators identified in the table below this theme is currently in ‘good’ condition.
- 85.** The current indicators are quantifiable measurements that reflect the critical success factors within the theme. The State of the Park Report will be updated regularly and published as necessary. Other indicators are likely to be added to the list to develop our understanding of the state of the Park.

Indicator (State of the Park Report)	Trends/Direction
Landscape Character Assessment	Maintaining and where possible improving each of the 15 landscape character areas
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and Listed Buildings (LBs) at Risk	Improving the condition of SAMs and reducing the number of LBs at risk
Condition of Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites	Improving the condition of RIGS

ACTIONS Theme 1 – Managing Park Landscapes to Maximise Conservation and Public Benefits

86. The following table provides specific actions required to deliver the aims, describes lead partners and how the action links to the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Bill.

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation/s	Key Partners	How will this be achieved?
Historic Environment	1: Develop and deliver an implementation plan of positive project works to research conserve and enhance the historic environment	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Cadw, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, World Heritage Site, Unitary Authorities, Local Communities	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners
	2: Deliver archaeological conservation and enhancement within the Planning Service.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority		Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners
	3: Continue to deliver the buildings at risk conservation function within the Planning Service.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Cadw, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Unitary Authorities Cadw	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners
	4: Develop and establish monitoring framework for Heritage Sites at Risk within the National Park	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Cadw, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Welsh Archaeological Trusts	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation/s	Key Partners	How will this be achieved?
	5: Produce a suite of guidance for built heritage.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Cadw, Welsh Archaeological Trusts	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners
	6: Organise a biennial Heritage Day to promote and celebrate the heritage of the National Park.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Cadw, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, World Heritage Site, Unitary Authorities, Local Communities	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners
	7: Develop a heritage strategy to identify the key objectives for the sustainable management of the historic environment and cultural heritage of the National Park.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Cadw, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, World Heritage Site, Unitary Authorities, Local Communities	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners
	8: Develop a Historic Environment Research Framework for the National Park	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Cadw, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, World Heritage Site, Unitary Authorities, Local Communities Authority / World Heritage Site	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority with partners

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation/s	Key Partners	How will this be achieved?
Maximise inward investment for land management	9: Work closely with Farming Connect and Agri-environment scheme Project Officers to improve the chances for the Park's farmers to provide public benefits in the countryside, including the delivery of environmental goods and services as well as food.	Welsh Government, Farming Connect, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Farming Organisations, Natural Resources Wales, Forgotten Landscapes Project	Glastir advanced schemes in the east of the park
	10: Attract new investment for managing the Park's landscape to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Landowners	Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, National Trust, Forgotten Landscapes Project/ World Heritage Site	Support Local Glastir partnerships + develop Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes in the park. Indirectly through Village Plans
Rural Resilience	11: Create a partnership to increase public recognition of the value of farming to achieving the National Park's purposes.	Countryside and Land Association Cymru, Farmers' Union of Wales, National Farmers Union, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Local Farmers, Commoners/Graziers Associations, Landowners	Externally funded partnership
	12: Develop working partnerships to deliver integrated land management and rural resilience using the Rural Development Plan and other structural and national financial instruments. Promote benefits of high nature value farming.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Local Farmers, Commoners/Graziers Associations, Landowners	Externally funded partnership
	13: Develop and implement methods for educating farmers and public officials in the Park about the issues facing the future of farming and their potential solutions	Countryside and Land Association Cymru, Farmers' Union of Wales, National Farmers Union	Local Farmers, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Tourism Strategy seeks to engage more actively with farming community

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation/s	Key Partners	How will this be achieved?
Visitor Impacts	14: Develop codes of conduct for priority activities within the context of the Visitor Management Plan.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Natural Resources Wales, Tourism Businesses, User Groups	Implement Visitor Management Plan
	15: Review Rights of Way Improvement Plan and the Upland Erosion Strategy	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Farming Organisations, Cadw, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Natural Resources Wales Local Communities, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Tourism and Other Businesses	Survey work
	16: Prioritise and plan management of the four focal areas :Mynydd Du; Waterfall Country; Llangasty Caeau-ty-Mawr; Black Mountains	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Natural Resources Wales, Local Farmers, Commoners, Tourism Businesses, User Groups	Mynydd Du; Waterfall Country; Llangasty Caeau-ty-Mawr; Black Mountains
Geodiversity	17: Plan and undertake site-based conservation project work on sites of geological importance.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales	Forgotten Landscapes Project	Site improvements undertaken by RIGS group eg litter picking and vegetation clearance. reported in the State of the Park Report
	18: Monitor sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Areas of Conservation (SSSI/SAC) with geological importance and take action to ensure their favourable conservation status.	Natural Resources Wales	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Forgotten Landscapes Project	Various measures as required

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation/s	Key Partners	How will this be achieved?
Raise Awareness and Understanding	19: Implement education, information and interpretation strategies to raise awareness and understanding of the Park's wildlife, farming, landscape and environment.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority,	Wildlife Trusts, Natural Resources Wales Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Canals and Rivers Trust, Forgotten Landscapes Project/World Heritage Site, BBT, Local Authorities	Education Strategy, Interpretation Strategy and Information Plans
	20: Deliver the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority's environmental education programme annually.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Brecknock Wildlife Trust, Youth Hostelling Association (YHA), Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Forgotten Landscapes Project/World Heritage Site	Education Strategy,
	21: Work in partnership to enhance the visitor experience of the Parks wildlife, farming, landscape and environment.	BBNPA, Cadw, Natural Resources Wales, National Trust, Local Authorities	Local Communities, Dwr Cymru, Canals and Rivers Trust, World Heritage Site, Wildlife Trusts, BBT,	Interpretation strategy and information plan
Woodlands	22: Expand native woodlands including farm woodland habitats towards the higher slopes where existing forests lie	Natural Resources Wales	Local Landowners, Farmers, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Implementation of Management Plans
	23: Maintain forests in appropriate areas whilst integrating them into the landscape through sustainable forest design principles.	Natural Resources Wales	Local Landowners, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Natural Resources Wales prepare Forest Design Plans
	24: Restore internationally recognised habitats currently in woodlands, such as upland blanket bogs, upland heathland and upland oakwoods, where the environmental benefit from restoration is greater than	Natural Resources Wales	Local Landowners, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales, Wildlife Trusts, Forgotten	

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation/s	Key Partners	How will this be achieved?
	leaving the area wooded, and where the viability and potential exists.		Landscapes Project/World Heritage Site	which are circa 20 year plans - Brecon Beacons National Park Authority are consulted on them
	25: Practice continuous cover forestry techniques in suitable forests where appropriate tree species, aspect, age, past management prescriptions and soils permit.	Natural Resources Wales	Local Landowners, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	
	26: Facilitate community woodland agreements within easy access of existing and future towns and villages to contribute to local Gross Domestic Product and to an improved sense of health and well-being.	Natural Resources Wales	Local Councillors, Local Businesses, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	

2.2 Theme 2 – Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity

Background

- 87.** Biodiversity encompasses all aspects of the living world which are made up of a variety of diverse, dynamic and highly complex interrelated ecosystems. The value of these ecosystems is becoming increasingly apparent as humans discover their fundamental importance in the provision of services on which life depends.
- 88.** Further to the intrinsic value it holds in its own right, the natural world provides enjoyment, inspiration and spiritual benefits essential to the physical and mental well-being of humans. Many jobs, areas of research and opportunities for volunteering are directly linked to the environment. The task facing National Park managers is to conserve our biological resources and enhance them where possible. National and international policies ensure that biodiversity is a prime consideration across all sectors of National Park management.
- 89.** Habitat loss and degradation is one of the most important issues facing those tasked with conserving and enhancing biodiversity. When humans convert wild areas for agriculture, forestry, urban development or water projects, they reduce or eliminate that areas usefulness as a habitat for other species. Reductions in ecosystem services are associated with declines in habitat extent and with condition and changes in biodiversity. Other important issues facing biodiversity include climate change, which accelerates the risks of habitat decline and fragmentation, and the arrival of invasive non-native species) which further undermine ecological resilience.

Delivering Wales' Needs

- 90.** The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority is a signatory to the Sustainable Development Charter. Sustainability is at the heart of the Management Plan. This will strengthen the National Park's economic well-being, improve the environment and help address key social issues such as fuel poverty. The Local Development Plan, approved by the Authority in December 2013, was prepared using an environmental capacity approach to sustainable development and addresses land use planning issues in a National Park context. The Local Development Plan adheres to two fundamental principles:
- Maintaining and enhancing the National Park's natural resources and ecosystem services in accordance with Strategic Policy 1 (National Park Policy) and Strategic Policy 3 (Environmental Protection).
 - Providing opportunities for our communities to become more self-sufficient in terms of both fuel and food production, in line with Spatial Policy E LPI (See Case Study – Dragon's Teeth)

91. Biodiversity provides numerous benefits to the National Park. Agriculture relies on soil formation, nutrients, water flow and pollination, all provided by functioning ecosystems. The uplands play a significant role in water storage and release, providing a natural defence against both drought and flood. Upland peat bogs store carbon and where they are free from the effects of historic heavy grazing pressure, atmospheric pollution and illegal fires, they sequester, or capture, atmospheric carbon too, which helps mitigate the effects of climate change. Improved biodiversity enhances enjoyment and recreational opportunities. All of these services contribute to the social and economic well-being of the Park.

CASE STUDY 3

Dragon's Teeth Micro Hydro Scheme

The Brecon Beacons National Park has supported communities to develop renewable energy projects. On two occasions the Sustainable Development Fund has supported the Forgotten Landscapes partnership to develop its community plans for small scale hydro electricity generation. Initially a grant was awarded towards the purchase of the turbine for the Dragon's Teeth Hydro project. The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership applied for financial support to install a 20kw Ossberger crossflow turbine on the Afon Lwyd at Blaenavon. Proceeds from electricity sales are being used to fund community led heritage projects which reconnect local people with their important heritage landscape, conserving heritage features and helping to increase visitor numbers to the area.

A second grant was awarded towards a project where a skilled consultancy identified potential new sites for hydro across the Forgotten Landscapes area. These sites were assessed for their viability and to establish precise costs of installation and expected annual incomes.



Challenges

- 92.** 'Managing Change Together 2010-2015' described how we proposed to take forward a landscape-scale approach to conservation in the National Park. Such an approach requires the co-operation of all of the National Park's partners to make sure that the needs of individual species and habitats are met. At the same time, managers can take a broader view of each habitat's position in the landscape, the habitats' relationships to each other and their interconnectedness to enable species to flourish. Conservation actions will be developed by partners under the Park's Local Biodiversity Action Plan, such as the Wildlife Trusts.
- 93.** One of the major issues facing biodiversity is the landscape/habitat change caused by the continued spread of the disease *Phytophthora ramorum*, a fungus like disease which attacks trees and other plants. Where larch trees are infected, the fungus produces high numbers of spores that spread the disease, with the result that many larch plantations become infected¹³. There is no threat to human or animal health from *Phytophthora ramorum* but the disease has spread through Wales much more quickly than expected. The main area of infection in Wales is expanding from the south, to mid and north Wales. Despite control attempts the disease will soon be prevalent throughout the country. Felling of infected larch has already taken place at Afan Forest Park in South Wales and at the time of publication (Spring 2015) at the Natural Resources Wales visitor centre site at Garwnant in the Brecon Beacons National Park, as well as other forestry plantations. Further guidance notes are available on the Natural Resource Wales website. Many other non-native invasive species are making their presence known in the Park and will continue to degrade native habitats and species if they go unchecked.
- 94.** In 2011 the UK wide National Ecosystem Assessment¹⁴ published a variety of key findings about the state of the natural environment in the UK. It included six key messages, which can be found in Appendix I. The assessment raises two key issues. Firstly, one of the principal threats to habitat loss is their conversion into intensive farmland and agricultural use. Secondly, the report notes that the natural world, its biodiversity and its constituent ecosystems are critically important to our well-being and economic prosperity, but are consistently undervalued in conventional economic analyses and thus in decision making. In Wales, enclosed farmland is a vital habitat in terms of food production and provision of landscape, recreation and other cultural benefits but also imposes important disadvantages in terms of emissions of greenhouse gases, diffuse water pollution and losses to biodiversity.

¹³ <http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/content/docs/pdfs/newsletters/bwlch-nant-yr-arian-autumn-2013-en.pdf?lang=en>

¹⁴ <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Resources/tabid/82/Default.aspx>

Although biodiversity responds to farming, suitable space for wildlife is ever scarcer within the modern, intensely farmed environment. The assessment suggests that we are not doing enough to mitigate these negative impacts.

How progress will be reported against Management Plan actions

- 95.** Further to the monitoring, reporting and review process identified at 1.12, the health of this particular theme will be monitored, analysed and reported in the State of the Park Report (2014) and subsequent updates to it.
- 96.** The State of the Park Report records data under each of the six Management Plan themes and demonstrates trends that indicate how well the Management Plan is being delivered. Using the indicators identified in the table below, this theme is currently in 'good' condition
- 97.** The current indicators are quantifiable measurements that reflect the critical success factors within the theme. The State of the Park Report will be updated regularly and published as necessary. Other indicators are likely to be added to the list to develop our understanding of the state of the Park.

Indicator (State of the Park Report)	Trends/Direction
Condition of Biological Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Increase the percentage, and area, of biological features that are in a favourable condition
Water Quality	Improve water quality so that all relevant water bodies in the Park are classified as being in 'good' condition.
Phase I Habitat Data	Manage and identify habitat trends

- 98.** The Plan aims to develop community based projects such as volunteer activities targeted at delivering local actions. A key aim is to research and monitor the populations of particular species and habitats. This aims to establish what is happening to them over time and the impact of any interventions made to try and improve their ecological condition and long term ecological status. It also aims to raise awareness and understanding of the Park's biodiversity for residents and visitors alike. An example of a community based project is the Mynydd Du Glastir Commons Work (See case study on page 35).

CASE STUDY 4

Mynydd Du - Glastir

The Park Authority has collaborated with the Mynydd Du graziers for a long time under the Meithrin Mynydd partnership. Most recently this has borne fruit through assisting graziers, Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government Glastir Contract Officers to identify several “Glastir Commons” for which separate Glastir Commons Associations have been established. The Park Authority has helped to delineate project areas on the ground, undertake initial habitat condition assessments, identify useful landscape and habitat restoration projects, including restoration of sheep folds, undertaking controlled heather and *Molinia* burning, heather seed harvesting, bracken control and bare peat protection works. This work helps to restore formerly over-grazed or poorly burnt habitats, which protect biodiversity, improve carbon storage and sequestration and grazing quality for livestock. In turn this helps to maintain livelihoods and enhance the special qualities of the mountain.



ACTIONS Theme 2 – Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity

99. The following table provides specific actions required to deliver the aims, describes lead partners and how the action links to the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Bill.

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation/s	Key Partners	How will this be achieved?
Awareness and Understanding	27: Report and promote the biodiversity conservation work undertaken in the National Park using the Biodiversity Action Reporting System.	Local Biodiversity Action Plan partners	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Local Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group	Biodiversity Action Reporting System, Various
	28: Influence policies to ensure that future development proposals do not harm the rich biodiversity of the National Park in any way.	Local Biodiversity Action Plan partners	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Through continued responses to consultations ie Glastir, Rural Development Plan etc
	29: Champion an awareness and understanding of Biodiversity through our education, information and interpretation partnership projects	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	As per project	Education Strategy, Interpretation Strategy and Information Plans
Monitoring and Research Programmes	30: Undertake site monitoring work on key LBAP sites.	Local Biodiversity Action Plan partners	Landowners, Wildlife Trusts, , Natural Resources Wales Unitary Authorities	Annual monitoring programme
	31: Develop monitoring of key habitats, soils and water.	Natural Resources Wales, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Universities	Landowners, Local Biodiversity Action Plan partners, Unitary Authorities	Annual monitoring programme
	32: Develop Research Partnerships	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority,	Universities	Research Projects and themes
	33: Establish a monitoring framework for fixed point photography and remote sensing.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Wildlife Trusts, Biodiversity Information Service, Natural Resources	Fire damage monitoring; Ongoing, successive monitoring reports

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation/s	Key Partners	How will this be achieved?
			Wales , Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, World Heritage Site/Forgotten Landscapes Project	
Protect and Manage	34: Ensure biodiversity information from the development control process is made available.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Biodiversity Information Service	Build data into the local recording data set; circulate biodiversity information to planning officers
	35: Secure funds and implement one large, area-based land management project.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Landowners, farmers, agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations	External funding; area-based Land Management Partnership
	36: Restore and enhance habitat connectivity along river valleys.	Natural Resources Wales	Landowners, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, National Trust, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, British Waterways, Biodiversity Information Service	
Continue the Research and Management agenda for the	37: Manage the Authority's land assets for biodiversity	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Local Farmers, Neighbouring Landowners, Natural Resources Wales , Local Communities	Identify sites and features that are core to our Purposes and Duty

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation/s	Key Partners	How will this be achieved?
Natural Environment	38: Implement a living landscapes approach to landscape, habitat and wildlife management.	Wildlife Trusts	Farming Organisations, Cadw, Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, National Trust, Natural Resources Wales , Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Local Communities, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, The Green Valleys, Tourism and Other Businesses	Inherent in the work of the Wildlife Trusts
	39: Establish the environmental pollution baselines in the NP in accordance with the Wales Environment Strategy. Publish updates in each successive State of the Park Report.	Natural Resources Wales, Unitary Authorities	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales	Natural Resources Wales evidence pack - ongoing successive monitoring reports.
	40: Prioritise understanding of water and carbon resources management in the NP.	Natural Resources Wales, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Other Water utilities, Welsh Government	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Unitary Authorities	Catchment mgmt plans; Payment for Ecosystems Services schemes.

2.3 Theme 3 – Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Access and Recreation for the Benefit of Health and Well-being

Background

- I00.** Opportunities for outdoor access and recreation are at the heart of the Park's second Purpose. Everyone has the right to access and enjoy health and well-being benefits from the qualities that make the Brecon Beacons National Park special. This contributes directly to the health and well-being of the nation, not only through its beauty, which inspires many people, but also from the wide range of activities which its unique landscape offers.
- I01.** The Park offers enormous variety in upland and low level walks with more than 2,000 km of public rights of way, hidden waterfalls, farmlands, rivers and woodlands offering everyone the opportunity to enjoy the distinct sense of place and discovery.
- I02.** Many people come here to enjoy quiet contemplation of the landscapes which can only be achieved by visiting remote areas. The Park is increasingly used for adventurous activities such as cycling, mountain biking and horse riding, although the most popular activities remains walks through the lowland, followed closely by upland walking. The success of the SPLASH project means that more people than ever have access to appropriate areas to enjoy water sports such as the Beacons Reservoir open to those who have applied through the passport scheme.

Delivering Wales' Needs

- I03.** The National Park provides the setting in which activities that promote good health and well-being can take place. These include 'active' benefits such as walking and 'passive' benefits such as those gained through enjoyment of tranquillity or the inspirational scenery. It also provides the good quality environments that are essential to produce clean air, water and land - without which human health would suffer. The work of the Authority offers substantial opportunities to improve the health and well-being of the nation, from providing the opportunity to volunteer in the Park, to ensuring sustainable access to inspirational environments, see case study – Eastern and Central Brecon Beacons Upland Volunteer Group.

CASE STUDY 5

Eastern and Central Brecon Beacons Upland Volunteer Group

The Black Mountains Upland Volunteer project was set up in 2012 to help the Authority monitor and maintain the large network of mountain paths. It has been enormously successful and the Authority decided to build on this and to establish further groups in areas under high visitor pressure.

The Eastern and Central Brecon Beacons is the next location for a further project with a group of upland volunteers. On land owned mainly by the Honourable Artillery Company and the Pencelli Estate, volunteers will help the Park Authority undertake practical tasks to maintain the paths such as clearing drains, pitching of loose material, repairing slab and stone work.

Volunteers will also be asked to take part in monitoring activities and in promotion by actively engaging with members of the public on the mountains to highlight their work.



- 104.** Through the preparation of a joint “Health and Well-being Action Plan”, the three National Park Authorities in Wales are collaborating closely to improve the health and well-

being of residents and of the wider population of Wales. The action plan sets out a joint position statement on health and well-being and identifies the following three priority actions:

- Raise awareness of the health and well-being benefits opportunities of the National Park
- Maximise opportunities for all people in Wales to access the health and well-being benefits arising from the National Park's natural environment and landscape features
- Continue to develop evidence-based policy and practice in relation to health and well-being and the natural environment and landscape features

105. Census data (2011) tells us that those living in National Parks perceive themselves to be in better health than those living in the rest of the country, yet the average age of residents within National Parks is eleven years higher than in England and Wales as a whole (50 compared to 39). While this perception of improved health is not necessarily related to the landscape, the case studies examined for the 2012/2013 Scrutiny Study¹⁵ undertaken by the Authority (*Communities are inspired by and recognise the benefits of where they live*), show that the National Park Authority can and does deliver clear benefits from its services to local people.

106. Contemporary medicine increasingly uses expensive and complex interventions such as surgery and pharmaceuticals for both prevention and treatment of many of the conditions arising from modern life such as obesity, heart disease and cancer. Many of these conditions are experienced disproportionately by those most disadvantaged by poverty in our society. National Parks are rich in natural and historic heritage and are a unique resource for the health and well-being of residents and visitors. They and their administering Authorities play a part in addressing poor health and associated well-being issues. There is much evidence that National Parks play a vital role in health and well-being in two key ways:

- National Parks provide the settings where activities that promote good health and well-being can take place, including 'active' benefits such as walking and 'passive' benefits such as those gained through enjoyment of 'tranquillity' or the inspirational scenery.
- National Parks support good quality environments essential to maintaining clean air, water and land. The role National Parks have in environmental 'health protection' relates to maintaining and improving public health.

¹⁵ The Authorities Scrutiny Study Web page can be found [here](#)

- I 07.** National Parks are ‘health assets’: resources which enables individuals, communities and populations to maintain their health and well-being. National Parks are ‘salutogenic’ places that support and promote human health and well-being.
- I 08.** Good human health depends upon a good quality environment made possible by a flourishing and diverse ecosystem. The three National Park Authorities in Wales are actively engaged in unlocking the health benefits of the countryside to support the good health of people in Wales and beyond. As described in ‘*Our Health Future*’¹⁶ⁱ there is a move by public health and social care sectors in Wales to tackle some of the root causes of ill health to deliver health and social care beyond the traditional service models. National Parks have a part to play in health promotion generally and particularly for individuals seeking to live with and manage long term conditions such as heart conditions, dementia, diabetes as well as mental health conditions.

Challenges

- I 09.** Activities for outdoor access and recreation require careful management to ensure that the Park’s special qualities are preserved and enhanced and that the purposes and duty of the National Park are met (see case study Offa’s Dyke upland erosion project page 44). The challenge is to maintain the attractiveness of the landscape and protecting the special qualities of the areas that people come here to enjoy and benefit from. Not all activities are sustainable in all areas nor can they be practised with the same level of intensity everywhere.
- I 10.** There are ramifications from this approach for the responsibilities assumed by those accessing the Park. The various individuals and organisations who manage land in the Park need to work together to maintain and enhance opportunities for enjoyment of the Park’s special qualities for the benefit of local communities and visitors. People who are out and about enjoying the Park need to take account of the legal responsibilities they have as well as being respectful of the habitats and wildlife they encounter.
- I 11.** With public sector cuts constantly decreasing the funds available this is a serious challenge.
- I 12.** The Management Plan identifies actions in order to manage the public rights of way network by implementing the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Continued success in managing rights of way will provide even greater opportunities for walking, horse riding, cycling and other forms of open air recreation as well as improving how accessible these activities are for people with mobility or visual impairment.
- I 13.** The Plan aims to improve access to the countryside and offer better information on what recreational activities are available. One of the key issues is to provide more routes

¹⁶ Welsh Assembly Government 2009 : *Our Health Future* : Technical Working Paper

which are accessible to people with disabilities. It also aims to use funding and resourcing opportunities to provide opportunities for people to get out and about.

CASE STUDY 6

Rights of Way Improvement Grant

The Authority's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP), published in June 2007, is a strategic plan setting out needs, priorities and actions for improving access to the countryside. A requirement of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the responsibility for producing a Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park was delegated to the Authority by those highways authorities within the Park. Since 2008 the Welsh Government ROWIP Funding Programme (RFP), administered by Natural Resources Wales, has provided each local authority in Wales as well as the Park Authority with an annual grant, partially based on the length of its rights of way network. Since 2008 that grant has funded a variety of projects to improve access including bridges, steps, signage, furniture, surfacing, drainage, upland erosion management and network management. Hundreds of kilometers of rights of way have been improved since 2008.



CASE STUDY 7

Offa's Dyke Upland Erosion Project

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority flew in more than 400 tonnes of crushed stone by helicopter to restore an eroded footpath on Offa's Dyke in 2014. The path lies between Hay-on-Wye in Powys and Pandy in Monmouthshire and is one of the most popular trails used by walkers who visit the area. The material was deposited on Hay Bluff which is 677m (2,220ft) above sea level.

The stone was used to improve more than two miles (3km) of path - to limit further damage. The sections of worn and eroded footpath were only accessible by foot or by helicopter, and carrying 400 tonnes of stone on foot is not practical. The crushed stone was selected because of its durability and compatibility with the existing stone along the footpath.

Wardens and staff from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority were helped by Black Mountains Uplands volunteers during the operation.

Most of the upland area in the Black Mountains is protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its upland habitats so great care was needed while undertaking this work. The area is also important economically for farming and tourism, which brings important income to the area, but clearly there is a cost to ensuring that the resource the visitors value is maintained.

The project was funded by Natural Resources Wales, Natural England and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

Photo Copyright Chas Breton Photography



How progress will be reported against Management Plan actions

- I 14.** Further to the monitoring, reporting and review process identified at I.12, the health of this theme will be monitored, analysed and reported in the State of the Park Report (2014) and subsequent updates to it.
- I 15.** The State of the Park Report records data under each of the six Management Plan themes and demonstrates trends that indicate how well the Management Plan is being delivered. Using the indicators identified in the table below, it currently identifies this theme as being in ‘good’ condition
- I 16.** The current indicators are quantifiable measurements that reflect the critical success factors within the theme. The State of the Park Report will be updated regularly and published as necessary. Other indicators are likely to be added to the list to develop our understanding of the state of the Park.

Indicator (State of the Park Report)	Trends/Direction
% of Rights of Way that are easy to use	Make rights of way easier to use
Erosion on upland paths	Decrease (manage) upland erosion
Visitor satisfaction	Maintain high levels of visitor satisfaction

ACTIONS Theme 3 – Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Access and Recreation for the benefit of Health and Well-being

117. The following table provides specific actions required to deliver the aims, describes lead partners and how the action links to the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Bill.

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation/s	Key Partners	How will this be achieved?
Information to Improve visitor experience	41: Increase awareness of and provision for people with disabilities and easier access requirements	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Local Access Groups, Landowners, User Groups	Miles without stiles project, seek funding to initiate by 2017
	42: Provide targeted countryside access information in a wider variety of accessible formats.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	User Groups, Local Access Forum, Unitary Authorities, Communities, Tourism Organisations, Forgotten Landscapes Project	Website, Conservation advice
	43: Communicate safety information to visitors effectively	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Natural Resources Wales, Mountain Rescue team, South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group	On-going work
	44: Provide information on safety for visitors and ecosystems	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority		On-going work
	45: Improve access to water.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Natural Resources Wales, Local Communities, Unitary Authorities, Wye and Usk Foundation, British Waterways, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water	Maintain, monitor and manage the work of the Splash project
	46: Link Brecon Beacons National Park Authority promoted routes and public transport.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Unitary Authorities, Public Transport Providers, World Heritage Site	Action in VMP regarding Sustainable Transport

Countryside access	47: Increase health and well-being benefit from the National Park by excluded groups	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Natural Resources Wales, Sport Wales, other delivery partners & funders	Collaborative projects with groups focusing on health & well-being needs
	48: Develop and maintain access on Wildlife Trust-owned reserves.	Wildlife Trust	Unitary Authorities	Carry forward
	49: Maintain at 65% or above the % of the Public Rights of Way network which is easy to use.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Unitary Authorities, Landowners, User Groups, Local Access Forum	Rights of way work, Definitive Map, ROWIP projects; undertake survey and legal and practical works.
Public Rights of Way	50: Make progress towards bringing the Definitive Map and Statement up to date.	Unitary authorities	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Ongoing work
	51: Review statutory Rights of way improvement Plan guidelines when they are published by Welsh Government	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Unitary Authorities, Landowners, User Groups, Local Access Forum	Take forward recommendations from the new ROWIP guidelines, anticipated for later in 2015

2.4 Theme 4 - Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park

Background

118. The National Park is a major natural and cultural resource for everyone's well-being. Managing it successfully relies on raising awareness of what's special so people can understand its importance, care about it and want to take an active role to manage it in partnership.

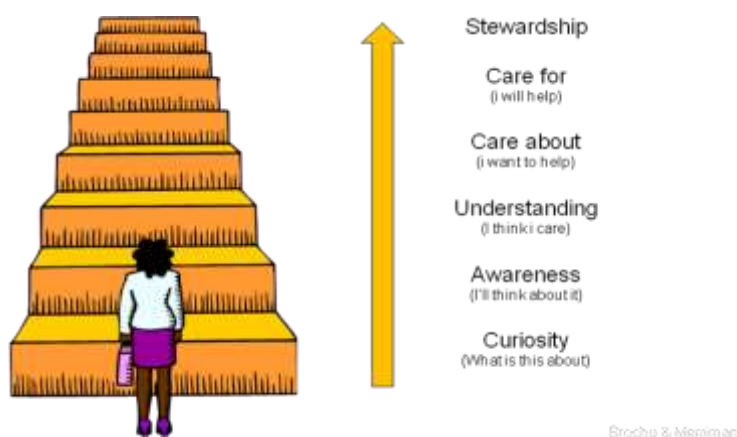


Illustration 1: The connections made through interpretative experiences can lead people to take action

119. People connect to National Park landscapes through positive and memorable visitor experiences. It is by working in partnership to provide these experiences and tell the Park's stories that we are most likely to be successful in raising awareness, understanding and ultimately encouraging more people to behave in a responsible manner and take an active role in managing the Park.
120. Communities and business within the National Park play an important role in creating memorable visitor experiences and are well placed to raise awareness and understanding of the area.
121. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority provides learning experiences that support the statutory purposes of the National Park working within the Welsh curriculum (see case study Ambassador School on page 49). School age children are offered courses at various outdoor education centres and sites within the Park. These centres provide jobs for local people thus supporting the rural economy. In addition, a large number of outdoor providers who are not based in the Park bring groups in to use the National Park for their businesses/learning.

CASE STUDY 8

National Park Schools Ambassadors

Working in partnership with local primary school teachers, the National Park Authority Education team has developed new resources for teachers to use out and about in the Park. The new lessons are based around encouraging children and their teachers to develop confidence in learning outdoors. The lessons are carefully planned to meet curriculum requirements and will support Eco schools, Healthy schools and the participation of the John Muir Award scheme. Crickhowell Community Primary, Talgarth Community Primary and Mount Street Junior School are already up and running with the scheme. Please view their short film on our website www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/learning to find out more about the National Park Ambassador Schools



Delivering Wales' Needs

- 122.** The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority's Education Service works with partners across the Park to facilitate increased opportunities for learning. The teams work incorporates developments in the Welsh and National curricula, and other policies which promote outdoor learning. The provision of unique, Park-focused learning experiences encourage people to work towards becoming future stewards of the landscape in general and this National Park in particular.

Challenges

- I23.** High quality, coordinated information, interpretation and education are vital tools in encouraging opportunities for enjoyment enabling people to make the most of the benefits the Park has to offer while keeping themselves safe and engaging with stories that encourage positive behavioural change.
- I24.** The Management Plan sets out actions which aim to:
- Coordinate resources to improve awareness and understanding of, and benefit from, the National Park.
 - Enable tourism operators to deliver a service to visitors that exceeds their expectations. For example offering training courses to tourism businesses for example the Park Ambassador Scheme or star gazing for businesses which leads to enhanced visitor experiences.
 - Promote and develop a sense of shared responsibility for both the National Park and the European designated Fforest Fawr Geopark
 - Develop a coordinated approach for providing information and interpretation to visitors and residents throughout their experience in the Park, for example orientation at popular carpark to interpretative beer mats in pubs and tourism businesses.
 - Provide innovative ways of engaging and interacting with visitors and residents including those excluded by actual or perceptual barriers.
- I25.** Examples of how these have been achieved and will continue to be delivered are our work with school teachers to help deliver modules on the Park, the Park Ambassador Scheme including Ambassador Schools, the Green Valleys Initiative (which encourages carbon neutral, financially secure and sustainable communities by promoting hydro power, community managed woodlands and allotments), using the results of the resident's survey in 2013 to influence policy and developing the research network.

CASE STUDY 9

Romans in Carmarthenshire – making our heritage accessible

The challenge was to make the earthworks at Y Pigwn physically but more important intellectually accessible to a wider range of visitors. The project has meant that today you can take a tour of the Roman Marching camp at Y Pigwn with the aid of CGI animations, listen to a first-hand account of Roman life while following an audio trail and have a guided tour of earthworks with a GPS App on your smartphone. These projects were developed as part of the ‘Romans in Carmarthenshire’ partnership project which aimed to improve the visitor experience and encourage visitors to ‘follow the story’ to other Roman visitor attractions in Carmarthenshire as part of the Cadw Pan Wales Interpretation Plan.

The project is a partnership between the lead body National Trust Wales, Carmarthenshire County Council and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. It has improved the visitor experience at Y Pigwn, Garn Goch, Dolaucothi goldmines, Carmarthen Museum and Amphitheatre. It is funded through the Heritage Tourism Project managed by Cadw, which is backed by the European Regional Development Fund. The Heritage Tourism Project aims to maximise the economic value of Wales’s outstanding heritage and to open it up to a wider audience by making it more enjoyable. Match funding is also provided by Fforest Fawr Geopark and National Grid



How progress will be reported against Management Plan targets

- I26.** Further to the monitoring, reporting and review process identified at I.12, the health of this particular theme will be monitored, analysed and reported in the State of the Park Report (2014) and subsequent updates to it.
- I27.** The State of the Park Report records data under each of the six Management Plan themes and demonstrates trends that indicate how well the Management Plan is being delivered. The new indicators identified in the table below currently identifies this theme as being in ‘fair’ condition
- I28.** The current indicators are quantifiable measurements that reflect the critical success factors within the theme. The State of the Park Report will be updated regularly and published as necessary. Other indicators are likely to be added to the list to develop our understanding of the state of the Park.

Indicator (State of the Park Report)	Trends/Direction
Number of Outdoor Education Centres	Monitor the number of Outdoor education centres
Number of settlements benefitting from interpretation and/or information panels	An increase in number and quality of community interpretation
Ratio of staying visitors and day visitors	Increase the number of staying visitors

CASE STUDY 10

Maen Llia- Raising Awareness of our Heritage

Following defacement of this Scheduled Ancient Monument the National Park Authority wanted to raise awareness and appreciation of Maen Llia, the largest and possible best known standing stone in the National Park. Although an iconic site we can't be sure of the purpose of the stone so the interpretation panel aims to present a number of theories to inspire the reader to come to their own conclusions. The innovative design for this interpretation panel echos the physical shape and ethereal nature of the Standing stone whilst also sensitively fitting within the wild and bleak landscape setting.



ACTIONS Theme 4 - Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park

129. The following table provides specific actions required to deliver the aims, describes lead partners and how the action links to the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Bill.

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation/s	Key Partners	How will this be achieved?
Use funding and resource opportunities to raise awareness and understanding	52: Redevelop the National Park Visitor Centre into a first class visitor attraction.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Brecknock Wildlife Trust	Re-consider redevelopment proposal
	53: Educate the educators.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Outdoor Education Centres, Schools, , Brecknock Wildlife Trust, Forgotten Landscapes Project/World Heritage Site, British Waterways	Initial Teacher Training and Teacher Training days
	54: Increase opportunities for volunteering	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Natural Resources Wales , Dyfed-Powys Police, Wales Council for Voluntary Action	Develop what is appropriate
	55: Deliver social inclusion action plan Increase opportunities for excluded groups to derive health and well-being benefits	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Sport Wales, Natural Resources Wales, other funding partners community groups	External funding for outreach and capacity building to develop group capacity for awareness of & benefitting from the Park
	56: Monitor and evaluate the health and well-being benefits of accessing the Park	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Sport Wales, Natural Resources Wales, other funding partners community groups	Monitoring and evaluation of programme delivery

	57: Coordinate with partners resourcing, delivery and maintenance of interpretation, information and education to create memorable visitor experiences within the NP and Geopark	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority,	Unitary Authorities, Natural Resources Wales , National Trust, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Brecknock Wildlife Trust, BBPS, CPAT, Cadw, Wildlife Trusts World Heritage Site, British Waterways, Community Groups, History Societies	Education +Interpretation Strategies, Information provision, Destination Information Plan, Pan Wales Interpretation Plan
	58: Work with minority group representatives to raise awareness of and contributions to NP decision making and delivery of actions.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales	Campaign for National Parks	Mosaic + BME Champions
	59: Provide training and development for businesses and information providers to ensure delivery of a first class welcome, high quality information, interpretation and interaction.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Geopark Management Group	Forgotten Landscapes Project/World Heritage Site	Tourism Strategy
	60: Work in partnership with Tourism business representatives to deliver an attractive destination website and social media presence which enhances destination marketing messages while delivering National Park Authority messages.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Brecon Beacons Tourism, TPMW, Welsh Government, Tourism Providers, Unitary Authorities, Forgotten Landscapes Project/World Heritage Site, British Waterways, Wildlife Trusts, Geopark Management Group	Tourism Strategy
Deliver a visitor experience which exceeds expectations.	61: Support communities in telling their stories and engage them as stakeholders in the National Park and the Geopark.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	/Local Authorities, Community groups World Heritage Site, , History Societies, Canal and Rivers Trust	Interpretation/Geopark teams and Sustainable Development Partnership

	62: Encourage and promote sustainable use of the NP and Geopark.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Natural Resources Wales , Unitary Authorities, Transport Providers, Tourism Providers, Forgotten Landscapes Project/World Heritage Site, British Waterways	Tourism Strategy, interpretation strategy, education strategy
	63: Use the Geopark's geological record to interpret climate change and encourage behavioural change.	Geopark Management Group	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Geopark events and walks
Promote and develop a sense of shared responsibility for both the National Park and Geopark	64: Work with local initiatives to engage with local communities and demonstrate how they can adapt to and help mitigate the effects of climate change.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, The Green Valleys, Geopark Management Group	Natural Resources Wales Delivery Partners	Wording changed to 'work with'
	65: Improve visitor confidence by providing welcome and orientation signage and interpretation and information in communities and key locations	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Geopark	World Heritage Site, Natural Resources Wales , Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water	Interpretation strategy, Information plan, Tourism Strategy
	66: Maintain and develop existing NP and Geopark Education efforts to achieve the 'Wales We Want' and targets on literacy and numeracy.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Geopark Management Group	Natural Resources Wales	Education Strategy
	67: Undertake a review of earth science research and identify further priorities for engagement with research institutions.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Geopark Management Group	BCRA	Research Prospectus
	68: Promote links to tertiary educational bodies with earth sciences interest.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Geopark Management Group	BCRA	Research Prospectus

2.5 Theme 5 - Building and Maintaining Sustainable Communities, Towns and Villages

Background

- I30.** The Brecon Beacons National Park is designated for its landscape quality. Defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as a Category V Protected Landscape, it is an area where the interaction of people and nature over time has created a distinctive character with significant aesthetic, ecological and cultural value. National Parks are living landscapes where people have lived, worked and farmed over many generations and National Park Authorities have a duty to foster the economic and social well-being of their local communities.
- I31.** The Park is home to approximately 33,000 people and has a strong Welsh heritage along with a rich economic, social and cultural life. The largest settlement within the boundaries of the Park is the cathedral town of Brecon. Together with Brecon, the settlements of Crickhowell, Gilwern, Hay-on-Wye and Talgarth account for approximately 46% of the Park's inhabitants. Other larger settlements like Abergavenny, Merthyr Tydfil, Llandeilo and Llandovery lie on the border and are gateways in to the Park.
- I32.** Living in a striking landscape such as the National Park conveys considerable positive benefits for well-being, for example clean air, opportunities to see the stars at night and access to an abundant array of biodiversity. There are also business opportunities from the considerable numbers of visitors who specifically come to this protected area to enjoy recreational and tourism related activities.
- I33.** The National Park Authority is the planning Authority for all the communities within the National Park boundary and adopted its Local Development Plan in December 2013. The Local Development Plan identifies the need to work with Community and Town Council's to produce a series of community, village or town plans to aid its delivery at the local level.
- I34.** A community/village/town plan is a place-based action plan derived through comprehensive engagement by community groups. The plan is intended to ensure the future well-being of the community and on completion will become a statement of how a community sees itself working towards sustainable development, it has a wider focus than land use planning alone. A plan could be wide ranging in its ambition, covering energy (efficiency, generation and purchasing), local food growing, leisure and recreation, local biodiversity and landscape management, community facilities, transport.

CASE STUDY II

Community Planning

Community Plans are a means of a community coming together to decide on what they want to improve or achieve in their areas. The end result of a Community Plan is usually an action plan that sets out how the community intend to make improvements to the local area. The actions may be for the community to do or with a partner. The number of communities with an adopted Community Plan will be a good indicator of commitment to social resilience in the National Park. A Community Plan pilot project is currently being taken forward with Hay Town Council. It is proposed that the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority will assist with setting up more Community Plans. An update on the outcomes from this will be provided in future iterations of the State of the Park Report.

- 135.** While National Parks across the UK have an older population age structure than the national average for England and Wales, Brecon Beacons National Park is unique in having the largest percentage increase of 15 to 29 year-olds (9.0%) of any National Park in England and Wales. It is vitally important that these trends are reflected in the policies of the local authorities tasked with planning for their well-being. There are implications for the current and future provision of infrastructure (for example care, schools, housing and job opportunities). The landscapes contain the natural capital that, if cared for properly, can ensure the continued prosperity and well-being of these current and future generations.

Delivering Wales' Needs

- 136.** The Local Development Plan is the land use planning tool to deliver the aspirations of the Management Plan¹⁷. It directly addresses issues of sustainable growth and jobs which are essential to the delivery of local needs, including promoting the natural growth of rural villages to increase community vitality and quality of life. It also identifies the need for local employment opportunities, links this with housing provision and the requirement to provide a mix of dwelling types, in particular to provide affordable housing. The Local Development Plan also identifies an appropriate site for travellers, which respects the interests of the existing community.

¹⁷ <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/planning/draft-strategy-and-policy/brecon-beacons-national-park-local-development-plan/>

- 137.** Sustainable Tourism can be used to create a real sense of place in communities and facilitate community development. The Fforest Fawr Geopark, for example, provides a shared identity for communities to the west of the Park.
- 138.** Brecon Beacons National Park Authority successfully applied for the Heritage Lottery Fund to provide 12 year-long salaried conservation traineeships for the next three years (see Heritage Lottery Fund case study in Theme 6 page 76).
- 139.** The Welsh Government has identified social inclusion and the eradication of poverty as essential factors in improving the health of the Welsh population. Social inclusion is an integral part of social policy development including that of the forthcoming Future Generations Bill. The three Welsh National Parks have prepared a joint Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan (2014-16)¹⁸. It states:

‘To promote social inclusion in the exercise of their purposes, duty and delivery of services, the Welsh National Parks will:

- adopt a cross-cutting theme across all National Park Authority activities that recognises the complex and multi-dimensional nature of social exclusion, and seeks to promote social inclusion in all the National Park Authority’s work.*
- foster the economic and social well-being of local communities and seek to reduce social exclusion due to poverty, lack of employment, lack of services, poor health, disability, lack of education, psychological and cultural barriers, lack of access to a high quality natural environment, or other disadvantage and work specifically with excluded groups and with partner organisations to these ends;*
- broaden access for the wider community of people of Wales, the UK and beyond, who may be excluded from the understanding or enjoyment of the special qualities of the Parks as a result of the barriers listed above.’*

¹⁸ Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan (2014-16)

One project - National Park Champions - aims to develop “Champions” from among leaders of child focused organisations. This is a social inclusion project which intends to explore what the National Park can offer to meet the agenda and priorities for children and families in poverty (see case study).

CASE STUDY 12

National Park Champions

The National Park Champions project (supported by National Resources Wales) develops, among leaders of child focused organisations, 'Champions' for what the National Park can offer in meeting the agenda and priorities for children and families in poverty.

The project:

- Increases individual's skills, enabling them to be inspirational figures in their groups
- supports the delivery of replicable low cost activities,
- promotes the benefits the Brecon Beacons National Park offers to groups
- improves involvement of financially disadvantaged children in outdoor learning and activity.

Key to the project is recruitment of 4 'Champions' from a previous programme, supported with additional National Award training to become project Peer Mentors - enabling peer to peer transmission of information. Evaluation discussion with participants revealed:

- 100% stated they had learnt at least one new activity that would be appropriate to their group and at least one new 'place or area of interest' for their group to visit with little or no cost implications.
- 100% thought their training and activities in the National Park would be beneficial to their group.

16 different groups participated, including 4 Youth Services, Housing associations, mental health groups, complementary education, domestic abuse supported, carers group and leaving care team.



Challenges

- 140.** Current challenges facing park residents include maintaining balanced and vibrant communities when faced with high house prices, low wages, an aging population but also one with relatively high growth in the age category 15-29, restricted job opportunities and inconsistent access to services. A high priority for most resident communities is the provision of affordable, local-needs housing.
- 141.** Developing a shared identity provides the very thing on which a community is based and community-led planning should encourage the vitality and viability of the National Park's communities, towns and villages with sustainable development as the end result. The Welsh

Government's vision for the National Parks of Wales encourages National Park Authorities to work closely with their communities to explore new and innovative ways to live.

- I 42.** Transport is necessary for most journeys to and within the National Park, for both residents and visitors. The Park is particularly dependent on road transport for both people and goods. There are no railway stations within the Park's boundaries (although several serve its periphery), and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal is restricted to pleasure use. Cycling and horse riding are primarily recreational activities, and public transport is inadequate to serve most needs. Private vehicles are essential to residents, visitors, businesses and agriculture in the Park.
- I 43.** The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority is very concerned with transport issues because of the very high impact they have not only in terms of carbon footprint, but also in terms of the provision of parking and visitor numbers on local communities etc. However the Authority's influence in this area is limited; it is not the Highway Authority for the Park. The relevant powers and resources rest with the National Assembly and Highway Authorities. Nevertheless these bodies are expected to have regard to National Park purposes and "ensure mutual cooperation across Park boundaries, particularly in planning and highway matters."
- I 44.** In accordance with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Planning Obligations Strategy, the Authority works in partnership with the constituent Highway Authorities. If it is appropriate to do so, when a planning application is received the Authority's planners will negotiate payments (known as Section 106 monies) which will be spent on necessary highways improvements. The Authority only coordinates work for this - the main burden for the delivery of sustainable transport is with the Local Authorities and Regional Transport Consortia. It is essential (especially since the highways through the National Park cross many administrative boundaries) that public bodies work together toward a common aim and take a joined up partnership approach.
- I 45.** Additionally, there are those both within and outside the Park whose mobility is limited by a lack of transport, and there is an unmet demand for access via public transport to destinations either side of the Park boundary. Promoting access for all to the Park is an important objective for the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
- I 46.** The Management Plan sets out actions which aim to:
- Encourage and support community-led initiatives that build awareness of and resilience to climate change, fossil fuel depletion and carbon emissions and assure the well-being of communities in the future.
 - Continue to deliver the Sustainable Development Fund (this is a grant scheme with an open application process) which meets the strategic priorities laid out in the

National Park Management Plan. Its funding support can be used to develop the marketing of sustainably produced local food for example.

- Support initiatives which enhance community pride in and benefit from being within the National Park, for example promoting vocational training such as learning traditional farming and land management skills.
- Monitor the adopted Local Development Plan.

How progress will be reported against actions in the Management Plan:

I 47. Further to the monitoring, reporting and review process identified at 1.12, the health of this particular theme will be monitored, analysed and reported in the State of the Park Report (2014) and subsequent updates to it.

I 48. The State of the Park Report records data under each of the six Management Plan themes and demonstrates trends that indicate how well the Management Plan is being delivered. The indicators identified in the table below show that this theme is in ‘good’ condition.

I 49. The current indicators are quantifiable measurements that reflect the critical success factors within the theme. The State of the Park Report will be updated regularly and published as necessary. Other indicators are likely to be added to the list to develop our understanding of the state of the Park.

Indicator (State of the Park Report)	Trends/Direction
Flood risk, river levels and climate change	Maintain the relatively low risk of flooding in the Park
Health and Wellbeing	Maintain perceived feelings of well-being of residents and increase and support activities undertaken by residents
Communities with a village/town plan and open space assessment	Increase the number of village plans prepared and develop the Open Space assessment

ACTIONS Theme 5 - Building and Maintaining Sustainable Communities, Towns and Villages

150. The following table provides specific actions required to deliver the aims, describes lead partners and how the action links to the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Bill.

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation/s	Key Partners	How will this be achieved?
Community-led initiatives that build awareness of and resilience to climate change, fossil fuel depletion and carbon emissions.	69: Provide outreach programmes to local groups to increase awareness and use of local opportunities for recreation, reducing travel and associated carbon emissions.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, The Green Valleys	Community Groups, Natural Resources Wales, Unitary Authorities, Tourism Providers	Social Inclusion and Child Poverty Action Plan
	70: Implement and monitor the conservation and community benefits revenue stream through the Planning Obligations Strategy and subsequent amendments.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Local Communities, Unitary Authorities	Through the adopted SPG
	71: Provide an affordable, accessible and effective sustainable transport network that meets the needs of residents and visitors.	Highways Authorities. Transport Consortia	Community Groups, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	UA sustainable strategies; Sustainable Tourism Powys Project; Visitor Transport Plan (Brecon Beacons National Park Authority); Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Residents' Survey.
	72: Explore sustainable travel plans for all schools in the Brecon Beacons National Park.	Unitary Authorities / Highways Authorities	Local Schools, Community Groups, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	

	73: Promote cycling as a means of everyday travel and develop safe cycle routes.	Unitary Authorities / Highways Authorities	Community Groups, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Manage Govilon Line cycleway; Support Powys County Council in phased development of Ystradgynlais to Brecon cycle way & Canal Towpath; Work with Powys County Council to extend achieved routes
	74: Assist the development of appropriate renewable energy and energy efficiency schemes that produce mutually beneficial outcomes for local communities and the local environment.	The Green Valleys, Local Communities, Landowners	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales , Forgotten Landscapes Project, British Waterways	Service Level Agreement targets: Woodfuel production, Hydro installation, Feasibility studies
	75: Develop and support by way of the Sustainable Development Fund community based sustainable transport initiatives designed to reduce the carbon footprint.	Communities, Businesses including Social Enterprises	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales , Other Agencies	Using Sustainable Development Fund to promote sustainable transport initiatives
Sustainable Development Fund	76: Use the Sustainable Development Fund to develop and support greater awareness and understanding of sustainability issues related to renewable energy and energy efficiency. Develop innovative measures designed to reduced communities' ecological impact across the National Park..	Communities, Businesses	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales, Other Agencies	Using Sustainable Development Fund to promote food marketing, local produce and transport initiatives
	77: Deliver community based outreach programmes such as Crossing Park Boundaries that increase the value of and benefit from the National Park designation.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Natural Resources Wales, Forgotten Landscapes Project/World Heritage Site, Other Delivery Partners	Visits by groups and capacity building for group leaders
	78: Design and implement community renewal initiatives that promote local distinctiveness, a sense of community and a sense of place.	Rural Development Plan Partnerships, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority		Sustainable Development Fund
	79: Encourage projects that promote a sense of community and a sense of place, emphasising local distinctiveness, culture and history.	Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Cadw, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments	Local Communities, Unitary Authorities, Rural Development Plan, Geopark, Forgotten Landscapes Project/World Heritage Site	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Community, Marquee and Sustainable Development Fund

		of Wales, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority		
	80: Improve and facilitate the prevention and removal of litter through community action, particularly from rivers.	Local Communities, Keep Wales Tidy	Unitary Authorities, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Llangattock Green Valleys; Litter pickers
	81: Investigate options to remove all unnecessary street furniture to limit visual clutter.	Local Communities, Unitary Authorities	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Ongoing Cable burying project - Western Power
Community pride.	82: Promote the use of recycled, secondary and waste materials to supply the need for local building stone where compatible with the statutory conservation objectives of the National Park and its relevant planning policies.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Brecon Beacons Park Society, Walls of Llangynidr	Design and Access at planning application stage. TAN 12 requirement
Local Development Plan	83: Implement and Monitor the LDP	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority		Annual Monitoring Reports, Review of LDP
Local food production	84: Support allotments development.	Local Communities	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, The Green Valleys, Rural Development Plan, Unitary Authorities	Sustainable Development Fund and The Green Valleys support to local growing initiatives

2.6 Theme 6 - Sustainable Economic Development

Background

- 151.** The well-being of the Park is inextricably linked to the well-being of its communities. Its viability is dependent upon the vitality of local communities and the support of people who live, work in, and visit the National Park. Many businesses within the Park derive economic benefits from their unique location and relationship with its landscapes and built heritage. It is this relationship that the Plan seeks to foster and build upon in order to deliver the National Park Duty.
- 152.** The National Park designation should benefit the local economy and local communities in ways that are sustainable and which work to conserve and enhance the Park's special qualities. Businesses in the Park are considering the potential impacts of many changes including climate change and fossil fuel depletion in an effort to become more resilient to future changes. These forces can be seen as opportunities for innovation such as micro-generation of renewable energy, creating niche markets for sustainable agricultural products, capitalising on National Park branded products or designing sustainable buildings. An aspiration of the Plan is for there to be a diversity of thriving businesses supporting and contributing to the economy and local communities which are critical to the long term future of the Park.
- 153.** Economic activity within the national park is predominantly made up of farming, land management, manufacturing, accommodation and retail sectors. Tourism helps people to understand the special qualities of the Park and is a major contributor to the economy. A destination brand has been developed for businesses within the Park to use to market their association with the area. Widespread adoption of the brand will help improve tourist's perceptions of the National Park and define what makes the National Park a unique destination in its own right. This shared identity will be available for any businesses wishing to promote their direct relationship with the Park.
- 154.** Whilst geologic and climatic factors have had profound impacts on the landscape of the Park, in more recent times the Park's landscape has been shaped predominantly by farming. This can be seen in a variety of ways, including walls, hedges, improved grassland and historic buildings (from ancient times to the modern day). The actions in this plan are aimed at supporting profitable farming through food production, land management and farm based businesses. Sustainable development will promote and contribute to the Park's special qualities, which are essential to its character and health. The State of the Park Report uses Census data, and the latest employment figures show farming and land management to be in steady decline with only 5.9% of total employment in the national park (Census 2011).

- 155.** Rapid changes in the international economy (globalisation, communications, transport and non-farm activities in rural areas which comprise the majority of the National Park) presents rural regions with obvious threats on the one hand, but also with significant opportunity on the other. While the Management Plan is limited in its ability to influence such global processes it is able to support rural innovation and diversification locally. One way that the Authority hopes to support this is through the LAND programme. This would see established Rural Alliances (see case study Rural Alliances) develop their relationship with their farming community with the aim of creating groups that would work together to produce an action plan for visitor management and tourism development in their area.

CASE STUDY 13

Rural Alliances

The power of the Rural Alliances movement is exemplified in the community transport initiative to provide a bus service between Hereford and Hay-on-Wye. Local Authority budget cuts meant a reduction in rural transport services. Hay's Chamber of Trade, the Hay Tourism Group, Rail Herefordshire and Herefordshire Ramblers responded to the cuts by working in partnership to raise money from donations to keep the bus service going.

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority - with financial support from Rural Alliances - commissioned a study to show how a community bus service could be started, financed and operated. The bus charges fares but the initial donations were key to keeping this important tourism and local service in operation, a true partnership between the rural community and local businesses. The new community bus service improves on the original one, as the bus synchronises its arrivals and departures with the train services in Hereford. Neighbouring communities are in discussions about following this community led approach to public transport cuts.



- 156.** From 2012 to 2015 the work of developing tourism in the Brecon Beacons has been enhanced by the Rural Alliances project, funded by the EU's Interreg IVB NWE programme, Welsh Government and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. It works to bring businesses and communities together to increase rural vibrancy as a means of counteracting the negative impacts of demographic change.
- 157.** The National Park Authority also plays a role in shaping and delivering Glastir, the Welsh Government's agri-environment scheme, intended to enable farms and other estate businesses to diversify. Securing an economic return from environmental goods and services plays a key role in this.

Delivering Wales' Needs

- 158.** National Park Authorities are fundamental tools in conserving National Parks, ensuring their future protection and identifying appropriate development. National Parks and National Park Authorities contribute to economic development through the provision of jobs, diversification and attracting investment in to Wales. The report of the Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery (Williams Commission - January 2014), described Wales' National Parks as important national assets, generating £557 million in tourist revenue each year. Research published in 2013 estimated that Wales' National Parks contributed £1 billion to Wales' overall economy, the greatest proportion of this coming from visitor spending.

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority is a signatory to the Sustainable Development Charter. Through partnership working the Authority supports and assists small businesses with good ideas, helping them transfer ideas into economic benefit.

Challenges

- 159.** Tourism provides an essential component of the local economy in the Park which hosts 4.1 million visitors each year who spend around 5 million days and £206 million here (2011 figures).
- 160.** Tourists can create pressures on Park resources and local communities such as increased footpath erosion and carbon emissions.
- 161.** Local tourism businesses already work with the National Park Authority and the Fforest Fawr Geopark and have been making great strides in developing sustainable transport networks, creating local supply chains, investing in local communities and promoting sustainable economic development.

CASE STUDY 14

Dark Skies Reserve

In 2013 the Brecon Beacons National Park was awarded Dark Sky Reserve status. This was the result of a two year collaboration between Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and Brecon Beacons Park Society. The project has drawn attention to the growing encroachment of light pollution into the National Park and invited communities to consider the adverse effects of existing light pollution. The designation attracted substantial national press coverage which has raised awareness and appreciation of the quality of the National Park's dark skies helped more people enjoy the night sky. Tourism businesses in the Park have embraced its Dark Sky status and promote the opportunity to star gaze at the accommodation they offer. Annual dark skies events are growing in popularity – for example in 2015 more than 2,000 people will enjoy events in the National Park through more than 20 dark sky events. So far the National Park Authority and its partners have trained 50 dark sky tourism ambassadors. The partnership includes University of South Wales, Campaign for Dark Skies, Astronomical Societies and has been embraced by local communities. Photo below copyright Michael Sinclair.



- 162.** In 2012, working through the Sustainable Destination Partnership, the Authority commissioned a Sustainable Tourism Strategy which is now being used to guide the promotion and management of tourism in the National Park within the context of the Vision and Special Qualities identified in the Management Plan. The Sustainable Tourism Strategy sets out specific actions that work towards the overall vision, these can be found at Appendix 7. The strategy is due for review in 2016.
- 163.** The Visitor Management Plan, which will be published in early 2015, fits between the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and the Landscape Character Assessment by focussing on the relationships between visitors, their enjoyment of the National Park and their impact on its special qualities. The Visitor Management Plan seeks to establish a long-term approach to improving the sustainability of the enjoyment of the National Park, especially in the context of tourism, and sets out the short and medium term actions to deliver this. It is an example of how the Landscape Character Assessment has been used to aid management within the Park.
- 164.** In order to develop a strong, successful and sustainable economy, the Management Plan sets the following objectives:
- The Park will realise its full potential for visitors. For example the businesses and land managers along the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal will work together to maximise the opportunities for visitors whilst conserving the attractive setting.
 - The economic impact of sustainable tourism will be made greater by encouraging more visitors to stay overnight. Their environmental impact will be mitigated by encouraging them to use sustainable transport
 - More businesses within the Park will work in partnership. For example European funding could be used to create a partnership approach to bring together communities and businesses.
 - Support will be offered to farmers to help them deal with the changes affecting the future of farm practices and businesses such as working with Farming Connect to identify on-farm sustainable energy projects.
- 165.** Actions in this Plan will develop these objectives over the next five years.

How progress will be reported against actions in the Management Plan:

- 166.** Further to the monitoring, reporting and review process identified at 1.12, the health of this particular theme will be monitored, analysed and reported in the State of the Park Report (2014) and subsequent updates to it.

167. The State of the Park Report records data under each of the six Management Plan themes and demonstrates trends that indicate how well the Management Plan is being delivered. Using the indicators identified in the table below as of 2014 this theme is in 'fair' condition.

168. The current indicators are quantifiable measurements that reflect the critical success factors within the theme. The State of the Park Report will be updated regularly and published as necessary. Other indicators are likely to be added to the list to develop our understanding of the state of the Park.

Indicator (State of the Park Report)	Trends/Direction
Affordable Housing Provision	Meet Affordable Housing Targets
Economic Activity	Improve Economic Activity
Employment by Type of Industry	Improve employment potential

ACTIONS Theme 6 - Sustainable Economic Development

169. The following table provides specific actions required to deliver the aims, describes lead partners and how the action links to the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Bill.

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation/s	Key Partners	How will this be achieved?
Changes affecting the future of farm practices and businesses	85: Work with interested farmers to develop products and services that capitalise on the National Park's status.	Countryside and Land Association Cymru, Farmers' Union of Wales, Farming Connect, National Farmers Union, YFC, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Local Farmers, Local businesses, Tourism providers	Rural Development Plan and indirectly through the involvement of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
	86: Support farmers in changes to farm practices, especially where it involves development of specialist local products (e.g., traditional organic breeds farm processing).	Farmers, Young Farmers Clubs, Local Communities, Rural Development Plan Partnership	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Unitary Authorities, Farming Unions, PONT	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
	87: Research and support options for local food/produce marketing.	Unitary Authorities, Rural Development Plan Partnerships	Farming Unions, Local Businesses, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Forgotten Landscapes Project	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
	88: Collaborate with Farming Connect to identify on-farm, sustainable energy projects and promote these as examples of best practice.	Countryside and Land Association Cymru, Farmers' Union of Wales, Farming Connect, National Farmers Union, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Local Farmers	Eg Aberbran Fawr Demonstration Farm
Visitor experience.	89: Implement activity tourism strategies within environmental sensitivity.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, PCC, Sustrans, BHS, Business Clusters	Forgotten Landscapes Project	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy

	90: Promote the use of local food to businesses and visitors.	TPMW, AgriFood Partnership, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Adventa, Gallu, Glasu	Farming Unions, Local Businesses, Forgotten Landscapes Project/NH Centre	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
	91: Realise fully the tourism potential of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal whilst its attractive setting is conserved and enhanced.	British Waterways	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Unitary Authorities, Sustrans, Forgotten Landscapes Project/ World Heritage Site	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
Partnership working with businesses.	92: Develop locality and themed business clusters under COLLABOR8 programme.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Brecon Beacons Tourism, Business Clusters		Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
	93: Maintain and develop business training programmes.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Tourism Partnership Mid Wales, Gallu	Forgotten Landscapes Project	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
	94: Implement environmental certification Ambassador & Charter Part 2 programmes.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Fforest Fawr Geopark	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
Sustainable economic impact of tourism.	95: Encourage day visitors to stay longer and spend more.	Brecon Beacons Sustainable Tourism Partnership	Forgotten Landscapes Project/World Heritage Site, Valleys Regional Park, Heads of the Valleys, British Waterways	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
	96: Seek funding to develop marketing strategy and implement.	Brecon Beacons Tourism, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Unitary Authorities	Forgotten Landscapes Project/World Heritage Site, Valleys Regional Park, Heads of the Valleys, British Waterways	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
Tourism impacts.	97: Monitor agreed sustainable tourism indicators.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Geopark Management Group, Brecon Beacons Sustainable Tourism Partnership		Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
Sustainable transport by visitors.	98: Organise Visitor Transport Partnership.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Visitor Transport Partnership		Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
	99: Maintain commitment to Supporting Community led transport initiatives.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Visitor Transport Partnership		Following actions in the Tourism Strategy

	100: Encourage visitor use of weekday public transport.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Visitor Transport Partnership		Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
Partnership working.	101: Organise Sustainable Tourism Partnership & Tourism Conference.	Brecon Beacons Sustainable Tourism Partnership		Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
	102: Organise Geopark Management Group	Geopark Partnership	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Meet 3 times per year. Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
	103: Apply for revalidation of European Geopark status	Geopark Partnership	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Apply for status, successful in 2012, new application in 2016. Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
	104: Apply to Europarc for renewed Charter status.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority		Application in 2017. Following actions in the Tourism Strategy
Economies to become more resilient to change.	105: Promote business opportunities and regeneration strategies to increase the number of good quality jobs for local people.	Unitary Authorities, Local Communities	Welsh Government, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Forgotten Landscapes Project	Following actions in the Tourism Strategy. Rural Development Plan
	106: Develop new funding streams and signposting to external funding for use by businesses pursuing sustainability projects.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Rural Development Plan, County Regeneration Partnerships for Powys, Monmouthshire, Merthyr and Valleys Regeneration Partnership	Forgotten Landscapes Project	Sustainable Development Fund projects with businesses, signposting business to external funding
	107: Provide work placement, volunteer, workshadow and other skills programmes in the NP.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Youth & Youth Offending Services, Accredited Training Providers	Volunteer development work, workshadowing and work experience schemes
	108: Promote an increase in vocational training opportunities to improve local knowledge and skills, such as traditional low impact farming, land management skills, local culture and history.	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Torfaen Council	Deliver the Heritage Lottery Fund funded Skills in Action Paid traineeship programme

CASE STUDY 15

Heritage Lottery Fund Skills in Action

The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded funding to Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to provide 12 year-long, salaried, conservation traineeships between 2014-2017. The grant was awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund 'Skills for the Future' towards the 'Skills in Action' partnership which includes Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities and Torfaen County Borough Council. The project, provides individuals with hands-on work based experience in conservation and estate management. This combines the attainment of a Level 2 City and Guilds qualification in conservation management with the opportunity to learn new skills and acquire knowledge by working as part of the estate and conservation management teams. The traineeship is aimed at those interested in pursuing a career in practical conservation and estate management or similar work. The project recruits primarily from local populations and the placements are awarded to those who seem most likely to benefit from the opportunity. Skills in Action trainees are working alongside wardens undertaking a range of practical conservation management work throughout the year.



Appendices

Appendix I: 12 Management Principles for IUCN Category V Protected Areas

Phillips, A (2002) '*Management Guidelines for IUCN Category V Protected Areas IUCN. The World Conservation Union*'

Principle 1: Conserving landscape, biodiversity and cultural values are at the heart of the Category V protected area approach
Principle 2: The focus of management should be on the point of interaction between people and nature
Principle 3: People should be seen as stewards of the landscape
Principle 4: Management must be undertaken with and through local people, and mainly for and by them
Principle 5: Management should be based on co-operative approaches, such as co-management and multi-stakeholder equity
Principle 6: Effective management requires a supportive political and economic environment
Principle 7: Management of Category V protected areas should not only be concerned with protection but also enhancement
Principle 8: When there is an irreconcilable conflict between the objectives of management, priority should be given to retaining the special qualities of the area
Principle 9: Economic activities that do not need to take place within the Protected Landscape should be located outside it
Principle 10: Management should be business-like and of the highest professional standard.
Principle 11: Management should be flexible and adaptive
Principle 12: The success of management should be measured in environmental and social terms

Appendix 2: 12 Principles for an Ecosystem Approach¹⁹

Principle 1: The objectives of management of land, water and living resources are a matter of societal choices
Principle 2: Management should be decentralized to the lowest appropriate level.
Principle 3: Ecosystem managers should consider the effects (actual or potential) of their activities on adjacent and other ecosystems.
Principle 4: Recognizing potential gains from management, there is usually a need to understand and manage the ecosystem in an economic context.
Principle 5: Conservation of ecosystem structure and functioning, in order to maintain ecosystem services, should be a priority target of the ecosystem approach.
Principle 6: Ecosystem must be managed within the limits of their functioning.
Principle 7: The ecosystem approach should be undertaken at the appropriate spatial and temporal scales.
Principle 8: Recognizing the varying temporal scales and lag-effects that characterize ecosystem processes, objectives for ecosystem management should be set for the long term.
Principle 9: Management must recognize the change is inevitable.
Principle 10: The ecosystem approach should seek the appropriate balance between, and integration of, conservation and use of biological diversity.
Principle 11: The ecosystem approach should consider all forms of relevant information, including scientific and indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices.
Principle 12: The ecosystem approach should involve all relevant sectors of society and scientific disciplines.

¹⁹ <http://www.cbd.int/ecosystem/principles.shtml>

Appendix 3: Aims and Objectives

AIMS Theme 1 – Managing Park Landscapes to Maximise Conservation and Public Benefits

The vision of the Park will be pursued through the following aims:

Theme 1 – Managing Park landscapes to maximise conservation and public benefits	
No.	by 2030
1	The beautiful and varied character of the landscape will continue to be well-managed and cared for. Landscape change will be managed to benefit the Park’s biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural heritage.
2	The upland commons will be managed for the benefit of habitat conservation, grazing productivity, archaeological features, energy, public accessibility and to the provision of other public benefits.
3	Woodlands will be integrated with other aspects of countryside management. They will be extended and diversified where possible and as appropriate. They will be well-managed for their landscape, economic, ecological and social values and as a renewable resource.
4	Experimentation with novel approaches to sustainable development and environmental conservation on Brecon Beacons National Park Authority-owned lands will provide examples of best practice.
5	The traditional pattern of farmed land and its characteristic, historic features and habitats will be conserved and enhanced, providing the basis for a thriving agricultural economy.
6	The Park’s internationally-renowned geological and geomorphological features will be conserved and interpreted.
7	The Park’s historic settlement patterns and buildings will be conserved and enhanced. New development will adhere to sustainable design principles and complement the existing built heritage of the Park.
8	Historic landscapes and archaeological features will be protected, conserved and enhanced.
9	Local traditions, community events and the Welsh language will flourish and evolve as part of a living culture that cherishes the past and embraces the future.

OBJECTIVES - Theme I – Managing Park Landscapes to Maximise Conservation and Public Benefits

I. The following objectives set the framework for detailed lists of actions:

No.	Strategic Objectives
1	Conserve and enhance the sense of tranquillity, peace and remoteness experienced throughout the National Park.
2	Conserve and enhance the beautiful and varied character of the landscape via sustainable, integrated management
3	Prevent degradation of the Park’s landscape and enhance derelict land.
4	Develop understanding and awareness of landscape’s varied character and the processes that influence it.
5	Conserve and enhance designated geological sites
6	Identify and protect other significant sites of geological importance and/or nature conservation value, such as limestone pavements.
7	Improve the understanding and enjoyment of the Park’s outstanding geodiversity.
8	All designated heritage assets and their settings will be conserved and enhanced.
9	All undesignated heritage assets and their settings will be conserved and enhanced.
10	Awareness, understanding and appreciation of the historic environment of the National Park will be increased.
11	All heritage assets worthy of designation will be appropriately designated.
12	All heritage management work will be managed in a structured and co-ordinated manner, the NPA working effectively with partner organisations.
13	Support the Park’s cultural life and traditions through partnership working
14	Record and monitor the Park’s cultural heritage.
15	Promote the use of the Welsh language.
16	Promote cultural heritage as an attraction for people
17	Develop understanding and awareness of cultural life and traditions
18	Reduce the damage done to the Park by mineral working whilst fulfilling the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority’s obligation as a Mineral Planning Authority.
19	Apply Welsh Government’s policies against mineral working in national parks to the Brecon Beacons National Park’s identified sand and gravel deposits.
20	Explore more local and sustainable options to supplement or replace the need for mineral resources.
21	Help achieve national targets for greater renewable production through community and domestic scale schemes.
22	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by minimising energy use.

23	Assist the development of community energy initiatives
24	Develop the capacity for a localised energy grid
25	Integrate renewable energy into building and settlement design.
26	Maintain and enhance viable and productive farming businesses within the uplands so that they are able to deliver private and public objectives to enhance the special qualities of the Park.
27	Integrate and promote public support for sustainable farming.
28	Develop communications and collaboration among farmers, land managers, statutory agencies, non-governmental organisations, communities and other interests
29	Encourage innovative marketing of farm products, for example through the development of local supply chains and landscape branded products.
30	Minimise waste, energy use and pollution from all agricultural activities
31	Advocate for programmes that reward people for providing public benefits in the countryside, particularly the delivery of environmental goods and services such as energy generation, water capture, carbon storage and biodiversity gain.
32	Support the sustainable management of commons within the National Park including the working of Commons Councils.
33	Capture the existing values of the lower valley native farm woodlands in the National Park and expand these habitats towards the higher slopes where existing forests lie.
34	Manage forests at higher elevations to maintain a sound commercial presence as coniferous forests, contributing to the rural economy whilst offering the opportunity to improve landscape design and create new upland open space via felling
35	Restore internationally recognised habitats in woodlands, such as upland blanket bogs, upland heathland and upland oakwoods, where the environmental benefit is greater than leaving the area wooded, and where the viability and potential exists.
36	Practice continuous cover forestry techniques in suitable forests where appropriate tree species, aspect, age, past management prescriptions and soils permit
37	Integrate where possible the adoption of sustainable woodland management into the Local Development Plan.
38	Facilitate community woodland agreements within easy access of existing and future towns and villages to contribute to local gross domestic product (GDP) and to an improved sense of health and well-being.
39	Identify priority areas for organic soil and wetland management.
40	Reduce the extent of invasive species
41	Achieve sustainable farming
42	Maximise opportunities for growing the local economy
43	Demonstrate integrated, sustainable landscape scale conservation by securing large scale, long term funded projects across the Park.
44	Ensure that uplands management is conducted through an integrated approach whilst utilising, retaining and developing local skills and knowledge
45	Restore and enhance the habitat connectivity across the Park's contiguous upland commons.

AIMS Theme 2 – Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity

I. The vision of the park will be pursued through the following aims:

Theme 2 -Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity	
No.	by 2030
1	The Park’s stakeholders will encourage biodiversity to flourish and adapt to climate change. Improved habitat connectivity and exemplary management of all statutory and non-statutory designated nature conservation sites will enhance the condition and diversity of species and habitats in the Park.
2	Air, water and soil resources will be used sustainably to integrate the needs of wildlife with the demands from human use. Their quality will be brought up to and maintained at a high standard as appropriate.

OBJECTIVES Theme 2 – Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity

I. The following objectives set the framework for detailed lists of actions:

No.	Strategic Objectives
1	Utilise a landscape-scale approach to biodiversity conservation, built on good management of soil, air and water quality
2	Deliver these strategic objectives through partnerships with appropriate bodies including the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, farmers and farming groups, Unitary Authorities, Welsh Government, Government bodies, community groups, charities, voluntary bodies and recreational users.
3	Integrate effective biodiversity conservation into economically viable agricultural and arboricultural systems.
4	Maintain the extent and quality of priority habitats and the range and/or population of priority species.
5	Ensure that sustainable management of designated sites maintains habitats and species populations at a favourable conservation status.
6	Ensure that non-designated areas across the Park also contain sufficient habitat in favourable condition to provide a high quality, interconnected landscape to conserve and enhance priority species.
7	Meet and, if possible, exceed the local biodiversity targets for the restoration and expansion of habitats and the expansion of species' distribution patterns and population sizes.
8	Seek innovative solutions to environmental challenges which integrate biodiversity conservation with education, interpretation, other resource management priorities, and social, economic and cultural sustainability.
9	Maintain and, where possible, improve the Park's air quality.
10	Maintain or improve the quality of the Park's groundwater, rivers and lakes.
11	Ensure that water resources are used sustainably across all sectors in the National Park.
12	Encourage a coordinated approach to national and regional policy so that they are consistent and complementary.
13	Achieve sustainable conservation management of all existing wetlands, rivers and streams within the National Park.
14	Optimise the Park's capacity for water storage, sustainable, small-scale hydroelectric power and irrigation of locally grown food.
15	Implement objectives within the River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive to achieve good ecological status for resilient aquatic ecosystems within the Park.
16	Halt the continued acidification of upland soils and waters within the Park.
17	Protect the Park's soils from degradation and erosion
18	Improve collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders managing soil and peat resources.

AIMS Theme 3 – Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Access and Recreation

I. The vision of the park will be pursued through the following aims:

Theme 3 - Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Access and Recreation	
No.	by 2030
1	The sense of tranquillity, peace and remoteness experienced throughout the National Park will be conserved and enhanced.
2	People will come to the Park to enjoy a wide range of sustainable activities. They will understand and practice responsible behaviour.
3	The Park will be much-admired as a place to pursue healthy lifestyles, relaxation and spiritual renewal as “One of Britain’s Breathing Spaces.”
4	Everyone will have equal opportunity to enjoy and understand the Park’s natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage via an integrated network of routes. Public confidence as to where to recreate will be high.

OBJECTIVES Theme 3 – Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Access and Recreation

I. The following objectives set the framework for detailed lists of actions:

ID	Strategic Objectives
1	Strategically manage the rights of way network.
2	Improve the provision of information with regard to public access.
3	Make the best use of external funding and resource opportunities to improve public access.
4	Improve access to and on water.
5	Continue to work constructively with partners to reduce and resolve conflicts and improve access and recreation provision.

AIMS Theme 4 - Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park

I. The vision of the park will be pursued through the following aims:

Theme 4 - Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park	
No.	by 2030
1	Everyone will have abundant opportunities to learn about and experience the Park’s special qualities. They will understand why this living landscape is an internationally important protected area and sustainable tourism destination.
2	People will better understand the contributions geodiversity and biodiversity make to the landscape, economy and environment.
3	The historic environment will be better understood and valued as an important link among past, present and future generations.
4	The facilities, information and interpretation used to enhance peoples’ experiences of the Park will exceed their expectations. A full range of interpretation, education and communication tools will be used.
5	People will better understand the implications of climate change on their daily lives and how they can mitigate and adapt to its effects.

OBJECTIVES Theme 4 - Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park

I. The following objectives set the framework for detailed lists of actions:

ID	Strategic Objectives
1	Information, interpretation and education will be at the heart of all projects to ensure the long term support, understanding and commitment for the National Park from visitors and the local populations
2	Promote opportunities to connect people to the National Park
3	Ensure that the National Park can be enjoyed by all and that services and facilities do not deliberately or inadvertently exclude people.
4	Provide a first class visitor experience and welcome to anyone interacting with and enjoying the National Park and its special qualities.
5	Provide an holistic and networked dissemination of information which gives visitors the confidence to explore the National Park safely, by working with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority centres, tourism providers and agencies operating within the Park.
6	Increase awareness of environmental sensitivity and sustainability issues to positively influence behaviour.
7	The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority will provide a range of information on the National Park, its recreational opportunities and its special qualities to provide a holistic understanding to a range of audiences.
8	Raise awareness and promote understanding of National Park purposes, policies and activities.
9	Provide a unique, park-specific outdoor experience that is not available through any other source
10	Provide learners with the opportunity to have an experience relating to the National Park purposes face-to-face, in the Park, on-line or through written or audio materials
11	Ensure the health and safety of all learners/participants, retaining the Adventurous Activities Licensing Scheme (AALS) status as a minimum standard
12	Provide learners with an enjoyable experience of the National Park.
13	Create learning opportunities for all, including those who have not traditionally had such opportunities in the Brecon Beacons National Park.
14	Demonstrate the principles of sustainability through learning materials and in practice and by supporting Eco-Schools and attaining and maintaining Eco-Centre status for Brecon Beacons National Park Authority centres.
15	Work with internal and external partners to promote and implement the effective and safe use of the Brecon Beacons National Park for learning.

16	Meet the needs of learning providers through the continued development and provision of learning services, including those in Welsh.
17	Enable educators to learn how to utilise the National Park as a place for learning (i.e., through training days).
18	Incorporate national and international education efforts (e.g., UNESCO decade for ESD, Curriculum Cymreig 2007/8) into the Education Strategy as they arise.
19	Encourage partnership working between those involved in interpreting the National Park to ensure greater coordination and better use of limited resources.
20	Raise the profile of interpretation and the promotion of good practice to improve its quality and effectiveness within the National Park
21	Encourage thematic interpretation based on the key themes outlined in the Authority's Interpretative Strategy
22	Provide enjoyable interpretative services that will greatly enhance the quality of a visit to the National Park.
23	Enable and support local communities in defining and presenting their cultural heritage stories

AIMS Theme 5 - Building and Maintaining Sustainable Communities, Towns and Villages

I. The vision of the park will be pursued through the following aims:

Theme 5 - Building and Maintaining Sustainable Communities, Towns and Villages	
No.	by 2030
1	The Park's people, Welsh language and heritage and rich economy will continue to thrive, supporting healthy communities and the environment whilst providing a welcome for visitors.
2	The Park's communities will have pride in their place and a sense of ownership of the Park.
3	Sustainable transport initiatives will enhance accessibility across the Park whilst reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.
4	Good quality, well designed and sustainable affordable housing of all types will be accessible to the Park's communities.
5	Local communities and businesses will experiment with and adopt new approaches to waste reduction, localised food production through market gardens, effective recycling, reduced energy consumption and renewable energy generation and use.
6	The Park's communities and businesses will reduce their reliance on fossil fuels whilst minimising their contributions to global climate change.
7	New development and regeneration projects within the Park will provide exemplars of best practice for Wales with regard to climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
8	Everyone will understand and appreciate how the planning process helps to achieve the Park's purposes and duty.
9	All those with an interest in the Brecon Beacons National Park will understand and embrace the vision of this special place and work together to sustain it

OBJECTIVES Theme 5 - Building and Maintaining Sustainable Communities, Towns and Villages

I. The following objectives set the framework for detailed lists of actions:

ID	Strategic Objectives
1	Prepare the National Park communities for climate change and fossil fuel depletion by building resilience to ensure minimised economic and social impact.
2	Reduce direct and indirect production of greenhouse gases by the National Park's communities.
3	Support and enhance local production and local economic supply chains.
4	Address and breakdown actual and perceptual barriers experienced by socially excluded groups.
5	Ensure that all sectors of the Park's communities are able to contribute to development of, appreciate the benefits of, and play a part in the delivery of NPMP objectives.
6	Promote the National Park as an exemplar of sustainable living.
7	The NPA will be a facilitator of economic development which supports and sustains local communities with increased job opportunities in skilled occupations
8	Prepare an LDP which is responsive to drivers of change and enables development to meet identified needs.
9	Provide a first class planning service.
10	Ensure that there is sufficient land for market and affordable housing to meet the identified need.
11	Allocate sufficient land for the provision of a variety and mix of employment opportunities to encourage a better link between the provision of employment and housing.
12	Maintain and encourage the vitality and viability of the Park's communities and town centres.
13	Improve the physical quality, energy efficiency, accessibility and sustainable design and construction of all development throughout the Park.
14	Minimise light and noise pollution
15	Reduce the need for travel by controlling the location and design of development.
16	Provide an integrated transport system that encourages healthy and active lifestyles and supports local communities.
17	Encourage the development of new and existing services aimed at the visitor market.

18	Facilitate sustainable, long distance transport to the National Park.
19	Work with Transport Generators on Green Travel Plans.
20	Support working practices and behaviour change initiatives that reduce the Park's greenhouse gas emissions and reduce people's dependency on fossil fuels for transport
21	Develop Sustainable Travel Marketing.
22	Promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle across all sectors of the National Park.
23	Minimise the amount of waste generated in the National Park.

AIMS Theme 6 - Sustainable Economic Development

I. The vision of the park will be pursued through the following aims:

Theme 6 - Sustainable Economic Development	
No.	by 2030
1	The Park will be supported by an exemplar sustainable tourism industry which contributes to the public's enjoyment of the area's special qualities and to the local economy.
2	A mixture of farming, small rural businesses, traditional land-use businesses, land management organisations, local services and sustainable tourism industries will maximise the economic potential of the Park's special qualities whilst promoting resource conservation.
3	Individuals will have access to employment opportunities and modern amenities appropriate to the context of the Park's purposes and duty.
4	The contributions that historic landscapes, local distinctiveness and vernacular buildings make to the economy and environment will be recognised and promoted.
5	Local communities will establish collaborative projects for food production, income generation, energy generation and travel that maximise social, economic and environmental benefits for all.

OBJECTIVES Theme 6 - Sustainable Economic Development

I. The following objectives set the framework for detailed lists of actions:

ID	Strategic Objectives
	Invest in well researched, planned and coordinated product development based on the natural strengths and culture of the area
	Continue to improve the understanding of tourism trends, market behaviour and the business of tourism in and around the National Park
	Refine the tourism organisational structure to help create a stronger partnership approach involving all key stakeholders.
	Encourage collaborative marketing activities based upon the Brecon Beacons brand
	Enhance the National Park experience for all people, residents and visitors alike.
	Manage the impacts of tourism.
	Realise fully the tourism potential of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal whilst its attractive setting is conserved and enhanced.
	Develop landscape-scale conservation of geodiversity, bio-diversity and related cultural heritage.
	Improve the visitor experience, particularly by developing information and interpretation of its special qualities.
	Support sustainable tourism and other forms of sustainable economic development.
	Act as a focus for environmental/earth education and research.
	Engage local communities in new ways of working towards sustainable development.
	Seek to include all sectors of society in developing the work of the Geopark
	Use the area's geological heritage to encourage partners, visitors, businesses and communities to address the challenges of climate change.
	Reduce adverse effects on the Park's landscape, biodiversity and historic interest and on others' enjoyment caused by military exercises and adventurous training.
	Educate service users on responsible, sustainable and appropriate use of the Park
	Maximise the benefits of military activity in and around the Park.
	Manage MOD's rural land in and affecting the Park to support Park purposes.

Appendix 4: The Key Messages of the UK National Ecosystem Assessment

The Key Messages of the UK National Ecosystem Assessment



The natural world, its biodiversity and its constituent ecosystems are critically important to our well-being and economic prosperity, but are consistently undervalued in conventional economic analyses and decision making. Ecosystems and the services they deliver underpin our very existence. We depend on them to produce our food, regulate water supplies and climate, and breakdown waste products. We also value them in less obvious ways: contact with nature gives pleasure, provides recreation and is known to have a positive impact on long-term health and happiness.

Ecosystems and ecosystem services, and the ways people benefit from them, have changed markedly in the past 60 years, driven by changes in society. During the second half of the 20th Century, the UK's population grew by roughly a quarter to nearly 62 million, living standards greatly increased and technological developments and globalisation had major effects on behaviour and consumption patterns. The production of food from agriculture increased dramatically, but many other ecosystem services, particularly those related to air, water and soil quality, declined.

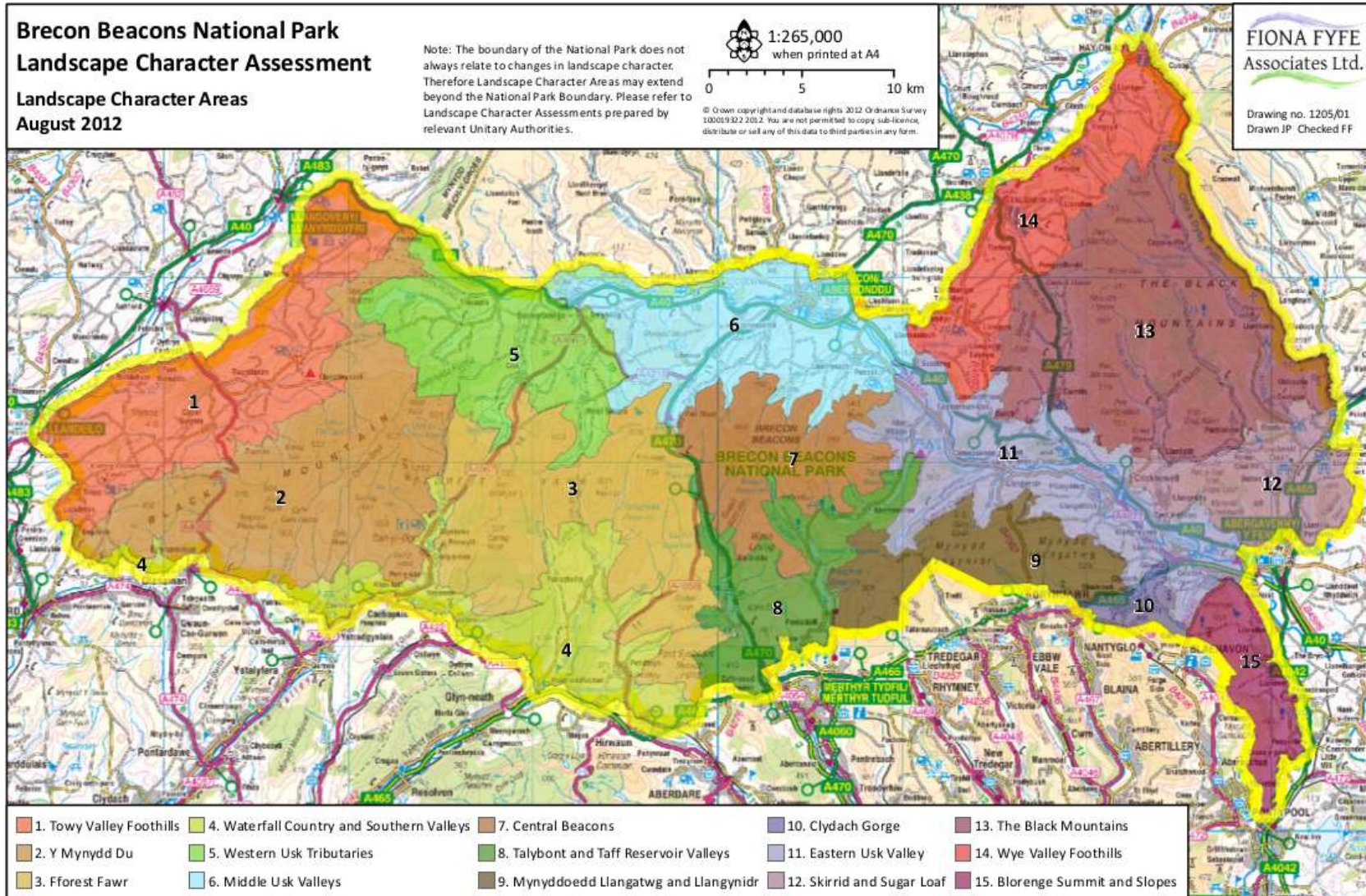
The UK's ecosystems are currently delivering some services well, but others are still in long-term decline. Of the range of services delivered in the UK by eight broad aquatic and terrestrial habitat types and their constituent biodiversity, about 30% have been assessed as currently declining. Many others are in a reduced or degraded state, including marine fisheries, wild species diversity and some of the services provided by soils. Reductions in ecosystem services are associated with declines in habitat extent or condition and changes in biodiversity, although the exact relationship between biodiversity and the ecosystem services it underpins is still incompletely understood.

The UK population will continue to grow, and its demands and expectations continue to evolve. This is likely to increase pressures on ecosystem services in a future where climate change will have an accelerating impact both here and in the world at large. The UK's population is predicted to grow by nearly 10 million in the next 20 years. Climate change is expected to lead to more frequent severe weather events and alter rainfall patterns, with implications for agriculture, flood control and many other services. One major challenge is sustainable intensification of agriculture: increasing food production while decreasing the environmental footprint.

Actions taken and decisions made now will have consequences far into the future for ecosystems, ecosystem services and human well-being. It is important that these are understood, so that we can make the best possible choices, not just for society now but also for future generations. Contemporary economic and participatory techniques allow us to estimate values for a wide range of ecosystem services. Applying these to scenarios of plausible futures shows that allowing decisions to be guided by market prices alone forgoes opportunities for major enhancements in ecosystem services, with negative consequences for social well-being. Recognising the value of ecosystem services more fully would allow the UK to move towards a more sustainable future, in which the benefits of ecosystem services are better realised and more equitably distributed.

A move to sustainable development will require an appropriate mixture of regulations, technology, financial investment and education, as well as changes in individual and societal behaviour and adoption of a more integrated, rather than conventional sectoral, approach to ecosystem management. This will need the involvement of a range of different actors – government, the private sector, voluntary organisations and civil society at large – in processes that are open and transparent enough to facilitate dialogue and collaboration and allow necessary trade-offs to be understood and agreed on when making decisions.

Appendix 5: 15 Landscape Character Areas of the Brecon Beacons National Park



**Appendix 6: Town and Community Council Liaison Meeting (March 2014):
 Well-being and Future Generations Bill**

Town and Community Council Liaison Meeting (March 2014): Well-being and Future Generations Bill
What are the key issues we need to tackle to ensure the well-being of future generations?
Better Broadband in Rural areas.
Need to know where Superfast Cymru will reach to. For business and education and access to services
Flooding and insurance issues for both properties which flood and those perceived to be at risk (by insurers)
Lack of mobile phone signal in many rural areas
Education quality & loss of schools
Population trends; increasing 0-10yrs , and incoming over 50's
Ageing population
Jobs and skills training
Jobs potential at Rassau
Cost of living and energy resilience
Biodiversity
Water- availability
Weather fluctuations
Loss of land
Food production
Jobs- where will people work & what as.
Infrastructure for employment-for National Park area higher value (lowever volume) processing and microbusinesses more appropriate (lower volumes to transport)
Tourism- some benefits but employment tends to be seasonal
High business rates contributing to decline of town centres

Town and Community Council Liaison Meeting (March 2014): Wellbeing and Future Generations Bill
What do we need to do between now and 2050 to tackle these issues?
Ensure Broadband coverage in Rural areas
Identify & address mobile phone blackspots
Identify flooding hotspots and manage to mitigate flooding and flooding impact (eg hedge cutting management which can result in blocked drains)
Invest in young people
Plan schools for increase in children & to address sustainability of long bus commutes to school
Skills training
support food producers
Invest in local distinctiveness and brand promotion
Develop quality markets/ totally locally/ (reduce food miles)
Scrap Severn Bridge Toll
Plan services for increasing elderly population, including those unable to drive
Plan housing provision for increasing numbers of smaller households. Plan parking in housing.
National Park Authority support to local development & infrastructure to enable work in the area
National Park setting attracts some higher value employers - build on this

Appendix 7: Sustainable Tourism Strategy Actions

Strategic Area	Actions	Lead
EFFECTIVE MARKETING	Strengthen understanding of target market profiles and perceptions	BBMCG Lead: Brecon Beacons Tourism
	Establish and disseminate the Brecon Beacons brand values	BBMCG Lead: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Communications Team
	Establish and maintain a high quality web presence for the destination	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Communications Team & Brecon Beacons Tourism
	Maintain a creative PR, communications and social media programme	BBMCG: Lead: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Communications Team & Brecon Beacons Tourism
	Focus on seasonal and off-peak images, themes and offers	BBMCG Lead: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Communications Team
	Ensure full synergy with Visit Wales and partner marketing programmes	BBMCG
	Make positive use of designations, without confusing the brand	BBMCG
	Obtain exposure for the Brecon Beacons at major generative events	BBMCG
COORDINATED INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION	Develop and implement strategies for information and interpretation	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Visitor Services & Tourism Teams
	Consolidate the Information Centre network, strengthening stakeholder engagement and support	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Centres Team & Local Authority's
	Pursue redevelopment of the National Park Visitor Centre	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Centres Team
	Expand the individual delivery of information and interpretation through the Ambassadors scheme and more widely	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Visitor Services & Tourism Teams
	Seek improved broadband coverage and opportunities for further use of IT in information delivery	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Welsh Government & Local Authority's
ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY	Support all actions to maintain a quality environment	BBSDP Board
	Clarify and pursue spatial visitor management policy across the Park	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism & Conservation Teams
	Extend access codes for specific areas and activities	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism & Conservation Teams
	Ensure best possible integrated public transport services, supported by information and promotion	Visitor Transport Partnership Lead: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team

	Encourage tourism enterprises to strengthen sustainability management	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team
	Encourage visitors to contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the National Park and its environment, financially and by behavioural change	BBSDP Board
PRODUCT DIVERSITY	Maintain high quality walking experiences and general countryside access at all levels	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Conservation Team
	Provide a range of cycling experiences matched to differing markets and terrain	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team
	Further establish the Brecon Beacons as the primary destination for horse riding in Wales	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team
	Develop more opportunities for visitors to experience the wide range of supported outdoor activities where capacity allows	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team & SWOAPG
	Strengthen the awareness, accessibility and appeal of the area's historical sites	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism & Visitor Services Teams
	Make more of the industrial heritage of the area and links to The Valleys	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism & Visitor Services Teams
	Maximise on the opportunities presented by the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal	CRT
	Bring out the area's living cultural heritage as part of the visitor appeal	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism, Heritage & Visitor Services Teams; CADW
	Promote awareness and use of local produce	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team
	Provide a creative range of opportunities to experience the area's wildlife and geology, particularly but not only in the Geopark	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team
	Promote and strengthen the range of events in the area	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism & Communications Teams & Brecon Beacons Tourism
	Develop specific initiatives to promote and deliver accessible and socially inclusive tourism	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism & Community Teams
COMMUNITIES AND PLACE MAKING	Create a framework and programme for Brecon Beacons level guidance and support for community action in tourism	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team
	Assess and strengthen the level of awareness amongst communities of tourism and its contribution	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team
	Establish or strengthen community based structures for tourism management	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team with community groups
	Clarify community tourism visions, priorities and programmes	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team with community groups
	Identify needs and implement actions to improve appearance, amenities and security in towns, villages and the wider countryside	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team with community groups
	Ensure effective visitor orientation in each community and implement local projects to engage the interest of visitors and residents	Community groups with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team
	Seek to engage more actively with the farming community	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Conservation & Tourism Teams

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES	Strengthen membership and resources of Brecon Beacons Tourism as the lead and umbrella private sector body	BBSDP Board
	Maintain and support enterprise clusters where appropriate	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team & Brecon Beacons Tourism
	Pursue opportunities for businesses from EUROPARC Charter Part 2	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team
	Strengthen the overall quality of tourism services in the Brecon Beacons	BBSDP Board
	Promote access to, and uptake of business support, advice and skills training for tourism enterprises and staff	BBSDP Training Group
	Encourage investment in new or improved tourism accommodation, attractions and services in line with market opportunities, gaps and sustainability principles	BBSDP Board
	Encourage positive dialogue between tourism enterprises, landowners, investors, communities and planners	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Conservation, Planning & Tourism Teams
PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT	Develop, adapt and monitor key Sustainable Tourism Indicators	BBSDP Board Lead: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team
	Develop, manage and review Partnership structures	BBSDP Board Lead: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team
	Apply for Europarc Charter status in 2017	BBSDP Board Lead: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Tourism Team