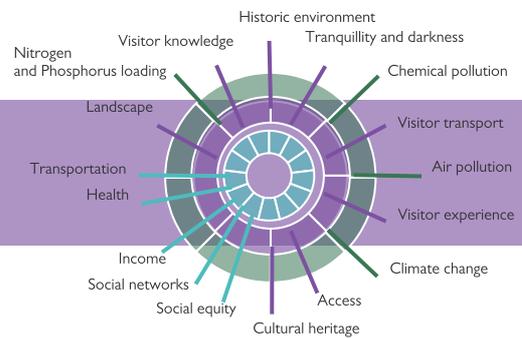




**The Geopark will deliver outcomes that benefit health and wellbeing and support tourism-led regeneration at appropriate locations in partnership with a range of stakeholders from the public and private sectors.**

The Geopark will help to interpret the story of the landscape over time and how natural processes in combination with human activities have shaped the landscape we see today. It will help to inform what our role may be in future as good custodians and play a key role in supporting the restoration of natural systems.



## Why this is important

UNESCO Global Geopark status provides a high-profile platform for broadening understanding and deepening the connections people have with landscapes and the story of carbon, whilst providing opportunities to improve health and wellbeing alongside socio-economic benefits.

The UNESCO Global Geopark status recognises the international significance of our geological heritage; its relevance to the Industrial Revolution as it played out in south Wales and how this has shaped the semi-natural and cultural landscapes we see today.

It explains how geodiversity underpins biodiversity, giving rise to a variety of soil types and the habitats which arise from that diversity, and provided the basis for human exploitation of mineral wealth and the communities and culture which arose from this activity.

The Geopark offers a unique opportunity for looking back in time, helping us to understand how issues we are addressing today arose and offering insights into our future relationship with the land. It explains why places are where they are, their identity and unique sense of place in both built and natural heritage.

It provides a platform through which partners and communities can be engaged with our shared natural and cultural history, and a delivery mechanism for tourism-led regeneration along the Park's southern fringe.

The Geopark celebrates industrial legacy, make connections across landscapes beyond the Park's boundaries, and uses its international status to bring about social, economic and ecological benefits.

It enables the celebration of the area's industrial legacy, make connections across the landscape, beyond the Park's boundaries and using the Geopark's international status, bring about social, economic and ecological benefits

## How the policy will be implemented

Explore the potential for expansion of the Geopark (within the 10% guidelines) to better meet emerging challenges such as excess phosphate levels within the designated area and socio-economic issues along the Heads of the Valleys/ironworking corridor.

Refresh the Geopark Management Group and develop closer partnership working with our neighbouring authorities to identify opportunities for tourism-led regeneration and greater public engagement with the geological, built and natural heritage of the area.

Further develop and enhance the Geopark profile and engagement elsewhere within the UNESCO designated area, building on the new interpretive presence at Craig y Nos Country Park and opportunities at other visitor facing locations.

## What success looks like

The Geopark will be integral to the work of the NPA across its UNESCO designated area and provide opportunities to bring socio-economic benefits for our neighbouring authority partners.

The role of the 'hub' established at Craig Y Nos Country Park, as an introduction to the Global Geopark, will be integrated in the site's management and maintenance plan and be key part of its visitor 'offer'.

The Geopark status is used to support sustainable communities and encourage pro-environmental behaviour.

A diverse audience will engage with the geological, cultural and natural heritage of the landscape along the post-industrial southern hinterland of the National Park in person and via social media channels and platforms.

Sites in our hinterland will benefit from our Geopark status and work with us collaboratively on mutually beneficial projects which support tourism-led regeneration

## How we will measure progress

Progress will be measured by monitoring:

- Increased 'buy in' to the strategy from partner organisations and the successful function of the Geopark Management Group.
- Increased level of 'buy in' to the Geopark concept and UNESCO designation by local communities/businesses and partners.
- Progress towards completion of an options appraisal for Geopark supported tourism-led regeneration in the Southern Periphery.
- Profile afforded Geopark at key sites within the Park and its boundaries.
- Number of geopark projects directly involved with habitat creation and/or restoration being delivered.