

V0.3 11/09/2020

The scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the 'Environmental Report' of:

- The Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2020 – 2025.
- The Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan 2018 – 2033.

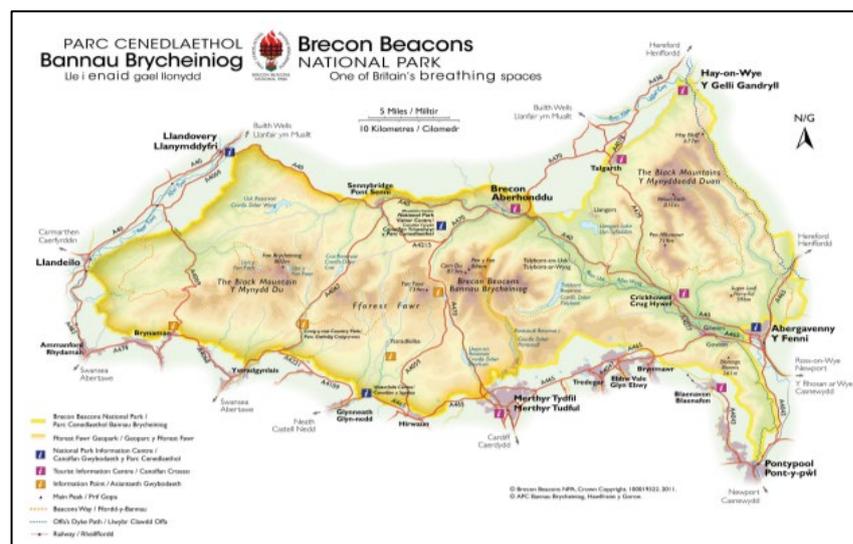
October 2020.

## 1. Introduction and overview

- 1.1 Applying the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (“the regulations”), the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (“the NPA”) as the responsible authority has determined that an ‘Environmental Report’ is required for the following Plans:
  - The Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2020 – 2025 (“NPMP”)
  - The Brecon Beacons Local Development Plan 2018 – 2033 (“LDP”)
- 1.2 Regulation 12 (5) of the regulations requires the NPA to consult with Natural Resources Wales (“NRW”) and Cadw when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in an ‘Environmental Report’.
- 1.3 A detailed consultation with NRW and Cadw on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the ‘Environmental Report’ was undertaken in 2018.
- 1.4 There is a wide range of practice guidance and literature on the process of undertaking Strategic Environmental Assessment and preparing Environmental Reports. During plan making, scope is provided for iterative (repetitive) improvements to be made to the assessment process.
- 1.5 Given significant changes since the initial consultation was undertaken and having found the methodology set in 2019 unable to keep pace with these changes, the NPA is consulting on a replacement scoping report.
- 1.6 Whilst seeking greater flexibility for undertaking assessments so that they may keep pace with ever improving knowledge and methods of assessment; this report provides greater definition of the plans to be assessed and thereby the parameters of the assessment.
- 1.7 The aim of these changes is to facilitate an improved environmental assessment and plan making process.

## 2. Geographical extent

- 2.1 The Brecon Beacons National Park (as defined by designation order 1957 (as amended)). On the geography, natural resources, historic environment and people of the National Park, a wealth of books, reports and scientific papers have been written. On the environment, the Brecon Beacons, Collins New Naturalist Library Book 126, and for historic environment, Pevsner Architectural Guides and publications of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales provide a fantastic introduction to the landscape of the National Park. Although now dated, the Brecon Beacons National Park published by Her Majesty’s Stationary Office still provides the authoritative guide to the National Park.



### 3. Defining the plans for which an Environmental Report will be prepared

- Place in the hierarchy and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment;
- Status of the plan or programme in the decision-making process;
- Objectives for the plans;
- Scope for reasonable alternatives;
- Contents and level of detail of plans.

#### *The Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2020 – 2025*

3.1 Having prepared and publish a NPMP (Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, 2010) (Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, 2015), the NPA has discharged its duty under S66(1) of the Environment Act 1995. Under this Act, the NPA is required to review its NPMP at intervals of not more than five years and follow specified preparation requirements when doing so.

3.2 Notwithstanding these requirements, the NPA has broad powers to do anything which, in the opinion of the authority, is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to the accomplishment of the national park purposes; or the carrying out of any functions conferred on it by virtue of any other enactment.

3.3 Under these powers, the NPA has determined it appropriate to prepare, and publish afresh, a NPMP.

3.4 The NPMP is the appropriate level at which to assess the objectives and policies for the National Park.

***“...the National Park Management Plan is of national importance. National Park Management Plan objectives and policies therefore prevail over regional and local policy as it is delivered in the National Parks.”***

(Countryside Council for Wales, 2007, p. 26)

***“The central role of the Management Plan is to guide the delivery of the National Park purposes and Section 62(1) duty, assisted by the NPAs statutory planning function.”***

(Countryside Council for Wales, 2007, p. 4)

3.5 The NPMP is also important in guiding other relevant authorities which have a duty to “have regard to” the purposes of the National Parks and the ‘Sandford Principle’ when carrying out their work.

3.6 The new NPMP will be prepared within the context of Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government’s Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (Welsh Government, 2018) and the NPA’s change programme.

3.7 As the central role of the NPA is to take the action needed to put into practice the purposes of the National Park, the NPA’s Wellbeing Objectives will also be used in its framing. These are expressed in the Corporate Plan 2020/21:

***The National Park is recognised as an important place for the recovery of nature and the wellbeing of people. To that end:***

- ***People will benefit from the Park’s resilient landscapes, full of flourishing wildlife and valued heritage***
- ***People will be able to access, understand and enjoy what makes the Park special***
- ***People living and working in the Park will benefit from strong communities, sustainable livelihoods, healthy lifestyles and widespread decarbonisation.***

3.8 Although a member of more than one Public Service Board, the NPA has elected not to discharge its sustainable development duty, namely the setting and publishing of well-being objectives, through Local Well-being Plans.

- 3.9 Welsh National Parks are also recognised as Category V protected areas on the World Database of Protected Areas and are party to a Statement of Compliance submitted International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Accordingly, the IUCN can expect those National Parks who are a party to this Statement of Compliance to make sure that all future management plans give a high priority to the conservation of nature and that this priority will be explicit in the aims and objectives of the new plans.
- 3.10 The plans, policies and programmes review is included as Appendix A.
- 3.11 Having determined to prepare, and publish afresh, the NPMP, reasonable alternatives for plan preparation are broader than had the existing NPMP been reviewed. The contents and level of detail will depend on the approach taken.
- 3.12 As a minimum, the plan must formulate the NPA's **policy for the management of the Park and for the carrying out of its functions in relation to that Park**. As previously mentioned, the NPA has broad powers and these offer scope to extend the content of the management plan should the NPA deem it appropriate.

### *The Brecon Beacons Local Development Plan 2018 – 2033 (“LDP”)*

- 3.14 Under s62 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the NPA must prepare a LDP. The LDP forms part of the ‘development plan’, of central importance to determining applications for planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).
- 3.15 The LDP must deliver on the National Park purposes, as defined by the nationally important NPMP. The NPMP prevails over regional and local policy as it is delivered in the National Park.
- 3.16 The LDP must also be in general conformity with the National Development Framework for Wales and the strategic development plan for any strategic planning area that includes all or part of the area of the National Park. It must have regard to current national policies, the most important of which for the LDP is Planning Policy Wales.
- 3.17 Apart from Planning Policy Wales, an Environmental Report is required of each of the ‘higher-tier’ plans. An Environmental Statement, an Appropriate Assessment, and other detailed information may need to be supplied in support of certain applications for planning permission to be determined in accordance with the development plan.
- 3.18 As a minimum, the LDP must set out the NPA's **objectives** in relation to the development and use of land in the National Park and **general policies** for the implementation of those objectives. The plan may also set out specific policies in relation to any part of the area of the authority.
- 3.19 S41 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 clarify that policies relating to the development and use of land are to be taken to include policies encouraging the management of features of the landscape which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems of marking field boundaries) or their function as “stepping stones” (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.
- 3.20 S1 of the Planning and Energy Act 2008 clarifies the NPA may, where consistent with relevant national policies, include policies in the LDP imposing reasonable requirements for a proportion of energy used in development in their area to be energy from renewable sources in the locality of the development; a proportion of energy used in development in their area to be low carbon energy from sources in the locality of the development; and development in their area to comply with energy efficiency standards that exceed the energy requirements of building regulations.

- 3.21 Notwithstanding these requirements, the NPA has broad powers to do anything which, in the opinion of the authority, is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to the accomplishment of the national park purposes; or the carrying out of any functions conferred on it by virtue of any other enactment.
- 3.22 Planning Policy Wales identified Key Planning Principles and National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes for the planning system in Wales. Detailed objectives in relation to the development and use of land in the National Park are yet to be set.
- 3.23 A stepwise approach to the preparation of LDPs is required. A 'Preferred Strategy' is derived from considering options based on the type, amount, location and timing of development to 2033 before a full draft 'deposit' plan is prepared and informed by a more detailed assessment of alternative policy design and approaches to delivery within the parameters of the strategy.
- 3.24 The plans policies and programmes review is included as Appendix B.

#### 4. Current knowledge and methods of assessment

- 4.1 Spatially, 15 Landscape Character Areas (LCA) are defined in the National Park in the Landscape Character Assessment 2012. Whilst these remain the working landscape geography, the NPA has engaged 'Landscape Matters' to report on:
1. Revise Level 1 Land Description Unit (LDU) mapping (i.e. LCA)
  2. Produce Level 2 LDU mapping
  3. Analysis and mapping of character and condition
  4. Management guidelines to assist with the Nature Recovery Action Plan
- 4.2 This work provides a finer grain of detail and provides a repeatable methodology for defining the strength of character and condition of each level 2 LDU. The methodology, where possible, draws upon the exiting SOPR evidence base.
- 4.3 Recognising there is no single set of spatial areas that align with statistical reporting, political, or ecosystem geographies (or any others), the LCA/LCU provide the base spatial areas in the National Park for assessment purposes.
- 4.4 Most recently agreed in 2020, the State of the Park Report' ("SOPR") draws together and succinctly presents headline information on key indicators pertinent the Brecon Beacons National Park. More importantly, perhaps, its preparation provides the vehicle for co-ordinating the NPA's evidence base which includes qualitative and quantitative research and information form a wide range of sources. Its preparation is informed by the NPA's evidence protocol.
- 4.5 A great deal of relevant monitoring activity is undertaken by a wide range of organisations. Bringing this wealth of information, especially where trends may be derived, to benefit decision making in the National Park is a key objective of the SOPR project.
- 4.6 For example, three monitoring projects of direct relevance are underway:
- EERAMP/GMEP
  - Vital Signs
  - LoRaWan
- 4.7 Ensuring the SOPR benefits all with an interest in the National Park and influences the decisions of others acting in the National Park, in particular of other public bodies, will help demonstrate the NPA's implementation of the '5 ways of working' under the *Well-being of Future Generations Act*. Issues identification is also aided by the SOPR project and new issues report is due to be released imminently.
- 4.8 The broader evidence base has informed the following NPA position statements:
- Climate Change and Nature Recovery;
  - Peatland, river and wetland restoration;
  - Woodland Restoration and Expansion; and,
  - Sustainable economic development.

- 4.9 Over time, incorporating a spatial dimension into the SOPR based upon the LCA/LCU will enable reporting and recommendations to be made more locally than at the broad National Park level.
- 4.10 The information and evidence base underpinning the SOPR is not only important for the NPA's preparation of the Environmental Report, but also for it to be able to report, at a National Park level, on matters including:
- Well-being
  - Biodiversity
  - Ecosystems services
  - Special qualities
  - Natura 2000 sites
  - Sustainability
  - Sustainable Development
  - Welsh Language
  - Health
  - Socio-economic duty
  - Dark Skies
  - Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
  - Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment
- 4.11 Each of these assessments will, by necessity, have different methodologies. However, by drawing from a co-ordinated and quality assured evidence base, the quality of assessment and reporting will improve, generating better information on which to take decisions. **For the LDP, assessing the emerging plans against the NPA's well-being objectives will form the basis of the Sustainability Appraisal.**
- 4.12 Where significant information is unavailable and primary research is required to obtain it, a prioritised list of evidence needs has been prepared for funding<sup>1</sup>. The NPA has a research partnership with the Sustainable Places Research Institute<sup>2</sup> and with the University of South Wales (UoSW)<sup>3</sup>, is an associate of the Environment Platform Wales and works closely with the University of Swansea and Reading University amongst others. In follow up to the major three Parks workshop that UoSW hosted in September 2017, a research local workshop was hosted in 2017 has moved the NPA closer to co-developed research portfolio.
- 4.13 To enable the environmental report to be prepared, and assessments undertaken, current SOPR indicators provide the relevant baseline for each of the areas for assessment required of the Environmental Report. These are shown in table 1 below.

Table 1. SOPR indicators providing relevant baseline for each of the areas for assessment required of the Environmental Report. The colours indicate the trend, green positive, red negative and grey no clear trend.

Assessment topic for the Environmental Report	Brecon Beacons State of the Park Report Indicator (2020)	Trend
(a)biodiversity;	Indicator 1 - Condition of Geological SSSIs Indicator 2 - Condition of Biological SSSIs Indicator 3 - Natura 2000	POSITIVE NEGATIVE NEGATIVE
(b)population;	Indicator 20 - Population	NEGATIVE
(c)human health;	Indicator 23 - Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation	NEGATIVE
(d)fauna;	Indicator 12 - Invasive Non-Native Species	UNCLEAR

<sup>1</sup> Brecon Beacons National Park Research Prospectus 2013

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/sustainable-places/research/places/brecon-beacons-national-park>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.southwales.ac.uk/news/news-2017/university-south-wales-joins-forces-brecon-beacons-national-park/>

	Indicator 10 - Breeding/Nesting Birds Indicator 11 - Bats	NEGATIVE UNCLEAR
<b>(e)flora;</b>	Indicator 9 - Woodland and Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland Indicator 12 - Invasive Non-Native Species	UNCLEAR UNCLEAR
<b>(f)soil;</b>	Indicator 8 - Condition of Soils/Peat	UNCLEAR
<b>(g)water;</b>	Indicator 4 - Water Quality Indicator 6 - River Discharge	NEGATIVE UNCLEAR
<b>(h)air;</b>	Indicator 7 - Air Quality	POSITIVE
<b>(i)climatic factors;</b>	Indicator 5 - Flood Risk	UNCLEAR
<b>(j)material assets;</b>	Indicator 13 - Rights of Way Indicator 21 - Housing Indicator 22 – Town Centre Vacancy Rates	POSITIVE NEGATIVE NEGATIVE
<b>(k)cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;</b>	Indicator 15 - Welsh Language Indicator 16 - Cultural Events Indicator 17 - Scheduled Ancient Monuments Indicator 18 - Listed Buildings	NEGATIVE POSITIVE NEGATIVE POSITIVE
<b>(l)landscape; and</b>	Strength of character and condition of each level 2 LDU*.	Information not available in SOPR
<b>(m)the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).</b>		

4.14 Within context of the National Park's purposes and contribution to national well-being through the provision of cultural ecosystem services, the key environmental protection aims for each of the assessment topics are highlighted in table 2 below. Aims relating to the socio-economic duty and the welsh language standard have also been included as they are relevant to the preparation of the NPMP and LDP. Where sufficient information is not available to model in detail, the impact of a plan / project, these may also be used as proxy 'sustainability objectives.

Table 2. Key aims for each of the assessment topics of the Environmental Report

<b>Assessment topic</b>	<b>Key environmental protection aims.</b> *Indicates the aims related to the socio-economic duty and the welsh language standard
<b>(a)biodiversity;</b>	Natura 2000 network. For the maintenance or restoration, at a favourable conservation status, of a natural habitat type in Annex I or a species in Annex II and for the coherence of Natura 2000, and in the light of the threats of degradation or destruction to which those sites are exposed.
<b>(b)population;</b>	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. *To deliver better outcomes for those who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
<b>(c)human health;</b>	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.
<b>(d)fauna;</b>	To safeguard the long-term future of the park's s7 species and the habitats on which they depend for survival.
<b>(e)flora;</b>	To safeguard the long-term future of the park's s7 species and the habitats on which they depend for survival.
<b>(f)soil;</b>	Preventing further soil degradation and preserving its functions and restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality which will enhance ecosystem resilience.
<b>(g)water;</b>	To ensure that all inland waters reach at least "good status" (or good ecological potential for artificial or heavily modified water bodies) unless less stringent objectives have been set for certain water bodies.
<b>(h)air;</b>	To keep levels of pollution as low as reasonably practicable.
<b>(i)climatic factors;</b>	To contribute to a 95% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, with an ambition to reach net-zero. To increase resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change in the National Park, through both near- and long-term adaptation measures in affected sectors, areas and communities; leading to a reduction of expected socio-economic losses associated with climate change and variability.

<b>(j)material assets;</b>	To safeguard and improve assets essential to the National Park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study centres and other facilities for learning about the history, natural features, flora and fauna of the National Park and the objects of architectural, archaeological or historical interest therein;</li> <li>• Public sanitary conveniences in proper and convenient situations;</li> <li>• Receptacles for refuse or litter;</li> <li>• Facilities of any description for use by the public for sailing, boating, bathing and fishing and other forms of recreation;</li> <li>• Camping sites for holiday and recreational purposes, to be used primarily as places for setting up tents, with space for parking vehicles and a means of access to and from a road;</li> <li>• Picnic sites for motorists and others using the roads, with space for parking vehicles and a means of access to and from a road;</li> <li>• Parking places and means of access thereto and egress therefrom;</li> <li>• Accommodation;</li> <li>• Public Rights of Ways, open access land and access infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<b>(k)cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;</b>	Identify and protect those individual historic sites or landscapes that matter to us and fully integrate their value in future plans for revitalising our communities.  *To contribute to the number of Welsh speakers reaching 1 million by 2050.
<b>(l)landscape; and</b>	To protect and sustain important landscapes and the associated nature conservation and other values created by interactions with humans through traditional management practices.
<b>(m)the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (l).</b>	For the National Park to be recognised as an important place for the recovery of nature and the wellbeing of people. To that end: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People will benefit from the Park’s resilient landscapes, full of flourishing wildlife and valued heritage</li> <li>• People will be able to access, understand and enjoy what makes the Park special</li> <li>• People living and working in the Park will benefit from strong communities, sustainable livelihoods, healthy lifestyles and widespread decarbonisation</li> </ul>

4.15 The assessments proposed to be undertaken to inform the Environmental Report of the NPMP and LDP are highlighted in table 3 below. Where at all possible these move away from objective based assessments against ‘sustainability objectives’, to baseline-led / modelled assessments as this will help to identify the characteristics of any significant effects (positive or negative) and of the area likely to be affected, and enable reporting on:

- (a)probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
- (b)cumulative nature of the effects;
- (c)transboundary nature of the effects;
- (d)risks to human health or the environment;
- (e)magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
- (f)value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to —
  - (i)special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
  - (ii)exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or
  - (iii)intensive land-use; and,
- (g)effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

4.16 Supplemental assessments may be required at a project level including in some instances by means of an Environmental Statement under one of the various Regulations for Environmental Impact Assessment.

Table 3. Assessment methodologies relevant assessment topics for the Environmental Report.

<b>Assessment topic</b>	<b>Means of assessment for the NPMP / LDP.</b>	<b>To help frame the reporting of significant effects of the plan for each assessment topic (see para 4.15 above), consider what is the plan component's....</b>
<b>(a)biodiversity;</b>	Habitats Regulations Assessment	Contribution to meeting SAC conservation objectives?
<b>(b)population;</b>	Demographic modelling Service and development land capacity assessments – e.g. School places, housing market	Contribution to improving the experience of people facing socio-economic disadvantage? Contribution to the local community? Contribution to national well-being?
<b>(c)human health;</b>	Health Impact Assessment	Contribution to improving human health?
<b>(d)fauna;</b>	Habitats Regulations Assessment Species surveys	Contribution to meeting SAC conservation objectives for fauna? Contribution to improving conditions for all birds and s7 fauna?
<b>(e)flora;</b>	Habitats Regulations Assessment DECCA assessment against Resilient Ecological Network Mapping and designations Species surveys Arboriculture report	Contribution to meeting SAC conservation objectives for flora? Contribution to enhancing the resilient ecological network and improving conditions for all s7 flora?
<b>(f)soil;</b>	Assessment of impact on agricultural land classification Modelled impact on soil moisture release and function	Contribution to preserving soil function, preventing further soil degradation and restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality which will enhance ecosystem resilience?
<b>(g)water;</b>	Habitats Regulations Assessment Modelling by NRW / Dwr Cymru / SAB.	Contribution to meeting phosphate target levels in rivers and lakes? Contribution to water conservation and reducing the rate of runoff?
<b>(h)air;</b>	Air pollution / noise modelling if needed.	Contribution to reducing air pollution and noise?
<b>(i)climatic factors;</b>	Modelled impact on GHG emissions Modelled impact of Climate Change (weather) e.g. areas of flood risk (SFCA)	Contribution to decarbonisation? Contribution to minimising the impact of Climate Change on communities and visitors?

<b>(j)material assets;</b>	Modelling of significant impacts on material assets	Contribution to material assets of value to the local community? Contribution to material assets of value to the National Park?
<b>(k)cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;</b>	ASIDOHL Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Archaeological scheme of investigation Welsh Language Impact Assessment	Contribution to maintaining and enhancing the historic environment? Contribution to the everyday use of the Welsh language?
<b>(l)landscape; and</b>	Assessment of likely impact on the strength of character and condition of each level 2 LDU (Landscape and visual appraisal) Dark Skies Impact Assessment Tranquil Areas Impact Assessment	Contribution to the strength of character and condition of the landscape character area / unit? Contribution to dark skies? Contribution to tranquillity?
<b>(m)the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).</b>	Report of impact on Special Qualities	Contribution to maintaining and enhancing the special qualities of the National Park?

## Appendix A: Review of relevant plans, policies and programmes – Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2020.

Purpose: To identify the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme.

Environmental protection objectives	Where established	Implications for Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan
<p><b>Primary objective</b></p> <p>To protect and sustain important landscapes/seascapes and the associated nature conservation and other values created by interactions with humans through traditional management practices.</p> <p><b>Other objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain a balanced interaction of nature and culture through the protection of landscape and/or seascape and associated traditional management approaches, societies, cultures and spiritual values;</li> <li>• To contribute to broad-scale conservation by maintaining species associated with cultural landscapes and/or by providing conservation opportunities in heavily used landscapes;</li> <li>• To provide opportunities for enjoyment, well-being and socio-economic activity through recreation and tourism;</li> <li>• To provide natural products and environmental services;</li> <li>• To provide a framework to underpin active involvement by the community in the</li> </ul>	<p><b>International Union for Conservation of Nature – Category V protected area.</b></p> <p>IUCN Protected Area Management Categories Statement of Compliance for the UK National Park Authorities on why they should continue to be recognised as IUCN Protected Areas Cat V.</p>	<p><b>Statement of conformity - summary of the ambition and vision for nature conservation in the areas:</b></p> <p>While the legislative and policy framework for National Parks allows for a high priority to be given to natural beauty, there are a number of external factors that could undermine conservation efforts, including climate change, development pressure and competing land uses. In order to address this, the National Parks have identified and signed up to major ambitions for the future of nature conservation in their areas and are becoming increasingly recognised as places where biodiversity conservation should be focused.</p> <p>The National Park Authorities recognise that while much progress has been delivered, there is much more that can be achieved in terms of conserving and enhancing biodiversity.</p>

<p>management of valued landscapes or seascapes and the natural and cultural heritage that they contain;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To encourage the conservation of agrobiodiversity and aquatic biodiversity;</li> <li>• To act as models of sustainability so that lessons can be learnt for wider application.</li> </ul>		<p>IUCN can expect those National Parks who are a party to this Statement of Compliance to make sure that all future management plans give a high priority to the conservation of nature. This priority will be explicit in the aims and objectives of the new plans.</p>
<p>The <b>aims</b> of this Convention are to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>The European Landscape Convention</u></a></p> <p>UK Signature: 21/02/2006</p> <p>UK Ratification: 21/11/2006</p> <p>UK Entry into force: 01/03/2007</p>	<p>The States Parties to the Convention recognise that the landscape has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity. The landscape is a key element of individual and social well-being. Its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone.</p>
<p><b>National Park purposes:</b></p> <p>(a) For the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and;</p> <p>(b) For the purpose of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities by the public.</p>	<p>Section 61 of the Environment Act 1995, which amended Section 5 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.</p>	<p>The statutory definition of natural beauty (above) includes geomorphology and landform, concepts that are embraced by IUCN in its definition of “nature”.</p> <p>This is, therefore, a wider definition than those normally subsumed under the term “wildlife”.</p> <p>The two purposes are equal in law, except where there appears to be a conflict between them, in which case priority shall be given to the first purpose. This is the long-established Government policy often referred to as the “Sandford Principle” and since 1995 enshrined in law. It requires that the conservation of natural beauty and cultural heritage be given greater weight if there is a conflict with recreational or educational activity.</p>

		<p>The Environment Act 1995 is definitive and unambiguous that the first purpose “shall” be given greater weight in such circumstances. This means it is a requirement rather than optional.</p> <p>In practice, there are very few instances where recreational or educational activity would be in conflict with conservation of natural beauty or cultural heritage, not least because the National Park Authorities adopt an integrated approach to the management of the Park’s “special qualities”.</p> <p>In pursuing the statutory purposes, the National Park Authorities have a duty to seek to foster the social and economic well-being of their local communities.</p> <p>The legislation makes clear that this duty is subsidiary to the purposes and its fulfilment should not undermine the priority that is given to nature conservation.</p> <p>Furthermore, National Parks are a national designation, established in legislation, and defined by the National Park purposes. Section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995 requires all relevant authorities to have regard to the National Park purposes in all their work in the Parks. Indeed, the imperatives of the National Park purposes should be reflected in these other Plans.</p>
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<p><b>Sustainable Development in Welsh National Parks:</b></p> <p><b>Valued Places</b></p> <p>1. Landscapes for everyone</p> <p><b>Resilient Environments</b></p> <p>2. Exemplars of the sustainable management of natural resources</p> <p>3. Halting the loss of biodiversity</p> <p>4. Green energy and decarbonisation</p> <p><b>Resilient Communities</b></p> <p>5. Realising the economic potential of landscape</p> <p>6. Growing tourism and outdoor recreation</p> <p>7. Thriving Welsh language</p> <p><b>Resilient Ways of Working</b></p> <p>8. All landscapes matter</p> <p>9. Delivering through collaboration</p> <p>10. Innovation in resourcing</p>	<p>Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government’s priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (2018).</p>	<p>Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament has legislative competence in relation to countryside and open spaces (including the designation and regulation of national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs)). This is subject to any reservations in Schedule 7A to the Government of Wales Act 2006.</p> <p>It is reasonable to assume the Welsh Government’s priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (2018) acts to guide the delivery of the National Park purposes through the National Park Management Plan, having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IUCN objectives for Category V protected areas;</li> <li>• Aims of the European Landscape Convention;</li> <li>• National Park purposes;</li> <li>• <b>All other relevant Welsh Legislation and Policy.</b></li> </ul>
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<p><b>Sustainable Management of Natural Resources:</b></p> <p>The objective is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide and, in so doing—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) meet the needs of present generations of people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, and</li> <li>(b) contribute to the achievement of the well-being goals in section 4 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (anaw 2).</li> </ul> <p><i>In this Part, “sustainable management of natural resources” means—</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) using natural resources in a way and at a rate that promotes achievement of the SMNR objective;</li> <li>(b) taking other action that promotes achievement of that objective; and,</li> <li>(c) not taking action that hinders achievement of that objective.</li> </ul>	<p>Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government’s priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (2018) notes that, at the earliest legislative opportunity, the NPA will be placed under a General Purpose to pursue sustainable management of natural resources and apply the principles of sustainable management of natural resources, in the exercise of its functions, so far as consistent with their proper exercise.</p>	<p>The purpose is consistent with an ecosystem-based approach to delivering the National Park purposes and the IUCN statement of compliance.</p> <p>Importantly, the NPA would be under a duty not to take action that hinders, as a first order consideration, the resilience of ecosystems.</p> <p>Public bodies (other than NRW) are not subject to the same duty.</p> <p>The new duty will likely have most bite in the NPA’s role as LPA, experience from NRW Marine Licensing team may be worth seeking.</p>
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<p><b>The Welsh Government Environment &amp; Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme</b></p> <p>The overall aim of ERAMMP is to deliver a programme of monitoring and modelling which collects data across the Welsh landscape and links any changes to their impacts on a wide range of benefits including their economic consequences.</p>	<p>Welsh Government Environment &amp; Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme:  <a href="https://erammp.wales/en">https://erammp.wales/en</a></p>	<p>The programme will be a key source of data for future editions of the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR). The programme will also undertake modelling for the EU exit process and the design and evaluation of programmes delivering to the Natural Resources Policy.</p>
<p><b>LANDMAP - the Welsh landscape baseline:</b></p> <p>An all-Wales landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated in a nationally consistent data set.</p>	<p>LANDMAP - the Welsh landscape baseline:  <a href="https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/landmap-the-welsh-landscape-baseline/?lang=en">https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/landmap-the-welsh-landscape-baseline/?lang=en</a></p>	<p>LANDMAP is used to inform planning, policy, strategies, evidence and advice, including National Park management plans, special qualities and ‘State of reports.</p>
<p><b>State of natural resources report (SoNaRR)</b></p> <p>Natural Resources Wales must prepare and publish reports containing its assessment of the state of natural resources in relation to Wales. Each report must, among other things, set out—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a)NRW's assessment of the extent to which sustainable management of natural resources is being achieved;</li> <li>(b)NRW's assessment of biodiversity (including the living organisms and types of habitat included in any list published under section 7);</li> </ul>	<p>The Environment Act 1995 (s66, (7A) (a)):</p> <p>A National Park authority for a park in Wales which is proposing to publish, adopt or review any plan under this section must have regard to the state of natural resources report published under section 8 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.</p>	<p>SoNaRR is used to inform planning, policy, strategies, evidence and advice, including National Park management plans, special qualities and ‘State of reports.</p> <p>See separate paper on SoNaRR (to be prepared).</p>

<p>(c)what NRW considers to be the main trends and factors that are affecting, and are likely to affect, the state of natural resources;</p> <p>(d)any aspects of the state of natural resources about which NRW considers that it does not have sufficient information to make an assessment.</p>		
<p><b>Area Statements:</b></p> <p>For the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the national natural resources policy, Natural Resources Wales has prepared and published ‘area statements’ covering the whole of Wales.</p> <p>Each area statement must explain why a statement has been prepared for the area, by reference to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i)the natural resources in the area;</li> <li>(ii)the benefits which the natural resources provide; and</li> <li><b>(iii)the priorities, risks and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources which need to be addressed.</b></li> </ul>	<p>The Environment Act 1995 (s66, (7A) (b)):</p> <p>A National Park authority for a park in Wales which is proposing to publish, adopt or review any plan under this section must have regard to any area statement published under section 11 of that Act for an area that includes all or part of the park.</p> <p>It is unclear how NRW has fulfilled its Section 62(2) duty (Environment Act 1995) to have regard to the National Park purposes in preparing and publishing Area Statements.</p>	<p>7 Area Statements were published on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020; 4 are partly within the National Park.</p> <p>NRW determined an area statement should not be incorporated within the Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan.</p> <p>See Appendix C on Area Statements.</p>

## Appendix B: Review of relevant plans, policies and programmes – Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan 2020.

Purpose 1. To identify the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme.

Environmental protection objectives	Where established	Implications for Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan
<p><b>Primary objective</b></p> <p>To protect and sustain important landscapes/seascapes and the associated nature conservation and other values created by interactions with humans through traditional management practices.</p> <p><b>Other objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain a balanced interaction of nature and culture through the protection of landscape and/or seascape and associated traditional management approaches, societies, cultures and spiritual values;</li> <li>• To contribute to broad-scale conservation by maintaining species associated with cultural landscapes and/or by providing conservation opportunities in heavily used landscapes;</li> <li>• To provide opportunities for enjoyment, well-being and socio-economic activity through recreation and tourism;</li> <li>• To provide natural products and environmental services;</li> <li>• To provide a framework to underpin active involvement by the community in the management of valued landscapes or seascapes and the natural and cultural heritage that they contain;</li> <li>• To encourage the conservation of agrobiodiversity and aquatic biodiversity;</li> </ul>	<p><b>International Union for Conservation of Nature – Category V protected area.</b></p> <p>IUCN Protected Area Management Categories Statement of Compliance for the UK National Park Authorities on why they should continue to be recognised as IUCN Protected Areas Cat V.</p>	<p><b>Statement of conformity - summary of the ambition and vision for nature conservation in the areas:</b></p> <p>While the legislative and policy framework for National Parks allows for a high priority to be given to natural beauty, there are a number of external factors that could undermine conservation efforts, including climate change, development pressure and competing land uses. In order to address this, the National Parks have identified and signed up to major ambitions for the future of nature conservation in their areas and are becoming increasingly recognised as places where biodiversity conservation should be focused.</p> <p>The National Park Authorities recognise that while much progress has been delivered, there is much more that can be achieved in</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To act as models of sustainability so that lessons can be learnt for wider application.</li> </ul>		<p>terms of conserving and enhancing biodiversity.</p> <p>IUCN can expect those National Parks who are a party to this Statement of Compliance to make sure that all future management plans give a high priority to the conservation of nature. This priority will be explicit in the aims and objectives of the new plans.</p>
<p><b>National Park purposes:</b></p> <p>(a) For the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and;</p> <p>(b) For the purpose of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities by the public.</p>	<p>Section 61 of the Environment Act 1995, which amended Section 5 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.</p>	<p>The statutory definition of natural beauty (above) includes geomorphology and landform, concepts that are embraced by IUCN in its definition of “nature”.</p> <p>This is, therefore, a wider definition than those normally subsumed under the term “wildlife”.</p> <p>The two purposes are equal in law, except where there appears to be a conflict between them, in which case priority shall be given to the first purpose. This is the long-established Government policy often referred to as the “Sandford Principle” and since 1995 enshrined in law. It requires that the conservation of natural beauty and cultural heritage be given greater weight if there is a conflict with recreational or educational activity.</p>

		<p>The Environment Act 1995 is definitive and unambiguous that the first purpose “shall” be given greater weight in such circumstances. This means it is a requirement rather than optional.</p> <p>In practice, there are very few instances where recreational or educational activity would be in conflict with conservation of natural beauty or cultural heritage, not least because the National Park Authorities adopt an integrated approach to the management of the Park’s “special qualities”.</p> <p>In pursuing the statutory purposes, the National Park Authorities have a duty to seek to foster the social and economic well-being of their local communities.</p> <p>The legislation makes clear that this duty is subsidiary to the purposes and its fulfilment should not undermine the priority that is given to nature conservation.</p> <p>Furthermore, National Parks are a national designation, established in legislation, and defined by the National Park purposes. Section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995 requires all relevant authorities to have regard to the National Park purposes in all their work in the Parks. Indeed, the</p>
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		<p>imperatives of the National Park purposes should be reflected in these other Plans.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable Development in Welsh National Parks:</b></p> <p><b>Valued Places</b></p> <p>1. Landscapes for everyone</p> <p><b>Resilient Environments</b></p> <p>2. Exemplars of the sustainable management of natural resources</p> <p>3. Halting the loss of biodiversity</p> <p>4. Green energy and decarbonisation</p> <p><b>Resilient Communities</b></p> <p>5. Realising the economic potential of landscape</p> <p>6. Growing tourism and outdoor recreation</p> <p>7. Thriving Welsh language</p> <p><b>Resilient Ways of Working</b></p> <p>8. All landscapes matter</p> <p>9. Delivering through collaboration</p> <p>10. Innovation in resourcing</p>	<p>Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government’s priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (2018).</p>	<p>Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament has legislative competence in relation to countryside and open spaces (including the designation and regulation of national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs)). This is subject to any reservations in Schedule 7A to the Government of Wales Act 2006.</p> <p>It is reasonable to assume the Welsh Government’s priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (2018) acts to guide the delivery of the National Park purposes through the National Park Management Plan, having had regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IUCN objectives for Category V protected areas;</li> <li>• Aims of the European Landscape Convention;</li> <li>• National Park purposes;</li> <li>• <b>All other relevant Welsh Legislation and Policy.</b></li> </ul>

<p><b>Sustainable Management of Natural Resources:</b></p> <p>The objective is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide and, in so doing—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) meet the needs of present generations of people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, and</li> <li>(b) contribute to the achievement of the well-being goals in section 4 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (anaw 2).</li> </ul> <p><i>In this Part, “sustainable management of natural resources” means—</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) using natural resources in a way and at a rate that promotes achievement of the SMNR objective;</li> <li>(b) taking other action that promotes achievement of that objective; and,</li> <li>(c) not taking action that hinders achievement of that objective.</li> </ul>	<p>Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government’s priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (2018) notes that, at the earliest legislative opportunity, the NPA will be placed under a General Purpose to pursue sustainable management of natural resources and apply the principles of sustainable management of natural resources, in the exercise of its functions, so far as consistent with their proper exercise.</p>	<p>The purpose is consistent with an ecosystem-based approach to delivering the National Park purposes and the IUCN statement of compliance.</p> <p>Importantly, the NPA would be under a duty not to take action that hinders, as a first order consideration, the resilience of ecosystems.</p> <p>Public bodies (other than NRW) are not subject to the same duty.</p> <p>The new duty will likely have most bite in the NPA’s role as LPA, experience from NRW Marine Licensing team may be worth seeking.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable development</b></p> <p><b>Key planning principles - Achieving the Right Development in the Right Place:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing our economy in a sustainable manner</li> <li>• Making best use of resources</li> <li>• Facilitating accessible and healthy environments</li> <li>• Creating &amp; sustaining communities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Planning Policy Wales</b></p>	<p>Planning Policy Wales sets out the Welsh Government’s expectations and policy for the planning system in Wales.</p> <p>PPW’s interpretation of the Major Development test doe does not accord with our own or that of legal opinion sought by South Downs NPA.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact</li> </ul> <p><b>National sustainable placemaking outcomes -</b></p> <p><b><i>Growing our economy in a sustainable manner</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fosters economic activity</li> <li>• Enables easy communication</li> <li>• Generates its own renewable energy</li> <li>• Vibrant and dynamic</li> <li>• Adaptive to change</li> <li>• Embraces smart and innovative technology</li> </ul> <p><b>Making best use of resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes best use of natural resources</li> <li>• Prevents waste</li> <li>• Prioritises the use of previously developed land and existing buildings</li> <li>• Unlocks potential and regenerates</li> <li>• High quality and built to last</li> <li>• Facilitating accessible and healthy environments</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilitating accessible and healthy environments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible and high-quality green space</li> <li>• Accessible by means of active travel and public transport</li> <li>• Not car dependent</li> <li>• Minimises the need to travel</li> <li>• Provides equality of access</li> <li>• Feels safe and inclusive</li> <li>• Supports a diverse population</li> <li>• Good connections</li> <li>• Convenient access to goods and services</li> </ul>		<p>Delivery of PPW through the LDP must be considered first and foremost through the lens of the National Park purposes.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes physical and mental health and well-being</li> </ul> <p><b>Creating &amp; sustaining communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enables the Welsh language to thrive Appropriate development densities</li> <li>• Homes and jobs to meet society’s needs</li> <li>• A mix of uses</li> <li>• Offers cultural experiences</li> <li>• Community based facilities and services</li> </ul> <p><b>Maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilient biodiversity and ecosystems</li> <li>• Distinctive and special landscapes</li> <li>• Integrated green infrastructure</li> <li>• Appropriate soundscapes</li> <li>• Reduces environmental risks</li> <li>• Manages water resources naturally</li> <li>• Clean air</li> <li>• Reduces overall pollution</li> <li>• Resilient to climate change</li> <li>• Distinctive and special historic environments</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Plans</b></p> <p><b>Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (s62) (5):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In preparing a local development plan the authority must have regard to—</li> <li>• current national policies;</li> <li>• the National Development Framework for Wales;</li> </ul>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the strategic development plan for any strategic planning area that—             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ (i) includes all or part of the area of the authority, or</li> <li>○ (ii) adjoins that area;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• any area statement published under section 11 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 for an area that includes all or part of the area of the authority;</li> <li>• any relevant local well-being plan.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Future Wales – the National Plan 2040</b></p>	<p><b>Future Wales – the National Plan 2040</b></p> <p>Planning Wales Act 2015 (Section 7)</p> <p>Local development plans must be in general conformity with the strategic development plan for any strategic planning area that includes all or part of the area of the authority.”</p>	<p>Identifies the BBNP within three Strategic Planning Areas for which SDP will need to be prepared (likely commencing after May 22 elections):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South East Wales</li> <li>• South West Wales</li> <li>• Mid Wales</li> </ul> <p>Identified Brecon as a Regional Growth Zone</p> <p>Excludes major Wind, Solar and Minerals developments from within the National Park</p>
<p><b>Wales National Marine Plan</b></p> <p>In particular objectives which may be impacted by the National Park.</p> <p>9 Support the achievement and maintenance of Good Environmental Status (GES) and Good Ecological Status (GeS).</p> <p>10 Protect, conserve, restore and enhance marine biodiversity to halt and reverse its decline including supporting the development and functioning of a well-managed and ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas</p>	<p><b>The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015</b> require the NPA to have regard to these strategies when preparing the LDP.</p>	<p>Consider any in-combination impacts of development within in the Marine Environment on related designated SAC features.</p>

<p>(MPAs) and resilient populations of representative, rare and vulnerable species.</p> <p>II Maintain and enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems and the benefits they provide in order to meet the needs of present and future generations.</p>		
<p><b>The Waste Strategy for Wales:</b></p> <p><a href="https://gov.wales/towards-zero-waste-our-waste-strategy">https://gov.wales/towards-zero-waste-our-waste-strategy</a></p>	<p><b>The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended)</b> require the NPA to have regard to this strategy when preparing the LDP (Regional waste plans now obsolete).</p>	<p>Introduces the key principles including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of human health and the environment</li> <li>• Application of the Waste Hierarchy</li> <li>• Polluter pays</li> <li>• Extended producer responsibility</li> <li>• Proximity principle</li> <li>• Precautionary principle</li> <li>• Equality of opportunity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan</b></p>	<p><b>Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan</b></p> <p>National Parks are a national designation, established in legislation, and defined by the National Park purposes. Section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995 requires all relevant authorities to have regard to the National Park purposes in all their work in the Parks. Indeed, the imperatives of the National Park purposes should be reflected in these other Plans, including the Local Development Plan.</p>	<p>Most significant contextual document for the Development Plan in National Parks.</p> <p>The National Park Management Plan formulates the National Park Authority's policy for the management of the Brecon Beacons National Park and for the carrying out of its functions in relation to that Park.</p>

	<p>(Countryside Council for Wales, 2007, p. 26).</p>	
<p><b>Strategic Development Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mid Wales</b></li> <li>• <b>South East Wales</b></li> <li>• <b>South West Wales</b></li> </ul>	<p>Planning Wales Act 2015 (Section 7)</p> <p>Local development plans must be in general conformity with the strategic development plan for any strategic planning area that includes all or part of the area of the authority.</p>	<p>Likely commencing after May 22 elections:</p> <p>Significant in that the levels of growth, and settlement hierarchies, including the Brecon Regional Growth Zone, will be set via SDP.</p>
<p><b>Area Statements:</b></p> <p>For the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the national natural resources policy, Natural Resources Wales has prepared and published 'area statements' covering the whole of Wales.</p> <p>Each area statement must explain why a statement has been prepared for the area, by reference to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the natural resources in the area;</li> <li>(ii) the benefits which the natural resources provide; and</li> <li>(iii) <b>the priorities, risks and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources which need to be addressed.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Area Statements:</b></p> <p>The Environment Act 1995 (s66, (7A) (b)):</p> <p>A National Park authority for a park in Wales which is proposing to publish, adopt or review any plan under this section must have regard to any area statement published under section 11 of that Act for an area that includes all or part of the park.</p> <p>It is unclear how NRW has fulfilled its Section 62(2) duty (Environment Act 1995) to have regard to the National Park purposes in preparing and publishing Area Statements.</p>	<p>7 Area Statements were published on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020; 4 are partly within the National Park.</p> <p>NRW determined an area statement should not be incorporated within the Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan.</p> <p>See Appendix C on Area Statements.</p>

<p><b>Relevant local well-being plans prepared by Public Service Boards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powys</li> <li>• Monmouthshire</li> <li>• Carmarthenshire</li> <li>• Cwm Taf</li> <li>• Neath Port Talbot</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent</li> <li>• Caerphilly</li> <li>• Torfaen</li> </ul>	<p><b>Local Well-being Plans</b></p> <p>Planning and compulsory purchase Act 2004 (as amended)</p> <p>In preparing a local development plan the authority must have regard to any relevant local well-being plan.</p>	<p>Although a member of Powys and Carmarthenshire PSBs, the National Park has determined not to discharge its sustainable duty via PSB Local Well-being Plans given the national status of the National Park Management Plan.</p> <p>These plans should each have regard to the National Park purposes.</p> <p>Local Well-being objectives are set within the Corporate Plan 20 – 21 (August 2020).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People will benefit from the Park’s resilient landscapes, full of flourishing wildlife and valued heritage;</li> <li>• People will be able to access, understand and enjoy what makes the Park special;</li> <li>• People living and working in the Park will benefit from strong communities, sustainable livelihoods, healthy lifestyles and widespread decarbonisation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Local transport plans</b> / policies for the implementation of the Wales Transport Strategy and for the promotion and encouragement of safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport to, from and within their area the transport required to meet the needs of persons living or working in</p>	<p><b>The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005</b> require the NPA to</p>	<p>These plans should each have regard to the National Park purposes.</p>

<p>the authority's area, or visiting or travelling through that area, and the transport required for the transportation of freight and including facilities and services for pedestrians.</p> <p>Mid Wales: <a href="http://www.tracc.gov.uk/index.php?id=125&amp;L=0%27">http://www.tracc.gov.uk/index.php?id=125&amp;L=0%27</a></p> <p>Mons.: <a href="https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/local-transport-plan/">https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/local-transport-plan/</a></p> <p>SW Wales: <a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/localtransportplan">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/localtransportplan</a></p> <p>SE Wales Valleys: <a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/1490/south-east-wales-valleys-local-transport-plan.pdf">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/1490/south-east-wales-valleys-local-transport-plan.pdf</a></p>	<p>have regard to Local transport plans and strategies when preparing the LDP.</p>	
<p>Objectives of preventing major accidents and limiting the consequences of such accidents.</p>	<p><b>The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005</b> require the NPA to have regard to these objectives when preparing the LDP.</p>	<p>By having regard to notifiable installations and their exclusion zones and the proximity of operations supported via development to sensitive sites e.g. the Natura 2000 network.</p>
<p>The need—</p> <p>(i) in the long term, to maintain appropriate distances between establishments and residential areas, buildings and areas of public use, major transport routes as far as possible, recreational areas and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest, and;</p> <p>(ii) in the case of existing establishments, for additional technical measures in accordance with Article 5 of Council Directive 96/82/EC on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances(2) so as not to increase the risks to people;</p>	<p><b>The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005</b> require the NPA to have regard to these considerations when preparing the LDP.</p>	<p>Major development test.</p>

<p>Any local housing strategy, the policies of which affect any part of the LPA's area. (Informed by local housing market &amp; gypsy and traveller accommodation assessments)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powys</li> <li>• Monmouthshire</li> <li>• Carmarthenshire</li> <li>• Merthyr Tydfil</li> <li>• Rhondda Cynon Taf</li> <li>• Neath Port Talbot</li> <li>• Blaenau Gwent</li> <li>• Caerphilly</li> <li>• Torfaen</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005</b> require the NPA to have regard to these strategies when preparing the LDP.</p>	<p>To understand the LHA approach to meeting housing need across the National Park.</p>
<p><b>Others:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local health board plans</li> <li>• Local nature recovery plans</li> <li>• Active travel plans</li> <li>• Local education plans</li> </ul>	<p><b>N/A:</b></p> <p>Although integration via sustainable development principle of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.</p>	<p>These plans should each have regard to the National Park purposes.</p>

## Appendix C: Notes on Area Statements

1. Introduction
  - 1.1 On 1st April 2020, Natural Resources Wales published Area Statements, a requirement of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (hereafter “the Act”) “for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the national natural resources policy.”
  - 1.2 The Natural Resources Policy (2017) identifies three national priorities for the management of our natural resources, namely:
    - Delivering nature-based solutions;
    - Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency; and,
    - Taking a place-based approach.
  - 1.3 Four of the seven Area Statements published are of direct relevance to the Brecon Beacons National Park:
    - Mid Wales
    - South East Wales
    - South Central Wales
    - South West Wales
  - 1.4 The National Park Authority must have regard to these four Area Statements when:
    - Proposing to publish, adopt or review any (Management) plan; and,
    - Preparing a Local Development Plan.
  - 1.5 Public Service Boards must have regard to relevant Area Statements when preparing Local Well-being Assessments (the National Park Authority is a Member of Powys Public Service Board).
  - 1.6 There is no equivalent of the Area Statements in England. Nature, however, knows no boundaries and we must be mindful of the interrelationship of the National Park with Herefordshire.
2. Requirements of Area Statements
  - 2.1 s11 of the Act outlines the required contents Area Statements. These may be summarised as follows:
    - A. To assert why a statement has been prepared for the area, by reference to the natural resources in the area.
    - B. To assert why a statement has been prepared for the area, by reference to the benefits which the natural resources provide
    - C. To assert why a statement has been prepared for the area, by reference to the priorities, risks and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources which need to be addressed
    - D. To describe how the principles of sustainable management of natural resources have been applied in preparing the statement;
    - E. To state how Natural Resources Wales proposes to address the priorities, risks and opportunities, and how it proposes to apply the principles of sustainable management of natural resources in doing so;
    - F. To specify the public bodies which Natural Resources Wales considers may assist in addressing the priorities, risks and opportunities.
  - 2.2 Before publishing the Area Statements, s11 (7) of the Act also requires Natural Resources Wales to consider whether another plan, strategy or similar document should be incorporated into the area statement or conversely whether the area statement should be incorporated into another plan, strategy or similar document.
  - 2.3 Natural Resources Wales are of the opinion that the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations apply to Area Statements.
3. Initial reflections

- 3.1 The contents of the Area Statements do not appear to meet those required by s11 of the Act. For example in Mid Wales, increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency, one of three national priorities for the management of our natural resources, is not addressed; neither are the benefits of National Parks as outlined in 'Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks'.
- 3.2 The area statements as published outline the following themes (are these the priorities intended by the Act?). They also outline opportunities and success outcomes.

**Mid Wales**

- 1 Improving biodiversity - responding to the nature emergency
- 2 Sustainable land, water and air - working towards sustainable farming and land management
- 3 Reconnecting people and places - improving health, wellbeing and the economy
- 4 Forest resources - managing timber resources effectively
- 5 Climate emergency – adaptation and mitigation across four themes

**South East Wales**

- 1 Linking our Landscapes
- 2 Climate ready Gwent
- 3 Healthy active connected
- 4 Ways of working

**South Central Wales**

- 1 Building resilient ecosystems
- 2 Connecting people with nature
- 3 Working with water
- 4 Improving our health
- 5 Improving our air quality

**South West Wales**

- 1 Reducing health inequalities
- 2 Ensuring sustainable land management
- 3 Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity
- 4 Cross-cutting theme: Mitigating and adapting to a changing climate