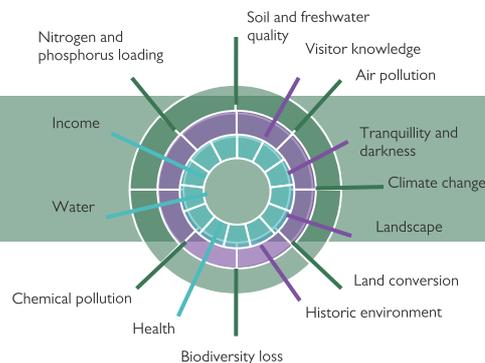


We will develop a landscape rich in trees, woods and hedgerows, with better woodland management, restored ancient woodland and more trees to deliver the many social and ecological benefits they bring.

We will work in partnership to develop a Treescapes Plan to increase extent and regenerate woodland and trees across the National Park, ensuring proposals:

- contribute to ecosystem health, function and resilience;
- help mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change; and,
- are well connected and integrate with the Public Rights of Way, Active Travel and Local Food networks.

We will also support efforts to record and protect ancient, veteran and notable trees and will support inclusive and accessible ways to become involved in projects to manage, research, monitor, celebrate and benefit from the beautiful and varied character of trees in the National Park.



Why this is important

Woodlands for the wellbeing of all

There are many different treescapes in the National Park. Part of our Historic Environment, they provide a broad range of benefits for biodiversity and people and include:

- Ancient semi-natural woodland
- Broadleaf native woodland
- Fridd, heathland and moorland trees
- Hedgerows
- Orchards
- Plantations and new native woodland
- Temperate rainforest
- Urban trees and woodland
- Wet and riparian woodland
- Wood pasture and parkland

Built around four themes, Woodlands for Wales outlines Welsh Government’s vision and targets for Wales’ trees, woodlands and forest:

- responding to climate change
- woodlands for people
- a competitive and integrated forest sector
- environmental quality

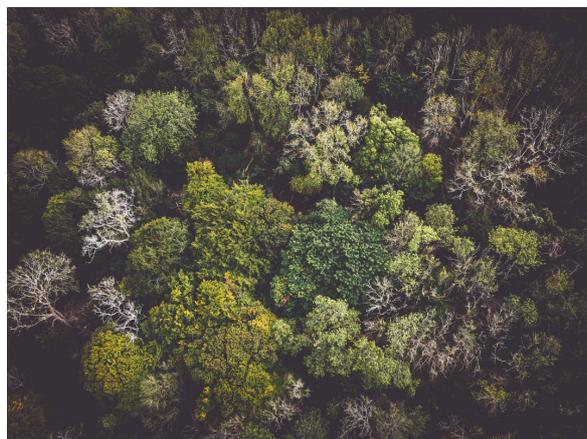
The national forest evidence base provides a great resource for starting to undertake this work in the context of the National Park.

Achieving ‘net zero’ greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will require major changes in the way we manage land, alongside decarbonisation of the energy, transport and other sectors.

Trees and woodlands have intrinsic value. They also support biodiversity, are a nature-based way to both mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change, contribute to human wellbeing, and can be of cultural and economic value.

A recent review of the scientific evidence base relating to carbon storage and sequestration by semi-natural habitats, in relation to their condition and/or management has found that:

- Native broadleaved woodlands are reliable carbon sinks that continue to take up carbon over centuries with benefits for biodiversity and other ecosystem services, although the rate varies greatly with tree species and age and is strongly influenced by soils and climate.
- Native woodland managed with a minimum intervention approach can be an effective climate change mitigation measure.
- Timber production can have benefits for climate change mitigation where wood products store carbon for the long-term or replace more fossil fuel intensive materials and fuels.
- Non-native species of tree generally support lower levels of biodiversity, and plantations on peatlands have led both to the loss of biodiversity and carbon.
- Hedgerows, orchards and trees outside woodland can also sequester and store carbon, as well as providing other benefits within an agricultural and biodiversity context.



How the policy will be implemented

We will work in partnership to design a treescapes and woodland expansion and regeneration plan for the National Park and advocate its inclusion within NRW Area Statements.

Advising and influencing agri-environment schemes that encourage tree planting, and woodland and treescapes management.

Implementing this policy by providing consistent messaging on forest resource plans and EIA screening, and consent applications on which stakeholders are consulted by Natural Resources Wales.

Working with the community through tree warden and ambassador schemes to promote good arboricultural management of existing trees and advocate for development of community woodland.

Working with the community and Woodland Trust to record, protect and celebrate ancient, veteran and noble trees and plan for the future generations of ancient trees.

Working with landmanagers to encourage the development of sylvopasture, the use of land for trees and food production.

How we will measure progress

We will measure progress against the development and successful implementation of the Treescapes Plan.

What success looks like

The Treescapes Plan for woodland restoration and expansion will have been developed and its implementation will have helped us to:

- Define objectives for the Favourable Conservation Status of broadleaf woodland and soils in the Brecon Beacons National Park
- Define a pathway to achieve woodland FCS including Restoring coedcae/ffridd and altitudinal zonation of woodlands and trees
- Restore and expand wood pasture and parkland
- Restore and expand riparian woodland
- Restore and expand broadleaf woodland on Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)
- Restore and expand wooded habitat biodiversity.
- Achieve consensus for the best course of action for woodland regeneration on registered common land.
- Recover a more even, less erratic river discharge throughout the year.
- Develop and implement a protocol for the cropping of timber, fibre, and carbon capture.
- Avoid widespread 'coniferisation' on land released from agriculture.
- Remove inappropriate shelter belts and woodland (including tree removal and remediation on peatland).
- Increase tree canopy cover in towns and villages.
- Support and increase community woodland initiatives.
- We will have safeguarded the historic environment during woodland creation schemes.