

Submission of Evidence Form – National Development Framework

Name

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Email:

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Date

7 March 2017

Title of evidence

National landscape evidence to include:

- LANDMAP
- Register of Historic Landscapes
- National Landscape Character and National Marine Character Areas
- Tranquillity Map of Wales
- Local landscape and seascape character areas
- Dark Skies
- Action plan for Pollinators in Wales
- Naturally accessible Green Spaces

Summary of evidence

National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty as statutorily designated landscapes are taken to be automatically included.

- **LANDMAP**

LANDMAP is an all-Wales landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and consistently evaluated in five nationally consistent and quality assured spatial datasets (the Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual and Sensory, Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape). It maps, classifies, describes and evaluates (from a national to local scale) landscapes from the unique perspective of each dataset, in addition to recording significant landscape change through monitoring of the baseline resource. Using LANDMAP as a key landscape evidence base can contribute to sustainable decision-making and natural resource planning at a range of levels from local to national whilst ensuring transparency in decision-making. LANDMAP is the

key landscape baseline resource in Wales. LANDMAP information also forms the starting point for preparing local landscape characterisations in Wales.

- **Register of Historic Landscapes**

The register identifies 58 nationally important landscapes of outstanding or special historic interest in Wales which are considered to be the best examples of different types of Welsh historic landscapes. The register provides information to decision makers to help ensure that the historic landscape character is sustained and change is well informed. For example, information on the register of historic landscapes in Wales is taken into account by planning authorities when considering the implications of developments, guided by a good practice guide.

- **National Landscape Character Areas and National Marine Character Areas**

Covering all parts of Wales and abutting along the coastline, they form the broadest scale of characterisation, spatially dividing Wales into 48 landscape and 29 marine character areas. They highlight the regionally distinct natural, cultural and perceptual characteristics of each area. The marine areas form part of the evidence base used in the draft Wales National Marine Plan and associated policies relating to seascapes and character..

- **Tranquillity Map of Wales**

The 2009 national map and report provides a national assessment of areas of land affected by noise and visual intrusions, including light pollution, in the landscape. The map provides an objective and robust evidence base to inform planning including an insight into what changes occurred over a 12 year period to 2009. As evidence it can contribute to understanding the potential impact of plans on tranquillity and dark night skies.

- **Local landscape and seascape character areas**

Produced by respective Local Planning Authorities in many parts of Wales, these local-scale characterisations are prepared to guide local planning, such as to inform the siting of renewable energy developments with reference to their sensitivity and value. They typically add further local information and go through public consultation and are generally adopted either to form SPG or to influence landscape management plans and policies. Although not a complete national picture, they add value to the national picture – which at the end of the day has to be interpreted locally.

- **Dark Skies**

Dark Sky places are areas or sites that have been officially recognised for their low levels of light pollution and good public access. As with the tranquillity mapping it provides an additional layer of evidence in the understanding of potential impacts of development as well as allowing us to protect and preserve vulnerable landscapes.

- **Action plan for pollinators in Wales (2013)**

The Welsh Government Action Plan for Pollinators and Green Infrastructure

Action Plan for Pollinators in South-east Wales provide evidence that action is needed to address the decline of pollinators in Wales for food growing and wider landscape and biodiversity benefits. It also provides mechanisms for this delivery which is complimented by a Green Infrastructure approach.

- **Naturally Accessible Green Spaces**

A National methodology to provide an assessment of the location, quality, quantity and connectivity of greenspace within a county and to determine the accessibility of these areas of greenspace to local people. It is a key target of Welsh Government that accessible natural greenspaces have an important contribution to make to the quality of the environment and to the quality of life in and around urban areas. Such sites are valued by the community, provide important refuges for wildlife, and are beneficial to public health and wellbeing. In recent years many local authorities in Wales have carried out studies to identify and map the provision of greenspace.

Summary of key issues/conclusions

Landscapes contribute to our sense of place, identity, wellbeing and quality of life. Our experience and interaction with landscape can have a positive effect on our health and wellbeing. Attractive landscapes, natural beauty, cultural heritage and tranquillity provide opportunities and benefits for healthy communities, recreation, tourism and economic activity.

It is therefore important that landscape is included in national development plan preparation and any subsequent development management. As a means of achieving this a “green Infrastructure” approach offers a clear multifunctional delivery mechanism to embracing the 7 well-being goals. Clear policy guidance on Green Infrastructure should be provided to ensure its delivery. National landscape baseline resources, together with a whole range of biodiversity, PROW, climate change, health and well-being social and environmental data sources are readily available to enable this.

Why have you submitted this evidence?

These evidence resources enable planners to take nationally recognised and important landscapes, as identified through LANDMAP and the Register of Historic Landscapes, into account when preparing plans.

All the landscape resources can contribute to understanding the potential impacts on landscape character and visual amenity from developments as well as enabling local authorities to maximise opportunities for social, economic, health and well-being through an inclusive green infrastructure approach.

How should this evidence inform the development of the NDF?

Landscape evidence spatializes the relationship between people and places, highlighting what is distinct and different, and what is typical or common between one area and another. It helps us to pick out what's important about places – both existing and in terms of opportunities to inform the planning, design and management of places for the future. It fits well with our policy context of considering the relationship between natural resources and human well-being and its spatial dimension has direct relevance to spatial policy formulation. Different landscape evidence informs different decision-making needs at different spatial scales, from local to regional to national, and with relationships between the scales.

The evidence resources can contribute to understanding Welsh landscapes, helping to identify locations that could accommodate change to landscape character and visual amenity including different types of change and landscape enhancement.

How does this evidence and any actions it recommends help achieve the 7 well-being goals?

Goal	Contribution
A prosperous Wales	There is an economic value in landscapes as destinations for visitors, but also as places for communities to prosper. Welsh landscapes are worth £8 billion/year (with £4.2 billion from tourism). Attractive landscapes help attract inward investment. This goal also has the potential ambition of creating a low carbon society for which Green Infrastructure can contribute to carbon sinks in urban environments, this can be advanced through the Landscape Parks model within a regional context such as City Regions. Creation of such parks would further contribute to this goal through the creation of regional skilled jobs and investment. This can be quantified through Indicator 4 and 22 Levels of NO2 pollution in the air; percentage of people in education, employment or training.
A resilient Wales	The nature and scale of landscapes provide a degree of resilience to change, including to climate change, eg flood prevention, carbon capture and the effects of urban heat islands. Changing and still valued cultural landscapes are potentially a testament to their resilience. This goal also promotes enhancing biodiversity and promoting healthy ecosystems and ecological resilience in which Green Infrastructure can provide a key delivery mechanism.
A healthier Wales	Attractive landscapes encourage and provide places and opportunities for access and enjoyment, enticing healthy lifestyles and active travel, social wellbeing, supporting tourism and reducing stress. Green infrastructure has also been proven to have an important role in enabling people to access green spaces and natural landscape as well as tackling air pollution in urban areas. This could be quantified through indicator 29 mean mental well-being score for people

A more equal Wales	The European Landscape Convention advocates that 'all landscapes matter', not just statutorily designated sites. Management planning and change can be explained to communities using landscape character. People relate to landscape, offering more equal opportunities for engagement and participation by using landscape as a communication medium. It can also offer an opportunity to build upon improved mental well-being through environmental gains as above in terms of air pollution etc). Indicator 24 as well as those above is relevant here in terms of percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/access the facilities and services they need.
A Wales of cohesive communities	Local landscapes are important to place making in both urban and rural communities, they contribute to the health, social and economic well-being of individuals and communities, attractive landscapes offer places people want to live in. Communities value their aesthetic and cultural locality and frequently connect this to a sense of local identity and belonging. Landscapes also provide opportunities for community based projects and volunteering that bring people together. Green Infrastructure can help deliver this approach which will help contribute to indicators 25,,27 and 30 – Percentage of people satisfied with their local area as a place to live, percentage of people agreeing that they belong to the area, that people from different backgrounds get on well together, and that people treat each other with respect; and finally the percentage of people who are lonely.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Landscape provides an important link to our sense of national identity and reflects our natural, historic and social heritage. The Welsh landscape is an important cultural asset and is often linked to regeneration.
A globally responsive Wales	Many of Wales' landscapes areas and characteristics are rare, unique and valued, some landscapes are likely to have a higher capacity to evolve and accommodate change to meet current and future needs of society. There is growing evidence that landscape solutions provide sustainable ways forward to deal with global issues such as climate change, with green infrastructure being used to tackle flooding, carbon emissions and air pollution.

Why is the evidence of national significance?

The essence of a spatial approach to planning is to relate what really matters (well-being) to the different environmental settings in which we live, work and enjoy and interact with natural resources (via landscapes). The evidence collectively forms a detailed spatialized baseline covering different scales and

different aspects of landscapes.

LANDMAP is an all-Wales landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and consistently evaluated within a single dataset. This includes identifying nationally important landscapes using LANDMAP evaluations.

The Register of Historic Landscapes identifies nationally important landscapes of historic interest in Wales which are considered to be the best examples.

The Tranquillity map and Character Areas provide unique national landscape information resources.

Dark Skies as above are areas or sites that have been officially recognised for their low levels of light pollution and good public access.

Action plan for pollinators in Wales (2013) A Welsh Government national plan which identifies areas where action is needed, its vision for pollinators in Wales and also lays out an 'Agenda for Action'.

Naturally Accessible Greenspace studies collectively provide a national dataset on the location, quality, quantity and connectivity of greenspace and help to determine the accessibility of these areas of greenspace to local people, which is as a key target of Welsh Government.

Do you agree for your evidence to be made public? (Only evidence that can be made public will inform the development of the NDF)

Yes.

Submission of Projects Form – National Development Framework

Name

Kate Stinchcombe

Contact details

[REDACTED]

Date

6/3/2017

Interest in site

Local authorities and stakeholders owners and managers

Details of landowner

Local Authorities in South East Wales that formed part of the pollinators for Life project (Monmouthshire, Torfaen, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent) plus potential to include other LA's e.g. Newport and Cardiff. Additional key landowners include Housing Associations, Gwent Police and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board.

Title of project

Pollinators for Life

Summary of project

Implementation of the Green Infrastructure Action Plan for Pollinators which was developed through the Welsh Government Nature Fund. This is a strategic plan which supports landscape scale working and collaboration between Local Authorities and external partners to seek to reverse the decline of pollinating insects which are an important ecosystem service supporting food production and natural habitats and landscapes through a Green Infrastructure (multiple benefit) approach. The Action Plan drives management for pollinators on land owned by the public sector and key stakeholders identified through the process.

The project would include:

- **Hearts & Minds:** Education and Training initiatives to promote the importance of pollinators to children, young adults, the general public and land management practitioners. Using tools developed by the action plan and supporting leaflets.
- **Actions for Change:** Positive Actions to enhance green spaces

owned by the public sector and project partners, particularly for pollinators and to harness their biodiversity potential to deliver improved local environmental quality, biodiversity and connectivity. The approach can be applied to the whole of Wales.

Location of project (Please attach location map)

Operates within the administrative Boundaries of Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly with scope to extend to other neighbouring authorities e.g. Newport and Cardiff and potential to be applied to the whole of Wales.

What consents are required?

Will vary according to the location and type of works e.g. Highways, Schools, Planning, Cadw, NRW.

Consents already granted relevant to project

Local Authorities, Health Boards, Gwent Police and Housing Associations were involved in the preparation of the plan and therefore support the approach in principle. Individual sites will need to be considered on case by case.

Public engagement to date

Green Infrastructure Action Plan for Pollinators has been introduced to key stakeholders and community groups e.g. Grounds Maintenance departments, U3A and Usk Civic Society Groups, Incredible Edible Usk and Bee Friendly Monmouthshire.

Has an environmental assessment been prepared? (Yes / No)

No

Are there any site designations or constraints affecting the site?

Sites such as SAMs, SSSIs and other designations may form part of the project but shall be considered carefully with appropriate consultation and consents.

What is the delivery timescale for the project?

Ongoing

How would the project contribute to the delivery of the 7 well-being goals?
Why is the project of national significance?

A Prosperous Wales: Preventing the decline in pollinating insects is vital to

safeguard agriculture and food production, a key sector of the economy. Tourism is a vital economy in the region and the quality of local landscapes is important in its promotion.

Aesthetically pleasing areas that are attractive, are likely to support the inward investment potential of the area.

A Resilient Wales: The project will create more biodiverse green spaces to support pollinating insects and create ecological corridors.

A Healthier Wales: Access to and within high quality natural environment improves physical and mental well-being.

A More Equal Wales: The plan supports projects in all areas so that people of all sectors of the community can benefit. It aims to bring high quality green infrastructure to all.

A Wales of Cohesive Communities: Through a Green Infrastructure (multiple benefit) approach, improvement of sites for pollinators and biodiversity will promote cohesive communities by encouraging working with community groups to improve public places.

A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language: Project activity is promoted bilingually, and through the creation of vibrant green spaces, encourages people to participate in activities in their local community.

A Globally responsible wales: Halting the decline in pollinators is vital to make a positive contribution to global well-being, by helping to safeguard our vital natural ecosystems.

Why is the project of national significance?

In July 2013 the Welsh Government published its '**Action Plan for Pollinators in Wales**'. This plan identifies areas where action is needed, the vision for pollinators in Wales and also lays out an 'Agenda for Action'. The three main outcomes specifically addressed in this project are:

Outcome 1: Wales has joined up policy, governance and a sound evidence base for action for pollinators

- The Green Infrastructure Action Plan for Pollinators provides a strategic framework for delivery which can be adopted across public authorities in Wales

Outcome 2: Wales provides diverse and connected flower rich habitats to support our pollinators

- The Green Infrastructure Action Plan for Pollinators provides action plans to support achievement of this outcome through changes to site management in public ownership and influencing management undertaken by others e.g. business.

Outcome 3: Wales' pollinator populations are healthy

- By encouraging the development of forage habitats and nesting and overwintering sites, the Green Infrastructure Action Plan implementation shall contribute to achieving this outcome.

Outcome 4: Wales' citizens are better informed and aware of the importance and management of pollinators

- A significant outcome of the project would be public engagement at all levels which will contribute to achieving this national outcome.

In this document the Welsh Government recognised they need to work in partnership in order to halt the decline in pollinators. Of particular note it states that:

- 'Pollinators are recognised and managed for within policies and programmes within Welsh Government and across public, private and the third sector'
- 'Review Local Authority management of roadside verges, parks and public green spaces'.
- 'Promote community led projects to benefit pollinators and local communities

Local authorities and other public bodies are major land owners and can significantly influence the opportunities for providing better conditions for pollinators on its land and lead by example by improving management of its parks and open spaces, roadsides, grazed fields, school playing fields, woodlands and urban trees. There are also many opportunities for public bodies to work more closely with the local community and other partners to provide better conditions for pollinators which have been addressed by this application.

Do you agree for your project and any supporting information to be made public? (Only projects and information that can be made public will inform the development of the NDF.)

Yes

Submission of Projects Form – National Development Framework

SE Wales Uplands Natural Resource Management Plan

Name

Andrew Osborne

Contact details

[REDACTED]

Date

6th March 2017

Interest in site

To maximise the economic, social and environmental opportunities of upland commons

Details of landowner

Various inc. private land owners, Torfaen CBC, Blaenau Gwent CBC, Caerphilly CBC. The areas are designated as Common Land and are therefore open for public use (with certain restrictions).

Title of project

SE Wales Uplands Natural Resource Management Plan

Summary of project

A strategic green infrastructure plan covering 380km² of land over 200m in altitude, that's adopts an ecosystems approach to support activity at a landscape scale. It is designed to enhance biodiversity, support the rural economy, help tackle climate change by retaining water in the uplands and capture carbon through peat bog restoration. It encompasses a toolkit to deal with landscape crime including illegal off-roading, fly-tipping and arson.

<http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/Publications/WorldHeritageSite/LookingAfterBlaenavon/Upland-Commons-of-South-East-Wales-Natural-Resources-Management-Plan-Non-technical-Summary.pdf>

<http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/Publications/WorldHeritageSite/LookingAfterBlaenavon/SE-Wales-Uplands-Natural-Resources-Management-Plan-Part-1.pdf>

<http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/Publications/WorldHeritageSite/LookingAfterBlaenavon/SE-Wales-Uplands-Natural-Resources-Management-Plan-Part-2.pdf>

<http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/Publications/WorldHeritageSite/LookingAfterBlaenavon/SE-Wales-Uplands-Natural-Resources-Management-Plan-Part-3.pdf>

Location of project (Please attach location map)

Land above 200m altitude within the administrative boundaries of Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly.

What consents are required?

NRW and Fire and Rescue Services for individual projects in the plan

Consents already granted relevant to project

The Local Authorities, Commoners, NRW, Police and Fire and Rescue Services worked together to prepare the plan and therefore support the approach in principle. Individual actions will need to be agreed on a case by case basis.

Public engagement to date

Lots of public engagement to deal with landscape crime issues.

Has an environmental assessment been prepared? (Yes / No)

No

Are there any site designations or constraints affecting the site?

Will vary

What is the delivery timescale for the project?

Ongoing

How would the project contribute to the delivery of the 7 well-being goals?
Why is the project of national significance?

A prosperous Wales: The project will support Commoners and the rural economy on which they depend, by helping to encourage diversification and make marginal land more viable.
A Resilient Wales: Improving biodiversity will support eco-connectivity in the uplands which include some important European protected habitats and species
A Healthier Wales: Studies have shown that access to and within a high quality natural environment can improve physical and mental well-being. The uplands provide 'wild' areas for people to escape, utilising the network of paths that connect them to urban areas.

A More Equal Wales: The plan supports projects that provide for people of all sectors of the community.

A Wales of Cohesive Communities: Practical volunteering projects provide opportunities for people to connect socially.

A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language: the activity will support the continuation of culturally important concept of Commoning as a way of managing land. All project activity is promoted bilingually.

A Globally responsible wales: Halting the decline in biodiversity is likely to make a positive contribution to global well-being, by helping to safeguard our vital natural ecosystems. Peat restoration will capture carbon locking it up indefinitely.

Why is the project of national significance?

The upland commons of South East Wales are a nationally significant landscape, not just for farming, but for informal recreation and as a tool to sustainably manage flood events in the Valleys and capture and store carbon to tackle climate change. These areas and the ecosystem services they support could be lost if those that manage them are not supported.

Do you agree for your project and any supporting information to be made public?
(Only projects and information that can be made public will inform the development of the NDF.)

Yes