



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

National Development Framework 2020-2040

Evidence Compendium

February 2020

What is this document?

This document has been prepared to assist readers of the draft National Development Framework (NDF) in understanding the range of evidence that has informed its preparation. Some people have requested further detail on which documents, strategies and evidence underpin the draft NDF in order to better understand what the NDF has responded to, been shaped by and is trying to achieve.

This document follows the structure of the draft NDF and can be read as a companion guide. Some evidence is referenced in more than one place and this reflects how it has helped shape different specific parts of the NDF. To avoid excessive duplication, this document does not repeatedly identify core evidence in every instance. The Programme for Government and the Future Trends Report for example, are major influences on the NDF and have not been identified in every instance.

This document does not explain policy development or the assessment process. Details of these are set out elsewhere. Those seeking further detailed explanation, should visit the NDF webpages gov.wales/national-development-framework and review the information that has supported the consultations across the NDF process to date gov.wales/consultations?keywords=national%20development%20framework&field_consultation_status=All%20All%20=All%20All%20=All&published_after=&published_before=

This document also makes the link between Planning Policy Wales (Edition 10) (PPW) and the draft NDF policies. The NDF and PPW are sister documents. PPW sets out the overarching policy aims and goals for the planning system. It establishes key principles and has been shaped by the well-being goals and ways of working. The NDF is the spatial expression of national planning policy. The NDF does not repeat content from PPW and the two documents should be read together. The NDF does not include issues or policy that are addressed in PPW. Sections 4 and 5 of this document identify the relationships between individual draft NDF policies and PPW.

This evidence compendium sits within a suite of explanatory papers¹ which include:

- The Spatial Strategy
- The Assessments of the NDF
- Future progression of the NDF
- The Regions
- Rural Areas
- Housing need
- Welsh National Marine Plan and Ports

¹ gov.wales/national-development-framework

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. / This document is also available in Welsh.

Section 1 – Introduction

Section 1 introduces the NDF explaining what it is, how it is structured, how it has been assessed and how it fits with wider Welsh Government policy.

The legislation, strategies and other plans and documents referred to in Section 1, have shaped what the NDF is and what it will do. The key context to understanding the NDF, is that it does not exist in isolation and does not develop policy or strategies that are prepared elsewhere. The relationship with other strategies, areas of government policy and development plans is essential to understanding what the NDF has been prepared to do.

The NDF is not for example, the framework that establishes a plan for the marine environment. This is the role of the Welsh National Marine Plan. The NDF is not the Wales Transport Plan. It is not an assessment of national infrastructure needs or a development plan that replaces regional or local development plans. The relationship between the NDF and these other areas of work is vitally important. The NDF will influence and in time be influenced by other policies, strategies and plans and will work with them to deliver shared goals.

Different preparation timescales are inevitable and the preparation of the NDF will always be ahead of some strategies and behind others. This is not in itself a problem, provided it is acknowledged and all plans and strategies work together to understand how alignment can be achieved and a focus on common goals maintained.

Key Overarching Programmes, Evidence and Issues

Prosperity for all: The National Strategy (2017)

The Welsh Government's programme for government. This strategy identifies key commitments, places them in a long-term context, and sets out how they fit with the work of the wider Welsh public service to lay the foundations for achieving prosperity for all.

gov.wales/prosperity-all-national-strategy

Planning Policy Wales (2018)

Planning Policy Wales sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/planning-policy-wales-edition-10.pdf

Future Trends Report (2017)

The Future Trends Report identifies the key social, economic, environmental and cultural trends that could affect Wales in the future and the factors that could influence the direction of those trends.

gov.wales/future-trends-2017

NDF Issues Paper

Summarises eleven key issues for the NDF, identified by stakeholders through formal and informal engagement exercises undertaken during 2016-17.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-04/180430-appendix-a-issues.pdf

Welsh Government makes climate emergency declaration (April 2019)

gov.wales/welsh-government-makes-climate-emergency-declaration

Model of NDF Influence

Legislation

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Act aims to improve the social, economic and cultural well-being of Wales by placing a duty on public bodies to think in a more sustainable and long-term way. It establishes well-being goals and ways of working.

www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2/contents/enacted

Planning (Wales) Act 2015

The Act aims to strengthen the plan-led approach to planning and establishes the requirement for Welsh Ministers to prepare a national land use plan, to be known as the National Development Framework for Wales. The framework will set out national land use priorities and infrastructure requirements for Wales.

www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/4

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The Act aims to enable Wales' resources to be managed in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up way and to establish the legislative framework necessary to tackle climate change.

www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents

Government of Wales Act 2006

The Act is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that reforms the National Assembly for Wales and allows further powers to be granted to it more easily.

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/32/contents

Programme for Government

Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan (Dec 2017)

Sets out how the Welsh Government plans to grow the economy.

gov.wales/prosperity-all-economic-action-plan

Prosperity for all: a low carbon Wales (June 2019)

A collection of 100 policies and proposals that will help us meet our 2016 to 2020 carbon budget and 2020 emission reduction targets.

gov.wales/prosperity-all-low-carbon-wales

Government Policy and Strategy

Wales infrastructure investment plan for growth and jobs 2012 (May 2012)

The Welsh Government's strategic approach to infrastructure investments.

gov.wales/wales-infrastructure-investment-plan-growth-and-jobs-2012

Welsh National Marine Plan (2019)

Sets out the Welsh Government's policy for the next 20 years for the sustainable use of our seas.

gov.wales/marine-planning

The Wales Transport Strategy (April 2008)

Sets out the Welsh Government's main aims for improving transport and how we plan to achieve them.

gov.wales/transport-strategy

Natural resources policy (August 2017)

Sets out the Welsh Government's national priorities for natural resources, how we will put them in place, and check progress.

gov.wales/natural-resources-policy

Regional Economic Frameworks (Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan (Dec 2017))

Sets out how the Welsh Government plans to grow the economy and its approach to regional development.

gov.wales/prosperity-all-economic-action-plan

People, places, future: the Wales spatial plan update 2008

The Welsh Government's 20 year plan for local and community planning.

gov.wales/people-places-future-wales-spatial-plan-update-2008

Cymraeg 2050

The Welsh Government's strategy for growing the Welsh language and increasing its use.

gov.wales/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy

Independent Advice

National Infrastructure Commission for Wales

The National Infrastructure Commission for Wales gives advice on the infrastructure Wales needs.

gov.wales/national-infrastructure-commission-wales

Regional and Local Planning

Strategic Development Plans

Welsh Government guidance to help strategic planning panels prepare a strategic development plan.

gov.wales/strategic-development-plans-guidance-local-planning-authorities

Local Development Plans

Welsh Government guidance to help local planning authorities prepare or revise local development plans.

gov.wales/local-development-plan-manual-edition-2-2015

Local Development Plan Coverage

Progress on adopting development plans: position at April 2019.

gov.wales/progress-adopting-development-plans-position-april-2019

Strategic and Local Development Plans

Emerging guidance on the preparation of Strategic and Local Development Plans.

gov.wales/draft-development-plans-manual-edition-3

Assessments

Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) assesses the impacts of the NDF on Natura 2000 sites, which are protected by EU Law or treated as such through government policy. These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), as well as candidate and potential SACs and SPAs, and Ramsar sites. The HRA seeks to ensure that the NDF will not result in a likely significant effect on any Natura 2000 site.

Issues, options and preferred option preliminary HRA screening report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-04/180430-preliminary-hra-screening-report.pdf

Draft NDF HRA:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Appendix A – Rules of Thumb:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/appendix-a-habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Appendix B – Implications for the Natura 2000 network of Priority Areas for Solar and Wind Energy development across Wales – HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/appendix-b-habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

The Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) is a process that appraises the NDF as it emerges to ensure it is as sustainable as possible. It is an iterative process that has been undertaken throughout the preparation of the NDF at each stage. The ISA incorporates Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environment Assessment and other statutory and Welsh Government assessments.

ISA Scoping Report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report

Issues, options and preferred option interim ISA:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-04/180430-interim-isa-report.pdf

Draft NDF:

ISA report (incorporating Environmental Report)

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

Non-technical summary – ISA report (incorporating Environmental Report)

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/Integrated%20Sustainability%20Appraisal%20Report%20-%20non-technical%20summary.pdf

Explanatory Paper – The assessment of the NDF

The explanatory paper has been prepared to assist readers of the draft NDF in understanding the approach taken to the assessments of the Draft NDF, highlighting what impacts have been assessed and how they have shaped the plan.

gov.wales/assessments-explanatory-paper

Section 2 – Wales: An Overview – Challenges and Opportunities and Section 3 – NDF Outcomes

Section 2 provides an overview of Wales today and the challenges and opportunities we will face over the life of the NDF. This section gives a context to the issues, particularly the spatial issues that the NDF provides a framework for.

The evidence that has informed this section is set out below. Central to the identification of issues and the role of the NDF in tackling them, were the engagement and consultations undertaken across the process.

The NDF Outcomes in Section 3 are a response to the issues, opportunities and challenges set out in Section 2 and the wider evidence base. The development of the NDF Outcomes was significantly influenced by the consultation on the NDF Issues, Options and Preferred Option in 2018.

NDF Engagement and Consultation

National Development Framework engagement events winter 2017

A report on issues raised and ideas put forward in engagement events held in January and February 2017.

gov.wales/national-development-framework-engagement-events-winter-2017-report

National Development Framework engagement events autumn 2017

A report on issues raised and ideas put forward in engagement events held in November 2017.

gov.wales/national-development-framework-engagement-events-autumn-2017-report

NDF Engagement Plan

A calendar of meetings, workshops and events that have taken place to discuss the national development framework.

gov.wales/national-development-framework-engagement-plan

National Development Framework: Issues, options and preferred option: Consultation Report

gov.wales/national-development-framework-issues-options-and-preferred-option

NDF Issues Paper

Summarises eleven key issues for the NDF, identified by stakeholders through formal and informal engagement exercises undertaken during 2016/17.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-04/180430-appendix-a-issues.pdf

Call For NDF Evidence and projects

A call for evidence and potential NDF projects was undertaken in December 2016 to March 2017.

gov.wales/national-development-framework-wales

Changing Population/Ageing Population

National population projections

The projections provide statistics on the potential future size and age structure of the population of the UK and its constituent countries.

gov.wales/national-population-projections

Summary Statistics for Economic Regions (2019)

The reports provide summary statistics on key topics for Wales and each of the three NDF regions.

gov.wales/summary-statistics-economic-regions-2019

Office for National Statistics: Population and Migration

Statistics on the size, age, sex and geographic distribution of the UK population, and changes in the UK population and the factors driving these changes.

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration

Statistics and Research into the Well-being of Wales

An update on progress being made in Wales towards the achievement of the 7 well-being goals.

gov.wales/well-being-wales

A living, thriving Welsh language

Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers (July 2017)

The Welsh Government's long-term approach to achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

gov.wales/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy

Welsh language strategy: annual report 2017 to 2018 (March 2019)

Report on the progress made on the Cymraeg 2050: a million Welsh speakers' strategy during the 2017 to 18 financial year.

gov.wales/welsh-language-strategy-annual-report-2017-2018

Natural Resources/Ecosystems

SoNaRR: The State of Natural Resources Report (2016)

The report sets out the state of Wales' natural resources. It assesses the extent to which natural resources in Wales are being sustainably managed, and recommends a proactive approach to building resilience. It links the resilience of Welsh natural resources to the well-being of the people of Wales.

naturalresources.wales/sonarr?lang=en

Natural resources policy (August 2017)

Sets out the Welsh Government's national priorities for natural resources, how we will put them in place, and check progress.

gov.wales/natural-resources-policy

Future Trends Report (2017)

The Future Trends Report identifies the key social, economic, environmental and cultural trends that could affect Wales in the future and the factors that could influence the direction of those trends.

gov.wales/future-trends-2017

A Living Landscape

LANDMAP

LANDMAP is an all-Wales landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated.

naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/landmap-the-welsh-landscape-baseline/?lang=en

Lle: A Geo-Portal for Wales

The Lle Geo-Portal has been developed as a partnership between Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales. Lle serves as a hub for data and information covering a wide spectrum of topics, but primarily around the environment.

lle.gov.wales/home?lang=en

Industrial Legacy/A Changing Economy/Technology/ Prosperity and Reducing Inequality

Regional economic and labour market profiles

Data on various topics such as employment, economic inactivity, claimant count and earnings.

gov.wales/regional-economic-and-labour-market-profiles

Summary Statistics for Economic Regions (2019)

The reports provide summary statistics on key topics for Wales and each of the three NDF regions.

gov.wales/summary-statistics-economic-regions-2019

Welsh European Funds: Economic Prioritisation Framework

A guidance document providing an investment context for the implementation of EU Programmes in Wales.

gov.wales/welsh-european-funds-economic-prioritisation-framework

Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan (Dec 2017)

Sets out how the Welsh Government plans to grow the economy.

gov.wales/prosperity-all-economic-action-plan

Welsh economy in numbers: dashboard

A dashboard of 8 indicators showing how the Welsh economy is performing in relation to the other English regions and UK countries.

gov.wales/welsh-economy-numbers-dashboard

Wales infrastructure investment plan for growth and jobs 2012 (May 2012)

The Welsh Government's strategic approach to infrastructure investments.

gov.wales/wales-infrastructure-investment-plan-growth-and-jobs-2012

Wales infrastructure investment plan: mid-point review 2018 (May 2018)

A review of the Welsh Government's strategic approach to infrastructure investments.

gov.wales/wales-infrastructure-investment-plan-mid-point-review-2018

Enterprise Zones

An overview of the enterprise zones in Wales.

businesswales.gov.wales/enterprisezones/

Our Valleys Our Future: introduction (July 2017)

The Welsh Government's high-level action plan outlining the objectives of Our Valleys, Our Future.

gov.wales/our-valleys-our-future-introduction

Support to improve town centres (including Targeted regeneration investment programme)

The Welsh Government's support programme to improve town centres.

gov.wales/support-improve-town-centres

Vibrant and viable places: framework (March 2013)

The Welsh Government's framework for regenerating communities in Wales.

gov.wales/vibrant-and-viable-places-framework

Our Visitors

Tourism strategy (Partnership for growth) (June 2013)

The Welsh Government's strategy to improve our tourism sector.

gov.wales/tourism-strategy-partnership-growth

Tourism Barometer

A 'snapshot' of industry performance after important points in the tourism calendar.

gov.wales/tourism-barometer

Welsh Government Knowledge and Analytical Services: Statistics and Research

Releases of official statistics and research on Wales.

gov.wales/statistics-and-research

A Connected Nation

Digital inclusion framework (March 2016)

The Welsh Government's plan to make sure everybody who wants to be online can get online.

gov.wales/digital-inclusion-framework

Digital Wales: delivery plan (March 2011)

How the Welsh Government will fulfil the aims of delivering digital Wales.

gov.wales/digital-wales-delivery-plan

Mobile action plan (Oct 2017)

How the Welsh Government will boost mobile coverage.

gov.wales/mobile-action-plan

Our Place in the World

Planet Earth

earth.google.com/web/@52.2461433,-3.63246423,416.65369175a,1142468.16872925d,35y,14.93741184h,0t,0r

Diverse Regions

Summary Statistics for Economic Regions (2019)

The reports provide summary statistics on key topics for Wales and each of the three NDF regions.

gov.wales/summary-statistics-economic-regions-2019

Welsh European Funds: Economic Prioritisation Framework

A guidance document providing an investment context for the implementation of EU Programmes in Wales.

gov.wales/welsh-european-funds-economic-prioritisation-framework

People, places, future: the Wales spatial plan update 2008

The Welsh Government's 20 year plan for local and community planning.

gov.wales/people-places-future-wales-spatial-plan-update-2008

Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee City Deals and the Regional Economies of Wales (2017)

A report by the EIS Committee into regional proposals, city deals and the fit with Welsh and UK economic strategies.

www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld11264/cr-ld11264-e.pdf

Climate Change

Welsh Government makes climate emergency declaration (April 2019)

gov.wales/welsh-government-makes-climate-emergency-declaration

Future Trends Report (2017)

The Future Trends Report identifies the key social, economic, environmental and cultural trends that could affect Wales in the future and the factors that could influence the direction of those trends.

gov.wales/future-trends-2017

Prosperity for all: a low carbon Wales (2019)

A 100 policies and proposals that will help us meet our 2016 to 2020 carbon budget and 2020 emission reduction targets.

gov.wales/prosperity-all-low-carbon-wales

Water Resources

Water Strategy (May 2015)

The Welsh Government's policy for managing, protecting and improving our water services and quality.

gov.wales/water-strategy

Renewable Energy

Energy Generation in Wales 2018 (Dec 2017)

A report setting out the current energy generation capacity of Wales and an analysis of how it has changed over time.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-10/energy-generation-wales-2018.pdf

Renewable energy targets: evidence (July 2019)

Data and analysis to support proposed renewable energy targets.

gov.wales/renewable-energy-targets-evidence

Green Growth: local energy (July 2015)

The Welsh Government's vision for local energy in Wales setting out how communities and businesses can use locally generated, renewable energy.

gov.wales/local-energy-green-growth-wales

Coasts

National strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management (Nov 2011)

The Welsh Government's strategy for how it will reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion to homes and businesses.

gov.wales/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-strategy

Flood and coastal erosion risk management: adapting to climate change (Dec 2017)

Welsh Government advice on how to consider the impacts of climate change in flood and coastal erosion risk management projects and strategies.

gov.wales/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-adapting-climate-change

Travel

The Wales Transport Strategy (April 2008)

Sets out the Welsh Government's main aims for improving transport and how we plan to achieve them.

gov.wales/transport-strategy

National transport finance plan: 2018 update

The transport improvements the Welsh Government have made since 2017 and plan to make in the next 2 years.

gov.wales/national-transport-finance-plan-2018-update

Transport for Wales Business Plan 2018/19

This business plan sets out how Transport for Wales will develop for the period covered by the Welsh Government's remit letter, from 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019.

tfw.gov.wales/transparency/publications

Aggregates

Planning Policy Wales (2018)

Planning Policy Wales sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/planning-policy-wales-edition-10.pdf

Minerals technical advice note (MTAN) Wales 1: aggregates (March 2004)

Welsh Government guidance on aggregates extraction.

gov.wales/minerals-technical-advice-note-mtan-wales-1-aggregates

Brexit

Preparing Wales to leave the EU

Advice for citizens, organisations and sectors across Wales about the steps that need to be taken to prepare to leave the EU and will be updated regularly.

gov.wales/preparing-wales

Affordable Homes

Delivering more homes for Wales: recommendations (Jan 2014)

A report by the Housing Supply Taskforce on ways to increase the supply of affordable housing.

gov.wales/delivering-more-homes-wales-recommendations

Independent review of affordable housing supply: report (May 2019)

An independent report recommending how to increase the availability and quality of affordable homes.

gov.wales/independent-review-affordable-housing-supply-report

Housing need and demand: 2018-based (Jan 2019)

A Welsh Government Statistical Article which presents 2018-based estimates of overall additional housing need in Wales from 2018-19 to 2037-38.

gov.wales/housing-need-and-demand-2018-based

Estimates of housing need in Wales by tenure: 2018-based (June 2019)

A Welsh Government Statistical Article which presents 2018-based estimates of overall additional housing need in Wales from 2018-19 to 2022-23 by tenure.

gov.wales/estimates-housing-need-wales-tenure-2018-based

Section 4 – Strategic and Spatial Choices: the NDF Spatial Strategy

Section 4 sets out the NDF's spatial strategy and 15 strategic policies that will apply at an all-Wales scale. Section 4 has three components – it identifies where in Wales growth should be focussed; how growth should be planned and managed; and how we should power and heat places using renewable energy and district heat networks.

The evidence that has informed this section is set out below.

As explained at the front of this document, also identified are the links between NDF policies and Planning Policy Wales. The NDF does not repeat PPW and does not define key principles or make policy statements that are already set out in PPW. It is important that the NDF is read in this context. If the NDF is silent on an issue, this does not mean the issue is not important or that there is an absence of planning policy. It may mean that the issue is covered in PPW in the first instance and there is no particular spatial dimension that needs to be addressed in the NDF.

Spatial Strategy

Explanatory Paper – The Spatial Strategy

The explanatory paper explains how the spatial strategy of the Draft NDF was developed, highlighting how the policies support the strategy.

The foundation of the spatial strategy is to support existing places in Wales and to create the conditions that enable them to grow, develop and become better places. The spatial strategy was informed by the engagement carried out at early stages of the preparation of the NDF and by the consultation on the Preferred Option. This explanatory paper sets out the various sources of information and data that helped define the details of the spatial strategy.

gov.wales/spatial-strategy-explanatory-paper

Policy 1-3 – Sustainable Urban Growth, Supporting Urban Centres and Public Investment, Public Buildings and Publicly Owned Land

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
4. in places with a thriving Welsh Language
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted
7. in places where travel is sustainable
9. in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution
10. in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

PPW puts placemaking at the heart of the planning system, with the objective of creating sustainable places that positively contribute towards people's well-being (Chapter 2). The NDF builds on this and proposes focusing growth on our large towns and cities, and doing so in a way that supports town centres and sustains good public transport services. It sets out the need to shape urban growth to support towns and cities that are compact, with higher density and mixed use development in accessible locations.

In addition, the NDF reflects our existing 'town centres first' policy in PPW (Section 4.3) to focus activity in our town and cities centres, which are in the most sustainable locations for new development, including Welsh Government and public sector investment.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

TAN 4: Retail and Commercial Development (2016) sets out the Welsh Government's objectives of:

- Promoting urban and rural retail and commercial centres as the most sustainable locations to live, work, shop, socialise and conduct business.
- Sustaining and enhancing retail and commercial centres vibrancy, viability and attractiveness.
- Improving access to, and within, retail and commercial centres by all modes of transport, especially walking, cycling and public transport.

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-4-retail-and-commercial-development

TAN 12: Design (2016) sets out the Welsh Government's commitment to achieving the delivery of good design in the built and natural environment and contains guidance to help all decision makers across Wales understand both the importance of good design and the ways in which it can be achieved.

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-12-design

TAN 18: Transport (2007) promotes the integration of land use planning and the development of transport infrastructure. It promotes reducing the need to travel and providing greater choice of means of transport, other than the private car. It promotes maximising relative accessibility, rather than ensuring everyone can travel everywhere.

The NDF integrates these topic-based policies to provide a framework for the planning system to shape towns and cities to be more compact and support town centres, sustain good public transport services and improve people's well-being. The NDF also provides direction for new public service facilities, public investment, public buildings and publically owned land.

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-18-transport

Key Evidence

[Prosperity for All: The National Strategy \(2017\)](#)

The Welsh Government's overarching strategy that takes the key commitments in our Programme for Government, Taking Wales Forward, and places them in a long-term context and sets out how they fit with the work of the wider Welsh public service to lay the foundations for achieving prosperity for all.

The Welsh Government's objectives in Prosperity for All are to reduce our carbon emissions, promote active travel, encourage more active lifestyles, maintain local facilities and get the most from our spending on public transport.

The NDF provides a framework for the planning system to shape places and urban growth to achieve these objectives.

gov.wales/prosperity-all-national-strategy

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Table B-29 and B-32, Policy Groupings 1 and 2.

The HRA report, Table 3 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix B:
gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
4. in places with a thriving Welsh language
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted
7. in places where travel is sustainable
8. in places with world class digital infrastructure
9. in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution
10. in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

Provides planning policy guidance on all forms of rural development and supports adaptability and resilience to social and economic change.

Supports new development in settlements with good accessibility by active travel and public transport, and embraces the national sustainable placemaking principles.

Supports agricultural development and diversification.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

TAN 6 Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities (2010)

- Promotes a strong rural economy to support sustainable and vibrant rural communities.
- Encourages Local Planning Authorities to adopt a positive approach to development in rural areas, and provide sites and criteria based policy for employment and affordable housing in their development plans.
- Supports rural diversification (including on farms) to provide employment opportunities, increase prosperity and reduce the need to travel.
- Encourages development of self-employment and micro businesses, and new communications infrastructure which is vital to support economic growth communities and businesses.
- Defines Rural Enterprise Dwellings which enable rural enterprise workers (including new entrants to farming) to live at or near their place of work.
- Encourages Local Planning Authorities to adopt a positive approach to proposals which improve the viability, accessibility or community value of existing services and facilities, such as shops, post offices and rural public houses.

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-6-planning-sustainable-rural-communities

Other Technical Advice Notes (TANs)

TAN 23 Economic Development (2014)

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-23-economic-development

TAN 13 Tourism (1997)

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-13-tourism

TAN 16 Sport and Recreation (2009)

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan16-sport-recreation-open-space.pdf

TAN 20 Welsh Language (2017)

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan20-welsh-language.pdf

TAN 4 Retail and Commercial Centres (2016)

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan4-retail-commercial-development.pdf

TAN 24: The historic environment (2017)

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-24-historic-environment

TAN 5: Nature conservation and planning (2009)

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-5-nature-conservation-and-planning

Key Evidence

[Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan \(March 2019\)](#)

Promotes the growth of an inclusive economy, spreading opportunity and well-being, whilst contributing towards the delivery of the National Strategy: Prosperity for All.

- Supports growth and development of the rural economy.
- Recognises the importance of the foundation economy in rural areas, in particular the food and tourism industries and is committed to helping rural diversification and to supporting business needs.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-02/prosperity-for-all-economic-action-plan.pdf

[NDF Regions and Rural Areas Study \(13 March 2019\)](#)

- Examines rural areas and develops an evidence base to inform NDF policies, and identifies issues and spatial areas that NDF policies should focus on.

Study conclusions

- There is limited need for further rural specific planning policies beyond what the planning system already offers.
- The NDF can help the planning system support development and positive outcomes in rural areas.
- Rural housing and new settlements should connect to community facilities, services and employment by sustainable transport.
- Define growth areas and consider infrastructure provision at a national and regional level to support sustainable development.
- Tourism assets, the natural environment and visitor destinations should be connected to sustainable forms of transport.
- Promote and protect the Welsh language and identify priority areas and policies to support this aim.
- Digital infrastructure should be prioritised in rural areas to facilitate home working, community cohesion, online education and reduce the need to travel.
- Economic opportunities in rural areas should be linked to infrastructure and placemaking, linking communities and education facilities with areas of employment.
- Transport infrastructure should connect people to key sites and services and futureproof network with electric vehicle infrastructure.
- An integrated approach to energy development should be adopted, whereby local community's needs, grid capacity, accessibility and land management considerations are taken into account.

- Planning should support a flexible approach to agricultural industry and development and enable appropriate forms of rural diversification.

gov.wales/national-development-framework-study-regions-and-rural-areas

Future Trends Report (2017)

Discusses the current and future trends affecting Wales. Covers issues such as population, economy, climate change, energy, transport, poverty, communications, and future technology.

Key points

- Wales' population projected to increase by 5% over the next 20 years.
- Difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas 8 years, while the difference in healthy life is 18 years.
- Households in Wales is projected to grow faster than population.
- Wales's GVA performance affected by demographic factors and lack of 'economic mass'.
- Untapped growth potential to generate energy, including from renewable sources.
- Broadband infrastructure improving but geographic challenges remain.
- Private vehicles will remain the dominant mode of transport in the short to medium term.
- Climate change poses risk to infrastructure with flooding biggest long-term risk.
- Wales' biodiversity and habitats are under increasing pressure.
- Housing need is growing due to the number of households increasing faster than available properties.

- Poverty levels are slightly higher in Wales than the UK.
- Numbers of Welsh speakers has declined but those speaking less fluently increased.
- Brexit could have a significant and wide ranging impact on Wales.
- Future technological advances such as AI and increased automation could impact on the structure of the economy, with risk to jobs and wellbeing.
- Advances in household, transport and energy technologies could have a transformative effect on population behaviours.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2018-12/170505-future-trends-report-2017-en.pdf

National Development Framework Engagement Events – January/February 2017

The events were organised in order to raise awareness of the NDF, gather views on the issues to be addressed, highlight the Call for Evidence and Projects, and provide an opportunity for people to ask questions.

- the NDF should focus on tourism as a key economic opportunity for the whole of Wales
- the NDF must provide a vision and strategy for the rural economy, supporting agriculture and forestry. Rural resilience should be a key theme. It should recognise different solutions will be required for some issues
- the NDF should support growth that creates careers and not just jobs, particularly in rural Wales where young people often leave to further their careers
- the NDF should support Welsh language objectives and economic opportunities in Welsh speaking areas. People leaving to find work is one of the biggest issues impacting language

- the NDF should support the agricultural sector and respond to the challenges of Brexit. Rural diversification will become a major issue and must be prepared for, and
- the NDF must help create an economic base for Mid Wales.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-08/national-development-framework-engagement-events-january-february-2017-event-record.pdf#

National Development Framework Issues, Options and Preferred Option – Consultation Summary June 2019

The National Development Framework (NDF) ‘Issues, Options and Preferred Option’ consultation took place between 30 April and 23 July 2018. This report summarises the responses to the consultation exercise, the Welsh Government’s response and outlines the next steps.

Consultation responses

- Need for criteria for determining that an area is ‘rural’.
- Concerns raised about specific aspects of the Preferred Option in relation to the objectives, including the need to strengthen references to rural Wales.
- Concern about treatment of rural areas compared with urban areas, in particular that rural areas be given the same opportunities for economic development as urban areas.
- Rural Wales needs a comprehensive agenda to address implications of Brexit and climate change.

Welsh Government Response

- To address future of rural areas and role of the planning system consideration will be given to urban and rural distinctions, economic activity, access to services and facilities, transport, digital connectivity, housing and jobs.

- It is proposed that the NDF will also be accompanied by a number of explanatory notes to provide background details on some of the evidence that is supporting its preparation.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-06/national-development-framework-summary-of-responses.pdf

Explanatory Paper

Rural Areas

The explanatory paper has been prepared to assist readers of the draft NDF in understanding how it seeks to address rural issues across Wales, highlighting the key evidence that has informed the plan.

gov.wales/rural-areas-explanatory-paper

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-29 and B-30, Policy Grouping 1.

The HRA report, Table 3 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix B: gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 5 – Delivering Affordable Housing

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
4. in places with a thriving Welsh language
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth, and
7. in places where travel is sustainable.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

The Active and Social theme of PPW covers housing, including affordable housing, and acknowledges that having good quality affordable homes is the foundation of living well which brings a wide range of benefits to health, learning and prosperity.

PPW establishes a framework to support the delivery of housing. It requires planning authorities, through the Local Development Plan (LDP) and Strategic Development Plan (SDP) processes, to establish and monitor the delivery of a housing requirement for the plan periods, including affordable housing.

Section 4.2.25 of PPW states that the community's need for affordable housing is a material planning consideration which must be taken into account in formulating development plan policies and also provides a clear definition of affordable housing for the purposes of the planning system.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

TAN 2: Planning and Affordable Housing

Land use planning is one of the mechanisms that can be used to provide affordable housing. The TAN provides practical guidance on the role of the planning system in delivering such housing.

The guidance defines affordable housing for the purposes of planning and provides advice to local planning authorities on how to determine affordability. The need to work collaboratively is stressed, including the requirement for local housing and planning authorities to undertake local housing market assessments (LHMAs) in participation with key stakeholders.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan2-planning-affordable-housing.pdf

TAN 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities

The TAN provides guidance on how the planning system can contribute to sustainable and affordable rural housing (Section 4.2).

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan6-sustainable-rural-communities.pdf

Key Evidence

Prosperity for All: The National Strategy (2017)

The Welsh Government's overarching strategy takes the key commitments in the Programme for Government, Taking Wales Forward, and places them in a long-term context and sets out how they fit with the work of the wider Welsh public service to lay the foundations for achieving prosperity for all.

The national strategy identifies housing as one of five priority areas which can make the greatest potential contribution to long-term prosperity and well-being. The strategy sets out the aim for everyone to live in a home that meets their needs and supports a healthy, successful and prosperous life. Good quality homes are the bedrock

of good communities and form the basis for individuals and families to flourish in all aspects of their lives. It states Welsh Government will:

- deliver our target of 20,000 new affordable homes by 2021, and make more homes available at affordable rent in every part of Wales
- work with local authorities to begin council house building at pace and scale for the first time in decades, and
- link new housing with major new infrastructure developments.

gov.wales/prosperity-all-national-strategy

Estimates of housing need in Wales at a national and regional level (2018-based)

The Welsh Government has produced estimates of housing need over a twenty year period up until 2037/38 (mid-year to mid-year). The figures are available at a national level and for the three economic regions (North Wales/Mid and South West Wales/South East Wales).

For the first 5 years the published estimates are also split into Market housing (owner occupier and private rented sector) and Affordable housing (social and intermediate rents).

Estimates of future housing need are essential when developing plans and strategies at a national, regional and local level. The Welsh Government Estimates of Housing need are part of the evidence base to inform the development of regional and local housing requirements which need to take account of national, regional and local policy and practical considerations to reach a view on the level of housing that is required and what can actually be delivered within an area.

For the first five years (2018/19 to 2022/23) the Welsh Government has also published estimates of housing need (presented at both a national and regional level) split into two tenures:

- Market housing (owner occupier and private rented sector).
- Affordable housing (social and intermediate rents).

The estimates of housing need have informed housing policy decisions in National Development Framework (NDF) and the focus on doing more to respond to the identified need for affordable housing.

Housing need and demand: 2018-based
gov.wales/housing-need-and-demand-2018-based

Estimates of Housing Need in Wales by Tenure (2018-based)
gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-06/estimates-of-housing-need-by-tenure-2018-based-002.pdf

Independent review of affordable housing supply: report

The purpose of the review was to examine current arrangements supporting the development of affordable housing and to make recommendations for changes designed to increase supply and improve delivery from the resources available.

The review states that the basis of good housing policy and decisions regarding affordable housing supply stems from the best possible data on housing need and demand. The Welsh Government was commended for moving ahead and undertaking national and regional housing need assessments.

gov.wales/independent-review-affordable-housing-supply-report

Explanatory Paper

Housing Need

The explanatory paper has been prepared to assist reader of the draft NDF in understanding how the Draft NDF seeks to address housing issues across Wales, highlighting the key evidence that has informed the housing elements of the plan.

gov.wales/housing-need-explanatory-paper

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-33 and B-34, Policy Grouping 3.

The HRA report, Table 3 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix B:
gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 6 – Planning in Mobile Action Zones

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
4. in places with a thriving Welsh language
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth, and
8. in places with world class digital infrastructure.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

PPW supports the development of modern and fast telecommunications infrastructure where it is required to support economic and social needs, subject to landscape and amenity issues.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

[TAN 19: Telecommunications \(2002\)](#)

This advice takes account of the growth of the telecommunications industry and technology, of the new social and economic demands for communications, and of the Welsh Assembly Government's environmental policies.

The advice defines telecommunications terminology, sets out issues to be addressed in the development plan and describes development management procedures and environmental considerations when assessing applications for prior approval and planning permission.

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-19-telecommunications

Key Evidence

Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan (March 2019)

Promotes the growth of an inclusive economy, spreading opportunity and well-being, whilst contributing toward delivery of the National Strategy: Prosperity for All.

- Supports improved mobile connectivity and coverage (including 5G rollout) to benefit the local economy, whilst recognising the need to safeguard our landscape.
- Encourages work with mobile operators and Ofcom to bring about innovative solutions to rural areas in particular where our topography presents a major challenge.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-02/prosperity-for-all-economic-action-plan.pdf

Mobile Action Plan (October 2017)

The plan shows how we will work with the mobile phone industry and Ofcom to provide better telecommunications connectivity to meet the needs of people and businesses in Wales.

- Includes a key action to scope the extent of any public intervention required to implement infill solutions for areas of poor or no mobile telecommunications coverage in Wales.
- Has led to research in to the identification of land across Wales where Mobile Action Areas could be established.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/mobile-action-plan.pdf

National Development Framework

Engagement Events – (January/February 2017)

The events were organised in order to raise awareness of the NDF, gather views on the issues to be addressed, highlight the Call for Evidence and Projects, and provide an opportunity for people to ask questions.

The NDF should recognise:

- poor mobile and broadband connection in rural areas needs to be addressed
- and facilitate fast, reliable digital infrastructure to support a dynamic economy
- broadband technology can reduce the need to travel (with positive effects on congestion and pollution); increase productivity; support flexible working arrangements; reduce isolation
- broadband can improve access to services, cultural resources and entertainment. Poorly connected communities are less attractive places to live
- tourists expect to access mobile and broadband networks; and
- the planning system needs to be responsive to new communications technology, and the positive benefits utilised across the whole of Wales.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-08/national-development-framework-engagement-events-january-february-2017-event-record.pdf

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-35 and B-36, Policy Grouping 4.

The HRA report, Table 3 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy. Table 4 sets out the the appropriate assessment outcomes of this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix B: gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 7 – Ultra Low Emission Vehicles

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
4. in places with a thriving Welsh Language
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
7. in places where travel is sustainable
9. in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

The NDF will build on the existing positive approach we are taking to electric vehicle charging in Planning Policy Wales, which requires electric charging infrastructure on non-domestic development (Section 4.1).

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

[Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales \(2019\)](#)

Sets out the Welsh Government actions to promote decarbonisation.

The Welsh Government has committed to working with UK Government, local authorities, the energy sector and business to plan for and implement the roll out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The NDF supports the delivery of these commitments to increase the uptake of electric and low emission vehicles.

gov.wales/low-carbon-delivery-plan

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-36 and B-37, Policy Grouping 5.

The HRA report, Table 3 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix B: gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 8 – Strategic Framework for Biodiversity Enhancement and Ecosystem Resilience

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
9. in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution, and
10. in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

PPW sets out comprehensive policy in regard to placemaking, biodiversity, landscape and green infrastructure:

Assessing the sustainable benefits of development (2.21-2.23); Design (3.7-3.10, 3.14) Healthier Places (3.19-3.24); Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (3.30-3.33); Placemaking in Rural Areas (3.34-3.35); Best and Most Versatile Land (3.54-3.55); Managing Settlement Form (3.60-3.74); Community Facilities (4.4); Recreational Spaces (4.5) Tourism (5.5); Rural Economy (5.6); Protecting Special Characteristics and Qualities of Places (5.14.35-5.14.41); Restoration and Aftercare (5.14.50-5.14.55); Green Infrastructure (6.6); Landscape (6.3), Biodiversity and Ecological Networks (6.4); Coastal Areas (6.5.3-8, 6.5.12-13, 6.5.17-20); Water (6.6.5-6, 6.6.14-19); Air Quality and Soundscape (6.7.8, 6.7.10, 6.7.12, 6.7.16-18, 6.7.25); De-risking (6.9.3, 6.9.8-9).

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-5-nature-conservation-and-planning

TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-16-sport-recreation-and-open-space

TAN 15: Development and flood risk

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-15-development-and-flood-risk

TAN 14: Coastal planning

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-14-coastal-planning

Key Evidence

Natural Resources Policy (NRP) 2017

The Environment (Wales) Act requires Welsh Ministers to publish a Natural Resources Policy (NRP). Welsh Ministers must take all reasonable steps to implement the NRP and encourage others to take such steps.

The three national priorities for the management of natural resources identified in the Natural Resources Policy are:

- Delivering nature-based solutions.
- Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency.
- Taking a place-based approach.

The aim of the policies and actions is to build greater resilience into our ecosystems by taking place and nature based approaches.

This means protecting existing biodiversity assets and seeking opportunities for the creation and restoration of habitats to support climate change adaptation and mitigation, improvements in land and

water management and increasing the provision of green infrastructure across all types of places in Wales.

In combination with the existing policy in PPW, the NDF can contribute towards reversing the decline in biodiversity and improving the resilience of ecological networks by:

- Protecting designated sites and existing biodiversity assets from impacts which directly compromise the resilience of ecological networks – including the components which underpin them and to seek further improvements to resilience (as per the attributes e.g. improved diversity, connectivity through design).
- Improving the connectivity between habitats (of all types) and encouraging habitat creation and restoration, through mechanisms such as buffers, corridors and stepping stones.
- Protecting designated sites and existing biodiversity assets by reducing the impacts of development in wider social, economic, cultural and ecological terms. This means taking an integrated approach towards development based on seeking the multiple benefits that can be derived, including those achieved through nature based solutions like green infrastructure but includes promoting choices around resource efficiency and health and well-being of individuals and communities.

Our natural landscapes (National Parks, AONBs, Wales Coast Path) are also major tourist attractions and assets, and an important part of the economy of Wales. Landscapes are a vital part of both place-based and nature-based approaches. All places have distinctive qualities, opportunities and functions which is recognised in PPW and will be reflected by NRW in developing area statements.

Green infrastructure serves multiple purposes, it is multifunctional.

At a national spatial scale it can be used to:

- secure biodiversity, the creation/restoration of habitats and improved connectivity between habitats and so improve resilience of ecological networks
- address soil compaction and sealing, contributing towards flood alleviation and water management and in mitigating airborne pollution, and
- provide benefits for the wellbeing and health of people by putting green infrastructure at the heart of our communities to deliver space for recreation, transport corridors for cycling and walking, resilience against flooding and heat, improving air quality and providing important spaces for nature.

Overall, action to address resilience, landscape character and green infrastructure in the NDF could involve:

- Taking proactive and preventative action relating to habitats which are particularly vulnerable to change resulting from development pressure. This includes floodplains and urban areas, including woodlands, and advocating particular solutions in particular places, for example safeguarding and encouraging urban tree coverage, safeguarding and avoiding fragmentation of floodplain through development, seeking sustainable urban drainage solutions in all developments.
- Safeguarding against resilience being compromised, opportunities exist to address diffuse pollution, soil compaction and sealing all in urban areas and coastal flood defence in urban areas and coastal margins.
- Protecting statutory and non-statutory landscape and cultural designations.
- To maximise the benefits of ecosystems opportunities exist to secure sustainable drainage systems, ensure water sensitive

design, address soil carbon management and water regulation and address wider adaptability to climate change, for example, flood risk, air quality and increased temperatures, all in urban areas.

gov.wales/natural-resources-policy

[The State of Natural Resources Report \(SoNaRR 2016\)](#)

NRW have a duty to publish a State of Natural Resources (SoNaRR) which provides the evidence base used throughout Wales to inform decision-making, to enable national and local scale priority setting and identify opportunities to drive green growth and improve the resilience of communities. NRW published the first statutory SoNaRR in September 2016.

SoNaRR reports losses of habitat and species' populations over the last century and suggests that decline is chronic, that decline will continue due to events which have already occurred, or will occur, as a result of climate change and habitat fragmentation in the future. In short, there is insufficient resilience in Wales' ecosystems, primarily evidenced by species not recovering. Only a step change will reverse the change.

Key issues for the NDF derived from SoNaRR include:

- Conflicts would tend to be in lowlands and floodplains and this is where the biggest challenges for resilience present themselves but this also presents opportunities to address building on floodplains, addressing diffuse pollution, soil compaction and sealing in urban areas and coastal flood defence in urban areas and coastal margins.
- There is particular vulnerability in terms of resilience along river corridors.
- Opportunities may exist along transport corridors of all scales for habitat creation or restoration.

- Opportunities to set aside land for restoration of habitats or creation of new should be considered, this could include buffering designated sites and creating 'stepping stones'.
- Securing green infrastructure, to address species decline and resilience but also to obtain benefits of enhanced water management and quality (and secure sustainable drainage systems), ensure water sensitive design, address soil carbon management, improvements to air quality and to mitigate against other threats to health and wellbeing such as noise, increased temperatures and lack of access to green space.
- Adaptability to change, primarily in the form of climate change, for both species (diversity) and people (wellbeing and health) requires action to protect the extent, condition and connectivity of ecological networks.
- Responding to climate change is both a necessity for, and a related benefit of, improving the resilience of ecological networks. Habitats function as carbon stores and can help to mitigate the effects of climate change and connectivity between habitats is necessary to enable adaptation for species and hence ecological resilience to climate change. Resilient ecological networks have the multiple benefit of protecting people from the effects of climate change e.g. flood adaptability.

Area statements

NRW will produce Area Statements which will facilitate delivery of the Natural Resources Policy at a local level. These are not currently available. Collaborative action at the right scale and location to both tackle the issues and optimise the benefits Wales' natural resources provide is fundamental.

Area statements will play a key role in identifying local opportunities and constraints and their connection to the national priorities. In doing so, they will provide a key evidence base for collaborative action and

link to the development and delivery of the wider public service delivery framework within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/the-state-of-natural-resources-report-assessment-of-the-sustainable-management-of-natural-resources/?lang=en

Future Trends Report 2017

Discusses the current and future trends affecting Wales. Covers climate change, land uses and natural resources.

The combination of warming that has already occurred, together with at least some further warming (as projected by the latest climate change evidence), means further adaptation to climate change will be required.

Wales' biodiversity and habitats will be under ever greater pressure, mirroring the global situation. Whilst there have been improvements in recent years, particularly in water quality and some elements of air quality, many of our natural resources and the resilience of Wales' ecosystems are continuing to decline (reflected in SoNaRR 2016).

In summary, the NDF should consider the following impacts on Wales' biodiversity and habitats:

- Climate change adaptation will be required because of the risks of increased frequency and magnitude of weather and wildfire events.
- Many of our natural resources, and the resilience of ecosystems, are likely to decline. Climate change is influencing the expansion or contraction of some species' ranges and populations.
- The next 20 years will be critical in determining which of the longer term warming scenarios will occur and the action required to adapt.

gov.wales/future-trends-2017

[Nature Recovery Action Plan \(NRAP\) for Wales \(2015\)](#)

The Nature Recovery Action Plan is the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Wales. It sets out how Wales will deliver the commitments of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and also the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act's 'resilient Wales' goal.

In order to meet these commitments, the NRAP outlines a long term ambition to *“reverse the decline in biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society”*.

Of the six objectives to support recovery in biodiversity, all are relevant to the NDF. In particular:

- biodiversity must be embedded into all levels of decision making
- approaches must afford protection to designated sites and the protection of species and habitats recognising that they should be the cores of large-scale functional networks, rather than being islands within the landscape, and
- that this should include opportunities to restore degraded habitats and habitat creation, safeguard against fragmentation and integrate green infrastructure.

gov.wales/nature-recovery-action-plan-2015

[National Landscapes: Realising their Potential – The Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales – Final Report \(July 2015\)](#)

The Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales considered the functions, governance structures and vision for designated landscapes in Wales as part of considering the future role of National Park Authorities as planning authorities in the context of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015. It covered the three National Parks and five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

There are a number of recommendations set out in the Review which relate to policy, processes and governance structures for these designations. The Review also proposes a new vision for the 'National Landscapes of Wales' where:

- they become “Important “factories of well-being”, stimulating more local enterprise partnerships, sustainable affordable housing, tourism, green energy and retailing ventures
- they improve the lives of current and future generations through their three purposes
- their special qualities are maintained, enhanced and widely appreciated
- they are recognised as a key part of Wales' green infrastructure
- they are areas for innovative, place-based collaborations that address the economic, social and environmental challenges facing Wales, and
- they are recognised internationally as leaders in the delivery of sustainable development.

The NDF should recognise that protected landscapes would form part of any overall approach to safeguarding ecosystem resilience. They are key elements of national GI and already seek to provide for multiple benefits.

gov.wales/review-areas-outstanding-natural-beauty-and-national-parks-2015

[Future Landscapes: Delivering for Wales – The Review of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks in Wales \(May 2017\)](#)

This Report followed the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales Report and focuses on how designated landscapes should be the drivers of the sustainable management of natural resources in their areas.

It is the product of the Future Landscapes partnership and was published by the Cabinet Secretary on behalf of the partnership. Its content represents the considered opinion of the partnership on the current and potential role of the designated landscapes within the Welsh legislative and policy context.

The Report sets out that in driving the sustainable management of natural resources in their areas, designated landscape management organisations should:

- develop opportunities for their areas including for 'green growth', and
- inspire, empower and support local communities to take action through a place planning' approach, covering their influence over development sites, local distinctiveness, new green economy ideas and community infrastructure and green and heritage related tourism.

These issues are vitally important but it is arguably the proper role for the relevant national park and local authorities to address these matters in detail. Green Infrastructure is a recognised and established approach to realise and deliver multiple benefit outcomes through the planning system and PPW already provides a framework for shaping this. They would, however, be considered as part of any overall approach to national GI and ecosystem resilience which the NDF develops.

gov.wales/areas-outstanding-natural-beauty-and-national-parks-2017-report

[The Convention on Biological Diversity](#)

The global policy context is set by The 1992 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Convention commits signatories to develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use

of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

The Convention sets out 12 operational **principles** which focus on the application of an ecosystem approach to the management of biodiversity. (As summarised in the *Nature Recovery Action Plan, Appendix 2*)

Aichi Targets: These are designed to meet goals under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Target 2 specifically makes references to the integration of biodiversity values into national and local development and planning processes and these values being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems by 2020.

NDF should take action to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services, and restore them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.

www.cbd.int/
www.cbd.int/sp/targets/

[Existing mapping of designated sites](#)

The maps of designated sites are included in the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal scoping report Figure 1: gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-08/figure-1-designated-nature-conservation-sites.pdf

This includes Local Nature Reserves, Natura 2000, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Marine Conservation zones.

National protected landscapes were also considered – including national parks and ANOBs.

The ISA framework for assessment deals with designated sites in ISA objective 16 – To create opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity. The most relevant

decision aiding question for designated sites is – Will the NDF create opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of designated and non-designated nature conservation sites, habitats and species?

PPW and TAN 5 Nature Conservation contain comprehensive policy on designated sites. The locations of sites are known and widely understood. Whether designated sites (of national or greater importance) should be mapped as part of the NDF and be the subject of specific policy should therefore be decided in the context of this and whether there are clear policy imperatives to do so. Such reasons should be capable of building on and be over and above what is already contained in PPW and relevant TANs.

Area Statements will be a source of new data, information and mapping at the regional and sub-regional levels but this information is not yet available.

Habitat/land use type approaches are identified in SoNaRR and there may be a way of utilising the mapping in to develop a more spatial approach. A dialogue with NRW was commenced to explore the availability of further evidence.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-08/figure-1-designated-nature-conservation-sites.pdf

Collaboration with NRW – Advance provision of mapping being developed to support the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) and Area Statements

The Welsh Government asked Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to prepare mapping indicating broad areas where nationally important ecological networks/green infrastructure may exist, as a basis for promoting action to protect and enhance biodiversity and improve the resilience of ecosystems and recognising the importance of strategic green infrastructure.

Mapping was provided and is contained in Annex 1. It was recognised that a detailed understanding of ecosystems will be clearer at the regional and local scale and consequently strategic and local development plans will need to develop the approach at a finer scale. Further information will be forthcoming as part of Area Statements.

The maps, collectively, provide a valuable national overview of resilient networks and strategic green infrastructure. They essentially represent a Green Infrastructure Assessment at a high level, national scale. However, implementation is best taken forward at regional and more local levels. Key conclusions for the NDF are:

- Protected sites are at the heart of resilient networks but they are not the whole story.
- There is a broad scale pattern of resilience emerging from this information but the information mapped at national scale can only be used in an indicative way.
- Local level networks and ecological hotspots not observable at a national scale can still be of high importance.
- More detailed consideration is required in relation to action needed to support those areas of most resilience and to address those areas which currently do not exhibit strong attributes of resilience.
- Area Statements will provide more detailed local scale mapping, which could be used alongside these national scale maps to inform decisions on the ground.

The Consultation Report on Issues and Options

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-06/national-development-framework-summary-of-responses.pdf

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-38 and B-39, Policy Grouping 6.

The HRA report, Table 3 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix B: gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 9 – National Forest

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
9. in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution
10. in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

PPW sets out a strong framework for the protection of trees, woodlands and hedgerows. Ancient woodland, semi-natural woodlands and individual ancient, veteran and heritage trees should be protected:

Assessing the sustainable benefits of development (2.21-2.23); Design (3.7-3.10, 3.14) Healthier Places (3.19-3.24); Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (3.30-3.33); Placemaking in Rural Areas (3.34-3.35); Best and Most Versatile Land (3.54-3.55); Managing Settlement Form (3.60-3.74); Community Facilities (4.4); Recreational Spaces (4.5) Tourism (5.5); Rural Economy (5.6); Protecting Special Characteristics and Qualities of Places (5.14.35-5.14.41); Restoration and Aftercare (5.14.50-5.14.55); Green Infrastructure (6.6); Landscape (6.3), Biodiversity and Ecological Networks (6.4); Coastal Areas (6.5.3-8, 6.5.12-13, 6.5.17-20); Water (6.6.5-6, 6.6.14-19); Air Quality and Soundscape (6.7.8, 6.7.10, 6.7.12, 6.7.16-18, 6.7.25); De-risking (6.9.3, 6.9.8-9).

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-5-nature-conservation-and-planning

TAN 6: Planning for sustainable rural communities

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-6-planning-sustainable-rural-communities

TAN 13: Tourism

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-13-tourism

TAN 15: Development and flood risk

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-15-development-and-flood-risk

TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-16-sport-recreation-and-open-space

Key Evidence

[Natural Resources Policy \(NRP\) 2017](#)

The Environment (Wales) Act requires Welsh Ministers to publish a Natural Resources Policy (NRP). Welsh Ministers must take all reasonable steps to implement the NRP and encourage others to take such steps.

The three national priorities for the management of natural resources identified in the Natural Resources Policy are:

- delivering nature-based solutions
- increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency, and
- taking a place-based approach.

In relation to trees and woodland the most relevant points for the planning system are its aims to:

- Encourage good forest design and sustainable management that makes a positive contribution to the character and quality of the landscape, improves the biodiversity value of the forests, and secures wider benefits, such as flood risk management.
- Increase and improve the connectivity between our hedgerows – hedgerows are an important aspect of connectivity in the landscape and can play a role in water management.
- Carefully manage trees and woodland that have high environmental values, including ancient woodland sites, and ancient, veteran and heritage trees, which are an irreplaceable resource that provide a wide range of ecosystem services.

gov.wales/natural-resources-policy

Woodlands for Wales Action Plan

“Woodlands for Wales” is the WG’s fifty-year strategy for woodlands and trees in Wales. It was originally published in 2001 and revised in March 2009. It sets out the WG’s policy aims and objectives for all woodlands and trees in Wales, namely those in public and private ownership and whether in rural, peri-urban or urban environments.

The strategy recognises that the management of woodlands and trees is a long-term activity capable of providing a range of social, economic and environmental benefits to the people of Wales, including making a significant contribution towards mitigating the impact of climate change.

Woodland creation and management will play an important role in meeting carbon budgets, the interim emissions targets and the 2050 emission target.

The Minister for Natural Resources decided to revise the long term target to encompass the wider increase of tree coverage alongside the adoption of a short term, interim target for woodland creation of 10,000 hectares by 2020.

This will require an average of 2,000ha of tree planting per annum.

The strategy recognises the ability and capacity of woodlands and trees:

- to maintain and enhance the resilience of Wales's ecosystems
- to mitigate for and adapt to the impacts of climate change, and
- to provide benefits for the people, environment and economy of Wales, in the present and in the future.

These issues could be addressed in the NDF. In particular, the NDF can make an effective contribution towards:

- the protection of existing woodlands and increasing woodland coverage/creating new woodlands
- contributing towards increasing and safeguarding existing tree cover in towns and cities and support sustainable urban tree management
- enhancing the management and production of Welsh timber and its economic benefits by encouraging the utilisation of Welsh timber, for example, as an essential material for sustainable construction central to the delivery of new housing, and
- contributing to the “non-timber value” of forestry, woodlands and trees beneficial to people, communities and the natural environment in Wales.

gov.wales/woodlands-wales-action-plan

Opportunities mapping for woodland planting

Mapping was provided by NRW which identifies potential opportunities for the creation of woodland across Wales.

The idea of creating a national forest for Wales was contained in the leadership manifesto for Mark Drakeford. The purpose of which would be to create a network of forests throughout Wales which maximise environmental, economic, social and cultural opportunities and to deliver the target of increasing woodland cover by at least 2,000 hectares per annum from 2020.

The network would need to maximise benefits for:

- Trees
- Leisure and Recreation
- Tourism
- Commerce
- Education
- Connectivity including active travel, public transport, electric vehicles and Green Infrastructure
- Biodiversity and SMNR
- Renewable and low carbon energy
- Regeneration

This could be achieved through branding of existing areas, additional planting, development of infrastructure such as visitor centres/central hubs with facilities, electric vehicle charging points, active travel routes, recreation facilities – visitor centres/cafes etc.

Of relevance to the NDF and the idea of a National Forest is:

- Wales needs both large and small scale, diverse woodlands (including both conifer and broad leaved species).
- There needs to be greater integration between woodland and other land uses.
- The fundamental importance of increasing the number of trees in urban areas needs to be recognised.
- There is a need to increase the capacity function of woodland and hedgerows in delivering ecological and landscape connectivity.
- Healthy and resilient woodlands and trees provide a wide range of community benefits, enabling people to use and enjoy woodlands, lead healthier lives and engage in economic activity related to woodland enterprises.
- Woodlands will play an increasing role in supporting the Welsh Government's efforts to improve opportunities for people and communities to access the outdoors for recreation.

Mapping received from NRW was considered as part of supporting a policy in the NDF on the National Forest (see evidence for policy 8). In particular, Map C (opportunities to generate multiple benefits through woodland creation), Map A (resilient ecological networks and biodiversity hotspots) and Map B (ecosystem service hotspots) alongside the following mapping:

- Tourist – welsh ways
- National cycle route
- Renewable energy areas
- Index of multiple deprivation
- Rail connections

- NRW Forest Recreation Points
- NRW Forest Recreation Routes

[The consultation report on Issues and Options](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-06/national-development-framework-summary-of-responses.pdf)

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-06/national-development-framework-summary-of-responses.pdf

[Engagement Events](#)

Stakeholder engagement identified tourism as a key theme for the NDF whereby the NDF provides a narrative on how actions in the natural environment can impact on tourism sector. Stakeholders called for the NDF to recognise the importance of Green Infrastructure at a strategic scale and make the connections from the local to the national level. Specific themes raised also included – accessibility to the natural environment/protection of peat land/tree planting/reservoirs/flood risk and coastal retreat.

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-38 and B-39, Policy Grouping 6.

The HRA report, Table 3 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy. Table 4 sets out the appropriate assessment outcomes of this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix B: gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 10-13 – Renewable Energy Policies

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted
9. in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution
10. in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

The national sustainable placemaking outcomes in Planning Policy Wales (page 20) states that a sustainable place should generate its own renewable energy, make the best use of natural resources and have distinctive and special landscapes.

Section 5.9 of PPW outlines our policies on the promotion of renewable and low carbon energy. PPW states that planning authorities should facilitate all forms of renewable and low carbon energy development. In doing so, planning authorities should seek to ensure their area's full potential for renewable and low carbon energy generation is maximised and renewable energy targets are achieved.

In addition, PPW states that planning authorities should ensure development plan policies are supportive of renewable and low carbon energy development in all parts of Wales, direct developments to

the right locations and set out clearly the local criteria against which proposals will be evaluated.

Paragraph 6.3.8 also states that National Parks and AONBs are of equal status in terms of landscape and scenic beauty, and must both be afforded the highest status of protection from inappropriate developments.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8: Planning for Renewable Energy was published in 2005 and provides technical information on various types of renewable energy technology. It also provides the background, rationale and policy context for the existing, spatial Strategic Search Areas (SSAs) which PPW identifies as being suitable for wind energy projects.

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-8-renewable-energy

Key Evidence

[Welsh Government Renewable Energy Targets \(2017\)](#)

The Welsh Government has set 3 renewable energy targets.

The Welsh Government renewable energy targets are:

- for Wales to generate 70% of its electricity consumption from renewable energy by 2030
- for one Gigawatt of renewable electricity capacity in Wales to be locally owned by 2030, and
- for new renewable energy projects to have at least an element of local ownership by 2020.

This, together with the Welsh Government declaring a climate change emergency has necessitated increased efforts, across all of the levers available to us, to increase the amount of energy produced from

renewable sources. The NDF is rightly taking a proactive approach to show leadership in this area as well as providing the context for Welsh Ministers to make decisions on Developments of National Significance (DNS).

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-07/renewable-energy-targets-evidence.pdf

gov.wales/renewable-energy-targets-workshop

gov.wales/energy-generation

[Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales \(2019\)](#)

Sets out the Welsh Government actions to promote decarbonisation.

Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales sets out the background, context and evidence for the Welsh Government to introduce a variety of measures to ensure Wales decarbonises at a pace to meet our national and international obligations. The NDF is recognised as a key driver for helping us to meet our decarbonisation targets through the planning system in Wales.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/low-carbon-delivery-plan_1.pdf

[Assessment of on-shore wind and solar energy potential in Wales \(Arup Study\) \(2019\)](#)

The technical evidence report used to identify the Priority Areas within the draft NDF.

The Arup study used a constraints-based mapping model to initially identify the least constrained areas in Wales for large scale wind and solar renewable energy development projects. This was further refined to take into account landscape impacts for National Parks and AONBs as well as other detailed constraints which required further examination.

gov.wales/assessment-shore-wind-and-solar-energy-potential-wales

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-40 and B-41, Policy Grouping 7.

The HRA report, Table 3 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy. Table 4 sets out the appropriate assessment outcomes of policies 10, 11 and 13. Appendix B sets out the potential implications for Natural 2000/Ramsar sites as a result of policy 10 in more detail.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix B: gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Appendix B – Implications for the Natura 2000 network of Priority Areas for Solar and Wind Energy development across Wales – HRA report: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/appendix-b-habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf>

Policy 14 and 15 – District Heat Networks

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

Paragraph 5.4.18 states that Planning authorities should look favourably on any renewable and low carbon energy generation proposals designed to serve clusters, such as district heating systems.

Section 5.9 of PPW outlines our policies on the promotion of renewable and low carbon energy. PPW states that planning authorities should facilitate all forms of renewable and low carbon energy development. In doing so, planning authorities should seek to ensure their area's full potential for renewable and low carbon energy generation is maximised and renewable energy targets are achieved.

In addition, PPW states that planning authorities should ensure development plan policies are supportive of renewable and low carbon energy development in all parts of Wales, direct developments to the right locations and set out clearly the local criteria against which proposals will be evaluated.

Paragraph 5.9.6 and 5.9.7 state that planning authorities should plan positively for the use of locally generated electricity and heat. They should develop policies and proposals which facilitate the co-location of major developments to enable the use of local heat opportunities. Development plans should support identified opportunities for district heating, local renewable and low carbon

energy generation schemes, and the co-location of new proposals and land allocations with existing developments, heat suppliers and heat users.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

(TAN) 8: Planning for Renewable Energy was published in 2005 and gives some technical advice on heat networks and encourages community heating solutions using low carbon technologies which should be introduced into development plans and supplementary planning guidance.

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-8-renewable-energy

Key Evidence

[The Future of Heating: Meeting the challenge \(2013\)](#)

The UK Government's Heat Policy Statement.

This document outlines the challenge of decarbonising the existing heat energy demands of the UK. It recognises that heat networks will make a contribution to reducing our demand for fossil-fuel heating systems.

It recognises that local authorities are critical players in increasing the deployment of heat networks as they can create a supportive environment in their areas and support or sponsor specific projects. They are responsible for planning, urban regeneration and housing and own the roads under which the networks need to be installed. They are also owners of potential heat loads in social housing and other premises they occupy or control.

It also recognises that local authorities are in the best position to undertake the energy masterplanning of areas suitable for heat networks and the initial assessment of the feasibility of projects.

The amount of heat supplied to buildings in the UK via heat networks is around 2% of domestic, public sector and commercial heat demand. The NDF therefore has a role to spatially identify potential areas where heat networks may be viable and request further work be carried out to assess the potential.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-future-of-heating-meeting-the-challenge

[Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales \(2019\)](#)

Sets out the Welsh Government actions to promote decarbonisation.

Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales sets out the background, context and evidence for the Welsh Government to introduce a variety of measures to ensure Wales decarbonises at a pace to meet our national and international obligations.

A specific policy in the Plan is for the Welsh Government to provide continued support to identify, develop and invest in district heat systems. The NDF forms part of this positive policy in identifying potential areas for such networks.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/low-carbon-delivery-plan_1.pdf

[The national comprehensive assessment of the potential for combined heat and power and district heating and cooling in the UK \(2016\)](#)

This report lays out the potential for efficient district heating and cooling in the UK, up to 2030.

The report's assessment of technical potential indicates that up to 85% of the UK's heat demand could be met by individual building-level solutions, such as heat pumps, solar thermal and biomass boilers. Separately, as much as 60% could be met by efficient district heating.

The report includes heating and cooling maps of the UK, which show the location of existing combined heat and power plants and district heating, as well as potential sources of recoverable heat. Data from this assessment can be used to pinpoint across Wales where there is a sufficient density of heat demand to make district heating networks viable. These areas can be included in the NDF to act as a catalyst for further investigation and consideration by planning authorities and developers.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-national-comprehensive-assessment-of-the-potential-for-combined-heat-and-power-and-district-heating-and-cooling-in-the-uk

[Priority Areas for District Heat Networks Data \(2019\)](#)

The source data used to identify the Priority Areas for District Heat Networks.

We have used data provided by the UK Government and used within the National Comprehensive Assessment of Heating and Cooling (see above) to plot the heat requirements of the majority of buildings within Wales.

From this, using Geographic Information Systems, we have identified areas where there is a high demand for heat energy, concentrated in a small areas. These are areas with a heat density higher than 3 Megawatts per square kilometre. We have amalgamated this data to identify settlements in Wales where there is the most potential for viable district heat networks.

These settlements are highlighted in the NDF as District Heating Priority Areas.

lle.gov.wales/catalogue/item/NDFHeatDemandMap/?lang=en

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-40 and B-41, Policy Grouping 7.

The HRA report, Table 3 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix B:
gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:
gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Section 5 – The Regions

Section 5 sets out the NDF's approach to regional planning and contains policies on the three regions – North Wales, Mid and South West Wales and South East Wales.

The evidence that has informed this section is set out below. Links to PPW are also identified.

The development planning system has three tiers – national, regional and local. The NDF provides direction for regional and local planning but it does not undertake the role of these lower tier development plans. The regional policies in the draft NDF have been prepared in this context. Where they do not cover a regional or local issue, this is not because the issue is not important but because there are more appropriate tiers of the planning system through which to address it.

The Regions – Key Overarching Evidence and Guidance

Identification of Regional Areas for the NDF (Aug 2017)

Research undertaken on behalf of the Welsh Government to identify growth areas to support a National Development Framework for planning.

gov.wales/national-development-framework-regions

Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan (Dec 2017)

Sets out how the Welsh Government plans to grow the economy.

gov.wales/prosperity-all-economic-action-plan

Summary Statistics for Economic Regions (2019)

These reports provide summary statistics on key topics for Wales and each of the three NDF regions.

gov.wales/summary-statistics-economic-regions-2019

People, places, future: the Wales spatial plan update 2008

The Welsh Government's 20 year plan for local and community planning.

gov.wales/people-places-future-wales-spatial-plan-update-2008

Welsh European Funds: Economic Prioritisation Framework

A guidance document providing an investment context for the implementation of EU Programmes in Wales.

gov.wales/welsh-european-funds-economic-prioritisation-framework

Strategic and Local Development Plans

Emerging guidance on the preparation of Strategic and Local Development Plans.

gov.wales/draft-development-plans-manual-edition-3

Explanatory Paper – Regions

The explanatory paper has been prepared to assist readers of the draft NDF in understand the reasoning behind the regional footprint within the Draft NDF. Highlighting the key evidence that has informed the regional footprint.

gov.wales/regions-explanatory-paper

Policy 16 – Strategic Policies for Regional Planning

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
4. in places with a thriving Welsh Language
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted
7. in places where travel is sustainable
8. in places with world-class digital infrastructure
9. in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution
10. in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

Policy 16 sets out the strategic policy issues that regional planning is required to address. It covers a broad range of policy areas and is supported by extensive coverage in PPW on planning for regional issues:

Para: 1.4 What is the Planning System?; 1.22 National Development Framework; 1.24 Strategic Development Plans; 3.49 New Settlements; 3.58 Supporting Infrastructure; 3.60 Green Belts and Green Wedges; 4.1.5 Integrated Planning and Transport Strategies; 4.2.4 Housing Requirement; 4.2.16 Housing Delivery; 5 Collaboration (p74); 5.4 Economic Development; 5.7.16 Renewable Energy Targets;

5.9.3 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy; 5.13.12 Provision of Wise-ranging and Diverse Waste Infrastructure; 5.14.10, 5.14.14 Ensuring Supply [of Minerals]; 5.14.21 National, Regional and Local Needs for Non-Energy Minerals; 6 Collaboration (p120); 6.3.3 Landscape; 6.4.4 Biodiversity and Ecological Networks; 6.5 Coastal Areas; 6.9.9 Integrated Approaches to De-risking.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

[Planning \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

This Act makes provision for the designation of strategic planning areas, the establishment of strategic planning panels and the preparation of strategic development plans (SDPs). The NDF seeks to support the delivery of regional planning and the preparation of SDPs.

www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/4/contents/enacted

[Strategic and Local Development Plans – Emerging guidance on the preparation of Strategic and Local Development Plans \(Consultation June to August 2019\)](#)

The Welsh Government's practical guidance on the preparation of development plans to ensure that plans are effective and deliverable and contribute to placemaking as set out in Planning Policy Wales PPW. Section 10 of the consultation draft covers the preparation of SDPs and has informed the requirements of policy 16.

gov.wales/draft-development-plans-manual-edition-3

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-42 and B-43, Policy Grouping 8.

The HRA report, Table 3 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix B: gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

North Wales

Policy 17 – Wrexham and Deeside

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
4. in places with a thriving Welsh Language
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted
7. in places where travel is sustainable
8. in places with world-class digital infrastructure
9. in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution
10. in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.37 Spatial Strategy and Site Search Sequence

4.1.7 Moving within and between places

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

[North Wales Growth Deal – Bid document \(2017\)](#)

This documents set the priorities and aims for growth in north Wales by the consortium of local authorities and businesses engaged in the North Wales Growth Deal. It highlights potential projects, names some key locations and identifies regional linkages.

northwaleseab.co.uk/sites/nweab/files/documents/growth_plan_doc_5_final.8.feb_.2018english.cleaned.pdf

[Moving North Wales Forward: Our Vision for North Wales and the North East Wales Metro \(2017\)](#)

This document identifies key priorities for the North Wales Metro, and is clear that Wrexham and Deeside are developed as accessible, inter-connected places at the heart of the wider north Wales – north west England area.

gov.wales/north-east-wales-metro-moving-north-wales-forward

Explanatory Paper

[The Spatial Strategy](#)

The explanatory paper explains how the spatial strategy of the Draft NDF was developed, highlighting how the policies support the strategy.

gov.wales/spatial-strategy-explanatory-paper

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-45 and B-46, Policy Grouping 9.

The HRA report, Table 3 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy. Table 4 sets out the appropriate assessment outcomes of this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix B: gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 18 – North Wales Coastal Settlements

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
4. in places with a thriving Welsh Language
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted
7. in places where travel is sustainable
8. in places with world-class digital infrastructure
9. in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution
10. in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.37 Spatial Strategy and Site Search Sequence

4.1.7 Moving within and between places

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

[North Wales Growth Deal – Bid document \(2017\)](#)

This documents set the priorities and aims for growth in north Wales by the consortium of local authorities and businesses engaged in the North Wales Growth Deal. It highlights potential projects, names some key locations and identifies regional linkages.

northwaleseab.co.uk/sites/nweab/files/documents/growth_plan_doc_5_final.8.feb_.2018english.cleaned.pdf

[Moving North Wales Forward: Our Vision for North Wales and the North East Wales Metro \(2017\)](#)

This document identifies key priorities for the North Wales Metro. Areas along the north Wales coast will benefit from the Metro and become more connected to the urbanised area in the north east.

gov.wales/north-east-wales-metro-moving-north-wales-forward

[Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation](#)

An indicator of relative deprivation across Wales, showing pockets of 'deep-rooted' deprivation in some coastal towns in north Wales.

stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/Archive/WIMD-2014

Explanatory Paper

[The Spatial Strategy](#)

The explanatory paper explains how the spatial strategy of the Draft NDF was developed, highlighting how the policies support the strategy.

<https://gov.wales/spatial-strategy-explanatory-paper>

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-45 and B-46, Policy Grouping 9.

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gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 19 – Green Belts in North Wales

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.60 Managing Settlement Form – Green Belts and Green Wedges

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

House of Commons Library: Green Belt (2019)

Discussion paper on the merits, benefits and weaknesses of green belt policy in England.

researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN00934

Landscape Institute: Green Belt policy (2018)

A policy paper by the Landscape Institute on the potential benefits and value of well-crafted and appropriately-defined Green Belts.

landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2018/04/li-green-belt-briefing-apr-2018.pdf

Cheshire West and Chester Green Belt

The spatial extent of the green belt in Cheshire, adjoining the border with Wales.

data.gov.uk/dataset/09c1fac5-9488-4cd1-9665-f3b84cab18f7/cwac-green-belt

Explanatory Paper

The Spatial Strategy

The explanatory paper explains how the spatial strategy of the Draft NDF was developed, highlighting how the policies support the strategy.

gov.wales/spatial-strategy-explanatory-paper

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-45 and B-46, Policy Grouping 9.

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HRA report:
gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 20 – Port of Holyhead

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
4. in places with a thriving Welsh Language, and
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

Planning Policy Wales recognises the role of ports in making Wales an attractive location for businesses, visitors, and freight transportation (Section 5.3). It identifies that support and investment in these facilities unlocks potential to boost the economy both directly, from greater use of the facilities, and indirectly through the opportunities that improved maritime transport infrastructure provide for other sectors.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

TAN 18 expands of the transport policies in PPW.

It states that planning authorities should take care to ensure that developments intended to regenerate ports are not incompatible with any nearby port operations.

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-18-transport

Key Evidence

[One Wales: Connecting the Nation The Wales Transport Strategy \(2008\)](#)

One Wales: Connecting the Nation provides the strategic policy framework for all the Welsh Government's transport related activities to 2030.

Covering all modes, the strategy sets out the Welsh Government's strategic priorities and desired outcomes. It sets out the Welsh Government's desire to encourage the growth of short sea shipping through Welsh ports.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2017-09/wales-transport-strategy.pdf

[Welsh National Marine Plan \(2019\)](#)

The Welsh Government's policy for the next 20 years for the sustainable use of our seas.

The Welsh National Marine Plan provides a vision within which ports can plan their current and future operations, including options for expansion and diversification.

gov.wales/welsh-national-marine-plan-document

[Port of Holyhead Expansion \(2017\)](#)

Details of the Port of Holyhead expansion.

Information about the environmental impact assessment screening and scoping for the Port of Holyhead proposed expansion.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/port-of-holyhead-expansion

Explanatory Paper

[Welsh National Marine Plan and Ports](#)

The explanatory paper has been prepared to assist reader of the draft NDF in understanding how the relationship between the Draft NDF and the Welsh National Marine Plan and the approach taken to ports policy. It highlights the key policy areas that overlap between the plans and the evidence that have informed the ports policies within the plan.

gov.wales/welsh-national-marine-plan-and-ports-explanatory-paper

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-45 and B-46, Policy Grouping 9.

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HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 21 – Transport Links to North West England

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted
7. in places where travel is sustainable, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

PPW seeks to reduce the need to travel and length of journeys, whilst making it easier for people to walk, cycle and use public transport (Section 4.1). It sets out that land use and transport planning must be integrated.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

TAN 18 promotes the integration of land use planning and the development of transport infrastructure. It promotes reducing the need to travel and providing greater choice of means of transport, other than the private car. It promotes maximising relative accessibility, rather than ensuring everyone can travel everywhere.

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-18-transport

Key Evidence

[One Wales: Connecting the Nation The Wales Transport Strategy \(2008\)](#)

One Wales: Connecting the Nation provides the strategic policy framework for all our transport related activities to 2030.

Covering all modes, the strategy sets out the Welsh Government's strategic priorities and desired outcomes.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2017-09/wales-transport-strategy.pdf

[Moving North Wales Forward: Our Vision for North Wales and the North East Wales Metro \(2017\)](#)

The Welsh Government's transport policy in north Wales.

The NDF supports the delivery of the commitments in [Moving North Wales Forward: Our Vision for North Wales and the North East Wales Metro](#).

gov.wales/north-east-wales-metro-moving-north-wales-forward

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-45 and B-46, Policy Grouping 9.

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HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 22 – North West Wales and Energy

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
4. in places with a thriving Welsh language
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted
9. in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

In Section 5.7 of Planning Policy Wales it states that the Welsh Government's targets are to reduce our reliance on energy generated from fossil fuels; and actively manage the transition to a low carbon economy in the context of national and international targets and obligations.

Paragraph 5.7.5 goes on to state that these priorities contribute to reducing carbon emissions, as part of our approach to decarbonisation, whilst enhancing the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the people and communities of Wales, in order to achieve a better quality of life for our own and future generations. This means taking precautionary action to prevent Wales being 'locked in' to further fossil fuel extraction and high carbon development.

Paragraph 5.7.7 states that the planning system should secure an appropriate mix of energy provision, which maximises benefits to our economy and communities whilst minimising potential environmental

and social impacts. This forms part of the Welsh Government's aim to secure the strongest economic development policies, to underpin growth and prosperity in Wales, recognising the importance of decarbonisation and the sustainable use of natural resources, both as an economic driver and a commitment to sustainable development.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales (2019)

Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales sets out the background, context and evidence for the Welsh Government to introduce a variety of measures to ensure Wales decarbonises at a pace to meet our national and international obligations. The NDF is recognised as a key driver for helping us to meet our decarbonisation targets through the planning system in Wales.

The role of nuclear development in supplying part of our energy mix of the future is acknowledged. To date the Welsh Government has spent a significant amount of time and opportunity to ensure that our nuclear sites provide employment, training and a major legacy of benefits to Wales.

Some consider the future of low carbon energy lies with Advanced Modular Reactors (AMR), which are smaller and less capital intensive developments. The Welsh Government are exploring the potential for Wales to become a leader in this field, developing technical skills that could lead to high value jobs in the Trawsfynydd area.

The NDF has a role to play therefore in using the planning system to promote sites in North West Wales for new energy development, to ensure the economic benefits are maximised and to ensure any impacts on the environment are acknowledged and mitigated.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/low-carbon-delivery-plan_1.pdf

North West Nuclear Arc

A partnership of agencies and academic institutions working together to promote the North West of England and North Wales in relation to the potential for nuclear research and development.

The North West Nuclear Arc (NWNNA) is a living lab for enactment of nuclear innovation policy on the ground. It is a place-based network stretching from Cumbria to North Wales.

Almost half of the UK's existing nuclear research and development activity is in the NWNNA.

NWNNA key partners have come together organically to create a genuine shared vision. United by sense of place and desire to effect change for the benefit of our communities, our goal is joined-up action to build a stronger innovation eco-system and support the nuclear sector in developing cheaper, faster solutions to climate change.

The NDF has a role to play therefore in using the planning system to promote sites in North West Wales for new energy-related research and development and to ensure benefits are maximised.

nwnucleararc.co.uk/

UK Industrial Strategy: Nuclear Sector Deal

Outlines the UK Government's Policy Proposals for working in partnership with the nuclear sector.

This Sector Deal builds on the UK Government's existing partnership with the UK nuclear sector.

It ensures that the UK's nuclear sector remains cost competitive with other forms of low-carbon technologies to support the UK's Clean Growth Strategy and Grand Challenge. Through adopting new construction techniques and innovative approaches to manufacturing, the deal will reduce the costs of building new reactors in a way that builds domestic supply chain capability and skills.

In the deal, the UK Government also recognises growing local and regional interest in a number of sites, such as Trawsfynydd, for further nuclear development. In principle, it notes the arguments of developers that new, smaller power plants should (re)use existing, licensed sites to take advantage of past investment in infrastructure and grid connections, and the skilled workforces around them. The UK Government will therefore be actively considering the question of siting for SMRs.

Given this, the NDF has a role to play therefore in using the planning system to promote sites in North West Wales for new energy-related research and development and to ensure benefits are maximised.

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/720405/Final_Version_BEIS_Nuclear_SD.PDF

Snowdonia Enterprise Zone

The Snowdonia Enterprise Zone Board is actively promoting the **Trawsfynydd site for future development.**

The Trawsfynydd site is being promoted through the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone as it offers:

- a unique location for data centre with natural energy, natural cooling and natural security
- first-of-its-kind Small Modular Reactor (SMR) development potential, and
- its own nationally important energy grid infrastructure.

The NDF has a role to play therefore in using the planning system to promote this site for new energy-related development and development and to ensure benefits are maximised.

businesswales.gov.wales/enterprisezones/zones/snowdonia

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-45 and B-46, Policy Grouping 9.

The HRA report, Table 3 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy. Table 4 sets out the appropriate assessment outcomes of this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix B:
gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Mid and South West Wales

Policy 23 – Swansea Bay and Llanelli

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
4. in places with a thriving Welsh Language
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted
7. in places where travel is sustainable
8. in places with world-class digital infrastructure, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.37 Spatial Strategy and Site Search Sequence

4.1.7 Moving within and between places

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

Swansea Bay City Deal (2017)

A commitment to funding strategic projects in the Swansea Bay area (defined as Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire).

www.swanseabaycitydeal.wales/timeline/

Swansea Bay Metro – website

A brief statement setting aspirations for a Metro scheme in the Swansea Bay area.

tfw.wales/swansea-bay-metro

Explanatory Paper

The Spatial Strategy

The explanatory paper explains how the spatial strategy of the Draft NDF was developed, highlighting how the policies support the strategy.

gov.wales/spatial-strategy-explanatory-paper

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-47 and B-48, Policy Grouping 10.

The HRA report, Table 3 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy. Table 4 sets out the appropriate assessment outcomes of this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix B:
gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 24 – Regional Centres

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
4. in places with a thriving Welsh Language
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted
7. in places where travel is sustainable
8. in places with world-class digital infrastructure, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.37 Spatial Strategy and Site Search Sequence

4.1.7 Moving within and between places

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

Swansea Bay City Deal (2017)

A commitment to funding strategic projects in the Swansea Bay area (defined as Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire).

www.swanseabaycitydeal.wales/timeline/

Growing Mid Wales Baseline Report – July 2018

An economic evidence base prepared for the Growing Mid Wales Partnership.

A compilation of data and statistics on economic and demographic indices relating to the Mid Wales area (Ceredigion and Powys).

en.powys.gov.uk/media/9592/Growing-Mid-Wales---Baseline-Report-July-2018/pdf/Growing_Mid_Wales_-_Baseline_Report_July_2018.pdf?m=1558608133323

Explanatory Paper

The Spatial Strategy

The explanatory paper explains how the spatial strategy of the Draft NDF was developed, highlighting how the policies support the strategy.

gov.wales/spatial-strategy-explanatory-paper

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-47 and B-48, Policy Grouping 10.

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HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 25 – Haven Waterway

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth, and
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

Planning Policy Wales recognises the role of harbours in making Wales an attractive location for businesses, visitors, and freight transportation (Section 5.3). It identifies that support and investment in these facilities unlocks potential to boost the economy both directly, from greater use of the facilities, and indirectly through the opportunities that improved maritime transport infrastructure provide for other sectors.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

TAN18: Transport (2007) expands on the transport policies in PPW.

It recognises that coastal shipping, in conjunction with the major navigable waterways provides an environmentally friendly means of moving freight. This is dependent on the provision of wharves and harbour facilities able to handle and distribute the goods. They should seek to retain or provide appropriate wharf and harbour facilities for such developments and protect or provide rail and/or road access to them, by designating sites in development plans.

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-18-transport

Key Evidence

[One Wales: Connecting the Nation The Wales Transport Strategy \(2008\)](#)

One Wales: Connecting the Nation provides the strategic policy framework for all the Welsh Government's transport related activities to 2030.

Covering all modes, the strategy sets out the Welsh Government's strategic priorities and desired outcomes. It sets out the Welsh Government's desire to encourage the growth of short sea shipping through Welsh ports.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2017-09/wales-transport-strategy.pdf

[Welsh National Marine Plan](#)

The Welsh Government's policy for the next 20 years for the sustainable use of our seas.

The Welsh National Marine Plan provides a vision within which ports can plan their current and future operations, including options for expansion and diversification.

gov.wales/marine-planning?_ga=

[Pembrokeshire County Council, Local Development Plan 2013 including Milford Haven Port Masterplan \(2010\)](#)

The Port Authority's masterplan for Milford Haven Port.

The masterplan clarifies the port's own strategic planning for the medium to long term, to assist regional and local planning bodies and transport network providers in preparing and revising development strategies and to inform port users, employees and local communities as to how the port may develop over the years in response to market and opportunities to strengthen industrial productivity, maximise use

of existing infrastructure and deliver environmental gains based on more effective logistics and production networks.

www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/adopted-local-development-plan

Explanatory Paper

[Welsh National Marine Plan and Ports](#)

The explanatory paper has been prepared to assist reader of the draft NDF in understanding how the relationship between the Draft NDF and the Welsh National Marine Plan and the approach taken to ports policy. It highlights the key policy areas that overlap between the plans and the evidence that have informed the ports policies within the plan.

gov.wales/welsh-national-marine-plan-and-ports-explanatory-paper

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

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HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 26 – Swansea Bay Metro

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
7. in places where travel is sustainable
10. in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

PPW seeks to reduce the need to travel and the length of journeys, whilst making it easier for people to walk, cycle and use public transport (Section 4.1). It sets out that land use and transport planning must be integrated. It states that planning authorities must direct development to locations most accessible by public transport. It also states that the layout, density and uses of new development must support the use of public transport and maximise accessibility potential. In particular, higher densities and mixed use development should be encouraged in areas highly accessible by public transport.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

TAN 18: Transport (2007) promotes the integration of land use planning and the development of transport infrastructure. It promotes reducing the need to travel and providing greater choice of means of transport, other than the private car. It promotes maximising relative accessibility, rather than ensuring everyone can travel everywhere.

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-18-transport

Key Evidence

[One Wales: Connecting the Nation The Wales Transport Strategy \(2008\)](#)

One Wales: Connecting the Nation provides the strategic policy framework for all the Welsh Government's transport related activities to 2030.

Covering all modes, the strategy sets out the Welsh Government's strategic priorities and desired outcomes.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2017-09/wales-transport-strategy.pdf

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

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HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

South East Wales

Policy 27 – Cardiff

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
4. in places with a thriving Welsh Language
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted
7. in places where travel is sustainable
9. in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.37 Spatial Strategy and Site Search Sequence

4.1.7 Moving within and between places

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal – Vision statement (2016)

The City Deal recognises the importance of Cardiff to the region, stating “*With two cities (Cardiff and Newport) at its core, the region has seen significant regeneration and investment over recent decades*”.

www.cardiffcapitalregion.wales/about/

South East Wales Metro – Brochure (2016)

This brochure outlines the Welsh Government’s project to improve the public transport network of the Cardiff Capital Region.

It is clear on the importance of Cardiff as the central location in the metro network.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-06/south-wales-metro-brochure.pdf

Core Cities UK (2017)

The Core Cities partnership is a UK-wide forum of 10 major cities that includes Cardiff. It sets out a profile of Cardiff’s key strengths and economic opportunities.

www.corecities.com/cities/cities/cardiff

Explanatory Paper

The Spatial Strategy

The explanatory paper explains how the spatial strategy of the Draft NDF was developed, highlighting how the policies support the strategy.

gov.wales/spatial-strategy-explanatory-paper

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-49 and B-50, Policy Grouping 11.

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ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix B:
gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report_0.pdf

HRA report:
gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 28 – Newport

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted
7. in places where travel is sustainable
8. in places with world-class digital infrastructure
9. in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.37 Spatial Strategy and Site Search Sequence

4.1.7 Moving within and between places

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal – Vision statement

The City Deal recognises the importance of Newport to the region, stating “*With two cities (Cardiff and Newport) at its core, the region has seen significant regeneration and investment over recent decades*”.

www.cardiffcapitalregion.wales/about/

South East Wales Metro – Brochure (2016)

This brochure outlines the Welsh Government’s project to improve the public transport network of the Cardiff Capital Region.

It is clear on the importance of Newport, as a central location in the metro network and a key connecting hub for communities in the Eastern Valleys and in Monmouthshire.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-06/south-wales-metro-brochure.pdf

Explanatory Paper

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HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 29 – The Heads of the Valleys

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
7. in places where travel is sustainable, and
9. in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.37 Spatial Strategy and Site Search Sequence

4.1.7 Moving within and between places

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

[Valleys taskforce: Our Valleys, Our Future](#)

The overarching plan for developing the Valleys as an integral and distinctive element of the Cardiff Capital Region.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-05/our-valleys-our-future-introduction.pdf

[South East Wales Metro – Brochure \(2016\)](#)

This brochure outlines the Welsh Government's project to improve the public transport network of the Cardiff Capital Region.

It is clear on the importance of improving connectivity to and from the Valleys, with the Heads of the Valleys specifically to benefit from enhanced cross-valley connections.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-06/south-wales-metro-brochure.pdf

[Valleys Regional Park prospectus](#)

The vision for developing the South Wales Valleys to unlock and maximise its potential to generate social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/181203-valleys-regional-park-prospectus.pdf

Explanatory Paper

[The Spatial Strategy](#)

The explanatory paper explains how the spatial strategy of the Draft NDF was developed, highlighting how the policies support the strategy.

gov.wales/spatial-strategy-explanatory-paper

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

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gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 30 – Green Belts in South East Wales

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
7. in places where travel is sustainable, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.60 Managing Settlement Form – Green Belts and Green Wedges

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

House of Commons Library: Green belt (2019)

Discussion paper on the merits, benefits and weaknesses of green belt policy in England.

researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN00934

Landscape Institute: Green Belt policy (2018)

A policy paper by the Landscape Institute on the potential benefits and value of well-crafted and appropriately-defined Green Belts.

landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2018/04/li-green-belt-briefing-apr-2018.pdf

West of England Joint Spatial Plan (2017)

The proposed spatial plan of the Combined Authorities in the West of England set out a growth strategy that protected the integrity of the Green belt around Bristol, pushing demand for homes.

www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk/consult.ti/JSPPublication/consultationHome

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-49 and B-50, Policy Grouping 11.

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HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 31 – Growth in Sustainable Transit Orientated Settlements

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
7. in places where travel is sustainable, and
11. in places which are decarbonised.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

PPW seeks to reduce the need to travel and length of journeys, whilst making it easier for people to walk, cycle and use public transport (Section 4.1). It sets out that land use and transport planning must be integrated. It states that planning authorities must direct development to locations most accessible by public transport. It also states that the layout, density and uses of new development must support the use of public transport and maximise accessibility potential. In particular, higher densities and mixed use development should be encouraged in areas highly accessible by public transport.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

TAN 18: Transport (2007) promotes the integration of land use planning and the development of transport infrastructure. It promotes reducing the need to travel and providing greater choice of means of transport, other than the private car. It promotes maximising relative accessibility, rather than ensuring everyone can travel everywhere.

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-18-transport

Key Evidence

[One Wales: Connecting the Nation The Wales Transport Strategy \(2008\)](#)

One Wales: Connecting the Nation provides the strategic policy framework for all the Welsh Government's transport related activities to 2030.

Covering all modes, the strategy sets out the Welsh Government's strategic priorities and desired outcomes.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2017-09/wales-transport-strategy.pdf

[South Wales Metro: Summary Brochure \(2016\)](#)

Summary of the Welsh Government's project to improve the public transport network of the Cardiff Capital Region.

The South Wales Metro is a new integrated transport system around the Cardiff Capital Region, providing faster, more frequent and joined-up services using trains, buses and light rail at integrated hubs. An integrated approach to land use and transport planning can maximise the benefits of the significant investment planned in public transport and ensure that our wider sustainable development and well-being policy objectives are met.

gov.wales/south-wales-metro-summary-brochure

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the Draft NDF policies. Appendix B of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Tables B-49 and B-50, Policy Grouping 11.

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HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 32 – Cardiff Airport

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth, and
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

PPW supports the growth and enhancement of airports and their infrastructure in Wales and the improvement of transport links to them by road and rail, particularly those which improve public transport accessibility (Section 5.3).

It states that development plans should include policies addressing the development of airport infrastructure and related services, and promote access by sustainable transport, and ensure environmental impacts are taken into account.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

TAN 18: Transport recognises Cardiff Airport as being of national significance. It states that development plans should take into account the contribution of air traffic to the local and Welsh economy and the benefits of having suitable ancillary or dependent facilities. However, that this should be balanced against the environmental impact on surrounding areas in terms of road and rail access, traffic and noise generation or floodplain protection.

gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-18-transport

Key Evidence

[One Wales: Connecting the Nation The Wales Transport Strategy \(2008\)](#)

One Wales: Connecting the Nation provides the strategic policy framework for the Welsh Government's transport related activities to 2030.

Covering all modes, the strategy sets out the Welsh Government's strategic priorities and desired outcomes. It recognises that air routes play a significant role in providing international connectivity for tourism and business and commits to improve connectivity by better links (especially by public transport) to Cardiff Airport and other airports serving Wales.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2017-09/wales-transport-strategy.pdf

[Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan \(March 2019\)](#)

What the Welsh Government plans to do to grow Wales' economy.

Supports the commercial development and growth in services of Cardiff Airport.

gov.wales/prosperity-all-economic-action-plan

[Cardiff Airport and St Athan Enterprise Zone Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021](#)

Sets out the overall vision for the Cardiff Airport and St Athan Enterprise Zone going forward.

The plan sets out the intention to continue to promote the existing aerospace expertise and opportunity for new aerospace activity. It also sets out the intention to support all sectors with a focus on quality of jobs, skills, training, design, research development and innovation and Welsh headquarters.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-03/cardiff-airport-st-athan-enterprise-zone-2018-2021.pdf

Cardiff Airport 2040 Masterplan (2018)

Sets out specific proposals for the growth of Cardiff Airport.

The Masterplan sets out a vision for the expansion and improvement of Cardiff Airport. The plans include a new terminal; replacement aircraft parking stands; a new cargo terminal; new dedicated road access to be provided for the terminal from the A4226; improvements to pedestrian and cycle access to and through the Airport site; future integration with the Metro with a safeguarded bus link as well as an improved; dedicated connection between the terminal and Rhoose Cardiff International Airport railway station; open space, public realm and landscaping improvements; safeguarded land for expansion; improved rail links.

www.cardiff-airport.com/uploads/Masterplan%20Report%20FINAL%20JUNE19%20lower_compressed%20%281%29.pdf

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

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HRA report:

gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Policy 33 – Valleys Regional Park

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted, and
10. in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

2.25 regeneration; 3.20 promoting healthier places; 3.42 strategic placemaking; 3.52 previously developed land; 5.4.13 steering economic development to the most appropriate locations; 5.5.1 tourism; page 120 industrial and mining legacy and collaboration.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

[Valleys Regional Park prospectus](#)

Sets out the vision for the Valleys Regional Park. It is an invitation to public, private and third sectors and local communities to work collaboratively and innovatively to achieve the aims of the Park and has directly influenced policy 33.

gov.wales/valleys-regional-park-prospectus

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

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HRA report:

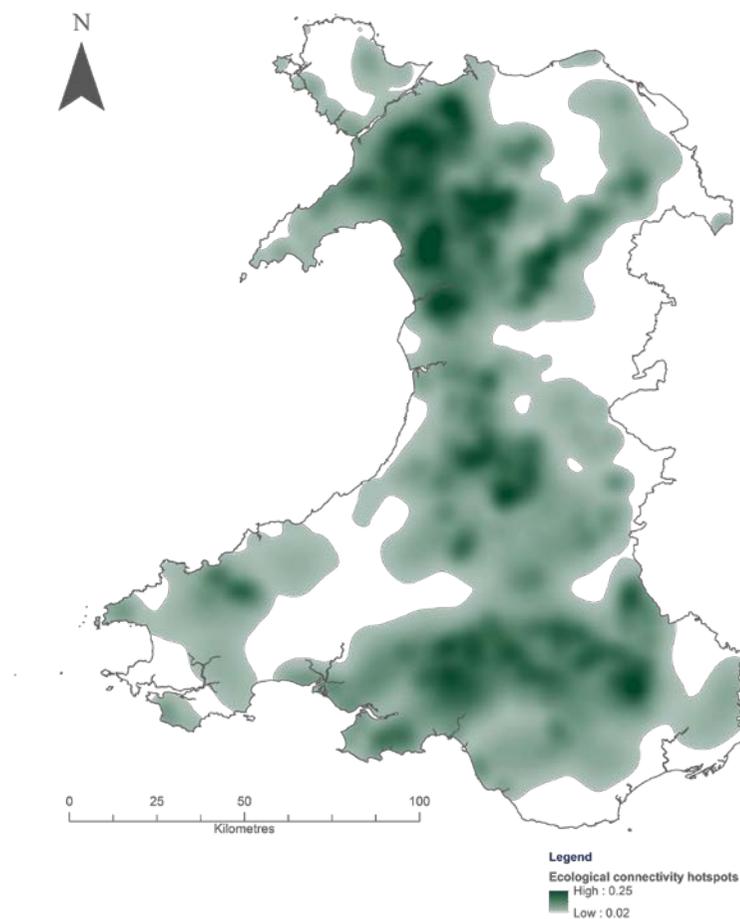
gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/habitats-regulations-assessment-report.pdf

Annex 1

High Level Green Infrastructure Assessment Mapping

The Welsh Government asked Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to prepare mapping indicating broad areas where nationally important ecological networks/green infrastructure may exist.

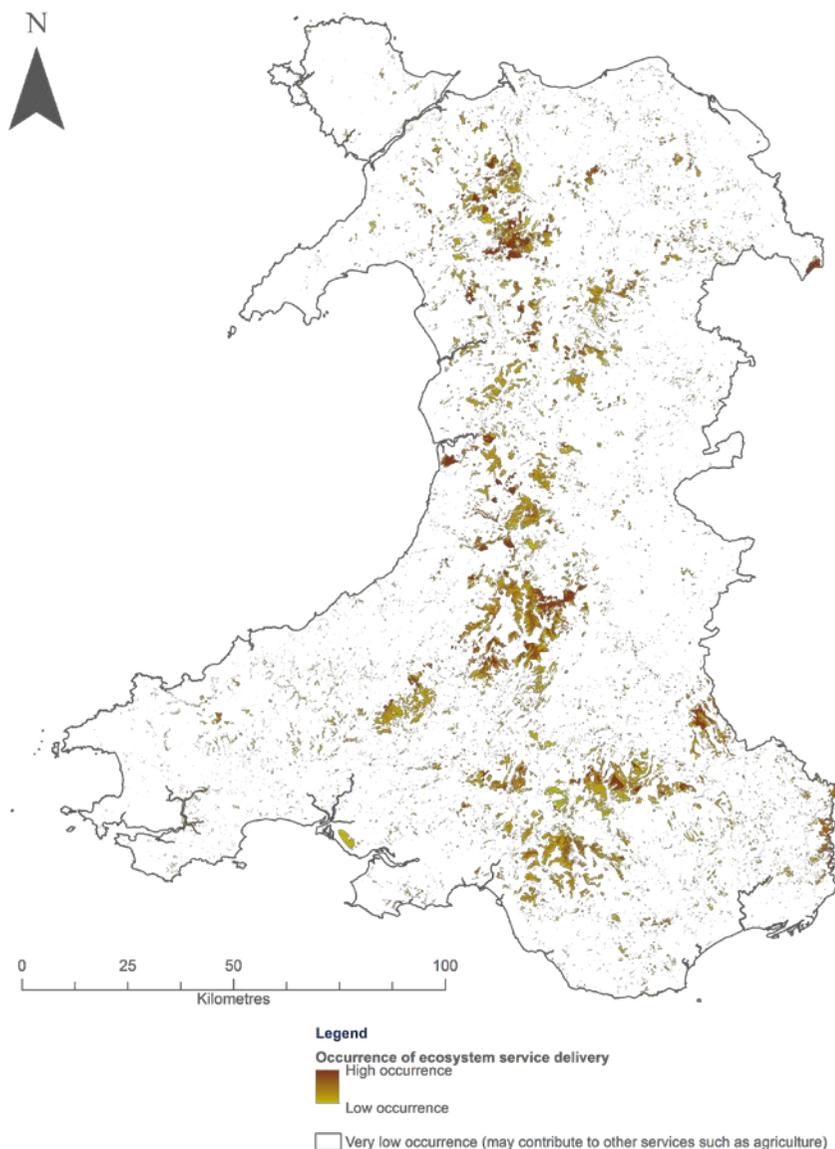
MAP A: Resilient ecological networks and biodiversity hotspots



Map A shows nationally important ecological networks at a strategic scale, where connectivity is high across a range of habitats and between biodiversity hotspots. High connectivity means that the ecosystems within these areas are relatively resilient to a range of current pressures, as well as to the future threat of climate change.

It is important to recognise these ecologically important areas, both with a view to maintaining the existing habitats that contribute to the networks, and also to identify opportunities to improve these areas through targeted action such as habitat restoration and improved landscape management.

MAP B: Ecosystem service hotspots

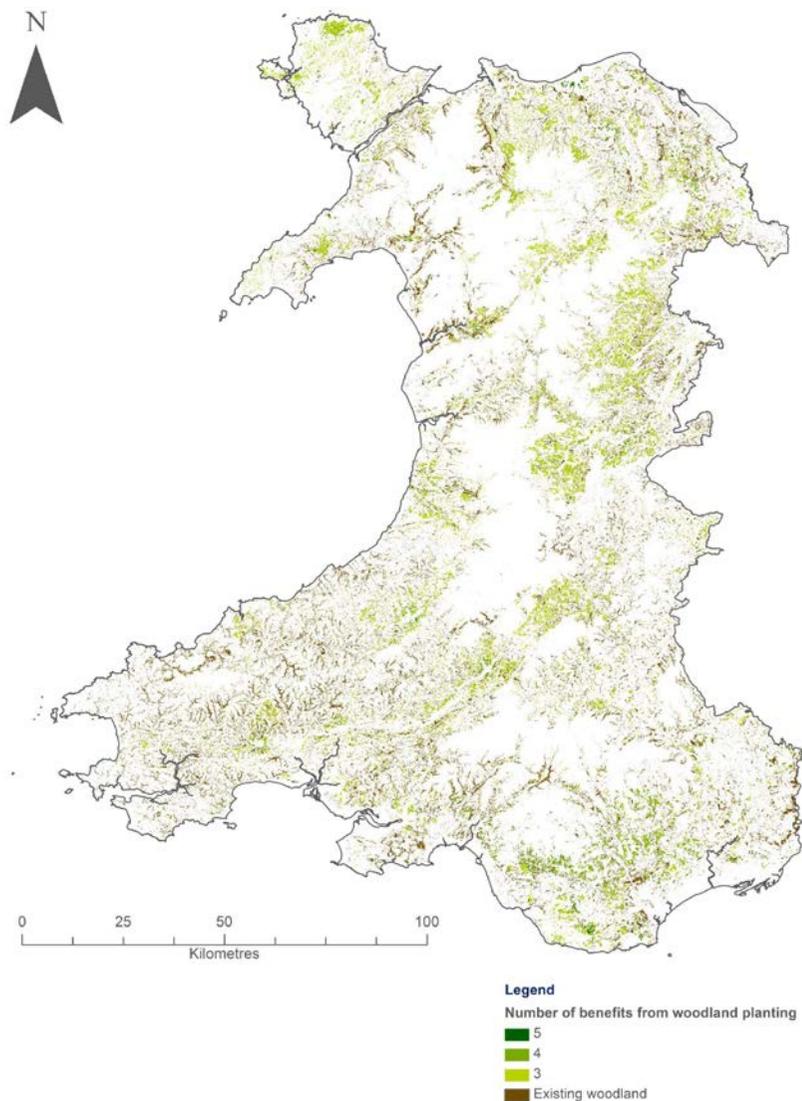


Map B shows nationally important areas of Wales that deliver key ecosystem services, including flood regulation, water quality, vegetation carbon, soil carbon and landscape aesthetics.

These ecosystem services were selected because they can help address key planning policy issues such as managing environmental risks, dealing with landscape change and adapting to the effects of climate change, and also because of the significant impact development can have on these services.

Major land use changes in areas that deliver multiple ecosystem services are likely to have a significant negative impact on ecosystem service delivery. Safeguarding the ecological processes that deliver key ecosystem services will be an essential step in achieving the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales.

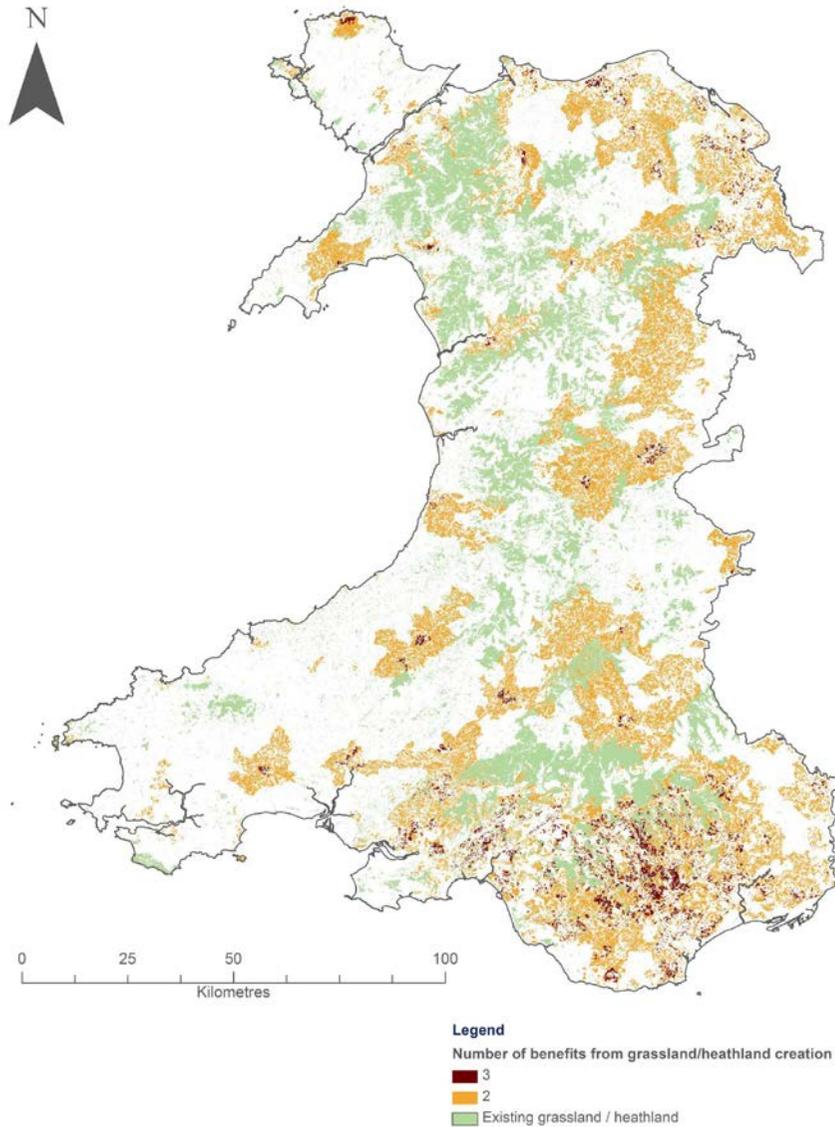
MAP C: Opportunities to generate multiple benefits through woodland creation



Map C shows where new woodland planting could generate a number of other ecosystem service benefits including improving the woodland habitat network, natural flood management, water quality, recreation benefits and carbon sequestration. This map shows opportunities that could generate large (over 500ha) or moderately sized (over 5ha) woodlands.

Woodland is a habitat type that provides multiple ecosystem services and can therefore be highly beneficial to wellbeing goals, particularly if multiple services are generated simultaneously.

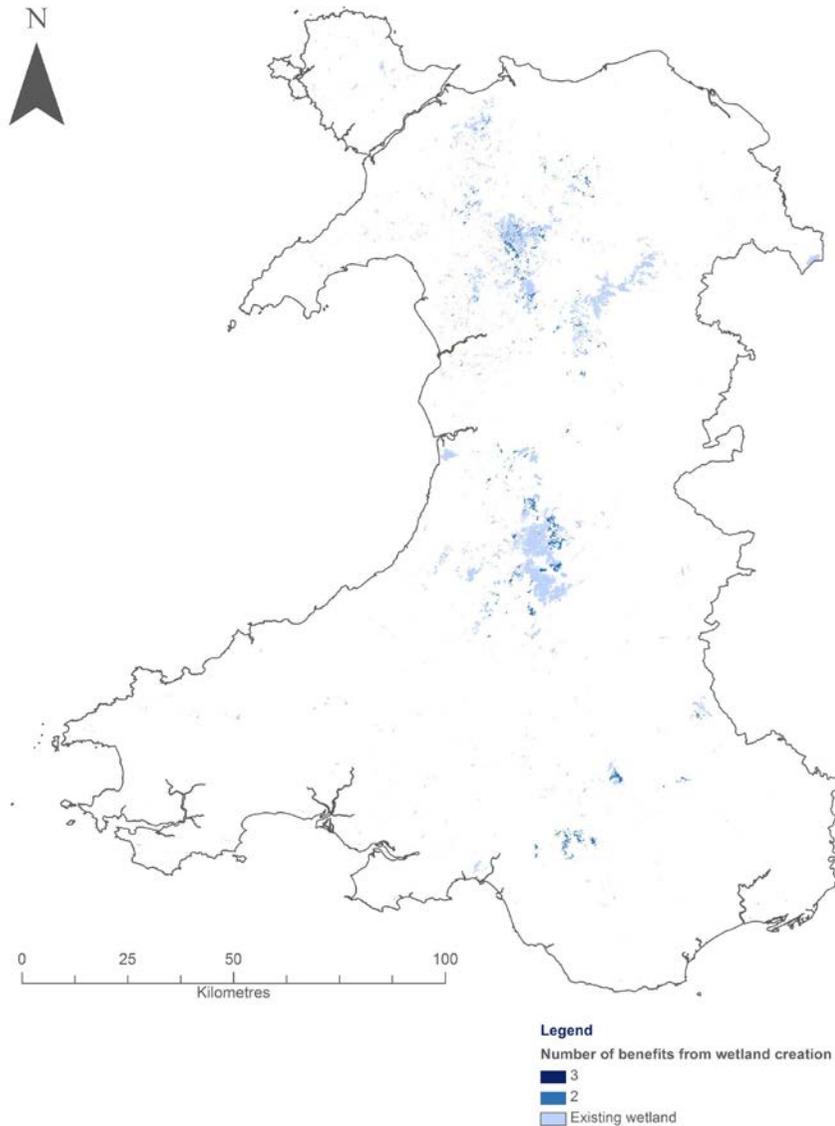
MAP D: Opportunities to generate multiple benefits through grassland and heathland creation



Map D shows areas where new grassland or heathland planting could generate a number of ecosystem service benefits including improvements to habitat networks, accessible greenspace for recreation benefits, and surface roughness for natural flood management.

Grassland/heathland habitat can generate many ecosystem services and is therefore highly beneficial to humans, particularly if multiple services are generated simultaneously.

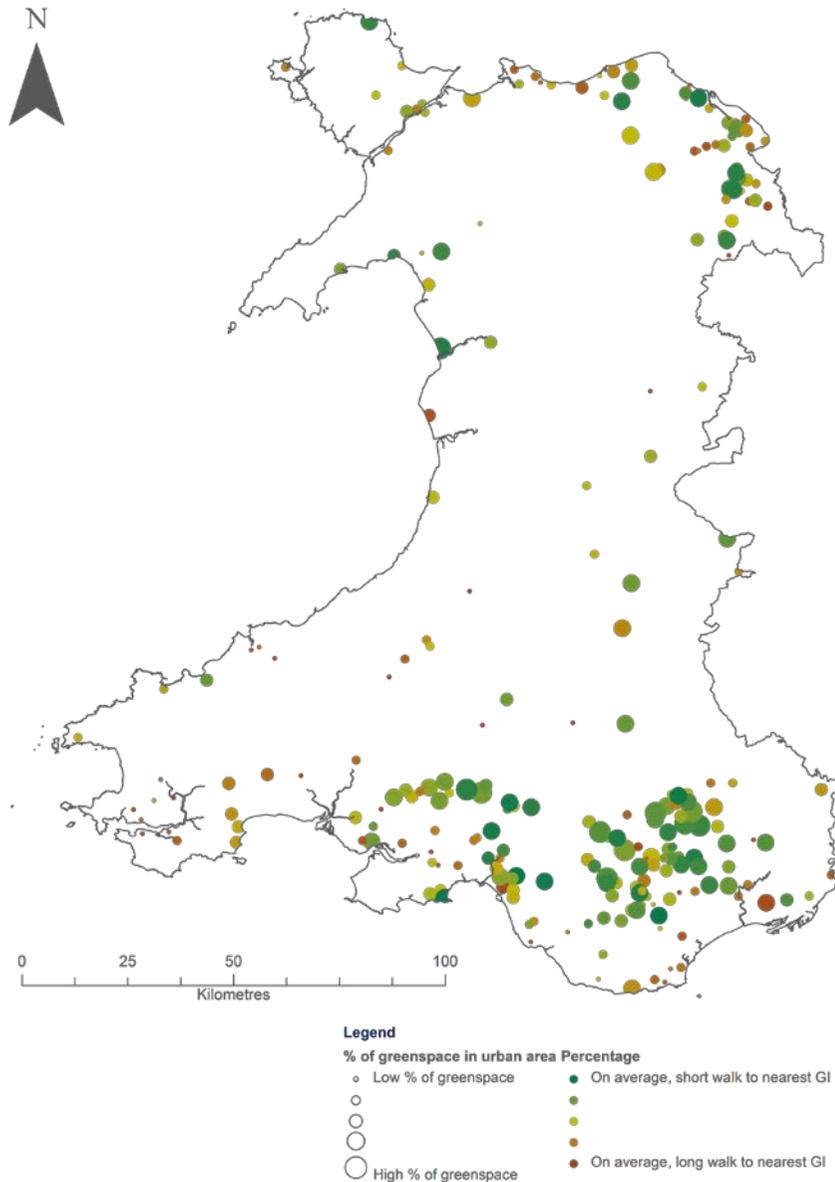
MAP E: Opportunities to generate multiple benefits through wetland creation



Map E shows areas where the wetland habitat network can be improved and the number of ecosystem service benefits this could generate, including restoration priorities for functional peat and opportunities to generate natural flood management. This map gives an overview of how the opportunities for wetland habitat creation are distributed nationally, which aids in identifying important opportunity spaces.

Wetlands can generate many ecosystem services and are therefore highly beneficial to humans.

MAP F: Green space provision in main urban areas



Map F shows areas where access to green space is limited, either because very little greenspace is available in the area, or because access to green space is difficult. The map shows greenspace and all areas that are within 400m walking distance of at least one green space. The larger the circle used on the map the more greenspace is available in the area relative to the size of the settlement. Accessibility of green space is shown in colour, with green meaning that green space is easily accessible and red that most people need to walk far to reach it.

Green space in urban areas fulfils a number of functions that directly and indirectly impact upon wellbeing. The importance of greenspace for mental and physical health is well documented but green space plays an important role in the provision of other ecosystem services, for example in flood regulation.