



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

FUTURE WALES

National Development Framework 2020-2040

Evidence Compendium Update – September 2020

What is this document?

Our first national development framework will, when published, be called '**Future Wales – The National Plan 2040**'. This document was prepared prior to publication and uses the name 'national development framework' and 'NDF' throughout. For clarification the references to the national development framework in this document are taken to mean **Future Wales – The National Plan 2040**.

This document has been prepared to assist readers of the National Development Framework (NDF) in understanding the range of evidence that has informed its preparation.

This document follows the structure of the 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](#) and review the information that has supported the consultations across the NDF process to [date](#).

This document also makes the link between Planning Policy Wales (Edition 10) (PPW) and the 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.

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

South East Wales Transport Commission: Emerging Conclusions (July 2020)

The role of the South East Wales Transport Commission is to investigate sustainable measures to tackle congestion on the M4 in South East Wales. This report sets out the key findings and emerging conclusions on the nature of future recommendations.

gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/emerging-conclusions.pdf

Future Progression of the National Development Framework

Future progression of the National Development Framework

Sets how the Welsh Government expects future progression of the National Development Framework will take place.

gov.wales/future-progression-national-development-framework-explanatory-paper

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/development-plans-manual-edition-3-march-2020

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/development-plans-manual-edition-3-march-2020

Call for Evidence and Projects

A call for evidence and potential projects was undertaken between December 2016 and March 2017. People were invited to submit evidence they wished the Welsh Government to consider in developing the NDF and potential projects which could be included in the national plan. This was an important stage in the early development of the NDF. All evidence and projects received were reviewed and fed into the initial development of the NDF.

gov.wales/national-development-framework-wales?_ga=2.105978177.337793888.1594987839-155348759.1570450845

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. This is supported by maps and graphics within Chapter 2 of the NDF. 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 and refined through the consultation on the draft NDF in 2019.

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

Our 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 welsh regions (2020)

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

gov.wales/summary-statistics-regions-wales-2020

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

Our 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

Our Natural Resources

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

Our Landscape and Ecology

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

Our Economy

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 Welsh Regions (2020)

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

gov.wales/summary-statistics-regions-wales-2020

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

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

Our Digital Infrastructure

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 Connections

Planet Earth

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

Our four regions

Summary Statistics for Economic Regions (2020)

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

gov.wales/summary-statistics-regions-wales-2020

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/Low Carbon Economy

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

Water & 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

Housing

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

Estimates of additional housing need (2019 based) (August 2020)

A Welsh Government Statistical Article which presents 2019-based estimates of overall additional housing need in Wales from 2019-20 to 2038-39 by tenure.

gov.wales/estimates-housing-need-2019-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.

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 – Where Wales will grow

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 and climate resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

The expectation for development plans to set a spatial strategy and indicate where development will be prioritised and focussed is stated in paragraphs 3.37 – 3.44 *Spatial strategy and site search sequence*. A detailed statement on the role of the NDF is set out at paragraphs 1.22 – 1.23 *National Development Framework*.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

NDF Explanatory Paper: The Spatial Strategy

The explanatory paper highlights the key evidence that informed the spatial strategy.

gov.wales/spatial-strategy-explanatory-paper

Prosperity for All: The National Strategy (2017)

The Welsh Government's overall strategy outlines key priorities and projects it supports. The NDF spatial strategy responds to these, through the development of a spatial strategy that can support the broadest aims of the government.

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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 1.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 2 – Shaping Urban Growth and Regeneration – Strategic Placemaking;

Policy 3 – Supporting Urban Growth and Regeneration – Public Sector Leadership;

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 and climate resilient.

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). Paragraphs 3.37-3.44 are also relevant which covers strategic placemaking and spatial strategy. The NDF builds on this and sets out a number of strategic placemaking principles to shape growth and regeneration. The aim

is to provide a framework for towns and cities to support active and healthy lives, with urban neighbourhoods that are compact and walkable, organised around mixed use centres and public transport, and integrated with green infrastructure.

The NDF also promotes a more active public sector role, including assembling land, investing in infrastructure and preparing sites for development. The aim is for the public sector to support the delivery of urban growth and regeneration, as well as show leadership in the application of placemaking.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

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.

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 compact and walkable neighbourhoods that are organised around mixed use centres and public transport.

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

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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of these policies in Policy Groupings 1 and 2.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:
gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities; and

Policy 5 – Supporting the rural economy

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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

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.

In particular paragraphs 3.34 – 3.36 (Placemaking in rural areas) & 5.6 (Rural economy).

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)

TAN 13 Tourism (1997)

TAN 16 Sport and Recreation (2009)

TAN 20 Welsh Language (2017)

TAN 4 Retail and Commercial Centres (2016)

TAN 24: The historic environment (2017)

TAN 5: Nature conservation and planning (2009)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of these policies in Policy Grouping 1.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 6 – Town Centre First

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places,
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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 place 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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

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..

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

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

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 directs significant new commercial, retail, education, health, leisure and public service facilities should be located within town and city centres 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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 1.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 7 – Delivering Affordable Homes

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.

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.

Paragraphs 4.2, 4.2.25-4.2.34 – Living in a place, Housing.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales?_ga=2.171508004.580004829.1600676113-620607912.1597653541

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.

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/tan2-planning-affordable-housing.pdf

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.
- link new housing with major new infrastructure developments.

gov.wales/prosperity-all-national-strategy

Estimates of additional housing need in Wales at a national and regional level (2019-based)

The Welsh Government has produced estimates of housing need over a twenty year period up until 2038/39 (mid-year to mid-year). The figures are available at a national level and for the four economic regions (North Wales / Mid Wales / South West Wales / South East Wales).

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 (2019/20 – 2023/24) 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.

Estimates of housing need: 2019-based

gov.wales/estimates-housing-need-2019-based

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 readers 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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 3.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 8 – Flooding

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

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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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

Sections 6.5 and 6.6 of the Distinctive and Natural chapter provide a comprehensive approach to planning for flood risk in Wales. Policies address flood risk from the sea, rivers and surface water, and highlight the significance of climate change.

It draws connections between flood risk and other planning issues, such as spatial considerations and site selection processes.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales?_ga=2.142092470.580004829.1600676113-620607912.1597653541

Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

TAN 15: Development and flood risk

TAN 14: Coastal planning

TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning

TAN 23: Economic development

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

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

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

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

Key Evidence

National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

The draft national strategy sets the principles and overall objectives for flood risk management in Wales, with the NDF policy specifically aimed at delivering its objectives at the national scale of planning. The strategy is expected to be published in June 2020.

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

Natural Resources Wales: Long term flood risk maps

Flood maps provide technical information on the spatial areas at risk of various types of flooding under various short, medium and long-term scenarios. The range of maps managed and published by NRW are a valuable source of information at all stages of the planning system, and have provided important context for the NDF policy.

naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/long-term-flood-risk/?lang=en

Prosperity for all: A Climate conscious Wales

This document outlines the measures, actions and research needed to develop our ability to adapt to climate change in Wales. The approach of the NDF policy reflects its aims.

gov.wales/prosperity-all-climate-conscious-wales

Prosperity for all: a low carbon Wales

Flooding is recognised throughout this document as one of the main impacts of climate change. It sets out the need to achieve decarbonisation in Wales and outlines ways of making it happen. Natural flood risk management is a key strand, which is reflected in the NDF policy.

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

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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 4.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 9 – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

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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,
11. In places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

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 (6.2); 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

TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space

TAN 15: Development and flood risk

TAN 14: Coastal planning

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

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

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

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

Dear CPO Letter

gov.wales/biodiversity-enhancements-guidance-heads-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 and
- 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
- 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 have produced Area Statements which will facilitate delivery of the Natural Resources Policy at a local level. The first Area Statements were published at the end of March 2020 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 (ISA) 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.

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.

National Natural Resources Map: additional mapping as part of collaboration with NRW

As part of its on-going collaboration with NRW, Welsh Government asked NRW to create an indicative national natural resource map for the purposes of supporting the NDF.

Natural Resources Wales has a wide range of data available from previous ecosystem service mapping projects and this work has been brought together for the purpose of creating the national natural resource map. Mapping for both SoNaRR and the Area Statements was used. The outputs reflect the themes contained in the SoNaRR Interim Report – namely climate change, biodiversity loss, circular economy and green infrastructure.

The National Natural Resource Map for the NDF can be found in Annex 1.

Carbon storage and sequestration: the map displays areas with a high degree of carbon storage as brown, semi-transparent dots. In areas where many dots overlap, the colour appears darker; these are the terrestrial areas that are currently storing the largest amount of carbon in Wales.

Reason for inclusion: maintaining areas currently storing a lot of carbon, in the soil or as part of woody vegetation, can help to reduce the severity of climate change. Some areas actively sequester carbon removing it from the atmosphere. Most growing vegetation persisting over time sequesters carbon, with some types sequestering more than others.

Natural Flood Management: the map uses blue wave symbols to highlight locations of particular importance for natural flood management.

Reason for inclusion: The frequency and severity of flooding events has increased in recent years and as a result of climate change is predicted to continue to do so. Natural flood management can help manage flood risk and particular attention was paid to high provision areas that are located within catchments that experience flooding problems in urban areas further downstream.

Biodiversity: three aspects of biodiversity have been mapped, namely hotspots, habitat network connectivity and upland habitats. The maps show current hotspots of biodiversity (exceptionally high biodiversity value) as green hashes, the strongest ecological networks displayed with arrows (there are many smaller networks that are locally significant, but these could not be displayed at this strategic national scale) and current areas of upland habitat as purple hashes (based on NRW's Level 2 network map for upland heath).

Reason for inclusion: as likely to be representative of biodiversity and resilience across Wales. The areas with the highest biodiversity are often the ones delivering the most ecosystem services and can adapt better to pressures such as climate change and contribute to the resilience of ecosystem services. Areas with good ecological connectivity allow for the movement of biodiversity, contribute to maintaining genetic resilience and for natural processes to operate across wider areas. They are recognised as a key attribute of ecosystem resilience, which helps to maintain biodiversity in the face of pressures such as land use change or pollution. The uplands are associated with the highest diversity of natural habitats and have been highlighted to show the unique role they play in supporting Wales' biodiversity.

Urban Greenspace Graphs: the map displays graphs for the centres of growth identified in the NDF which show the average percentage of accessible greenspace in each region (green bars) and the average walking distance from anywhere within the urban area to the nearest greenspace (brown bars).

Reason for inclusion: These two metrics help to create an overview of greenspace provision in the proposed growth centres and ease of access.

Areas generating multiple ecosystem services (ecosystem hotspots): for each region some of the most important hotspots for the generation of multiple ecosystem services have been highlighted with labels indicating the location of the site and a brief description of the types of services that are generated in the area.

Reason for inclusion: to provide an indication of the value of multiple ecosystem services. Ecosystem services often appear as bundles with the same areas generating a number of services at the same time. The combination of the different benefits these areas generate can be difficult to replace or recreate elsewhere. The loss of these areas can therefore potentially have a significant impact on ecosystem service provision.

Food and Timber (provisioning ecosystem services): the map displays Best and Most Versatile land in light yellow and green forest symbols to highlight locations of particular importance for timber production.

Reason for inclusion: provisioning ecosystem service describe all services that directly provide people with physical goods, such as food or timber. BMV land is the most important to food production and security in Wales and timber is an important global resource, and, if managed appropriately, can also support carbon sequestration and biodiversity.

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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 5.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 10 – International Connectivity;**Policy 11 – National Connectivity; and****Policy 12 – Regional Connectivity**

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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

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.

The NDF incorporates and builds on the positive approach we are taking to support the uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles in PPW, including requiring electric charging infrastructure on non-domestic development (Section 4.1).

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.

PPW 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: 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.

TAN 18 states that planning authorities should take care to ensure that developments intended to regenerate ports are not incompatible with any nearby port operations.

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.

It sets out the Welsh Government's desire to encourage the growth of short sea shipping through Welsh ports.

gov.wales/transport-strategy

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

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

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

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 readers 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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of these policies in Policy Grouping 6.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 13 – Supporting Digital Communications; and

Policy 14 – 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,
6. in place where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted,
7. in places where travel is sustainable,
8. in places with world class digital infrastructure,
9. in place that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient

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.

PPW promotes mast sharing to minimise infrastructure and to reduce environmental impact. It encourages Local Planning Authorities to work with mobile telecommunications operators to identify new provision, and to include development plan policies to help guide development. The planning system needs to respond positively to new telecommunications technology and changing requirements.

PPW encourages Planning Authorities to support development proposals for broadband infrastructure. New development should include the provision of broadband services from the outset.

Planning authorities should liaise with broadband infrastructure providers to understand future rollout requirements.

PPW recognises access to superfast broadband is essential for business and social purposes in rural areas. Welsh Government programmes are seeking to address this.

PPW section 5.2.

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 into 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
- 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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of these policies in Policy Grouping 7.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:
gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 15 – National Forest

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places,
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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.
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

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 (6.2); Landscape (6.3), Biodiversity and Ecological Networks (6.4, 6.4.24-6.4.26); 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

TAN 6: Planning for sustainable rural communities

TAN 13: Tourism

TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space

TAN 15: Development and flood risk

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

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

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

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

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

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.
- 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 & Recreation
- Tourism
- Commerce
- Education
- Connectivity including active travel, public transport, electric vehicles and Green Infrastructure
- Biodiversity & 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 & 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

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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 5.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 16 – Heat Networks

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

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6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted,
9. In places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

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/prosperity-all-low-carbon-wales

[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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 8.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 17 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure; and

Policy 18 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance

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,
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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

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

Following responses received to the consultation, additional issues and constraints were considered to ascertain the appropriateness of using them at a strategic level to identify areas of most opportunity. The areas identified have been refined to exclude protected land need for military operations.

[Integrated Sustainability Appraisal \(ISA\) and Habitats Regulations Assessment \(HRA\)](#)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of these policies in Policy Grouping 8.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Section 5 – The Regions

Section 5 sets out the NDF's approach to regional planning and contains policies on the four regions – North Wales, Mid Wales, 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 Welsh Regions (2020)

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

gov.wales/summary-statistics-regions-wales-2020

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/development-plans-manual-edition-3-march-2020

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 19 – 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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

Policy 19 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; 1.24-1.25 Strategic Development Plans; 3.49 New Settlements; 3.58 Supporting Infrastructure; 3.60 Green Belts & Green Wedges; 4.1.5 Integrated Planning & 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 & Low Carbon Energy; 5.13.12 Provision of Wide-

ranging and Diverse Waste Infrastructure; 5.14.10, 5.14.14 Ensuring Supply [of Minerals]; 5.14.21 National, Regional & Local Needs for Non-Energy Minerals; 6 Collaboration (p120); 6.3.3 Landscape; 6.4.4 Biodiversity & 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 - Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (March 2020)

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 covers the preparation of SDPs and has informed the requirements of policy 19.

gov.wales/development-plans-manual-edition-3-march-2020

NDF Regions Explanatory Paper

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

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

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 9.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

<https://gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal>

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

North Wales

Policy 20 – National Growth Area - Wrexham and Deeside

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places,
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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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.37 – 3.44 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_0.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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 10.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 21 – Regional Growth Area - North Wales Coastal Settlements

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places,
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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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.37 – 3.44 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_0.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.

statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/Archive/WIMD-2014/wimd2014

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?_ga=2.197656875.580004829.1600676113-620607912.1597653541

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

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 10.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 22 – Green Belts in the North

Support Delivery of NDF Outcomes

A Wales where people live...

1. and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places,
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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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.60- 3.74 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.

www.landscapeinstitute.org/publication/landscape-briefing-2018-green-belt-policy/

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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 10.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 23 – North Wales Metro

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,
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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
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate resilient.

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. Section 5.3 covers Transportation Infrastructure.

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/transport-strategy

[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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 10.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 24 – North West Wales and Energy

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,
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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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

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.

In relation to the Trawsfynydd site which is located in a National Park, paragraph 6.3.10 states that in National Parks or AONBs, special considerations apply to major development proposals which are more national than local in character. Major developments should not take place in National Parks or AONBs except in exceptional circumstances. This may arise where, after rigorous examination, there is demonstrated to be an overriding public need, refusal would be severely detrimental to the local economy and there is no potential for locating the development elsewhere or meeting the need in some other way. Any construction and restoration must be carried out to high environmental standards. Consideration of applications for major developments should therefore include an assessment of:

- the need for the development, in terms of national considerations and the impact of permitting it or refusing it upon the local economy
- the cost of and scope for providing the development outside the designated area or meeting the need for it in some other way, and
- any detrimental effect on the environment and the landscape, and the extent to which that could be moderated and/or mitigated.

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.

nwna.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
- 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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 10.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F: gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Mid Wales

Policy 25 – Regional Growth Areas – Mid 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,
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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.37 – 3.44 Spatial Strategy and Site Search Sequence

4.1.7 Moving within and between places.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

Growing Mid Wales Partnership: 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

Identification of regional areas for the NDF (2017)

The report was highlighted in a number of consultation responses and in evidence to Senedd committees as setting the context for Mid Wales to be a defined region in the NDF.

gov.wales/regions

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?_ga=2.189867311.580004829.1600676113-620607912.1597653541

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

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 11.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 26 – Growing the Mid-Wales Economy

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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

Chapter 5. Productive and Enterprising Places.

In particular sections 5.4, 5.5, & 5.6

3.34 – 3.36 – Placemaking in rural areas.

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Key Evidence

[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

[Strategic Economic Priorities for the Mid Wales Region – Feb 2019](#)

This document presents the Strategic Economic Priorities for the Mid Wales Region that aim to deliver growth across the region over the next 15 years. It is a strategic document that outlines the priority programmes required to deliver sustainable economic growth, more productive jobs and support prosperous communities in Mid Wales by 2033.

en.powys.gov.uk/media/9507/Strategic-Economic-Priorities-for-the-Mid-Wales-Region/pdf/Strategic_Economic_Priorities_for_the_Mid_Wales_Region.pdf?m=1555596837853

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?_ga=2.189867311.580004829.1600676113-620607912.1597653541

[Integrated Sustainability Appraisal \(ISA\) and Habitats Regulations Assessment \(HRA\)](#)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 11.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 27 – Movement in Mid-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,
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
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate resilient.

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.

Section 5.3 Transportation Infrastructure.

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

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?_ga=2.167125306.580004829.1600676113-620607912.1597653541

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

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 11.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:
gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

South West Wales

Policy 28 – National Growth Area - 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,
9. In places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution
10. In places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.37 – 3.44 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.

trc.cymru/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?_ga=2.167125306.580004829.1600676113-620607912.1597653541

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

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 12.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 29 – Regional Growth Areas – Carmarthen and the Haven Towns**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
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.37 – 3.44 Spatial Strategy and Site Search Sequence

4.1.7 Moving within and between places

gov.wales/planning-policy-wales?_ga=2.137963572.580004829.1600676113-620607912.1597653541

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=155860813323

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?_ga=2.167125306.580004829.1600676113-620607912.1597653541

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

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 12.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 30 – Green Belts in the South West

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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.60 – 3.74 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

commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/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

www.landscapeinstitute.org/policy/green-belt-policy/

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

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 12.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 31 – South West Metro

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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.

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.

Section 5.3 – Transportation Infrastructure.

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/transport-strategy

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

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 12.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 32 – Haven Waterway and Energy

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,
9. In places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution,
11. In places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient

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.

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.

6.3.10 – National Parks and AONBs.

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

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 readers 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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 12.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

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gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

South East Wales

Policy 33 – National Growth Area - Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys

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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.37 – 3.44 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. It also recognises 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. For the Valleys, 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

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

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

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?_ga=2.109111553.580004829.1600676113-620607912.1597653541

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

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 13.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 34 – Green Belts in the South East

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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate resilient.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.60 – 3.74 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.

www.landscapeinstitute.org/publication/landscape-briefing-2018-green-belt-policy/

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.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/estates/documents/West_of_England_Joint_Spatial_Plan__Publication_Document_2017%20\(5\).pdf](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/estates/documents/West_of_England_Joint_Spatial_Plan__Publication_Document_2017%20(5).pdf)

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

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 13.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal

HRA report:

gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

Policy 35 – Valleys Regional Park

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,
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,
11. In places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient

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 & 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 35.

[gov.wales/valleys-regional-park-prospectus](#)

[Integrated Sustainability Appraisal \(ISA\) and Habitats Regulations Assessment \(HRA\)](#)

The ISA report (including environmental report) sets out the assessment of the NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 13.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

[gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal](#)

HRA report:

[gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0](#)

Policy 36 – South East Metro

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,
11. in places which are decarbonised and climate resilient.

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.

5.3 Transportation Infrastructure.

[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 NDF policies. Appendix F of the ISA report sets out the detailed assessment of this policy in Policy Grouping 13.

The HRA report, Table 5 sets out the screening outcomes for this policy.

ISA Report (Including Environmental Report) including Appendix F:

<https://gov.wales/future-wales-integrated-sustainability-appraisal>

HRA report:

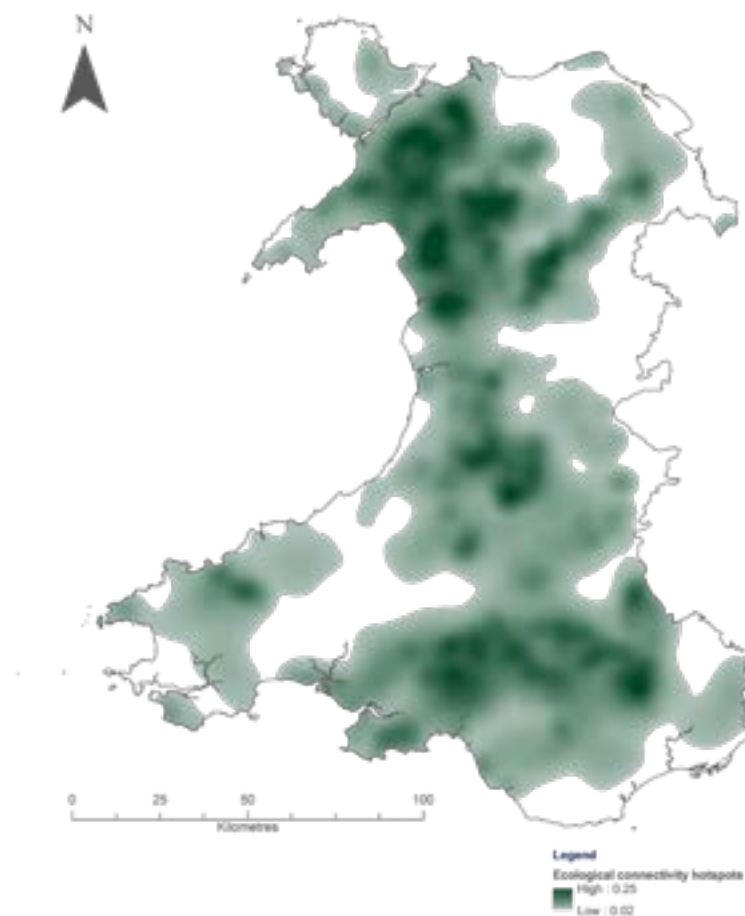
gov.wales/national-development-framework-habitats-regulations-assessment-0

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.

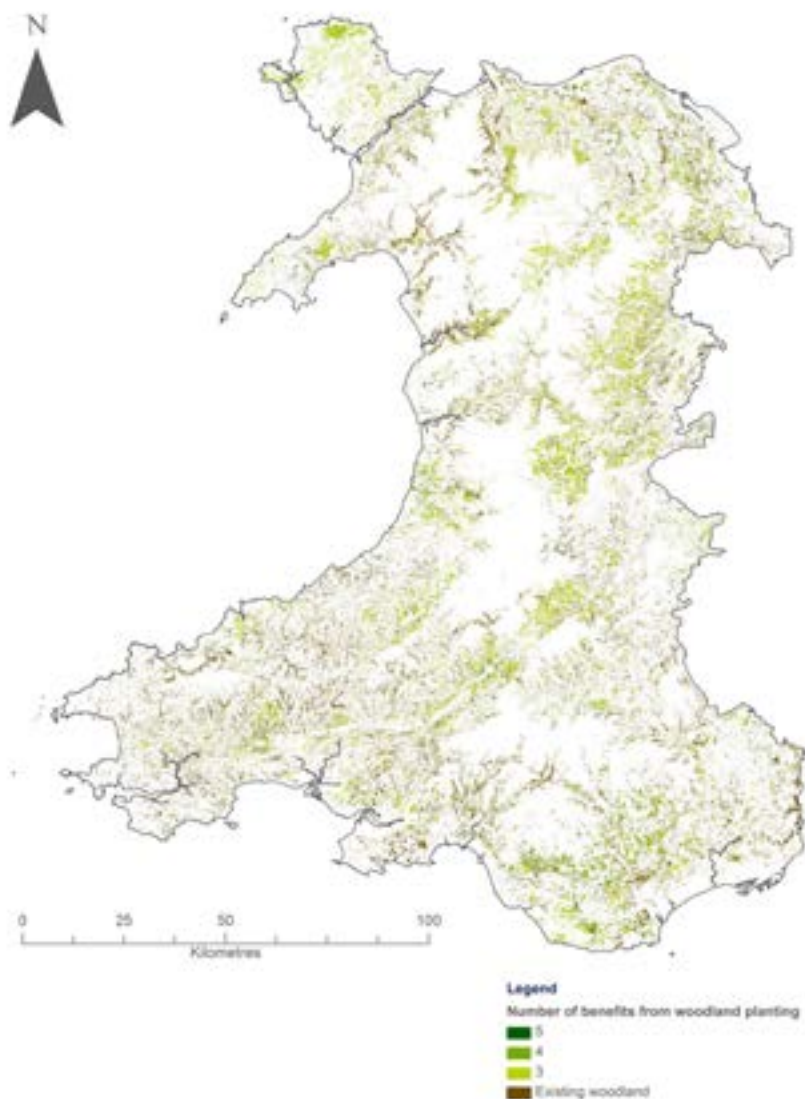
MAP B: Ecosystem service hotspots



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.

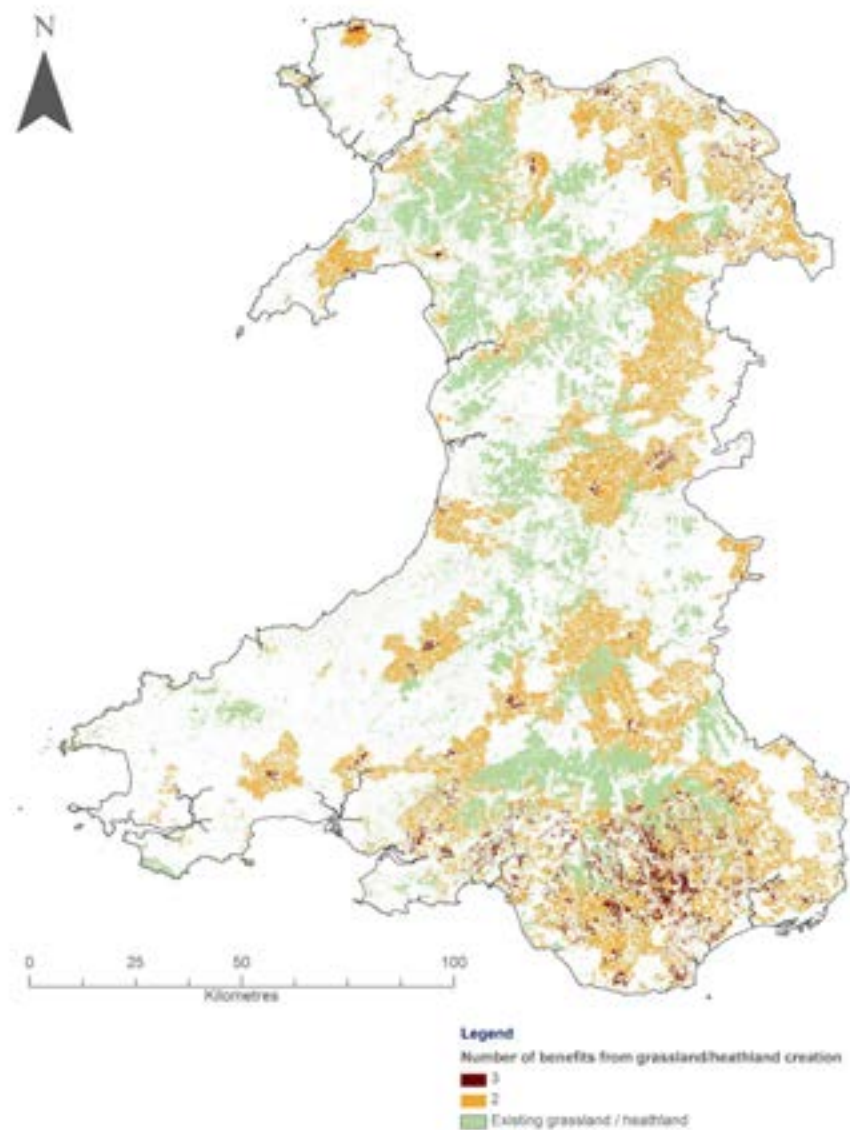
MAP C: Opportunities to generate multiple benefits through woodland creation



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.

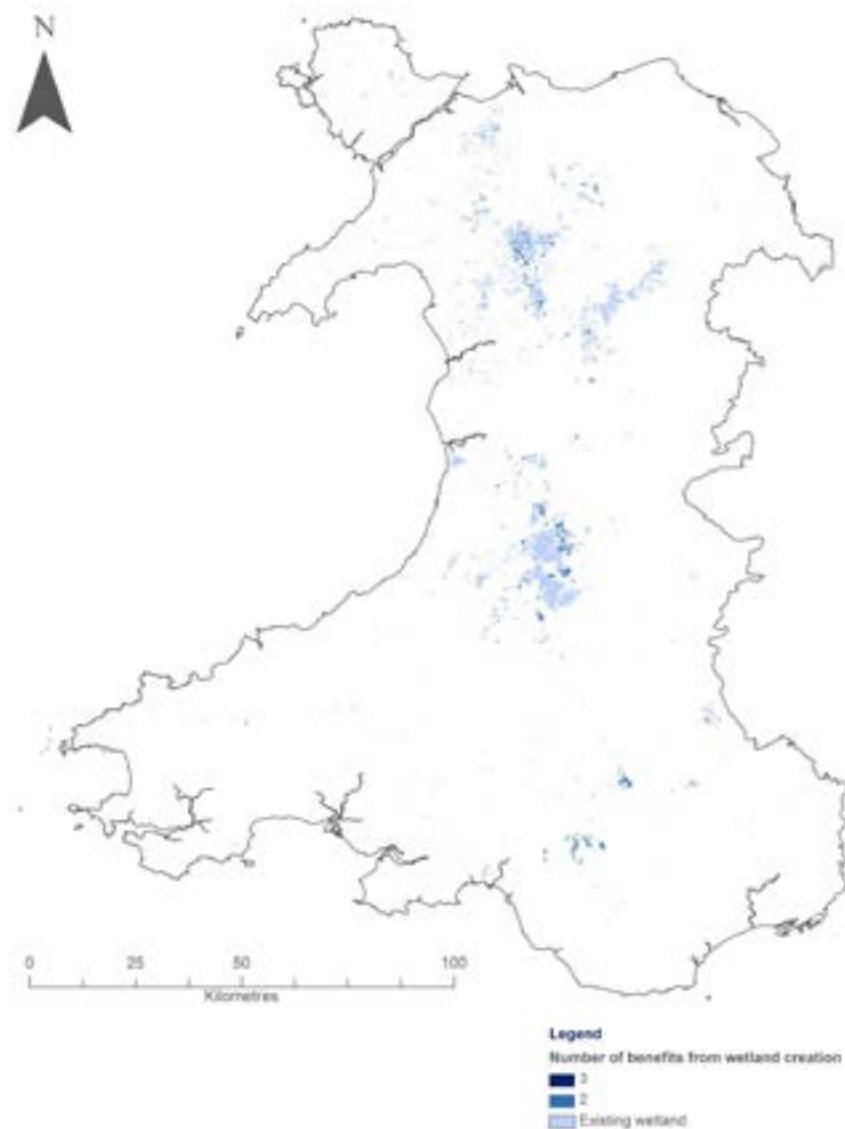
MAP D: Opportunities to generate multiple benefits through grassland and heathland creation



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.

Additional Map: National Nature Resources

1. Snowdonia holds some of the most important upland habitats in the UK. These habitats store and sequester carbon, hold water for flood alleviation, and help provide clean, fresh water. They provide a pollinator resource and are a key area for recreation.
2. Upland blanket bog and heathlands around Mynydd Hiraethog and Llandegla mountain together with ancient woodlands support multiple ecosystem services. These include carbon sequestration and storage to help mitigate climate change and water quality enhancement.
3. The wooded banks and areas of ancient woodland around the tributaries of the River Dee play a significant role in stabilising the river and helping prevent soil erosion into the streams. Food production is also a key service here. Fenn's and Whixall moss is here.
4. Ceredigion's countryside provides multiple services. Some of the most significant sites for ecosystem service generation are Cors Caron and Cors Fochno raised bogs, which store carbon and water and provide biodiversity.
5. The Cambrian mountains are a key area for fresh water provision into England, as well as a place of water storage. They are also significant for the sequestration and storage of carbon, both in the soil and in woodlands.
6. The wooded valleys and the upland heathlands of the Black Mountains support multiple ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration and storage to help mitigate climate change, water quality enhancements and the habitats help prevent flooding.
7. The Preseli hills and the woodlands of northern Pembrokeshire provide multiple ecosystem services from flood alleviation, carbon storage and sequestration through to recreation and food provision.
8. The Brecon Beacons contains a range of dynamic natural ecosystems which provide multiple benefits, including water regulation to help flood prevention and water purification.
9. The Gwent Levels are an ancient landscape with a special cultural significance. This area is also important for biodiversity, recreation, flood alleviation, carbon storage and food production.

