

17 February 2026

Dear

ATISN 26596: The design, conduct, and administration of the Glyndŵr (North East Wales) National Park consultation

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 21 January. You asked for:

Information concerning the design, conduct and administration of the Glyndŵr National Park statutory consultation held by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) between Monday, 15 September and Monday, 8 December 2025. In particular, how the consultation was instructed, managed, and processed, including decisions about public participation, response treatment, and anonymity. Specifically, you are requesting:

1. Instructions or Guidance (instructions, briefing notes, formal communications, or internal memoranda between January 2022 and now concerning the objectives, scope or methodology of the consultation)
2. Aims and Purpose (documents describing whether the consultation's purpose was to determine if a national park should be created, or how one should be implemented – including reference to commitments contained in the Welsh Government's (WG) manifesto)
3. Governance and Oversight (correspondence between WG and NRW outlining decision-making authority, reporting arrangements or approval processes during the consultation period)
4. Consultation Design and Response Handling instructions or guidance regarding:
 - How responses were to be gathered, recorded and analysed;
 - The format for registering support or objection;
 - Criteria for accepting or rejecting submissions, including the 1,015 signed letters that were excluded from analysis.
5. Anonymity and Data Protection (guidance, instructions or correspondence regarding whether the consultation process was intended to be anonymous, including:
 - Policies or statements on how respondents' personal information should be handled
 - Any communications or decisions leading to the rejection or redaction of responses containing such information
 - Copies of any Data Protection Impact Assessments, internal legal advice or data-handling policies used in this context
6. Equality and Accessibility (Any Equality Impact Assessments, internal equalities analyses, or accessibility guidance provided to ensure compliance with the **Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149, Equality Act 2010)** and inclusion of disabled or digitally-excluded participants)
7. Stakeholder Engagement (Copies of any correspondence or briefing materials listing which statutory and community stakeholders (including Police, Fire and Rescue, Health Board, and Ambulance Service) were invited or expected to contribute to the consultation).

Our response

The information you requested is enclosed at Annex 1.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,

Annex 1

Item	Date	Source	Information captured
1.	3 February 2022	Procedural Guidance - Statutory Landscape Designation DRAFT 3 Feb 2022	<p>Statutory and Public Consultation</p> <p>Before any formal Designation Order is made, the relevant legislation specifically requires that for National Parks, all county councils, National Park Authorities and community councils, that have land within the area to be designated, or in the existing National Park or to be varied, must be consulted prior to a Designation Order being made. For AONBs, only 'Principal Council' Local Authorities must be consulted. NRW is legally required only to undertake a statutory consultation. As a matter of good practice NRW will also seek engagement with key stakeholders and the public.</p> <p>Statutory and public consultation responses may present new evidence to justify the inclusion or exclusion of land, identify further considerations as to the desirability of designation, or identify specific boundary issues which need review. Following any statutory or public consultation, responses must be catalogued and detailed qualitative and quantitative analysis is carried out. A Consultation Analysis Report is to be prepared and published, giving NRW's responses to all the issues raised, and recording its decisions in relation to objections and requests to amend the proposals.</p> <p>If persuaded by the evidence supplied in consultation responses, NRW may take a decision to update its evidence, and on this basis review the assessments to produce a revised proposal. The consultation analysis document thus forms a key part of the evidence base, as it records judgements and decisions which are likely to be tested if there is a public inquiry. NRW will need to rely on the detail in its responses to the issues raised, so high quality, detailed reporting is required.</p> <p>The relevant stages in the process of evaluating land for designation set out above may therefore need to be repeated, as part of an iterative process. For example if, as a result of new evidence supplied, additional areas of land are brought into the proposed designation, a further round of statutory consultation would be required.</p>
2.	14 June 2022	Grant Award Letter from Welsh Government to NRW	Please see separate attachment.
3.	14 June 2023	NRW briefing note for Local Authorities	Stage 3 – Statutory designation process. Following the consultation, all responses and any amendments to the boundary will be considered before presenting a recommendation to Welsh Government. If there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the statutory

		– June 2023	criteria relating to natural beauty and opportunities for open-air recreation are met, and that the area is of such national significance that National Park purposes should apply, a Designation Order will be submitted to Welsh Government. Ministers will then consider this and decide whether to confirm, refuse or vary the Designation Order. If confirmed, Welsh Government will establish a new National Park in North East Wales.
4.	16 October 2024	Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales - Senedd Questions - Lines and background on new NP designation - for SQs on 16 October 2024	NRW has completed the mapping of the initial Area of Search and first engagement phase. The engagement was designed to identify the range of views, positive and negative, ahead of the statutory consultation phase with relevant local authorities in September and October 2025, to help this proceed as smoothly as possible.
5.	26 February 2025	Variation of Grant letter from WG to NRW	Please see separate attachment.
6.	14 July 2025	Note of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs' bimonthly meeting with NRW on 14 July 2025	Agenda item 2: Consultation 2025 Provided NRW's Board agrees to proceed, the statutory consultation will be held between September and November this year. As previously mentioned, the consultation will be on the basis of a National Park, using the latest, amended boundary, and using the name 'Parc Cenedlaethol Glyndŵr'. The statutory consultees are the affected Local Authorities and (following legal advice) the CJC's.
7.	25 July 2025	NRW Monthly Update to Welsh Government on the Designation Programme for July 2025	On the 16th of July NRW's Board considered the National Park assessment work area, this followed multiple previous opportunities to question the team and review evidence throughout June and early July. The board took the decision to approve progressing to statutory consultation based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A National Park designation • Using the proposed boundary • Using the proposed Name (Park Cenedlaethol – Glyndŵr – National Park)