

WELSH GOVERNMENT INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Title of proposal:	Designation and mobilisation of a new National Park in Wales
Department:	Landscapes, Nature and Forestry
Cabinet Secretary/Minister responsible:	Huw Irranca Davies (MS) Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change
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SECTION 1. WHAT ACTION IS THE WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING AND WHY?

The Welsh Government (WG) Programme for Government commitment to designate a new National Park, based around the existing Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape area, is the first National Park designed and conceived in Wales for the benefit of the nation. The new National Park would conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area through strengthening nature recovery, managing recreation pressures and deliver wider well-being benefits for local communities and visitors.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW), as the designating authority, has completed its evidence gathering, including assessing the Forces for Change, Management Options and Special Landscape Qualities. This work concluded that establishing a National Park with a dedicated managing National Park Authority (NPA) offers the most effective means of addressing the environmental, social and economic challenges affecting the area. The proposal forms an important part of the collective response to the climate and nature emergencies and to the pressures experienced by rural communities in the region.

Long term

Future trends for Wales point to accelerating biodiversity loss, climate impacts (flooding/heat), changing demographics, and shifting tourism patterns, which impact on landscapes and communities. The State of Natural Resources Report 2025 (SoNaRR 2025) confirms that climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are the most urgent and systemic environmental challenges facing Wales. These threats are not future risks but are already shaping ecosystems, economies and community resilience. SoNaRR 2025 emphasises that Wales is not yet meeting the long-term aims of the sustainable management of natural resources, and that future policy decisions must be firmly rooted in this evidence to safeguard natural systems and support community well-being.

National Park designation aims to secure a permanent mechanism to support resilient ecological networks, safeguard landscape qualities and plan for sustainable tourism through statutory plans, stronger development management and integrated consideration of these issues within governance and decision-making.

Prevention

The National Park designation would create an integrated governance and planning framework that tackles root causes of environmental degradation such as habitat fragmentation, sensitive catchments, and unmanaged visitor pressure. Tools include a statutory Management Plan, targeted access management, and spatial planning to guide development to appropriate locations while promoting nature-positive land management.

This combined approach will support reducing emissions, waste and air quality impacts. The NRW 'Forces for Change' analysis identifies risks (e.g., recreation pressure, housing affordability, land use change) and options to prevent their escalation which would need to

be considered in more detail should the new NPA be designated. The NPA has a legal purpose to promote the enjoyment of the landscape and so can address health issues through enhancing access opportunities, targeted interventions for specific groups and promoting a healthy, clean environment for the benefit of communities and visitors.

Integration

The proposal is aligned with a range of policy agendas including 30x30, decarbonisation and all seven well-being goals. Integrating National Park purposes with broader public policy provides significant opportunities for delivering multiple benefits across policy agendas, for example, a transport or tourism intervention to deliver co-benefits for health, culture and decarbonisation.

A new NPA will form part of public service delivery for the designated area, working alongside regional and local authorities. The new body would assume Planning Authority responsibilities for the designated area, with governance arrangements expected to follow the established NPA model. This would include representation from the constituent Local Authorities alongside National Members appointed by Welsh Ministers (WMs.)

Collaboration

As the designating authority, NRW has undertaken extensive engagement over the past three years with local authorities, communities and a broad range of sectoral stakeholders, including farming, energy, tourism, business, transport, environmental and recreational interests.

Strategic engagement has focused particularly on the five Local Authorities within the proposed designation area, ensuring they received clear information, clarification and supporting evidence to enable them to fulfil their statutory consultee role effectively within the designation process. NRW has listened to feedback and responded appropriately drawing on analysis of the evidence they have collated.

Involvement

NRW has undertaken continued, structured engagement and consultation with Local Authorities, local communities and a wide range of stakeholder groups within the proposed designation area throughout the 3 year assessment process. Local Authorities, local residents and sectoral interests, including farming, tourism, energy, transport, environmental and recreation bodies constitute a significant community of interest, and NRW has prioritised early and ongoing dialogue with them.

Engagement has included a number of in-person and online events in 2023, followed by further consultation activity and events in 2024 and 2025. Working with these stakeholders has strengthened understanding of the proposal's potential impacts across communities and sectors. Recurring themes from respondents included landscape conservation, visitor management, housing and service pressures, cultural and heritage considerations, access, and planning implications.

In addition to the five ways of working above, consider the following areas:

Impact

The main arguments can be summarised as follows:

- Nature recovery and climate resilience: Stronger statutory focus and management on conserving special qualities, habitat connectivity, peat/woodland restoration and river catchment health, addressing State of Natural Resources Report (2025) identified systemic risks.
 - Improved management of visitor pressure through developing park-wide strategies, sustainable transport, and visitor dispersal reduce congestion/emissions and protect sensitive sites.
 - Cultural and linguistic benefits: NPA purposes cover cultural heritage and interpretation; enhanced bilingual engagement supports Cymraeg 2050 ambitions and community identity to retain local distinctiveness.
 - Economic benefits: Evidence from existing National Parks suggests positive local Gross Value Added (GVA), health and well-being gains with modest investment; campaign analyses argue a high return on investment if resourced.
 - Housing affordability and community cohesion: Risk of increased external demand if not mitigated through Local Development Plan policies, principal residence/affordability development management tools, and active partnership working with housing authorities.
 - Increased level of bureaucracy: Concerns that a new authority could add complexity or cost to governance and planning have been highlighted. Local Authorities' principal concerns relate to the delivery of the planning function, the long-term financial security of a new NPA, and the potential additional costs they may incur, including service delivery in response to increased visitor demand.
 - Impacts on local communities and infrastructure include visitor pressures on services such as GP surgeries, village car parks, road infrastructure and potential impacts on Welsh language.
- ♦ *How widely have you explored these arguments through involvement and collaboration?*

NRW has sought to address the issues raised by providing clear explanation of the potential role and remit of a future NPA, including where such an authority would have the statutory tools to intervene and where wider action would fall to regional or national bodies such as Public Services Boards or Corporate Joint Committees. These matters have been examined throughout the programme of engagement, consultation and stakeholder

meetings, enabling NRW to explore concerns, test potential approaches and identify where appropriate solutions may lie

The proposed National Park is a long-term, preventive and integrated response to Wales' nature and climate emergencies and can support the social, cultural and economic well-being of local communities. By sustaining deep collaboration and involvement; aligning tightly with Welsh Government's priorities around climate and nature, the Well-being Act and the emerging environmental governance regime; Welsh Government can maximise multiple benefits while managing risks to secure a landscape that delivers for nature, people, culture, language and future generations.

Costs and Savings

Cost Benefit Analysis and Regulatory Impact Assessment has assessed the expected costs and savings of establishing a Glyndŵr NPA.

The creation of the Authority will require one-off transitional and establishment funding, followed by ongoing funding from Welsh Government consistent with arrangements for existing Welsh NPAs. Based on current costings, core annual funding is estimated at £3.5–4 million.

WMs remain committed to a co-design approach with Local Authorities, Welsh Government mobilisation teams, Welsh NPAs, NRW and other stakeholders in shaping governance and functional arrangements. This will include exploring opportunities for shared service provision across Local Authorities, NPAs, and other Welsh public bodies. While the new Authority will take on new statutory purposes, some functions will transfer from existing Local Authorities.

Further detail is provided in the Regulatory Impact Assessment and through the Cost Benefit Analysis.

Mechanism

NRW has brought forward a Glyndŵr National Park Designation Order through **existing legislation**, which provides a framework for the statutory designation process in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and Environment Act 1995. NRW's recommendation will be considered by WMs (WMs) to determine whether to confirm, refuse or vary the order.

A Regulatory Impact Assessment and Integrated Impact Assessment have been completed to support the introduction of the proposal.

SECTION 2. WHAT WILL BE THE EFFECT ON SOCIAL WELL-BEING?

2.1 People and Communities

How (either positively or negatively), and to what extent (significant/moderate/minimal impact), will the proposal affect people and communities?

The designation of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park is expected to have impacts both positive and, if not mitigated, some potentially negative on people and communities living within, working in, or visiting the area. These impacts are shaped by the area's deeply rural character, its ageing population, the cultural and linguistic significance of its communities, and its economic reliance on small enterprises, land-based industries, and tourism.

1. Rural people, communities, and particular groups

The proposal brings clear benefits through enhanced access to high-quality natural environments, cleaner air and water, and expanded opportunities for outdoor recreation, all of which can improve mental and physical well-being. Rural communities are expected to benefit from strengthened ecosystem services and improved environmental management. However, risks identified include housing affordability pressures, potential increased visitor numbers, and potential dilution of Welsh-speaking communities if unmanaged. The proposal recognises these concerns and places responsibility on the future NPA to deploy planning tools, governance mechanisms, and local partnership structures to manage them effectively.

2. People living in, working in, or linked to specific places

Rural settlements, many geographically isolated and with limited transport or services, already experience negative impacts as a result. The NPA is expected to enhance public transport connections, sustainable travel options, and digital connectivity to reduce isolation and improve service access. At the same time, increased visitor levels may intensify pressures on GP services, emergency response capacity, parking, and rural roads if not mitigated. Existing hotspots such as Pistyll Rhaeadr and Moel Famau illustrate concerns that require improved visitor management at the Park scale.

3. Consumers of services

Local residents will gain improved access to green spaces, recreation, cultural heritage provision, support for Welsh Language and access to high quality jobs, where speaking Welsh will be an advantage, and potentially enhanced digital and transport services. The proposal anticipates that the new NPA will work with partners to improve accessibility for people of all ages and abilities, addressing barriers commonly faced in rural areas, including the elderly, disabled people, Welsh-speaking families, and those at risk of digital or transport exclusion.

Conversely, as mentioned above, some services could be negatively impacted by increased visitor numbers if not managed effectively.

4. Rural economy

The rural economy is dominated by SMEs, farming, tourism, and land-based industries could be affected. Evidence shows potential for:

- Economic uplift through sustainable tourism and local supply chains;
- Farm diversification and access to designated-landscape agri-environment schemes such as Ffermio Bro;
- Business opportunities linked to the National Park brand; and
- New employment in conservation, visitor management, cultural heritage, and environmental services.

However, businesses also highlighted risks relating to planning restrictions, increased bureaucracy, and visitor-driven pressures on infrastructure. The NPA will have a statutory duty to support local economic and social well-being, working collaboratively with other bodies to improve resilience of land-based and service-sector employment.

5. Welsh-speaking communities and cultural well-being

The area includes communities where over 50% of residents speak Welsh. Rural Proofing Assessment highlights both opportunities, through bilingual governance, local employment requiring Welsh, cultural tourism, and protection of Welsh place names and risks relating to demographic change and housing pressures. The proposal anticipates targeted planning interventions (e.g., principal residence policies, restrictions on second homes or holiday lets) and robust Welsh-language strategies to sustain Welsh-speaking communities.

6. Poverty, access to services, and vulnerable groups

Fuel poverty, in-work poverty, and service inaccessibility are long-standing rural issues. The NPA provides opportunities to help mitigate these through improved transport links, digital connectivity, collaboration with other organisations to support innovative solutions such as affordable solar homes which were developed with support from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park through Welsh Governments Sustainable Development Fund¹, and development of inclusive recreation and volunteering programmes. However, risks need to be mitigated if increased visitor demand places additional demands on limited rural services.

Overall, the proposal is likely to have significant and predominantly positive long-term impacts on people and communities, particularly in relation to environmental quality, well-being, cultural identity, and sustainable rural economic development. Potential

¹ [Affordable Solar Homes - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

negative impacts principally around housing affordability, visitor pressures, dilution of language and access to services are documented and can be mitigated through the statutory planning powers, governance arrangements, and partnership working through a new NPA.

- **Please see Rural Proofing Impact Assessment in Annex C.**

2.2 Children's Rights

Ministers are required to have due regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child when exercising any of their functions.

The new National Park proposal will drive action in tackling the climate and nature emergencies by instigating a governance, engagement and delivery mechanism for environmental improvement and well-being delivery at both a local and national scale. Concerns relating to climate and nature are issues which have been identified as being important to children and young people, and a new NPA can provide additional opportunities on participative decision making now which does not compromise sustainability in the future. The proposals form part of the Welsh Government's wider strategy to address the climate and nature emergencies and failing to do so will significantly impact on children and future generations.

Children are uniquely vulnerable to the impacts of environmental harm and climate change. Their developing bodies and brains can be more susceptible to the harmful effects of pollution and extreme weather events. Additionally, children spend more time outdoors than adults, which increases their exposure to environmental hazards.

The initial phase of assessment and formal designation is unlikely to have immediate implications relevant to children's rights. However, the second phase with the mobilisation of the new NPA has potential to contribute directly by providing opportunities for children to visit, learn, and participate in young ranger groups, apprenticeships, and cultural events. There will also options to engage in governance, particularly through the management plan review process in relation to the future management of the National Park. It will also have well-being benefits for children and their families through providing enhanced access to high quality environments.

Concerns have been raised in relation to the proposal exacerbating access to affordable housing for young people and families and a potential dilution of culture. However, these are often broader societal issues relevant to rural Wales which will require a strategic, multifaceted approach. The new NPA will have some tools to undertake mitigation to address these issues, including through its role as the Local Planning Authority. Good practice in the existing National Parks such as Pembrokeshire Coast NP delivery of First 1,000 days Public Health Wales Programme and Youth Council, the recent development

of Tirlun on-line Learning and Resource Portal and targeted programmes to facilitate access to nature, all provide positive evidence of how the new National Park is likely to contribute positively towards the lives of children and young people.

Please see the full Children's Rights Impact Assessment in Annex A.

2.3 Equality

The new National Park seeks to support Welsh Government aspirations around protecting the environment and reversing the loss of biodiversity. In doing so, it will have a positive impact on citizens in the locality and across Wales, including those who share protected characteristics. The health risks posed by climate change will not play out evenly across the UK, both in terms of location and generation. These risks will exacerbate existing health disparities and inequalities. People with limited control over their environment, adaptability, or ability to respond to new threats will be most at risk, including children, older people, disabled people, those experiencing homelessness, and individuals residing in specific settings like prisons, schools, armed forces accommodation and social care facilities.

The new NPA will have clear legal duties to promote equality under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), supported by the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011. The General Duty under the Equality Act will require the new NPA to have due regard to three aims when carrying out their functions.

In addition, the new NPA must comply with additional requirements under the 2011 Regulations, including publish Equality Objectives and Strategic Equality Plan, carry out Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) where appropriate and collect and publish equality information - including workforce data and pay differences. The new National Park will also need to align their equality work with other relevant Welsh legislation including: the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act; Welsh Government action plans (e.g., Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan, LGBTQ+ Action Plan); and the Socio-economic Duty.

National Parks deliver a wide range of potential positive benefits for individuals (including those with protected characteristics), communities, and society. These encompass environmental; health and well-being; social and cultural; tourism and local economic benefits. People with protected characteristics could face barriers in accessing the potential benefits of National Parks and concerns have been raised during Natural Resources Wales (NRW) consultations about the potential disbenefits for some groups including access to affordable housing, local services and the physical, cultural and cost barriers to enjoying nature. NPAs are however required by law to undertake a range of activities that are designed to address the barriers that people with protected

characteristics experience in living, working and visiting National Parks and using their facilities and services. These issues are explored more fully in the Equality Impact Assessment in Annex B.

Please see the full Equality Impact Assessment in Annex B.

2.4 Rural Proofing

A healthier environment enhances people's access to nature by providing cleaner air, safer water and managing green spaces, encouraging outdoor activities and fostering a deeper connection with the natural world. Improved access to high quality green spaces and landscapes can improve well-being benefits such as lower stress levels and better mental health. The rural communities of the new authority are also areas of linguistic significance and a high proportion of workers within the agricultural and linked industries are Welsh-speakers and have a vital role in sustaining the language within the rural community.

Due to the rural nature of the proposed new National Park area and the importance of its cultural and linguistic traditions a full Rural Proofing Impact Assessment has been undertaken to consider the positive and negative implications of this proposal and how a new NPA could address them.

See the full Rural Proofing Impact Assessment in Annex C for full details.

2.5 Health

National Parks are created for two statutory purposes, one of which is to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the area. This relates to outdoor recreation and providing opportunities to access nature and engage with arts and culture, all of which are beneficial to physical and mental health and contribute to the well-being of visitors and communities.

The new NPA will need to comply with all relevant legislation and develop well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, examples of the objectives of existing NPAs are provided in their joint Position Statement and Priority Actions ² and more recently in their Well-being Statements see Eryri NPA Well-being Statement³. From 2027 a NPA will be required to undertake a Health Impact Assessment when it proposes to make a decision of a strategic nature about how to exercise its functions. This means that, a NPA, as a Local Planning Authority, will need to undertake a Health Impact Assessment when developing its Local Development Plan. **This Health Impact Assessment is primarily focussed on the resident population and should be read in conjunction with the Equality Impact Assessment, which includes consideration of the wider community.**

Consideration of health and well-being is integral to developing a statutory management plan for the area and is considered as part of wider Sustainability Appraisals. Public Health

² Together for Health and Well-being [English](#)

³ [WELL-BEING-STATEMENT-2021-26-FINAL-2024.pdf](#)

Wales, Public Services Boards, access representative groups and other relevant organisations related to health and well-being are engaged and consulted with as part of a partnership approach to developing and implementing National Park management plans.

The new NPA will present enhanced opportunities to directly and indirectly support the delivery of Welsh Government's A Healthier Wales transformation programme⁴ especially on the aim of 'improved population health and well-being.' Areas where the new NPA can support delivery include:

Preventative health and well-being

- Promoting physical activity by providing enhanced opportunities for visitors and communities to access the countryside through developing and expanding walking trails, cycling routes, and nature-based recreational programmes to reduce the risk of ill health – see Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Well-being inclusive guided walks⁵.
- NPAs often employ Health and Well-being staff to co-ordinate action and secure funding to deliver health projects – see Health and Well-being Officer report 2025 on types of activities.⁶

Supporting community resilience

- NPAs can support community resilience through nature-based programmes targeting long-term conditions (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, mental health) and environmental improvement to reduce air and water pollution that can impact on physical and mental health (see example from exploring Eryri mindfully⁷).

Sustainable & Climate-Aligned Decarbonisation Action

- NPAs can integrate peatland restoration, reforestation, and sustainable land use into park management, aligning with the National Park management plans and other activity to embed climate priorities across health systems.

Improving environmental health

- By restoring habitats (e.g., wetlands, peatlands) NPAs help reduce air and water pollution—supporting both ecosystem resilience and public health outcomes.

⁴ [a-healthier-wales-actions.pdf](#)

⁵ [Walking in the Park - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

⁶ Health and Well-being Officer Report 2025 [PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NPA](#)

⁷ [Exploring Eryri Mindfully | Eryri National Park](#)

Integrated and Local Support to address inequalities

- NPA can partner with Primary Care Clusters and community carers to embed 'social prescribing' in National Parks activities, including group nature walks or therapeutic horticulture, supporting the plan's integrated, community-led model. See Bannau Brycheiniog Muddy Care Ecotherapy and Rehabilitation.⁸
- Support for women, children's and family health by designing programmes (e.g., antenatal walks, family well-being sessions) in National Park environments to support life-course health goals from pre-birth to old age – see for example Pembrokeshire Coast National Park First 1,000 Days of Child's Life Project.⁹
- Provide no cost or low cost opportunities to access nature and engage in cultural and environmental activities for community cohesion, physical and mental health benefits and prevention.
- Provide volunteering opportunities to address loneliness and isolation, contribute to social cohesion and enhanced social-value such as Pembrokeshire Coast National Park work with MIND.¹⁰

The area proposed for designation covers five local authority areas Gwynedd, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham, and Powys. Due to their proximity, residents of these LAs are expected to have the most engagement with the National Park, although it will also be accessed by people from the rest of Wales and beyond. The key findings from the Understanding Populations and Communities Report¹¹ are as follows:

- the designation area has an ageing population. In line with the rest of Wales, population numbers have increased in the age group 65+ in the five local authorities within the designation area in the 10-year period 2011 -21, with these numbers projected to increase¹².
- the number of ethnic minority communities is below the national average. Wrexham is the only local authority area where the number of ethnic minority communities are more in line with the national average¹³.
- In Denbighshire, 23.3% of residents experience long-term health problems or disabilities, exceeding the Welsh average of 21.6%. Conversely, the proportions are

⁸ [Muddy Care | Bannau Brycheiniog NPA](#)

⁹ [1st 1,000 days project - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

¹⁰ [Routes to Discovery - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

¹¹ [nrw-national-park-designation-hia-1.pdf](#)

¹² Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 28 June 2022, ONS website, statistical bulletin Population and household estimates, Wales Census 2021. [Population and household estimates, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

¹³ Stats Wales (2023) Ethnicity by area and ethnic group [Ethnicity by area and ethnic group](#)

lower than the Welsh average in other regions: 19.1% in Flintshire, 19.2% in Gwynedd, 20.3% in Powys, and 20.4% in Wrexham¹⁴.

- Over 60% of households in Wales are either single-person households or two-person households without children. These types of households have become the most common, with their numbers steadily increasing between 2012 and 2023. This trend is evident across all five local authority areas¹⁵.

There are many recognised health benefits associated with spending time in nature, such as improved mental health, reduced stress, and enhanced physical activity^{16 17}.

Designating a new National Park could significantly impact on health-related behaviours, with long-term impacts on the population. It presents a key opportunity to reduce health inequalities and improve physical and mental well-being, particularly in underserved areas. A new National Park will enable health benefits for both the resident community within the park and visitors. This Health Impact Assessment is mainly focussed on the resident population, although it recognises that there are potential for wider societal benefits across Wales.

While some health improvements may occur without it, designating a new National Park could act as a catalyst, aligning efforts, attracting funding and creating a strategic, inclusive framework for lasting change. It has the potential to influence the overall health status of those who reside, work, study, or visit areas within or adjacent to the Park's boundaries. This can impact positively on the wider healthcare system as people will not have the same need to access healthcare services (such as their GP) if they remain well.

Physical activity

A new NPA will provide the opportunity to highlight and enhance physical activity opportunities (i.e. walking and cycling and other activities which use green and blue spaces) as these spaces will be used as part of the Authority's promotion of the area. However, use of blue space does pose health risks (for example, drowning and exposure to waterborne diseases). It is imperative that measures to protect and keep people safe underpin this, otherwise there may be unintended consequences. Furthermore, there are also health risks (such as Lyme Disease) associated with outdoor activities. Clear messaging/communication on the steps people can take to reduce their risk and implementation of the hierarchy of controls for occupational safety for staff working

¹⁴ Nomis Data, 2021 Census. [TS038 - Disability - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

¹⁵ Stats Wales Household projections by household type and year (2011) [Household projections by household type and year](#)

¹⁶ World Health Organisation (2021) Green and Blue Spaces and Mental Health: New Evidence and Perspectives for Action [Green and blue spaces and mental health: new evidence and perspectives for action](#)

¹⁷ Public Health England (2020) Improving access to greenspace A new review for 2020 Available at: Improving access to greenspace: 2020 review [Improving access to greenspace: 2020 review](#)

outdoors will be required. These risks and associated mitigations will form part of the NPA's strategies. Alongside this based on practice from existing NPAs in Wales it would be expected that the new NPA would be proactive in providing, promoting and improving access opportunities and improving environmental management to reduce pollution and other harmful impacts to for the benefit of people and nature.

Nutrition

The proposed National Park provides an opportunity to support local food production (for example, growing and distribution of fruit and vegetables locally) and this also then supports the local economy. The National Park can offer opportunities for the creation of tourist amenities e.g. food outlets. As a planning authority, the NPA can use its status as a planning authority to limit/restrict the number of outlets that provide access to foods high in fat, sugar and salt. This will benefit the health of local communities as well as visitors.

Mental well-being

A new National Park has the potential to contribute positively to a range of social factors which we know are good for mental health and well-being. This includes building connected and resilient communities; improving access to natural spaces for leisure; sustainable transport connections; and opportunities for good work. For example, it will present employment opportunities, and provide spaces, places and opportunity for individuals and groups to connect, interact and build new networks.

Environmental

Climate stability and biodiversity resilience measures within a National Park environment present various health opportunities or “co-benefits,” such as promoting active travel and can improve access to green, blue, and natural environments¹⁸. These actions can lead to increased opportunities for outdoor activities and recreation, improve air quality, and foster connections with nature in green and blue spaces, benefiting physical and mental health and well-being. However, there may be trade-offs in the benefits of climate resilience and biodiversity restoration, leading to unintended consequences, such as exacerbating inequalities. For example, some communities or individuals may not have equal access to the health benefits of these initiatives, and the redistribution of health impacts may shift to

¹⁸ Active Travel England (2024) Working with National Parks Available at: Working with National Parks | Active Travel England [Working with National Parks](#) | [Active Travel England](#)

different areas or groups^{19 20}. These risks and associated mitigations will inform of the NPA's strategies.

Tourism

Each year, the three Welsh National Parks attract an estimated 12 million visitors, with three-quarters of Wales' population benefiting from the great outdoors through National Park visits²¹. Evidence suggests that the designation of a National Park can boost visitor numbers, which, in turn, may have negative effects on biodiversity and the unique environments within these areas, as seen in Eryri National Park after the Covid restrictions²². Over-tourism can degrade sensitive ecosystems, jeopardising the long-term sustainability of these Parks for both human recreation and biodiversity conservation. These impacts can affect the quality of life for residents. These risks and associated mitigations will inform the NPA's strategies.

Impact on services

A new National Park will likely attract more people to the area including tourists, workers and those who may choose to live in the area. This may put added demand on already pressurised healthcare services. Timely access to emergency healthcare for those who may require it, may be affected if there is inconsiderate parking on narrow roads or heavy congestion due to additional visitors to the area. Increased pressure on emergency services, including volunteer mountain rescue teams, can strain resources, lead to physical harm for visitors, and compromise the safety and quality of visitor experiences, affecting the well-being of both visitors and residents^{23 24}.

Any potential negative impacts must be carefully managed, and the new NPA provides opportunities to do that via strategies and policies such as the Countryside Code, which includes the promotion of safe recreation. The designation also offers a chance to address existing challenges more effectively. A new National Park could serve as a co-ordinating

¹⁹ The Royal Society and The Academy of Medical Sciences (2021) A healthy future – tackling climate change mitigation and human health together [A healthy future – tackling climate change mitigation and human health together | Royal Society](#)

²⁰ Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (2023) Policy position: Climate change and women's health [policy-in-brief-climate-change-and-womens-health-final.pdf](#)

²¹ Audit Wales (2022) Sustainable Tourism in Wales's National Parks Available at: Sustainable Tourism in Wales' National Parks [Sustainable Tourism in Wales' National Parks](#)

²² Eryri National Park (2025) Report sheds light on how wildlife is impacted by visitor numbers in North West Wales in 2020 Covid Pandemic [Report sheds light on how wildlife is impacted by visitor numbers in North West Wales | Eryri National Park](#)

²³ Fobes (2024) Overtourism May Prompt Tourists To Rethink 2025 Travel Plans Available at: Overtourism May Prompt Tourists To Rethink 2025 Travel Plans [Overtourism May Prompt Tourists To Rethink 2025 Travel Plans](#)

²⁴ BBC (2025) Mountain rescue teams stretched to breaking point Available at: Mountain rescue: Volunteers dealing with 'unprecedented' demand - BBC News [Mountain rescue: Volunteers dealing with 'unprecedented' demand - BBC News](#)

mechanism, bringing together existing work under a unified vision, aligning priorities, and strengthening collaboration across sectors. This role could help to create the enabling conditions for long-term, inclusive, and sustainable improvements in health and well-being, particularly if equity is embedded in decision-making from the outset.

2.5b. Could there be a differential health impact on particular groups?

Income related groups

Individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds often experience poorer health outcomes due to factors like limited access to healthcare, poor living conditions, and a higher incidence of chronic diseases²⁵. The creation of a National Park could potentially increase property values in surrounding areas, leading to gentrification. This may result in lower-income groups being displaced, reducing their access to green spaces or affordable housing²⁶. Mitigating provisions such as reduced fees and free of charge activities will be considered by the NPA as part of its strategies. Further consideration to these issues have been undertaken throughout the IIA and the socio-economic assessment.

Age related groups

Older adults often face physical and mobility challenges, mental health concerns such as loneliness or dementia, and increased susceptibility to chronic conditions^{27 28}. While the National Park can provide opportunities for physical activity, the terrain or lack of accessible infrastructure could limit access for older individuals. For example, if trails or facilities are not age-friendly, inaccessible parking or if transportation to the park becomes more difficult, older adults might be excluded. If the elderly are unable to access the Park, they may miss out on the health benefits associated with spending time in nature.

Accessing the outdoors or a national park can be challenging for some groups due to various barriers. These include issues around transport, cost, lack of representation, safety concerns, physical barriers and lack of accessible facilities and informational barriers. An NPA must adhere to equality duties and can seek to provide recreation opportunities that meet the needs of all. Current NPAs follow the principle of least restrictive access.

²⁵ The Kings Fund (2024) Illustrating the relationship between poverty and NHS Services Available at: The Relationship Between Poverty And NHS Services | The King's Fund [The Relationship Between Poverty And NHS Services | The King's Fund](#)

²⁶ Wolch et al (2014) Urban green space, public health, and environmental justice: The challenge of making cities 'just green enough', Landscape and Urban Planning Available at: Urban green space, public health, and environmental justice: The challenge of making cities 'just green enough' - ScienceDirect [Urban green space, public health, and environmental justice: The challenge of making cities 'just green enough' - ScienceDirect](#)

²⁷ Age UK (2024) You are not alone in feeling lonely: Loneliness in later life Available at: [you-are-not-alone-in-feeling-lonely.pdf](#) 'You are not alone in feeling lonely' – A new report from Age UK – Dementia Community

²⁸ The Older People's Commissioner for Wales (2019) State of the Nation: An overview of growing old in Wales [State of the Nation 2019 - Older People's Commissioner for Wales](#)

Evidence from other NPAs highlights the additional opportunities and mitigating provisions an NPA can provide. This includes:

- the provision of adaptive equipment (e.g. e-cycles, trampers, cycles), rest stops/benches and accessible toilets.
- designing new paths or upgrading current routes in a way that accommodates people of different ages and abilities and at different stages in life e.g. replacing stiles with gates, boardwalks.
- promoting accessible routes and trails and providing information in a clear and relevant format.
- providing refill points for fresh drinking water.
- linking with local education providers/voluntary organisations to share information about local accessible free green and blue spaces and build confidence to explore areas on people's doorstep.
- implementing targeted health promotion programmes that focus on the needs of specific vulnerable groups. For example, wellness programmes for the elderly, youth engagement initiatives, and cultural programs for ethnic minorities which helps bridge gaps in participation and well-being.

A new National Park is expected to provide recreation opportunities and meet accessibility requirements. This will benefit the health and well-being of all communities, including those with additional needs or those who may have historically not visited the outdoors. It will therefore contribute to health improvements.

Please see the Equality Impact Assessment for further exploration of the area.

Ethnicity

Ethnic minorities and migrant populations often experience health inequities. Marginalised ethnic minorities may experience reduced opportunities to benefit from green space, and the lack of culturally appropriate programmes or outreach could limit their participation in health-promoting activities within the Park. The new NPA can address these concerns through developing outreach programmes, accessing funding and wider schemes to facilitate access and engagement with underrepresented groups²⁹.

Geographical groups

Collaboration between NPAs, Highways Agency, the Welsh Government, Local Authorities, and Corporate Joint Committees, who collectively have various responsibilities for the road / transport networks planning and delivery, can help co-ordinate visitor management and sustainable travel initiatives through the emerging Regional Transport

²⁹ Evaluation of MOSIAC Project Wales, Campaign for National Parks, 2014 [Mosaic-Cymru-Final-Evaluation-summary.pdf](#)

Plans (see policy CB15 North Wales Regional Transport Plan 2025)³⁰ and other joint working to integrate transport provision. This collaborative approach can lead to targeted solutions for addressing traffic congestion and parking issues, benefiting both local communities and visitors. Solutions to traffic congestion and parking issues include implementing safe active travel systems, green initiatives and sustainable public transport. Examples in Welsh National Parks include the Sherpa'r Wyddfa³¹, which is regarded as an effective intervention for both visitor management and climate goal and Puffin Shuttle³² which makes the Pembrokeshire Coast Path accessible without a car.

A National Park which is developed with a safe and effective active travel infrastructure has the potential to improve the health of its local community. It is well evidenced that active travel offers a range of health benefits for the community including increased physical activity, reduced air pollution, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, enhanced community connectivity and social cohesion, and better access to local services and amenities³³. To encourage more active travel, prioritising walking and cycling in planning and integrating active travel infrastructure into transport systems are key strategies that will be required of a new NPA³⁴.

Deprivation

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2025 confirms that patterns of relative deprivation identified in 2019 persist, with pockets of high deprivation continuing to be evident in coastal and border towns in North and North-East Wales. Overall, the spatial distribution of deprivation in WIMD 2025 is broadly similar to WIMD 2019

In the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019³⁵ provides a more detailed breakdown and identifies significant areas of high relative deprivation were identified in the coastal and border towns of North Wales. The proposed National Park designation area contains 55 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Wales, spread over 5 local authority areas: Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Powys and Wrexham. LSOAs comprise between 400 and 1,200 households.

- 19 LSOAs fall within the 50% most deprived in Wales Overall (See Map).
- 15 LSOAs fall within the 50% most deprived in Wales for Health.
- 6 LSOAs fall within the 50% most deprived in Wales for the Physical Environment.
- 43 LSOAs fall within the 50% most deprived in Wales for Access to Services.

³⁰ [Regional Transport Plan North Wales](#) See Policy CB15

³¹ Case study example P14 Sherpa'r Wyddfa [Regional Transport Plan North Wales](#)

³² [Getting around | Visit Pembrokeshire](#)

³³ Public Health Wales (2018) Creating healthier places and spaces for our present and future generations [Creating healthier places and spaces for our present and future generations.pdf](#)

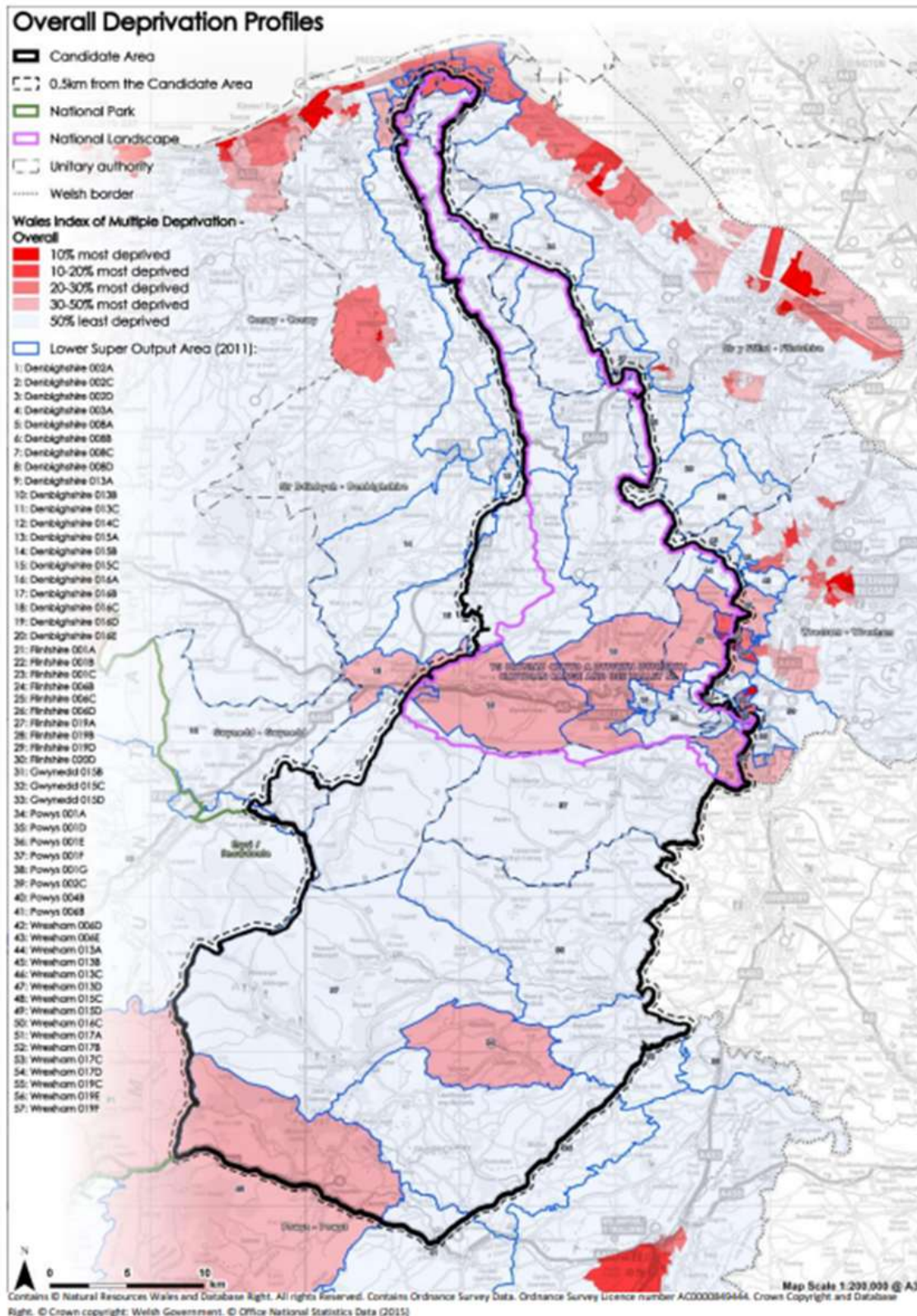
³⁴ Sustrans Active Travel Tool [Active Travel Toolbox - Walk Wheel Cycle Trust](#)

³⁵ WIMD 2019 [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 | GOV.WALES](#)

The Access to Services domain of WIMD measures deprivation because of a household's inability to access a range of services considered necessary for day-to-day living, both physically and online. Gwynedd travel times are higher than the national average for both public and private travel. Within both Powys and Denbighshire travel times are higher than the national average for public travel. Whilst for private travel, the travel times in Powys are more in line with the national average but remain higher³⁶.

Flintshire and Wrexham are the only local authority areas with the percentage of households with proximity to accessible natural green space higher than the national average of 77%. A new NPA will need to take these factors, including the rurality of the area, into account when considering its transport strategies. Effectively connected communities with supported safe active travel routes and access to green and blue spaces will support physical activity opportunities.

³⁶ Stats Wales (2023) Available at: Indicator data by Local Authority - All Domains (gov.wales) [Key Indicators by Local Authority](#)



A new NPA, with its statutory purpose to promote public enjoyment of the landscape, would create extensive opportunities for improving physical and mental health. By expanding access to nature, outdoor recreation, and cultural experiences, the NPA can

help to increase physical activity, and support community well-being. Its duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act would further embed health considerations into all strategic planning, including statutory Well-being Objectives and future Health Impact Assessments. Through engagement with Public Health Wales, Public Services Boards, and community groups, the NPA would take a partnership-led approach to support building healthier environments and lifestyles.

The NPA would also directly support Welsh Government priorities, particularly the “Healthier Wales” transformation programme. It could facilitate preventative health by developing and promoting walking trails, cycling routes, nature-based activities, and inclusive guided programmes. By employing dedicated health and well-being staff and accessing funding streams, it could co-ordinate targeted interventions to engage with difficult to reach groups and, develop programmes for long-term conditions or nature-based activities that build resilience and reduce health risks. Environmental improvements, such as restoring peatlands, wetlands and woodlands, would strengthen ecosystem health, improve air and water quality, and contribute to climate-aligned decarbonisation, creating long-term corresponding benefits for human health.

The National Park would also offer opportunities to address inequality by promoting social prescribing, providing low- or no-cost nature access, and creating inclusive programmes for families, older adults, and under-represented groups. The NPA could also create volunteering opportunities that build social connections and reduce isolation.

By strengthening active travel infrastructure and improving public transport links, the NPA could widen access to green and blue spaces and support healthier, more connected communities. Although increased visitor numbers may bring pressure on emergency services, congestion, and on the environment, the NPA provides a mechanism to manage these impacts effectively through coordinated strategies, risk mitigation, and community engagement.

Overall, the creation of a new NPA offers the potential to catalyse long-term improvements in population health and well-being, reduce health inequalities, and promote sustainable, resilient communities. Securing appropriate funding to support these management and mitigation measures will be essential in addressing community concerns and ensuring that visitor pressures are effectively managed.

2.5c If you identify significant health impacts

Based on the information provided in the previous questions, it is considered that a more detailed health impact assessment is not required.

2.5d Duty of Quality (Health) – Only if your policy has any impacts on the provision of health services or on health outcomes, will you need to complete this section of the IIA.

This section is not applicable.

2.6 Privacy

Will the proposal involve processing information that could be used to identify individuals?

This proposal does not meet the criteria for undertaking a DPIA specified by Article 35(1), 35(3) and 35(4) of the UK GDPR.

SECTION 3. WHAT WILL BE THE EFFECT ON CULTURAL WELL-BEING AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE?

3.1 Cultural Well-being

3.1a How can the proposal actively contribute to the goal to promote and protect culture and heritage and encourage people to participate in the arts sports and recreation? (for Welsh Language see section 3.2)

The landscape is deeply interwoven with the cultural heritage of Wales, which play a vital role in the nation's history, traditions, and identity.

Cultural heritage forms an integral part of the consideration of landscape natural beauty statutory designation assessments undertaken by NRW. Considerations of cultural heritage in relation to natural beauty for the new National Park include:

- Sense of place (bro)
- Built heritage, Conservation Areas, Listed buildings
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) - castles, hillforts, standing stones
- Farm buildings, field patterns, traditional field boundaries such as hedges, cloddiau, stone walls, iron railings
- Cultural associations with artists, writers and composers
- Folklore, myths and traditions including Sycharth birthplace of Owain Glyndŵr, landscapes featured in The Mabinogion and Iron Age Hillforts which characterise the hilltops of the Clwydian Range.
- Welsh language – translation of The Bible into Welsh by Bishop William Morgan in 1558 in Llanrhaeadr YM.
- Inspirational landscapes that provide spiritual and cultural enrichment and opportunities to access and enjoy them form part Welsh cultural identity

Cultural heritage as an integral part of natural beauty has been assessed by NRW in detail through the statutory designation process assessment for each area of land on an Evaluation Area basis.³⁷ Opportunities for recreation, open-air sports, participation in cultural and arts have also formed part of these detailed assessments. These assessments for each area lead to the final assessment of land which areas met the statutory tests and so can go forward for designation.

³⁷ A proposed National Park for Wales – Evaluation Report Gillespies 2025, commissioned by NRW [Waterman Numbered Report Template](#)

The existing three National Parks in Wales provide a useful model for how we would expect a new National Park to deliver the WFG goal to promote and protect culture and heritage and encourage people to participate in the arts sports and recreation.

As required by their statutory purposes these existing National Parks play a key role in promotion and protection of cultural heritage including:

- Contributing to the delivery of the WFG Well-being Goals through the delivery of their statutory purposes and well-being objectives of their Corporate Plans³⁸
- Conserving and enhancing cultural heritage through development management and planning policy statutory planning function. This includes preparing, implementing and reviewing the Local Development Plan see for example Eryri LDP chapter on Heritage and Culture³⁹ and developing specific Supplementary Planning Guidance e.g. Historic Environment SPG, Pembrokeshire Coast⁴⁰
- Managing cultural heritage sites, visitor centres and tourist attractions e.g. Carew Castle, Pembrokeshire and Craig y Nos, Bannau Brycheiniog.
- Significant providers of interpretation, engagement and education which often includes historic environment e.g. Castell Henllys, Pembrokeshire.
- Manage, conserve and protect the historic environment, and support the work of Cadw, Heneb and RCAHMW.
- Working with land managers to support appropriate management and maintenance of historic features on their land.
- Statutory purpose of providing access opportunities to visit, experience and understand National Parks including historic features and landscapes.
- Provision of resources for learners regarding natural and cultural environment e.g. Tirlun education portal.⁴¹
- Recognising the importance of the historic environment through National Park statutory management plans, which contain policies and actions to conserve and manage these important places.
- Opportunities to participate in cultural and linguistic events, arts and sports and securing the future of the language through recording, retaining and protecting Welsh place names see work of Eryri National Park.⁴²
- Supporting retaining local traditions, culture and rural skills such as regional styles of hedge laying, stone walling through training, apprenticeship and working with local colleges.

³⁸ Pembrokeshire Coast NPA Corporate Plan [Corporate and Resources Plan 2023/24 - 26/27 - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

³⁹ [Adopted Eryri Local Development Plan - Planning and Development](#)

⁴⁰ Historic Environment SPG PCNPA [Supplementary Planning Guidance](#)

⁴¹ Tirlun Designated Landscapes Education Portal [case-study-exploring-the-preselis.pdf](#)

⁴² [Place Names | Eryri National Park](#)

By strengthening the measures that protect the environment through the National Park designation and the likely work of a new NPA, these proposals will help conserve the landscape and in doing so, will ensure that our cultural heritage and Welsh Language are preserved and the delivery of cultural services are supported.

3.1b Is it possible that the proposal might have a negative effect on the promotion and protection of culture and heritage, or the ability of people to participate in arts, sport and recreation? If so, what action can you take to avoid or reduce that effect?

It is unlikely that the new National Park will have an overall negative effect on the promotion and protection of culture and heritage. However, it should be noted that Cadw have flagged some concerns around two areas:

1. a new National Park could see an increase in visitor numbers which could have a detrimental impact on sensitive scheduled and other sites.
2. existing locations highlighted in NRW's assessments, particularly those linked to the name of the new National Park and associated with Owain Glyndŵr such as Sycharth, could see unsustainable visitor pressure. Concerns arise from the existing visitor provision with limited parking, unclassified roads access and lack of associated tourism infrastructure.

NRW's technical assessments at a landscape scale, identify the presence or absence of features, and their contribution to natural beauty or recreation provision but not condition. Cadw's suggestion for an assessment of the condition of designated assets (Listed Buildings & SAMs) is welcomed and we will work with Cadw to develop this dataset. This fine grain, detailed assessment will be relevant to inform considerations in Phase 2. Given the focus and success of existing NPAs management of the historic environment, it is reasonable to believe that a new NPA would provide enhanced opportunities to address issues and develop the visitor offer as part of our national story.

The new NPA will have statutory purposes for the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and for promoting opportunities for recreation. Therefore, it is expected that a new NPA will have greater focus on these statutory purposes and will also be responsible for adhering to relevant Historic Environment and Welsh Language legislation.

In order for these benefits to be fully realised it is recognised that it will require a new NPA to be adequately funded.

Whilst acknowledging potential visitor pressure, on balance it is expected that a new National Park will have a positive impact on the delivery of the WFG goal in providing enhanced opportunities to engage in arts, culture and recreation. There would be additional opportunities provided by a new NPA to support the conservation and protection of the historic environment through their Planning function, management plan activity and focus of their work.

3.2 Welsh Language

Completing the Welsh Language Impact Assessment is mandatory. The assessment is available at **annex E** below.

The Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy aims to increase the number of Welsh speakers to one million by 2050 and double the percentage of daily Welsh speakers. While the proposed new National Park does not directly target these goals, it aligns with two strategic themes: increasing the use of Welsh and creating favourable conditions. National Parks, through their statutory purposes of conserving cultural heritage and promoting public enjoyment, can play a significant role in supporting Welsh language visibility and use.

A new NPA would be subject to Welsh Language Standards, requiring a five-year strategy to promote and facilitate Welsh language use. This includes bilingual services, internal language policies, and opportunities for staff to develop Welsh skills. The Authority could adopt Welsh as its administrative language, similar to Eryri National Park, and ensure Welsh place names are retained and explained to visitors. These measures would help embed the language in the park's identity and operations.

Concerns include the risk of English dominance and visitors undervaluing Welsh heritage. However, the designation offers opportunities for bilingual signage, cultural interpretation, and tourism initiatives that highlight Welsh language and traditions. The sustainability of Welsh-speaking communities is a key consideration. The proposed boundary includes areas where over 50% of residents speak Welsh. Designation could support local economies and reduce out-migration by creating jobs requiring Welsh skills. Conversely, housing pressures from second homes and holiday lets could undermine community sustainability. Mitigation measures, such as planning restrictions, will be essential to address these risks.

Education and services also feature prominently. It is highly likely that employment within the Authority will provide opportunities for Welsh speakers and also support lifelong learning for staff who are not fluent. All services must comply with Welsh Language Standards, ensuring accessibility and equality for Welsh speakers. The Authority will also develop a Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and integrate language considerations into its Management Plan and Local Development Plan, reinforcing its commitment to cultural and linguistic heritage.

There are also opportunities to bring elements of storytelling, history and culture through the collection and promotion of the Welsh Language and to support its daily use. Welsh Government's priorities to help protect Welsh place names⁴³ is particularly relevant to

⁴³ [New priorities to help protect Welsh place names | GOV.WALES](#)

cultural heritage considerations and language is the retention of place names - they can be an interface between the landscape and wider culture and heritage.

Significant work to safeguard historic landscape names is being led by the National Parks in Wales, especially in Eryri NPA, who have worked with the Welsh Language Commissioner and Cardiff University to standardise, record and raise awareness of placenames⁴⁴. This supports continued use, sense of place and understanding, and also helps to maintain connections between communities and place.

In conclusion, while challenges exist particularly around housing and maintaining community sustainability, the new National Park has significant potential to promote and protect the Welsh language. Through statutory obligations, strategic planning, and proactive engagement, the Authority can create conditions that strengthen Welsh as a living community language and cultural asset for future generations.

Please see full Welsh Language Impact Assessment is provided in Annex E

⁴⁴ [Safeguarding Historic Landscape Names | Snowdonia National Park](#)

SECTION 4. WHAT WILL BE THE EFFECT ON ECONOMIC WELL-BEING?

As the proposal progresses to the establishment of a new NPA the relevant assessments will be updated, as necessary.

The RIA seeks to provide a best estimate of the economic and social cost and benefits of the National Park to Wales. The analysis is dictated by the quality and availability of suitable evidence. For the new National Park, the evidence is highly reliant on secondary sources across all impact areas. The quality of these sources are considered the best available within the time constraints and complexity of the analysis. Despite this, there is a high level of uncertainty with the results, in particular the Net Present Value (NPV) and Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR). The values within the RIA should be used with caution and come heavily caveated.

Results are presented in 2025 prices with 2026 as the present value base year. Historic costs have been inflated to 2025 prices using the HM Treasury Gross Domestic Product deflator series. The policy appraisal period is 15 years, to capture five years of transition / setup costs for the National Park and NPA to be setup, and then ten years of NPA operation. A discount rate of 3.5 percent was used as recommended in HM Treasury Green Book guidance.

To effectively assess the economic impact of the new National Park, the RIA assessed two options for the new National Park.

Option 1 is the 'do nothing' option (i.e. 'business-as-usual') and is the option against which the preferred option is assessed, and as such the additional costs and benefits are shown as zero in this impact assessment. In the absence of any intervention, the current AONB designation for the Clywdian Range and Dee Valley (CRDV) National Landscape (NL) would continue, as would the management of the surrounding area.

Option 2 is the preferred option, which is to designate a new National Park in the proposed area within and surrounding the CRDV NL, with the aim to enhance the natural landscape, and to further enable the public's enjoyment of the environment.

The regulatory impact assessment explores the costs and benefits of the proposed national park in economic terms, against the counterfactual position of the existing CRDV NL and surrounding areas (Option 1).

4.1 Business, the general public and individuals

The costs and savings of the new National Park proposal have been fully assessed in detail as part of the Regulatory Impact Assessment, which will support the introduction of the proposal.

The impacts on business, the general public and individuals is summarised as follows.

Businesses operating within, or in proximity to the new National Park, will be impacted in different ways. Those already operating within the CRDV NL will see varying impacts to those operating outside of the CRDV NL, but within the new National Park boundary. Designation will mean a change to the management of the landscape and infrastructure in this area, that may have impacts on areas such as renewable energy and housing development.

Disbenefit to the energy sector is split between two areas.

The renewable energy pipeline of projects within the new National Park, or in proximity to the National Park boundary, could see a significant impact, which may affect businesses within the renewable energy sector and supply chain, as well the availability of renewable energy supply to commercial and domestic customers. The net impact could be between £280m and £560m in a “worst case” scenario, or the net impact could be between £85m and £170m under the “best case”.

Transmission network costs could be in the range of £60m to £195m, for the additional costs of extending and strengthening grid transmission network in Wales and accommodating the new National Park boundary.

For housing, the new National Park may see a potential positive impact on the value of the housing stock, but this is very sensitive to the assumed nature and scale of the effect on house prices. Depending on the scenario, the impact could be as much as £55m per annum. Homeowners within the new National Park will see the positive impact of designation on house prices. Conversely, the impact on affordability for groups such as first-time buyers, could be significant as they become priced out of the market. This impact hasn't been quantified within the analysis.

Members of the public, including visitors, and businesses could see other positive impacts of the new National Park. This includes the additional welfare value derived from day and overnight visits to the National Park for visitors from outside of Wales within Great Britain, and visitors from overseas. The total net welfare value for both day and overnight visitors to the new National Park is estimated between £34m and £36m over a 10-year period. The environmental costs of the visitors are estimated at £2.4m across the same period.

Other impact areas that have been quantified within the analysis includes the value of volunteering, natural capital and culture and heritage. These all have a recognisable link to the value derived from these impact areas by individuals and the general public.

4.2 Public Sector including local government and other public bodies

The costs and savings of the new National Park proposal have been fully assessed in detail as part of a Cost Benefit Analysis and Regulatory Impact Assessment, which will provide analysis and data to inform decision-making for the introduction of the proposal.

As the proposal progresses to the establishment of a new NPA the relevant assessments will be updated, as necessary.

There has been ongoing dialogue with Local Authorities and WLGA during the assessment, engagement and consultation phase undertaken by NRW. Local Authorities are statutory consultees in the designation process and therefore there will continue to be ongoing discussions and consultation.

For the public sector, the costs of the new National Park are split into the transitional costs of establishing a National Park Authority (NPA), and the recurring, or operational costs.

The Welsh Government's costs of establishing a new National Park include those of NRW. The key activities are assumed to comprise:

- preparation for a public (planning) inquiry – an inquiry is expected given the concerns raised by stakeholders, notably local authorities
- supporting/participating in the public inquiry which is assumed to last 18 months
- advising Ministers on how they should respond to the report of the public inquiry
- supporting Ministers' decision making in response to the inquiry
- establishing Glyndŵr NPA – this is assumed to take 3 further years following Ministers' decision to proceed with designation of Glyndŵr

The NPA will incur both revenue and capital costs in its setup and through its ongoing operation. In setup costs could be up to £3.6m over a five year period, with ongoing costs up to £34.6m over the following 10 years of operation.

Local authorities and the CRDV NL costs are directed through areas including staff time in the NPA setup phase, the cost of updating Local Development Plans (LDPs) to accommodate the new National Park boundary, as well the loss of any planning application charges. The local authorities may avoid some costs of planning and development control as responsibility shifts to the NPA.

The table below provides a summary of the economic costs to the public sector during the setup of the NPA – between 2026/27 to 2030/31 - and any recurring costs incurred post setup, between 2031/32 to 2040/41. Recurring costs will continue post 2040/41. Figures are presented as NPV, a key measure of impact defined as the total value of a proposal's benefits minus its costs, expressed in present values via discounting.

Economic costs (£m, NPV, 2025/6 prices, 2026/7 – 2040/1)			
	Set-up (Transition)	Ongoing	Total
Welsh Government (& NRW)	2.5	0.5	
Glyndŵr NPA	3.6	34.6	
Local authorities	5.6	-0.4	
CRDV	0.0	-2.8	
Total	11.6	32.0	43.6

4.3 Third Sector

There has been ongoing dialogue with the third sector and representative bodies during the assessment, engagement and consultation phase undertaken by NRW.

Third sector organisations do not receive funding for similar work, but a new NPA may choose to work the sector and can potentially access funding streams to support collaborative delivery of shared priorities.

It is unlikely that the proposal will impact on people already receiving a high level of support from the third sector and there are no specific parts of the proposal that are expected to be delivered by the third sector.

The proposal does not rely on volunteering for its delivery. The proposal may provide additional opportunities for volunteering opportunities as seen in the other National Parks in Wales.

The proposal is unlikely to impact on community facilities / assets which the third sector organisations own or use.

This sector's views can help inform the next stages to ensure a broad range of interests are considered.

4.4 Justice Impact

Please answer the following in relation to your proposal:

♦ **Are you bringing forward new primary legislation?**

No. The proposal does not bring forward new primary legislation.

- ♦ **Are you creating, removing or amending an offence?**

No. The proposal is not creating, removing or amending an offence.

- ♦ **Could your proposal result in any other impact on the justice system e.g. through increased litigation, need for legal aid, appeal against a decision of a public body?**

In line with good practice a **Justice System Impact Identification review** has been prepared.

5.1 Natural Resources

5.1a How will the proposal deliver one or more of the National Priorities in the Natural Resources Policy (NRP)?

The Welsh Government's Natural Resources Policy (required by Environment (Wales) Act 2016) sets out three National Priorities to help achieve Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR). The NRP recognises the benefits and services ecosystems landscapes provide to society include:

- Cultural services: such as recreation and associated health and well-being benefits; our historic environment and appreciation of our beautiful places, landscapes and nature

Landscape management also plays a significant role in other services and systems. Working at a landscape-scale provides opportunities for collaboration to deliver connectivity and sustain habitats and species.

The current NRP also acknowledges the importance of National Parks as a critical component of Wales' tourism offer and the need to:

'...take full account of the major asset represented by Wales' natural environment and consider how to use its characteristics for growing tourism sustainably.'

The NRP forms part of the wider environmental framework considerations within which existing NPAs and the new Glyndŵr NPA will operate. The following set out how the existing NPAs can deliver on the NRP:

Delivering Nature-Based Solutions

- NPAs work collaboratively with landowners and managers to support the management of extensive, connected landscapes that are well suited to delivering nature-based solutions addressing climate change, biodiversity loss to develop resilience of ecosystems.
- Through peatland restoration, woodland creation, river restoration and soil management, NPAs support carbon sequestration, flood risk reduction, water quality improvement and biodiversity recovery.
- Their statutory planning, land management and partnership functions enable integrated responses to environmental pressures rather than isolated interventions.

Increasing appropriate Renewable Energy and Resource Efficiency

- NPAs support the transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient economy by enabling appropriate renewable energy, energy efficiency and circular economy initiatives that are compatible with landscape and management plan objectives.

- They provide spatial leadership for appropriately sited renewable energy, micro-generation, and energy efficiency in buildings and infrastructure.
- NPAs can support testing innovative solutions, sustainable land use (e.g. Ffermio Bro) and reducing pollution, while maintaining ecosystem function⁴⁵.
- There is a presumption in current policy (Planning Policy Wales) against large-scale renewable energy developments, including major wind farms and transmission infrastructure where possible, within designated National Parks, National Landscapes/AONBs, and their settings. Applications will continue to be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- These restrictions already apply to the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape and its viewshed, along with the viewshed of the adjoining Eryri National Park. Although the area outside existing designations and their viewsheds is relatively small, the policy context may influence several current proposals for large-scale renewable energy projects. It is acknowledged that these constraints could impact on carbon-reduction targets and climate-change mitigation measures within the and adjacent to the proposed area.

Taking a Place-Based Approach

- National Parks embody a place-based approach by integrating environmental, cultural, social and economic considerations within management plans and governance.
- They work closely with communities, land managers, local authorities and stakeholders to ensure that decisions reflect local character, needs and opportunities.
- This approach supports sustainable communities, recognising that natural resources underpin cultural identity, language, heritage, health and prosperity.

National Parks provide a practical and effective mechanism for implementing the Natural Resources Policy at landscape scale, delivering environmental, social and economic benefits for current and future generations.

5.1b Does the proposal help tackle the following national challenges and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources?

Addressing National Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

The designation of a new National Park and the subsequent establishment of a NPA would provide a strategic, place-based mechanism to address key national challenges and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources. National Parks in

⁴⁵ [Eryri-Carbon-Strategy-2024-1.pdf](#)

Wales operate at a scale that enables integrated action across land, water, communities and ecosystems, supporting long-term resilience and well-being.

- Reversing biodiversity loss and strengthening ecological resilience

National Parks support the integrated management of large-scale, connected landscapes that are well suited to developing resilient ecological networks. Through coordinated habitat restoration (including peatlands, woodlands, rivers and species-rich grasslands), NPAs can reduce fragmentation, improve connectivity between protected sites and support delivery of Wales' nature recovery and 30x30 ambitions. Long-term management planning, supported by evidence from SoNaRR and Local Nature Partnerships and State of Park Reports, enables recovery to be embedded rather than delivered through short-term projects.

- Safeguarding carbon stores and supporting climate resilience

Upland soils, peatlands and biomass within National Parks represent nationally important carbon stores. Active restoration of degraded peat, native woodland creation, and improved soil management help to safeguard and enhance these stores while also supporting climate adaptation. Ecosystem-based approaches increase resilience to drought, wildfire and extreme rainfall, contributing simultaneously to mitigation and adaptation objectives.

- Maintaining productive capacity and improving soils and biosecurity

NPAs support productive landscapes by working with farmers, foresters and land managers to improve soil quality, reduce erosion and manage biosecurity risks. Schemes such as nature-friendly (Ffermio Bro) and sustainable land management approaches demonstrate how food production can be maintained while enhancing ecosystem services, supporting long-term economic viability of rural land-based industries.

- Reducing flood risk and improving water quality and supply

Working at a catchment and landscape scale, NPAs support natural flood management through wetland restoration, river re-meandering, peat restoration and woodland buffering. These measures slow water flows, reduce downstream flood risk, improve water quality by reducing sediment and nutrient pollution, and help secure both the quality and quantity of water supplies. NPAs can support the delivery of relevant Catchment Management Plans.

- Reducing pollution and improving air quality and soundscapes

NPAs place a strong emphasis on tranquillity and soundscapes, alongside measures to reduce air and noise pollution. Sustainable transport initiatives, active travel, reduced reliance on private cars, and sensitive visitor management contribute to improved air

quality. Habitat restoration and woodland creation further support pollutant absorption and healthier environments.

- Reducing pressure on natural resources through energy and resource efficiency

NPAs support the transition to a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy by enabling appropriately sited renewable energy, micro-generation, retrofit and circular economy approaches consistent with landscape and ecosystem objectives. They also provide demonstration sites for low-impact innovation in rural and protected landscapes. However, under current planning policy they also place constraints on the development of large scale renewable energy and transmission within their boundaries and viewsheds, instead they have an emphasis on smaller-scale renewable energy development.

- Supporting preventative health and well-being

High-quality access to nature within National Parks underpins preventative approaches to health, particularly by addressing physical inactivity, poor mental health and exposure to pollution. Evidence from existing National Parks shows that inclusive access, green prescription programmes, sustainable transport and well-managed recreation deliver measurable benefits for physical and mental well-being.

- Tackling health and economic inequalities

NPAs support action on health and economic inequalities by improving access to green and blue spaces for disadvantaged communities, creating skills and training opportunities, and supporting diversified local economies. Place-based investment and inclusive programming for events, access initiatives and developing access infrastructure help ensure that the benefits of these special landscapes are shared equitably.

- Supporting community cohesion and cultural resilience

Through long-term planning, engagement and partnership working, NPAs support strengthening community cohesion, reinforcing connections between people, place, culture and language. This includes a focus on supporting Welsh-speaking communities, safeguarding cultural heritage, and fostering shared stewardship of landscapes.

- Supporting secure and stable employment

National Parks help sustain secure, locally rooted employment across conservation, land management, tourism, education, access, planning and heritage sectors. By embedding sustainability into economic activity, they support stable livelihoods that are compatible with long-term environmental resilience.

In summary, by delivering nature-based solutions, supporting appropriate renewable energy and resource efficiency, and applying a place-based, integrated approach, a new NPA can provide a coherent and effective mechanism to help address Wales' most

pressing natural resource challenges while maximising environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits for current and future generations. In designating a new National Park, it is expected that large scale renewable energy projects would be excluded for the area and its setting in order to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and this could lead to displacement or a reduction in the contribution towards carbon-reduction targets and climate-change mitigation measures

5.2 Biodiversity

To demonstrate compliance with Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, you must complete the Annex F Biodiversity **Impact Assessment**, at annex F below.

- Please see full Biodiversity Impact Assessment Annex F

5.3 Climate Change

5.3a Carbon

How will the proposal affect greenhouse gas emissions?

- **Paragraph A – No significant change in emissions**
“Officials have considered the carbon impact of this advice. We have not quantified the emissions associated with it because we expect them to fall below the threshold for a quantitative analysis. We have <high / ~~medium~~ / low> confidence in our assessment.”
- **Paragraph B – Significant change in emissions – Full carbon assessment**
“Officials have conducted a full carbon impact assessment of this advice. We consider there will be a significant net <increase / decrease> in emissions of <X> tonnes CO₂e. We have <high / medium / low> confidence in our assessment.”

If you have completed a full carbon assessment, please also answer the following questions:

1. Action plan

Is this proposal consistent with the Welsh Government’s latest plan to reduce emissions, [Net Zero Wales](#)? <Yes/~~No~~>

2. Just transition

The Welsh Government is committed to a just transition to net zero by 2050. Have you considered the implications of this proposal from a just transition perspective? <Yes/~~No~~>

If yes, please describe how you have considered the need for a just transition or where in your IIA this information can be found.

Consideration of how a new National Park can support a just transition is set out in the last section of this IIA.

5.3b Climate resilience

- Will this proposal be affected by any of the risks set out in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment? <Yes/~~No~~>

If yes, you should use the climate resilience assessment guidance to help you consider reducing this proposal's exposure to climate-related risks. Please confirm whether you have made any changes to this proposal after reading the guidance and describe them if so.

In discussion with **Redacted Information** (22/08/25) agreed that a CIA is not required in Phase 1 with the designation of Glyndŵr National Park. Will need to revisit in Phase 2 when a NPA is established.

- Will this proposal exacerbate any of the risks set out in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment? <Yes/~~No~~>

If yes, you should use the climate resilience assessment guidance to help you consider reducing this proposal's effect on climate-related risks. Please confirm whether you have made any changes to this proposal after reading the guidance and describe them if so.

- Will this proposal reduce any of the risks set out in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment? <Yes/~~No~~>

If yes, please describe how.

Phase 1 will not but Phase 2 with the establishment of the Glyndŵr NPA has the potential to undertake decarbonisation, habitat restoration and nature based solutions to address some of the issues identified in Third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Technical Report: Summary for Wales.

5.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

In discussion with Policy Leads it has been concluded that the Phase 1 of the proposal **does not** involve any of the listed criteria below. A review and update of this response will be undertaken as the designation of a new National Park and the establishment of a NPA progresses to Phase 2.

- Construction, mining, extraction, or waste disposal works on land and at sea (including urban development, highways, ports, energy, agriculture, and fish farming)
- The change of use of land
- Afforestation or deforestation
- Agricultural improvement on uncultivated or semi-natural areas
- Restructuring of rural land holdings
- Water extraction or land drainage.

5.5 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

In agreement with Policy Leads it has been concluded that the Phase 1 of the proposal **does not** involve protected sites. A review and update will be undertaken as the designation of a new National Park and the establishment of a NPA progresses to Phase 2.

5.6 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

In agreement with Policy Leads it has been concluded that the Phase 1 of the proposal does not involve any of the listed criteria below. A review and update of this response will be undertaken as the proposal develops and moves into Phase 2.

- Construction, mining, extraction, or waste disposal works on land and at sea (including urban development, highways, ports, energy, agriculture, and fish farming)
- The change of use of land
- Afforestation or deforestation
- Agricultural improvement on uncultivated or semi-natural areas

- Restructuring of rural land holdings
- Water extraction or land drainage.

SECTION 6. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY WHAT WILL BE IMPACT ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE?

6.1 The Socio-economic Duty.

See full Socio-Economic Impact Assessment in Annex G.

SECTION 7. RECORD OF FULL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED

You have now decided which areas need a more detailed impact assessment. Please list them below.

Impact Assessment	Yes/No	If yes, you should
Children's rights	Yes	Complete the Children's Rights Impact Assessment below
Equality	Yes*	Complete the Error! Reference source not found. below
Socio-economic Duty	Yes	Complete the Socio-economic Duty Assessment below
Rural Proofing	Yes	Complete the Rural Proofing Impact Assessment below
Health	Yes	Refer to the Integrated Impact Assessment Guidance
Privacy	No	Complete the Data Protection Impact Assessment below
Welsh Language	Yes	Complete the Welsh Language Impact Assessment below
Economic / RIA	Yes	Refer to the Integrated Impact Assessment Guidance. Advisory not mandatory.
Justice	Yes	Complete the Justice System Impact Identification form on the intranet
Biodiversity	Yes*	Complete the Annex F Biodiversity Impact Assessment below

Climate Change	No	Refer to the Integrated Impact Assessment Guidance
Strategic Environmental Assessment	No	Refer to the Integrated Impact Assessment Guidance
Habitat Regulations Assessment	No	Refer to the Integrated Impact Assessment Guidance
Environmental Impact Assessment	No	Refer to the Integrated Impact Assessment Guidance

* Mandatory for all proposals in order to meet statutory obligations.

SECTION 8. CONCLUSION

8.1 How have people most likely to be affected by the proposal been involved in developing it?

NRW, as the designating authority, has undertaken a three-year structured programme of engagement and consultation (2023–2025) to ensure that people most affected could meaningfully engage with the development of the National Park proposal and boundary. This has included in-person and online events, targeted stakeholder sessions, surveys, drop-ins across the proposed area, and a full statutory consultation on the draft Designation Order.

- **Children and their representatives** were involved through various events, including participation by groups such as Young Farmers. Evidence drawn from NRW reports highlighting issues affecting young people (e.g., housing, access to jobs, Welsh language). Existing Young Ranger groups and education partners also contributed.
- **People with protected characteristics** were engaged through open public consultations, equality-focused analysis, and identification of barriers (e.g., accessibility, transport, cost). These will inform any mitigation approaches aligned with the Equality Act 2010 and findings from the Equality Impact Assessment.
- **Welsh speakers and Welsh language organisations** were extensively involved, including through consultations on the proposed Welsh name “Parc Cenedlaethol Glyndŵr.” Issues around community sustainability and language dilution were gathered and incorporated into mitigation planning (e.g., planning tools, cultural protection measures) in order to support culture and language.
- **Other affected groups** including residents, land managers, farmers, businesses, tourism operators, environmental groups, and local authorities, were engaged throughout via targeted events and consultation processes. Their feedback shaped understanding of key issues such as visitor pressures, housing, transport, and service impacts.

Overall, involvement has been broad, continuous, and structured to reflect the Well-being of Future Generations Act duty to involve those affected.

8.2 What are the most significant impacts, positive and negative?

The proposed National Park designation is expected to deliver wide-ranging impacts across the environment, culture and the Welsh language, the economy, and for communities. These reflect themes raised consistently through NRW’s processes and align strongly with the seven Well-being Goals and Welsh Government well-being objectives.

1. Environmental Impacts

Positive impacts

- Nature recovery and biodiversity: The designation establishes a long-term mechanism to restore habitats, improve ecological connectivity, and address biodiversity decline, contributing to 30 by 30 Global Targets. NRW's assessments highlight this as a key benefit.
- Climate resilience: Peatland restoration, woodland creation, river management, and natural flood management collectively support climate mitigation and adaptation, contributing to A Resilient Wales and A Globally Responsible Wales for the benefit of local communities.
- Improved environmental quality: Better land management can enhance water quality, reduce pollution, protect soils, and enhance landscape and ecosystem function.

Negative impacts / risks

- Visitor impacts and resource pressures: Increased water use, localised anti-social behaviour, and higher footfall may cause erosion and disturb sensitive habitats, requiring strategic management and targeted interventions.
- Renewable energy constraints: Large-scale renewable energy developments are likely to be excluded within the area and its setting, which may affect carbon-reduction targets and climate-change mitigation.

2. Impacts on People and Communities

Positive impacts

- Enhanced well-being: Increased access to high-quality spaces supports physical and mental health, and opportunities for outdoor recreation, learning and volunteering, aligning with A Healthier Wales and A More Equal Wales.
- Improved governance and long-term planning: could provide coordinated landscape-scale management, support resilient communities and representative governance.
- Opportunities for children and young people: include enhanced environmental education access, youth ranger schemes, and skills development, supporting A Wales of Cohesive Communities and A Prosperous Wales.

Negative impacts / risks

- Housing affordability pressures: possible increase in second homes or external housing demand, may particularly affect young people and local families. Mitigation through planning tools and collaboration.
- Increased pressure on services: Including congestion, emergency service capacity, parking, and pressures on public infrastructure. These issues are already visible in areas such as Pistyll Rhaeadr and Moel Famau and a new NPA will provide opportunities to address them.
- Public transport and accessibility barriers: Existing rural transport limitations may disproportionately affect low-income households, disabled people, and older residents.

3. Impacts on Culture and the Welsh Language

Positive impacts

- Strengthening Welsh identity: The designation reinforces cultural heritage, traditional land management practices, historic sites, and cultural identity.
- Promotion of the Welsh language: Bilingual governance, Welsh language standards, public-facing roles requiring Welsh, and cultural interpretation all support A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language. The Welsh name 'Glyndŵr' National Park reflects community preference.
- Place-based cultural continuity: NPAs actively support protection of Welsh etymology and locally distinctive cultural assets.

Negative impacts / risks

- Community sustainability pressures: Concerns about demographic change and potential dilution of Welsh-speaking communities were raised.
- Tourism impacts on cultural sites: Increased visitor numbers may risk damage to sensitive heritage sites unless carefully managed.

4. Impacts on the Economy

Positive impacts

- Economic uplift and diversification: Evidence from existing National Parks points to increased GVA, growth in sustainable tourism, and opportunities for local supply chains, food production, and small enterprises.
- Green jobs and skills: The NPA would create roles in landscape management advice, conservation, visitor management, and cultural heritage, supporting A Prosperous Wales.

- Support for rural businesses: Agricultural-based industries would gain access to targeted agri-environment schemes (e.g., Ffermio Bro) and greater opportunities for collaboration on nature-friendly land management.

Negative impacts / risks

- Perceived increased bureaucracy: Some stakeholders expressed concerns about additional planning complexity and potential administrative burdens.
- Seasonal tourism dependency: Without active management, some economic gains may be seasonal.
- Large scale renewable energy projects are likely to be excluded for the area and its setting. This could lead to a reduction in the contribution towards carbon targets and climate-change mitigation measures.

5. Themes emerging from public involvement

Public engagement consistently highlighted:

- Strong support for protecting landscape, biodiversity, and tranquillity.
- Concerns about housing affordability, Welsh language sustainability, and visitor impacts.
- Desire for improved transport, access, and community-focused governance.
- Emphasis on maintaining local identity, Welsh language, heritage, and farming traditions while supporting sustainable rural economies.

Conclusion

Overall, the proposal offers significant long-term benefits for environmental stewardship, cultural heritage, Welsh language promotion, sustainable rural economies, and community well-being which align with all seven Well-being Goals and the Welsh Government's commitments on climate, nature recovery, equality, prosperity, and cohesive communities. The key risks relate to renewable energy, housing, visitor pressures, infrastructure, and maintaining linguistic and cultural integrity. These are recognised and most can be mitigated through strong governance, planning tools, and partnership-led implementation for agreed interventions. If the new National Park is designated it will be imperative to consider how to effectively manage these risks as part of the process of establishing a new National Park Authority and this IIA would be reviewed/updated at that point.

8.3 In light of the impacts identified, how will the proposal:

- **maximise contribution to our well-being objectives and the seven well-being goals; and/or,**

- **avoid, reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?**

1. Maximising contribution to well-being objectives & the seven goals

A Prosperous Wales / Fair, green economy

- Establish the NPA with tools support to green growth and skills (conservation, access, cultural heritage, sustainable tourism), and appropriate support/advice to SMEs and land-based enterprises via targeted schemes (e.g., Ffermio Bro) and local supply chains.
- Embed strategic economic partnerships (LAs, PSBs, NRW, NPAs) to co-design business support and shared services, improving productivity and value retention locally.

A Resilient Wales / Nature recovery & climate

- Fund multi-year peatland restoration, native woodland creation, catchment and flood-risk projects as core NPA programmes to deliver biodiversity gain, carbon sequestration and enhance ecosystem resilience.

A Healthier Wales

- Require the NPA to implement inclusive access (least-restrictive access, accessible trails, adaptive equipment) and to partner on social prescribing and targeted health programmes.

A More Equal Wales

- Mandate a robust Strategic Equality Plan, with specific actions on transport affordability, digital access, participation and communication for particularly for under-represented groups to reduce participation gaps.

A Wales of Cohesive Communities

- Ensure community-centred visitor management and participatory planning (Management Plan, LDP) to balance resident needs, safety and visitor experience.

A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language

- Adopt a Welsh-forward organisational model (e.g., Welsh as administrative language, bilingual services, place-name safeguarding) and deliver a statutory 5-year Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.

A Globally Responsible Wales

- Position the Park as a demonstrator for nature-based solutions and net zero, reporting transparently against national/global targets including 30 by 30 and international protected-area standards International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN Cat V).

2. Avoiding, reducing, or mitigating negative impacts

Housing affordability & community sustainability

- Enable the NPA and LAs to deploy planning tools (e.g., Article 4 Directions, principal residence/second-home controls, short-let management) in the LDP to protect local housing stock; monitor impacts with housing authorities.

Visitor pressure on services & environment

- Fund a Park-wide Sustainable Visitor Management Plan (zoning, path capacity, habitat protection, car-park pricing, toilets/waste, byelaws where needed) and seasonal ranger presence; co-fund public transport (e.g., shuttle services) and active-travel links to reduce congestion and emissions.

Transport and access inequalities

- Prioritise integrated ticketing, fare concessions, and demand-responsive transport for rural communities; publish an Access for All standard and route information in accessible formats.

Cultural/heritage site vulnerability

- Co-manage sensitive assets with Cadw and landowners using carrying-capacity thresholds, tailored infrastructure, and appropriate information to disperse pressure.

3. Specific actions Welsh Government can take

Promote biodiversity & climate (Resilient / Globally Responsible Wales)

- Provide multi-year, outcome-based grants to the NPA for peat, woodland, river restoration and species recovery; align with Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable

Places Fund, Nature Networks and NPAP; require State of Nature and Section 6 reporting to track gains.

Advance children's rights (Healthier / More Equal / Cohesive Wales)

- Ring-fence funding for youth rangers, outdoor learning (e.g., Tirlun), apprenticeships, and a youth forum in governance; require child-friendly consultations.

Strengthen equalities (More Equal Wales)

- Condition grant aid on delivery of a Strategic Equality Plan, annual equality reporting, and targeted outreach (disabled visitors, minority ethnic communities, LGBTQ+ groups), with independent evaluation.

Support the Welsh language (Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language)

- Set expectations for Welsh-essential roles, bilingual public realm, place-name protection, and a funded Welsh Language Promotion Strategy; integrate language impact metrics into the Management Plan and LDP.

Strengthen contribution to additional goals

- Integrate Park delivery into WG well-being objectives via a Ministerial remit letter, with cross-government sponsorship (climate/nature, transport, culture, health) and annual progress review against the seven goals.

4. Monitoring, evaluation, and interventions

Establish a performance framework (KPIs for biodiversity, language, access, housing, visitor pressure, health) and publish an annual report; align scrutiny with Audit Wales and PSB well-being plans.

Where evidence shows no causal impact (e.g., generalised house-price trends not solely attributable to designation), focus action on measurable levers (planning/use-class changes, affordable delivery) rather than market interventions. If no action is proposed on an impact that has been raised, publish the evidence base and review at the next reporting cycle.

5. Involvement & transparency

Continue structured involvement (citizens, Welsh speakers, farmers, SMEs, equalities groups) through statutory consultation and management-plan cycles; maintain ongoing dialogue between the new NPA and stakeholders for ongoing feedback and learning.

These steps collectively maximise contribution to all seven well-being goals and WG's well-being objectives, while providing practical, proportionate mitigations for recognised risks as the proposal moves from designation to implementation.

8.4 How will the impact of the proposal be monitored and evaluated as it progresses and when it concludes?

What plans are in place for post implementation review and evaluation?

A new NPA will be subject to monitoring and evaluation regimes in-line with existing statutory audit and reporting arrangements for NPAs in Wales. These are set out in WG guidance⁴⁶ and summarised as:

- NPAs are audited annually by the Auditor General for Wales. NPAs must comply with the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, which empowers Audit Wales to conduct studies on economy, efficiency and effectiveness, and report to the Senedd.
- NPAs publish Annual Governance Statements, Corporate Plans, Performance Reports, and committee papers detailing decision-making, risk, and performance.
- Progress and delivery is monitored through the statutory review of National Park Management Plans and reporting on Well-being goals⁴⁷ and section 6 Duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience⁴⁸.

NPAs operate under a Framework Agreement, supported by a term-of-government remit letter that sets out Welsh Government priorities and deliverables linked to annual core funding. Delivery against these requirements is monitored through regular performance reporting and formal meetings with the relevant WMs.

For the new National Park, an innovative approach could be adopted by establishing a comprehensive baseline dataset, covering indicators such as visitor numbers, Welsh language use, and population characteristics, followed by review to assess progress, impact, and alignment with national priorities.

⁴⁶ NPA Governance in Wales, Welsh Government 2024 [NPA Governance in Wales: A guide to members' roles and responsibilities](#)

⁴⁷ Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2025 s3 duty on public bodies [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

⁴⁸ Environment (Wales) Act 2016 section 6 duty [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#)

SECTION 9. DECLARATION

Declaration

I am satisfied that the impact of the proposed action has been adequately assessed and recorded.

Name of Senior Responsible Officer / Deputy Director: [Information redacted]

Department: **Climate Change & Environmental Sustainability Directorate**

Date: **26/02/2026**

FULL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

A. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. Policy objectives

- What decision are you impact assessing?

The Integrated Impact Assessment considers the range of impacts in relation to the delivery of the Programme for Government (PfG) commitment to 'Designate a new National Park to cover the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.' This includes the establishment of a new NPA following the legal designation and creation of a new National Park.

National Parks in Wales are designated by NRW subject to confirmation by WMs. National Parks are created for two statutory purposes:

- conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the areas within National Parks;
- promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public.

Designating a new National Park and establishing a new NPA to govern and manage the new National Park occurs in two phases:

- Phase 1 - The assessment of certain criteria, including an area's natural beauty and open-air recreation opportunities, is undertaken by NRW which results in an area being identified that meets the statutory tests under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (the 1949 Act) to be designated as a National Park. Following the statutory consultation process and NRW Board decision, it is likely that a Designation Order and map will be submitted to the WMs. The WMs will then consider the designation order submitted by NRW alongside the criteria set out in the 1949 Act, together with any objections and representations. It may be necessary to hold a public local inquiry as part of this process. If a decision is taken to confirm the designation order, a new National Park will come into existence.
- Phase 2 - If confirmed by WMs the identified area will become a National Park. The intention is that an establishment order be made in connection with the designation of the new National Park, establishing an NPA. As a special purpose local authority, the new NPA will have functions relating to the purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park and of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those Parks by the public. It will be responsible for certain local authority functions including development management and policy, production of a National

Park management plan, governance arrangements, and delivery of policy through various direct and indirect land management mechanisms.

The initial phase of assessment and formal designation is unlikely to have immediate implications relevant to children's rights. However, the second phase with the mobilisation of the new NPA has potential to contribute directly by providing opportunities for children to visit, learn, and participate in young rangers, events, apprenticeships, and engagement in governance through the management plan review process. It will also have well-being benefits for children and their families through access to high quality environments .

The three existing NPAs in Wales provide a template of how we would expect a new NPA in Wales to lead, plan, manage and deliver national priorities in a local context. Existing NPA examples are therefore used throughout to illustrate how the new NPA is likely to operate and deliver.

This proposal will drive action in tackling the climate and nature emergency by instigating a governance, engagement and delivery mechanism for environmental improvement and well-being delivery at a local and national scale. These are issues which have been identified as being important to children and young people and the focus is on sound decision making now which does not compromise sustainability in the future.

2. Gathering evidence and engaging with children and young People

It is important to note that Phase 1 of this proposal has been undertaken by NRW as the designating authority. As WMs are the decision-making authority this necessitates a separation of duties. Therefore, the technical assessments, engagement and consultations informing NRW's decision to make the designation order, have been independently undertaken by NRW. WMs have not been involved in these aspects of Phase 1 of the process. In Phase 2 following the submission of the Glyndŵr National Park Designation Order (February 2026) and supporting evidence by NRW, WMs will consider the order and all the evidence provided, alongside MA, this Integrated Impact Assessment, Regulatory Impact Assessment and Outline Business Case to inform their decision. WMs can confirm, vary or refuse the designation order. If there are objections during the Statutory Notification Period from any Local Authority within the footprint of the proposed area, then WMs are required to call a local inquiry. As regards any other representations or objections, the WMs must either arrange a local inquiry or a local hearing to provide the opportunity for those who have made such representations/objections to present their evidence and make representations.

During Phase 1, NRW provided a range of engagement events and consultation events including both on-line and in-person options. Some of these were targeted to specific interests such as business or farming but were by nature self-selecting. Some groups such as Young Farmers have participated. During the evidence gathering stages, issues that are identified as important to children and young people have been considered as part of the process.

Early engagement in-person events run by NRW in 2023, provided people with an opportunity to seek further information and raise questions. The Engagement Report 2023 highlights issues that could impact young people such as perceived difficulties in accessing jobs and housing opportunities, and the erosion of language and culture if a new National Park were designated⁴⁹.

The NRW commissioned report⁵⁰ examining the forces for change impacting the proposed area of the new National Park also provided a comparative analysis, looking at issues in other Designated Landscapes across the UK. This report identified issues, including those impacting young people such as the migration of young people from the area, fewer young people in farming to replace an aging workforce, and an aging population which could result in a loss of skills and knowledge. Specific concerns were highlighted to the proposed National Park area relating to the 'lack of employment opportunity of young people and maintenance of local employment. Better connectivity would help this.' Concerns were also raised on the need to focus on young people, particularly in order to meet Welsh Language ambitions (Cymraeg 2050⁵¹).

NRW undertook an initial consultation in 2024 on the area being considered for designation. The Consultation Report highlighted a range of issues, with over 19% of the 553 respondents commenting on the impact a National Park could have on local people, communities, and the local economy. Concerns included access for young people to public transport, jobs and included a specific section on potential impacts on the housing market for young people (p20 and p22), potentially driving them to leave the area.⁵² Other issues raised in relation to young people were access to housing and concerns that if the designation diluted the Welsh language that young people would move away to have their family in an area where Welsh was still spoken.

NRW also commissioned a range of supporting evidence to inform its decision-making processes. This included a Health Impact Assessment⁵³ which highlighted some issues regarding housing affordability but also benefits of access to high quality jobs and apprenticeship schemes in a new NPA. There is a section which considers the potential positive contribution that this could have on improving mental health for young people by providing access to nature (p6) but acknowledges that this needs to be designed and funded to realise the benefits.

⁴⁹ Engagement Report, NRW 2023 [CLOSED Wales's New National Park Proposal - Public Engagement Period 2023 - NRW Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#)

⁵⁰ Forces for Change Report, Land Use Consultants 2024 commissioned by NRW [Forces for Change for North East Wales National Park Area of Search](#)

⁵¹ Cymraeg 2050 Strategy Welsh Government [Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers](#) [Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers](#)

⁵² National Park Proposal Consultation Responses 2024 – Resources for Change commissioned by NRW [wales-s-new-national-park-proposal---2024-public-consultation-report.pdf](#)

⁵³ Health Impact Assessment, NRW [nrw-national-park-designation-hia-1.pdf](#)

NRW has also undertaken a Welsh Language Impact Assessment⁵⁴ which recognises the challenges and opportunities that a new National Park designation may have, including consideration of impacts on young people which are similar to those identified in previous reports. Welsh Government has undertaken its own Welsh Language Impact Assessment, and this can be found in Annex E of this Integrated Impact Assessment.

It is anticipated that the responses to NRW's Statutory Consultation on the draft Designation Order for the new National Park will provide further insight into the views of young people.

All of this evidence and consultation analysis has been used to inform Welsh Government's Integrated Impact Assessment, along with other relevant sources of evidence and data. This will help inform due consideration of Children's Rights throughout the process and help inform WMs' final decision.

In Phase 2 (see above) with the establishment of a new NPA there is greater scope to engage with children and young people and provide opportunities for participation. In this part of the process the new NPA will have specific duties relating to environmental education for the second statutory purpose specified in section 5(1) of the 1949 Act:

'Promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public.'

The existing NPAs use engagement opportunities to:

- Provide opportunities for all to access and enjoy the countryside for well-being benefits.
- Raise awareness of issues, inform and seek to influence behaviour.
- Support educational visits through provision of educational resources and opportunities such as Forest Schools outdoor learning⁵⁵.
- Provide targeted support for delivering learning through the National Curriculum with the newly launched 'Tirlun'⁵⁶ outdoor learning portal resource.
- Provide volunteering opportunities for children and young people to engage in outdoor activities and develop learning.
- Support surveys and data gathering to contribute to Citizen Science which enables sound environmental decision-making.
- Provide opportunities to join Young Ranger Groups to develop confidence, learn new skills and understanding of outdoors.
- Provide opportunities to have a say on the future of the area through the review of the statutory National Park management plan.
- Broaden experience through international programmes to engage with young people from other countries through events such as the Europarc International

⁵⁴ NRW Welsh Language Impact Assessment [welsh-language-impact-assessment-2025-1-1.pdf](#)

⁵⁵ Forest School: Yr Ysgwrn | Eryri National Park

⁵⁶ Tirlun – National Park dedicated outdoor learning portal [Home](#) | [Tirlun](#)

Junior Ranger event, which was recently held in Wales and discussed issues important to young people around the theme of landscapes for the future.⁵⁷

In terms of considering children's views, the Wales Youth Parliament (WYP) provides an important platform for young people to debate and promote action on issues that are important to them. WYP has identified environment and climate change as issues which require urgent action and committed to tracking Welsh Government's progress towards Net Zero⁵⁸. In addition, the Children's Commissioner monthly surveys⁵⁹ with children and young people identify a range of environmental and climate issues, many of which would be relevant to the work of a new NPA.

The Wales Outdoor Learning Council research⁶⁰ highlights that outdoor play supports mental health, resilience, physical activity, and inclusive education, all of which can be supported by NPAs. NPAs can provide or access funding to support children to experience and explore the natural world e.g. Generation Green 2 Project⁶¹ in England between the Youth Hostel Association and English NPAs to connect disadvantaged groups to experience nature as part of NPAs seeking to ensure empowerment and involvement of the next generations. In Phase 2 similar opportunities could be developed in Wales in relation to the new National Park. through collaboration with education providers and other organisations like the YHA. This along with other initiatives could be developed through the work of the joint Tirweddau Cymru EDI post which supports all the designated landscapes in Wales. Part of this shared post's existing work is to communicate with and engage groups beyond the usual reach, through work such as developing the Youth Manifesto,⁶² which identified key issues impacting on young people and is intended to be a live document to reflect the views and experience of young people living in Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

However, it is acknowledged provision of these opportunities is largely dependent on funding through public money. Although the Campaign for National Parks MOSAIC Project was relatively successful in enabling access to National Parks for BME groups in Wales⁶³, structural and social challenges remain for equal access to the countryside as documented by recently commissioned Defra research⁶⁴. This research suggests that certain groups of children may face barriers to accessing nature-based activities, in particular:

⁵⁷ [2024 International Junior Ranger Camp - EUROPARC Federation](#)

⁵⁸ Wales Youth Parliament Climate and Environment visual summary [Visual Summaries of WYP Meetings](#)

⁵⁹ Helping the environment – A snapshot survey of children and young people in Wales, Children's Commissioner for Wales November 2024 [Helping the Environment - Snapshot Survey of Children and Young People in Wales](#)

⁶⁰ [Outdoor Learning Research | WCfOL / Learning in Nature Research](#)

⁶¹ [Connect with nature | Generation Green](#)

⁶² A Call for change [Youth Manifesto - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

⁶³ [Mosaic-Wales-National-Parks-Health-and-Well-being-paper-May-2015.pdf](#)

⁶⁴ [Full article: 'It's not for people like \(them\)': structural and cultural barriers to children and young people engaging with nature outside schooling](#)

- **Children from low-income families** (due to cost and transport barriers).
- **Minority ethnic children** (affected by cultural perceptions and language barriers).
- **Children with disabilities** (limited inclusive provision and accessibility issues).
- **Refugee and migrant children** (language, cultural unfamiliarity, and social exclusion).
- **Girls may face barriers** (due to gendered stereotypes about outdoor activities).

The report sets out a range of barriers including:

- **Lack of nearby natural spaces** in urban or disadvantaged areas.
- **Cost of activities and transport**, limiting access for low-income families.
- **Limited inclusive provision** for children with disabilities.
- **Cultural perceptions** that outdoor activities are 'not for us.'
- **Language and communication barriers** for minority ethnic families.
- **Gender stereotypes** influencing participation.
- **Safety concerns from parents**, reducing outdoor play.
- **Lack of confidence or skills** among children and parents.
- **Social exclusion cycles**, reinforcing non-participation.

These are the issues that a new NPA will need to consider and address.

- **What participatory work with children and young people have you used to inform your policy? If you have not engaged with children and young people, please explain why.**

As set out above NRW as the statutory designation authority has led the engagement and consultation to date. Far greater opportunities for participation and engagement will be available through the work of the NPA once that is established in Phase 2.

3. Analysing the evidence and assessing the impact

This proposal contributes to Welsh Government's wider strategy to address the climate and nature emergencies. It is recognised that failing to address these will significantly impact children and future generations.

Evidence suggests that children are more vulnerable to the impacts of environmental harm and climate change⁶⁵. Their developing bodies and brains can be more susceptible to the harmful effects of pollution and extreme weather events. Additionally, children spend more time outdoors than adults, which can increase their exposure to environmental hazards.

Risks include:

- Children are more likely to develop respiratory illnesses, such as asthma and pneumonia, from air pollution.

⁶⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-10/documents/children-health-climate-change.pdf>

- Climate change can disrupt food production and distribution. Poor soil health may mean that children may not get the nutrients they need to grow and develop properly, which can have lifelong consequences for their health and well-being.
- Extreme weather events can damage schools and disrupt education. This can lead to missed learning opportunities and hinder their educational progress.
- Children are more likely to be affected by the psychological stress associated with climate change.

Welsh Government already has in place a range of policies and legislation to combat the climate and nature emergency and mitigate these risks, which include the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 and the Sustainable Land Management framework introduced in the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023. Young people have an interest in how public authorities are held to account in complying with their environmental statutory duties, including under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The existing NPAs are required to comply with relevant parts of existing legislation to mitigate and manage these issues, these include relevant environmental legislation and Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sustainability considerations of impacts for current and future generations. NPAs formulate and monitor progress on their Well-being Objectives through their Corporate Plans and are part of Public Services Boards. In pursuing the statutory purposes of National Parks, NPAs have a duty to foster the economic and social well-being of communities within the National Park and to work with local authorities and public bodies whose functions include the promotion of economic or social development within the area of the National Park (s11A(1) of the 1949 Act).

Decisions made within Local Development Plan or National Park management plan policies can help support better environmental outcomes. For example, improved management in the uplands can help reduce downstream flooding and soil run-off. This can have associated health, well-being benefits and potential reduction in societal costs and impacts on communities. The most direct and obvious benefits that a new National Park would bring is managing environmental impacts to reduce pollution and support nature recovery, which supports human health and provides well-being. The benefits for children include providing opportunities for access to nature, which can support children/family well-being, and also opportunities for children to engage in local governance/decision-making on the future of these special places.

It is acknowledged that there are also potential negative impacts particularly for young people e.g. possibly being outpriced for housing, or families moving away because of the dilution of the Welsh language, or unequal access because certain groups of children face barriers. It is useful to examine the actions undertaken by existing NPAs in Wales to understand how a new NPA might address these. NPAs are required to comply with all relevant environmental, historic environment and Welsh Language legislation and Measures, which provide a strong foundation for their work to address the issues facing children and young people. Their statutory purposes and management plan duties also provide a clear framework for undertaking work to mitigate these issues. Working with the

third sector and educational establishments, NPAs have a long history of providing opportunities for children to access the countryside and enjoy nature through formal education fieldtrips, Duke of Edinburgh (DOE) type schemes, volunteering / young ranger groups and supporting young families by providing no cost or low-cost events, walks and cultural activities. NPAs usually work collaboratively, bringing different sectors together to access funding and support to enable activities and learning.

As set out above and highlighted in NRW's evidence and responses consultations, significant challenges for a new National Park are likely to be in relation to second homes, access for young people and families to the housing market and potential dilution of the Welsh language. These are systemic issues which impact certain areas of Wales. The new NPA will need to work strategically with the Housing Authority, Local Housing Associations and take learning and good practice from other NPAs and others on how to address and mitigate these issues. The impacts around second homes, access to the housing market and affordability could be addressed by the NPA (in its role as a Planning Authority) through introducing interventions such as an Article 4 Direction to consider local housing support and imposing planning restrictions on second homes; the establishment of short term holiday lets and applications to change existing homes into businesses. It will also have the option to use the tools at its disposal as the Local Planning Authority, and through the management plan process, potential convening role and access to funding streams to identify opportunities to mitigate these issues.

Further consideration of these challenges is set out in related Impact Assessments including the Welsh Language, Rural Proofing, Socio-economic and through UNCRC Articles in the following sections.

- **How does your proposal enhance or challenge children's rights, as stipulated by the UNCRC articles and its Optional Protocols? Please refer to the [articles](#) to see which ones apply to your own policy.**

Considerations of impacts on children and young people will continue to be explored during the implementation phase. Supporting these activities will require the new National Park to be adequately funded to enable them to fully consider children's and young peoples' needs otherwise there is a risk that the full benefits may not be realised.

UNCRC Articles or Optional Protocol	Enhance s (X)	Challenge s (X)	Explanation
Article 2 - The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever	X	X	It will be important for the new National Park to provide equal access to nature, cultural heritage and information for physical and mental health, education and the wider range of benefits it can provide. The full range of

they think or say and whatever type of family they come from.			benefits is unlikely to be realised unless the new NPA is adequately funded and managed.
<u>Article 3</u> - All organisations should work towards what is best for each child.	X		The proposals seek to support children's well-being directly and indirectly through providing greater opportunities to visit, enjoy, engage, and learn about the National Park environment.
<u>Article 6</u> : All children have the right of life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily	X		The proposals seek to indirectly promote children's health through delivering environmental policy to address the disproportionate impact on children's health and developing healthy children and young people. More directly the proposal seeks to provide opportunities to access and enjoy a National Park for children and families, promoting health and well-being benefits such as 1st 1,000 days Project⁶⁶ linking families to wild spaces for outdoor play and consideration in Public Services Board (PSB) Well-being Assessments (NPAs are members of PSBs).
<u>Article 12</u> : Children have the right to express their views and have these considered.	X	X	The NPAs provide opportunities to engage through groups such as Young Rangers, Youth Forums, Young Farmers, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and other mechanisms including the review of the management plan. The existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape provides opportunities for young people to engage in the statutory review of their management plan process. The National Landscape informal feedback indicates that there were good cross-generational discussions and valued input generated, with young participants keen to remain engaged in the on-going process (November 2025). Phase 2 provides opportunities to develop and establish appropriate mechanisms to engage young people and develop opportunities similar to those operating in the existing National Parks as outlined above. The established Clwydian Range & Dee

⁶⁶ 1st 1,000 days project - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

			Valley Young Ranger Group ⁶⁷ could be expanded to cover the whole area. It could be further developed from a fieldwork volunteering base to participation in governance, to provide a youth voice on issues and on the future of the area.
<u>Article 13</u> : Children have the right express their opinions and access all kinds of information within legal limits.	X	X	NPAs support a range of cultural activities including educational visits to cultural sites, providing information, family days to try different activities such as archery, crafts and music workshops. In Phase 2 the new NPA can consider providing information in an appropriate way and for children to share their views. They could also support access to different experiences such as coasteering, stargazing or creative arts which can develop confidence and opportunities for self-expression. The new NPA is likely to build on the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape Events Programme and through adequate funding this could be further developed to cover a wider range of activities and increased participation.
<u>Article 15</u> - children have a right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights	X		The new National Park will support opportunities for children to meet other children through Young Rangers and other Groups, Duke of Edinburgh Award schemes and providing opportunities for learning and access to enjoy the countryside.

⁶⁷ Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape Young Ranger Group [Young Rangers - Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB](#)

Article 17: children have the right to reliable information, including in an accessible form.	X		As part of their second statutory purpose (set out in section 5(1)(b) of the 1949 Act) of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities by the public, NPAs may provide opportunities and resources for learning. One way in which a new NPA could act to give effect to this purpose could include providing educational resources (e.g. Tirlun portal) and information through activities and events.
Article 23: Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support so that they can lead full and independent lives	X	X	Existing NPAs provide support and in some cases funding for activities for children with disabilities. They often collaborate with specialist organisations and provide dedicated information on accessible routes, beach buggy or Trampler Hire ⁶⁸ . National Parks provide accessible routes (e.g. Lon Gwyrfa ⁶⁹ in Eryri, accessible route linking two communities) and access to buildings and facilities but due to the nature of the terrain not everywhere is accessible, especially in remote rural areas. National Parks also provide tranquil spaces and soundscapes benefiting physical and mental health for children and young people.
Article 24 : Children have the right to good quality health care and to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy. Rich countries should help poorer countries achieve this.	X	X	Welsh Government's Biodiversity Deep Dive ⁷⁰ recognised the important role National Parks have to play in addressing the climate and nature emergencies and supporting resilient ecosystems that provide the full range of ecosystems benefits in a sustainable way. This would include supporting catchment management to provide clean water (e.g. Bannau Brycheiniog supplies half of the drinking water supplied by Welsh Water– see Mega Catchment collaborative project ⁷¹), land capable of producing nutritious food (e.g.

⁶⁸ [Access For All | Eryri National Park](#)

⁶⁹ [Lôn Gwyrfa | Walks and Routes Eryri National Park](#)

⁷⁰ [Biodiversity deep dive: recommendations \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

⁷¹ [Bannau Brycheiniog Mega Catchment | Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water](#)

			Welsh Government Ffermio Bro agri-environment scheme⁷² which supports environmental outcomes and is only available in Designated Landscapes) and a clean environment. The new National Park can expand on the work of the existing National Landscape for an impact over a wider area to support a clean, healthy environment for children to live in and visit. There is a range of opportunities for the new National Park to influence land and water management, support sustainable agriculture, reduce pollution and support the sustainable management of natural resources can be delivered through long-term and sustainable funding.
Article 27: children have a right to an adequate standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The government should help families who cannot afford to provide this.	X	X	In the latest Well-being Assessment for Wales⁷³ 71% of people questioned were satisfied with the quality of their local public, green, or open space. However just 23% of participants in the UK were happy with efforts to preserve the environment. National Parks provide access to green and blue spaces for opportunities for children to meet mental and physical well-being needs. However, there is always more that can be done to enable disadvantaged and underrepresented groups access green space and National Parks.
Article 29: Education must support the development of every child and encourage respect including for the environment.	X	X	The second statutory purpose in relation to National Parks (promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas) supports opportunities for environmental education. As set out there are a range of ways the existing NPAs offer and support the delivery of this function. Much of the offer is structured around relevant resources and hosting school visits, where children can learn, understand and care about the

⁷² Ffermio Bro - Farming in Designated Landscapes (stage 1): rules booklet [HTML] | GOV.WALES

⁷³ Life in the UK 2025 Wales - Carnegie UK

			environment, with associated physical and mental health benefits. In Phase 2 with the establishment of a new NPA one of the main challenges will be securing adequate funding to support the delivery of statutory purposes and duties. A funded programme of work that supports and encourages the development of young people could be developed. NPAs are directly funded by Welsh Government but also currently draw down funding from a range of other sources including NHLF⁷⁴ and Green Finance . The new NPA could explore options for Green Finance to enhance the services it offers in relation to young people.
<u>Article 30</u> : Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.	X		Existing NPAs often provide opportunities for children to express themselves through their language of choice including provision of cultural and Welsh Language events. The new NPA can embed bilingualism from the start in its governance, day to day working and engagement (as is the case with Eryri NPA). NPAs are subject to the Welsh Language Measures and public information must be provided bilingually.
<u>Article 31</u> - All children have a right to relax and play and join in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.	X		National Parks provide informal learning through play and opportunities for children to enjoy being outside. Through their work to enhance green/blue spaces the existing NPAs also provide further opportunity for children to engage in nature-based activities.
<u>Article 42</u> : The Government should make the Convention known to all parents and children.	X	X	Through their work NPAs provide opportunities to raise awareness of children's rights and provided adequate funding is available the new NPA can also undertake this role.

⁷⁴ Landscape Connections | The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Welsh Government has committed to addressing the UNCRC Concluding Observations within relevant policy development. The following recommendations are relevant to this proposal Section 45 – Environmental Health and the impact of climate change on the rights of the child General comment No. 26 (2023) on children’s rights and the environment, with a special focus on climate change⁷⁵			NPAs can help deliver the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC): Ensure Equal Access to Nature (Article 2 – Non-discrimination) • Provide inclusive facilities, trails, and volunteering programmes so all children, regardless of ability, background, or income, can access and enjoy National Parks. Prioritise Children’s Best Interests in Planning (Article 3) • Consider the impact of National Park policies and developments on children’s well-being, safety, and opportunities for play and learning. Promote Participation and Voice (Article 12) • Involve children and young people in consultations about National Park management plans, support young ranger groups work on conservation projects, and access to visitor/education services. Support Education and Awareness (Articles 28 & 42) • Deliver outdoor learning programs, nature-based education, and support children understand their rights and the environment. Enable Play and Recreation (Article 31) • Create safe, accessible spaces for play, adventure, and cultural activities within National Parks. Protect Health and Well-being (Article 24) • Encourage physical activity and mental health benefits through nature engagement, and work with land managers to ensure clean air, water, and safe environments.
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⁷⁵ tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2FC%2FGC%2F26&Lang=en

			Safeguard Cultural Identity and Heritage (Article 8) Promote local heritage and traditions, ensuring children can connect with cultural landscapes and stories.
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- Consider whether any EU Citizens Rights (as referenced in the Equality Impact Assessment) relate to young people up to the age of 18.

These are considered as part of the Equality Impact Assessment.

4. Communicating with Children and Young People

- If you have sought children and young people's views on your proposal, how will you inform them of the outcome?

As outlined Phase 2 with the implementation of a new NPA provides greater opportunities for communicating with children and young people and for their views to be heard and considered in decision-making. Further consideration can be given to providing information in easy read versions, considering their needs in consultations, and providing opportunities to understand their views and concerns.

Welsh Government endorses the National Participation Standards⁷⁶ as standards of good practice when engaging with children and young people, which can be used to inform Phase 2 of the process.

5. Monitoring and Review

Following implementation, the new NPA will be subject to regular monitoring and review. Welsh Government issues a term of government strategic grant letter to each NPA in Wales setting out our priorities and highlighting the importance of new policy initiatives and legislation. An example from 2022⁷⁷ highlighted the importance of Young Persons Guarantee and demonstrates the capability of NPAs to support the delivery of national policy at a local level.

As required the CRIA will be reviewed and updated to reflect any additional information.

⁷⁶ National Participation Standards [Bilingual-Participation-Standards-poster2016.pdf](#)

⁷⁷ Term of Government Remit Letter NPAs Welsh Government 2022 [Eich cyf](#)

B. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. Describe and explain the impact of the proposal on people with protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010.

Background

This Equality Impact Assessment considers the range of impacts in relation to the delivery of the Programme for Government (PfG) commitment to: 'Designate a new National Park to cover the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.' This is a two stage process which includes the establishment of a new NPA following the legal designation and creation of a new National Park.

National Parks in Wales are designated by NRW subject to confirmation by WMs. National Parks are created for two statutory purposes:

- conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the areas within National Parks;
- promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public.

Designating a new National Park and establishing a new NPA to govern and manage the new National Park occurs in two phases:

- Phase 1 - The assessment of certain criteria, including an area's natural beauty and open-air recreation opportunities, is undertaken by NRW which results in an area being identified that meets the statutory tests under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (the 1949 Act) to be designated as a National Park. Following the statutory consultation process and NRW Board decision, it is likely that a Designation Order and map will be submitted to the WMs. The WMs will then consider the designation order submitted by NRW alongside the criteria set out in the 1949 Act, together with any objections and representations. It may be necessary to hold a public local inquiry as part of this process. If a decision is taken to confirm the designation order, a new National Park will come into existence.
- Phase 2 - If confirmed by WMs the identified area will become a National Park. The intention is that an establishment order be made in connection with the designation of the new National Park, establishing an NPA. As a special purpose local authority, the new NPA will have functions relating to the purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park and of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those Parks by the public. It will be responsible for certain local authority functions including development management and policy, production of a National

Park management plan, governance arrangements, and delivery of policy through various direct and indirect land management mechanisms.

The impact assessments at Phase 1 of the project build on extensive work undertaken by NRW as the designating authority, including technical assessments, public engagement and consultation. Having received this evidence, Welsh Government has used this as a starting point for further impact assessments, including this Equalities Impact Assessment. The NRW evidence has been considered with other relevant information including Welsh Government strategies and priorities, as well as relevant legislation and research.

The first phase by NRW of assessing the evidence base for a new National Park will have limited practical impacts, positive or negative, for people with protected characteristics. The making of a designation order by NRW reflects NRW's assessment that, for reasons such as natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, it is especially desirable to designate an area as a National Park. The second phase, with the mobilisation of the new NPA, has the potential to have more significant impacts at a practical level, for example there will be requirements for the consideration of the needs for people with protected characteristics to be integrated into the new Authority's decision making processes. Consequently, this Impact Assessment will be further developed during phase 2 of this work including further consultation and evidence gathering relevant to developing a new Authority and delivering its objectives.

The three existing NPAs in Wales provide a template of how we would expect a new NPA in Wales to lead, plan, manage and deliver national priorities in a local context including equalities considerations. Existing NPA examples are therefore used throughout to illustrate how the new NPA is likely to operate.

Promoting Equality

NPAs (NPAs) in Wales are subject to the public sector equality duty (PSED) under the Equality Act 2010, and the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011. Under the PSED NPAs must have due regard to three aims when carrying out their functions, namely:

- Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation.
- Advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Fostering good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not. Relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

In addition, NPAs in Wales must comply with additional requirements under the 2011 Regulations, namely:

Publish Equality Objectives	At least every four years, with clear steps and timescales.
Prepare and publish a Strategic Equality Plan	Explaining the NPA's equality objectives, how they will be met and timescales.
Engage with people who have protected characteristics	Involve or consult with persons the NPA considers represent the interests of persons who share one or more protected characteristic and have an interest in how the NPA carries out its functions.
Carry out Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs)	For policies and practices to assess the likely impact of the proposal on its ability to comply with section 8 PSED.
Collect and publish equality information	Including workforce data and pay differences.
Publish an action plan on gender pay gaps (only applies where an authority has identified a gender pay gap)	This only applies where an authority has identified a gender pay gap: publish any gender pay equality objective that relates to the need to address the causes of any pay difference or explain why there is no current objective and provide an action plan.
Report progress annually	On (e.g.) meeting objectives and compliance.

NPAs also need to align their equality work with other relevant Welsh legislation including: the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; Welsh Government action plans (e.g., Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan, LGBTQ+ Action Plan); and the Socio-economic Duty.

Benefits and barriers - background

There is extensive literature of relevance to a consideration of the impacts of National Parks to people with protected characteristics. Some of it considers National Parks directly, while other relevant research considers topics such as access to nature and/or green spaces more generally.

In addition, NRW has carried out extensive public and stakeholder engagement/consultation in its work to prepare a Designation Order including specific exercises in 2023⁷⁸, 2024⁷⁹ and 2025.

⁷⁸ [Wales's New National Park Proposal - Public Engagement Period 2023](#)

⁷⁹ [Wales's New National Park Proposal - Public Consultation 2024](#)

Each of these different sources have been considered in preparing this assessment, with a consideration of both benefits, and barriers/disbenefits.

Benefits

National Parks deliver a wide range of potential positive benefits for individuals (including those with protected characteristics), communities, and society. These encompass environmental; health and well-being; social and cultural; tourism & local economic benefits. Some examples of the main potential benefits and how they are being implemented in National Parks include:

- **Biodiversity & habitat protection, climate resilience:** NPAs work actively to safeguard rare species and ecosystems, help to reverse habitat loss and species decline. They also work to store carbon in peatlands and woodlands and to manage water resources and flood mitigation through sustainable land practices. As an example of this environmental work, each of Wales' NPAs coordinates a Local Nature Partnership⁸⁰ (n.b there is more information on NPA in the Biodiversity Impact Assessment).

A range of evidence shows that people connecting with nature and participating in environmental activities offers a range of physical and mental health benefits that are relevant to people across a range of protected characteristics. *Improving access to greenspace: A new review for 2020*⁸¹, for example, outlines that greener environments can promote and protect good health (physical and mental), and aid recovery from illness and help with managing poor health. It also points to greenspaces helping to bind communities together, reduce loneliness, and mitigate the negative effects of air pollution, excessive noise, heat and flooding, while noting that disadvantaged groups appear to gain a larger health benefit and have reduced socioeconomic-related inequalities in health when living in greener communities.

- **Connection to culture, heritage and community engagement:** National Parks can inspire pride and cultural identity by creating inclusive connections between diverse communities, including those with protected characteristics, and cultural heritage. They help promote and preserve cultural assets, such as ancient woodlands and historic sites, making them more accessible to all, fostering pride, belonging, and well-being. Welsh NPAs embed social inclusion in their policies and programmes, actively engaging ethnic minorities, older adults, people with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged groups. These programmes reduce barriers—such as transport, confidence, costs—and build cultural ownership across society.

⁸⁰ [Local Nature Partnerships - Wales Biodiversity Partnership](#)

⁸¹ [Improving access to greenspace: 2020 review](#)

For example, Eryri NPA has a strong Welsh-speaking community and preserves historic landscapes and traditions⁸². NPAs also offer education and learning opportunities⁸³ through activities such as programmes for schools, while also coordinating thousands of volunteer⁸⁴ hours annually.

- **Tourism and local economy:** National Parks play an important role in the economy of their local communities, particularly in relation to tourism. The *Valuing Wales' National Parks Report* (September 2013)⁸⁵ found that the existing Welsh National Parks attract around 12 million visitors annually, generating over £500 million for Wales' economy and supporting nearly 30,000 jobs, many linked to tourism, farming, and conservation.

Welsh NPAs actively embed equality and inclusion via Strategic Equality Plans, which helps ensure employment, volunteering, and business support reaches individuals with protected characteristics. This inclusive focus helps drive equitable growth and strengthens community resilience.

Barriers / Disbenefits

People with protected characteristics can face barriers in accessing the potential benefits of National Parks. Research in this area has identified the following key areas in this regard: physical accessibility; transport and cost; cultural & social; and information & communication.

Addressing a number of these barriers, such as physical accessibility, and information & communication, is important for NPAs to help advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Similarly, addressing other barriers, such as cultural & social issues, can be a means of fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

In addition to barriers to accessing benefits, concerns have been raised about the potential disbenefits of National Parks, particularly with regards to housing and planning, and local infrastructure.

Addressing any such disbenefits helps National Parks eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation.

The main areas of concern are:

⁸² [Snowdonia National Park Recreation Strategy](#)

⁸³ [Landscape linked educational resources for Wales - Landscapes Wales](#)

⁸⁴ [Volunteering Opportunities | Bannau Brycheiniog NPA](#)

⁸⁵ *Valuing Wales' National Parks* report, National Park Wales, September 2013.

Physical and Accessibility Barriers: Many trails, visitor centres, and facilities in National Parks are not fully accessible with common issues including uneven or steep paths unsuitable for wheelchairs or mobility aids, limited provision of accessible toilets and parking, and poor signage and lack of tactile or audio guides for visually impaired visitors. See (for example): *How accessible are the UK's National Parks?*⁸⁶

Transport and Cost Barriers: National Parks are primarily in rural locations which generally means less availability of public transport, which disproportionately affects young people, older adults, and people on low incomes. Entry to National Parks is usually free, but associated costs (travel, accommodation, equipment) can be prohibitive for lower socio-economic groups, which often intersect with protected characteristics. Campaign for National Parks (CNP) helpfully summarises the issues and opportunities in their Position Statement on Transport⁸⁷.

Cultural and Social Barriers: Studies (for example⁸⁸) have found that people from Black, Asian, and minority ethnic backgrounds are significantly less likely to visit National Parks in the UK than people from a white British background. Reasons include feeling unwelcome or fear of discrimination; lack of representation in promotional materials; a perception that National Parks are “for others” rather than inclusive spaces; and a lack of appropriate facilities (e.g., prayer spaces, culturally appropriate food options) can deter some visitors.

Information and Communication Barriers: Some studies⁸⁹ have found that accessibility information for National Parks is often fragmented or unclear. For example, websites may not provide detailed accessibility guides; and there may be limited use of inclusive language or imagery, which can discourage engagement from diverse groups.

Housing & Planning Disbenefits: Concerns have been raised about the affordability of housing in National Parks and the amount of housing stock that is either second homes or holiday lets, as well as additional planning restrictions within National Parks⁹⁰ (n.b. studies in this area generally indicate a correlation between higher house prices and National Park designation, rather than establishing a causation). This has been raised particularly for young people looking to enter the housing market.

Local infrastructure Disbenefits: Concerns have also been raised that National Parks bring additional pressures on local infrastructure such as roads, parking, water supply and waste systems. See, for example Audit Wales Sustainable Tourism in Wales' National

⁸⁶ [How accessible are National Parks in the UK | Age Co Mobility](#)

⁸⁷ [Campaign for National Parks Policy Position Statement on transport](#)

⁸⁸ [‘It’s not for people like \(them\)’: structural and cultural barriers to children and young people](#)

⁸⁹ [Included outside: Evidence synthesis for engaging under-represented groups in nature](#)

⁹⁰ [Houses in National Parks in England and Wales sell for 25% more, research shows](#)

Parks (2022) which considers some of the challenges faced by NPAs in delivering their statutory purposes and duties⁹¹.

The established National Parks in Wales already face these disbenefits / barriers, so a range of strategies and initiatives to address and mitigate them have already been developed. These are set out in more detail in the next section.

Responding to barriers/disbenefits and monitoring

As outlined above, NPAs^{92, 93, 94} are required to undertake a range of activities that are designed to address the barriers that people with protected characteristics experience in living, working and/or visiting National Parks and using their facilities and services. These include publishing equality objectives and a Strategic Equality Plan, collecting and publishing equality information and reporting progress annually. A new NPA would be required to follow all relevant legislation.

In addition, Welsh Government sets out its requirements and expectation of NPAs as part of its funding agreement that also outline activities to address the barriers identified for people with protected characteristics - the current Term of Government Remit Letter for the NPAs⁹⁵ has several such requirements including:

- Support a shift away from private car use to more sustainable transport modes for the majority of journeys amongst staff, visitors and service users in order to meet the target of 45% of journeys being undertaken by sustainable modes by 2040;
- Increase engagement in opportunities for people in vulnerable or disadvantaged groups and under-represented communities to benefit from the landscapes you manage.

As special purpose local authorities, NPAs are also able to adopt strategies and policies aimed at addressing issues linked to disbenefits, such as through planning. For example, Eryri NPA has introduced an Article 4 Direction⁹⁶ aimed at managing the use of houses as second homes and holiday accommodation in the National Park to address concerns around housing pressures.

NPAs in Wales have several statutory and governance-related reporting requirements that form part of the monitoring framework. These are set out in legislation and supported by Welsh Government guidance and Audit Wales recommendations.

⁹¹ [Sustainable Tourism in Wales' National Parks](#)

⁹² [Strategic Equality Plan | Bannau Brycheiniog NPA](#)

⁹³ <https://eryri.gov.wales/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Strategic-Equality-Plan-2024-28.pdf>

⁹⁴ [Strategic Equality Plan and Objectives 2025-2029 - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

⁹⁵ [Term of Government Remit Letter for the NPAs](#)

⁹⁶ [Article 4 Direction in Eryri - Planning and Development.](#)

These include preparing an annual report, holding annual meetings and reporting progress on Welsh Government priorities (e.g. reporting on progress towards Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goals), as well as being subject to Audit Wales reviews under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Record of Impacts by protected characteristic:

Age

Studies have found that National Parks can offer a wide range of benefits for young people, spanning education, health, skills development, and social inclusion.

Spending time in nature improves mental health, reduces stress, and combats anxiety and depression—issues that have grown among young people post-pandemic. Physical activities like hiking, cycling, and conservation work also help tackle inactivity and obesity. See, for example⁹⁷.

National Parks act as outdoor classrooms, making subjects like ecology, geography, and history more engaging. They can also promote environmental awareness and help young people develop new skills. Activities include water quality testing, wildlife surveys, and cultural heritage projects. See for example⁹⁸. Programmes such as Junior Ranger schemes, apprenticeships, and volunteering build confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills, while Initiatives like Green Leaders and Youth Committees give young people a voice in decision-making and policy, fostering environmental stewardship and advocacy⁹⁹.

National Parks can also help tackle issues such as inequalities in access to green spaces through offering programmes such as Generation Green¹⁰⁰, although National Parks can feel exclusive or unwelcoming to young people from urban or minority backgrounds¹⁰¹.

Young people, who often experience higher unemployment rates, can benefit from the additional jobs generated by a National Park¹⁰². This was identified as one of the potential benefits in NRW's public engagement/consultation exercises 2023¹⁰³ and 2024¹⁰⁴, although other respondents felt it would have limited impact and/or the jobs would be low paid and seasonal.

⁹⁷ [National Parks help improve young people's health and life chances](#)

⁹⁸ [Pembrokeshire Coast National Park - Schools Programme](#)

⁹⁹ [Green Leaders youth stories - National Parks](#)

¹⁰⁰ [Generation Green 2 - National Parks](#)

¹⁰¹ [‘It's not for people like \(them\)': structural and cultural barriers to children and young people](#)

¹⁰² *Valuing Wales' National Parks* report, National Park Wales, September 2013.

¹⁰³ [Wales's New National Park Proposal - Public Engagement Period 2023](#)

¹⁰⁴ [Wales's New National Park Proposal - Public Consultation 2024](#)

In terms of additional barriers and disbenefits (to those already mentioned) the limited public transport in National Parks can have a more significant impact on young people, as can housing affordability, with both of these issues raised in NRW's public engagement/consultation on the proposed new National Park.

For older people, National Parks again provide the potential for health benefits, cultural enrichment, and accessible recreation, but similarly challenges can include housing affordability and transport limitations.

Spending time in nature can bring specific health benefits to older people such as improved cardiovascular health and reducing the risk of cognitive decline and dementia¹⁰⁵.

National Parks often offer group walks¹⁰⁶, volunteering¹⁰⁷, and nature-based activities that can help older people build social connections and reduce isolation.

Older people face similar barriers to access and potential disbenefits to young people with regards to National Parks with limited public transport and housing affordability among the issues identified, including in NRW's public engagement/consultation on the proposed new National Park.

Disability

National Parks in Wales offer significant health and recreational benefits for disabled people, supported by initiatives like *Miles Without Stiles*¹⁰⁸ and accessible facilities¹⁰⁹. However, challenges (as described above) remain around public transport, uneven terrain, incomplete information, and social barriers, which can limit independence and inclusion.

This was reflected in NRW's public engagement¹¹⁰/consultation,¹¹¹ with respondents noting restrictions in existing access to facilities such as public rights of way, with several also noting a National Park was an opportunity for the area to make improvements in this area.

Gender Reassignment (Trans and Non binary)

Evidence points to safety concerns, discrimination and policy confusion around changing/toilet facilities as factors that can impact on trans and non-binary people accessing green spaces, including National Parks¹¹². The statutory purpose of National

¹⁰⁵ [Nature's Embrace: The Profound Benefits of Outdoor Experiences for the Elderly](#)

¹⁰⁶ For example, [Well-being Walks - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

¹⁰⁷ For example, [Volunteering Opportunities | Bannau Brycheiniog NPA](#)

¹⁰⁸ [Miles without Stiles – Partnership working success! | Bannau Brycheiniog NPA](#)

¹⁰⁹ [How accessible are National Parks in the UK | Age Co Mobility](#)

¹¹⁰ [Wales's New National Park Proposal - Public Engagement Period 2023](#)

¹¹¹ [Wales's New National Park Proposal - Public Consultation 2024](#)

¹¹² [Queering adventure: building communities outdoors to combat social and environmental injustice](#)

Parks to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of their areas, as well as their Equalities duties, means NPAs are well placed to make outdoor experiences more welcoming to trans and non-binary visitors such as through inclusive policies and staff training, with community led outdoor groups having been shown to reduce barriers and foster belonging^{113, 114}.

Sex and Gender

Evidence¹¹⁵ shows that while nature engagement is beneficial for all sexes/genders, women face distinct barriers in public green spaces, including safety concerns, poor lighting, limited facilities (e.g., toilets/changing), and caregiving constraints. As outlined for other protected characteristics, the activities and purposes of National Parks can be used to promote activities specifically designed to promote participation by women, both by the Authority itself and other groups¹¹⁶ including commercial providers¹¹⁷.

NRW did not record any findings on Sex and Gender from its public engagement/consultation exercises.

Pregnancy & Maternity

Access to green spaces can support prenatal and postnatal well-being (e.g. gentle physical activity providing stress reduction and/or social connection)¹¹⁸. In Wales, recent maternity standards¹¹⁹ emphasise listening to women's needs and removing access barriers.

Consequently, barriers to realise these benefits may include insufficient toilets, baby-changing and rest spaces, challenging terrain for prams, limited seating and transport constraints to reach suitable routes. In NRW's public engagement/consultation exercises, respondents frequently reported a lack of public toilets and limited resting opportunities; although not framed as pregnancy-specific, these infrastructure gaps may disproportionately affect pregnant and postnatal visitors and caregivers with infants.

The statutory purpose of National Parks to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of their areas, as well as the Equalities duties that NPAs are subject to, means NPAs are well placed to make outdoor experiences welcoming to women who are pregnant or new mothers. This can include working with local health boards and

¹¹³ [Queering adventure: building communities outdoors to combat social and environmental injustice](#)

¹¹⁴ [Walking with Pride: Inclusive Outdoor Adventures in Wales - Landscapes Wales](#)

¹¹⁵ For example, [Do sex and gender modify the association between green space and physical health? A systematic review.](#)

¹¹⁶ For example, [Brecon Womens Festival 2025 - Brecon Beacons Tourism](#)

¹¹⁷ For example, [Snowdonia - SUP & Summit Weekend - all female](#)

¹¹⁸ For example, [The role of green and blue spaces in perinatal maternal mental health outcomes during the transition to parenthood - ScienceDirect](#)

¹¹⁹ [New standards to improve maternity and neonatal care in Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

community groups to provide gentle, accessible walks for well-being, and facilitating provision of rest areas, toilets, baby-changing, pram-friendly paths and information.

Race

Evidence shows that access to green spaces is inequitable among different races in the UK, with people from Black and ethnic minority communities less likely to visit them, including National Parks¹²⁰. Reasons include structural barriers (e.g. transport, cost, information), cultural/perceptual barriers (e.g. feeling the countryside is “not for us”), and experiences or fears of discrimination, which can deter visits¹²¹.

These barriers can be addressed by NPAs, by ensuring their strategies, policies and activities incorporate elements such as pro-active community engagement; the provision of inclusive infrastructure and services; inclusive representation and visibility of National Parks and their services; and staff training and anti-racism policies¹²².

NRW did not record any findings on race from its public engagement/consultation exercises.

Religion or Belief

National Parks can promote awareness of sites of religious and cultural value, as well broader connections between landscape, culture and identity, with these often forming the basis of walking trails¹²³. Respondents to NRW’s public engagement identified the potential for heritage and pilgrimage sites in the proposed new National Park to benefit in this way.

National Parks can work to ensure equitable access for people of different religion or beliefs by considering their needs in areas such as planning activities and communications.

Sexual orientation (LGBQ+)

Safety concerns, discrimination and policy confusion around changing/toilet facilities have been highlighted as factors that can impact on LGBTQIA+ people accessing green spaces, including National Parks¹²⁴.

NPAs are well placed to tackle these barriers to make outdoor experiences more welcoming through initiatives such as inclusive messaging, visible anti hate policies, and

¹²⁰ For example, [Access to nature in the English countryside](#)

¹²¹ For example, [Exploring barriers to engagement with the environment for ethnic minority communities | National Centre for Social Research](#)

¹²² For example, [Pembrokeshire Coast National Park - Final report on the Mosaic Cymru Project](#)

¹²³ For example, [North Wales Pilgrims Way | National Churches Trust](#)

¹²⁴ [Queering adventure: building communities outdoors to combat social and environmental injustice](#)

staff trained to respond to incidents. In particular, community led outdoor groups have been shown to reduce barriers and foster belonging^{125, 126}.

Human Rights and UN Conventions

Do you think that this policy will have a positive or negative impact on people's human rights?

Reflecting the benefits outlined above, a new National Park in Wales offers the potential to enhance human rights to health, culture, recreation, environmental quality, and social development. There is also the potential for disbenefits (again as outlined in above), through additional planning requirements and the potential pressures on housing.

These potential impacts are shown in the Table below, mapped against the key United Nations Instruments / articles.

Impact Area	Potential Effect	Key UN Instruments / Articles
		ICESCR: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights HRC: Human Rights Council ICCPR: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child
Health & Well-being	Improved mental/physical health through access to nature.	ICESCR Art.12; HRC Res.48/13
Education & Recreation	Increased opportunities for outdoor learning, nature literacy.	ICESCR Art.13; CRC Art.31

¹²⁵ [Queering adventure: building communities outdoors to combat social and environmental injustice](#)

¹²⁶ [Walking with Pride: Inclusive Outdoor Adventures in Wales - Landscapes Wales](#)

Culture & Language	Opportunities for protection of Welsh language, cultural heritage. Potential for demographic changes and tourism to negatively impact Welsh language.	ICCPR Art.27; ICESCR Art.15
Participation & Governance	Inclusive, representative decision-making through creation of an NPA	ICESCR Art.2
Livelihoods & Development	Potential for jobs in areas such as conservation and tourism. Risk of planning restrictions impacting developments.	ICESCR Art.6&7; Art.11
Housing & Gentrification	Risk of rising prices, increase in second home ownership.	ICESCR Art.11
Environmental Protection	Potential for stronger biodiversity/climate resilience.	HRC Res.48/13

A well-designed NPA in Wales can integrate international rights standards by:

- Embedding universal participation (UDHR Art. 21; ICCPR Art. 25)
- Upholding cultural rights by protecting Welsh language and heritage (ICESCR Art. 15)
- Practicing due process in land regulation and housing (ICESCR Art. 11; ICCPR Art. 14)
- Ensuring fair compensation and consent in land-use changes (ICESCR Art. 1–3)

Other actions of a NPA can also help maximise the benefits and minimise the barriers / disbenefits including active co-design of conservation strategies with farmers and other land owners and managers; and sustainable tourism management to balance the protection of local rights and ecosystems while encouraging visitors.

EU/EEA and Swiss Citizens' Rights

4.1 Residency – the right to reside and other rights related to residence: rights of exit and entry, applications for residency, restrictions of rights of entry and residence;

At this stage, the proposal will have no effect, but this will be kept under review throughout implementation.

4.2 Mutual recognition of professional qualifications –the continued recognition of professional qualifications obtained by EU/EEA/Swiss citizens in their countries (and already recognised in the UK);

- At this stage, the proposal will have no effect, but this will be kept under review throughout implementation.

4.3 Access to social security systems – these include benefits, access to education, housing, and access to healthcare.

- At this stage, the proposal will have no effect, but this will be kept under review throughout implementation.

4.4 Equal treatment – this covers non-discrimination, equal treatment, and rights of workers;

- At this stage, the proposal will have no effect, but this will be kept under review throughout implementation.

4.5 Workers rights - Workers and self-employed persons who are covered under the Citizens Rights Agreements are guaranteed broadly the same rights as they enjoyed when the UK was a Member State. They have a right to not be discriminated against due to nationality, and the right to equal treatment with UK nationals.

- At this stage, the proposal will have no effect, but this will be kept under review throughout implementation.

C. RURAL PROOFING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Our policy objectives for the new National Park complement and enhance the existing environmental policy and legislation framework through:

Phase 1 - The legal designation of the new National Park area with the statutory purposes of:

- Conserving and enhancing natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage.
- Promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the areas by the public.

Phase 2 - The establishment and mobilisation of a new Glyndŵr NPA to deliver the two statutory purposes and other relevant national policy at a local level.

Work on Phase 1 has largely been undertaken by NRW as the designating authority. This includes assessment of land to meet statutory tests, engagement and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders ahead of a Designation Order submitted for consideration by WMs.

If confirmed by WMs Phase 2 is instigated and the area will become a National Park, and legislation will be drafted to create an NPA. As a Special Purpose Local Authority, the new NPA has responsibility for certain local authority functions including development planning policy (Local Development Plan) and planning development management, production of a National Park management plan, governance arrangements, and delivery of policy through various direct and indirect land management mechanisms.

The three existing NPAs in Wales provide a template of how we would expect a new NPA in Wales to lead, plan, manage and deliver relevant national priorities in a local context. Existing National Park examples are therefore used throughout to illustrate how the new NPA will operate and deliver.

1. Describe and explain the impact of the proposal on rural people, businesses and communities.

Detailed consideration of socio-economic impacts are being developed in the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) Cost Benefit Analysis. NRW's Economic Impact Review 2025¹²⁷ also provides relevant evidence. This report identified key drivers for designation which included:

- Landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage protection.
- Protection from inappropriate development
- Economic boost to the area
- Diversification of farming activities
- Bringing recognition and increase profile
- Increased resources

These outline some of the perceived benefits that could arise from designation for rural people and need to be balanced against perceived concerns¹²⁸ relating to:

- Tourism pressure
- Housing affordability

¹²⁷ Economic Impact Review, ARUP for NRW 2025 [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

¹²⁸ Pros and cons of a new National Park, NRW 2025 [potential-pros-and-cons-of-a-new-national-park.pdf](#)

- Planning restrictions
- Perceived loss of local control
- Access conflicts
- Transition
- Administrative complexity

However, it recognises that many of these issues are already present in the area, and a NPA could provide a different mechanism through the focus on their statutory duties (set out above), in which to address some of these issues. There are already tourist hotspots such as Pistyll Rhaeadr and Moel Famau where local concerns around access, safety and car parking need to be addressed.

The RIA will provide a greater depth of analysis but there are opportunities for an anticipated modest increase in visitors could provide economic opportunities for:

- tourism accommodation, attractions, food and supporting sectors to develop and benefit from greater footfall.
- service economy benefits such as fuel stations, retail and hospitality.
- support for local services such as banking sector, train and bus viability.
- farm diversification opportunities farm gate sales, local produce and accommodation.

Potential increase in visitors could however increase the strain on existing infrastructure and access to services such as GP appointments, A&E departments and lead to congestion on rural roads all of which could have a negative impact on rural communities without adequate investment in services.

♦ *Will access be an issue for rural people? If yes, what will be done to overcome barriers to access?*

Local people will have access to the new National Park and benefit from access to high a quality environment with associated positive health and well-being benefits. The new NPA will also need to consider how to improve access to the area for all groups. The three existing NPAs support additional bus services, like the Snowdon Sherpa¹²⁹, which enhance existing provision and are available at weekends and Bank Holidays for residents and visitors.

As explored in the Children's Rights and Equalities Impact Assessments providing opportunities for all and addressing barriers to access by specific groups will need to be given consideration by the new NPA. However, it is expected that rural people will

¹²⁹ [Sherpa'r Wyddfa | Snowdon Sherpa | a network of connecting buses to get you around Eryri National Park | Snowdonia National Park](#)

generally benefit from greater opportunities for access, with associated well-being and health benefits, provided by a new National Park and this will be on their doorstep.

- ♦ *How has the proposal taken account of the needs of rural people e.g. older population, lack of affordable housing, language requirements?*

The following issues have been considered through the process and consultations to date:

Demographic Sensitivity

- The **Health Impact Assessment** acknowledges an aging population in rural areas and emphasises improved access to health-promoting environments, such as green spaces and active travel routes, to support well-being for older residents.
- Proposals recognise the need to maintain essential services and transport connectivity to avoid isolation for elderly communities.

Affordable Housing

- NRW's **Planning Review**¹³⁰ and the **Equality Impact Assessment** as part of this IIA, highlight concerns about housing affordability within designated landscapes. However, wider research to date has not found a causal relationship between designation and an increase in house prices, rather that the link exists between attractive, often coastal areas and house price premiums.
- The proposal commits to working with local planning authorities to ensure **Local Development Plans** incorporate affordable housing policies.
- Emphasis on **sustainable rural housing strategies** to balance conservation with community viability.

Welsh Language and Cultural Identity

- A dedicated **Welsh Language Impact Assessment** as part of this IIA recognises that there are concerns that a designation could lead to non-Welsh speakers moving into the area, potentially displacing Welsh speakers and the need to ensure that designation needs to strengthen, rather than dilute, linguistic and cultural heritage.
- Measures include that the new NPA will need to adhere to Welsh Language Act Standards requirements, for example undertake bilingual engagement, support safeguarding Welsh-medium education, and promote cultural tourism that respects local identity.
- The name “Glyndŵr” was chosen following public consultation to reflect historical and cultural resonance.

Economic and Social Inclusion

¹³⁰ [Microsoft Word - Planning Services Review in the context of a proposed National Park Report_FINAL Rev A.pdf](#)

- The **Economic Assessment**¹³¹ undertaken by NRW identifies opportunities for rural employment through sustainable tourism, opportunities for support for farmers and land managers through agri-environment schemes (e.g., *Ffermio Bro*¹³² provides an additional support scheme only available in Designated Landscapes). Identified opportunities also include promotion of local produce and local supply chains to retain money in the area
- **Governance structures** will need to ensure representation from rural communities in decision-making. The National Park management plan preparation and review provides additional opportunities for people to provide views on how the area is managed. A partnership approach has been developed by the existing National Parks see Eryri Partnership Plan¹³³ as an example which has been developed through engaging with local communities and stakeholders.

Access and Connectivity

- Proposals should aim to support **public transport links** and where appropriate digital connectivity to reduce rural isolation, benefiting older residents and economically disadvantaged groups.

Equality and Community Engagement

- The **Equality Impact Assessment** addresses barriers for vulnerable groups, also recognises the need to ensuring consultation processes are accessible and inclusive.
- Engagement through drop-in events and online forums provide rural residents with a platform to discuss and express their views.
- Existing National Parks provide opportunities for community cohesion through extensive arts and cultural events programmes, volunteering opportunities and supporting community groups such as First 1,000 Days of Life¹³⁴ children's initiative run by Pembrokeshire Coast NPA.

♦ *Will the proposal lead to new services being opened or existing services being closed? How will you maximise positive impacts and mitigate negative impacts?*

The designation of the Glyndŵr National Park is not expected to result in widespread closure of existing services. Instead, the proposal aims to support and where possible enhance service provision through drawing in additional resource allocation. The new NPA will be legally required¹³⁵ work collaboratively with local authorities and relevant public bodies to support the economic and social well-being of communities when delivering its

¹³¹ Economic Impact Review, ARUP for NRW 2025 [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

¹³² [Ffermio Bro - Farming in Designated Landscapes \(stage 1\): rules booklet \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

¹³³ [Cynllun-Eryri-English-ER.pdf](#)

¹³⁴ [1st 1,000 days project - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

¹³⁵ S11A(1) [National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949](#)

functions related to conservation, provision of recreation, visitor management, and community engagement.

The proposal will support integrated planning, cultural safeguarding and potential for economic diversification for positive impacts for rural communities. The new NPA will need to address concerns on access to affordable housing. This is an issue for many rural areas and is currently being addressed by existing NPAs in Wales by Article 4¹³⁶ and other Measures. Other important considerations will be to ensure inclusive governance representing all society including young people and older populations and ensuring accessibility enhancements such as transport and digital infrastructure to reduce rural isolation and access to on-line services.

- ♦ *Does the policy require the purchase or use of land? Have you considered rural factors such as land value, availability or restrictive designations?*

The new National Park designation does not require the purchase of land. Land in National Parks is largely privately owned¹³⁷ or owned by other bodies such as National Trust, Welsh Government Woodland Estate or Welsh Water. Of the existing National Parks in Wales, Bannau Brycheiniog owns around 13% of the area designated, whereas Eryri owns less than 1%. On an occasional basis the new NPA may consider the purchase land in the future in order to deliver its statutory duties such as conservation or landscape management.

- ♦ *Will the proposal work in difficult terrain e.g. narrow roads and steep mountains? If no, how will you overcome barriers?*

National Parks are designated for the natural beauty of their landscape and are often deeply rural, upland areas with difficult terrain. Access and accessibility will be key considerations for the new NPA in respect of the National Park statutory purpose to promote opportunities for people to enjoy the special qualities of the area. This will need to be delivered in a way that enables access without compromising the reasons that the area was designated such as tranquillity, remoteness, rurality whilst also supporting and sustaining local communities, nature and culture.

The existing NPAs in Wales provide a range of examples of the types of activities and actions that a new NPA could undertake. These include Trammer hire to provide access for less abled, improving links between communities such as the all access path Lôn Gwyrfa, Eryri National Park¹³⁸ between Beddgelert and Rhyd Ddu and supporting a range of groups and abilities for appropriate and safe access to the countryside.

¹³⁶ Example Eryri National Park Article 4 Policy [Article 4 Direction in Eryri - Planning and Development](#)

¹³⁷ Land ownership National Parks in Wales [the-review-of-designated-landscapes-in-wales.pdf](#)

¹³⁸ [SNPA Promoted Path – Lôn Gwyrfa, Rhyd Ddu](#)

NPAs also have specific legal powers to undertake experimental traffic control schemes and have certain traffic regulation powers that can be used to help address issues in honey-pot areas.¹³⁹ Examples of long-standing experimental approaches include Upper Derwent Valley in the Peak District National Park. The road is closed at weekends and Bank Holidays and has operated on this basis since 1980s.

The proposed Glyndŵr National Park includes remote areas with limited capacity to accommodate additional visitor traffic due to the absence of A and B roads and the prevalence of narrow lanes with few passing places—issues comparable to those faced in other UK National Parks.

Concerns about traffic pressure were raised during NRW's consultations, highlighting the need for a carefully managed approach developed in partnership with local communities, land managers and businesses to support access by walking, cycling and horse riding. Innovative transport solutions may be required, drawing on lessons from the Snowdon Sherpa scheme in Eryri National Park, which has achieved a significant modal shift from car use to Park & Ride and recorded a 79% increase in passenger numbers in 2024 compared with pre-Covid levels¹⁴⁰.

♦ *Is the proposal relevant to SMEs or micro-enterprises?*

The proposed National Park will cover a large rural area where SMEs and micro-enterprises dominate sectors such as tourism, hospitality, farming, outdoor recreation, and crafts. These businesses are integral to the local economy and community well-being. The statutory consultation explicitly mentions supporting communities and shaping a better future for the local economy, which includes small businesses.

♦ *How have you taken their situation into account?*

Engagement: NRW¹⁴¹ has conducted public engagement, consultation and targeted stakeholder consultations between 2023 and 2025. This included sessions for local businesses, to understand economic impacts and opportunities.

Economic Impact Review: Independent analysis commissioned by NRW¹⁴² (Arup, June 2025) highlights that designation could boost tourism, create jobs, and attract investment, but also acknowledges the need for planning flexibility and business support to avoid negative impacts on SMEs.

¹³⁹ S72 Traffic Regulation in National Parks [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006](#)

¹⁴⁰ [Record passengers on Sherpa Wyddfa bus service](#), Cyngor Gwynedd

¹⁴¹ [Wales's New National Park Proposal - NRW Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#)

¹⁴² A New National Park for Wales Economic Impact Review, ARUP for NRW 2025 [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Policy Alignment: The proposal aligns with Welsh Government's rural economy strategies¹⁴³, emphasising sustainable tourism and local supply chains to benefit small businesses.

- ♦ *Does the proposal expect businesses to be able to access support? (This may be in the form of advice, training, finance etc.) If yes, what barriers will rural businesses face and how will they be overcome?*

The new NPA will have a statutory duty¹⁴⁴ to support the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park and to co-operate with local authorities and public bodies whose functions include the promotion of economic or social development within the area of the National Park.

Existing NPAs work with the SME business community, especially tourism and farm diversification businesses. They may sign post to support such as grants or provide more direct advice such as through Ffermio Bro¹⁴⁵ agri-environment scheme, which is only available in Designated Landscapes in Wales. There may be additional marketing opportunities for businesses using the National Park brand such as Penderyn Whisky, Snowdonia Lamb, Snowdonia cheese and Pembrokeshire Earlies Potatoes (with Protected Geographical Indication status) to capitalise on local produce and public interest in provenance.

- ♦ *Does the proposal depend on infrastructure such as good road/rail connections or fast broadband or good mobile connectivity? If yes, what provision will be made for communities/businesses in more isolated rural areas?*

The proposal is undertaken on the basis of meeting the statutory tests set out in section 5 NPAC Act 1949 on natural beauty and recreation. Therefore, access opportunities and links to public transport are taken into consideration but the proposal also considers opportunities for provision to be enhanced. Each of the three existing NPAs in Wales provide additional recreational bus services to enhance existing provision. These run at times when usual provision may be reduced such as weekends and public holidays and include the Snowdon Sherpa¹⁴⁶ and Puffin Shuttle bus services.

It is acknowledged that there is a significant variation across the area in terms of road connectivity, with the northern section serviced by dual carriageway and A roads, in contrast to the southern part with only minor roads and narrow rural lanes. It is not uncommon for National Parks to have mixed provision, but it will be important that the new

¹⁴³ [Planning policy and guidance: rural economy | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](#)

¹⁴⁴ [11A\(1\) National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949](#)

¹⁴⁵ [Ffermio Bro - Farming in Designated Landscapes \(stage 1\): rules booklet \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

¹⁴⁶ [Snowdon Sherpa Bus Service](#) [Sherpa'r Wyddfa](#) | [Snowdon Sherpa](#) | [a network of connecting buses to get you around Eryri National Park](#) | [Snowdonia National Park](#)

NPA provides appropriate information on car access only where appropriate and promotes public transport options.

Chirk and Prestatyn railway stations lie within easy walking distance of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park and would provide direct access. Other nearby stations, including Gobowen, Wrexham and Flint, would require onward travel. Local bus services exist but are very limited in some areas. However, T10 Transport for Wales daily bus service from Corwen to Bangor via Betws y Coed and Capel Curig, provides long-distance access to Eryri National Park¹⁴⁷ and recently showed increased usage¹⁴⁸.

Fast broadband connectivity is essential for rural communities and businesses and as Local Planning Authorities National Parks engage in this. It is also important that there is coverage in rural areas to aid navigation and support emergency services.

- ♦ *Although the root causes of poverty in rural areas are the same as in urban areas, the experience of deprivation may be different in rural areas. Some of the main issues contributing to poverty in rural areas are fuel poverty (including both heating and transport fuel), in-work poverty, access to services and digital exclusion. How does your proposal help to tackle poverty in rural areas?*

Rural poverty often includes fuel poverty, which affects up to 25% of Welsh households and disproportionately impacts off-grid rural homes reliant on oil or LPG.¹⁴⁹

Under current planning policy it is expected that a new National Park designation would reduce opportunities for large scale renewable energy development and in certain cases transmission developments within the area and viewshed. Existing NPAs already seek to address energy issues through alternative approaches, including community-led initiatives such as in the Bannau Brycheiniog settlements of Talybont-on-Usk¹⁵⁰ and Llangattock Green Valleys Local Renewable¹⁵¹ Energy Groups. Emerging technologies, such as carbon capture, wave and tidal systems, battery storage, and other innovative low-carbon solutions, offer potential for consideration where carefully sited and appropriately designed. The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Sustainable Development Fund has also supported an innovative project for affordable solar homes, including the development of a solar-powered home prototype constructed entirely from Welsh timber, designed to generate all of its own energy and export surplus electricity for income.¹⁵²

Existing NPAs work with Welsh Government's Warm Homes Nest scheme, which provides free energy efficiency improvements (insulation, heating upgrades) to low-income

¹⁴⁷ [New T10 TrawsCymru bus service from Bangor to Corwen](#)

¹⁴⁸ [Outdoor adventurers bring bus boost](#)

¹⁴⁹ [Fuel Poverty in Wales - National Energy Action \(NEA\)](#)

¹⁵⁰ [Talybont-on-Usk Energy | Powering a community with water](#)

¹⁵¹ [Llangattock Green Valleys CIC – Community energy](#)

¹⁵² [Affordable Solar Homes - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

households. These measures reduce energy bills and improve health outcomes. The new Park could support and promote these schemes locally.

Retrofitting schemes in the existing National Parks, are often part of wider strategies to reduce energy bills and carbon emissions. There are examples of privately and community owned micro-generation projects such as Ynni Anafon¹⁵³ in Eryri which produces enough power to supply about 230 households and is expected to offset more than 19,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions over the first 40 years of its life.

Improved connectivity: NPAs have supported rural broadband upgrades, enabling remote work and digital access for businesses and education. This reduces isolation and opens income opportunities.

Affordable housing policies: Existing Parks collaborate with local authorities to manage second homes and holiday lets, helping maintain housing availability for local residents. Similar measures could be implemented by Glyndŵr National Park Authority.

- ♦ *What contact have you had with rural stakeholders? Please briefly describe any events targeted at rural stakeholders or any consultation engagement you have had with rural stakeholders. Did any other issues come up as a result of the engagement with stakeholders or any consultation around this proposal? If yes, what were they and how have you modified your proposal to take them into account?*

As the designating authority, NRW has undertaken engagement during 2023¹⁵⁴, followed by extensive consultation in 2024¹⁵⁵ and a statutory consultation in 2025¹⁵⁶. These included in person events at different geographic locations across the area, held at different times of day including evenings to facilitate access. These were supplemented by on-line events with a mix of public and sector specific events. NRW has also provided opportunities for feedback through questionnaire surveys and commissioned analysis of all the data collected which is available on their dedicated web pages. In addition, NRW has engaged and sought views on the naming of the new National Park.¹⁵⁷

NRW identified that the issues and themes raised by respondents¹⁵⁸ reflects a broad spectrum of public opinion regarding the proposal. The content of the responses were broadly similar to those expressed at the early public engagement period in 2023, although

¹⁵³ [Ynni Anafon Energy](#)

¹⁵⁴ Engagement Report, NRW 2023 [wales---s-new-national-park-proposal---2023-engagement-period-report---n.pdf](#)

¹⁵⁵ Public Consultation Report, Resources for Change for NRW 2024 [wales-s-new-national-park-proposal---2024-public-consultation-report.pdf](#)

¹⁵⁶ Statutory Consultation Draft Designation Order Glyndŵr National Park, NRW 2025 [Proposed Glyndŵr National Park \(Designation\) Order - Statutory Consultation 2025 - NRW Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#)

¹⁵⁷ [naming-the-proposed-new-national-park-in-wales.pdf](#)

¹⁵⁸ Consultation Report, Resources for Change for NRW 2024 [wales-s-new-national-park-proposal---2024-public-consultation-report.pdf](#)

there was a slight change in the order of importance and most to least frequently mentioned. The top three themes in 2024 were:

1. Wildlife, Agriculture, land management, Environment & Sustainability
2. Landscape conservation, recognition for the area and tranquillity
3. Questioning the necessity for change, management and controls, costs, funding and bureaucracy

Whereas in 2023 they were:

1. Landscape conservation, recognition for the area, and tranquillity
2. Wildlife, agriculture and land management, environment and sustainability
3. Tourism, public services, and infrastructure

NRW has considered the issues raised and responded by commissioning further evidence to capture the forces for change impacting on the area¹⁵⁹ and providing a report setting out the pros and cons of the proposal¹⁶⁰. The issues raised have been fed into governance scrutiny and decision-making processes. The issues identified by this process will also form part of consideration by WMs as to whether a new National Park is an appropriate response to help address the issues facing the area.

The issues identified are relevant to rural areas and a new NPA when established will have statutory purposes relating to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and recreation, and a duty to collaborate with local authorities and other bodies to support the economic and social well-being of communities when delivering its functions. It will be legally required to prepare, consult on and publish a National Park Management Plan which will examine evidence to identify the key issues for the area, identify policies and actions to address these for the National Park and partners. All of the main issues identified in the consultations would be relevant to the Management Plan as illustrated by Eryri Management Plan¹⁶¹.

- ♦ *What evidence have you used to inform your assessment, including evidence from rural people or their representatives?*

As part of the statutory process and the designating authority NRW has undertaken extensive consultation and engagement with rural communities, their representatives such as County, Town and Community Councils and other stakeholders including the farming unions, e-NGOs and community groups.

¹⁵⁹ Forces for change, Land Use Consultants, 2024 [Forces for Change for North East Wales National Park Area of Search](#)

¹⁶⁰ Potential Pros and Cons of a new National Park, NRW 2025 [potential-pros-and-cons-of-a-new-national-park.pdf](#)

¹⁶¹ Eryri National Park Partnership Plan 2020 [Cynllun-Eryri-English-ER.pdf](#)

NRW has also undertaken and commissioned significant analysis of the evidence and considered evidence provided by local authorities, community groups and other stakeholders. The reports, evidence and analysis is available on NRW's designation webpages. This is set out above and illustrated with referenced examples from the existing National Parks.

♦ *What other evidence would inform the assessment?*

Welsh Government has commissioned a third party to assess the costs and benefits of the proposals, which will be used to develop the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) and Outline Business Case.

This Integrated Impact Assessment, Regulatory Impact Assessment and Outline Business Case will form part of a package of advice for consideration by WMs to help inform their decision on the designation a new National Park. This will be supported by the comprehensive evidence and recommendation from NRW as detailed.

Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Impact Assessment

1. Does your policy / activity impact Agriculture?

Yes, the designation of a new National Park and establishment of a NPA is likely to result in some potential impacts on agriculture through supporting sustainable management of landscapes, ecosystems and catchments to delivery statutory purpose outcomes for people and nature.

2. Is the policy / activity related to support for agriculture, other activities carried out on land used for agriculture, or ancillary activities?

The policy itself is not directly related to support for agriculture. However, as a result of the designation of a new National Park that area will qualify for any additional relevant support targeted as Designated Landscapes e.g. currently Welsh Government scheme Ffermio Bro¹⁶².

3. Is the policy / activity related to the regulation of agriculture, other activities carried out on land used for agriculture, or ancillary activities?

The proposal is not directly related to the regulation of agriculture. However, the new NPA will have planning functions, with different Permitted Development Rights to areas outside the designation. There is often a perception that planning permission is more difficult to obtain however work commissioned by NRW suggests that planning approval rates and

¹⁶² [Ffermio Bro - Farming in Designated Landscapes \(stage 1\): rules booklet \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

determination timescales in National Parks are similar to other Local Planning Authorities in Wales¹⁶³.

The policy may have implications for ‘ancillary activities’ as defined in section 52 of the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023 such as ‘taking action on land used for agriculture to create and manage habitats, or for other purposes relating to nature conservation, or taking action, on land used for agriculture, to mitigate and adapt to climate change or to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems.’ A new NPA will need to respond to the climate and nature emergencies through the delivery of its statutory duties, therefore seek to influence the sustainable management of natural resources for resilience ecosystems. There is unlikely to be any immediate impact from designation until the new NPA is established by WMs under Phase 2 of the process and the transfer of functions have taken place to the new authority.

Please see D. Rural Proofing Policy assessment for details of Phase 1 NRW designation process and Phase 2 Welsh Government’s confirmation of the designation order and establishment of new NPA processes.

If the answer is yes to any of the above, you will need to consider the impact of your policy (support or regulation) in line with the SLM objectives and the SLM duty of the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023.

SLM Impact Assessment:

Question 2: Describe and explain the impact of the proposal on agriculture, or other activities carried out on land used for agriculture, or ancillary activities, against the SLM objectives of the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023.

1. To produce food and other goods in a sustainable manner

National Parks are special and unique and need to be managed, enhanced and protected while also supporting the farmers and communities who work within them. Estimates for 2024 show that over 90% ¹⁶⁴of the land area of Wales is given over to agricultural land usage.

Agriculture Act 1986¹⁶⁵ places a duty on WMs to balance the interests in exercise of agricultural functions to try and achieve a reasonable balance between a number of considerations including, among other things, the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and amenity of the countryside (including its flora and fauna and geological and physiographical features) and of any features of archaeological interest there, and the

¹⁶³ Review of Planning, ARUP 2025 [Microsoft Word - Planning Services Review in the context of a proposed National Park Report_FINAL Rev A.pdf](#)

¹⁶⁴ [Survey of agriculture and horticulture: June 2024 \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

¹⁶⁵ Section 17 [Agriculture Act 1986](#)

promotion of the enjoyment of the countryside by the public. These align with the NPA statutory purposes.

As agricultural activity can be a major driver of environmental degradation this proposal provides some opportunities to reduce or mitigate agricultural effects on the environment and support effective management of ecosystems in the proposed area¹⁶⁶. Reducing these effects is important to ensuring the continuity of our food supply and the ability of our farming sector to adapt to the changing climate. The reduction of environmentally harmful effects is also in line with the ambition set out by these principles for Sustainable Land Management.

National Parks by their nature are often deeply rural, with the main land uses of farming and forestry. These areas are characterised by rural, often traditional close-knit communities, and are often highly visited areas which brings both benefits from tourist income and pressures on infrastructure and services. Working with the agricultural sector to achieve environmental outcomes and mitigate/adapt to impacts of climate is important for the NPAs in order to deliver National Park statutory purposes to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage and promote the enjoyment of these special landscapes.

2. To mitigate and adapt to climate change

Please see Section 5.3b Climate resilience in this Integrated Impact Assessment.

By introducing this proposal additional areas under the protection of National Park status will help support environmental sustainability. Given that agricultural activity can significantly impact the environment, this policy will help support sustainable agricultural practice to reduce or mitigate climate change and other environmental harms within the proposed area. Reducing these negative impacts is crucial for ensuring the long-term sustainability of our food supply and the resilience of our farming sector in the face of climate change. Healthy ecosystems, rich in biodiversity, are more resilient to climate change impacts. They can continue to provide essential ecosystem services, such as pollination, soil fertility, and water regulation, even in the face of increasing climate variability and extreme weather events.

There are a number of ways that the new NPA might have an impact on developing climate resilience. Existing NPAs in Wales are working to mitigate and adapt to climate change in relation to agriculture and land management:

A. Mitigation Actions (Reducing Emissions)

¹⁶⁶ [Food system impacts on biodiversity loss | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)

- Peatland Restoration - Restoring degraded peatlands hags, grip blocking and rewetting to lock in carbon and reduce emissions. Examples include large-scale peatland projects in Eryri and Bannau Brycheiniog¹⁶⁷
- Woodland Creation & Tree Planting - Planting native trees and creating low-density woodland on farmland to sequester carbon. This is supported through schemes like Ffermio Bro in National Parks, Woodland Creation Schemes and guidance from NPAs.¹⁶⁸
- Appropriate Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Farming - Encouraging on-farm renewable energy (solar, small-scale hydro) and energy efficiency. NPAs signed up to national carbon reduction and Net Zero Targets and are undertaking a programme of decarbonisation action.¹⁶⁹ However under Planning Policy Wales if designated the new NP would mean additional protections and a presumption against large scale renewable energy projects within the area and its viewshed.
- Sustainable Grazing & Soil Management - Promoting practices that improve soil health and reduce emissions from livestock. This might include conservation grazing, upland grassland management projects such as in Brecon Beacons¹⁷⁰

B. **Adaptation Actions** (Building Resilience)

- Flood Management & Water Retention - Restoring wetlands and improving river catchments to reduce flood risk and store water during droughts. Examples such as the Wnion Catchment Natural Flood Management as part of Welsh Government's Natural Flood Management Accelerator Programme demonstrate NPAs' ability to deliver on the ground based on sound working relationships with land managers and communities. Work included restoring wetlands and peatlands and river restoration to reduce flood risk for downstream settlements, whilst enhancing biodiversity, carbon capture and improving water quality.¹⁷¹
- Developing Climate-Resilient Habitats - Creating hay meadows and diverse habitats to withstand changing weather patterns. Landscape-scale habitat projects across Welsh National Parks such as Wales' first carbon-funded peatland restoration project undertaken by Eryri National Park and Forest Carbon, as part of NPAP Grants and private finance. Spanning 66 ha on upland blanket bog the project

¹⁶⁷ [CNP_29_ClimateReportFull.indd](#)

¹⁶⁸ [For-Cons-SPG-Appendix-B-Tree-Woodland-Guidance.pdf](#)

¹⁶⁹ [Decarbonising the Designated Landscapes of Wales - Landscapes Wales](#)

¹⁷⁰ [Climate Change | Bannau Brycheiniog NPA](#)

¹⁷¹ [Written Statement: Natural Flood Management Accelerator Programme Launch \(25 October 2023\) | GOV.WALES](#)

repaired eroded surfaces (hags and gullies) during winter 2020–2021 using specialist contractors.¹⁷²

- Supporting land managers with Climate Knowledge and information - Providing advice and funding for climate-smart farming and diversification. Collaborative schemes between NPAs and local farming communities. Eryri for example provides tailored business-planning advice to aid farm-based diversification. Farm Diversification Planning Guidance: Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG 9) outlines practical considerations, such as converting redundant buildings, developing farm-based tourism, or establishing farm shops, emphasising environmental impact and sustainable rural economies.¹⁷³

C. Monitoring & Research

- NPAs undertake reporting on progress such as Net Zero, Strategic Grant Letter priorities (which include decarbonisation), Section 6 Biodiversity Reporting and a 5 yearly assessment of their State of Environment Assessment. These will be used to track climate impacts and inform land management advice. The National Park Management Plan and State of Environment Assessment help to identify evidence of trends to develop policies and actions to address issues. See for example State of Park Report Bannau Brycheiniog 2020.¹⁷⁴

3. To conserve and enhance the countryside and cultural resources and to promote public access to and engagement with them, and to sustain the Welsh language and promote and facilitate its use.

For impacts on:

- Social well-being please refer to Section 2 of this Integrated Impact Assessment
- Cultural Heritage please refer to Section 3 of this Integrated Impact Assessment.
- Health Impact Assessment please refer to Section 2.5
- Equalities Impact Assessment please refer to Annex B of this integrated impact assessment.
- Welsh language please refer to Section E of this integrated impact assessment.

¹⁷² [Wales' first carbon-funded peatland restoration project is complete! A joint press release between the Snowdonia NPA and Forest Carbon | Eryri National Park](#)

¹⁷³ Farm Diversification SPG Eryri NPA 2012 [Supplementary-Planning-Guidance-9—Farm-Diversification.pdf](#)

¹⁷⁴ Bannau Brycheiniog NPA State of Park Report 2020 [Approved-SoPR-2020.pdf](#)

Question 3: Consider how your policy will be implemented in the way that best contributes to achieving the SLM objectives (so far as consistent with the proper exercise of the function).

1. To produce food and other goods in a sustainable manner

The designation of a new National Park will mean the establishment of a new NPA under Phase 2. In order to understand how the new NPA will deliver its statutory duties, including a specific duty relating to the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023 and consider how it could support sustainable agriculture and other goods, it is useful to look at the activities of the three existing NPAs in Wales.

National Parks in Wales play a key role in supporting sustainable agriculture through a combination of funding, collaboration, and practical initiatives. In considering producing food and goods in a sustainable manner the existing NPAs in Wales:

A. Collaborative Approach

NPAs work closely with farmers and landowners to implement landscape-scale projects. This partnership model ensures that farmers' local knowledge is integrated into conservation and sustainability efforts. They secure funding to work in partnership with landowners, managers, and Commoners to undertake activity for environmental outcomes such as peatland restoration, habitat management or access improvements. These activities deliver a range of environmental goods and services, including regulating, provisioning and cultural services, helping support a broader approach to sustainable or regenerative agriculture

B. Dedicated Funding and Schemes

The Welsh Government launched the Ffermio Bro scheme (£1.8 million) to encourage nature-friendly farming in National Parks and National Landscapes. This scheme funds projects that balance food production with biodiversity and climate goals. It provides an additional opportunity for land managers to access funding to support specific objectives under SLM Ffermio Bro - Farming in Designated Landscapes¹⁷⁵.

C. Practical Measures for Sustainability

NPAs collaborate, provide training and advice working with land managers to support resilient habitat and species management to support good environmental management and outcomes. They also work with land managers in relation to access and may undertake Rights of Way improvements or advise/help resolve access issues.

¹⁷⁵ [Ffermio Bro - Farming in Designated Landscapes \(stage 1\): rules booklet \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

Projects supported include:

- Habitat restoration: Planting low-density woodland, creating hay meadows, and improving upland grasslands.
- Water and soil management: Measures to improve rivers, wetlands, and peatland.
- Carbon reduction: Initiatives to cut farm emissions.
- Landscape protection: Maintaining hedgerows, stone walls, and traditional features.
- Access improvements: Enhancing paths and routes for public use.
- Supporting rural skills such as stone walling, hedgelaying, coppicing etc through apprenticeships, volunteering opportunities, commissioning skilled craftspeople and working with colleges.

D. Contribution to National Goals

NPAs are subject to the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Well-being Act 2025 (to set and publish well-being objectives) and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requirements to deliver national policy at a local level through their statutory purposes. This aligns with their activities in relation to Wales' 30x30 target (protecting 30% of land and water for nature by 2030) and supporting land managers with the new Sustainable Farming Scheme, which promotes climate resilience and biodiversity alongside food production.

E. Produce a National Park Management Plan

NPAs have a statutory duty under the Environment Act 1995 to prepare, consult, and publish a National Park Management Plan which guides the planning and management of the area to deliver agreed outcomes. Involvement of the agricultural land management sector are important considerations and form part of the Management Plan for example Eryri National Park's approach to management plan process.¹⁷⁶

As part of the management plan process, s66(7A)(c) Environment Act 1995 requires a NPA to have regard to the sustainable land management report published under section 6 of the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023.

2. To mitigate and adapt to climate change

A new NPA when established would receive a Welsh Government Term of Government Remit Letter, which sets out the priorities from Welsh Government for grant aid delivery.

¹⁷⁶ [Cynllun Eryri - Park Authority](#)

The Term of Government Letter to the existing NPAs May 2022¹⁷⁷, states that the work of NPAs should be aligned with key Well-being Objectives, including:

- Build a stronger, greener economy as we make maximum progress towards decarbonisation.
- Embed our response to the climate and nature emergency in everything we do.
- Maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide.

This sets out WMs' ambitions for 'National Parks become exemplars in responding to the climate and nature emergency.' The need for a collaborative approach across the Designated Landscapes is supported through a number of strategic posts funded by Welsh Government to provide capacity and strategic advice on nature recovery and decarbonisation. The new National Park will benefit from collaborative working and support to provide capacity and expertise for delivery of these twin priority areas.

In addition to core funding from Welsh Government to NPAs, this priority focus is also supported through the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places capital investment fund targeted towards accelerating decarbonisation, nature recovery, supporting resilient communities and sustainable tourism. NPAs are also well-placed to deliver in response to climate challenges through the National Peatland Programme (NPAP), Nature Networks and other delivery mechanisms.

NRW's Management Plan Guidance (2024)¹⁷⁸ sets out the priority for NPAs to mitigate and adapt to the challenges of climate change, alongside responding to the nature recovery emergency.

To support the development of resilient ecosystems and communities through sustainable land management, NPAs work collaboratively with land managers to mitigate and adapt to climate change and decarbonisation. In summary these would include:

Improving soil health to reduce degradation and erosion

Some agricultural practice, especially on steep slopes and monoculture crops like maize, can lead to soil compaction, reduced organic matter, and erosion.

- Nature-based solutions include introducing riparian buffer zones, cover crops, and agroforestry in the appropriate location which can improve soil structure and stabilise banks.
- The Nature Friendly Farming Network provides information and case studies such as Glanllyn Farm¹⁷⁹ in the Elwy Valley in Eryri National Park, which has planted

¹⁷⁷ [Eich cyf](#)

¹⁷⁸ [Designated Landscape Management Plan Guidance](#)

¹⁷⁹ [Preventing flood damage on a farm in North Wales | Nature Friendly Farming Network, NFFN](#)

herbal leys and trees for improved soil infiltration and significantly reduced soil loss from the farm into the river.

Reducing flood risk & peak water flows

Flash floods in upland catchments damage farms, homes, and infrastructure.

- Nature-based solutions such as rewetted peatbogs, restored wetlands, and widened floodplains slow runoff.
- Bannau Brycheiniog National Park area provides almost of half of the drinking water that Welsh Water supplies every day. The Brecon Beacons Mega Catchment project¹⁸⁰ is a collaboration between Welsh Water, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and land managers. It is an integrated approach, working at a catchment management at a landscape scale to improve water quality and reduce peak flows.

Poor water quality from nutrient and sediment runoff

Agricultural runoff can carry nitrates, phosphates, and sediment into rivers, potentially causing harm to habitats and catchments.

- Nature-based solutions include creating tree corridors, fenced buffer strips to intercept farm runoff pre-river entry and reconnecting rivers with their floodplains.
- Example: On the Western Cleddau in Pembrokeshire Special Conservation Area of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, NRW¹⁸¹ planted 6,500 trees and 1 km of fencing, significantly filtering nutrients before they reach the river.

Biodiversity decline & habitat fragmentation

Some land uses reduce species diversity and disrupts ecological networks. There are other pressures including invasive species, declining pollinators, warming temperatures and increased risk of wildfires.

- Nature-based solution cover creating habitat corridors, restore peatlands and woodlands, and connecting semi-natural landscapes.
- Welsh Government's Biodiversity Deep Dive recommended tripling peatland restoration targets (to 1,800 ha/year) and enhancing connectivity across National Parks.
- Using Green Finance and expanding on previous work in the Migneint, Eryri National Park and the National Trust are undertaking blanket bog restoration¹⁸² which aims to rewet about 12 ha of peatland over the next three years, boosting water retention and reducing flood peaks.

Climate change resilience and carbon sequestration

Farms face uncertain weather patterns, and the need to decarbonise the sector and reduce input costs.

¹⁸⁰ [Preventing flood damage on a farm in North Wales | Nature Friendly Farming Network, NFFN](#)

¹⁸¹ [NRW / Cleddau River benefits from two river habitat restoration projects](#)

¹⁸² [Admiral fund peatland restoration in Eryri | National Trust](#)

- Nature-based solution include peatland restoration, woodland creation, and rewetting lands to store carbon and buffer against climate extremes. Supporting transition to sustainable farming practices.
- Example: Peatland restoration programmes across Welsh National Parks capture carbon, improve drought resilience, and support upland biodiversity.

3. To maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide;

Supporting nature recovery and addressing climate change are core tenets of this proposal as articulated in the Biodiversity Deep Dive Recommendation (2018)¹⁸³:

- Ensure that the potential designation of a new National Park in northeast Wales affords opportunities for climate change mitigation and nature recovery as key delivery priorities for the new Park.

A full Biodiversity Impact Assessment is available at Annex F of this Integrated Impact Assessment.

4. To conserve and enhance the countryside and cultural resources and to promote public access to and engagement with them, and to sustain the Welsh language and promote and facilitate its use.

These aspects are covered in:

- Social well-being please refer to Section 2 of this integrated impact assessment
- Cultural Heritage please refer to Section 3 of this integrated impact assessment.
- Health Impact Assessment please refer to section 2.5 of this integrated impact assessment.
- Equalities Impact Assessment please refer to Annex B of this integrated impact assessment.
- Welsh language please refer to Section E of this integrated impact assessment.

Promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area within the National Park to the countryside will be a statutory purpose of the new National Park and so will support this SLM Objective.

The existing National Parks in Wales undertake work to develop a more welcoming countryside by combining dedicated infrastructure enhancements, inclusive planning, and ongoing maintenance to upgrade access. Examples of access projects and initiatives from the existing National Parks include:

¹⁸³ [Biodiversity deep dive: recommendations \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

Eryri National Park – Access for All initiative

Eryri offers a dedicated Access for All Programme, providing detailed information about accessible paths, trails, and visitor facilities. It includes guidance on suitable routes for wheelchairs and mobility aids and liaises directly with visitors to tailor support including Trammer hire. The initiative ensures that individuals with disabilities can fully enjoy landscapes like Mawddach Estuary, forest routes, and upland valleys.¹⁸⁴

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park – Pembrokeshire Coast Path enhancements

The Authority's work on the National Trail¹⁸⁵ includes annual surveys, clearance, structural repairs, and upgrades to gates and stiles—replacing over 400 stiles with gates, improving surfacing and drainage, and rerouting affected path sections. These upgrades significantly enhance access, especially for families, elderly visitors, and those with limited mobility.

Introducing the proposal to designate a new National Park and establish a new NPA will help deliver a range of Welsh Government policy priorities. Whilst it is recognised that there could be some impacts relating to different Permitted Development Rights, a more restrictive planning environment, pressure from increased visitor numbers, there are also opportunities for collaborative working between the new NPA and the agricultural sector. There are also wider benefits for accessing new funding opportunities to support nature friendly farming, climate adaption and mitigation and specialist advice.

¹⁸⁴ [Access For All | Eryri National Park](#)

¹⁸⁵ [Access and Rights of Way - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

D. DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING

It was concluded that no Data protection Impact Assessment was required at Phase 1 stage of the process. This would be reviewed if the proposal moved to Stage 2.

E. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. Does the proposal demonstrate a clear link with the Welsh Government's strategy for the Welsh language? – [Cymraeg 2050 A million Welsh speakers](#) and the related [Work Programme for 2021-2026? Cymraeg 2050 work programme 2021-2026](#)

In its Programme for Government (2021-2026), the Welsh Government set out its intention to designate a new National Park based on the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape.

National Parks in Wales are designated by NRW subject to confirmation by WMs. National Parks are created for two statutory purposes:

- conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the areas within National Parks;
- promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public.

The natural environment of Wales has played a significant role in shaping the Welsh language. The rugged landscapes including mountains, valleys, and coastlines, have historically isolated communities, allowing the Welsh language to develop unique dialects and maintain its distinctiveness¹⁸⁶. Additionally, the natural beauty of Wales has inspired a rich tradition of Welsh poetry and literature, further embedding the language in the cultural identity of the region. Efforts to preserve the Welsh language are closely tied to environmental policies, as sustainable management of natural resources is seen as essential for maintaining the cultural heritage and well-being of communities throughout Wales including Welsh-speaking communities.

The 'Cymraeg 2050' strategy for the Welsh language contains two main targets:

- the number of Welsh speakers to reach one million by 2050; and
- the percentage of the population that speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh, to increase from 10% (in 2013 to 2015) to 20% by 2050.

¹⁸⁶ [The history of the Welsh language | Visit Wales](#)

To realise this vision, *Cymraeg 2050* is based on three strategic themes:

1. increasing the number of Welsh speakers;
2. increasing the use of Welsh; and
3. creating favourable conditions – infrastructure and context.

The proposed designation of a new National Park does not seek to directly contribute to the fulfilment of the *Cymraeg 2050*'s two main targets. However, it can be linked to theme 2 – *increasing the use of Welsh* – and theme 3 – *creating favourable conditions*.

A new NPA will contribute to the aims and objectives of *Cymraeg 2050*, through its core work as a public authority in Wales, promoting the use of Welsh, Welsh culture and heritage, the employment of Welsh speakers, providing opportunities for staff to develop their Welsh language skills, use Welsh in the workplace, and provide services in Welsh to the public, customers, stakeholders and staff.

The Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 makes standards specifically applicable to NPAs in Wales as a category of bodies. The Welsh Language Commissioner therefore has powers to impose standards from within those Regulations on any NPA in Wales and could commence the process of issuing a compliance notice to a new National Park once it is established. It is likely that the new NPA will therefore join the other NPAs¹⁸⁷ in Wales and become subject to Standards. Promotion Standards are applicable to NPAs which include a duty to adopt a 5-year Strategy that sets out how the Authority proposes to promote the Welsh language and to facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely in the National Park.

During a public consultation¹⁸⁸, 749 (49%) responded to in favour of using *Parc Cenedlaethol - Glyndŵr* – as the National Park name. A Welsh only name will support the Authority in having a Welsh identity from the start. The Park may also be under statutory duties through service delivery standards to have a Welsh corporate identity. As the first National Park conceived in Wales primarily for the benefit of Welsh communities, this provides a strong foundation for embedding Welsh language and culture within the Authority's day-to-day work and governance.

2. Describe and explain the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language and explain how you will address these impacts in order to improve outcomes for the Welsh language. How will the proposal affect Welsh speakers of all ages (both positive and/or adverse effects)? You should note your responses to the

¹⁸⁷ [snowdonia-national-park-authority.pdf](#) and [pembrokeshire-coast-national-park-authority.pdf](#) and [20170211 Hysbysiad Cydymffurfio44 Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog_en_](#)

¹⁸⁸ [Wales's New National Park Proposal - Public Consultation 2024 - NRW Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#)

following in your answer to this question, along with any other relevant information:

In the 2024 consultation, 144 (12.8%) respondents felt the designation of a National Park would have a positive effect on the Welsh language, through increased promotion of the language and culture to a wider audience. Welsh speaking public facing staff, employed by the NPA and tourism industry within the boundary area, would be encouraged to speak more Welsh e.g. *‘Positive effects increased by exposing more people to Welsh language and culture.’*

However, 201 (17.9%) respondents felt there would be a negative effect on the Welsh language. Respondents believe the designation would not help the use of the language, due to the proposed boundary’s closeness to the English border and large English cities. They feel the predominant language used would be English, leading to less use of the Welsh language. Visitors would also not appreciate the importance of the language to Welsh culture and heritage.

Census data shows that the Welsh language is in decline across Wales. The designation of a new National Park would provide new opportunities to protect the Welsh language in the area. Those visiting the area would be exposed to the language and elements of Welsh culture, through Welsh language signage and information, in discussion with Transport Division, Visit Wales and Local Authorities. This supports retaining the use of Welsh names to ensure that they are not lost:

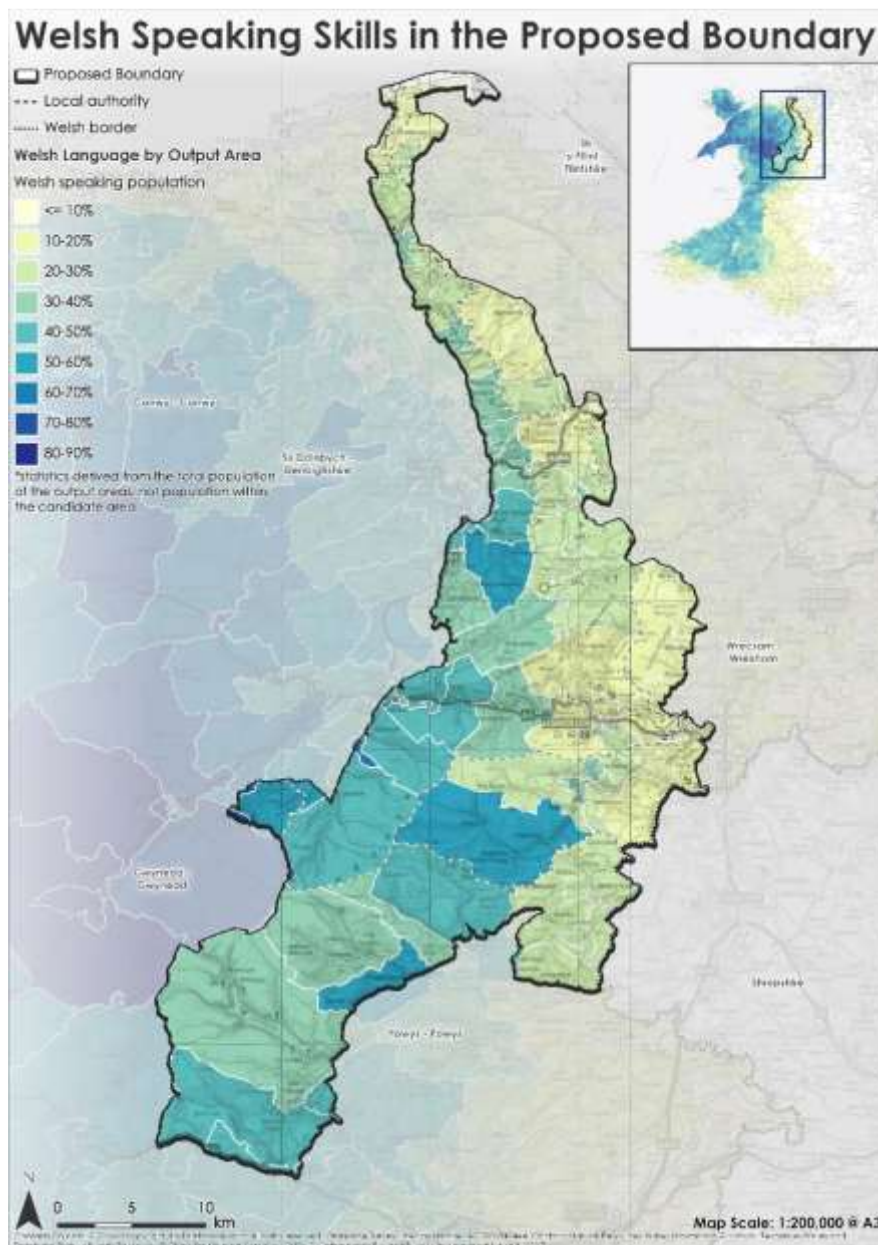
Ensuring the use of Welsh place names provides an opportunity to engage and explain their meaning. The development of visitor attractions would further enhance the visibility of the language, with visitors being provided with the opportunity to learn basic Welsh words and phrases. This adds value in terms of culture and heritage, helping people understand the meanings of place names, how to pronounce them, and preventing unofficial names from displacing Welsh names.

Local Welsh speakers would have the chance to promote and celebrate their language and heritage with others. They would also have recruitment prospects through the requirement of a new NPA to have Welsh speaking roles and provide training opportunities. The proposal could therefore increase the number of Welsh speakers and learners in the area. The Authority will operate bilingually and during its establishment will consider if Welsh should be the administrative language of the Authority, like Eryri NPA.

The NPA, as a new organisation and employer, has the potential to have a positive impact on the use and promotion of the Welsh language within its boundary, due to its purpose, roles and responsibilities as an organisation. Through implementation of its legislative policies and strategies (which would be required to be in place) this would support and promote the use of the Welsh language positively.

The designation itself would have no direct impact on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

How will the proposal affect the sustainability of Welsh speaking communities¹⁸⁹ (both positive and/or adverse effects)?



The proposed boundary map shows there are several communities where over 50% of the population are Welsh speakers, and the language is used as a community language. The highest density of Welsh speakers are the traditional farming and rural communities within the proposed boundary. The designation of a National Park provides opportunities for

¹⁸⁹ These can be close-knit rural communities, dispersed social networks in urban settings, and in virtual communities reaching across geographical spaces [footnote from IIA not a reference]

diversification to accommodate the tourism industry which could provide an opportunity to support the socio-economic infrastructure of Welsh-speaking communities. A new NPA would also support opportunities for increased use of the language in communities below <50% Welsh Speakers, such as participation in bilingual or Welsh-learners/speakers' events. Examples from other National Parks in Wales include Tir a Mor community festival in Pembrokeshire Coast National Park with a strong Welsh language visibility¹⁹⁰ or the Dark Night Skies Festival in Bannau Brycheiniog combining astronomy, culture and learning, delivered bilingually and often incorporating Welsh mythology and language alongside science.¹⁹¹

A NPA must have regard to guidance issued by the WMs under the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 on how certain bodies, including NPAs in Wales may contribute to the compilation of historic environment records and assist in maintaining them, and using these records in exercising their functions. This work will help to ensure that Historic Welsh Place Names continue to be used verbally and on record for future generations. Activity to safeguard historic landscape names is being led by the NPAs in Wales, including Eryri NPA, which has worked with the Welsh Language Commissioner, Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments and Cardiff University to standardise, record and raise awareness of placenames. This focus supports continued use, sense of place, raises awareness, and also helps to maintain connections between communities and place.

The Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities published their report 'Empowering Communities, strengthening the Welsh language' in August 2024. The report included 57 recommendations for Welsh Government and other public organisations. The core recommendations of the report were the need to designate areas of high-density linguistic significance. The Commission recommended a threshold of 40% (based on the 2021 Census data). This would mean that a large proportion of the area of Parc Cenedlaethol Glyndwr could fall into this designation. Therefore, full consideration of the Commission's report will be undertaken to ensure the long term sustainability of the language within the NPA's area. In addition, a Town and Planning report was published by the Commission in February 2025, which proposes major reform of planning policy and guidance in relation to the Welsh language. It is again appropriate that full consideration of the report and its finding is undertaken at the outset of establishing the new authority.

In the 2024 consultation, 118 (10.5%) responses considered the designation would have an impact on the language and on the local community and economy, or changes within it (with both positive and negative effects viewed).

Positively, it was felt that with the designation, there would be more pride in the area for generations to come. It may also provide jobs for younger people, helping them to stay in

¹⁹⁰ [Tir a Mor - Festival of Land and Sea | Visit Pembrokeshire](#)

¹⁹¹ [Dark Sky Festival 2025 in Bannau Brycheiniog](#)

Wales and their local area. This would aid the sustainability of Welsh speaking communities.

172 (15.3%) respondents believed designation would have a negative effect on the Welsh language due to changes in housing availability, costs and uses. Concerns raised suggested there could be an increase in housing stock being purchased for short term letting accommodation or second home use by people from outside the area. This would decrease the availability of housing stock for local people and increase house prices. It would lead to difficulties for local people to being able to afford to purchase a home in their communities and thus affect the long term sustainability of Welsh speaking communities. It could potentially see Welsh speakers especially young people leaving the area, which was raised as a concern during NRW's engagement and consultation events¹⁹². This impact could be addressed by the NPA (in its role as a Planning Authority) introducing an Article 4 Direction to consider local housing support and imposing planning restrictions on second homes; the establishment of short term holiday lets and applications to change existing homes into businesses.

Some concerns were raised that visitors will be English speaking, so services and signage would be English, rather than the focus being on the use of Welsh signage and place names. A new NPA would contribute to the aims and objectives of Cymraeg 2050, as well as being subject to the Welsh Language Standards. Thus, addressing the concerns raised.

One of the statutory purposes underpinning the creation of a new National Park is to conserve and enhance the area's natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. Doing this will indirectly benefit the **sustainability of Welsh speaking communities**. Environmental restoration will increase in the area. The ecosystem services provided by a healthier environment will positively impact the local communities. These benefits can include better well-being, cleaner waters, improved soil health and increased pollinators, which will indirectly benefit the Welsh language through improved quality of life.

A new NPA as an employer is potentially likely to appeal to a wide range of people. A number of these roles are public facing roles which would include a requirement for Welsh language skills. A new NPA is likely to provide good employment, as well as career progression opportunities. It may also help to lessen the out-migration of young people and those with Welsh language skills from their local communities.

How will the proposal affect Welsh medium education and Welsh learners of all ages, including adults (both positive and/or adverse effects)?

121 (10.8%) responded that the designation would affect the language due to Welsh language education. It should be noted that this view reflects the representations made by

¹⁹² [Wales's New National Park Proposal - NRW Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#)

respondents to the consultation, however it is not considered to be an accurate reflection of the effects of designation on Welsh language education.

It is possible that parents and in particular those developing their language skills living and working in the area (such as through the employment opportunities offered by the new Authority), may want their children to receive a Welsh medium education helping to sustaining those communities and the language for the future.

Standards within the Welsh Language Standards (no 1) 2015 regulations include a duty to assess all new or vacant roles within the Authority on the need for Welsh language skills. This will provide opportunities for those with Welsh language skills to secure roles within the Authority and opportunities for others to develop these skills whilst in their roles.

The Authority could be under duties under standards to have an internal language policy explaining how it will provide opportunities for staff to use their Welsh language skills within the workplace. As a new public organisation, the Authority has the potential to develop itself as a bilingual workplace in its ways of working from the start.

How will the proposal affect services¹⁹³ available in Welsh (both positive and/or adverse effects)? (e.g. health and social services, transport, housing, digital, youth, infrastructure, environment, local government etc.)

Under the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011, Welsh Language Standards will be imposed on the Authority by the Welsh Language Commissioner. This will ensure that any services provided by the Authority will be delivered in line with the requirements of the Standards. Additionally, any third parties delivering services on behalf of the Authority by means of an arrangement will need to deliver those services in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards imposed on the Authority¹⁹⁴. The requirements under the Standards are also likely to include a policy on using Welsh internally within the organisation for the purpose of promoting, facilitating and strengthening the use of the language both internally and externally. The policy would be required to be published on the Authority's website, explaining what services they would provide to the public and their own staff in Welsh and how.

The Standards will likely also require the Authority to develop a Welsh Language Promotion Strategy¹⁹⁵ setting out how it proposes to promote the Welsh language and facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely in its area, on its website, potentially including:

¹⁹³ The Welsh Language Strategy aims to increase the range of services offered to Welsh speakers, and to see an increase in use of Welsh-language services. [footnote from IIA]

¹⁹⁴ Section 1.(5)(a) and (b) of The Welsh Language Standards (no 1) Regulations 2015 [The Welsh Language Standards \(No. 1\) Regulations 2015](#)

¹⁹⁵ [20181031-gc-standards-relating-to-promoting-the-welsh-language-s-final.pdf](#)

- A target to increase (or at least maintain) the percentage of Welsh speakers in its area,
- A strategy explaining how it intends to meet this target,
- After five years, assess progress (covering current speaker numbers, age profiles, and promotional activities) and publish the findings.

The Environment Act 1995 would require the NPA to prepare a National Park Management Plan for the National Park. The plan would include how the Authority would look after the countryside, conservation and wildlife, culture and heritage and any other special qualities within the park boundary. Welsh language considerations would be considered as part of developing the plan as a cross cutting theme well as the requirements of the Policy Making Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

The Authority would have a statutory obligation to develop a Local Development Plan (LDP) setting out a land use planning framework for the National Park and provide a foundation to determine planning applications within the park boundary. The plan when being developed would need to consider local strategies, issues and objectives and consider how the plan would likely impact on the use of the Welsh language and sustainability of communities. The plan would bring consistency to developments within the park boundary which currently falls to the 5 local authorities within the proposed park boundary. Currently, they each have their own LDP and different priorities and objectives in relation to protecting the Welsh language, heritage and culture, and protecting Welsh-speaking communities from further decline. The new authority will build and incorporate the best practices of the existing LDPs currently operating within the area. Drawing on the values and methodologies of the sustainability appraisals of relevant planning authorities with high number of higher density Welsh-speaking areas (i.e. Cyngor Gwynedd and Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri).

The Welsh language will be integral to the work of the National Park from the outset. Its establishment will raise awareness of the language and culture to a wider audience than present and help to preserve them for future generations. It will ensure that the sustainability of the Welsh language as a living community language is supported as a core ambition of the new authority. Thus, fully embracing the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act aims of providing the right conditions for the Welsh language to thrive.

How will you ensure that people know about services that are available in Welsh and are able to access and use them as easily as they can in English? What evidence / data have you used to inform your assessment, including evidence from Welsh speakers or Welsh language interest groups?

The Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 include a duty which requires a body to promote any Welsh language services it provides and advertise that service in

Welsh¹⁹⁶. This of course would be dependent on the Welsh Language Standards the Commissioner imposes on the Authority.

What other evidence would help you to conduct a better assessment?

Utilising the evidence of existing NPAs and NRW has helped to complete the assessment. We are content that the evidence reflects a comprehensive scope of views.

Acting on behalf of WG, NRW held an early engagement period in 2023 which was designed to share the study area, listen to views and collect information about local issues. The engagement period was publicised through the project's webpage and media. 966 questionnaire responses were received and a summary report produced¹⁹⁷. A public consultation was held in 2024.

How will you know if your policy is a success?

A new NPA would be required to produce and publish a corporate plan and an annual report. These are ways which the Authority can be scrutinised and held to account.

NPAs must have a governance structure in place which as specified in Schedule 7 Environment Act 1995. Specific governance arrangements for a new NPA will be set out in the relevant Establishment Order. National Parks are governed by members, made up of local authority members and members appointed by the WMs, to ensure accountability. The current NPAs have a split of two thirds local authority members and one third of members appointed by WMs so all operations are accountable.

¹⁹⁶ Standard 81 and 82 The Welsh Language Standards (no 1) Regulations 2015 [The Welsh Language Standards \(No. 1\) Regulations 2015](#)

¹⁹⁷ [wales---s-new-national-park-proposal---2023-engagement-period-report---natural-resources-wales.pdf](#)

Annex F Biodiversity Impact Assessment

Policy Proposals

The Integrated Impact Assessment considers the range of impacts in relation to the delivery of the Programme for Government (PfG) commitment to 'Designate a new National Park to cover the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.' This includes the establishment of a new NPA following the legal designation and creation of a new National Park.

National Parks in Wales are designated by NRW subject to confirmation by WMs. National Parks are created for two statutory purposes:

- conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the areas within National Parks;
- promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public.

Designating a new National Park and establishing a new NPA to govern and manage the new National Park occurs in two phases:

Phase 1

The assessment of certain criteria, including an area's natural beauty and open-air recreation opportunities, is undertaken by NRW which results in an area being identified that meets the statutory tests under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (the 1949 Act) to be designated as a National Park. Following the statutory consultation process and NRW Board decision, it is likely that a Designation Order and map will be submitted to the WMs. The WMs will then consider the designation order submitted by NRW alongside the criteria set out in the 1949 Act, together with any objections and representations. It may be necessary to hold a public local inquiry as part of this process. If a decision is taken to confirm the designation order, a new National Park will come into existence.

Phase 2

If confirmed by WMs the identified area will become a National Park. The intention is that an establishment order be made in connection with the designation of the new National Park, establishing an NPA. As a special purpose local authority, the new NPA will have functions relating to the purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park and of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those Parks by the public. It will be responsible for certain local authority functions including development management and policy, production of a National Park management plan, governance arrangements, and delivery of policy through various direct and indirect land management mechanisms.

The initial phase is unlikely to have immediate on the ground opportunities for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, however it does indicate that this area requires special

consideration in planning and decision-making. The second phase with the mobilisation of the new NPA has potential to contribute more directly, at a practical level, to achieving our biodiversity ambitions, increase the profile of biodiversity and integration into decision making.

The new National Park is designated for reasons including its natural beauty, recreational and landscape value. Although is a not a conservation designation such as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with a sole purpose for nature conservation. National Parks in Wales are recognised by IUCN as Category V Protected Areas¹⁹⁸ (living, working landscapes). On this basis some parts of the new National Park will also count towards Wales 30 by 30 Target, although not all areas will qualify.

The three existing NPAs in Wales provide a template of how we would expect a new Glyndŵr NPA in Wales to lead, plan, manage and deliver national priorities in a local context. Existing NPA examples are therefore used throughout to illustrate how the new NPA is likely to operate and deliver.

Legislative Framework

The new NPA will be required to comply with existing environmental legislation and in some instances will have specific duties under that legislation. The suite of existing legislation relevant to National Parks in Wales includes:

- National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949
- Countryside Act 1968
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Environment Act 1995
- Environment Act (Wales) 2016
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill (assuming consent)

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFG Act) the new NPA must set out and publish objectives that are designed to maximise its contribution to

¹⁹⁸ IUCN Management Categories [IUCN-Protected-Areas-Categories-.pdf](#) Note Category II National Park is less appropriate for a UK National Park due to some of the area containing settlements and communities, and not containing large areas of natural ecosystems processes. Therefore, National Parks in UK and some parts of Europe are often Category V.

achieving each of the well-being goals. It must also take all reasonable steps (in exercising its functions) to meet those objectives. The goals include: 'A resilient Wales - A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).' A NPA for a National Park in Wales falls within the meaning of 'public body' in the 2015 Act, and the new NPA will therefore be subject to duties placed on a public body under the Act. Existing NPAs produce corporate plans framed around delivery of the Well-being Goals and develop their own well-being objectives. For example, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Corporate Plan's first Well-being Objective is:

'Conservation Well-being Objective – To deliver nature recovery and connectivity at scale, so nature is flourishing in the Park, contributing to the protection of 30% of our land and seas for nature by 2030.'

This illustrates the relevance of NPAs in relation to biodiversity considerations. It is expected that a new National Park would follow similar corporate planning principles, placing the WFG Act at the core of its work planning and focus for delivery.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The new NPA must comply with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (section 6) requirement that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, as far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.

Once established, the new NPA will need to prepare and publish a section 6 plan to set out how it will comply with section 6. This will involve setting out how it will embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes, and projects as well as day to day activities. Future section 6 plans will monitor and report on progress and delivery and the section 6 plan will be reviewed in light of the report. This approach may be embedded within the new National Park's Corporate Plan or as a related document. The new NPA, in addition to a section 6 report may also produce a Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) setting out how it will undertake the 6 objectives to maintain and enhance biodiversity.

Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill

The Bill establishes certain environmental principles and an environmental objective and amends the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to introduce a biodiversity target setting framework aimed at halting and reversing the decline in biodiversity in Wales. It places a duty on certain public authorities, including NPAs, to have regard to the environmental

principles when carrying out their functions and to integrate environmental protection when conducting environmental assessment (relating solely to Wales or any part of Wales) under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 or any corresponding provision replacing those Regulations.

The Bill sets out WMs intention to capture in regulations certain public authorities to report their contributions towards relevant target NPAs are expected to form part of the reporting framework on biodiversity targets.

As this Bill does not yet form part of the statute book, this can be revisited and updated where necessary if Phase 2 of this proposal is taken forward.

UK Legislation

There is a suite of England and Wales primary legislation that relates to National Parks and NPAs. Most notable is the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (NPAC 1949) which is the foundation piece for National Park designation. S114 of NPAC 1949 provides that references to the preservation or conservation of the ‘natural beauty’ of an area includes consideration of ‘its flora, fauna, and geological and physiographical features’. S11A of NPAC 1949 (added by s62 of the Environment Act 1995) places a duty on certain bodies and statutory undertakers to have regard to the purposes of National Parks when exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Park in Wales and also enshrines the ‘Sandford Principle’ (1A) which gives precedence to the first purpose of National Parks (conserving and enhancing natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage) where there is conflict between the purposes.

Policy Framework

National Natural Resources Policy (NRP)

The Welsh Government’s National Natural Resources Policy (required by Environment (Wales) Act 2016) sets out three National Priorities to help achieve Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR):

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

The NRP recognises that the benefits and services ecosystems landscapes provide to society include:

- Cultural services: such as recreation and associated health and well-being benefits; our historic environment and appreciation of our beautiful places, landscapes and nature

However, landscape management also plays a significant role in other services and systems. Working at a landscape-scale provides opportunities for collaboration to deliver connectivity and sustain habitats and species.

The current NRP also acknowledges the importance of National Parks as a critical component of Wales' tourism offer and the need to:

'...take full account of the major asset represented by Wales' natural environment and consider how to use its characteristics for growing tourism sustainably.'

The NRP forms part of the wider environmental framework considerations within which existing NPAs and the new NPA will operate.

State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) NRW

SoNaRR 2020 found that no ecosystems demonstrate resilience. The updated State of Natural Resources Report 2025 (SoNaRR 2025) identifies climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution as the most urgent and systemic environmental challenges facing Wales. These pressures are already affecting ecosystems, the economy and community resilience. The report concludes that Wales is not yet meeting the long-term objectives for the sustainable management of natural resources and highlights the need for future policy decisions to be firmly grounded in this evidence to protect natural systems and support community well-being.

If designated and established a new NPA would operate within the existing statutory framework, which is designed to conserve and enhance the area's natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage, and to promote opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the area's special qualities. Nature recovery and climate adaptation and mitigation, through delivery of the National Park statutory purposes, will be an important focus for the new National Park.

Section 66(7A)(a) of the Environment Act 1995 states that NPAs should have regard to the SoNaRR when publishing, adopting or reviewing their statutory National Park management plans. NPAs use evidence from the SoNaRR to identify and address systemic issues impacting their areas to inform National Park management plan actions.

Area Statements

NPAs are required by s66(7A)(b) of the Environment Act 1995 to have regard to relevant area statements published under section 11 Environment (Wales) Act 2016 when

publishing, adopting or reviewing their statutory National Park management plans. NPAs use evidence from Area Statements to understand trends, challenges, and opportunities to feed into their management and decision-making. NPAs have a track record of convening and leading partnerships to support a collective response to issues identified in Area Statements. As part of the section 6 duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its functions, an NPA must have regard to any Area Statements published for an area that includes all or part of the area in respect of which the NPA exercises its functions.

Nature Recovery Action Plans

The Nature Recovery Action Plan identifies six objectives that will contribute to reversing the decline of biodiversity in Wales, including tackling key pressures on species and habitats.

The existing Welsh NPAs produce Nature Recovery Action Plans (NRAPs)¹⁹⁹ to plan and guide the work of Local Nature Partnerships. These form a key component of their activity and support for wider partnership delivery on nature recovery action.

There are a range of opportunities for the new NPA to contribute to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity through existing statutory and non-statutory provisions including:

- the National Park statutory purpose to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage.
- the National Park statutory purpose to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.
- the statutory duty under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act on public authorities to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing to promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.
- NPA is the Local Planning Authority with statutory development management function, preparation, and delivery of the Local Development Plan.
- the statutory National Park Management Plan which will assess the current baseline state of the National Park, setting out the policies and actions to plan, guide and for the management of the National Park area working in partnership and focused on addressing nature recovery and climate change. This will include tackling issues such as catchment management, especially in the uplands, Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) policies²⁰⁰ / strategies and on the ground action and delivering nature based solutions.

¹⁹⁹ Examples NPA NRAP - [BBNPA-Nature-Recovery-A4-ENG-WEB.pdf](#) & [DRAFT_Eryri-Nature-Recovery-Action-Plan.pdf](#)

²⁰⁰ Pembrokeshire Coast National Park INNS Policy [NPA INNS Policy - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

- Production of a Nature Recovery Action Plan.
- Certain areas within the new National Park will count towards 30 by 30 targets.

30 by 30 Target and Biodiversity Deep Dive

The Biodiversity Deep Dive (BDD) has formed a key part of Wales' response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) global target known as 30 by 30, which is to protect and manage 30 per cent of our land, freshwaters, and seas by 2030. The 30 by 30 Framework for Wales²⁰¹ (2025) outlines an enhanced nature recovery role expected of Designated Landscapes (National Park and National Landscape/ AONB Authorities) as Category V Protected Areas²⁰².

National Parks and National Landscapes are an integral part of Welsh Governments Biodiversity Deep Dive (BDD), which recognised that they have 'a vital role to play in supporting nature's recovery.' The NPA and National Landscapes Local Authorities have been working collaboratively to take forward different work streams under the BDD Designated Landscapes Expert Group to address barriers, and evidence gaps to support ambitions to deliver more for nature recovery.

The BDD Recommendations 2022²⁰³ included a specific recommendation relating to the new National Park to:

- Ensure that the potential designation of a new National Park in northeast Wales affords opportunities for climate change mitigation and nature recovery as key delivery priorities for the new Park.

The BDD Designated Landscapes Expert Group have worked with the British Ecological Society on how Designated Landscapes can do more to contribute to 30by30. The latest report²⁰⁴ (October 2025) sets out why Designated Landscapes hold the key to nature recovery in Wales.

One key outcome of the BDD is that a Nature Recovery Manager shared role has been developed to work across the Designated Landscapes to advise, support and help deliver nature recovery activities. WG has also supported this work through the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places (SLSP) Capital Fund:

²⁰¹ [A 30by30 framework for Wales \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

²⁰² IUCN Protected Areas Categories. National Parks in Wales are classified by IUCN as Category V Protected Areas [IUCN-Protected-Areas-Categories-.pdf](#)

²⁰³ [Biodiversity deep dive: recommendations \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

²⁰⁴ <https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/content/why-designated-landscapes-hold-the-key-to-nature-recovery-in-wales/>

Promoting biodiversity and nature recovery – including projects that improve the connectivity and resilience of ecosystems in designated areas, making use of nature-based solutions to mitigate against the impacts of climate change.

Summaries of biodiversity and nature recovery projects funded by SLSP are available on the Tirweddau Cymru Landscapes Wales website²⁰⁵

National Parks have been key delivery partners for initiatives such as the National Peatlands Action Programme, Local Places for Nature, and the National Forest, which all contribute to tackling the nature emergency as well as the climate emergency which is a key driver of biodiversity loss.

Designated Landscapes provide a different but complementary opportunity as a vehicle for delivery on 30by30. Designated Landscapes are defined by the dynamic interaction between people, wildlife, and natural systems over time. They differ from protected sites, as lived-in, working landscapes which offer powerful opportunities to deliver nature recovery through inclusive, place-based approaches. Their strength lies in their ability to integrate ecological goals with cultural heritage, local knowledge, and socio-economic activity enabling collaborative governance, adaptive management, and deeper public engagement. This makes them particularly well suited to drive systemic, landscape-scale change that reflects the values and aspirations of the communities within them.

Embedding biodiversity

1. How will your proposal integrate biodiversity into decision making?

The proposal is to designate a new National Park and if after consideration this is agreed by WMs, will create a new NPA. NPAs deliver the National Park statutory purposes, one of which is to conserve and enhance natural beauty (which includes flora and fauna), wildlife and cultural heritage, therefore considerations regarding biodiversity are central to decision-making by NPAs as part of their legal duties.

Ministers, public bodies and certain statutory undertakers have a legal duty to have regard to the National Park purposes (s11A(2) NPAC 1949)) in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or to affect, land in a National Park in Wales.

The preparation and publication of a National Park management plan is a statutory requirement and has to be reviewed on a five-yearly basis. As part of the review process an NPA is legally required to have regard to the SoNaRR, Area Statements and the sustainable land management report published under section 6 of the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023. The management plan process is reflected in NRW's revised Management Plan

²⁰⁵ [Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places - Landscapes Wales](#)

Guidance (2024)²⁰⁶, which adheres to the IUCN Guidelines for Managing Category V Protected Areas. NRW's Management Plan Guidance are focused on how the Management Plan tool can help address the climate and nature emergencies. A cornerstone of the process is the State of National Park assessment which evaluates the ecosystems, habitats and species against existing baselines and previous State of National Park reports. This helps to identify issues and trends, which inform the policy objectives and actions in the management plan to address these issues. Decisions and advice on land management are informed by this detailed understanding of the biodiversity value to deliver actions on the ground.

NPAs will have new requirements under proposals contained in the Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill. Critically NPAs are also subject to and report on section 6 Environment (Wales) Act requirements which require the NPA, as a public authority, to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its functions and promote the resilience of ecosystems. As part of complying with the SECTION 6 duty an NPA must have regard to the section 7 lists of species and habitats of principle importance, the State of Natural Resources Report and any Area Statement that includes all or some of the National Park area and the sustainable land management report.

This legal basis, including requirements for the management plan, provide a cohesive framework within which biodiversity considerations are an integral part of the planning and decision-making processes within existing NPAs and it is expected that the new National Park will also reflect this position in line with recommendations set out in the Biodiversity Deep Dive Report 2018²⁰⁷.

2. Has your proposal ensured biodiversity is accounted for in business decisions?

As set out, a new National Park and NPA will have a range of statutory and non-statutory requirements in relation to biodiversity. It is also anticipated that parts of the new National Park will qualify to count towards 30by30 Targets for Wales.

Part of the rationale and Programme for Government Commitment to designate a new National Park was to support our collective response to adapting and mitigating to climate change, supporting nature recovery, and developing ecosystem resilience.

Part 1 of the designation process is undertaken by NRW as the designating authority. NRW has undertaken a range evidence gathering to inform the assessments for natural beauty and recreation. As part of the natural beauty assessment each Evaluation Area has been assessed for conservation value, using NRW's datasets and expertise. These assessments feed into an overall assessment of natural beauty for each Evaluation Area,

²⁰⁶ [Designated Landscape Management Plan Guidance NRW 2024](#)

²⁰⁷ [Biodiversity deep dive: recommendations \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

which is then assessed against the statutory tests which determine whether it meets the legal requirements. This evidence informs the decision-making process on which areas can be considered for National Park designation.

Part of these considerations involved commissioning a wide range of reports and evidence, and where relevant these considered biodiversity. This included a specific Benefits of Nature Report²⁰⁸, detailing how the new National Park will benefit nature and people. The report presents a strategic analysis of the benefits of nature, identifies opportunities to support its recovery, to support the overarching objective of developing resilient Biodiversity and Ecosystems. The report outlines the range of Red Data List species and under threat habitats in the proposed area which would benefit from the management and resources that a National Park designation could provide.

Therefore, throughout Part 1 of the designation process, due to statutory considerations required by the designation process itself and Biodiversity Deep Dive ambitions, biodiversity has been an integral part of decision-making for NRW and in Part 2 WMs need to consider the designation order that is submitted to them, in the context of the statutory tests, and form their own view on how a new National Park could respond to the nature and climate emergencies for nature and people of Wales.

As we move towards Part 2 of the process of potential establishment and mobilisation of a new NPA, we have set up an Internal Advisory Group, where Biodiversity colleagues will provide an important contribution to these formative stages of establishing a new NPA.

Biodiversity will also form a significant consideration as part of this IIA and other impact assessments, including RIA.

3. How does your proposal improve understanding and raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity, encouraging others to act?

If following due consideration of the proposal WMs decide to confirm the Designation Order, then in Part 2 of the process, a new NPA would be created with specific duties and opportunities relating to biodiversity delivery as outlined above. The new NPA can also undertake an environmental education role as part its second statutory purpose:

‘Promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public.’

The existing NPAs use engagement opportunities to:

- Provide opportunities for all to access and enjoy the countryside.
- Raise awareness of issues, inform and seek to influence behaviour.

²⁰⁸ Benefits of Nature Report, NRW 2025 [benfits-of-nature-report-2025.pdf](#)

- Support education visits to their areas through providing resource packs for teachers and wardens to guide students' fieldwork.
- Support learning through the newly launched National Curriculum through 'Tirlun,' outdoor learning portal resource for teachers²⁰⁹.
- Provide volunteering opportunities for communities and business to engage in outdoor activities and develop learning.
- Support surveys and data gathering to contribute to Citizen Science and LRCs.
- Provide Young Ranger Groups to develop confidence and understanding of outdoors.

Improving our evidence, understanding, and monitoring

- 4. Have you used the best available evidence of biodiversity to inform your proposal and this assessment?**

For Part 1 NRW have used the best available evidence to inform their work. There has also been extensive consultation with Local Authorities and the public. The public consultation identified the following relevant key themes:

1. Landscape conservation, recognition for the area, tranquillity.
2. Wildlife, agriculture and land management, environment and sustainability.
3. Tourism, public services, and infrastructure.
4. Necessity for change, management and controls, costs, funding, bureaucracy.

NRW have undertaken an extensive evidence gathering to inform the designation process. Most pertinent is the Benefits of Nature Report which has drawn on a wide range of datasets, and expertise from within NRW, the Local Authorities and e-NGOs. Through consultation the report benefited from input by a range of stakeholders and is framed within NRW's sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR) approach and deep understanding of the environmental context.

This has provided a unique insight into the significance of the proposed National Park area for biodiversity. Case studies are provided to illustrate existing work on nature recovery. The Benefits of Nature Report also identifies the potential benefits that a National Park designation could provide to support and deliver nature recovery.

- 5. Have you used up to date knowledge of the key impacts on biodiversity to make evidence-based decisions?**

²⁰⁹ [Home | Tirlun](#)

As outlined NRW has commissioned a wide range of evidence in order to inform and support evidence-based decision making. Assurance on the evidence has been provided through consultation and review by qualified specialists and the Evidence Advice Group. Scrutiny has been undertaken through NRW's governance processes by the Designated Landscapes Programme Board and NRW's Board.

6. Can your proposal contribute to our body of knowledge for biodiversity?

The proposal will contribute to the body of knowledge for biodiversity as the new National Park will provide an opportunity to focus on nature recovery. As part of this work and the National Park Management Plan process, a detailed state of the environment report for the area will be compiled. This will assess and bring together relevant evidence but may also commission additional survey and assessment to fill any data gaps.

Governance and support for delivery of biodiversity action

7. Can your proposal support biodiversity action in any way?

Phase 2 of the proposal will directly support management and delivery of biodiversity actions through the work of the NPA. Legal duties on the new NPA and the National Park statutory purposes facilitate action on biodiversity, alongside other interventions and mechanisms. Ways in which the establishment of a new National Park will support biodiversity include:

- Work relating to National Park statutory purposes of conserving and enhancing natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and promoting the understanding and enjoyment of the area.
- Management Plan delivery of identified actions on biodiversity.
- Delivery of planning policy function to protect important habitats and species, including national planning policy requirement that all developments deliver a net benefit to biodiversity (NBB) the principle that development should leave biodiversity and ecosystems in a better state than before, through long-term, measurable, and mainly on-site improvements.
- Using section 6 (of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016) planning and reporting to measure and drive action.
- Developing a Nature Recovery Action Plan, which we anticipate will be a priority for the new NPA.
- Collaborative working with other organisations for biodiversity outcomes.
- Access to funding streams including the National Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Connections £150m long-term projects and National Peatland Restoration Programme (NPAP).

- Private Finance – existing National Parks are already drawing down green finance working with BMW Recharge, Revere UK nature-based solutions²¹⁰

8. Can your proposal help to build capacity for biodiversity action?

As outlined National Parks play a significant role in delivering biodiversity action on the ground and there is a focus on the new National Park having a significant focus on nature recovery.

The new National Park will be subject to the same statutory requirements as the three existing National Parks to deliver its functions through an environmental lens.

In addition, the establishment of a NPA in Phase 2, will require a workforce to deliver the remit of the Park. NPAs normally employ around 100-150 staff, and a number of these roles are be focused on supporting conservation and nature recovery. In relation to a new NPA, these are likely to include the establishment of a ranger service, alongside key posts covering areas such as ecology, nature recovery, environmental land management and climate change and Heads of Service responsible for key work areas including nature conservation activities. This will provide an enhanced capacity compared to the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape Team of 15-20 people. A new National Park could also develop volunteering opportunities and enhanced Young Ranger Service to involve young people and local communities.

A new National Park would have access to funding streams to draw down additional resources for the area including for example Nature Networks, NHLF and NPAP funding. The core budget for a National Park of around £3-4m is considerably more than a National Landscape of around £70k-£1m. NPAs also convene, lead and support partnerships to access funding for collaborative working.

All of these elements help to build capacity for on the ground as regards biodiversity action and enabling others to deliver nature recovery.

9. Have you recorded decisions and actions to maintain and enhance biodiversity?

As outlined Phase 1 of the work has been undertaken by NRW, and specific consideration has been given to biodiversity within the assessments and evidence to inform the statutory tests and decision making.

As part of Phase 2 and the mobilisation of a new NPA, the NPA will take on the usual reporting requirements required.

²¹⁰ [Home - Revere](#)

If your proposal concerns construction or management of land and/or sea, please also consider Questions 10 – 16:

Safeguarding species and habitats of principal importance

10. Is all legislation complied with to ensure protection of marine and terrestrial species and habitats?

- ♦ Has any requirement for licences, monitoring and/or enforcement been considered and actioned?
- ♦ Has any requirement for EIA/SEA/HRA been identified and actioned?
- ♦ Have any impacts or opportunities for positive action for Section 7 species and habitats been identified and actioned?

These considerations will be more relevant to Phase 2 with the establishment of a new NPA. Advice has been sought, and it has been agreed that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) /Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) / Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulatory Assessment (HRA) are not required at this time.

11. Does the proposal seek first to maintain and enhance biodiversity?

These considerations will be more relevant to Phase 2 with the establishment of a new NPA. As outlined a new NPA has a role in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity across Wales through existing and proposed reporting frameworks and contributing to 30 by 30.

12. Increasing the resilience of our natural environment

These considerations will be more relevant to Phase 2 with the establishment of a new NPA. As outlined existing NPAs in Wales are working across all of these areas building and restoring resilient ecological networks (including using a resilient ecological networks RENS²¹¹ approach), connectivity, developing the evidence base, undertaking ecological surveys and monitoring, developing nature based solutions through developing plans and delivering programmes of work on the ground, enabling partners and providing advice, funding and evidence to support others.

13. Does your proposal contribute to the creation of new habitat?

These considerations will be more relevant to Phase 2 with the establishment of a new NPA. Based on the activities of existing NPAs it is expected that the new NPA will contribute to the creation of new habitat through for example Ffermio Bro, providing advice on the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS), development, and delivery of NRAPs and enhanced management for land it owns.

Tackling key pressures on species and habitats

14. Will the proposal have any negative impacts on habitats or species through:

²¹¹ Guide to Resilient Ecological Networks, NRW [NRW / Practitioners' guide to Resilient Ecological Networks](#)

It is unlikely that a new National Park will have negative impacts on habitats or species, and it has no regulatory powers relating to land use. It is expected that the work of a new NPA will have positive impacts in this respect. Existing NPAs have for example undertaken significant work on Dark Skies and tranquillity as part of conserving their special qualities which are often focused on these natural resources. Two of the existing National Parks are recognised as International Dark Sky Reserves. The Designated Landscapes collectively employ a Dark Skies Officer to promote opportunities to reduce light pollution for biodiversity and human benefits.

15. Has all legislation regarding the pressures on species and habitats been complied with?

These considerations will be relevant to Phase 2 with the establishment of a new NPA, which will be required to comply with all relevant legislation.

16. How will any negative impacts be mitigated?

Again, these considerations will be relevant to Phase 2 with the establishment of a new NPA and full consideration will be needed at this point. NRW's guidelines on the management plan process for NPAs requires a whole-system DPSIR (Driver, Pressure, State, Impact, Response) internationally recognised framework approach to identify current status, past trends, and future outlook.

Negative impacts could include:

Insufficient funding could mean that public expectations of a new National Park are not met. Mitigations include early budgetary planning and providing reassurance that the new NPA would require new investment.

Under existing Planning Policy Wales²¹² policies large scale renewable energy projects are unlikely to gain planning permission within the new National Park or its setting, although any future applications will be decided on a case by case basis. This could impact on carbon target delivery and the mitigation of climate change. However, these restrictions already apply to the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape and its setting, as well as the viewshed of the adjacent existing Eryri National Park. Consequently, the additional area that would fall under these policies is relatively limited, NRW's figures indicate an increase of only around 2.6% of Wales under such protections.

²¹² Planning Policy Wales Edition 12 6.3 Landscape [Planning Policy Wales - Edition 12](#)

Additional Biodiversity Impact Questions

This IA has also considered some further additional impacts as follows. Based on good practice from existing NPAs in Wales, a new NPA can contribute towards protecting biodiversity and delivering nature recovery through the following:

Procurement Management of buildings

The existing NPAs seek ways to minimise the impact of their buildings through for example retrofitting of insulation, renewable energy generation or using sustainable energy suppliers. Provision of electric charging points, opportunities to reduce the use of water and energy, protection of biodiversity such as bat roosts.

WG has provided a programme of funded capital works Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places (SLSP)²¹³ over a number of years to support:

- Accelerating decarbonisation – through the decarbonisation of activity and assets towards a net zero carbon goal.
- The operation of community-focused schemes to enable decarbonisation locally including installing appropriate renewable energy capture, and carbon sequestration schemes in the landscape.

NPAs consider opportunities to improve biodiversity and connectivity such as when contracting out management of green spaces around buildings, to ensure appropriate conditions are included so that they are managed to benefit biodiversity such as suitable planting, mowing and management regimes.

The potential for awareness raising and training.

Providing training for own staff and raising awareness of sustainable practice, including visitors to their sites and facilities. Working with land managers and tourism businesses to increase sustainable working practices. Provision of specialist biodiversity advice to land managers through Ffermio Bro targeted agri-environment scheme which is only available in National Parks and National Landscapes (AONBs).

NPA also have a statutory environmental education duty which they deliver through engaging with learners, communities, and businesses in formal and informal ways, these include guided walks, volunteering, hosting school visits and providing a learning portal with access for teaching resources.²¹⁴

The potential to support communities and partnerships, influencing others we fund e.g., consultants, contractors, grant schemes.

²¹³ [Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places - Landscapes Wales](#)

²¹⁴ [Home | Tirlun](#) – Learning Resources

Existing NPAs use sustainable procurement routes where possible within the existing Treasury and Public Finance regulations. NPAs receive core grants from WG as well as securing additional funding through National Heritage Lottery Fund, Nature Networks, private finance and other funds which depending on the funding aims will often directly benefit their local communities. WG provide capital grants Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places to existing NPAs to deliver nature recovery and carbon mitigation outcomes.

NPAs provide important delivery options for NPAP and Nature Networks funding and also work in partnership with e-NGO sector and community groups. Where possible NPAs use local contractors to undertake work, for instance maintaining vernacular walls, stiles, and fences. They provide volunteering opportunities for local communities such as wildlife surveys or INNS clearance.

Through direct or indirect land management:

The value biodiversity, and the ecosystems services that depend on it, provides in business decisions – e.g., the costs saved, and benefits gained by sustainable soil management.

These considerations will be relevant in Phase 2 with the establishment of a new NPA.

Consideration has been given to potential economic benefits relating to the new National Park by NRW. The Economic Impact Review²¹⁵ commissioned by NRW provides some qualitative analysis and suggests:

‘Environment – An NPA has the potential to attract additional funding for nature restoration initiatives to enhance biodiversity. The NPA could adopt natural flood management as an objective in its Management Plan.’

Existing NPAs have to exercise their functions for the National Park purposes, this includes conserving and enhancing wildlife. Where there appears to be a conflict between natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and recreation then precedence must be given to natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage considerations. This is known as the Sandford Principle²¹⁶.

Question number	Opportunities for positive action	Negative impacts of the proposal	Actions needed to maximise positive opportunities and prevent negative impacts

²¹⁵ PowerPoint Presentation

²¹⁶ 11A(2) National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

1. How will your proposal integrate biodiversity into decision making?	NPAs support the National Park purposes, which include to conserve and enhance natural beauty (which includes flora and fauna), wildlife and cultural heritage, therefore considerations regarding biodiversity are central to decision-making by NPAs as part of the exercise of their functions.	Proposal will require adequate funding to deliver full potential to support nature recovery ambitions set out in Biodiversity Deep Dive Recommendations.	Adequate funding and support for a new NPA in relation to the National Park purposes and legal duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and forthcoming environmental legislation.
2. Has your proposal ensured biodiversity is accounted for in business decisions?	Yes, full consideration of biodiversity has been a key driver for decisions and support for the new National Park. It is anticipated that parts of the new National Park will qualify to count towards 30by30 Targets for Wales.	Risks that funding is not available to deliver potential benefits.	Full RIA and cost benefit analysis will be undertaken to ensure full costs are available for potential future funding arrangements.
1. How does your proposal improve understanding and raise awareness of the importance of	In Part 2 of the process as the new NPA is mobilised that will have specific duties relating to biodiversity as outlined above. The new NPA would also	Risks that funding is not available to deliver potential benefits.	Full RIA and cost benefit analysis will be undertaken.

biodiversity, encouraging others to act?	have an environmental education role through the second National Park statutory purpose:		
4. Have you used the best available evidence of biodiversity to inform your proposal and this assessment?	Yes. NRW have undertaken extensive evidence gathering to inform the designation process and inform consideration by WMs for their decision.	As this is a new area not part of an existing administrative area, covering parts of five different counties it can be difficult to obtain data tailored to the area.	Bespoke data has been commissioned by NRW and WG from KAS.
5. Have you used up to date knowledge of the key impacts on biodiversity to make evidence-based decisions?	Yes. NRW as the statutory environmental adviser and WG have used the latest data and evidence.	New data continues to become available.	WG will review the IIA and update, as necessary.
6. Can your proposal contribute to our body of knowledge for biodiversity?	Yes, the new NPA will undertake extensive environmental monitoring and reporting to feed into LRCs, SoNaRR and other monitoring programmes.	A lack of standardised approach to 30x30 reporting and lack of national targets.	30x30 reporting is being addressed by WG & NRW and the proposed new environmental legislation would bring forward national targets.
7. Can your proposal support	Yes, this proposal will directly support biodiversity action	Lack of funding or expertise would	WG and NRW are working to address these through

biodiversity action in any way?	and that is one of the policy drivers.	reduce effective delivery.	implementation of WG Biodiversity Strategy. Consider whether policy or legislative change is required to enhance NPAs' delivery for nature recovery.
8. Can your proposal help to build capacity for biodiversity action?	Yes, the new NPA can led in building capacity for biodiversity action through delivery of its statutory purposes through land management mechanisms.	Lack of funding or expertise would reduce effective delivery.	WG and NRW are working to address these through implementation of WG Biodiversity Strategy. Consider whether policy or legislative change is required to enhance NPAs' delivery for nature recovery.
9. Have you recorded decisions and actions to maintain and enhance biodiversity?	Phase 1 work undertaken by NRW has given consideration to biodiversity. In Phase 2 considerations by WMs, decisions and actions will be recorded.	Decision not to designate a National Park would limit this opportunity.	Phase 2 with the establishment of a new NPA will need to address these issues.
10. Is all legislation complied with to ensure protection of marine	Yes, in Phase 2 a new NPA will comply with all relevant legislation.	Lack of funding may reduce effectiveness.	Use full RIA and OBC process to ensure considerations for adequate funding for NPA.

and terrestrial species and habitats?			
11. Does the proposal seek first to maintain and enhance biodiversity?	Yes, in Phase 2 a new NPA will be required to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage.	In Phase 2 there may be conflict with recreational pressure or socio-economic pressure.	When there is conflict the Sanford principle requires the first National Park purpose to be given precedence over recreation. With regard to other pressure, it will be for the NPA to come to a view. Consider whether policy or legislative change is required to enhance NPAs delivery for nature recovery.
12. Increasing the resilience of our natural environment	Yes, in Phase 2 a new NPA will be subject to the section 6 Environment (Wales) Act requirements regarding resilient ecosystems.	Lack of funding, data and expertise may reduce effectiveness.	WG and NRW are working to address these through implementation of WG Biodiversity Strategy. Consider whether policy or legislative change or any other mechanisms are needed to enhance NPAs delivery for nature recovery.
13. Does your proposal contribute	Yes, in Phase 2 a new NPA could support	Lack of funding, data or a bespoke agri-environment scheme could	WG has developed Ffermio Bro bespoke scheme on an interim basis which

to the creation of new habitat?	or develop new habitat.	hinder effective delivery.	could be extended or integrated into SFS.
14. Will the proposal have any negative impacts on habitats or species through: • change in land use? • causing air, Water, light, noise, or vibration pollution?	No, it is very unlikely as an environmental organisation that the new NPA will have negative impacts on habitats or species.	Lack of funding may reduce effectiveness.	Use full RIA and OBC process to ensure considerations for adequate funding for NPA.
15. Has all legislation regarding the pressures on species and habitats been complied with?	Yes, in Phase 2 a new NPA will comply with all legislative requirements.	Lack of funding or expertise by reduce effective delivery.	Use full RIA and OBC process to ensure considerations for adequate funding for NPA.
16. How will any negative impacts be mitigated?	It is very unlikely as an environmental organisation that the new NPA will have negative impacts on habitats or species	Lack of funding or expertise by reduce effective delivery.	Use full RIA and OBC process to ensure considerations for adequate funding for NPA. Implementation of WG Biodiversity Strategy and Deep Dive Recommendations. Consider whether policy or legislative change is required to support NPAs deliver Nature Recovery.

F. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY ASSESSMENT

What evidence has been considered to understand how the proposal contributes to inequalities of outcome experience as a result of socio-economic disadvantage?

The Equality Act 2010 requires certain public bodies, including NPAs in Wales, when making strategic decisions about how to exercise their functions, to have due regard to the desirability of exercising them in a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage.

NPAs are subject to the public sector duty regarding socio-economic inequalities and therefore the full impact will be further considered in Phase 2 as a new NPA is established.

Through carrying out their functions in pursuing the National Park purposes, NPAs have a duty to:

- **seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park and shall for that purpose co-operate with local authorities and public bodies whose functions include the promotion of economic or social development within the area of the National Park²¹⁷.**

NPAs are also subject to requirements under Section 5 Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015) to carry out sustainable development and act in a way that ensures today's needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own.

In applying the sustainable development principle, NPAs must have regard to the five ways of working set out in the Act: long-term thinking, prevention, integration, collaboration and involvement. This requires them to consider the long-term impacts of decisions, work to prevent problems from occurring or worsening, integrate objectives across well-being goals, collaborate with other bodies, and involve people with an interest in achieving well-being objectives. These duties shape how NPAs plan, make decisions and deliver their statutory purposes as public bodies in Wales.

Fuller consideration is given to these issues in the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), and other relevant Assessments such as Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA), Children's Rights and Rural Proofing. Further evidence such as NRW's

²¹⁷ 11A(1) NPAC 1949 [National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949](#)

commissioned Economic Review ARUP Report 2025²¹⁸ has been considered as part of the RIA and other relevant Impact Assessments.

What information has been gained through engagement with those effected by the proposal/decision and specifically those who suffer socio-economic disadvantage?

NRW as the designating authority has undertaken extensive consultation and engagement in the proposed new National Park. This included a six-week engagement period in 2023, followed by consultation periods in 2024 and 2025 which included in-person and on-line events at different time of the day to facilitate participation. These events and consultation were available to all, and consideration was given in timing and location to making them as accessible as possible. Full details are provided including Consultation Reports on NRW's website:

- NRW Public Engagement Report 2023 ²¹⁹
- NRW Consultation Report 2024²²⁰
- NRW Statutory Consultation Summary Analysis 2026 ²²¹
- NRW EqIA²²²
- NRW Economic Impact Report²²³
- Further consideration is given to these issues in the RIA, and EqIA.

Have protected characteristics been considered?

- Protected characteristics have been considered and fully assessed in the EqIA.

Have communities of interest and places interest been considered.

Consideration has been given to some aspects of these in the EqIA, Children's Rights and Rural Proofing. However further consideration may be relevant in Phase 2 of the project with the establishment of a new NPA.

What information has been considered regarding future trends?

NRW as the designating authority has given consideration to future trends as part of developing the evidence base. Their assessment of future trends draws on a comprehensive analysis of long-term environmental, socio-economic and land-use drivers identified in the 'Forces for Change' study²²⁴. This includes detailed examination of projected climate change impacts, such as increased flood risk, shifts in species distribution, and landscape-scale ecological pressures and their implications for the

²¹⁸ [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

²¹⁹ [wales---s-new-national-park-proposal---2023-engagement-period-report---n.pdf](#)

²²⁰ [wales-s-new-national-park-proposal---2024-public-consultation-report.pdf](#)

²²¹ [26-01-b01-a2-annex-2-proposed-glyndwr-national-park-analysis-summary.pdf](#)

²²² [nrw-equality-impact-assessment.pdf](#)

²²³ [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

²²⁴ [Forces for Change for North East Wales National Park Area of Search](#)

resilience of the proposed National Park area. The report also considers future trends in built development, including anticipated demand for housing and renewable energy infrastructure, alongside pressures associated with minerals, quarrying and waste management. Additionally, emerging trends in land management, agricultural diversification, forestry policy, and evolving expectations for ecosystem services were analysed to understand how the landscape may change over time. These forces for change were evaluated against the area's special qualities to understand long-term risks and opportunities for landscape, biodiversity, cultural heritage and community well-being.

The 'Management Options Report'²²⁵ further incorporates future trend evidence by using the identified forces for change as the basis for evaluating governance and management models suited to long-term environmental, social and economic pressures. It highlights how issues such as climate change, development pressures, land-use transition and community needs will require flexible, future-proofed management frameworks. Trends related to demographic change, rural economic transformation, tourism growth, and the increasing complexity of environmental policy are considered in assessing the capacity of different management models—including “business as usual,” regional park approaches, conservation boards, and National Park designation—to respond to long-term challenges. The report also emphasises the need to plan for future funding stability, statutory and non-statutory functions, the scale of influence required, and the importance of strategic forward planning to meet long-term environmental and well-being goals.

Together, the reports provide a robust evidence base by synthesising present drivers of change with projected future conditions. This ensures that designation and governance decisions for the proposed National Park reflect long-term environmental sustainability, community resilience and policy alignment, consistent with Wales' strategic commitments under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and wider national climate and nature recovery priorities.

What data has been considered (National and local)

See NRW's web pages for further details of datasets used [Proposed Glyndŵr National Park \(Designation\) Order - CLOSED Statutory Consultation 2025 - NRW Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#)

Provide a summary of evidence and links

The evidence base draws on a wide range of **national datasets and policy frameworks**, including the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act*, the *State of*

²²⁵ [Evaluation of management options](#)

Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR 2020), the *Natural Resources Policy*, national climate projections, and national demographic, land-use and a wide range of spatial datasets.

These sources provide information on long-term trends on climate change, biodiversity condition, natural resource pressures, development demand, and socio-economic change across Wales. The reports also incorporate national evidence on renewable energy capacity, agricultural policy reform, population change and visitor demand to ensure the assessment reflects wider strategic drivers.

At the local level, the reports use detailed spatial and contextual data from within the proposed Area of Search, including local landscape character assessments, ecological designations, heritage assets, land-management patterns, settlement patterns, infrastructure constraints, and community-identified issues gathered through NRW stakeholder engagement. Local information on access, tourism pressures, development proposals, land-use change, and community well-being indicators is also incorporated to understand specific pressures and opportunities unique to the region.

Together, these national and local datasets provide a robust, place-specific evidence base to inform both the assessment of forces for change and the evaluation of future management options.

See NRW's web pages for further details of datasets used [Proposed Glyndŵr National Park \(Designation\) Order - CLOSED Statutory Consultation 2025 - NRW Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#)

How could the proposal potentially further exacerbate inequality of outcome experienced as a result of socio-economic disadvantage?

Whilst there is the potential that the proposal for the Glyndŵr National Park could exacerbate inequality, that would be counterbalanced by opportunities to support more equitable outcomes by bringing long-term investment, enhanced landscape management, and improved access to nature for communities. Consultation feedback identified some significant concerns but also strong local aspirations for better management of tourism, improvements to public services, and greater recognition of the area's natural and cultural assets. Such changes could help diversify the rural economy and create opportunities to develop new skills, employment, and funding opportunities for local residents. NRW emphasises that a new National Park could "bring real benefits

for people, wildlife and the local economy,” helping ensure that the landscape’s value is more widely shared.

Through NRW’s consultations some risks and concerns were raised, including housing pressures, service capacity and changes to land management. The consultation materials also point to clear mitigation pathways. Targeted measures could include:

- Affordable housing policies that prioritise local need and prevent displacement, supported by strengthened planning controls.
- Sustainable tourism management, such as visitor dispersal strategies, infrastructure investment, and reinvestment of tourism revenue into community services potentially through Visitor Levy and other interventions.
- Support for land-based businesses, including transition funding, tailored agricultural schemes (such as opportunities through Ffermio Bro), and advisory services to ensure smaller farms can adapt without disproportionate financial burden.
- Inclusive governance structures, ensuring residents, farmers, and local businesses have a formal role in shaping decisions and sharing the benefits of designation.

NRW’s evidence reports show that many concerns, such as the impact on rural livelihoods, infrastructure strain, or visitor pressures, can be addressed through strong co-design, equitable investment, and proactive management plans. The statutory assessments (Equality, Economic, and Planning) provide further frameworks to identify and mitigate potential unequal impacts and further careful consideration will need to be given to these concerns in Phase 2 of this project. With these measures in place, the National Park designation could not only avoid exacerbating inequality but actively contribute to fairer economic and environmental outcomes for communities.

Please provide detail regarding inequalities of outcome likely to be impacted and those people and communities likely to be impacted

The Forces for Change and Management Options NRW reports indicate that several structural and place-based inequalities could be affected by National Park designation.

- **Housing and economic inequality:** Future pressures linked to land-use change, conservation requirements, and shifts in development patterns may intensify affordability challenges in areas where income levels are lower and housing options are already constrained. The reports highlight that planning restrictions and environmental sensitivities could influence local housing supply and economic opportunities, which could impact on lower-income households.

- **Inequalities linked to land-based livelihoods:** Farmers and small rural businesses may face unequal impacts due to wider changes in agricultural policy, environmental management expectations, and regulatory compliance.
- **Access to services and mobility:** Structural limitations in rural transport, digital connectivity, and public service provision were identified as ongoing regional constraints.

Many of these reflect wider rural issues, existing pressures on services and global uncertainty including climate change. A new NPA would need to give careful consideration to these and what support it could provide in helping to address relevant issues.

Provide a summary of evidence and links

- Forces for Change NRW Report
- Management Options NRW Report
- EqIA

How could the decision potentially improve outcomes for those who experience socio-economic disadvantage?

Please provide detail regarding outcomes that will be improved and for who.

Designation as a National Park has the potential to strengthen long-term outcomes for disadvantaged rural communities by directing coordinated investment, improving environmental resilience, and enhancing access to economic opportunities. The Forces for Change report highlights that many communities within the proposed area face challenges linked to climate vulnerability, limited public services, and constrained economic options. A National Park governance model, evaluated in the Management Options Report, offers stronger statutory planning, more strategic resource allocation, and long-term landscape management, which can help address these structural inequalities.

Outcomes that could be improved

- Improved economic opportunities for land-based workers

Farmers, tenant farmers, and small rural enterprises could benefit from opportunities for sustainable diversification, and enhanced access to environmental funding such as Ffermio Bro. The reports highlight that climate-aligned land-use change, if well-supported, can strengthen resilience and generate new income pathways.

- Enhanced green infrastructure and climate resilience for isolated rural communities

Upland and valley settlements can be vulnerable to flooding, erosion, and habitat decline. A new NPA would seek to improve natural flood management, habitat restoration, reducing environmental risk and improving overall well-being. These improvements benefit communities within the area.

- Greater access to sustainable economic opportunities

Strengthened management and investment in recreation, nature recovery, and landscape-scale projects can support local employment and training opportunities, particularly in conservation, tourism, land restoration, and heritage management. These are areas identified as future growth sectors in the evidence base.

Overall, the reports indicate that a well-designed National Park could improve outcomes for disadvantaged groups by increasing economic resilience, reducing environmental risk, and expanding access to high-quality natural and cultural assets—provided that implementation is inclusive and supported by targeted investment.

Provide a summary of evidence and links

- Forces for Change NRW Report
- Management Options NRW Report
- EQiA

How will you monitor the impact of this decision? (Please consider wider outcomes)

Further consideration will be given this in Phase 2, if WMs decided to proceed to designation and a new NPA is created.

Does new monitoring information need to be collected? If so, what?

As above detailed consideration will be needed in Phase 2.

Provide a summary of evidence and links

How a New Welsh National Park Can Support a Just Transition to Net Zero

In Phase 2 a new NPA, like the existing NPAs, would support WG carbon-reduction and climate-adaptation goals. The National Parks Wales Climate Change Position Statement acknowledges that NPAs “have critical responsibilities to help the Welsh Assembly Government achieve their carbon reduction targets” and must deepen their climate-related work across all functions. However, to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape, existing Planning Policy Wales sets out a presumption against large-scale renewable energy developments and, in some cases, transmission infrastructure. National Park Authorities must adopt creative and innovative approaches to support climate-change mitigation and contribute to national emissions-reduction targets through alternative means which include the following:

- **Contributing to National Emissions Reduction and Climate Adaptation**

NPAs are expected to support WG carbon-reduction and climate-adaptation goals. The National Parks Wales Climate Change Position Statement confirms that NPAs “have critical responsibilities to help the Welsh Assembly Government achieve their carbon reduction targets” and must deepen their climate-related work across all functions.

- **Leading Low-Carbon Land Management and Nature Recovery**

NPAs work with land managers to support a move to a more sustainable land management practices through a variety of interventions including Ffermio Bro, training, funding and advice. NPAs use planning and conservation duties to reduce emissions, restore ecosystems and build resilience which are key parts of the national Net Zero pathway and essential to a fair transition that tackles both the climate and nature crises.

- **Embedding Fairness, Social Partnership and Community Engagement**

The Welsh Government’s Just Transition Framework emphasises that the move to Net Zero must distribute costs and benefits fairly across society and involve communities in shaping decisions. NPAs must apply this through participatory governance, community involvement in planning, and delivering benefits locally, especially in rural areas.

- **Supporting Place-Based Economic Transition and Green Jobs**

NPAs contribute to local low-carbon economies through supporting rural skills, innovation (through experimental powers and supporting projects through for example the Sustainable Development Fund and Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places funding which is targeted at decarbonisation projects²²⁶) employment, sustainable tourism and nature-based projects. Just Transition evidence stresses that new green jobs must be accessible and reduce inequalities—an area where NPAs can use their roles as major land managers and planning authorities.

²²⁶ [Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places - Landscapes Wales](#)

- **Reducing Inequalities and Protecting Vulnerable Communities**

The Just Transition Framework notes that climate impacts and decarbonisation can affect communities unevenly. NPAs, with duties to support local communities' well-being, must ensure climate action does not disadvantage rural and low-income groups and instead provide fair access to benefits such as nature-based solutions, green skills, and resilience projects.

- **Demonstrating Public Sector Climate Leadership**

Existing NPAs have significantly reduced their own operational emissions and committed to national climate targets including Net Zero and Race to Zero²²⁷. This leadership role aligns with WG expectations that public bodies model Net Zero behaviour and embed climate considerations in all decisions.

In Summary NPAs in Wales are expected to:

- Help deliver WG Net Zero targets through reductions operational emissions, planning, and supporting sustainable land management.
- Support climate adaptation and ecosystem recovery at landscape scale, including testing and delivering nature based solutions.
- Involve communities in a fair, inclusive transition.
- Create and support green jobs, skills and a low-carbon rural economy.
- Ensure that vulnerable and remote communities benefit often through community-led local energy schemes.
- Demonstrate leadership as public bodies aligned with national climate policy.

²²⁷ [Race To Zero - National Parks](#)