

Sustainability Appraisal

Brecon Beacons National Park Draft Management Plan 2021

National Park Authority 24 September 2021

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report identifies the process and outcomes of the sustainability appraisal of the draft National Park Management Plan (“the Plan”). This report also acts as the statutory ‘Environmental Report’, required under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (as amended). It also provides the assessment of the Plan’s contribution to Wellbeing, the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR), and the Welsh Language.
- 1.2 The assessment draws on the Habitats Regulations Assessment which has considered the potential for the Plan to impact on the features of Special Areas of Conservation within the National Park or within 15km of its boundary.
- 1.3 The Habitats Regulations Assessment found there are no likely significant effects on National Sites Network as a result of the Plan; the policies of which are drafted as statements of aspirational statements without the level of detail which would enable any meaningful detailed assessment.
- 1.4 The assessment concludes likely significant positive effects across each of the assessment topics although the magnitude of these effects and avoiding adverse effects depends on the design of projects and programmes that implement the Plan.
- 1.5 Whilst the positive likely significant effects identified for different environmental topics and assessment themes are not comparable, they may broadly be summarised as follows:

Topic	Positive likely significant effects
(a)biodiversity:	Increased abundance and diversity supported by resilient ecological networks.
(b)population:	Health and well-being benefits from access to and interpretation of the landscape. Economic benefits derived from ecosystem services.
(c)human health;	Physical and mental health benefits from landscape-based recreational activity and volunteering opportunities.
(d)fauna;	Increased abundance and diversity supported by resilient ecological networks.
(e)flora;	Increased abundance and diversity supported by resilient ecological networks.
(f)soil;	Peatland restoration and footpath works tackling upland erosion.
(g)water;	Water quality improved and run-off slowed through peatland restoration and woodland expansion.
(h)air;	Improved by promoting active travel and woodland expansion.
(i)climatic factors;	Mitigated through carbon budget, sequestration (peatland restoration and woodland expansion), minimised by promoting active travel and adaption through resilient ecological networks.
(j)material assets;	Enhancing the Public Rights of Way network, historic environment and resilient communities.
(k)cultural heritage, including architectural	Understanding, safeguarding and improving condition and protection of the historic environment.

and archaeological heritage;	
(l)landscape;	Overall condition enhanced.
(m)the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l):	Maintaining the special qualities of the National Park and providing opportunities for people to enjoy them through peaceful recreation.

Table 1. Positive likely significant effects by assessment topic.

- I.6 Whilst no likely significant adverse effects have been identified, potentially for negative impacts have been identified from policies supporting sustainable tourism and managing it in busy places, and from policies supporting local food economies and payments for ecosystems services. These matters are likely to be mitigated / offset by working through thematic and spatial partnerships; strong project development and management processes and detailed assessments, Habitats Regulations Assessments, Environmental Impact Assessments and others as necessary.
- I.7 To help understand the ‘just and safe space’ within which the National Park can continue to provide nationally significant recreational benefits, a ‘National Park Doughnut’ has been developed. The doughnut is yet to be fully integrated within the sustainability appraisal methodology; however, this is an aspiration in the near term. The doughnut will help focus research and environmental monitoring and will, in the future, replace and act as the State of the Park Report.

2. Context for the planning process.

The environmental protection objectives, established at International, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.

- 2.1 As the most important policy document for the Brecon Beacons National Park, the Plan is to be shared by all relevant authorities¹ whose actions and decisions affect the National Park.
- 2.2 The Plan also provides broad direction for people, communities, charities and businesses with an interest in the National Park and who want to contribute to its success as a nationally important ‘factory of well-being’.
- 2.3 Delivering the purposes towards which management should aspire is a shared task which needs to be undertaken in partnership. The purposes are —
- (a) of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Brecon Beacons National Park; and,
 - (b) of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Brecon Beacons National Park by the public.
- 2.4 In large part, implementation of the Plan necessarily relies on other relevant authorities having regard to these purposes and working constructively with the National Park Authority and other stakeholders.
- 2.5 Where there is unreconcilable conflict between the purposes, the former prevails. This is known as the ‘Sandford principle’ and is important to the Brecon Beacons National Park’s continued recognition as a Category V Protected Area by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- 2.6 Appendix I outlines the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the National Park Management Plan. The climate and biodiversity emergencies mean these objectives are being updated a-pace.
- 2.7 Of key importance to shaping the Plan are:

The Brecon Beacons National Park Designation Order (1957), as amended. The notice accompanying this order identifies the purpose of the designation is **“to preserve the natural beauty of the area and to promote its enjoyment by the public”**.

The Environment Act (1995) amended Part II of the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949, the provisions of which have effect **“of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the areas specified in the next following subsection; and of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public.”**

Note: In pursuing these purposes, the National Park Authority is also under a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park, and

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25/section/62>

it shall 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.

The **National Well-being Goals** focus Wales' contribution to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. The UK's progress towards meeting these was presented in the Voluntary National Review to the UN High-Level Political Forum in July 2019², to which the Welsh Government prepared a supplementary report³ linking the National Well-being Indicators with the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Setting expectations with regards to contribution of the National Park towards meeting the National Well-being Goals (of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015), along with its Annual remit letter to each National Park Authority: **Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (2018)** sets out the Welsh Government's priorities for National Park Authorities. Importantly, this states it is the Welsh Government's intention to place the National Park Authorities under the duty to pursue the **Sustainable Management of Natural Resources** at the earliest legislative opportunity.

As the Plan also acts as the National Parks Authority's Well-being Plan, of significance is the report of the Future Generations Commissioner: **The Future Generations Report 2020: Let's create the future together.**⁴

Natural Resources Wales' **Area Statements**, which have been published to set out place-based priorities for implementing the Welsh Government's **Natural Resources Policy**. Each are informed by **State of Natural Resources Report (2020)** which sets out the 4 aims of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.

- 2.8 Formal guidance on plan preparation is provided by Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales) / Welsh Assembly Government (now Welsh Government) National Park Management Plans Guidance (2007).
- 2.9 Party to statement of compliance made to the IUCN, the Brecon Beacons National Park is recognised globally as a 'Category V Protected Area' for which the World Commission for Protected Areas has published best practice management guidelines on "*Processes and plans*".
- 2.10 The Plan must also complement the management plans of other designations including the Brecon Beacons International Dark Skies Reserve, Fforest Fawr Geopark and Blaenavon World Heritage Site (both UNESCO).

²https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23678UK_12072019_UK_Voluntary_National_Review_2019.pdf

³ https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-07/supplementary-report-to-the-uk-review-of-progress-towards-the-sustainable-development-goals-2030_0.pdf

⁴ <https://senedd.wales/laid%20documents/gen-ld13167/gen-ld13167-e.pdf>

3. Context: Macro issues.

The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.

3.1 The Welsh Government has declared both Climate and Nature emergencies. Action is urgently required to:

- Rapidly decarbonise in harmony with nature and act to adapt to climate change risks; and,
- Halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity; and,
- Improve well-being, tackle poverty and reduce socio-economic inequality.

3.2 Indicative of this, Natural Resources Wales' State of Natural Resources Report 2020 (SoNaRR 2020), which is an assessment of the extent to which Wales is achieving the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR), concludes that Wales is not yet meeting the four long-term aims of SMNR:

Aim 1.	Stocks of natural resources are safeguarded and enhanced
Aim 2.	Ecosystems are resilient to expected and unforeseen change
Aim 3.	Wales has healthy places for people, protected from environmental risks
Aim 4.	Contributing to a regenerative economy, achieving sustainable levels of production and consumption

Table 2: The four aims of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.

3.3 SoNaRR 2020 reports that:

- Wales is not maintaining stocks of natural resources, as described in aim 1 - with the example that iconic species like curlews are predicted to become extinct in Wales within a couple of decades.
- The state of natural resources has an impact on the resilience of our ecosystems. Aim 2 finds resilience to be declining in line with global trends. The United Nations predict that globally, one million of the eight million species on the planet, will be extinct within 20 years.
- Without stable levels of natural resources and resilient ecosystems, aim 3 will continue to show that people across Wales are not free from environmental hazards and do not all have healthy places to live in.
- A regenerative economy, in aim 4, cannot be achieved while economic activity takes place at the expense of the environment.

3.4 SoNaRR 2020 also cites the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) global assessment of 2019 which concludes that with the current model of economic development 'We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide.'

3.5 Many of these issues are apparent in the National Park.

3.6 For the National Park (area) to make its 'fair' contribution towards the Paris Agreement, it needs to stay within a maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 1,557

thousand tonnes (ktCO₂), for the period of 2020 to 2100. At 2017 CO₂ emission levels, this entire budget would be spent within 6 years from 2020.

- 3.7 The River Usk is reported as being “by some distance the worst performing Special Area of Conservation (SAC) river in Wales with respect to its phosphorus targets and is the only river where there are extensive failures in the headwaters.” In 2020, just one of the SAC’s nine designated features was assessed as being in favourable condition status (the Twaite shad with medium confidence). The SAC is recorded as having an issues relating to site features within Natural Resources Wales’ Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans for Invasive Species and Pathogens (2015); Diffuse Water Pollution (2015); Man-made Changes to Hydraulic Conditions (2015) and Woodland Management (2015).
- 3.8 Despite having been designated a National Park in 1957, the general condition of landscape types in the National Park has recently been reported, with just 5 of 16 landscape types in good condition (2021):

Condition 2021	Landscape type
Good	Ancient Pastoral farmlands Lakeshore Wetlands Moorland Hills & Slopes Moorland Plateau Upland Pastoral Enclosures
Moderate	Limestone Hills & Slopes Rocky Hills & Slopes Settled Farmlands Wooded Slopes & Valleys
Poor	Ancient Farmed Lowlands Settled Upland Pastures Village farmlands
Very poor	Forested Moorland Plateau Forested Moorland Slopes Forested Pastoral Enclosures River Meadowlands

Table 3: General condition of landscape types in the National Park (2021).

- 3.9 Without an aspirational and optimistic Plan, the need for local responses to these issues and threats may not be brought into such sharp and timely focus as is required. Wales has the framework in place, in the form of the Well-being of Future Generations and Environment Acts, to deliver transformative change and transition to a sustainable future, but progress feels slow in comparison to the scale and pace of change needed i.e., a fundamental, system-wide reorganization across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values.

4. Context: Detailed issues.

Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (I) and the Habitats Directive.

4.1 Wild birds

Produced by The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), the Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS), Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and RSPB Cymru, **the State of Birds in Wales (2018)** brings together results from annual, periodic and one-off surveys across Wales showed that with changes to the environment and climate impacting on their habitats and way of life iconic birds such as corn buntings, dotterels and nightingales have been lost completely from Wales and among the birds of upland farmed habitats, number of curlews, golden plovers, black grouse, red grouse and ring ouzels all declined.⁵

In 2020, the National Park Authority commissioned the BTO to prepare a report: A summary of the state of terrestrial wild bird populations in and around the Brecon Beacons National Park based on data from the BTO/JNCC/RSPB breeding bird survey, 1994 – 2018.

The report found that overall, the indicator plots suggest that bird populations in the Brecon Beacons region have broadly followed the patterns for Wales, although with greater variation between years, particularly for the woodland bird indicator. The farmland bird indicator showed declines of 20-30% over the Breeding Bird Survey period, in accordance with the pattern for farmland birds in Wales. The Brecon Beacon woodland indicator shows an increase (12% in Brecon cf. 30% in Wales) and the 'other habitats' indicator broadly stable (15% increase in the Brecon Beacons region cf. 7% increase in the corresponding Wales trend). The upland indicator is the exception as there is a slight increase in the Brecon Beacon trend (8%), whereas the Welsh trend slightly declines by 13%.

4.2 The Habitats Directive

With varying levels of confidence, 47 out of 65 SAC features (>72%) are in unfavourable conservation status (NRW indicative assessments 2020).

Threats and opportunities relevant to Special Areas of Conservation in the National Park and within 15 km of the boundary are identified by Natural Resources Wales the following LIFE N2K Thematic Action Plans⁶ (See appendix 2) and Prioritised Improvement Plans (although accessing the latter requires a data licence):

- Air Pollution: Nitrogen Deposition (2015)
- Diffuse Water Pollution (2015)
- Grazing and Livestock Management (2015)
- Invasive Species and Pathogens (2015)

⁵ https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/wales/state-of-birds-wales-2018_bilingual.pdf

⁶ <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/our-projects/nature-projects/life-n2k-wales/life-n2k-thematic-action-plans/?lang=en>

- Man-made Changes to Hydraulic Conditions (2015)
- Access and Recreation Management (2015)
- Woodland Management (2015)
- Cross-Cutting Action Plans (2015)
- Climate Change and Habitat Fragmentation (2015)

Critical load exceedances for Phosphates within riverine Special Areas of Conservation in the National Park are highlighted in NRW Evidence Report 489; furthermore, recently released mapping⁷ by the Air Pollution Information Service makes clear that nitrogen and sulphur deposition (from long- and short-range sources) are exceeding, for some Special Areas of Conservation, site relevant critical loads. NRW is currently discussing with WG producing Nitrogen Profiles for every Site of Special Scientific Interest in Wales; these would help target short range ammonia source reduction at the most sensitive sites.

4.3 SoNaRR assessments of SMNR

SoNaRR 2020 provides relevant assessments of progress towards the sustainable management of natural resources in the following broad ecosystems found in the National Park and by eight cross-cutting themes⁸. These are highlighted in the table below:

Broad ecosystem	Existing environmental problems and challenges relevant to the Plan
Enclosed farmland	<p>Agricultural productivity has remained relatively stable for the last two decades. The provision of food has negative impacts on other ecosystem services. Ammonia emissions and nutrient run-off have the potential to cause pollution to land, water and air. This, along with the planting of crops and species-poor grassland, causes the loss of native biodiversity.</p> <p>Agriculture faces a major challenge in reducing its contribution to climate change. It needs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has a role to play in storing carbon.</p> <p>More efficient use of nutrients at field, farm and catchment scales could reduce diffuse pollution and improve soil condition without affecting the amount of food production. However, system changes to current agricultural practices are required to fully address both the nature and climate emergencies.</p>
Freshwater	<p>In Wales, only 44% of rivers are achieving good ecological status under the Water Framework Directive 2018 interim classification. A range of pressures are compromising the health of our freshwater ecosystems, including climate change, pollution, physical modification, abstraction and invasive non-native species.</p> <p>The sustainable management of freshwater ecosystems is intimately linked with the neighbouring land within their catchments.</p>

⁷ <http://www.apis.ac.uk/app>

⁸ <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/state-of-natural-resources-report-sonarr-for-wales-2020/sonarr2020-our-assessment/?lang=en>

	<p>Freshwater ecosystems provide important ecosystem services including water supply, renewable energy production, flood management, waste disposal, fisheries and recreation. Balancing the use of these services with one another and the sustainable management of catchments is a significant challenge.</p>
Mountain moorland and heath (MMH)	<p>The majority of MMH ecosystems occur in the uplands, the land lying above the upper limit of enclosure. This upland part of the ecosystem accounts for 19.3% of the Welsh land making it the largest continuous block of habitat. It includes large areas of acid grassland much of it resulting from overgrazing of heath and bog.</p> <p>In contrast, the lowland peatlands and heathlands are frequently small, highly fragmented and impacted by neighbouring land uses. Decline in traditional grazing and other management practices are often apparent and lead to loss of valued features.</p> <p>Problems are compounded in both upland and lowland MMH by aerial and groundwater pollution with high levels of reactive nitrogen.</p>
Semi-natural grassland	<p>Semi-natural grasslands dominated the Welsh lowland landscape less than 100 years ago. They declined by more than 90% during the latter part of the 20th century. The decline was driven by land-use policies focused on agricultural production. Remaining areas of the ecosystem are often small and highly fragmented.</p> <p>They now occupy about 9% of the land area of Wales. They are mostly found within the farmed countryside, associated with low-intensity management, including nil or very low usage of man-made fertilisers. They are usually grazed by livestock for the production of meat or other animal products.</p> <p>Most ecosystem services are higher in semi-natural grasslands than in agriculturally improved grassland, particularly those relating to biological diversity, crop pollination, carbon storage, pollution control and cultural heritage.</p>
Woodlands	<p>The character of woodland in Wales has been influenced by both historic land use and previous government policy. Woodlands now cover approximately 15% of the land area of Wales. In the early 1900s, coverage was as low as 5% but this increased significantly in the mid-1900s as state owned forests were established. However, Wales remains one of the least wooded countries in Europe and there is a strong push to increase the rate of new woodland creation; unless well designed such interventions can have adverse impacts, or risk opportunities to maximise the many benefits that well designed interventions can bring for a range of ecosystem services.</p>
Urban	<p>As most people live in urban areas, their impact on other ecosystems is significant. At the same time, this concentration of people presents opportunities for innovation that helps to reduce impacts on the wider environment.</p>

	<p>Through rethinking urban design, transport and planning, urban areas can be thought of as 'urban ecosystems' at the forefront of addressing the climate and nature emergencies.</p> <p>Urban areas cannot solve their problems at the local level alone. Better policy integration and new governance, involving closer partnership and coordination at the local, regional and national levels, are required.</p> <p>Urban ecosystems are where most people live and therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the source of most of humanity's demands on other ecosystems • Are where the impacts of environmental change on most people are felt • Offer great opportunities to create a healthy, productive, zero carbon society; and • Need an adequate supply of green infrastructure to secure liveable places for both people and places
Relevant cross-cutting theme	Existing environmental problems and challenges relevant to the Plan
Biodiversity	The State of Nature report (Hayhow et al., 2019) identified the most significant pressures acting on terrestrial and freshwater nature in the UK as agricultural management, climate change, urbanisation, pollution, hydrological change, INNS, and woodland management.
Climate Change	<p>Changes in the climate are threatening ecosystem resilience and ecosystem services through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altering the ranges of species • Localised extinctions • Changes to life-cycle events such as migrations and breeding. • Rising sea level • Increasing numbers of invasive species and the diseases they can spread <p>Climate change is also projected to increase the frequency and intensity of droughts, river and coastal floods and heatwaves. This is expected to reduce ecosystem resilience further.</p> <p>Globally and within Wales, some of the impacts of climate change including sea level rise and coastal erosion will be irreversible. A whole systems approach, integrating adaptation and mitigation measures, is required to help achieve net zero emissions and biodiversity goals.</p>
Invasive non-native species	<p>Tackling INNS is important to protect biodiversity and to improve the resilience of ecosystems so that they are better able to adapt to threats such as climate change.</p> <p>INNS can have significant negative economic impacts and are estimated to cost the economy of Wales at least £125 million a year. Climate change and the increased movement of people and goods have been identified as major factors likely to affect the introduction and spread of INNS in future.</p>

Air quality	<p>Whilst air pollution from industry, energy generation and transport has decreased in recent decades, concentrations of ammonia and ozone continue to steadily increase causing harm and impacting the natural balance of our ecosystems.</p> <p>In Wales the impact of nitrogen, in particular ammonia pollution, is significant with 88% of sensitive habitats being damaged. Evidence shows that agriculture is the largest source of airborne ammonia pollution and concentrations are likely to increase unless measures to control agricultural emissions are implemented.</p>
Land use and soil	<p>Wales's soil and its interaction with the climate determines how land can be used sustainably. Society puts pressures on soil and its supporting services (soil formation, nutrient cycling) through land use and by changing the environment.</p> <p>Agriculture currently accounts for the largest land use area in Wales (around 80%), followed by forestry and woodlands (around 15%) and then built environment (human made).</p>
Resource efficiency energy	<p>Although our use of renewable energy makes significant and increasing contributions, Wales is still mostly reliant on using imported natural gas.</p> <p>Despite increases in renewable energy generation and use of natural gas to replace coal and other fossil fuels, total emissions from the power sector in Wales has grown by 44% between 1990 and 2016. Over the same period, overall UK emissions of greenhouse gases from the sector reduced by 60%.</p>
Resource efficiency water	<p>Whilst Wales experiences more intense rainfall events, it is also experiencing prolonged dry periods. Therefore, it is necessary to make sure that there is enough water available to get through these times.</p> <p>Wales's rivers, lakes and wetlands support a huge variety of species, from salmon and otter, to insects (such as damselfly) and plants. These ecosystems and species rely on sufficient water in the environment. Taking less water when ecosystems and species are most vulnerable, such as at times of low flows, helps them be more resilient to increasing pressures. These include climate change pressures such as prolonged dry periods.</p>
Waste	<p>Living in a 'disposable' society where waste is continually generated increases pressure on the use of our natural resources. If waste is not handled and treated properly it can be harmful to ecosystems, biodiversity and the well-being of the population.</p> <p>Preventing waste and using waste as a resource are important to ensure our society lives more sustainably. When things are no longer needed they must be seen as a valued resource rather than an unwanted burden. By doing so it reduces the environmental pressures associated with economic activities and the demand for raw materials, whilst benefitting the economy.</p>

Table 4: Illustrative extracts from SoNaRR assessments by broad ecosystem and cross-cutting theme.

4.4 Brecon Beacons National Park

In the context of SoNaRR (2020) citing the IPBES global assessment of 2019 which states with the current model of economic development ‘We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide.’, it is important to understand, broadly, the current economic sectors, visitor numbers to and resident population in the National Park.

The National Park provides a strategic recreational resource of UK significance and is also seen as a ‘Mega Catchment’ provisioning much of South Wales’ water supply.

Forecasts of Brecon Beacons workforce jobs by industry (Experian Regional Planning Service March 2019) indicate total workforce jobs in the National Park would be at 18,290 in 2019, rising to 18,670 by 2030 when each of the following industries would provide more than 1,000 jobs: Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (1,350); Wholesale (1,040); Retail (1,560); Accommodation and food services (1,150); Public Administration & Defence (1,230); Education (1,910); Health (1,660) and Residential Care & Social Work (1,460).

Visitor Numbers to the National Park are reported in the Annual STEAM Report. In the 10 years to 2019 trends show a steady increase in total tourist numbers, from 4.05 – 4.31 million per year, and total visitor days to the National Park rising from 5.02 – 5.67 per year. In 2019 the report states this contributed £326.20 million to the economy.

The resident population of the National Park is also projected to increase, with a changing and aging demographic. The 2019 mid-year estimated population of the National Park is 33,977. This is projected to increase to 35,173 in 2030. The projection suggests a negative rate of natural change (deaths outnumbering births) will be outstripped by positive net migration to the National Park (more people moving to, than away from, the National Park).

Within the National Park, wealth and social inequality is stark with second homes and investment properties such as peer to peer short term lets located in communities where some people are homeless or are in temporary accommodation, are reliant of food banks and face in-work poverty.

4.5 The National Park Doughnut and State of the Park Report

The emerging concept of the National Park Doughnut is developing the State of the Park Report, its initial findings raise significant concerns and issues to be addressed.

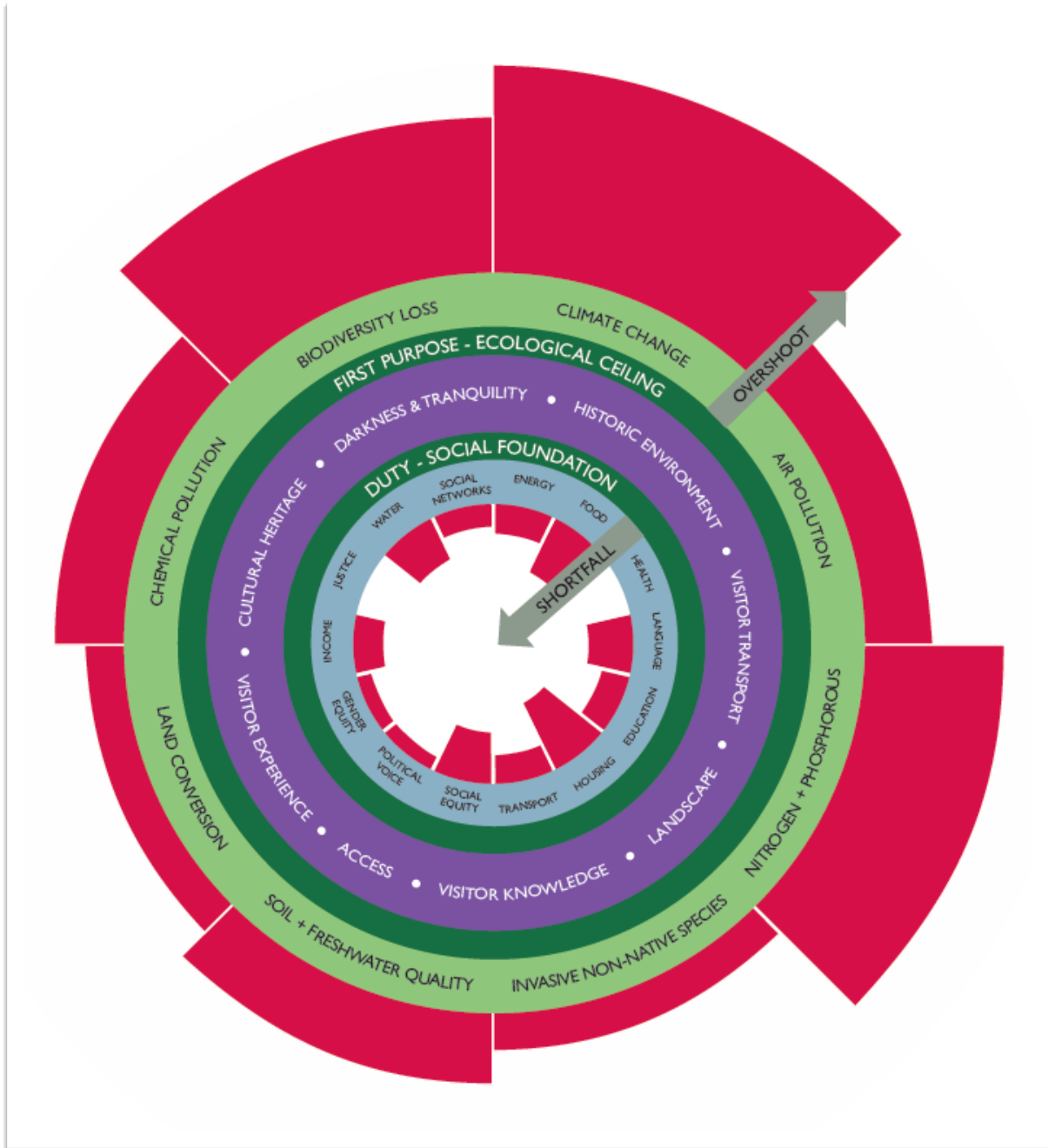


Figure 1: Emerging National Park Doughnut (2021). Red segments showing where ecological ceiling are being exceeded and social foundations not met. Action is needed to eliminate these red segments.

Assessment topic for the Environmental Report	National Park Doughnut Indicator (2021)	Within just and safe space?
(a) biodiversity;	Biodiversity loss Nitrogen and phosphorous loading Invasive non-native species	No No No
(b) population;	Language Visitor knowledge Visitor transport Income Justice Gender equity Political voice Social equity Food Education Transportation Social networks	No No No No ? ? ? No No ? No ?
(c) human health;	Health Visitor experience Access	? Yes Yes
(d) fauna;	Biodiversity loss Nitrogen and phosphorous loading Invasive non-native species	No No No
(e) flora;	Biodiversity loss Nitrogen and phosphorous loading Invasive non-native species	No No No
(f) soil;	Land conversion Soil quality	? No
(g) water;	Water Water quality Chemical pollution	Yes No No
(h) air;	Air pollution	No
(i) climatic factors;	Climate change	No
(j) material assets;	Housing Energy	No No
(k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;	Historic environment Cultural heritage	Yes ?
(l) landscape; and	Landscape Tranquillity	No ?
(m) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).	Are the special qualities intact and resilient in the short-medium term?	No

Table 5: Emerging National Park Doughnut indicators by Environmental Report topic.

The following table links the current SOPR⁹ with each of the Environmental Report assessment topics. The colours indicate the trend, green positive, red negative and grey no clear trend.

Assessment topic for the Environmental Report	Brecon Beacons State of the Park Report Indicator (2020)	Trend
(a) biodiversity;	Indicator 1 - Condition of Geological SSSIs Indicator 2 - Condition of Biological SSSIs Indicator 3 - Natura 2000	POSITIVE NEGATIVE NEGATIVE
(b) population;	Indicator 20 - Population	NEGATIVE
(c) human health;	Indicator 23 - Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation	NEGATIVE
(d) fauna;	Indicator 12 - Invasive Non-Native Species Indicator 10 - Breeding/Nesting Birds Indicator 11 - Bats	UNCLEAR NEGATIVE UNCLEAR
(e) flora;	Indicator 9 - Woodland and Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland Indicator 12 - Invasive Non-Native Species	UNCLEAR UNCLEAR
(f) soil;	Indicator 8 - Condition of Soils/Peat	UNCLEAR
(g) water;	Indicator 4 - Water Quality Indicator 6 - River Discharge	NEGATIVE UNCLEAR
(h) air;	Indicator 7 - Air Quality	POSITIVE
(i) climatic factors;	Indicator 5 - Flood Risk	UNCLEAR
(j) material assets;	Indicator 13 - Rights of Way Indicator 21 - Housing Indicator 22 – Town Centre Vacancy Rates	POSITIVE NEGATIVE NEGATIVE
(k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;	Indicator 15 - Welsh Language Indicator 16 - Cultural Events Indicator 17 - Scheduled Ancient Monuments Indicator 18 - Listed Buildings	NEGATIVE POSITIVE NEGATIVE POSITIVE
(l) landscape; and	Strength of character and condition of each level 2 LDU*.	Information not available in SOPR – now available.
(m) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).		No assessment of special qualities made

Table 6: Current state of the Park Report indicators by Environmental Report assessment topic.

⁹ <https://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Approved-SoPR-2020.pdf>

5. What is the National Park Management Plan? And how can it help?

An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship (if any) with other relevant plans and programmes.

5.1 The purpose of the Plan is as detailed in s66 (1) of the Environment Act 1995:

“...every National Park authority shall...prepare and publish a plan, to be known as a National Park Management Plan, which formulates its policy for the management of the relevant Park and for the carrying out of its functions in relation to that Park.”

The next question is what are National Parks? They were originally envisaged as:

“They are the regions of our finest landscape brought into full public service-preserved in their natural beauty, continued in their farming use, and kept or made accessible (insofar as they are not cultivated) for open air recreation and public enjoyment and particularly for cross country walking.”

(The standing committee on national parks March 1945)

5.2 Now, the Welsh Government’s ambition for Wales’ National Parks is that they are landscapes for everyone; an exemplar in the sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity recovery and sustainable green energy generation; to be places where opportunities for decarbonisation and the Welsh language are embraced and the economic potential of landscape is realised through sustainable economic development, tourism and outdoor recreation (Welsh Government, 2018).

5.3 The guidance on preparing National Park Management Plans explains:

“...the National Park Management Plan is of national importance. National Park Management Plan objectives and policies therefore prevail over regional and local policy as it is delivered in the National Parks.”

5.4 In 2015 National Landscapes: Realising their Potential - The Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales reported:

“The wider governance of designated landscapes is directed through their management plans. These plans are key documents that utilise both horizontal and vertical governance interactions with stakeholders in their formation”

“Management plans are not created as plans for the NPA but for managing the National Park for the benefit of all, in line with the National Park purposes”.

5.5 The NPA is soon expecting to be under a duty to pursue the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR) when exercising its functions; a significant contextual change as the SMNR objective is “to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide and, in so doing meet the needs of present generations of people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs and contribute to the achievement of the well-being goals.”

- 5.6 This new duty means that the NPA will need to demonstrate how it is pursuing the SMNR objective by using natural resources in a way and at a rate that promotes achievement of the SMNR objective, by taking other action that promotes achievement of the SMNR objective and by not taking action that hinders achievement of the SMNR objective.
- 5.7 In seeking to deliver the National Park purposes, the NPAs are not expected to work alone – this is a shared task for all. Under Section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995, relevant authorities have a duty to “have regard to” the purposes of the National Parks when carrying out their work. This underlines that delivery of the park purposes through the National Park Management Plan needs to be undertaken in partnership with others – both key policy makers and fund holders, including government agencies and local authorities – and with those whose day-to-day activities have been responsible for creating the landscape of today: the farmers, landowners, conservation groups and NGOs, local businesses and local communities of the Parks. (Countryside Council for Wales, 2007, p. 4)
- 5.8 Responding to this context, the emerging Management Plan vision is as follows:
- Our National Park will be a beacon of inspiration, driving action for a vibrant and sustainable future.**
- We will harness the power of nature and people working in balance to help us face climate change, biodiversity decline, post covid economic recovery and the health and social care crisis.**
- In 2045 the Brecon Beacons will be ecologically resilient and we will be zero carbon. Our communities will be connected, collaborative and thriving. The culture, landscape and environment of the Park will have brought inspiration and joy to all who live and visit here.**
- 5.9 The Plan objectives and proposed National Park Authority Well-being Objectives are:
- We will conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park.**
- We will provide opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park.**
- We will seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.**
- 5.10 To achieve the vision and deliver on the well-being objectives, a policy framework has been prepared.
- 5.11 The policy framework addresses Active Travel; Busy Places; Climate Change; Dark Skies; Geoparks; Green New Deal; Health and Wellbeing; Historic Environment; Human Capital; Landscape; Local Food; Nature Recovery; Outreach; Partnership Working; Peatlands; PES; Resilient Communities; Rights of Way; Rural Skills; Treescapes; Volunteering and Water.
- 5.12 Locally, the policies will be implemented through place-based and thematic partnerships including, but not limited to:

- Brecon Beacons National Park Local Nature Partnership
- Brecon Beacons Historic Environment Partnership
- Brecon Beacons Sustainable Tourism Partnership
- Brecon Beacons Local Access Forum
- Brecon Beacons Research Partnership
- Black Mountains Land Use Partnership
- Brecon Beacons Megacatchment / Central Beacons Partnership
- Mynydd Meithryn
- Waterfall Country Partnership
- Usk Valley Partnership (to be established)
- Llangors Lake Partnership (to be established)
- Place Planning Groups

6. Context: Alternatives considered throughout the process and assessment methodology.

An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information.

Alternatives

- 6.1 Reasonable alternatives are to be assessed throughout the plan-making process.
- 6.2 Rather than review and amend the existing National Park Management Plan (2010, as amended in 2015), a decision was made to prepare afresh a light-touch 'plan of plans' management plan.
- 6.3 The nature of the plan-making process has ensured that alternatives have been debated and analysed through formative meetings, data gathering and final drafting. Stages of involvement have included an issues consultation and involvement and consultation on a vision and objectives document. Each has informed this current draft Plan which is set to be published for a four-month period of consultation.
- 6.4 An alternative suite of policies was prepared in response to a gap analysis of the strategic policies and future policy objectives detailed in the vision and objectives document. Presented in Appendix 3, this gap analysis and resulting alternative option was considered alongside responses to the consultation in setting the current draft Plan.
- 6.5 The final draft Plan for public consultation also reflects stakeholder input including from the Citizen's Assembly, Stakeholder Reference Panel and National Park Authority Members and Staff via 'Policy Forum' and the National Park Authority's 'Policy Programme Group'.

Assessment methodology

- 6.6 As aspirational statements of policy, the draft policies in the Plan have been assessed against 'sustainability objectives' rather than detailed baseline-led / modelled assessments. The 'sustainability objectives' each of the assessment topics of the Environmental Report and are compatible with each other.

Assessment topic	Key environmental protection aims. *Indicates the aims related to the socio-economic duty and the welsh language standard
(a)biodiversity;	Natura 2000 network. For the maintenance or restoration, at a favourable conservation status, of a natural habitat type in Annex I or a species in Annex II and for the coherence of Natura 2000, and in the light of the threats of degradation or destruction to which those sites are exposed.
(b)population;	Maximise opportunities for all people in Wales to access the health and well-being benefits of the natural environment and landscape features of National Parks. *To deliver better outcomes for those who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
(c)human health;	Maximise opportunities for all people in Wales to access the health and well-being benefits of the natural environment and landscape features of National Parks.

(d)fauna;	To safeguard the long-term future of the park's s7 species and the habitats on which they depend for survival.
(e)flora;	To safeguard the long-term future of the park's s7 species and the habitats on which they depend for survival.
(f)soil;	Preventing further soil degradation and preserving its functions and restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality which will enhance ecosystem resilience.
(g)water;	To ensure that all inland waters reach at least "good status" (or good ecological potential for artificial or heavily modified water bodies) unless less stringent objectives have been set for certain water bodies.
(h)air;	To keep levels of pollution as low as reasonably practicable.
(i)climatic factors;	To contribute to a 95% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, with an ambition to reach net-zero. To increase resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change in the National Park, through both near- and long-term adaptation measures in affected sectors, areas and communities; leading to a reduction of expected socio-economic losses associated with climate change and variability.
(j)material assets;	To safeguard and improve assets essential to the National Park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study centres and other facilities for learning about the history, natural features, flora and fauna of the National Park and the objects of architectural, archaeological or historical interest therein; • Public sanitary conveniences in proper and convenient situations; • Receptacles for refuse or litter; • Facilities of any description for use by the public for sailing, boating, bathing and fishing and other forms of recreation; • Camping sites for holiday and recreational purposes, to be used primarily as places for setting up tents, with space for parking vehicles and a means of access to and from a road; • Picnic sites for motorists and others using the roads, with space for parking vehicles and a means of access to and from a road; • Parking places and means of access thereto and egress therefrom; • Accommodation; • Public Rights of Way, open access land and access infrastructure.
(k)cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;	Identify and protect those individual historic sites or landscapes that matter to us and fully integrate their value in future plans for revitalising our communities. *To contribute to the number of Welsh speakers reaching 1 million by 2050.
(l)landscape; and	To protect and sustain important landscapes and the associated nature conservation and other values created by interactions with humans through traditional management practices.
(m)the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (l).	For the National Park to be recognised as an important place for the recovery of nature and the wellbeing of people.

Table 7: Sustainability objectives for each of the assessment topics of the Environmental Report.

6.7 However, this approach significantly limits the level of confidence which can be attributed to the assessments; which take the form of a compatibility analysis. Whilst it has generally been possible to identify the nature of the effect (positive or negative), it has not been possible with any level of certainty to precisely attribute the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility and spatial extent of effects of the Plan.

6.8 The National Park is identified as a sensitive area in the various Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, as they apply to Wales. The National Park is a high value landscape

which is recognised nationally and internationally through multiple designations, often overlapping spatially. Being of national significance for recreation, impacts on the national population must be considered alongside those on communities local to the National Park. Effects identified are therefore likely to be of greater magnitude and significance than would otherwise be the case in places without such designations.

- 6.9 As demonstrated in Table 6, the current ‘State of the Park Report 2020’ shows many negative trends which are indicative of the fact that multiple environmental quality standards or limit values are being exceeded. This also means that the significance of effects identified may be of greater magnitude than otherwise would be the case, particularly with biodiversity, flora, fauna and human physical and mental health which rely on and are impacted by environmental conditions.
- 6.10 Any detailed plans and programmes which emerge from the Plan will be screened to understand whether more detailed assessments are necessary. Strong matrix and partnership working in partnership practices thorough project development and management processes will ensure benefits are realised across each of the relevant assessment topics.
- 6.11 Although aligned with the ‘Park Doughnut’, it is a key principle that the Plan is to be considered as a whole. The National Park Authority’s Senior Policy Officer has drafted the assessment, alongside the draft Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report and opinions on each are welcome through the consultation.

Difficulties encountered in compiling the required information

- 6.12 As described, each of the assessments are objective-led rather than baseline-led meaning that the judgement of the Officer drafting the report has had a significant bearing on the assessments to date. A four-month period of public consultation offers scope to refine the assessments and for them to inform the final version of the Plan which will be approved in April 2022. The objective-led nature of the assessment and the nature of the policy wording as aspirational statements of policy led to some difficulty in identifying with any precision the magnitude of likely significant effects, and in particular those of a secondary and cumulative nature.
- 6.13 Difficulties in compiling cumulative and synergistic effects were experienced because it was hard to identify the availability of monitoring information on the Likely Significant Effects of other plans, programmes and projects. One opportunity to address this would be to develop a Wales-wide ‘SEA’ database, such as that which is available in Scotland¹⁰.
- 6.14 As plans and programmes are developed under the Plan, consideration should be given to whether some elements of any subsequent assessments can be baseline-led. This will be particularly important where they are screened as having likely significant effects on the National Sites Network and therefore need to be informed by an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations. The evidence to inform interventions in the Brecon Beacons

¹⁰ <https://www.strategiceenvironmentalassessment.gov.scot/>

National Park is ever growing; co-ordinating and presenting this through the National Park Doughnut project and the Authority's website also offer scope for improving the assessment processes.

7. Results - Likely significant effects

The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues including—

- (a) biodiversity;
- (b) population;
- (c) human health;
- (d) fauna;
- (e) flora;
- (f) soil;
- (g) water;
- (h) air;
- (i) climatic factors;
- (j) material assets;
- (k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;
- (l) landscape; and
- (m) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).

The Vision and Objectives

Analysis

- 7.1 Taken in the context of the Welsh definition of Sustainable Development, the National Park Purposes, the statement of conformity to the IUCN and the forthcoming duty to pursue the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, and in the context of Natural Resources Wales' State of Natural Resources Report (2020), the Plan vision and objectives are entirely compatible with the sustainability objectives.
- 7.2 A previous version of the vision was assessed and it was recommended that “it could be worded more positively “more sustainable” to “sustainable”; “multiple problems” to “face climate change...”. Furthermore, in 2045 ecosystems should be ‘resilient’ – this is more than just diverse (see DECCA, Lawton, Nature Recovery Policy), and rather than ‘less carbon reliant” we should be near zero carbon (Carbon budget).” These recommendations have informed the amended version of the vision now in the draft Plan.
- 7.3 Symbols depicting the overall assessment of each of the policies against the sustainability objectives are summarised below. Likely significant positive effects are shaded green, likely significant adverse effects are shaded in red (although none are identified).



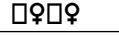
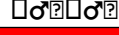

	Positive
	Significant Positive
	Uncertain / no predicted effect
	Adverse
	Significant Adverse

Table 8: Symbols depicting the overall assessment (compatibility) of each of the policies with the sustainability objectives.

National Park Management Plan Policy / ISA assessment topic	(a) biodiversity;	(b) population;	(c) human health;	(d) fauna;	(e) flora;	(f) soil;	(g) water;	(h) air;	(i) climatic factors;	(j) material assets;	(k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;	(l) landscape;	(m) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).
Active Travel	👍👍	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	❤️❤️	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍
Busy Places	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍
Climate Change	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍
Dark Skies	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️
Geopark	👍👍	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	👍👍	👍👍	❤️❤️	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️
Green New Deal	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍
Health and Wellbeing	👍👍	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	❤️❤️	👍👍	👍👍
Historic Environment	👍👍	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️
Human Capital	👍👍	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍
Landscape	👍👍	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	👍👍	👍👍	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	👍👍	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️
Local Food	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍♀️👍♂️	👍♀️👍♂️	👍♀️👍♂️
Nature Recovery	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	👍👍	❤️❤️	❤️❤️
Outreach	👍👍	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	❤️❤️	👍👍	👍👍
Partnership Working	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍
Peatlands	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	❤️❤️	👍👍	❤️❤️	❤️❤️
PES	👍♀️👍♂️	👍♀️👍♂️	👍♀️👍♂️	👍♀️👍♂️	👍♀️👍♂️	👍♀️👍♂️	👍♀️👍♂️	👍♀️👍♂️	👍♀️👍♂️	👍♀️👍♂️	👍♀️👍♂️	👍♀️👍♂️	👍♀️👍♂️

Resilient Communities	👍👍	❤❤	❤❤	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	❤❤	❤❤	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍
Rights of Way	👍👍	❤❤	❤❤	👍👍	👍👍	❤❤	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	❤❤	❤❤	❤❤	❤❤	👍👍
Rural Skills	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	❤❤	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍
Sustainable Tourism	👍👍	❤❤	❤❤	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍
Treescaping	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	❤❤	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍
Volunteering	👍👍	👍👍	❤❤	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	❤❤
Water	❤❤	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	❤❤	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	👍👍	❤❤	👍👍

Table 9: Overall assessment of each of the policies against the sustainability objectives in the form of a compatibility analysis.

7.4 When analysing the policies, the following questions helped.

Assessment topic	To help frame the reporting of significant effects of the plan for each assessment topic. What is the plan component's...
(a)biodiversity;	Contribution to meeting SAC conservation objectives?
(b)population;	Contribution to improving the experience of people facing socio-economic disadvantage? Contribution to the local community? Contribution to national well-being?
(c)human health;	Contribution to improving human health?
(d)fauna;	Contribution to meeting SAC conservation objectives for fauna? Contribution to improving conditions for all birds and s7 fauna?
(e)flora;	Contribution to meeting SAC conservation objectives for flora? Contribution to enhancing the resilient ecological network and improving conditions for all s7 flora?
(f)soil;	Contribution to preserving soil function, preventing further soil degradation and restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality which will enhance ecosystem resilience?
(g)water;	Contribution to meeting phosphate target levels in rivers and lakes? Contribution to water conservation and reducing the rate of runoff?
(h)air;	Contribution to reducing air pollution and noise?
(i)climatic factors;	Contribution to decarbonisation? Contribution to minimising the impact of Climate Change on communities and visitors?
(j)material assets;	Contribution to material assets of value to the local community? Contribution to material assets of value to the National Park?
(k)cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;	Contribution to maintaining and enhancing the historic environment? Contribution to the everyday use of the Welsh language?
(l)landscape; and	Contribution to the strength of character and condition of the landscape character area / unit? Contribution to dark skies? Contribution to tranquillity?
(m)the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).	Contribution to maintaining and enhancing the special qualities of the National Park?

Table 10: Questions to help analyse the policies.

Likely significant effects

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

- 7.5 The draft Plan has been subject to screening under the Habitats Regulations. Following a preliminary screening, all aspects of the plan were screened as having no likely significant effect, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, upon any Special Area of Conservation.
- 7.6 The outcome of the Habitats Regulations Assessment is perhaps not surprising given the nature of the policy drafting in the Plan (high-level statements of policy ambition) and:
- The statutory purpose of the National Park and its Management Plan;
 - The statutory obligations of BBNPA;
 - That BBNPA is party to a statement of confirmation made to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); the statement being the basis on which the Brecon Beacons National Park is recognised as a Category V protected area and included on the world database of protected areas; and,
 - The exceptionally high standards of ecological expertise maintained within the staff body of the National Park Authority.
- 7.7 Many of the draft policies are considered to offer the potential for likely significant positive effects on biodiversity, in particular the Nature Recovery policy. The Brecon Beacons Local Nature Partnership is soon to report on its resilient ecological networks mapping project. This will help to guide and shape actions and interventions towards ecosystem resilience in the National Park (resilience being the synergy of diversity, extent, condition and connectivity). Tackling Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) in the National Park is a major challenge and is of huge importance and is to be progressed through implementing this policy.
- 7.8 Also, likely to bring significant positive effects for biodiversity are policies on dark skies, peatland restoration and water, each of which works towards direct improvements to ecosystem condition and connectivity.
- 7.9 No likely significant adverse effects are identified, although much depends on the way in which policies are implemented, in particular those including busy places, green new deal, sustainable tourism, local food and payments for ecosystem services. With optimism, these policies can work in harmony with nature and deliver biodiversity benefits appropriate to the landscape of the National Park, if mis-applied they add further pressure on ecosystems.
- 7.10 General environmental conditions, many of which are outside the direct control of the Plan are likely to have significant adverse effects on the abundance of biodiversity, and species and distribution of flora and fauna of the National Park. These changes, as well as those from changing weather conditions, the result of climate change, and pollution such as atmospheric deposition of ammonia, are likely to be significant of themselves.
- 7.11 Natural Resources Wales' State of Natural Resources Report 2020 (SoNaRR) quotes Sir David Attenborough: "We need to learn how to work with nature, rather than against it". The report also cites the IPBES global assessment of 2019 which concludes that with the current model of economic development 'We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide.'
- 7.12 SoNaRR also recognises lifestyles and the way goods are produced and consumed need to change to achieve SMNR. Wales's overall consumption of resources needs to drop if we are to achieve 'one planet living'. Again, it cites the IPBES report which says, what is needed is

”transformative change, a fundamental, system-wide reorganization across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values.”

Population and human health

- 7.13 The National Park seeks to enable ensure, in the national (UK) interest, opportunities for those wishing to pursue recreation peacefully in surroundings of natural beauty. In doing so, the National Park provides nationally important cultural benefits for health and well-being. Ensuring environmental protection and, ultimately, addressing the climate crisis will also be critically important to human health outcomes.
- 7.14 The predicted likely significant positive effects across the policies of the Plan are greater for these sustainability objectives than for any other and there are no predicted significant adverse effects, although much depends on the way in which policies are implemented.
- 7.15 Policies relating to the National Park purposes underpin these opportunities for likely significant positive or positive effects: Landscape, Nature Recovery and Historic Environment (1st purpose) and Health and Well-being, Rights of Way, Active Travel, (2nd purpose). Policies supporting Fforest Fawr Geopark and Darkskies deliver both purposes as do policies on Treescapes, Payments for Ecosystem Services and Green New Deal. Rural Skills, Partnership working and Volunteering Policies deliver on the ‘duty’.
- 7.16 Given the significance of peatland of the National Park, both for nature recovery and carbon sequestration but also for slowing run-off (climate adaptation against flooding) and to water quality for the population of South Wales (Brecon Beacons Mega Catchment), this policy is also identified as having a likely significant positive effect for population and human health.

Soil

- 7.17 Policies for peatland restoration, landscape, nature recovery and rights of way are each considered to bring direct likely significant positive effects for soils. Furthermore, the Geopark is also considered to bring a significant positive effect.
- 7.18 Uncertain are the impacts of the policies supporting a green new deal, payments for ecosystems services and local food, although much depends on the way in which policies are implemented. No likely significant adverse effects are identified.

Water

- 7.19 A ‘Mega Catchment’, the National Park is of strategic importance for provisioning water to South Wales. Designated features of the riverine Special Areas of Conservation depend on water quality, as do many recreational activities (Llangors lake and the Brecon and Monmouth Canal). Intense rainfall also poses a risk to material assets (damage by flooding, waterlogging of rights of way) and soil (e.g., loss through run off and erosion) and biodiversity.
- 7.20 Given its strategic importance, a specific policy on water is included in the draft Plan and this is predicted to bring likely significant positive effects, this is also the case for the draft peatland restoration, nature recovery and landscape policies.

- 7.21 No likely significant adverse effects are identified, although much depends on the way in which certain policies are implemented.

Air

- 7.22 Air quality is impacted both by long- and short-range factors, with secondary effects for both human health and biodiversity (critical load exceedances of Nitrogen and Sulphur deposition are recorded on Special Areas of Conservation in the National Park). Transportation, commercial, industrial and residential combustion and agriculture contribute to the short-range sources of Nitrogen and Sulphur in the air. Major industrial installations and international shipping, for instance, contribute to long-range sources.
- 7.23 Policies for active travel, nature recovery, peatland restoration and treescapes are each considered to bring likely significant positive effects for this topic. There is less certainty around policies promoting payments for ecosystems services, green new deal, sustainable tourism and busy places. If implemented appropriately, these could contribute to tackling emissions, alternatively there is a risk they could conceivably drive them further (e.g., through biomass fuel, increasing transportation and more intensive agricultural activity).

Climatic factors

- 7.24 Mitigating and adapting to climate change is a key driver for the draft Plan and is inextricably linked with Nature Recovery. Setting a 'Carbon budget' will enable all those with an interest in the National Park to understand the scale and pace of change necessary to decarbonise energy, heating transportation and sectoral emissions in line with the Paris Agreement and this is predicted to have a positive effect. However, consumption drives carbon emissions globally (carbon knows no boundaries) and interventions, such as Global Carbon Pricing and Border Taxation appear necessary if emissions are to be kept to the Paris Agreement.
- 7.25 Action is necessary and the draft Plan includes policies on resilient communities, landscape, nature recovery and peatlands, each of which are considered to have a likely significant positive effect at the local scale.
- 7.26 No likely significant adverse effects are identified, although much depends on the way in which certain policies are implemented, in particular payments for ecosystems services, sustainable tourism and green new deal – care must be taken to ensure their implementation guards against driving further unsustainable consumption and land-use change.
- 7.27 Many of the policies are considered to have a positive impact, offering scope to help minimise or reduce emissions either directly (active travel and treescapes) or indirectly, for example partnership working, health and well-being and outreach.

Material assets

- 7.28 A key material asset of the National Park is the rights of way network and its associated infrastructure. Therefore, the rights of way policy is identified as having a likely significant positive effect. Managing busy places policy seeks to manage the impact of visitor on material assets. Many landscape and historic environment feature are material assets (e.g., buildings of historic interest) and so these policies are also considered to bring a likely significant positive effect.

- 7.29 Although indirectly, policy for nature recovery, peatland restoration (each as a means of mitigating and adapting to climate change) and rural skills are also considered to bring likely significant effects for material assets.
- 7.30 Supporting communities local to the national park become more resilient will also help bring resilience to their material assets and so this policy is also considered to bring a likely significant effect, cumulatively, across the National Park.

Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

- 7.31 The National Park has rich cultural heritage and historic environment of global, national and locally significance. Policies within the draft plan are likely to have a significant positive impact are historic environment, which not only seeks to protect and enhance the historic environment but through partnership seeks to bring its significance to life for all. Policies, for landscape, dark skies, the geopark, health and well-being, outreach and rights of way are each considered to bring likely significant positive effects.
- 7.32 Less certain are the effects from policies on local food, payments for ecosystems services, treescapes and sustainable tourism; each of these policies would need careful implementation to ensure they enhance the historic environment.

Landscape

- 7.33 Recognised as a Category V Protected Area by the IUCN and being a landscape-based designation, many of the policies within the draft Plan are considered to bring a likely significant positive effect for the landscape. The policies include landscape, nature recovery, rights of way, peatland restoration, water, dark skies and historic environment each of which seek to improve the current condition of the landscape and elements of it. Historic environment, dark skies, well-being, outreach and geopark park policies take this a step further, providing indirect positive effects through education and connecting people to the beneficial cultural ecosystem services (e.g., sense of place) which the landscape provides in the national interest. Less certain are the effects from policies on local food, payments for ecosystems services, treescapes and sustainable tourism; each of these policies would need careful implementation to ensure they enhance the landscape.

The inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs

- 7.34 In the context of the National Parks in Wales and England, there are significant inter-relationships between the landscape, its resident population and visitors. Underpinning the landscape and its special qualities are landform, biological and geological diversity and human interactions with them over millennia. The existing natural resources provide a nationally important cultural service and contribute to international network. Natural resources are under pressure from biodiversity loss, the climate crisis and competing economic and cultural interests. It is essential that they are sustainably managed and that this takes place in the context of the National Park designation and policies in the draft Plan. It must be recognised that the nature of these pressures is evolving quickly; we are in earth's 6th Mass extinction, which is being driven by human induced Climate Change. Globalisation and market forces have acted to strain the link and dependency between communities and their environs, leading to

wider and greater competition over the natural and built resources in the National Park, impacting on the cultural traditions of the area. The National Park Authority has dual purposes (conservation and recreation). Where these conflict the duty of conservation should prevail. A new duty, that of pursuing the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, is due to be placed on the Welsh National Parks at the next legislative opportunity. This will place ecosystem resilience at the heart of decision making.

The likely significant effect on well-being

- 7.35 The National Park's designation as providing nationally important cultural benefits, which contribute to international cultural networks have significant benefit to our national well-being. In this draft policies in the management plan have a significant positive impact on each of the national well-being goals and as one and also each of the Welsh Government priorities detailed in Valued and Resilient. Notwithstanding this important national contribution to well-being, local wealth inequality pressures community cohesion.

Ways of working	Policy towards partnership working and involvement through volunteering and supporting rural skills. Plan developed with involvement, including Citizen Assemblies, Stakeholder Reference Panel and Thematic Partnerships.
A Prosperous Wales	Policies included towards landscape, rights of way, a green new deal, local food, payments for ecosystem services, sustainable tourism, human capital and rural skills.
A Resilient Wales	Policies included towards the carbon budget, nature recovery, landscape, water, treescapes, dark skies and peatland restoration are important in this regard.
A More Equal Wales	Policies included towards health and well-being, a green new deal, sustainable tourism, human capital, active travel and resilient communities.
A Healthier Wales	Policies included towards health and well-being, carbon budget, nature recovery, active travel, rights of way.
A Wales of Cohesive Communities	Policies included towards health and well-being, resilient communities, outreach, sustainable tourism, active travel, local food, rights of way, volunteering and busy places.
A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language	Policies included towards health and well-being, historic environment, landscape, rights of way, resilient communities and human capital and volunteering.
A Globally Responsible Wales	Recognised by the IUCN as a Category V Protected Area, the Brecon Beacons National Park is included on the World Database of Protected Areas.

	<p>Fundamental to this recognition is giving biodiversity a high priority in the National Park Management Plan.</p> <p>Policies included towards the carbon budget, nature recovery, geopark and peatland restoration are important in this regard.</p> <p>Other international designations include: Fforest Fawr Geopark (UNESCO) International Dark Skies Reserve (IDA) Blaenavon World Heritage Site (UNESCO)</p>
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Table 11: Policies contributing to each of the national wellbeing goals and ways of working.

- 7.36 Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks - 10 cross-cutting themes aim to improve resilience and realise the full value of Wales' landscapes:

Landscapes for everyone	Health and well-being, outreach, partnership working, sustainable tourism, human capital.
Exemplars of the sustainable management of natural resources	Nature recovery, busy places, geopark, sustainable tourism.
Halting the loss of biodiversity	Climate budget, nature recovery, peatland restoration, water, treescapes, landscape, dark skies.
Green energy and decarbonisation	Climate budget, resilient communities, green new deal.
Realising the economic potential of landscape	Rights of Way, payments for ecosystem services, green new deal, sustainable tourism, local food.
Growing tourism and outdoor recreation	Sustainable tourism, rights of way, health and well-being.
Thriving Welsh language	Resilient communities, historic environment.
All landscapes matter	Landscape.
Delivering through collaboration	Partnership working, volunteering.
Innovation in resourcing	Payments for ecosystem services, partnership working.

Table 12: Policies contributing to each of the 10 cross-cutting themes identified as priorities for National Parks by the Welsh Government.

The likely significant effect on the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

- 7.37 Natural Resources Wales' SoNaRR 2020 identifies necessary bridges to the 'future if SMNR is to be achieved. In the following table the contribution of the draft Plan to these 'bridges' is identified.

SoNaRR 2020	NPMP Policy response
SMNR AIM 1: Stocks of natural resources are safeguarded and enhanced	SMNR AIM 1

Decarbonise: Ensure Wales releases less greenhouse gas into the atmosphere by burning less fossil fuels and retaining, improving and expanding habitats that help to lock in carbon deposits.	Carbon budget, active travel, resilient communities.
Improve land management: Improve sustainability of land use by changing management of agriculture, forestry and development.	Peatland restoration, treescapes; payments for ecosystem services, green new deal, local food.
Recognise biodiversity as an asset: Recognise that biodiversity is part of Wales's wealth and that it should be safeguarded like other assets.	Nature recovery, peatland restoration, water, health and well-being; landscape.
Address resource use and its impacts: Achieve sustainable levels of production and consumption by improving the efficiency and volume of resource use	Carbon budget, active travel, resilient communities, sustainable tourism.
SMNR AIM 2: Ecosystems are resilient to expected and unforeseen change	SMNR AIM 2
Develop the assessment of ecosystem resilience: Assessing ecosystem resilience is complex, and there are few relevant published tools or methods available to measure ecosystem resilience at a national scale.	Nature recovery - ecological networks mapping. Doughnut monitoring (State of the Park Report).
Effective ecosystem management: Ecological resilience can be improved by maintaining and enhancing habitats and species to aid the recovery of biodiversity and restore functionality to ecosystems.	Nature recovery - Ecological networks mapping. Peatland restoration. Water.
Build on Wales's policy framework: Wales already has the policy framework to promote a healthy and resilient place for people and nature. In implementing the Future Generations, Environment and Planning Acts there are many opportunities to pursue Wales' ambition for sustainable development.	The whole Plan.
Optimising regulation: The resilience of ecosystems relies upon the regulation of activities that act as pressures on the environment. Controls are in place to regulate these activities, but there is a need to ensure that they are implemented consistently with the objective of sustainable management of natural resources.	Partnership working.
Build wider engagement: A commitment to transformative change is needed from all parts of society. This can be achieved by wider engagement and working together on the importance of nature-based solutions, promotion and adoption of good practice, and more integrated policy interventions.	Partnership working. Volunteering. Human capital. Outreach.
SMNR AIM 3: Wales has healthy places for people, protected from environmental risks	SMNR AIM 3
Establish equal and sustainable communities: Provide accessible and affordable amenities and services, good quality housing, education and integrated transport systems. These all contribute to creating and sustaining healthy communities.	Resilient communities', health and well-being, outreach.
Healthy, active, connected communities: Deliver public health approaches for social, economic and environmental benefits, such as safe green spaces and active transport. These have been shown to be cost-effective with potential returns on investment.	Health and well-being policy, outreach policy, active travel policy, public rights of way policy.
Green growth and innovation: Economic growth and development should ensure the sustainable use of our natural resources, through smart and innovative technologies,	Green new deal, local food, payments for ecosystem services.

renewable energy generation, social procurement and nature-based solutions.	
Move toward a regenerative economy, with sustainable levels of production and consumption: Manage the life-cycle of natural resources, from extraction through the design and manufacture of products, to using waste as a resource, to build a regenerative economy.	Carbon budget, green new deal policy.
SMNR AIM 4: A regenerative economy - Wales needs more sustainable patterns of production and consumption The DISRUPT framework (below) can be used to set out the opportunities for action:	SMNR AIM 4
Design for the future: A whole systems approach to product life-cycle design, ensures products can be repaired and re-made to extend the use of natural resources.	Green new deal.
Incorporate digital technology: Develop the 'internet of things' (digital technology) to support decarbonisation. Replace the use of physical goods with digital services, such as streaming music.	Park Doughnut project and State of the National Park Report.
Sustain and preserve what is already there: Expand and effectively manage the current network of protected areas, including terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas.	Landscape policy, nature recovery policy, dark skies policy, peatland restoration policy, water policy, historic environment policy, treescapes policy, rights of way policy.
Rethink the business model: Encourage sharing, re-use and resale; for example through community fridges and repair cafes. Extend producer responsibility from packaging and electrical goods to other products. Ensure producers fund the full net costs of end of life management and encourage eco-design.	Resilient communities policy.
Use waste as a resource	Green new deal policy.
Prioritise regenerative resources: Substitute renewable for non-renewable resources (for example timber for steel, and concrete or bioplastics for petroleum-based plastics).	Resilient communities policy.
Team up to create joint value: Work across the public, private and voluntary sectors to reduce material consumption and waste production aligning with Wales's industrial and innovation policies.	Partnership working policy.

Table 13: Policies contributing to SMNR 'bridges to the future'.

The likely significant effect on Welsh language

7.38 In the following table the contribution of the draft Plan to meeting the goal of 1 million Welsh language speakers by 2050 is considered via relevant elements of the Welsh Language Standard.

Welsh language: A million Welsh speakers by 2050.	Plan response
Will the plan impact on the number or percentage of people able to speak Welsh (or any other skill)?	Indirectly, the plan seeks to conserve and enhance the national park making it an attractive place to visit, live and invest. Land

	use-change and trends towards increasing visitor numbers and population increases through positive migration to the National Park offer both opportunities to promote every-day use of Welsh (conserving and enhancing cultural heritage is a first purpose of the National Park), but also risk diluting the everyday use of Welsh in communities where its use is strong (particularly in the west of the National park).
Will the plan impact on the number or percentage of people who use Welsh?	As above.
Will the plan be undertaken in Welsh?	Yes. The Plan will be available in Welsh.
Will the plan protect, promote and enrich heritage and culture within the area in question in relation to the Welsh language?	Yes, in particular policies concerning landscape, the historic environment, nature recovery and resilient communities.
Positive effects on the Welsh language	The plan provides an opportunity to promote use of the language through outreach, sustainable tourism, resilient communities and geopark policies. Protecting and enhancing landscape features and ecosystems – nature recovery - (which providing cultural ecosystem services), and supporting rural skills indirectly supports the Welsh language.
Adverse effects on the Welsh language	Land use-change and trends towards increasing visitor numbers and population increases through positive migration to the National Park risk diluting the everyday use of Welsh in communities, particularly in the west of the National Park.
consider how the plan could promote opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language more widely, and	The way in which the plan is delivered, through partnership working, is a key opportunity to promote opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language. Furthermore, broadening participation in plan preparation, for example through the Citizens Assembly and Stakeholder Reference Panel broaden the range of views and perspectives influencing the Plan and can act to ensure opportunities to use the Welsh language are considered.
Consider whether the plan will mean treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language.	There is the potential for the Plan to drive actions which treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language. The scale and pace of change mean that some relevant research or evidence may only be available in English language.

Table 14: Plan response to the Welsh Language Standard.

8. Analysis - What do the Likely Significant Effects mean – what will be affected?

The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.

- 8.1 The National Park Management Plan covers the whole of the National Park, the landscape and environment of which are generally described in the books 'Brecon Beacons National Park' (National Parks Commission, 1967) and 'Brecon Beacons' (Mullard, 2014). The current condition and sustainability of the national park are explored in the emerging National Park 'Doughnut' included in the draft Plan and State of the Park Report 2020.
- 8.2 The landscape is nationally designated as a National Park and internationally recognised as a Category V Protected Area and is included on the World Database of Protected Sites. The area of the National Park includes multiple other designations, some global such as the UNESCO Geopark and World Heritage Site and Important Plant Areas, some national including landscapes of special and outstanding historic interest in Wales, Special Areas of Conservation and sites of special scientific interest (both geological and ecological) and some are locally designated such as Conservation Areas and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Each is mapped and spatial information is available on them through Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- 8.3 The special qualities of the National Park are described and captured in poetry in the draft Management Plan. Where positive significant effects are identified in this assessment, these will act to enhance these special qualities and enable their enjoyment and understanding.
- 8.4 The National Park Landscape Character Assessment (2012) draws together much of this work and identifies 15 Character Areas across the National Park. This has recently been supplemented with work prepared by Reading University relating to 16 landscape typologies in the National Park.
- 8.5 Likely significant effects have been screened out on Special Areas of Conservation within the National Park and 15km of its boundary. Further detailed assessment will be undertaken during preparation of the place, thematic and spatial plans and through project development and partnership working as detailed project plans and interventions are developed.

9. Recommendations - How can we avoid adverse effects and strike a sustainable balance?

The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.

- 9.1 At this stage, there are no likely significant adverse effects identified. An ecosystem approach is being followed, with place-planning and thematic action plans encouraged as a means of working in partnership to identify and deliver place-appropriate actions and interventions. This is reliant on project development and management protocols ensuring that decisions are appropriately informed through statutory assessment and consenting processes.
- 9.2 Key to maximising benefits and preventing, reducing and offsetting any significant adverse effects on the environment will be aligning project identification and design objectives and standards with the National Park purposes.
- 9.3 The draft National Park vision has been amended in advance of consultation following an initial recommendation (below) that further consideration be given to its wording to ensure alignment with the policy intention (in particular Carbon budget and Nature Recovery):

“The vision could be worded more positively “more sustainable” to “sustainable”; “multiple problems” to “face climate change...”. Furthermore, in 2045 ecosystems should be ‘resilient’ – this is more than just ‘diverse’ (see DECCA, Lawton, Nature Recovery Policy), and rather than ‘less carbon reliant’, we should be near zero carbon (Carbon budget).”

10. How are we going to check our assessment predictions?

A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.

- 10.1 The National Park Doughnut project will evolve and act as the focus for collating and reporting monitoring information including that on likely significant effects identified through this assessment / appraisal process.
- 10.2 The project will also bring together the National Park Research Partnerships and a wide range of monitoring mechanisms including the Welsh Government's Well-being and ERAMMP monitoring and the National Park's own emerging vital signs project, well-being reporting, including s6 Environment Act reporting and monitoring undertaken by partnerships.
- 10.3 Over time, incorporating a spatial dimension into the National Park doughnut based upon the Landscape Character Areas and /Landscape Character Units may lead to more detailed understanding of the 'State of the National Park'.
- 10.4 Where significant information is unavailable and primary research is required to obtain it, a prioritised list of evidence needs has been prepared for funding¹¹. The NPA has a research partnership with the Sustainable Places Research Institute¹² and with the University of South Wales (UoSW)¹³, is an associate of the Environment Platform Wales and works closely with the University of Swansea and Reading University amongst others. In follow up to the major three Parks workshop that UoSW hosted in September 2017, a research local workshop hosted in 2017 has moved the NPA closer to a co-developed research portfolio. A further workshop is due to be repeated before the National Park Management Plan is approved.

¹¹ Brecon Beacons National Park Research Prospectus 2013

¹² <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/sustainable-places/research/places/brecon-beacons-national-park>

¹³ <https://www.southwales.ac.uk/news/news-2017/university-south-wales-joins-forces-brecon-beacons-national-park/>

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To identify the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme.

Environmental protection objectives	Where established	Implications for Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan
<p>Primary objective</p> <p>To protect and sustain important landscapes/seascapes and the associated nature conservation and other values created by interactions with humans through traditional management practices.</p> <p>Other objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain a balanced interaction of nature and culture through the protection of landscape and/or seascape and associated traditional management approaches, societies, cultures and spiritual values; • To contribute to broad-scale conservation by maintaining species associated with cultural landscapes and/or by providing conservation opportunities in heavily used landscapes; • To provide opportunities for enjoyment, well-being and socio-economic activity through recreation and tourism; • To provide natural products and environmental services; • To provide a framework to underpin active involvement by the community in the 	<p>International Union for Conservation of Nature – Category V protected area.</p> <p>IUCN Protected Area Management Categories Statement of Compliance for the UK National Park Authorities on why they should continue to be recognised as IUCN Protected Areas Cat V.</p>	<p>Statement of conformity - summary of the ambition and vision for nature conservation in the areas:</p> <p>While the legislative and policy framework for National Parks allows for a high priority to be given to natural beauty, there are a number of external factors that could undermine conservation efforts, including climate change, development pressure and competing land uses. In order to address this, the National Parks have identified and signed up to major ambitions for the future of nature conservation in their areas and are becoming increasingly recognised as places where biodiversity conservation should be focused.</p> <p>The National Park Authorities recognise that while much progress has been delivered, there is much more that can be achieved in terms of conserving and enhancing biodiversity.</p>

Appendix I – Review of relevant plans, policies and programmes.

<p>management of valued landscapes or seascapes and the natural and cultural heritage that they contain;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage the conservation of agrobiodiversity and aquatic biodiversity; • To act as models of sustainability so that lessons can be learnt for wider application. 		<p>IUCN can expect those National Parks who are a party to this Statement of Compliance to make sure that all future management plans give a high priority to the conservation of nature. This priority will be explicit in the aims and objectives of the new plans.</p>
<p>The aims of this Convention are to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</p>	<p>The European Landscape Convention</p> <p>UK Signature: 21/02/2006</p> <p>UK Ratification: 21/11/2006</p> <p>UK Entry into force: 01/03/2007</p>	<p>The States Parties to the Convention recognise that the landscape has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity. The landscape is a key element of individual and social well-being. Its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone.</p>
<p>National Park purposes:</p> <p>(a) For the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and;</p> <p>(b) For the purpose of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities by the public.</p>	<p>Section 61 of the Environment Act 1995, which amended Section 5 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.</p>	<p>The statutory definition of natural beauty (above) includes geomorphology and landform, concepts that are embraced by IUCN in its definition of “nature”.</p> <p>This is, therefore, a wider definition than those normally subsumed under the term “wildlife”.</p> <p>The two purposes are equal in law, except where there appears to be a conflict between them, in which case priority shall be given to the first purpose. This is the long-established Government policy often referred to as the “Sandford Principle” and since 1995 enshrined in law. It requires that the conservation of natural beauty and cultural heritage be given greater</p>

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		<p>weight if there is a conflict with recreational or educational activity.</p> <p>The Environment Act 1995 is definitive and unambiguous that the first purpose “shall” be given greater weight in such circumstances. This means it is a requirement rather than optional.</p> <p>In practice, there are very few instances where recreational or educational activity would be in conflict with conservation of natural beauty or cultural heritage, not least because the National Park Authorities adopt an integrated approach to the management of the Park’s “special qualities”.</p> <p>In pursuing the statutory purposes, the National Park Authorities have a duty to seek to foster the social and economic well-being of their local communities.</p> <p>The legislation makes clear that this duty is subsidiary to the purposes and its fulfilment should not undermine the priority that is given to nature conservation.</p> <p>Furthermore, National Parks are a national designation, established in legislation, and defined by</p>
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		<p>the National Park purposes. Section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995 requires all relevant authorities to have regard to the National Park purposes in all their work in the Parks. Indeed, the imperatives of the National Park purposes should be reflected in these other Plans.</p>
<p>Sustainable Development in Welsh National Parks:</p> <p>Valued Places</p> <p>1. Landscapes for everyone</p> <p>Resilient Environments</p> <p>2. Exemplars of the sustainable management of natural resources</p> <p>3. Halting the loss of biodiversity</p> <p>4. Green energy and decarbonisation</p> <p>Resilient Communities</p> <p>5. Realising the economic potential of landscape</p> <p>6. Growing tourism and outdoor recreation</p>	<p>Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government’s priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (2018).</p>	<p>Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament has legislative competence in relation to countryside and open spaces (including the designation and regulation of national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty (AoNBs)). This is subject to any reservations in Schedule 7A to the Government of Wales Act 2006.</p> <p>It is reasonable to assume the Welsh Government’s priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (2018) acts to guide the delivery of the National Park purposes through the National Park Management Plan, having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN objectives for Category V protected areas; • Aims of the European Landscape Convention; • National Park purposes; • All other relevant Welsh Legislation and Government Policy including the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Planning Policy Wales and associated Technical Advice Notes, National Peatland

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<p>7. Thriving Welsh language</p> <p>Resilient Ways of Working</p> <p>8. All landscapes matter</p> <p>9. Delivering through collaboration</p> <p>10. Innovation in resourcing</p>		<p>programme, Woodlands for Wales and future proposals for agricultural payments.</p>
<p>The Welsh Government Environment & Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme</p> <p>The overall aim of ERAMMP is to deliver a programme of monitoring and modelling which collects data across the Welsh landscape and links any changes to their impacts on a wide range of benefits including their economic consequences.</p>	<p>Welsh Government Environment & Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme: https://erammp.wales/en</p>	<p>The programme will be a key source of data for future editions of the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR). The programme will also undertake modelling for the EU exit process and the design and evaluation of programmes delivering to the Natural Resources Policy.</p>
<p>LANDMAP - the Welsh landscape baseline:</p> <p>An all-Wales landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated in a nationally consistent data set.</p>	<p>LANDMAP - the Welsh landscape baseline: https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/landmap-the-welsh-landscape-baseline/?lang=en</p>	<p>LANDMAP is used to inform planning, policy, strategies, evidence and advice, including National Park management plans, special qualities and ‘State of reports.</p>

Appendix I – Review of relevant plans, policies and programmes.

<p>State of natural resources report (SoNaRR)</p> <p>Natural Resources Wales must prepare and publish reports containing its assessment of the state of natural resources in relation to Wales. Each report must, among other things, set out—</p> <p>(a)NRW's assessment of the extent to which sustainable management of natural resources is being achieved;</p> <p>(b)NRW's assessment of biodiversity (including the living organisms and types of habitat included in any list published under section 7);</p> <p>(c)what NRW considers to be the main trends and factors that are affecting, and are likely to affect, the state of natural resources;</p> <p>(d)any aspects of the state of natural resources about which NRW considers that it does not have sufficient information to make an assessment.</p>	<p>The Environment Act 1995 (s66, (7A) (a)):</p> <p>A National Park authority for a park in Wales which is proposing to publish, adopt or review any plan under this section must have regard to the state of natural resources report published under section 8 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.</p>	<p>SoNaRR is used to inform planning, policy, strategies, evidence and advice, including National Park management plans, special qualities and 'State of reports.</p> <p>It sets out the four aims of SMNR as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stocks of natural resources are safeguarded and enhanced. 2. Ecosystems are resilient to expected and unforeseen change. 3. Wales has healthy places for people, protected from environmental risks 4. A regenerative economy - Wales needs more sustainable patterns of production and consumption. <p>And provides relevant assessments of progress towards the sustainable management of natural resources in the following broad ecosystems found in the National Park and by eight cross-cutting themes.</p>
<p>Area Statements:</p> <p>For the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the national natural resources policy, Natural Resources</p>	<p>The Environment Act 1995 (s66, (7A) (b)):</p> <p>A National Park authority for a park in Wales which is proposing to publish, adopt or review any</p>	<p>7 Area Statements were published on 1st April 2020; 4 are partly within the National Park. Themes include:</p> <p>Mid Wales:</p>

Appendix I – Review of relevant plans, policies and programmes.

<p>Wales has prepared and published ‘area statements’ covering the whole of Wales.</p> <p>Each area statement must explain why a statement has been prepared for the area, by reference to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the natural resources in the area; (ii) the benefits which the natural resources provide; and (iii) the priorities, risks and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources which need to be addressed. 	<p>plan under this section must have regard to any area statement published under section 11 of that Act for an area that includes all or part of the park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Improving biodiversity - responding to the nature emergency 2 Sustainable land, water and air - working towards sustainable farming and land management 3 Reconnecting people and places - improving health, wellbeing and the economy 4 Forest resources - managing timber resources effectively 5 Climate emergency – adaptation and mitigation across four themes <p>South East Wales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Linking our Landscapes 2 Climate ready Gwent 3 Healthy active connected 4 Ways of working <p>South Central Wales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Building resilient ecosystems 2 Connecting people with nature 3 Working with water 4 Improving our health 5 Improving our air quality
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Appendix I – Review of relevant plans, policies and programmes.

		<p>South West Wales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 Reducing health inequalities2 Ensuring sustainable land management3 Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity4 Cross-cutting theme: Mitigating and adapting to a changing climate

Appendix 2: Details of the Special Areas of Conservation considered in the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening report.

	SAC	Scanning and site selection
1	<p>Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Grassland/heathland</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>The National Park is beyond the recommended 2km buffer for its mobile designated feature, the Marsh fritillary butterfly. Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC is also designated for its Purple moor-grass meadows habitat.</p> <p>Natural Resources Wales’ report <i>Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plan Air Pollution: Nitrogen Deposition (2015)</i> identifies both features as being among those most frequently adversely affected by air pollution (Table 1, page 9).</p> <p>Section 8 of the report describes the proposed strategic actions required to manage and address impacts from air pollution on Natura 2000 features.</p> <p>Appendix C of the report outlines possible measures and potential delivery mechanisms that could reduce nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats within protected sites and in the wider countryside identified by the Defra Remedies for Air Pollution Impacts on Designated Sites (RAPIDS) 19 project.</p> <p>These relate to one or more of the following scenarios agriculture (diffuse and point source), non-agricultural point sources such as industrial plants, combustion/power generation or waste processing sites, emissions originating from large numbers motor vehicles; wet deposition from medium to long range transport (which may need national scale or international scale interventions to achieve significant reductions in N impacts).</p>
2	<p>Blaen Cynon SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Grassland/heathland</p>	<p>The Blaen Cynon SAC is designated for the Marsh fritillary butterfly. The SAC is recorded as having an issue relating to (or the potential to adversely affect) site features within the following Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change and Habitat Fragmentation (2015) • Grazing and Livestock Management (2015) • Invasive Species and Pathogens (2015) • Man-made Changes to Hydraulic Conditions (2015)

Appendix 2 – Consideration of National Sites Network from Habitats Regulations Assessment.

	<p>Secondary Natura 2000 category or categories: Bog</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-Cutting Action Plans (2015)
3	<p>Brecon Beacons SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Upland</p> <p>Secondary Natura 2000 category or categories: Grassland/heathland</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>The Brecon Beacons SAC is designated for the following habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry heaths. • Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks. • Plants in crevices on acid rocks. • Tall herb communities. <p>The SAC is located within an area of open access land; which is heavily visited and is recorded as having an issue relating to (or the potential to adversely affect) site features within the following Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and Recreation Management (2015) • Grazing and Livestock Management (2015) • Invasive Species and Pathogens (2015)
4	<p>Cernydd Carmel SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Grassland/heathland</p>	<p>The site is entirely outside the Brecon Beacons National Park and has no mobile designated features. Cernydd Carmel SAC is designated for its:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active raised bogs. • Dry heaths. • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath. • Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes. • Turloughs.

Appendix 2 – Consideration of National Sites Network from Habitats Regulations Assessment.

	<p>Secondary Natura 2000 category or categories: Bog</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>Natural Resources Wales’ report Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plan Air Pollution: Nitrogen Deposition (2015) identifies those features identified in bold above as being adversely affected (or having the potential to be adversely affect) by air pollution on sites (Appendix B).</p> <p>Section 8 of the report describes the proposed strategic actions required to manage and address impacts from air pollution on Natura 2000 features.</p> <p>Appendix C of the report outlines possible measures and potential delivery mechanisms that could reduce nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats within protected sites and in the wider countryside identified by the Defra Remedies for Air Pollution Impacts on Designated Sites (RAPIDS) 19 project.</p> <p>These relate to one or more of the following scenarios agriculture (diffuse and point source), non-agricultural point sources such as industrial plants, combustion/power generation or waste processing sites, emissions originating from large numbers motor vehicles; wet deposition from medium to long range transport (which may need national scale or international scale interventions to achieve significant reductions in N impacts).</p>
5	<p>Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Grassland/heathland</p> <p>Secondary Natura 2000 category or categories: Woodland</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>The Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC is designated for the following habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes. • Western acidic oak woodland. <p>The SAC is located within an area promoted as ‘Waterfall Country’ and is heavily visited. The SAC is recorded as having an issue relating to (or the potential to adversely affect) site features within the following Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and Recreation Management (2015) • Grazing and Livestock Management (2015) • Invasive Species and Pathogens (2015) • Woodland Management (2015)

Appendix 2 – Consideration of National Sites Network from Habitats Regulations Assessment.

6	<p>Coed y Cerrig SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Alluvial forest</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>The Coed y Cerrig SAC is designated for its Alder woodland on floodplains habitat.</p> <p>The SAC is also a National Nature Reserve is recorded as having an issue relating to (or the potential to adversely affect) site features within the following Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive Species and Pathogens (2015) • Man-made Changes to Hydraulic Conditions (2015) • Woodland Management (2015)
7	<p>Cwm Cadlan SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Grassland/heathland</p> <p>Secondary Natura 2000 category or categories: Bog</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>The Cwm Cadlan SAC is designated for the following habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens. • Purple moor-grass meadows. <p>Although not a honey-pot site, the SAC is located partially within a National Nature Reserve and is crossed by Public Rights of Way leading to open access land with significant historic environment interest (Mynydd-y-Glog).</p> <p>The SAC is recorded as having an issue relating to (or the potential to adversely affect) site features within the following Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing and Livestock Management (2015) • Invasive Species and Pathogens (2015) • Man-made Changes to Hydraulic Conditions (2015)
8	<p>Cwm Doeithe Mynydd Mallaen SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Woodland</p>	<p>The site is entirely outside the Brecon Beacons National and has no mobile designated features. Cwm Doeithe Mynydd Mallaen SAC is designated for its:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry heaths. • Western acidic oak woodland.

Appendix 2 – Consideration of National Sites Network from Habitats Regulations Assessment.

	<p>Secondary Natura 2000 category or categories: Grassland/ Heathland</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>Natural Resources Wales’ report Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plan Air Pollution: Nitrogen Deposition (2015) identifies those features identified in bold above as being adversely affected (or having the potential to be adversely affect) by air pollution on sites (Appendix B).</p> <p>Section 8 of the report describes the proposed strategic actions required to manage and address impacts from air pollution on Natura 2000 features.</p> <p>Appendix C of the report outlines possible measures and potential delivery mechanisms that could reduce nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats within protected sites and in the wider countryside identified by the Defra Remedies for Air Pollution Impacts on Designated Sites (RAPIDS) 19 project.</p> <p>These relate to one or more of the following scenarios agriculture (diffuse and point source), non-agricultural point sources such as industrial plants, combustion/power generation or waste processing sites, emissions originating from large numbers motor vehicles; wet deposition from medium to long range transport (which may need national scale or international scale interventions to achieve significant reductions in N impacts).</p>
9	<p>Cwm Clydach Woodlands SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Woodland</p> <p>Secondary Natura 2000 category or categories: Grassland/ Heathland</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>The Cwm Clydach Woodlands SAC is designated for the following habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beech forests on acid soils. • Beech forests on neutral to rich soils. <p>The SAC is located partially within a National Nature Reserve and is recorded as having an issue relating to (or the potential to adversely affect) site features within the following Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and Recreation Management (2015) • Invasive Species and Pathogens (2015) • Woodland Management (2015)

Appendix 2 – Consideration of National Sites Network from Habitats Regulations Assessment.

<p>10</p>	<p>Drostre Bank SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Grassland/heathland</p> <p>Secondary Natura 2000 category or categories: Woodland</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>The site is entirely outside the Brecon Beacons National and has no mobile designated features. Drostre Bank SAC is designated for its:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alder woodland on floodplains. • Purple moor-grass meadows. <p>Natural Resources Wales’ report Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plan Air Pollution: Nitrogen Deposition (2015) identifies those features identified in bold above as being adversely affected (or having the potential to be adversely affect) by air pollution on sites (Appendix B).</p> <p>Section 8 of the report describes the proposed strategic actions required to manage and address impacts from air pollution on Natura 2000 features.</p> <p>Appendix C of the report outlines possible measures and potential delivery mechanisms that could reduce nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats within protected sites and in the wider countryside identified by the Defra Remedies for Air Pollution Impacts on Designated Sites (RAPIDS) 19 project.</p> <p>These relate to one or more of the following scenarios agriculture (diffuse and point source), non-agricultural point sources such as industrial plants, combustion/power generation or waste processing sites, emissions originating from large numbers motor vehicles; wet deposition from medium to long range transport (which may need national scale or international scale interventions to achieve significant reductions in N impacts).</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Llangorse Lake/ Llyn Syfaddan SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Lake</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>The Llangorse Lake/ Llyn Syfaddan SAC is designated as a freshwater habitat; a naturally nutrient-rich lakes or lochs which are often dominated by pondweed. The lake is located within an area promoted as a tourist destination and is heavily visited.</p> <p>The SAC is recorded as having an issue relating to (or the potential to adversely affect) site features within the following Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and Recreation Management (2015) • Diffuse Water Pollution (2015) • Plan Grazing and Livestock Management (2015) • Invasive Species and Pathogens (2015)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Man-made Changes to Hydraulic Conditions (2015)
12	<p>Mynydd Epynt SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Upland</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>The site is entirely outside the Brecon Beacons National and has no mobile designated features. Mynydd Epynt SAC is designated for its Slender green feather-moss.</p> <p>Natural Resources Wales’ report Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plan Air Pollution: Nitrogen Deposition (2015) identifies those features identified in bold above as being adversely affected (or having the potential to be adversely affect) by air pollution on sites (Appendix B).</p> <p>Section 8 of the report describes the proposed strategic actions required to manage and address impacts from air pollution on Natura 2000 features.</p> <p>Appendix C of the report outlines possible measures and potential delivery mechanisms that could reduce nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats within protected sites and in the wider countryside identified by the Defra Remedies for Air Pollution Impacts on Designated Sites (RAPIDS) 19 project.</p> <p>These relate to one or more of the following scenarios agriculture (diffuse and point source), non-agricultural point sources such as industrial plants, combustion/power generation or waste processing sites, emissions originating from large numbers motor vehicles; wet deposition from medium to long range transport (which may need national scale or international scale interventions to achieve significant reductions in N impacts).</p>
13	<p>River Usk SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Riparian</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>Part of the River Usk SAC and its catchment are within the National Park. It is designated for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allis shad. • Atlantic salmon. • Brook lamprey. • Bullhead. • Otter. • River lamprey. • Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot. • Sea lamprey. • Twaite shad.

Appendix 2 – Consideration of National Sites Network from Habitats Regulations Assessment.

		<p>The SAC is within the National Park and is closely connected with (is fed by and receives overflow from) the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. Some of its upper tributaries are dammed and provide water for Swansea and Newport. Furthermore, settlements including Sennybridge, Brecon and Crickhowell are on the Usk.</p> <p>The SAC is recorded as having an issue relating to (or the potential to adversely affect) site features within the following Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive Species and Pathogens (2015) • Diffuse Water Pollution (2015) • Man-made Changes to Hydraulic Conditions (2015) • Woodland Management (2015) <p>It is also likely that matters relating to Access and Recreation Management are relevant.</p> <p>Water quality in the river is currently exceeding critical limits (phosphates) demonstrating existing in combination impacts within the catchment are harming the designation. Evidence: NRW Evidence Report 489 (January 2021).</p>
14	<p>River Wye SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Riparian</p> <p>Secondary Natura 2000 category or categories: Bog</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>Part of the River Wye SAC and its catchment are within the National Park. It is designated for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allis shad. • Atlantic salmon. • Brook lamprey. • Bullhead. • Otter. • River lamprey. • Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot. • Sea lamprey. • Twaite shad. • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface. • White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish.

Appendix 2 – Consideration of National Sites Network from Habitats Regulations Assessment.

		<p>The SAC is partly within the National Park and is hydrologically connected with Llangros Lake and the settlements of Talgarth and Hay-on-Wye.</p> <p>The SAC is recorded as having an issue relating to (or the potential to adversely affect) site features within the following Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and Recreation Management (2015) • Diffuse Water Pollution (2015) • Grazing and Livestock Management (2015) • Invasive Species and Pathogens (2015) • Man-made Changes to Hydraulic Conditions (2015) • Woodland Management (2015) <p>Water quality in the river is currently exceeding critical limits (phosphates) demonstrating existing in combination impacts within the catchment are harming the designation. Evidence: NRW Evidence Report 489 (January 2021).</p>
15	<p>Sugar Loaf Woodlands SAC Woodland Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>The Sugar Loaf Woodlands SAC is designated for its Western acidic oak woodland habitat. The SAC is recorded as having an issue relating to (or the potential to adversely affect) site features within the following Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing and Livestock Management (2015) • Invasive Species and Pathogens (2015) • Woodland Management (2015)
16	<p>Usk Bat Sites SAC Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Bats</p>	<p>The Usk Bat Sites SAC is designated for the following habitats and species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanket bog. • Caves not open to the public. • Degraded raised bog. • Dry heaths. • Lesser horseshoe bat. • Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes.

Appendix 2 – Consideration of National Sites Network from Habitats Regulations Assessment.

	<p>Secondary Natura 2000 category or categories: Grassland/ heathland, Bogs, Upland</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks. <p>The SAC is large (1686.025 Ha.) and range of the lesser horseshoe bat (suggested buffer of 15km. Schofield, H. (2010) Lesser Horseshoe Conservation Handbook. Bat Conservation Trust).</p> <p>The SAC is recorded as having an issues relating to (or the potential to adversely affect) site features within the following Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Action Plan Access and Recreation Management (2015) • Grazing and Livestock Management (2015) • Invasive Species and Pathogens (2015) • Man-made Changes to Hydraulic Conditions (2015) • Woodland Management (2015)
17	<p>Rhos Goch SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Bog</p> <p>Secondary Natura 2000 category or categories: Grassland</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>The site is entirely outside the Brecon Beacons National and has no mobile designated features. Rhos Goch SAC is designated for its:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active raised bogs. • Alder woodland on floodplains. • Bog woodland. • Purple moor-grass meadows. • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface. <p>Natural Resources Wales' report <i>Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plan Air Pollution: Nitrogen Deposition (2015)</i> identifies those features identified in bold above as being adversely affected (or having the potential to be adversely affect) by air pollution on sites (Appendix B).</p> <p>Section 8 of the report describes the proposed strategic actions required to manage and address impacts from air pollution on Natura 2000 features.</p>

Appendix 2 – Consideration of National Sites Network from Habitats Regulations Assessment.

		<p>Appendix C of the report outlines possible measures and potential delivery mechanisms that could reduce nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats within protected sites and in the wider countryside identified by the Defra Remedies for Air Pollution Impacts on Designated Sites (RAPIDS) 19 project.</p> <p>These relate to one or more of the following scenarios agriculture (diffuse and point source), non-agricultural point sources such as industrial plants, combustion/power generation or waste processing sites, emissions originating from large numbers motor vehicles; wet deposition from medium to long range transport (which may need national scale or international scale interventions to achieve significant reductions in N impacts).</p>
18	<p>River Tywi SAC</p> <p>Primary Broad Natura 2000 Category: Riparian</p> <p>Core management plan/ conservation objectives Link</p>	<p>Part of the River Tywi SAC and its catchment are within the National Park. It is designated for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allis shad. • Brook lamprey. • Bullhead. • Otter. • River lamprey. • Sea lamprey. • Twaite shad. <p>The SAC is recorded as having an issue relating to (or the potential to adversely affect) site features within the following Natura 2000 Thematic Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diffuse Water Pollution (2015) • Grazing and Livestock Management (2015) • Invasive Species and Pathogens (2015) • Man-made Changes to Hydraulic Conditions (2015) <p>Water quality in the river is not optimal, existing impacts within the catchment are harming the designation. Evidence: NRW Evidence Report 489 (January 2021).</p>

Appendix 3: Identification of options at Vision and Objectives Stage.

NPMP Option 1 – Vision and Objectives Stage – Suite of objectives and policies issued for consultation.

Draft NPMP	
Landscape and nature recovery.	
Objective 1	Objective: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.
	Outcome: People will benefit from the Park’s resilient landscapes, full of flourishing wildlife and valued heritage.
Strategic Policy.	
SP1	To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.
SP2	To return our protected water bodies to good status, reduce flood risk, and maintain those improvements.
SP3	To work with our agricultural community to ensure that the Sustainable Farming Scheme delivers the best outcomes for the natural environment of the National Park.
SP4	To ensure all development and land use change delivers a net benefit for biodiversity and provides broader environmental net-gain, demonstrating carbon neutrality where relevant.
Inspiring people and places.	
Objective 2	Objective: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons.
	Outcome: People will be able to access, understand and enjoy what makes the national park special.
Strategic Policy.	
SP5	To have made public and sustainable travel a viable means of accessing the Park for our visitors.
SP6	To promote the Park as A Natural Health Service.
SP7	To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park.
SP8	Develop an integrated plan for the future management of the Historic Environment working with objectives around nature recovery.
Community and Rural Enterprise.	
Objective 3	Objective: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.
	Outcome: People living and working in the Park will benefit from strong communities, sustainable livelihoods, healthy lifestyles and widespread decarbonisation.
Future policy objectives:	
FPO1	To develop a ‘green growth’ strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.
FPO2	To enable and support community development of Place Plans with the aim of developing 20-minute communities.

Appendix 3 – Identification of alternatives at Vision and Objectives Stage – in the form of a gap analysis

National Park Purposes	NPMP Objective / Strategic Policy / Future Policy Objective	Recommendation to inform alternative policy.
<p>(a) For the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and;</p>	<p>Objective 1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP2: To return our protected water bodies to good status , reduce flood risk, and maintain those improvements.</p> <p>SP4: To ensure all development and land use change delivers a net benefit for biodiversity and provides broader environmental net-gain, demonstrating carbon neutrality where relevant.</p> <p>SP8: Develop an integrated plan for the future management of the Historic Environment working with objectives around nature recovery.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Consider changing the word landscape for ecosystems?</p> <p>SP2: Two key asks – the first (why protected water bodies only?) and by when. The second reduce flood risk to whom/what and where, by what magnitude and how? Relies on NRW CC projections. Could go further and suggest by appropriate nature-based solutions rather than engineered solutions?</p> <p>SP4: Must be based on a principle of appropriate net benefit / net gain in the context of the National Park. We do not want to be exporting the National Park’s biodiversity of enabling any development or land use change which detracts from the cultural ecosystem services provided by the National Park. Add something on our planning / advocacy function?</p> <p>SP8: Is cultural heritage wider than the Historic Environment? Good to link with nature recovery but also perhaps with landscape management recommendations?</p> <p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate landscape management recommendations. • Consider policy to continually explore the concept of Natural Beauty of the National Park • Consider policy specifically on Nature Recovery • Tightly define cultural heritage (i.e., understanding of past lived experience of the National Park?) so as not to confuse with trying to conserve and enhance the current lived experience of different people / communities / groups into the future (largely outside our control and may embed further inequality).
<p>(b) For the purpose of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities by the public.</p>	<p>Objective 2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP6: To promote the Park as A Natural Health Service.</p> <p>SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park.</p>	<p>Objective 2: The word people is inclusive and all groups of people will therefore be diverse. Consider either dropping the ‘diverse groups’ or look to the strategic equality plan and identify the specific characteristics of people the term was intended to identify. Perhaps consider alignment with wording in existing Nat Park communications e.g., NPUK Parks for all: <i>accelerate an improvement in equality of access to National Parks to underrepresented communities</i>. Isn’t there a NPW policy document called landscapes for all?</p> <p>SP6: To who would we be promoting the Park as A Natural Health Service and why? People? Welsh Government (i.e., Advocacy)? Investors? NHS (mainstream funding)? Perhaps promoting the health benefits of conditions and experiences which may be found in the Brecon Beacons National Park? Would need to link this assertion to evidence – perhaps link with NPUK Nature Health Network</p> <p>SP7: Just checking - why only nature recovery projects? Are these currently an omission? Perhaps incorporate nature recovery within education programme?</p> <p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility of information on the National Park enabling visits to be planned in advance. • Ensuring appropriate infrastructure and facilities so that all people can enjoy the National Park (i.e., changing places) • Sharing research evidence and monitoring. • Education of special qualities, cultural ecosystem services and the origins of the National Park movement. • Approach to providing skills and information for people to enjoy the National Park safely (e.g., outdoor education such as map reading and info on the countryside code)

IUCN statement of conformity

IUCN Cat V	NPMP Objective / Strategic Policy / Future Policy Objective	Recommendation
<p>Primary objective To protect and sustain important landscapes/seascapes and the associated nature conservation and other values created by interactions with humans through traditional management practices.</p>	<p>Objective 1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP2: To return our protected water bodies to good status, reduce flood risk, and maintain those improvements.</p> <p>SP3: To work with our agricultural community to ensure that the Sustainable Farming Scheme delivers the best outcomes for the natural environment of the National Park.</p> <p>SP8: Develop an integrated plan for the future management of the Historic Environment working with objectives around nature recovery.</p>	<p>SP3: Consider whether to advocate for appropriate traditional management practices to play a part in the future Sustainable Farming Scheme.</p> <p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate landscape management recommendations. • Consider alternative policy support for appropriate traditional management practices (Perhaps with exemplars at the visitor centre?)
<p>To maintain a balanced interaction of nature and culture through the protection of landscape and/or seascape and associated traditional management approaches, societies, cultures and spiritual values.</p>	<p>Objective 1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP4: To ensure all development and land use change delivers a net benefit for biodiversity and provides broader environmental net-gain, demonstrating carbon neutrality where relevant.</p>	<p>SP1: Full stop after resources. Make clear that all Authority decisions (including as LPA) will be made in the context of the forthcoming SMNR duty.</p> <p>SP4: Perhaps broaden to include the need also to protect the societies, cultures and spiritual values associated with the landscape.</p> <p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to ensure, as far as possible within the scope of the National Park designation to protect the societies, cultures and spiritual values associated with the landscape by working to understand them and building them into Equalities Impact Assessments?
<p>To contribute to broad-scale conservation by maintaining species associated with cultural landscapes and/or by providing conservation opportunities in heavily used landscapes.</p>	<p>Objective 1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP2: To return our protected water bodies to good status, reduce flood risk, and maintain those improvements.</p> <p>SP8: Develop an integrated plan for the future management of the Historic Environment working with objectives around nature recovery.</p>	<p>SP2: Draw on our species imperative (SAC designated features) as part of focus. Also, BIS are doing a culturally important species project. Potential to link in.</p> <p>SP8: Broaden historic environment by including cultural landscapes (see culturescapes project). Refer to species recovery plans (are they in NRAP?) associated with historic environment / cultural landscapes (e.g., Curlew?).</p>
<p>To provide opportunities for enjoyment, well-being and socio-economic activity through recreation and tourism.</p>	<p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP3: To work with our agricultural community to ensure that the Sustainable Farming Scheme delivers the best outcomes for the natural environment of the National Park.</p> <p>SP5: To have made public and sustainable travel a viable means of accessing the Park for our visitors.</p> <p>Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p>	<p>SP3: Broaden to best outcomes for natural environment and recreation opportunities of the national park?</p> <p>Broaden scope of Objective 3 to visitors and include appropriate infrastructure to support recreation and forecast visitor numbers.</p> <p>Further room for improvement:</p> <p>On providing the infrastructure necessary for tourism e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NP Visitor Centre • Public Rights of Way • Picnic sites • Camp sites • Information and website

Appendix 3 – Identification of options at Vision and Objectives Stage.

	FP01: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.	On how people can get involved in managing the National Park e.g., Volunteering.
To provide natural products and environmental services.	Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure. FP01: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.	Broaden FP01 for green growth to embrace natural products and outline in more detail environmental services (perhaps with links to the BMLUP PES prospectus?)
To provide a framework to underpin active involvement by the community in the management of valued landscapes or seascapes and the natural and cultural heritage that they contain.	FP02: To enable and support community development of Place Plans with the aim of developing 20-minute communities.	Broaden objective 3 to include concept of community involvement in the decisions of the NPA and in managing the National Park. Further room for improvement: Perhaps additional policies for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering programme; • Community involvement activities; and, • Evidence, research and monitoring.
To encourage the conservation of agrobiodiversity and aquatic biodiversity.	Objective 1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons. SP2: To return our protected water bodies to good status, reduce flood risk, and maintain those improvements. SP3: To work with our agricultural community to ensure that the Sustainable Farming Scheme delivers the best outcomes for the natural environment of the National Park.	Objective 1: Draw on our species imperative (SAC designated features e.g., Bats and others such as Wild birds) as part of focus. SP2: Draw on our species imperative (SAC designated features) as part of focus. SP3: add in... biodiversity, ecosystem resilience and natural beauty of the National Park (or wildlife and natural beauty) whatever is easiest.
To act as models of sustainability so that lessons can be learnt for wider application.	Objective 1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons. SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.	SP1: Finish sentence at Resources and hyperlink to Objective, Definition, and principles in the Env Act. The model of sustainability must be in the context of the designation as a National Park and the landscape character units within the National Park. i.e., cultural regulating and supporting ecosystem services appropriate to place. Provisioning ecosystem services to respect the National Park designation.

Appendix 3 – Identification of options at Vision and Objectives Stage.

WG Valued and resilient (i.e., Prosperous Wales)

Valued and resilient	NPMP Objective / Strategic Policy / Future Policy Objective	Recommendation
1. Landscapes for everyone	<p>Objective 2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP5: To have made public and sustainable travel a viable means of accessing the Park for our visitors.</p> <p>SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park.</p>	<p>SP7: Why only nature recovery projects – what about the aspects of landscape and skills development.</p> <p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on accessibility • Nothing on visitor information/ infrastructure/ accommodation needed
2. Exemplars of the sustainable management of natural resources	<p>Objective 1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p>	<p>Objective 1: SMNR is about ecosystem resilience perhaps amend word landscapes to ecological networks / ecosystems. Alternatively repeat the SMNR objective as Objective 1?</p> <p>SP1: SNMR is about informing decision making (including working with land managers) leading to outcomes – does the ‘Park’ in this instance mean the BBNPA? Stop after resources but perhaps explain a little more what SMNR is to make it accessible?</p> <p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include strategic policy on directly implementing the definition of SMNR (ecosystem resilience) via nature recovery (NRAP), peatland restoration etc.
3. Halting the loss of biodiversity	<p>Objective 1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP2: To return our protected water bodies to good status, reduce flood risk, and maintain those improvements.</p> <p>SP3: To work with our agricultural community to ensure that the Sustainable Farming Scheme delivers the best outcomes for the natural environment of the National Park.</p> <p>SP4: To ensure all development and land use change delivers a net benefit for biodiversity and provides broader environmental net-gain, demonstrating carbon neutrality where relevant.</p> <p>SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park.</p> <p>SP8: Develop an integrated plan for the future management of the Historic Environment working with objectives around nature recovery.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Species rich - suggests halting biodiversity loss but not explicitly.</p> <p>SP1: The focus of SMNR is on ecosystem resilience rather than climate change – reconsider wording. Halting loss is a major part of SMNR.</p> <p>SP2: Perhaps expand to provide the reason of SAC designated feature condition recovery.</p> <p>SP3: Perhaps include...and halt the loss of biodiversity.</p> <p>SP4: Net gain also needs to be based on no unacceptable net loss.</p> <p>SP8: Perhaps include...and halting the loss of biodiversity.</p> <p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role as LPA and EIA • Role in research and monitoring
4. Green energy and decarbonisation	<p>Outcome 3: People living and working in the Park will benefit from strong communities, sustainable livelihoods, healthy lifestyles and widespread decarbonisation.</p> <p>SP5: To have made public and sustainable travel a viable means of accessing the Park for our visitors.</p>	<p>Decarbonisation only referred to directly in outcome 3. Neither in an objective or strategic policy. Include strategic policy either on carbon budgeting on taking achievable steps to decarbonise rapidly.</p> <p>SP5 is an important step towards decarbonisation; but does it go far enough? What is sustainable travel (active travel / car sharing?). Consider timed modal shift away from cars?</p> <p>Further room for improvement:</p>

Appendix 3 – Identification of options at Vision and Objectives Stage.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic policy on decarbonisation of the National Park (i.e., as an authority and of visitor activities we promote, projects we undertake and all partnership activity). • Strategic policy on green energy (NDF mandates a Brecon Heat Network: Work with WPD / Community energy audits?)
5. Realising the economic potential of landscape	<p>SPI: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.</p>	<p>Must start with the position of being a National Park and scoping ways of achieving the economic potential of the National Park as a designated landscape in ways provide multiple benefits: social, cultural, environmental...(Essentially SMNR in the context of the National Park).</p> <p>The green growth strategy is a route towards establishing an economic vision however would, for instance, Growing Mid Wales / those with objectives other than National Park purposes concur? Suggest advocacy strategy alongside the green growth strategy would be needed.</p>
6. Growing tourism and outdoor recreation	FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.	Not explicit but could/ should form the basis of the green growth strategy so perhaps add wording after PES...tourism and appropriate outdoor recreation...at its heart.
7. Thriving Welsh language	Nothing.	<p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either dedicated strategic policy or through other means – perhaps in Objective 3.
8. All landscapes matter	Nothing.	<p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate landscape management recommendations.
9. Delivering through collaboration	<p>SP3: To work with our agricultural community to ensure that the Sustainable Farming Scheme delivers the best outcomes for the natural environment of the National Park.</p> <p>FPO2: To enable and support community development of Place Plans with the aim of developing 20-minute communities.</p>	<p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy around partnership working and organisational development.
10. Innovation in resourcing	FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.	<p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy around partnership working • Policy around organisational development, project planning and resource allocation • Policy around community involvement and volunteering • Policy around 'Charity' status as a means of attracting additional funding and donations etc.
WG remit letter 2021		

Mid Wales		
<p>1 Improving biodiversity - responding to the nature emergency</p>	<p>Objective1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP2: To return our protected water bodies to good status, reduce flood risk, and maintain those improvements.</p> <p>SP4: To ensure all development and land use change delivers a net benefit for biodiversity and provides broader environmental net-gain, demonstrating carbon neutrality where relevant.</p> <p>SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park.</p> <p>SP8: Develop an integrated plan for the future management of the Historic Environment working with objectives around nature recovery.</p>	<p>Include biodiversity within Objective 1? See RSPB / Cardiff Uni Biodiversity and the Area Based Approach: http://orca.cf.ac.uk/113208/7/CU_RSPB_2018_Biodiv_Area_Statements_Full_Report.pdf</p> <p>Alternatively, add a specific Strategic Policy on improving biodiversity, species and nature recovery?</p>
<p>2 Sustainable land, water and air - working towards sustainable farming and land management</p>	<p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP2: To return our protected water bodies to good status, reduce flood risk, and maintain those improvements.</p> <p>SP3: To work with our agricultural community to ensure that the Sustainable Farming Scheme delivers the best outcomes for the natural environment of the National Park.</p> <p>FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.</p>	<p>Air quality not directly addressed although a key determinant of SAC feature condition and is a Natural resource (https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/section/2/enacted)</p> <p>See NRW report on the Environmental Information Portal: Critical Levels for ammonia for all SSSI's including those that underpin the National Ste Network and the locations of ancient woodlands and parklands that are known to be sensitive to nitrogen (ammonia) pollution.</p>
<p>3 Reconnecting people and places - improving health, wellbeing and the economy</p>	<p>Objective2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP6: To promote the Park as A Natural Health Service.</p> <p>SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park.</p> <p>Objective3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p> <p>FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.</p> <p>FPO2: To enable and support community development of Place Plans with the aim of developing 20-minute communities.</p>	<p>Good coverage. Perhaps broaden to understand the 'National' value of national parks, as a place for all people –is the NPMP focus on those living and working in the National Park and everyone else who may benefit from visiting the National Park right?</p>

Appendix 3 – Identification of options at Vision and Objectives Stage.

<p>4 Forest resources - managing timber resources effectively</p>	<p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p>	<p>SMNR is primarily about resilient ecological networks. Perhaps a separate strategic policy on forestry and woodland creation in the National Park or to work towards a concordat with WG and NRW as is in place in England. Recent landscape work highlights the impact of the forestry in the landscape and ERAMMP has a great evidence base for the Welsh National Forest: https://erammp.wales/en/r-forest-evidence</p>
<p>5 Climate emergency – adaptation and mitigation across four themes</p>	<p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP4: To ensure all development and land use change delivers a net benefit for biodiversity and provides broader environmental net-gain, demonstrating carbon neutrality where relevant.</p>	<p>SMNR (resilient ecological networks are an important means of mitigating the impact of climate change on people and biodiversity but this is not their focus).</p> <p>Include a strategic policy on Nature Based Solutions and other management measures as a means of mitigating the consequences of intense weather events – also need to build into monitoring / citizen science of weather events and their impacts on people, biodiversity, the landscape and environmental conditions.</p> <p>Decarbonisation only not currently in an objective or strategic policy. Include strategic policy either on carbon budgeting on taking achievable steps to decarbonise rapidly.</p> <p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic policy on decarbonisation of the National Park (i.e., as an authority and of visitor activities we promote, projects we undertake and all partnership activity). • Strategic policy on green energy (NDF mandates a Brecon Heat Network: Work with WPD / Community energy audits?)
<p>South East Wales</p>		
<p>1 Linking our Landscapes</p>	<p>Objective1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p>	<p>Consider a strategic landscape policy and make more of our landscape work and monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRW landscape evidence incl. LANDMAP • BBNPA LCA • LDU level 2 study • LNP ecological network mapping project • Culturescapes work / Geopark
<p>2 Climate ready Gwent</p>	<p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP4: To ensure all development and land use change delivers a net benefit for biodiversity and provides broader environmental net-gain, demonstrating carbon neutrality where relevant.</p>	<p>SMNR (resilient ecological networks are an important means of mitigating the impact of climate change on people and biodiversity but this is not their focus).</p> <p>Include a strategic policy on Nature Based Solutions and other management measures as a means of mitigating the consequences of intense weather events – also need to build into monitoring / citizen science of weather events and their impacts on people, biodiversity, the landscape and environmental conditions.</p> <p>Decarbonisation only not currently in an objective or strategic policy. Include strategic policy either on carbon budgeting on taking achievable steps to decarbonise rapidly.</p> <p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic policy on decarbonisation of the National Park (i.e., as an authority and of visitor activities we promote, projects we undertake and all partnership activity). • Strategic policy on green energy (NDF mandates a Brecon Heat Network: Work with WPD / Community energy audits?)
<p>3 Healthy active connected</p>	<p>Objective2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP5: To have made public and sustainable travel a viable means of accessing the Park for our visitors.</p> <p>SP6: To promote the Park as A Natural Health Service.</p>	<p>Opportunity to make more of Active Travel Networks (Incl. PRow and bridleways, long distance routes (Walking, cycling and trekking), routes suitable for disabled people as a means of accessing benefits of cultural ecosystem services with benefits for health / wellbeing. And linking with infrastructure, facilities and equipment providers.</p>

Appendix 3 – Identification of options at Vision and Objectives Stage.

	<p>SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park.</p> <p>Objective3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p>	
4 Ways of working	FPO2: To enable and support community development of Place Plans with the aim of developing 20-minute communities.	<p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy around partnership working • Policy around organisational development, project planning and resource allocation • Policy around community involvement and volunteering
South Central Wales		
1 Building resilient ecosystems	<p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.</p>	<p>The objective of SMNR is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide.</p> <p>Building resilient ecosystems (i.e., the enhance) will draw upon the LNP resilient ecological networks mapping project but would importantly also require using natural resources in a way and at a rate which helps maintain and enhance ecosystem resilience, taking action in accordance with the objective and not taking action which hinders it (i.e., the definition of SMNR).</p> <p>Any green growth strategy would need to be based on SMNR.</p>
2 Connecting people with nature	<p>Objective2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park.</p> <p>Objective3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p>	<p>None of the policies deal with the infrastructure or equipment needed to connect people with Nature. This could be via accessible PRoW (i.e., miles without styles), enhancements to the mountain centre / making equipment available at the mountain centre or by volunteering and outreach in monitoring projects or even via nature watching events.</p> <p>SP7 could be much broader and perhaps link with eNGO initiatives (such as NT https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/50-things-to-do/ / YHA https://www.yha.org.uk/generationgreen/ / https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/have-a-wild-sleepout/ / Local Wildlife Trust events / BIS events / BBNPS events)</p> <p><i>Alongside our fantastic education offer, we will work with all of the wonderful eNGOs and arts bodies who do such a great job of helping people connect with nature, the landscape and the area's cultural heritage...We will also find ways tell the story of the Brecon Beacons National Park as an internationally recognised Protected Area and what might become of the landscape in the future...</i></p>
3 Working with water	<p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP2: To return our protected water bodies to good status, reduce flood risk, and maintain those improvements.</p>	<p>Combined SP1 (sustainable management of) and SP2 (climate change mitigation and water quality measures) provide a framework for working with water. Perhaps broaden SP2 to broaden the consideration of water? It reads a little like an objective rather than a policy.</p> <p>However, Brecon Beacons is seen as a Mega Catchment (important for provisioning ecosystem services to SE Wales); Water is also a habitat (Riverine SAC and Llangors Lake SAC) and a recreation resource (Brecon and Monmouth Canal). These have different impacts (most notably reservoirs) but are also under pressure with critical loads of P having been found to have failed – linking to source apportionment / monitoring and regulatory work (Agri and WwTW). Peat restoration, visitor infrastructure (toilets), tree planting and planning all have links to this topic. Wet weather can make the PRoW unusable and so increase pressure on indoor attractions.</p>
4 Improving our health	<p>Objective2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP6: To promote the Park as A Natural Health Service.</p> <p>Objective3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p>	<p>Helping people access and enjoy the special qualities of the National Park and undertake appropriate and affordable recreational activities will help well-being. This needs to be made available for everyone via appropriate provision, information, and facilities (e.g., PRoW / green Infrastructure).</p> <p>In many ways the story of the National Park movement is one entwined with physical and mental health and it's renewed telling would go a long way to continuing the case for National Parks and ensuring people are aware of their benefits.</p> <p>Regarding Objective 3: What is a sustainable livelihood? (https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-10-0983-9_5)</p>

Appendix 3 – Identification of options at Vision and Objectives Stage.

<p>5 Improving our air quality</p>	<p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p>	<p>Air quality not directly addressed although a key determinant of SAC feature condition and is a Natural resource (https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/section/2/enacted)</p> <p>See NRW report on the Environmental Information Portal: Critical Levels for ammonia for all SSSI's including those that underpin the National Ste Network and the locations of ancient woodlands and parklands that are known to be sensitive to nitrogen (ammonia) pollution.</p> <p>Other than this minimal air quality testing; need to improve intelligence on subject in National Park so build into 'State of the Park' project i.e., monitoring; research; scenario development and assessment...</p>
<p>South West Wales</p>		
<p>1 Reducing health inequalities</p>	<p>Objective2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP6: To promote the Park as A Natural Health Service.</p> <p>Objective3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p>	<p>SP6: Do we need to target promotion of the Park as a Natural Health Service to those experiencing Health Inequalities? Or go further and explore ways of to proactively bring people facing health inequalities to the National Park and ensure we have facilities available for those experiencing health inequalities to visit the National Park?</p> <p>Objective 3: Is there a potential to go further and improve green infrastructure and associate facilities which would help to facilitate health benefits (e.g., PRow – Miles for styles, active travel routes and access to waterways and bridleways etc.).</p>
<p>2 Ensuring sustainable land management</p>	<p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP3: To work with our agricultural community to ensure that the Sustainable Farming Scheme delivers the best outcomes for the natural environment of the National Park.</p> <p>FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.</p>	<p>SP1: Only if SMNR is considered in the context of the National Park designation would land management be able to be considered 'sustainable' in the National Park.</p> <p>SP3: Focusses on the agricultural community; there are also other land-uses e.g., Forestry and sectors (public sector / NGO including our own land management) with whom we need to work with to ensure that land management in the National Park is sustainable.</p> <p>FPO1: Detail will be needed through the green growth strategy: will this be Natural Capital approach (Palladium?) and be based on the benefits of the National Park designation.</p>
<p>3 Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity</p>	<p>Objective1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP2: To return our protected water bodies to good status, reduce flood risk, and maintain those improvements.</p> <p>SP4: To ensure all development and land use change delivers a net benefit for biodiversity and provides broader environmental net-gain, demonstrating carbon neutrality where relevant.</p> <p>SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park.</p> <p>SP8: Develop an integrated plan for the future management of the Historic Environment working with objectives around nature recovery.</p>	<p>Include biodiversity within Objective 1? See RSPB / Cardiff Uni Biodiversity and the Area Based Approach: http://orca.cf.ac.uk/113208/7/CU_RSPB_2018_Biodiv_Area_Statements_Full_Report.pdf</p> <p>Alternatively, add a specific Strategic Policy on improving biodiversity, species and nature recovery? in addition to landscape / as an aspect of landscape.</p>
<p>4 Cross-cutting theme: Mitigating and adapting to a changing climate</p>	<p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p>	<p>SMNR (resilient ecological networks are an important means of mitigating the impact of climate change on people and biodiversity but this is not their focus).</p> <p>Include a strategic policy on Nature Based Solutions and other management measures as a means of mitigating the consequences of intense weather events – also need to build into monitoring /</p>

Appendix 3 – Identification of options at Vision and Objectives Stage.

	<p>SP4: To ensure all development and land use change delivers a net benefit for biodiversity and provides broader environmental net-gain, demonstrating carbon neutrality where relevant.</p>	<p>citizen science of weather events and their impacts on people, biodiversity, the landscape and environmental conditions.</p> <p>Decarbonisation only not currently in an objective or strategic policy. Include strategic policy either on carbon budgeting on taking achievable steps to decarbonise rapidly.</p> <p>Further room for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic policy on decarbonisation of the National Park (i.e., as an authority and of visitor activities we promote, projects we undertake and all partnership activity). • Strategic policy on green energy (NDF mandates a Brecon Heat Network: Work with WPD / Community energy audits?)
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Appendix 3 – Identification of alternatives at Vision and Objectives stage

CCW NPMP guidance 2007

CCW NPMP guidance 2007 (Page 19)		
Issues relating to climate change		
Issues relating to the delivery of international, national, regional and local policies within the National Park, and the potential for conflict between these policy areas if not orchestrated and filtered through the National Park Management Plan. (Practically every aspect of policy has the potential to affect the Parks, from future water resource proposals and policies for renewable energy at the national and regional level, to transport and economic development policies which may not necessarily take full account of the purposes for which the National Parks were designated.)	See response to Valued and Resilient	See response to Valued and Resilient
Issues raised by the review of evidence	As per option suite 1	As per option suite 1
Issues arising from the monitoring of the National Park Management Plan and key indicators set out in the State of the Park Report	As per option suite 1	As per option suite 1
Issues identified through other relevant plans and strategies, which should be highlighted by partners during the process of plan preparation.		
Issues identified through participation of stakeholders and National Park communities and visitors in the preparation of the Plan		
CHECKLIST OF TOPICS (Page 22)		
Sustainable development	Objectives 1 – 3 are the Authority's Well-being Objectives Together with the strategic policies and future policy objectives, these are intended as a response to Sustainable Development.	Consider including within the introduction of the Management Plan a statement on how the NPA sees sustainable development within the context of a National Park: i.e., Development which brings multiple benefits appropriate to the strategic context of the National Park designation and purposes.
Climate change	SPI: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers. SP4: To ensure all development and land use change delivers a net benefit for biodiversity and provides broader environmental net-gain, demonstrating carbon neutrality where relevant.	SMNR (resilient ecological networks are an important means of mitigating the impact of climate change on people and biodiversity but this is not their focus). Include a strategic policy on Nature Based Solutions and other management measures as a means of mitigating the consequences of intense weather events – also need to build into monitoring / citizen science of weather events and their impacts on people, biodiversity, the landscape and environmental conditions. Decarbonisation only not currently in an objective or strategic policy. Include strategic policy either on carbon budgeting on taking achievable steps to decarbonise rapidly. Further room for improvement: • Strategic policy on decarbonisation of the National Park (i.e., as an authority and of visitor activities we promote, projects we undertake and all partnership activity). • Strategic policy on green energy (NDF mandates a Brecon Heat Network: Work with WPD / Community energy audits?)
Landscape character	Objective 1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons. SPI: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.	Consider a strategic landscape policy and make more of our landscape work and monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRW landscape evidence incl. LANDMAP • BBNPA LCA • LDU level 2 study and condition reporting • LNP ecological network mapping project • Culturescapes work / Geopark Consider making more of our IUCN status and membership and resources and opportunities presented by landscape networks such as Europarcs Atlantic Isles, Europarcs, National Parks UK / SNPS and the Designated Landscapes partnership.
Wildlife / biodiversity	Objective 1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.	Include biodiversity within Objective 1? See RSPB / Cardiff Uni Biodiversity and the Area Based Approach: http://orca.cf.ac.uk/113208/7/CU_RSPB_2018_Biodiv_Area_Statements_Full_Report.pdf

	<p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP2: To return our protected water bodies to good status, reduce flood risk, and maintain those improvements.</p> <p>SP4: To ensure all development and land use change delivers a net benefit for biodiversity and provides broader environmental net-gain, demonstrating carbon neutrality where relevant.</p> <p>SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park.</p> <p>SP8: Develop an integrated plan for the future management of the Historic Environment working with objectives around nature recovery.</p>	<p>Alternatively, add a specific Strategic Policy on improving biodiversity, species and nature recovery?</p> <p>It appears the focus of Policy is on improving habitats / environmental conditions as a means of supporting wildlife. Explain the theory of why we are not working specifically towards endemic / emblematic species goals?</p> <p>Link with BIS project on iconic species of the BBNP and work toward their success and as a tangible way of helping people connect with nature. Explain the means by which we will do this in our role as competent authority / as consultee to statutory processes / in carrying out land management practices.</p>
Geodiversity	<p>Objective: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p>	<p>Perhaps an omission?</p> <p>Include strategic policy on geodiversity of the National Park or include within strategic policy on landscape character and our understanding of the National Park?</p> <p>Link with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geopark and management partnerships; • Culturescapes; • Cultural heritage; • Education and interpretation; • Regulatory role and as consultee; • Research and monitoring.
Woodlands	<p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p>	<p>SMNR is primarily about resilient ecological networks. Perhaps a separate strategic policy on forestry and woodland creation in the National Park or to work towards a concordat with WG and NRW as is in place in England. Recent landscape work highlights the impact of the forestry in the landscape and ERAMMP has a great evidence base for the Welsh National Forest: https://erammp.wales/en/r-forest-evidence</p> <p>Consider the role of woodlands delivering multiple benefits (recreation, biodiversity, landscape enhancement, water attenuation etc.) and building resilient ecological networks depending on where they are?</p> <p>How will we play our role as statutory consultee to forestry EIA? Planning permission for community facilities in community woodlands? Convenor for special projects e.g., black poplar at Pencelli? Payments for ecosystems services?</p>
Management of common land	<p>Objective I: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p>	<p>Perhaps an omission?</p> <p>Include strategic policy on how we will engage with common land to deliver SMNR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On land owned by the BBNPA (incl. site management plans) • On common land within the NP not owned by the NPA (as open access land / historic environment / biodiversity / landscape). <p>Or is this part of the green growth strategy with PES at its heart?</p>
Remoteness and tranquillity	<p>Objective: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons.</p>	<p>Perhaps an omission? Or does this form part of the special qualities?</p> <p>Include within monitoring section – tranquillity is a key special quality – NRW are linking this with Dark Skies.</p>

Appendix 3 – Identification of alternatives at Vision and Objectives stage

		How does this relate with our statutory (Section 4?) map? How will our role as regulator / consultee help achieve this and what is the interaction which changes to access legislation mean?
Natural resources of air, soil and water	<p>Objective 1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP2: To return our protected water bodies to good status, reduce flood risk, and maintain those improvements.</p> <p>SP3: To work with our agricultural community to ensure that the Sustainable Farming Scheme delivers the best outcomes for the natural environment of the National Park.</p>	Although natural resources are defined in Env (Wales) Act 2016, SMNR does not specifically mention them. Perhaps include a page (alongside sustainable development) in the NPMP explaining what SMNR is about.
Settlement pattern and built heritage	<p>Objective 2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP8: Develop an integrated plan for the future management of the Historic Environment working with objectives around nature recovery.</p>	SP8 reads like an action rather than a policy, a plan could be developed within which settlement pattern and built heritage could feature. There is no policy on landscapes or on the historic built environment within the National Park which may be an omission given our historic towns and settlements and farmsteads and role as Local Planning Authority in their conservation and enhancement. This links into evidence underpinning planning decisions, the Historic Environment Partnership and the way in which we will seek to make the most of them. What is the interaction of this with place planning? E.g., Hay Castle? And the Hay Town Plan? Perhaps policy SP8 could be broadened?
Archaeology and historic landscapes	<p>Objective 1: To re-establish a connected network of species rich and resilient landscapes across the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>Objective 2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP8: Develop an integrated plan for the future management of the Historic Environment working with objectives around nature recovery.</p>	SP8 reads like an action rather than a policy, a plan could be developed within which archaeology and the historic landscape could feature – but should an integrated approach not be proposed drawing on the landscape as a means of inspiration and learning about the cultural heritage on the places in the National Park?
Social history / customs and traditions	Not directly addressed.	Opportunity to address within SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park if broadened and less focussed on Nature Recovery.
Association with the arts	Not directly addressed.	Opportunity to address within SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park if broadened and less focussed on Nature Recovery and included through the promotion of the arts. .
Awareness raising amongst partners and stakeholders, local communities and wider Wales, about the National Park, its special qualities, the opportunities that it offers, the threats facing it, and its fragility.	<p>Objective 2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park</p>	<p>Opportunity to address within SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park if broadened and less focussed on Nature Recovery.</p> <p>This should also promote the National Parks Movement (BBNPS / CNP) and the benefit and opportunities brought to the area through our association e.g., with the IUCN, Europarcs and NPUK.</p>
Interpretation and education focusing on increasing understanding of the special qualities of the National Park.	<p>Objective 2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park</p>	Opportunity to address within SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park if broadened and less focussed on Nature Recovery and more broadly on Special Qualities?
Recreation provision and the opportunities for quiet enjoyment offered by the rights of way network and open countryside, as well as opportunities for other sports and recreational pursuits.	<p>Objective 2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>SP6: To promote the Park as A Natural Health Service.</p>	Not directly addressed. Appropriate recreation (and the associated health and wellbeing benefits) was the purpose for National Parks. However, it does not remain front and foremost. PRow and access land are key as is development control to maintain the quality of the environment from which the benefits may be realised.

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	FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.	Include an additional strategic policy on support and infrastructure for appropriate recreational opportunities in the National Park and make this a key driver of green growth and means of deriving health benefits. Also linking with a National Park 'experience' whereby interpretation and education is delivered on top.
Visitor patterns and management including trends in visitor use and the addressing of management issues.	SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.	This depends on the NPAs comprehension and understanding of what a National Park. Placing the national benefits of the National Park first and foremost leads to a much different place-based interpretation of SMNR (i.e., sustainable yield management of cultural ecosystem services) i.e., understanding our primary role is to manage the interaction of visitors and the special qualities of the National Park through appropriate interventions. Other models of SMNR (depending on interest) set the balance of ecosystem services towards their ends (e.g., Dwr Cymru on provisioning ecosystem services first and foremost – e.g., Mega Catchment). Where does the NPA need to get involved (place its multi-disciplinary resource and efforts) to pursue the NP purposes and what portfolio of projects and partnerships does this look like? SMNR could mean a focus on managing pressure on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRow • Waterfall Country • PenyFan • Llangors lake • Llanthony • Towns...
Tourism trends, markets, accommodation and attractions as informed by regional and more local tourism surveys and strategies, including those for the National Park, and the opportunities for promoting sustainable tourism that help underpin the first purpose.	Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure. FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.	Appropriate Tourism (i.e., aligned with NP ethos and Park Purposes and which is accessible to all) could be mentioned specifically within FPO1 – Tourism is indirect payment for ecosystem services....i.e., the landscape is the draw – the tourist economy is built on the back of it.
Social inclusion and opportunities for enjoyment of the National Park by the less able and socially excluded, from both within and outside the Park.	Objective 2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons. SP5: To have made public and sustainable travel a viable means of accessing the Park for our visitors. SP6: To promote the Park as A Natural Health Service. SP7: To develop a programme of interpretation, education and communication linked to nature recovery projects in the National Park	Nothing directly on access for all or disabled people or socially excluded. Objective 2 could be reworded. SP5 could be broadened to ensure sustainable and accessible travel is included. Accessibility requires facilities e.g., Changing places and toilets – but also means being financially accessible. SP6: Needs to ensure that those who may benefit from the Natural Health Service can access the benefits: What are the barriers to accessing? Equipment? Affordable accommodation? Feelings of exclusion / relative poverty exacerbated when visiting the National Park? SP7: Why linked to Nature Recovery projects? Landscape as a whole? Why not understanding and enjoyment (which are linked the more you understand the more you can take enjoyment) as in our purpose?
Accessing the National Park and associated transport issues, especially for those who do not have access to a private car.	Objective 2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons. SP5: To have made public and sustainable travel a viable means of accessing the Park for our visitors.	Consider the wording of SP5: Accessible Public Transport to and within the National Park from key hubs and to key opportunities to explore the National Park.
Transport	Objective 2: To help diverse groups of people access, enjoy and understand, the heritage, places and special qualities of the Brecon Beacons. SP5: To have made public and sustainable travel a viable means of accessing the Park for our visitors. Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure. FPO2: To enable and support community development of Place Plans with the aim of developing 20-minute communities.	SP5 could be broadened to ensure sustainable and accessible travel is included. Accessibility requires facilities e.g., Changing places and toilets – but also means being financially accessible. Transportation within the National Park (with the likely changes to access legislation) may be a great opportunity.

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<p>Agriculture</p>	<p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP3: To work with our agricultural community to ensure that the Sustainable Farming Scheme delivers the best outcomes for the natural environment of the National Park.</p> <p>FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.</p>	<p>SP3: Should we not also work with the Welsh Government as scheme designers? But also with those designing PES schemes. Our value will be as multi-disciplinary approach and to highlight the distinctiveness of issued driven by the designation (i.e., same argument as SMNR argument that the National Park needs to be different). There is also a role in traditional skills and responding to the recommended management strategies in the recent landscapes work.</p> <p>The role of the market (farm purchases) and whether the planning system facilitates development in rural areas (incl. the conversion of farms to homes/ holiday business rather than diversification) and insodoing compromising agricultural opportunities are key interactions as will be the relationship with the Ecological Networks Mapping and PRow Improvement Plans.</p> <p>SP1 – What's our view of SMNR and why the focus on 'based solutions for climate change'? SP3 – Why natural environment? FPO1 – What is the green growth strategy?</p>
<p>Sustainable tourism</p>	<p>Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p> <p>FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.</p>	<p>What is sustainable tourism – where the multiple benefits derived by those visiting deliver benefits also for the places they visit – e.g., pay for environmental enhancements, are respectful of local communities and support jobs paying sufficiently for people working in them to live close to where they work?</p> <p>Objective 3 – What is a sustainable livelihood in the context of the BBNP? Why is the green growth strategy focussed on PES? What about addressing wage depression and wealth inequality? i.e., should this be focussed on skills development and be much broader than just economic return?</p>
<p>Reflecting on the character of the wider rural economy within the Park and its fit with the delivery of the National Park purposes and maintenance of the economic and social well-being of local communities.</p>	<p>SP1: To make the Park an exemplar of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources based solutions for climate change working collaboratively with land managers.</p> <p>SP3: To work with our agricultural community to ensure that the Sustainable Farming Scheme delivers the best outcomes for the natural environment of the National Park.</p> <p>Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p> <p>FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.</p>	<p>Maintenance of economic and social well-being? Are they in a fit state to be maintained? How does the economy progress the NP's key competitive advantage – that it's a NP without detracting from its quality as a common pool resource – is a very sensitive balance and is the reason we are a Planning Authority. It is easy to capitalise on a NP location right up until the point that the reason we are a NP and our Special Qualities have been eroded so much that our purpose as a National Park can no longer be fulfilled although this would not be of concern to those having capitalised and exited. Longevity.</p>
<p>The retention of social capital</p>	<p>Not addressed.</p>	<p>Whilst conserving and enhancing cultural 'heritage' is a purpose of the NP – to what extent should the authority try and intervene in / engineer any particular future 'social capital' over any other?</p>
<p>The provision of local services and facilities</p>	<p>Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p> <p>FPO2: To enable and support community development of Place Plans with the aim of developing 20-minute communities.</p>	<p>What about visitor infrastructure, services and facilities? Why the focus on people living and working in the National Park at the exclusion of our visitors? Consider changing the wording of Objective 3 and FPO2 so that they support more broadly the infrastructure which would benefit our visitors (i.e., be of national benefit) as well communities within the National Park.</p>
<p>Addressing the need for affordable housing</p>	<p>Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p> <p>FPO2: To enable and support community development of Place Plans with the aim of developing 20-minute communities.</p>	<p>Need for affordable housing not directly mentioned in any of the SP. Need to define which need we are trying to address within the National Park and the role of the National Park to accommodate it within the current housing / investment property markets largely unfettered, wage stagnation and demographic profile.</p>
<p>Promoting the role of market towns within the Parks as sustainable communities with opportunities for sustainable business development that can help support the economic / social well-being of the Park</p>	<p>Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p> <p>FPO2: To enable and support community development of Place Plans with the aim of developing 20-minute communities.</p>	<p>Nothing specifically mentioned on role of Towns within the National Park. This is important as could bring a distinctive element to the strategic policies and future policy objectives.</p>
<p>Renewable energy and self-sufficiency with support for bottom-up approaches to meeting local energy and natural resource needs, of a scale and type appropriate to their locality. Indeed, the emphasis on self-sufficient communities</p>	<p>SP4: To ensure all development and land use change delivers a net benefit for biodiversity and provides broader environmental net-gain, demonstrating carbon neutrality where relevant.</p>	<p>Potential for SP4 to be more directive and proactive i.e., to support communities to become self-sufficient in terms of energy generations...</p> <p>Potential to broaden FPO2 to encompass self-sustaining communities but must also be able to cater for visitors similarly.</p>

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<p>as part of the sustainable development agenda for National Parks should be an important goal.</p>	<p>Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p> <p>FPO2: To enable and support community development of Place Plans with the aim of developing 20-minute communities.</p>	
<p>Promotion of rural skills and training that link to the delivery of the National Park purposes.</p>	<p>Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p> <p>FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.</p>	<p>What are the place-based skills? And how can we incorporate them within the green growth strategy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology • Geology • Landscape • Archaeology • Landscape Architecture • Building conservation / traditional materials • Traditional management practices • Sustainable land management practices • Arts / film making • Mountain leading • Partnership working • Tourism and hospitality • Caring • Environmental Assessment • Project management <p>What are the non-place-based skills which would help the National Park?</p> <p>How do we build these skills and training into the green growth strategy? Does PES need to be at its heart?</p>
<p>How to respond to the changing nature of rural economies and communities with only a small proportion of local communities actively engaged in traditional rural industries?</p>	<p>Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p> <p>FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.</p>	<p>Consider the role of traditional rural industries and our involvement with them as NPA? Talgarth Mill example?</p> <p>Some very difficult questions will arise. How can we conserve the cultural heritage? Keep the traditional industry afloat? Or film/ record it whilst it is still happening?</p>
<p>How to support local micro-businesses that directly link to the delivery of the park purposes?</p>	<p>Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p> <p>FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.</p>	<p>This goes back to SMNR question and if micro-businesses (need definition) depend on the National Park – is the best thing we can do not to pursue our purposes to maintain their competitive advantage rather than trying to support them each directly and individually? This also feeds into the green growth strategy which should perhaps be broader in scope than focussing on PES?</p>
<p>How to keep money recycling in the local economy, especially in ways that help support the delivery of the park purposes?</p>	<p>Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p> <p>FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.</p>	<p>This goes back to SMNR question and if micro-businesses (need definition) depend on the National Park – is the best thing we can do not to pursue our purposes to maintain their competitive advantage rather than trying to support them each directly and individually? This also feeds into the green growth strategy which should perhaps be broader in scope than focussing on PES?</p>
<p>How to maintain and strengthen those networks and mutual support systems that are so essential to the vitality and survival of rural communities?</p>	<p>Not addressed.</p>	<p>Governance – by speaking and involving them in the National Park and the Authority's business and thereby maintaining their relevance for people? Accepting the vitality and survival of communities will be impacted by socio-economic and political issues much more than the actions and delivery of the National Park Authority.</p>
<p>How to raise understanding of the major economic contribution made by the National Park to the region in which it sits?</p>	<p>Objective 3: To help people living and working in the Brecon Beacons benefit from sustainable livelihoods and green infrastructure.</p> <p>FPO1: To develop a 'green growth' strategy for the National Park with Payments for Ecosystem Services at its heart.</p>	<p>FPO1: This should draw on the strengths of the National Park designation and work with rather than against them when feeding into regional and national economic development programmes (e.g., Growing Mid Wales). Our focus should perhaps be on payments for Cultural Ecosystem Services (e.g., tourism) with focusses also outlined for provisioning, regulating and sustaining ecosystem services.</p>
<p>Mention of planning within the Management Plan is only necessary where it concerns setting the policy context in which the Local Development Plan will operate.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Appendix 3 – Identification of alternatives at Vision and Objectives Stage

NPMP Option 2 – which emerged from Gap analysis above

Mindful of: SoNaRR - SMNR

- Sustainable stocks of Natural Resources
- Resilient ecosystems
- Healthy places
- Regenerative economy

NPMP	
Definition of Nat Park contribution to Sustainable Development	Within the context proved by our designation and recognition by the IUCN as a Category V Protected Area, the term sustainable development is to be taken to mean development enabling people to benefit from cultural ecosystem services which are derived from accessing and enhancing their understanding of landscape, geodiversity, natural processes and landforms, wildlife, cultural heritage and community life in the National Park in ways which enable future generations to benefit equally from the cultural ecosystem services within the National Park.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Brecon Beacons National Park.</i> • <i>To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Brecon Beacons National Park by the public.</i> • <i>To ensure appropriate (nationally important) recreational infrastructure and services provided by the National Park Authority are delivered in ways which also benefit local communities.</i>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enhanced natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage providing sustainable cultural ecosystem services.</i> • <i>The public will be able to access, understand and enjoy what makes the national park special.</i> • <i>That local communities benefit from the National Park designation.</i>
Policies	Within the context proved by our designation and recognition by the IUCN as a Category V Protected Area, we will:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in partnership to promote and tell the enduring story of the national park movement, why national parks remain so relevant today and what might become of the Brecon Beacons landscape in the future
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish protocols for our partnership working based on THE SDG PARTNERSHIP GUIDEBOOK
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop an engagement and involvement strategy with opportunities for people to contribute to the success of the National Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communicate the extent of the National Park Authority's powers so that local communities and visitors are aware that many of the issues faced within the National Park are the result of much broader political / socio-economic factors and decisions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in partnership to develop policies for organisational development, project development and resource allocation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help facilitate rapid decarbonisation within the National Park and, as an organisation, act to ensure that the carbon intensity of our operations, the recreational and educational activities we promote, the projects we undertake and our partnership activities are minimised

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work in partnership to promote the everyday use of Welsh and awareness of the Welsh language
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promote the Brecon Beacons Park Society, the Campaign for National Parks and the UK National Parks Charity Foundation (as charities supporting the national parks movement).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> support the profile of the huge number of charities aligned with our values and who provide such excellent services and facilities and to whom we are grateful for undertaking such fantastic work in the Brecon Beacons National Park
	Within the context proved by our designation and recognition by the IUCN as a Category V Protected Area, we will:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work to share with local communities and visitors, the educational opportunities presented by our membership of EUROPARC Atlantic Isles and by the many organisations providing opportunities for people to connect with nature, unearth the rich cultural heritage and explore the landscape, geodiversity and natural processes in the National Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work with partners to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicate citizen science opportunities which aid our understanding of the National Park; map and collate a directory of environmental and socio/economic data and monitoring activity in the National Park; develop and maintain an accessible evidence base to inform policy and decision making in the National Park; ensure the National Park Research Partnership benefits local communities and visitors; and identify priorities and gain funding for implementing the National Park research prospectus.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work with local communities and in partnership with organisations to explore ways of supporting and recording cultural events and community-based arts and sporting activities and life in the National Park
	Within the context proved by our designation and recognition by the IUCN as a Category V Protected Area, we will:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work in our formal role as an Authority and with partners and across a portfolio of projects and assessment processes to maintain and enhance the landscape character, natural beauty, tranquillity and dark skies of the National Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work in partnership to enhance the interpretation, accessibility, condition, recording and monitoring of the historic environment, to research and tell the story of time-deep local cultural heritage and of how the historic environment and cultural heritage have each been shaped by the geodiversity, landforms and natural processes found within the National Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> act to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems so the benefits they provide are sustainable and available for future generations to enjoy.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use, and advocate the use of, natural resources* in a way and at a rate which acts to halt biodiversity loss and helps to re-establish a resilient network of ecosystems across the National Park. *As defined by Environment (Wales) Act 2016
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prioritise nature-based solutions and low-carbon interventions as a means of mitigating the consequences of extreme and prolonged unseasonal weather conditions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work in partnership to ensure that the target levels of Phosphorus within Welsh River SACs are met and maintained thereafter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work with partners towards the aim of halting biodiversity loss and re-establishing a resilient network of ecosystems supporting sustainable populations of priority species and birds

Appendix 3 – Identification of alternatives at Vision and Objectives Stage

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advocate, practice and work in partnership to support sustainable land management and appropriate traditional management practices across all land-use sectors within the National Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in partnership to ensure common land is managed sustainably
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in partnership to deliver multiple benefits from restoring and maintaining peatland within the National Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in partnership with the National Designated Landscape Partnership to develop a concordat with WG and NRW on forestry and woodland creation in the National Park and to influence future payment schemes for public goods
	<p>Within the context proved by our designation and recognition by the IUCN as a Category V Protected Area, we will:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in partnership to ensure the sustainability of National Park’s cultural ecosystem services so they may be enjoyed by current and future generations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with partners across a portfolio of projects to monitor, manage and address the impact of people pursuing recreational activities on the special qualities of the National Park through appropriate enhancement projects, with accessibility a key consideration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with local communities and in partnership with organisations to ensure that the provision for accessible recreation in the National Park is expanded and that existing provision is enhanced appropriately communicated
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in partnership to support actions that will encourage people to use sustainable and accessible means of transportation and to make the most of our Public Rights of Way as an active way to enjoy the National Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in partnership to promote the health benefits which may be gained from time spent perusing recreational activities within the Brecon Beacons National Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help communities decarbonise and achieve their aspirations for accessible local development, land-use and service provision through place planning activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in partnership to maximise the benefits of the UNESCO Geopark, World Heritage Site and International Dark-Sky Association Dark Skies Reserve Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in partnership to develop a ‘green growth’ economic and skills strategy for the National Park making the most of the National Park’s designation as its key competitive advantage without detracting from its special qualities and to advocate its incorporation in national, regional and local sustainable economic development and skills strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in partnership to demonstrate appropriate traditional land management practices on land owned by the National Park Authority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with local communities and in partnership with organisations to ensure appropriate and accessible infrastructure and facilities so that all people can enjoy the National Park. Our focus will be on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information provided on the National Park Authority’s website; • The National Park Visitor Centre and Craig y Nos Country Park; • The extensive network of Public Rights of Way and Open Access Land; • Picnic sites; • Parking provision; and, • Developing a network of seasonal camp sites.

Appendix 3 – Identification of alternatives at Vision and Objectives Stage