



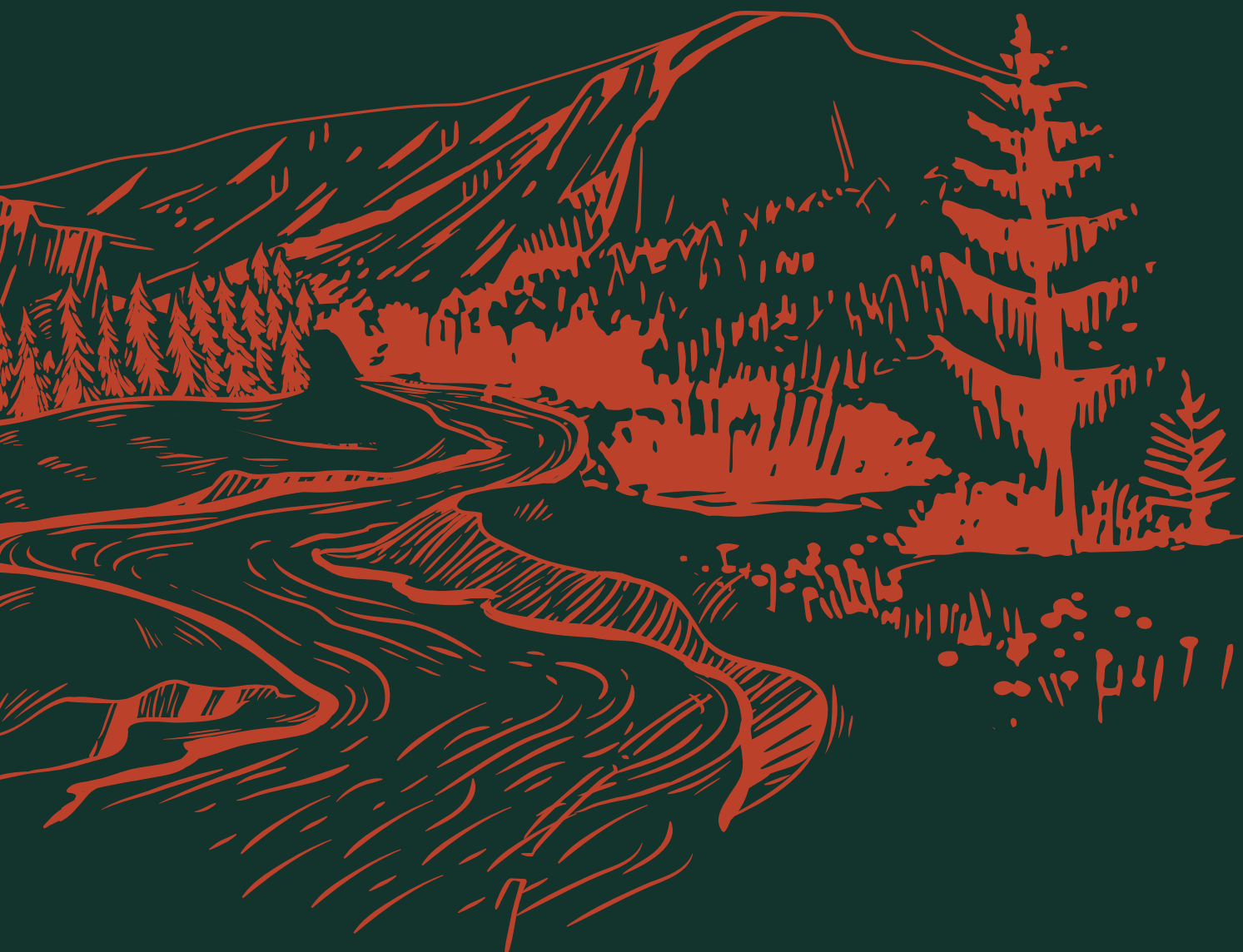
Dyfodol

Y Bannau

The Future

—

The Management Plan For Bannau
Brycheiniog National Park
2023-2028



Foreword



Julie James Ms
Minister For Climate Change

Overall, biological diversity is declining, and the extent of some habitats has also declined significantly. Our Biodiversity Deep Dive has set out ambitious recommendations in order for us to meet the 30 by 30 target and National Parks will be intrinsic in helping take forward a number of key actions.

National Parks cover around 20% of Wales's land area and are therefore critical partners in delivering a wide range of national and local priorities.

The vision set out in this Management Plan is for people and nature to work together for community wellbeing, for nature and carbon reduction, and in so doing to be an example for sustainable living beyond its boundaries. This very much reflects my own priorities for the Designated Landscapes family in Wales as a whole. We look forward to supporting the National Park Authority putting this bold vision into practice.

On behalf of Welsh Government, I welcome Y Bannau: The Future - the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Management Plan.

National Parks, together with Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, contain some of the most spectacular and dramatic areas of countryside in Wales. They are landscapes of national importance with designation conferring the highest status for the conservation of landscape. Millions of visitors enjoy these special qualities every year.

National Parks have seldom been higher in the public and political consciousness. Green and wild spaces give people respite and opportunities to breathe freely. However they have also been placed under great pressure, and sadly abused by some. We must enable visitors to have world-class experiences while ensuring the special qualities we seek to protect are not damaged. The interests of local communities, businesses and land managers must also be at the forefront of our minds.

Balancing these interests and priorities requires genuinely collaborative approaches. National Park Management Plans must embody this approach to collaboration and co-production, within and increasingly outside of individual Park boundaries



Foreword



Catherine Mealing-Jones

Chief Executive Officer

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

I am proud to present Y Bannau: The Future the next Management Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. It has been a long time in development, and I hope you will see in its pages the hard work and dedication of all those who have come together to formulate our shared plan for the future. We are hugely grateful to every individual and organisation who has helped shape this vision, and pledged with us to make it work.

The context for this plan is exceptionally challenging. The need to respond to the climate and biodiversity crises is already urgent. The global economic context means National Parks need to work even harder to find fair solutions and to make sure these special places are accessible to everyone as places of refuge, community, and restoration. As the organisation with responsibility for leading across the National Park, we must grapple with the existential implications posed by the prospect of moving beyond the warming threshold of 1.5 degrees and imagine a new future in tandem with planning for the practical implications for our way of life.

Through our stewardship of the 520 square miles of special and unique living landscape which make up the National Park, we can, as a small but important piece of the jigsaw, act as an exemplar which will inspire and enable others in the shared task of safeguarding our home - planet Earth. This Plan will guide us all for at least the next five years. It is therefore imperative that its objectives navigate us back to an existence which is in balance with the Earth's scarce resources. That is why the Plan is unashamedly ambitious. Our response is demanded by the underpinning evidence base sounding the siren call of a system in collapse which is simply too deafening to ignore.

My experience since coming to the National Park in 2021 has underscored my determination to make a reality of my vision for a Park which is a vibrant example of sustainability. A Park that is environmentally resilient, and economically prosperous; which embraces change, that is open and welcoming to all who seek out connection to nature, beauty and adventure. I know that I am not alone in this vision. I have met, spoken with and visited many inspirational individuals and organisations, many of who we feature in this plan as our Sêr y Bannau, stars of the Beacons. Those partners, have in their action and deeds reiterated to me the urgency and necessity of this Plan, at this time in our history to drive home the message of sustainability in all that we do, for current and future generations. I am also determined that this plan helps individuals and organisations connect with the urgency of the issues we are facing.

We have been really lucky to have worked with talented local artists, who have been able to make real the crisis using art and story, imagining what awaits us in the future if we do not deliver on this plan. I am deeply grateful for the thoughtful and extensive contributions and feedback we have received in developing this plan, this has enriched our understanding and shaped our thinking.

I particularly wish to thank all of those who took the time to write us postcards from the future they wanted, they have inspired us with their visions of hope. As we now turn to delivery phase, turning these words into deeds, I hope that everyone who reads these pages finds hope in them. And, whether you are a statutory body with the duty of the Environment Act to address, an individual resident of the Park, or a visitor, that it enables you to find the resolve to take some action at whatever scale to help safeguard Bannau Brycheiniog for many generations to come.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Catherine Mealing-Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.





Just as we are
products of our
environment, our
environments are
also a product of us.



Executive Summary

Y Bannau: The Future is the Management Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

Its publication fulfills the National Park Authority's obligation under section 66(1) of the Environment Act 1995 to prepare and keep under review a Management Plan for the area.

However, this plan, aims to be so much more than just the meeting of a statutory requirement. It is a Plan which seeks to clearly and unashamedly articulate the need for wide spread and urgent change if we are to survive as a resource for future generations. It is a plan that aims to inspire action and build a coalition of the willing to meet the ambition we raise for this wonderful place we call our home, the Park, Y Bannau, the Beacons.

Our last Plan Managing Change Together was published in 2010, with the first review putting wellbeing at the heart of the National Park completed and published in 2015. Since this time there have been a number of shifts in the policy context in which the Plan operates, most notably the recognition by world leaders that we are facing a Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Crisis. These factors alone signalled the need for a radical shift in policy making and action from that envisioned by plans of just five years ago.

This Plan is being published at a time when the world has lived through a global pandemic and emerged with renewed priorities for the future. In those dark days of lock-down, days both tragic and terrible, we learned to reconnect with the natural world. The spring had never felt so vibrant, bird song had never been so clear, we found solace in nature. A theme that underpins all that this Plan entails. The changing policy context and the complexity of the pandemic and its consequences, means that this plan is radically different from the Management Plans that have gone before. Part of the Plan's radical shift is the focus on the National Park as a holistic system that is under extreme stress.

We draw our inspiration from an economic model called 'The Doughnut' devised by Kate Raworth to draw a stark illustration of the extent to which the Park is exceeding socio-economic and environmental sustainability.

We are too carbon dependent; our biodiversity is in decline; water quality in some of our most beautiful rivers is hugely compromised; visitor levels have been busier than ever known; leading to traffic chaos in our communities; there is an unprecedented housing affordability crisis fueled by a desirable second home market, not to mention a health and social care crisis. Most of our young people will leave the towns and villages of this Park and some will never come back despite their desire to - their human and social capital disappearing with them. The demographic is shifting older and older as the years go by. The Doughnut model helps us illustrate just how far the needle has to shift if we are to be successful in the implementation of our purposes and duty against these complex issues.

From this picture of the current state of the Park, we can identify where concerted action across a range of stakeholders is necessary to bring about wholesale shifts from business-as-usual to a sustainable future.

- Shifts in land management, from extractive with high external costs to regenerative, sequestering carbon and co-existing with nature recovery and resilient ecosystems.
- Shifts in transport systems from fossil fuel to renewables with a need to create viable and sustainable public transport and active travel options.
- Shifts in energy from fossil fuel to renewable products, focused on community and local heat and power networks.
- Shifts in housing provision to create more affordable options with increased standards of sustainability in design and operation.
- Shifts in our economy from extractive to circular and regenerative with emphasis on digital, new rural skills and green growth.
- Shifts in the way we manage citizen's health and wellbeing from a medical to a social model. Providing preventative interventions deeply embedded in connecting people with the outdoors and nature.

This Plan takes a mission approach which looks to articulate the key focus needed for all our endeavors if we are to make these shifts a reality. The missions focus on the big challenges for the Park. Looking at our climate, our water environments, our natural environments, our people and (the point at which it all comes together) our places. Each of these missions is underpinned by overarching objectives, for which we further articulate our ambition as a series of statements of outcome.

These missions, set out overleaf, and the objectives that support them, have been developed in collaboration with our key partners. Further work will be needed to develop the action plans necessary to bring them to fruition.

Five inter-connected missions

Climate

Reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions across Bannau Brycheiniog National Park by 2035.

Water

Clean, safe, resilient, plentiful water resources and water environments by 2030.

Nature

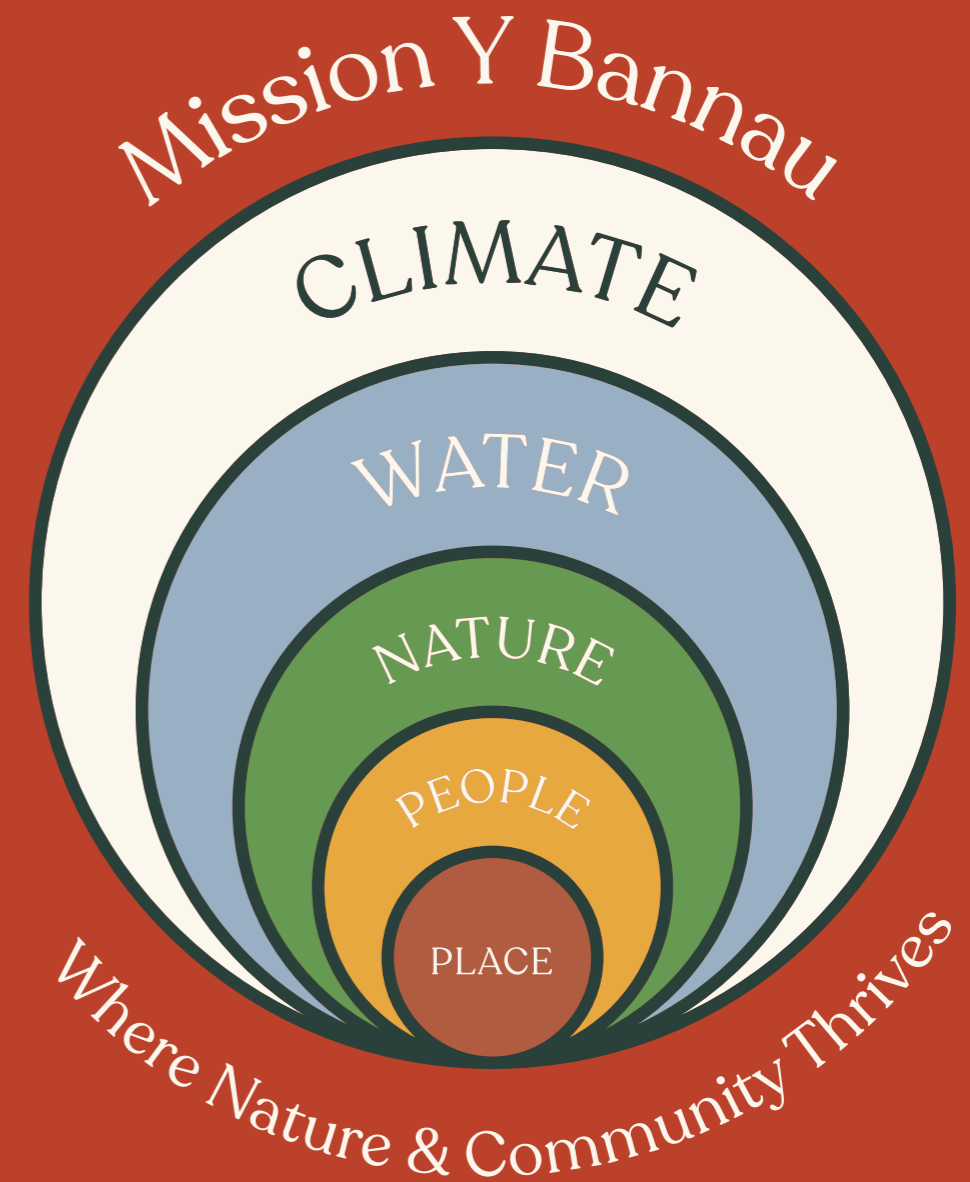
Nature positive Bannau Brycheiniog National Park by 2030.

People

Living, working, visiting safely, equitably and sustainably.

Place

Beautiful, thriving and sustainable places. Celebrated for their natural and cultural heritage, now and forever.



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Bannau Brycheiniog

A National Park.

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park is one of a family of fifteen National Parks in the UK, and three in Wales. It is the National Park Authority's job to ensure that the landscapes in our care are managed sustainably for the quiet enjoyment of all.

National Parks are in a true and full sense a National resource. This does not mean that local interests are disregarded, far from it. Rather it means that the value of the environment and the benefits it brings for people's health and happiness is something that is protected for the benefit of all. As John Dower, the architect of the creation of National Parks in the UK stated of their value in 1945:-

“

National Parks are not for any privileged or otherwise restricted section of the population, but for all who care to refresh their minds and bodies in a peaceful setting of natural beauty.

This founding ethos remains central to the work of the organisation and frames development of policy for the future management of the National Park.

Bannau Brycheiniog received formal designation as a National Park in 1957. The boundary covers some 520 square miles of beautiful countryside. The border extends from the rural heartland of Mid Wales in the north to the post-industrial ex-mining communities of the South Wales Valleys. From east to west, the Park spans from the Marches to the fringes of Llandeilo. At last count, the Park was home to about 33,000 people.

The National Park Authority is the organisation which is charged by law to look after the rich and special landscapes of the National Park. The National Park Authority has two special purposes enshrined in the Environment Act (1995) (see text box over). The law also says that in carrying out our purposes the organisation must also ensure that no social or economic harm comes to the people who live in the Park. This is called our Duty. In circumstances where the first purpose and second purpose are in direct conflict, the Sandford Principle sets out that first purpose takes precedence.



A National Park Purposes & Duty

Purpose 1

To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park; and

Purpose 2

To promote opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park.

Duty

to seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities within the National Park.

Not just a National Park.

BANNAU BRYCHEINIOG NATIONAL PARK is also proud to be host to a range of other nationally and internationally important designations. These designations recognise the significance of the Park in specific areas, offering us further protection and opportunities to tell the story of the Park.



Geopark

The Fforest Fawr UNESCO global geopark, the park within the Park, covers the western half of the National Park, stretching from Llandovery in the North to Merthyr Tydfil in the South and Llandeilo in the west to Brecon in the east. A cracked and crumpled layer-cake of rocks, 470 million years in the making.

Designated a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2015, Fforest Fawr is one of over 150 geoparks worldwide, recognised by UNESCO for their distinctive geology. The geopark celebrates the area's history and how geology bears on the history, archaeology, natural and human life of the area.

UNESCO Global Geopark status provides a high-profile platform for broadening, understanding and deepening the connections people have with landscapes and the story of carbon, whilst providing opportunities to improve health and wellbeing alongside socio-economic benefits.

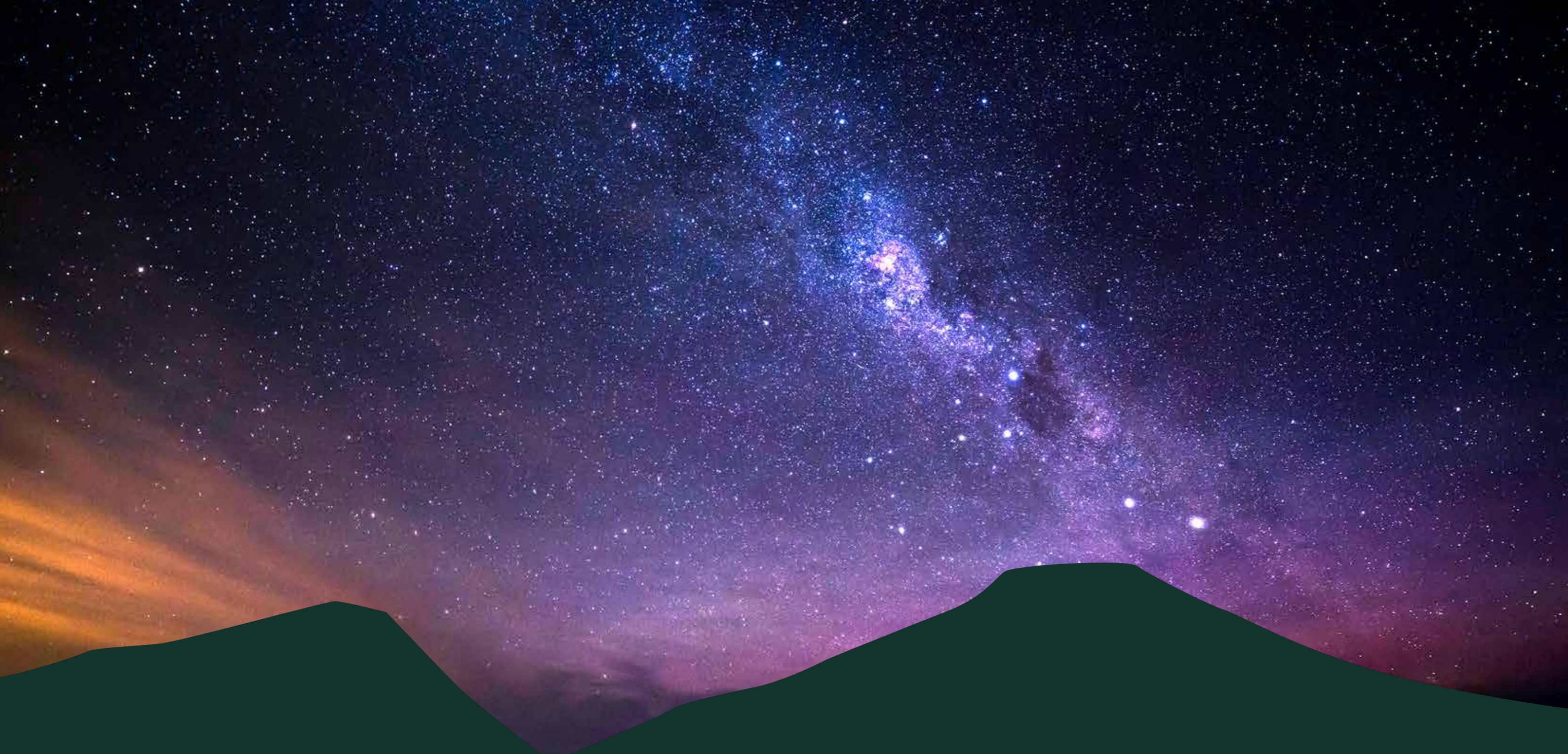
It explains how geodiversity underpins biodiversity, giving rise to a variety of soil types and the habitats which arise from that diversity, and provided the basis for human exploitation of mineral wealth and the communities and culture which arose from this activity.

The Geopark offers a unique opportunity for looking back in time, helping us to understand how issues we are addressing today arose and offering insights into our future relationship with the land. It explains why places are where they are, their identity and unique sense of place in both built and natural heritage.

It provides a platform through which partners and communities can be engaged with our shared natural and cultural history, and a delivery mechanism for tourism-led regeneration along the Park's southern fringe.

It enables the celebration of the area's industrial legacy, make connections across the landscape, beyond the Park's boundaries and using the Geopark's international status, bring about social, economic and ecological benefits.





International Dark Skies Reserve

The International Dark Skies Reserve was awarded in 2012. This international award, makes us one of only a handful of areas in the world which are recognised for the quality of our dark skies and nighttime environment.

Our Dark Skies are relatively unique in an increasingly urbanised world where light pollution dominates. The IDSR status allows us to put into place measures to prevent the spread of light pollution into the National Park to conserve and enhance our special qualities of darkness and tranquility. We champion these far a precious resource, providing opportunities for quiet and deep reflection connecting the individual to the wonders of the universe. Through this highly prestigious status, we hope to preserve our magical night skies for future generations.

The reserve status also has significant economic value to the National Park. Creating a mechanism to attract staying visitors through stargazing events and promotion. We also utilise the status to draw attention to the impacts of human activity on our environment and our climate, through the dark skies benefit to nocturnal wildlife and carbon saving from switching off the lights.

Not just a National Park.

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Blaenavon World Heritage Site

The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape was inscribed as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage site in November 2000. As noted in the designation:

“the area around Blaenavon is evidence of the pre-eminence of South Wales as the worlds’ major produce of iron and coal in the 19th century. All the necessary elements can still be seen – coal and or mines, quarries, a primitive railway system, furnaces, worker’s homes and social infrastructure of their community”

The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and its surrounding area is one of the most significant examples of industrial growth during and after the Industrial Revolution. For this reason, it serves as an exemplar and gateway to the wider Heads of the Valleys area, which collectively fuelled the fires of development for Great Britain and beyond during this era.

Today the World Heritage Site provides an opportunity to connect our community and visitors with the global legacy of our history. A significant educational resource that provides links between the area, the Anthropocene, and the shift beyond carbon in the future.



Not just for the Authority.

THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY is the organisation that is given statutory responsibility to protect the area of the National Park and implement the Purposes and Duty, but we are not alone in this endeavor.

All public bodies which act within the National Park, must in accordance with the law, have due regard to National Park Purposes and Duty in carrying out their functions both within the National Park and where this activity may impact the National Park. This requirement is set out in Section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995. It means that the requirement to protect the assets of the National Park, in the public interest, is a shared responsibility and one that we collectively deliver.

Those public bodies which share this obligation, we often refer to as Section 62(2) bodies (referencing the clause of the Act that places this duty upon them), some of which are listed below:-

- Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
- Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW)
- Town and Community Councils within and bordering the Park
- Powys County Council
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Carmarthenshire County Council
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- Torfaen County Borough Council
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Herefordshire County Council
- Powys Public Service Board
- Carmarthenshire Public Service Board
- Gwent Public Service Board
- South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee
- South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee
- Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee
- Constituent Health Boards
- Constituent Police Services
- Constituent Fire and Rescue Services
- Any Office of the Crown
- Any statutory undertaker



A postcard from the future.

It's the 26th of August 2047, and I've cycled here, to the Park. I enjoyed the active feeling this exercise gave me, as I tackled the hills. It was great, as I passed many other cyclists, enjoying the fresh air and exercise.

As I listen, I hear birds calling, the wind gently rustling the leaves of the trees, scuttling as small mammals run through the undergrowth. A curlew calls in the distance. Pollinators hum around quietly going about their business.

It smells fresh, the air smells clean, wildflowers from the nearby meadows and hedgerows are going to seed, but there is still a hint of their scent. Soon, once the flowers have set seed, the smell of freshly cut grass will fill the air.

I stand still, the wind gently moves my hair, the warmth of late summer sunlight warms my skin, it is not too hot, just warm enough.

I notice an acorn on the ground. A bit early perhaps, but it symbolizes regeneration and sustainability to me. It is nice to think that this acorn could grow into an ancient tree, many years into the future, providing habitat for so many species.

I feel calm, relaxed, free, yet I feel motivated by the atmosphere. The wildlife encourages me. It is inspirational to see this landscape, where people and nature, from all backgrounds collaborate and co-exist in harmony and respect.

I write to you, my past self, with these things I have learned...

Nature has the ability to recover, we just need to work together, explain the importance of collaboration. Don't be afraid to act, to think big. Nature will recover, the work will pay off. You can do this, see everything as an opportunity to improve the planet and this National Park. Good luck!

Hâf
Bannau Brycheiniog
Age (in 2022) 15



An aerial photograph of a waterfall cascading over mossy rocks into a pool of water. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the surrounding forest is lush and green. The text "Special Qualities" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

Special Qualities

What makes the park special?

All UK National Parks are special and beautiful landscapes designated for their intrinsic value to the nation.

Each National Park has a unique character and a key role of any National Park Management Plan is to define the essence of the place that makes it special and appealing, and worthy of protection. These are known as the Park's 'special qualities' and form the key to the designation.

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park has ten defined special qualities grouped around landscape, community, experiences and wildlife.

Because these special qualities are often felt rather than rationally processed through statements of policy, we have asked local poets and artist to respond to the special qualities, to help speak to the emotive sense of what makes the Park special.



TIR LUN natural beauty

All National Parks, in the UK and indeed across the world are valued for the 'beauty' of their landscape, in Welsh we call this Tir Lun. Although Natural Beauty is a term that is used often when talking about National Parks and landscapes, it is often very narrowly thought of as simply the picturesque, which in turn gives a generalised perception that National Parks exist to preserve the way an area looks, rather than also considering its underlying function.

Y Bannau: The Future takes a much broader definition of natural beauty (see box over). One which encompasses a wide range of elements such as the presence of wildlife, cultural and heritage dimensions and perceptual elements not easily put into words. We also identify that our landscape is not 'natural' in the correct sense of the word. Our landscape has been shaped and nurtured by people over millennia resulting in a landscape that owes its appearance to multiple human influences, including forest clearances, land enclosure, agriculture, drainage, forestry, Christianity, settlements and water abstraction.

Our special qualities have been defined to give voice to every element of our Natural Beauty. We define these here to ensure that everyone understands what makes the Park so very special and worthy of national protection.

“Natural beauty”, when used both generally and specifically as in the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act and other legislation, is a complex and multifaceted concept that is concerned with landscape in its broadest sense.

It relates primarily to unspoiled, but not necessarily extensive, rural landscapes that are largely free from the effects of disfiguring development or urbanisation. Although the legislation makes clear that it includes flora, fauna, geological and physiographic features, it applies not only to landscapes where nature is dominant but also to those which have been shaped and nurtured by human activities. People perceive and appreciate “natural beauty” through all their senses, responding to many different aspects of the landscape, including its distinctive character its aesthetic qualities, the presence of wildlife, its cultural and historical dimensions and its perceptual qualities such as, for example, tranquility, remoteness and a sense of freedom. Perceptions of, and preferences for “natural beauty” are informed by people’s personal characteristics, cultural backgrounds and individual interests. “Natural beauty” occurs, to varying degrees, in many, though by no means all landscapes. Some places may, however, be judged to display “natural beauty” to an outstanding degree and may as a result be recognised as warranting a national level of protection

A Statement on Natural Beauty

Countryside Council for Wales 2006

See appendix 2 for full statement



Special Landscapes

Sweeping grandeur & outstanding natural beauty

The National Park's sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty observed across a variety of harmoniously connected landscapes, including marvelous gorges and waterfalls, classic karst geology with limestone pavement, caves and sink holes, contrasting glacial landforms such as cliffs and broad valleys carved from old red sandstone and prominent hilltops with extensive views in all directions. A landscape that provides a sense of time depth and timelessness.



Contrasting patterns, colours & textures

A working, living “patchwork” of contrasting patterns, colours and textures comprising well-maintained farmed landscapes, open uplands, lakes and meandering rivers, punctuated by small-scale woodlands, country lanes, hedgerows and stone walls and scattered settlements. grouped around landscape, community, experiences and wildlife.

Because these special qualities are often felt rather than rationally processed through statements of policy, we have asked local poets and artist to respond to the special qualities, to help speak to the emotive sense of what makes the Park special.



Mountain Song

A damp wind off the cliff-edge
is music dismantled; low, chill
on limestone.

Y Mynydd Du
in monochrome, its valleys
spreading like curtains

where back and forth on the Skirrid
a shadow goes loping forever
hugging mud to its heart.

A poem is a river unbraided.
Here, in the bone-cold air
a waterfall quietly unstitches itself

in the first of the swelling light.
A sheep pauses mid-mouthful,
coat pearly with dew.

Clouds sag, full as muslin.
It is for this they push on,
veiling the hillsides,

unravelling to smoke
but still moving
like those brilliant glaciers

shunting back into winter
or the throat of the red wind opening,
shaking the church bells awake.

Natalie Ann Holborrow



Original artwork by Clarissa Kate Price Art

A photograph of four hikers on a mountain trail. The hiker on the far left is wearing a dark blue jacket, a teal shirt, and dark pants, with a large backpack and a wooden walking stick. The hiker in the center is an older man with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue jacket over a grey shirt and dark pants, also with a walking stick. The hiker on the right is wearing a dark blue jacket, a teal shirt, light-colored pants, and a black beanie, with a walking stick. A fourth hiker is partially visible on the far right. The background shows a vast, hazy mountain landscape under a cloudy sky. The text 'Special communities' is overlaid in a large, white, serif font at the bottom of the image.

Special communities

A sense of place & cultural identity

A sense of place and cultural identity - "Welshness" - characterised by the indigenous Welsh language, religious and spiritual connections, unique customs and events, traditional foods and crafts, relatively unspoilt historic towns and villages, family farms and continued practices of traditional skills developed by local inhabitants to live and earn a living here, such as common land practices and grazing.

An intimate sense of community

An intimate sense of community where small, pastoral towns and villages are comparatively safe, friendly, welcoming and retain a spirit of cooperation.





Rare Earths

You hear it said sometimes I went there once
I was young coming over the heads of the valleys,
the hills elephants lurching to their knees,
bracken shoulders rubbing smooth posts of sky
as strappers do, leaving white scraggs of cloud
on old wire to show their children good routes.
Snow bones on ridges in spring are waiting
for their butties. Hill farmers speak little but
sometimes you will read love in our eye lines
as the winds do. Our animals are known
generations. Their paths we made together.
Our life titles are person and farm name;
Emrys the Revel, Betty Cwmffrwd and
Glyn Tesau, Davies Cilfaenor – like ships.
It rains crows on posts, cardinal beetles,
black screes, sandstone, globe-blue air, hedges
of dew, nettles and twine, rivers of vetch.
None of this country is not free. It does
always endure. None of its tides or sweet
mulling nights do not return. You will see.

Horatio Clare

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, a dense forest of evergreen trees in the middle ground, and rolling mountains in the background under a soft, hazy sky. A person is seen kayaking on the water in the lower right quadrant. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Special experiences

Enjoyable & accessible

Enjoyable and accessible countryside with extensive, widespread and varied opportunities to pursue walking, cycling, fishing, water-based activities and other forms of sustainable recreation or relaxation.

Sounds, sights, smells & tastes

A feeling of vitality and wellbeing that comes from enjoying the National Park's fresh air, clean water, rural setting, open land, and locally produced foods.

Sense of discovery

A sense of discovery where people explore the National Park's hidden secrets and stories such as genealogical histories, prehistoric ritual sites, relic medieval rural settlements, early industrial sites, local myths and legends and geological treasures from time immemorial.

Peace, tranquility & darkness

A National Park offering, dark, nighttime skies, peace and tranquility with opportunities for quiet enjoyment, inspiration, relaxation and spiritual renewal.



Living Beacons

Enter this space, at cloud pace.
Smooth your footsteps into
the valley. On the old paths,
those cold paths – where drovers
whistled-in and wandered their cattle.
Carving their ways into the landscape.

Roll in, on a two-wheeled thing.
A downhill spin of track and trail.
Through summer's sunbeam, winter's hail.
No two days are the same.

Listen-in, to nature's happenings.
Mountains flex and stretch their
deep time into sky. Nearby, a spring
is bubbling onto land, into light.
Some kind of birth, re-birth.

There are stars multiplying above
hill and heather. Sprinkling themselves
upon lake, and melting in the mood
and movement of river.

You could be swallowed-up here.
Pinned by the weight of stillness. In every
empty thing, there is life, living.
Dance on, like the wind, like all the wild
things that welcome you.

Alex Wharton

A kingfisher is captured in mid-flight, its wings spread wide, showing a mix of blue, brown, and white feathers. The bird is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the frame. Below it, a splash of water is visible, with several droplets frozen in time. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow, suggesting a natural outdoor setting. The text 'Special' and 'nature' is overlaid on the left side of the image in a white, serif font.

Special nature

Mosaic of diversity

The geology and climate vary greatly across the Park, creating an elaborate patchwork landscape rich in biodiversity. The Park hosts heathlands, grasslands and woodlands, with uplands and lowlands, natural lakes and riparian habitats. The Park contains limestone pavement and blanket bogs of international and national importance. Several endangered species survive in the Park, including some for which the Park is their furthest extent of their natural range.

Living landscape

An abundance of wildlife thrives in semi-natural habitats that have been lived in and shaped by human settlement for millennia. The landscape is interlaced with ancient hedgerows bustling with life, enclosing wildlife-rich hay meadows, and primeval woodlands that cloak some steep-sided valleys. Veteran trees adorn the landscape, carrying the scars of centuries of changing dependency on their resources. Heather-dominated uplands maintained through grazing by horses, sheep and cattle are a testament to the intimate relationship between biodiversity and farming.

As the kingfisher flies

As the kingfisher flies, all time is caught in a flash, right now, its turquoise brilliance is immediate – and fleeting – for the kingfisher, local phoenix, shines blue only when its feathers are touched by sunlight.

As the kite flies, all time is slowed in an ancient arc, the wheeling of aeons in its wings, its glide basks in the air even after the kite has swung further off, and always so.

As the kingfisher sees it, bird of the rivers, there are memory pools, sweet and sudden, golden sun on the Usk at evening, water purling pure round circles in the sandstone.

As the kite sees it, bird of the hills, the mountains are stoop-shouldered, slow as myth, making humans seem like minnows, so one lifetime is just a glimpse, a blink in their long-sighted horizons

Wherever you are in the Beacons, your eyes are drawn to the hills, the sweep of clear austere lines and your ears hear the authority of the older language, hefted to Cymraeg as sheep are hefted to their hill.

If the hills are old, the rivers are always new, drawing young children and sleekened otters playful as the Usk is young or the Monnow; named in Cymrawg Myn-wy, 'swift water': quickwater fit for a kingfisher's speed

Between the kingfisher and the kite you can hear your way among the trees: here the light and leafy ash, its soft feathers whispering the wind; there the heavier patois of oak, leaves like leather.

In the woodlands, the tiny look-at-me flowers, lesser celandine, wood anemone and saxifrage and everywhere, the chlorophyll, crazy for the sun, greening, grinning, turning light to life like child's play.

After the kingfisher and the kite unwing for the night, come the bats and moths, the badgers, the nightjars, and the owls. The river night-smiles for miles as it navigates by the stars.

On the high hills by night, when the moon is within touching distance, a little bit of stardust, taking for a moment human form, lies on her back and gazes up

By Jay Griffiths





The Plan

Introducing The National Park Management Plan

Y Bannau: The Future is Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority's statutory Management Plan for the period 2023 to 2028 but its vision extends 25 years to 2048.

It sets out five bold missions to shape the future of the National Park and is an invitation to other organisations and individuals to collaborate in making that future a reality.

A Plan for the geographic area of the National Park it is critical in galvanising the action needed to respond to the climate, nature and wellbeing crises, and to maintain the National Park's special qualities for this and future generations.



The role of management

The National Park Authority is required by section 66(1) of the 1995 Environment Act to prepare and keep under review a Management Plan for their area.

The Management Plan should set out how the purposes and duty of the National Park (our statutory objectives) will be met within the geographic area of the Plan. The Plan is produced by the National Park Authority however it is developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders with the aim of defining a shared vision for the area.

Previous Management Plans

The last plan: *Managing Change Together*, was published in 2010. The first review was completed and published in 2015, putting well-being at the heart of the National Park.

Since then, there have been very significant shifts in the context in which the Plan operates, most notably the recognition by world leaders that we are facing a climate emergency and biodiversity crisis. The world has also experienced the Coronavirus pandemic and the UK is facing a cost-of-living crisis.

A Plan For Bannau Brycheiniog

The Management Plan is not just a Plan for the

National Park Authority and its staff, moreover, the task of managing the Beacons is not for the National Park Authority alone. It is a shared task undertaken by all those who live, work and/or have some statutory obligation to the area. For some, this is a legal obligation in accordance with S62(2) of the Environment Act 1995, for others, it is a voluntary arrangement undertaken in recognition of the value of the area for nature and people. The Management Plan is the key document which co-ordinates this collaborative task, to ensure that our collective action is done to deliver on our purposes and duty, and to conserve this area for the benefit of future generations.

To this end, *Y Bannau: The Future*, the Management Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park is a plan of national significance and must be taken into consideration in the development of other statutory documents, such as Local Development Plans, Strategic Development Plans and other plans, programmes and policies which could have a bearing on the National Park and its special qualities.



A Plan Shaped By National Policy

The National Park Management Plan is shaped by a range of national legislation, policies and guidance that helps us align the future of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park with the future of Wales, whilst maintaining special qualities that are unique to the local area.



Welsh Government Priorities For National Parks In Wales

In May 2022, the Welsh Government wrote to the three Welsh National Park Authorities setting out how it sees the Authorities working to deliver their Purposes and Duty. This [Term of Government Remit Letter for the National Park Authorities in Wales](#) includes a range of measures and in particular it asks Welsh National Park Authorities to align their work with the Welsh Government's Well-being objectives and says:

"In particular, I want to see National Parks become exemplars in responding to the climate and nature emergency. You are uniquely placed to engage with the communities within your boundaries to develop solution which deliver benefits for people and the environment."



Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015)

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is ground-breaking Welsh legislation that defines a series of well-being goals for the nation, and requires public bodies to embed these goals into their own objective setting and policy making.

The Act also ensures that policy documents such as this one, are produced collaboratively and integrate across the range of public service providers.

The Management Plan forms the statutory Well-being Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

Area Statements

Area Statements produced by Natural Resources Wales in accordance with their duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, set out a strategy for the better management of Natural Resources for the benefit of future generations. As the name suggests, the statements are based on spatial areas.

There are seven covering Wales, of which four cover the National Park area.

- South East Wales
- South Central Wales
- South West Wales
- Mid Wales



State of Natural Resources Report (2020) (SoNaRR)

Natural Resources Wales must prepare and publish a report containing an assessment of the state of Natural Resources in Wales (SoNaRR). SoNaRR is a key document in the preparation of National Park Management Plans. The most recent SoNaRR highlights the need for public sectors to leverage change to tackle the nature and climate emergencies using transformative change across ecosystem, economic and social systems.



A Globally Responsible Plan

The Well-being of Future Generations Act includes the goal to become 'globally responsible' to create "a nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being".

Our objective in implementing the National Park's statutory purposes and duty is to contribute positively to this globally responsible well-being goal, and to avoid actions that could be to the detriment of the global environment, society and economy.

Talking about the National Park as globally responsible may be thought of by some that we are acting beyond our remit, and that our priority should be to focus on local responsibilities first and foremost. Whilst of course we should and do take action on the local level, we emphasise that the National Park exists within a global context within economic, social and environmental systems under extreme stress. Our actions on the local level impact on those systems, both directly and indirectly. It is no good thinking solely about how our purposes and duty apply here in the National Park if, for example, our visitor economy is taking an unfair share of global carbon, contributing to climate change, inflating the housing market beyond local wages causing outmigration and service pressures in already deprived areas on our periphery.

Local action has global impacts and vice versa.

Understanding Success

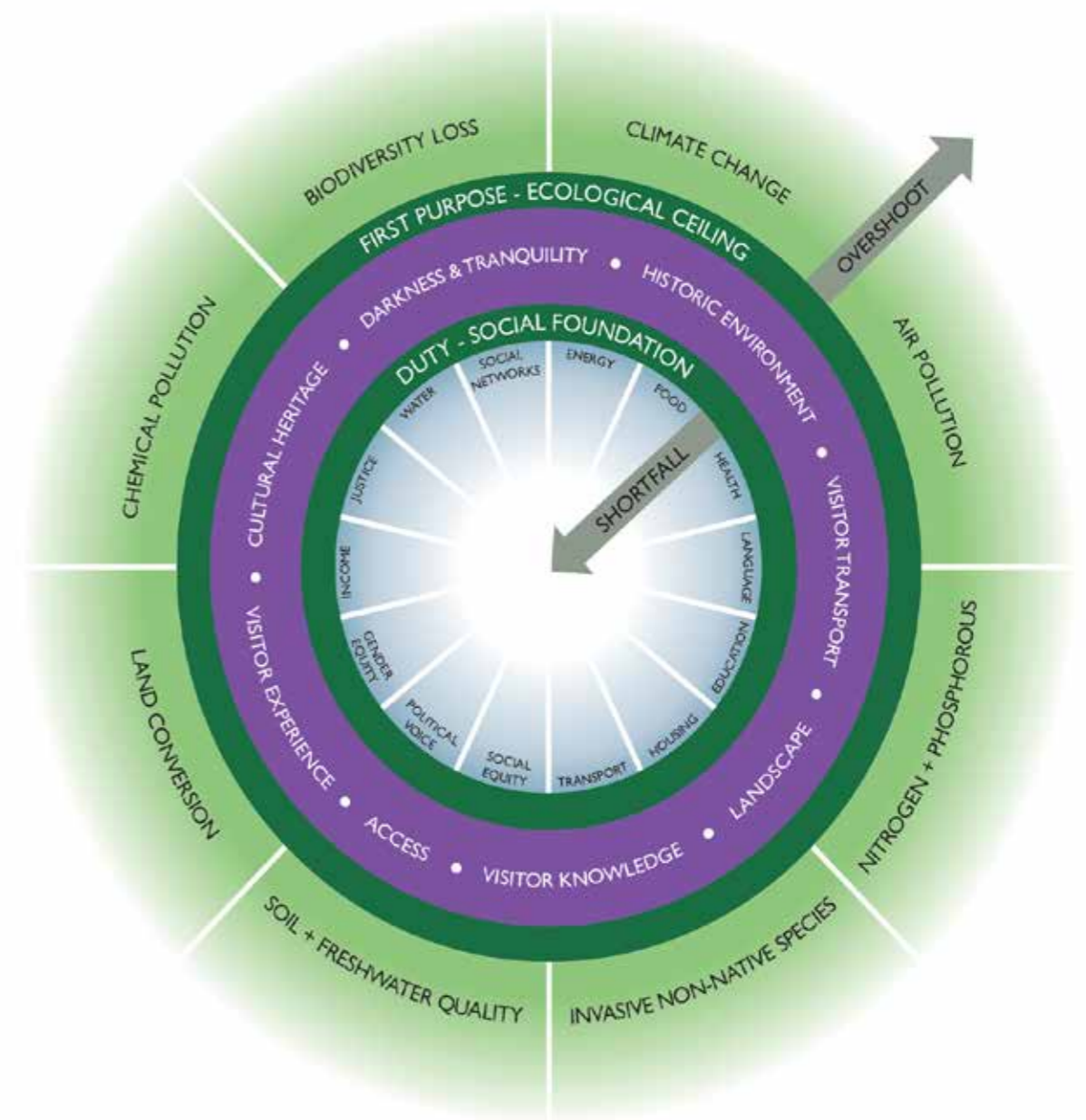
Y Bannau: The Future sets out how the purposes and duty of the National Park should be met by working collaboratively with all partners. To help us understand the complexity of this goal, we utilise an adapted version of Kate Raworth's 'Doughnut' model of social and ecological boundaries. We use this model because it helps envision a world in which people and planet can thrive in balance, just like Y Bannau: The Future envisions a National Park where the environment and people work together to provide a landscape for national wellbeing.



We have applied the model to the statutory purposes and duty of the National Park Authority. The first statutory purpose is about protecting the environment. The second purpose is about connecting people with the natural and cultural environments for their enjoyment and wellbeing. The National Park Authority also has a statutory duty to support communities to thrive within the National Park. We must balance the competing demands of the two purposes enabling people to enjoy thriving ecosystems without negative impact.

The Doughnut takes its name from its shape and consists of two concentric rings.

- The outer ring is the ecological ceiling. This relates to the National Park's first purpose and our ambition to restore the environmental sustainability of the National Park.
- The inner ring is a social foundation. This relates to the National Park's socio-economic duty and our ambition to ensure that no one living within the National Park is left without life's essentials.
- Between these two boundaries lies a doughnut-shaped space that is both ecologically safe and socially just. A safe space in which our second purpose activities, relating to human enjoyment of the National Park for recreational purposes, can thrive.
- In this way, the National Park Doughnut is a framework for understanding the successful implementation of our statutory purposes and duty.
- It is also a way of showing that any activity that we undertake towards our second purpose has to take place within social and ecological boundaries, without causing harm either way.



Understanding The Challenge

The National Park Doughnut helps us to understand the complex relationship between people and planet and how human wellbeing is reliant on the environment and society working in harmony.



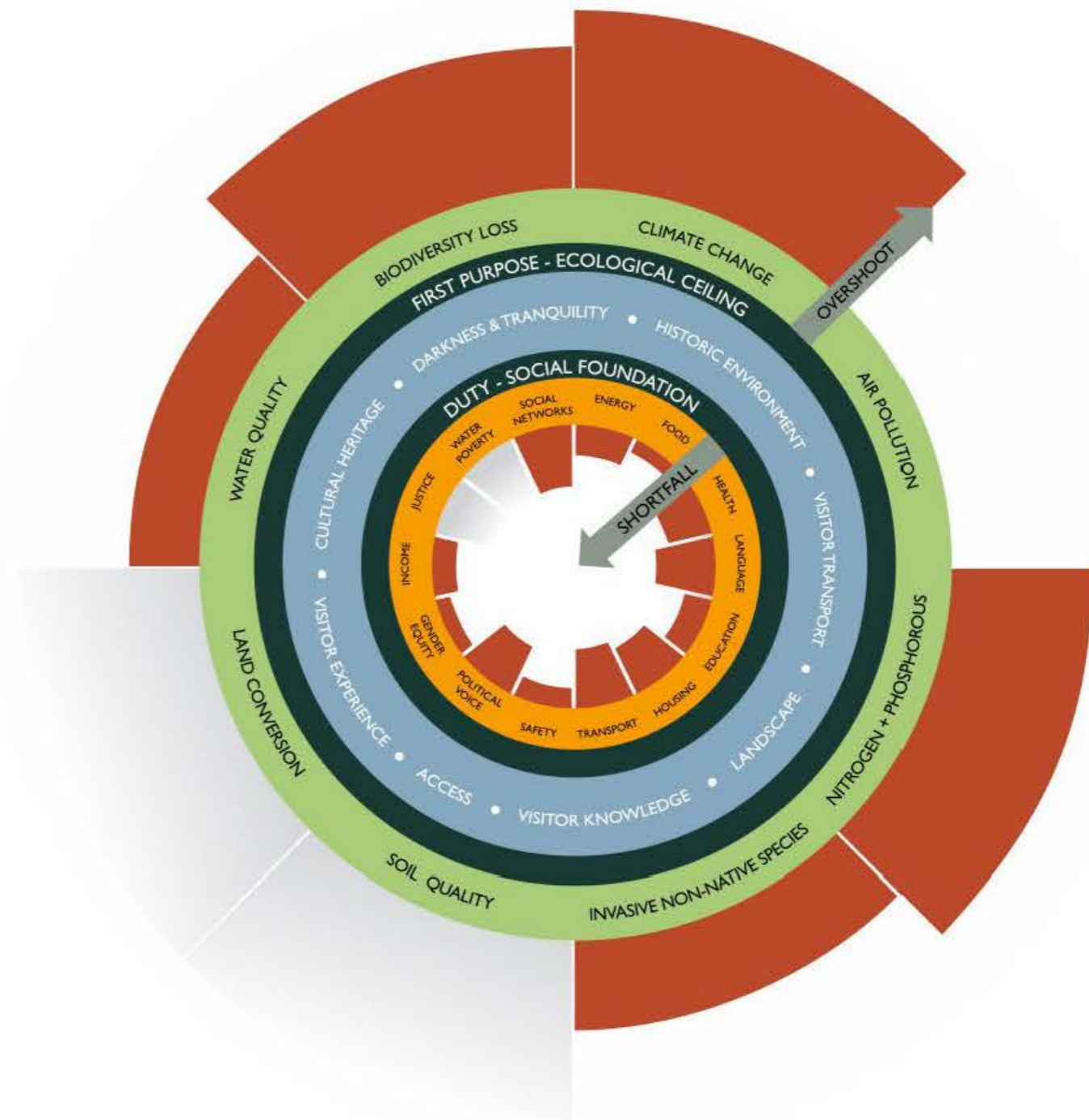
The image expresses the current state of the National Park in relation to human wellbeing and the environment.

Each dimension is measured against at least one key indicator and the red wedges show the extent of the shortfall or overshoot in the ideal implementation of our purposes and duty.

For some sectors such as climate change and housing - the shift needed to get back into the Doughnut is huge.

The aim of this plan is to eliminate all of the red from the Doughnut diagram, and the missions are in response to the biggest over-shoots.

As we implement this plan, the Doughnut model will help us understand the Plan's impact in the real world.



A Plan Shaped By Dialogue

The legal requirement to produce a Management Plan for the National Park lies with the officers of the National Park. The Plan intends to mobilise a wealth of organisations and individuals beyond our staff body alone to deliver action. Extensive dialogue has been central to developing a collective vision for the future in which we hope everyone can see their part.

Five Ways Of Working

The Well-being of Future Generations Act sets out five ways of working which have guided the development of Y Bannau: The Future and will guide Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority in catalysing the practical action needed to achieve the missions.

Developing the plan together

This plan has been developed in dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders including Natural Resources Wales, unitary authorities, Public Service Boards, Community Councils, civil society organisations including farming and environment groups, citizens, businesses, academics, National Park Authority members, and officers.

The extensive consultation helped to deepen and refine analysis of the problems and solutions as the Plan developed. We are very grateful to everyone who took time to make such thoughtful contributions.



Collaboration

Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives



Integration

Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact on each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.



Involvement

The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.



Long Term

The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the long-term needs



Prevention

How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives

The Five Ways of Working of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015)

Future Bannau

Consultation Process

2

Spring 2021

Vision & Objectives

Eight-week open consultation addressing emerging vision and objectives of the Management Plan. Presentation of options at a range of stakeholder events.

4

Winter 2021

Future Beacons Consultation

Twelve-week consultation on draft Management Plan *Future Beacons*. Presentation of content to a range of stakeholder events, and written comments sought.

6

Summer 2022

Staff Involvement

Focused on the rewording of *Future Beacons* into this plan with staff and volunteers from the BBNPA. Involvement aimed at considering how the NPA could contribute to delivering the missions.

1

Summer 2020

Issues Identification

Targeted consultation with key stakeholders to review State of the Park data, identify issues and agree development of the replacement Management Plan.

3

Summer 2021

Citizen & Stakeholder Engagement

Development of two key bodies for plan development - The Stakeholder Reference Panel comprised of statutory bodies, and the Citizen Assembly, comprised of self electing citizens. Both bodies take an active role in developing the plan.

5

Spring 2021

Policy Deep Dives

Eighteen online workshops were held looking at the form and content of Future Beacons Policy Objectives. Workshops attended by a range of participants from academia, statutory bodies, citizens and eNGOs.

7

Autumn 2022

Stakeholder Review

Further consultation with the Stakeholder Preference Panel and a range of other experts prior to finalising.

A Plan To Inspire Action

Y Bannau: The Future is a plan for the whole of the National Park and will be used to define a collective vision for all our future action. This diagram shows how the Management Plan provides the overarching strategic context for a range of plans and policies within the National Park, produced by the Authority and in partnership with others.





•
issues

The National Park faces existential threats to its continued survival. The communities that manage this landscape are facing an uncertain future. Demographic and economic changes, coupled with the impacts of the climate and nature emergencies are making it more and more difficult to maintain the traditional ways of life that have sustained this environment for generations. Our beautiful landscape, which underpins our reasons for being, will not be able to survive these changes unless concerted effort is taken today for the sake of tomorrow.



Protecting this National Park for the benefit of future generations is a national imperative and the key driver for the policy and strategy of this Plan. Our landscape provides a range of ecosystem services¹, benefits from the natural world, which are vital to health and wellbeing.

Our hills, lakes and streams generate the water which supplies most of South Wales and beyond.

Our peatland and woodlands sequester carbon generated in the towns and cities far beyond our borders to help mitigate against temperature rise.

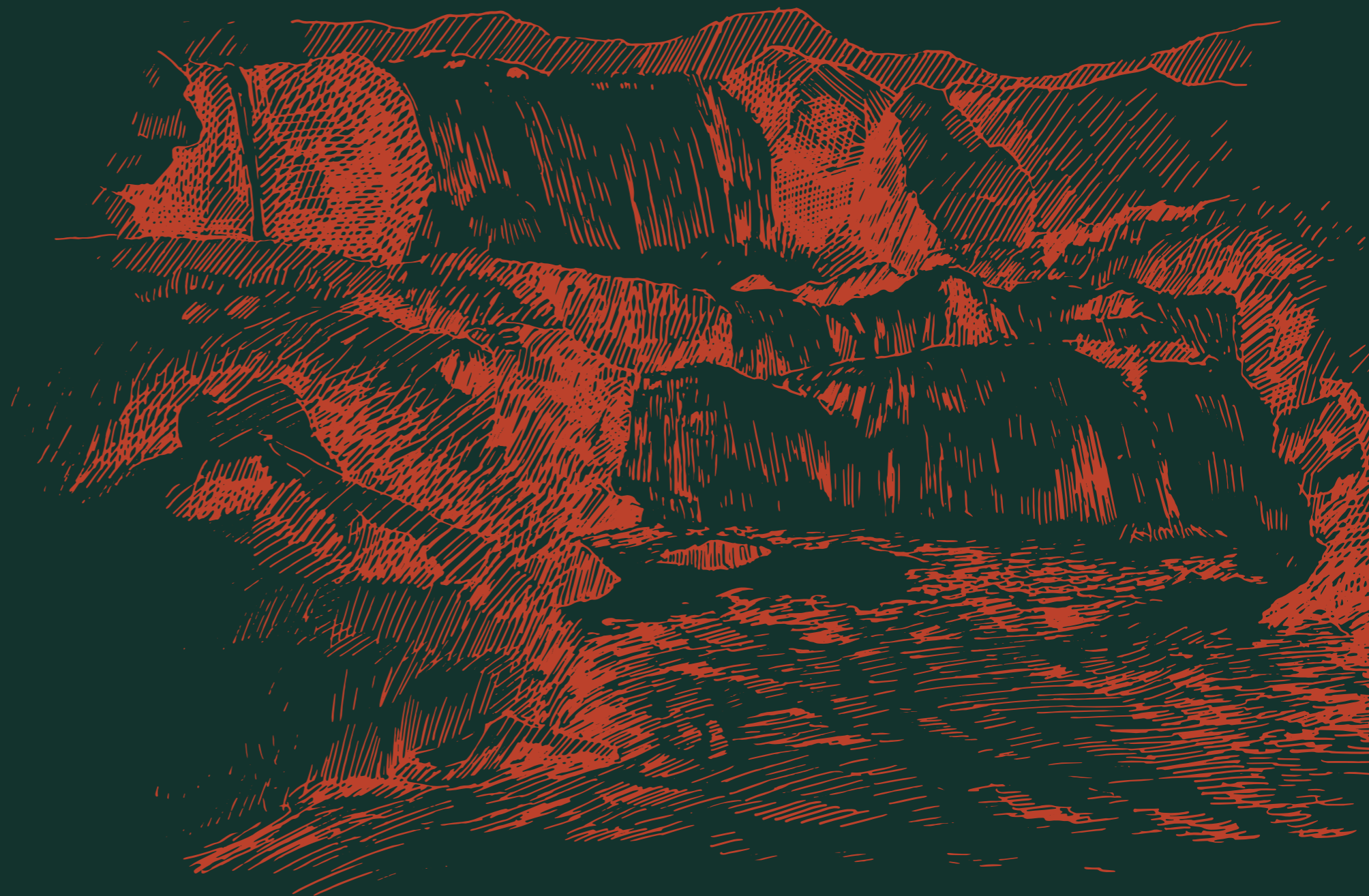
Our natural beauty providing those non-material benefits which so enrich our everyday, the spiritual, the emotional, the reflective, the awe inspiring, simple enjoyment of a walk on the hill or the woods.

The following section looks at how these services are functioning today.

We utilise the key indicators of planetary and social health² to draw out the issues that must be addressed if we are to ensure that Bannau Brycheiniog continue to delight and serve many, many generations to come.

¹ Ecosystem services are the benefits provided by ecosystems that contribute to making human life both possible and worth living

² See [Doughnut Model](#)



The National Park Today

This image portrays a typical landscape of the National Park as we see it in 2023.

Rugged bare uplands make way to a pastoral landscape, a patchwork of green grass of fields for grazing livestock interspersed with trim and traditional hedgerows.

The ploughed fields expose the red soil so characteristic of the area.

The few farmhouses that populate the image are testament to this as a living and working landscape.

The river at the valley floor meanders its way through the scene. A rural idyll that typifies the complexity of the interaction between man and nature, combines to form a picture of natural beauty.

But for all its beauty this is not a benign landscape.



“

515 square miles [which] includes the Brecon Beacons, the Black Mountains and the Carmarthenshire Vans [Y Mynydd Ddu], and its varied scenery of river and moorland, of mountain slope and wooded valley is among the finest in the country.

1957 Designation Order

Brecon Beacons National Park



Bannau Brycheiniog National Park was designated in 1957. The order conveying National Park status defines the purpose of the designation as conserving the natural beauty of the area and to promote its enjoyment by the public. Understanding the state of our natural beauty is therefore an overarching priority and one which underpins all our other activity.

We have previously defined natural beauty as encompassing a wide range of factors which combine landscape quality with ecological diversity and cultural associations (see also appendix 2). Although the experience and meaning of natural beauty is dependent on individual responses, we understand it most clearly through the lens of landscape quality. Understandably so, as our exceptional landscape quality is what we are famous for, and is valued by millions of visitors each year, but this quintessential feature of the National Park is vulnerable to change.

Despite the seemingly timeless quality of our landscape, it is important to understand that it is not a static entity. Our landscape itself is a product

of millennia of geological, geomorphological and human processes, processes which continue today at various paces of change. These impacts are already leaving their mark on our landscape.

An assessment undertaken in partnership with [Reading University in 2021](#) found that just 5 out of the 16 landscape types displayed within the National Park are in Good condition as the table below shows.

Condition	Landscape type
Good	Ancient Pastoral farmlands Lake-shore 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

State of Natural Beauty

In general, the findings of the assessment were unsurprising. Those landscape types that have been characterised by recent human interventions such as post war coniferous planting (forested moorland slopes), or Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) incentivised agricultural practice (e.g village farmlands), show lower overall conditions than those areas of landscape where visual impact from human activity is low and survival of semi-natural habitat is high, for example upland landscape types (moorland hills & slopes) (Griffiths and Warnock 2021).

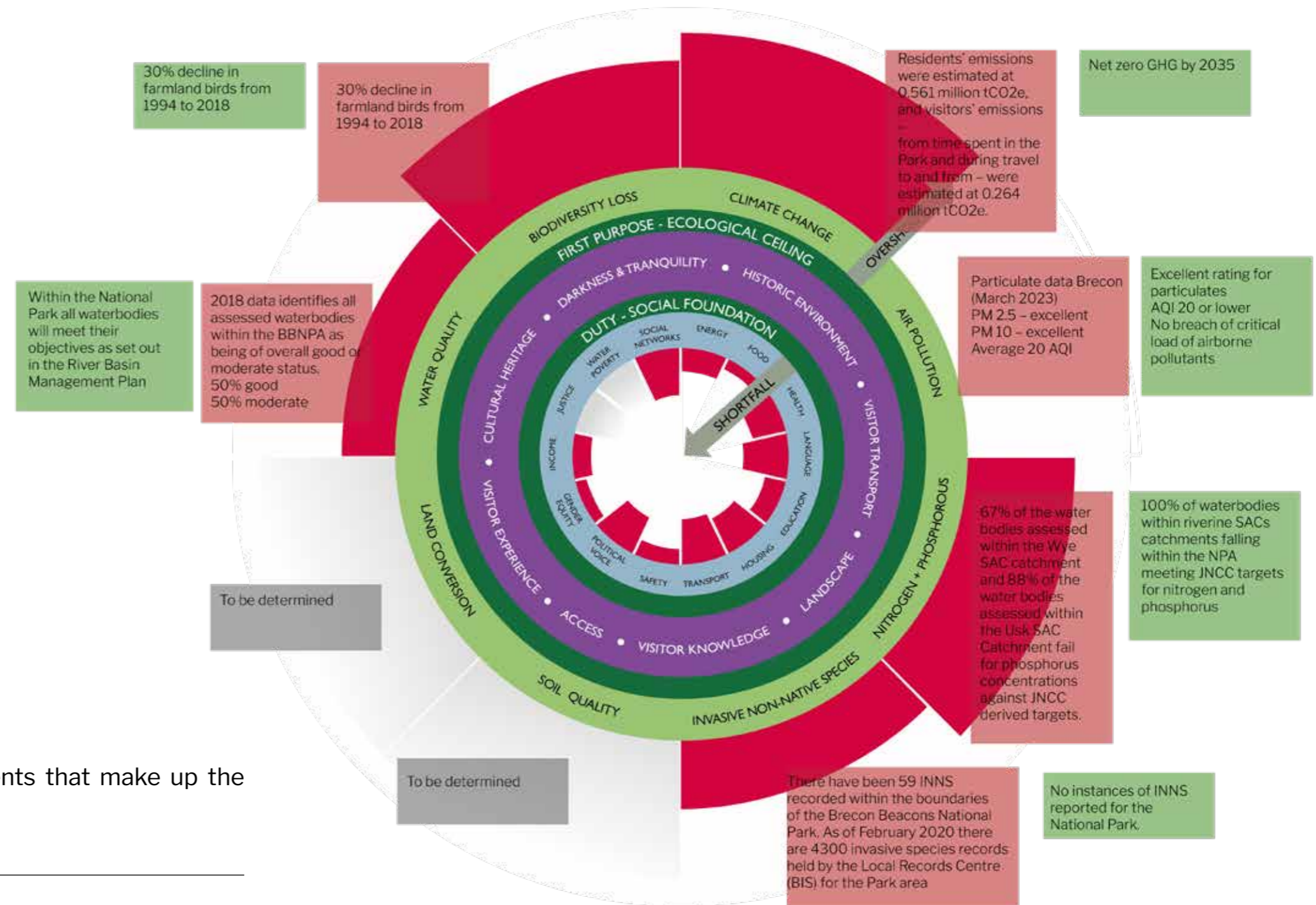
The diversity of landscapes across the National Park require different land management options appropriate to the character of our varied landscape. However some common threats to the integrity exist¹ these can be summarised as:-

- Climate Change (water shortages / flood risk / wildlife losses / reduced food security)
- Biodiversity change (habitat losses / species losses / species invasion / habitat fragmentation)
- Changing farming practice (loss of farmers from the community / loss of skills / increased costs and/or loss of productivity incentivising intensification)
- Changing energy profile (rising fuel costs / reduced oil supplies / carbon emissions / drive for renewables)
- Population change (immigration / aging population / changing housing needs / limited infrastructure)
- Transport needs (carbon emissions / fuel costs / rural transport constraints)
- Globalisation (loss of culture traditions / increase waste / overconsumption)

1. For full discussion see Fiona Fyfe and Associates Landscape Character Assessment (2012) Chapter 6 Forces for Change



The Bannau Brycheiniog Ecological Ceiling 2022



The ecological ceiling shows the key components that make up the environmental elements of our first purpose.

For each element we have defined where the boundary of environmental sustainability lies. These are shown as 'goals' on the diagram opposite.

We have also identified key indicators that give us a snapshot of where we are, and set these in the red boxes against our goals.

We then use these indicators to approximate how far we are from meeting these goals, these are the red wedges that extend beyond the green circle, the boundary of sustainability.

>50%

8 Red List Species declined by more than 50% in Bannau Brycheiniog between 1995 and 2018.

10%

Of SSSIs within the Park are in appropriate management.

16%

The area of the Park under tree cover has slightly decreased from 17% since 2015.

56%

Of SACs are in unfavourable condition.



2020 saw the publication of the latest Natural Resources Wales: State of Natural Resources Report ([SoNaRr](#)). This found that none of the ecosystems in Wales had all the necessary attributes of resilience. This echoed previous findings from similar assessments, such as the 2018 [Living Planet Report](#) from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), which found that wildlife population sizes have fallen globally by 60% since 1970, and the 2019 [State of Nature Report](#) which highlighted the loss of 73 species from Wales with a further 666 at risk of extinction.

It is clear from the above snapshot that nature is in crisis and, over the past few years we have learnt more about the extent of habitat and species loss on a global and national scale. In 2020 with the publication of the State of the Park Report we evidenced how this crisis was playing out in the Park itself.

Take for example our breeding and nesting birds data. Birds are powerful indicators of, and proxies for, good environmental health. Many birds sit at or near the top of terrestrial and marine food chains and understanding the drivers and impacts on their populations gives us an insight into the status

of other wildlife. A total of eight 'red list' species were shown to be declining by more than 50% in the Park area, including swift, greenfinch, grey wagtail, yellowhammer, curlew, wheatear and rook. Some of our most familiar birds such as chaffinch and blue tit were shown to decline between 25 - 50%. These declines were seen across multiple species and multiple habitats, which speaks of wide-ranging problems within ecosystems. This could have devastating consequences for humanity.

State of Nature

This story isn't unique to the landscapes and habitats of the National Park but it is an uncomfortable truth given our first purpose requires the organisation to conserve and enhance wildlife in all our activity. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) report: A Lost Decade for Nature (2020) not only highlighted the UK had failed to reach any of the Aichi targets set by the UN in 2010 to halt the devastating loss of biodiversity, but more significantly that National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty appear less able than other areas to protect the most significant habitats in their care (p.4). A study in England found that the condition of Sites of Scientific Interest is worse inside National Parks than outside¹. Although comparative condition assessment inside and outside the National Park boundary has not been completed, we recognise that the condition of SACs (56% in unfavorable condition) and SSSIs (35% in unfavorable condition and only 10% under appropriate management) within the National Park is below where we would want it to be in terms of healthy ecosystems, and certainly a very far way from being enhanced.

The reasons for this picture are multiple but both SONARR (2020) and the WWF Wales's Nature Crisis (2020) highlight the following as drivers of biodiversity loss within the UK:-

- Agricultural management
- Climate change
- Hydrological change
- Urbanisation
- Invasive non native species
- Pollution
- Woodland management

1. Cox, K. et al (2018), National Parks or Natural Parks: how can we have both? British Wildlife 30:2, December 2018. <https://www.britishwildlife.com/article/volume-30-number-2-page-87-95>

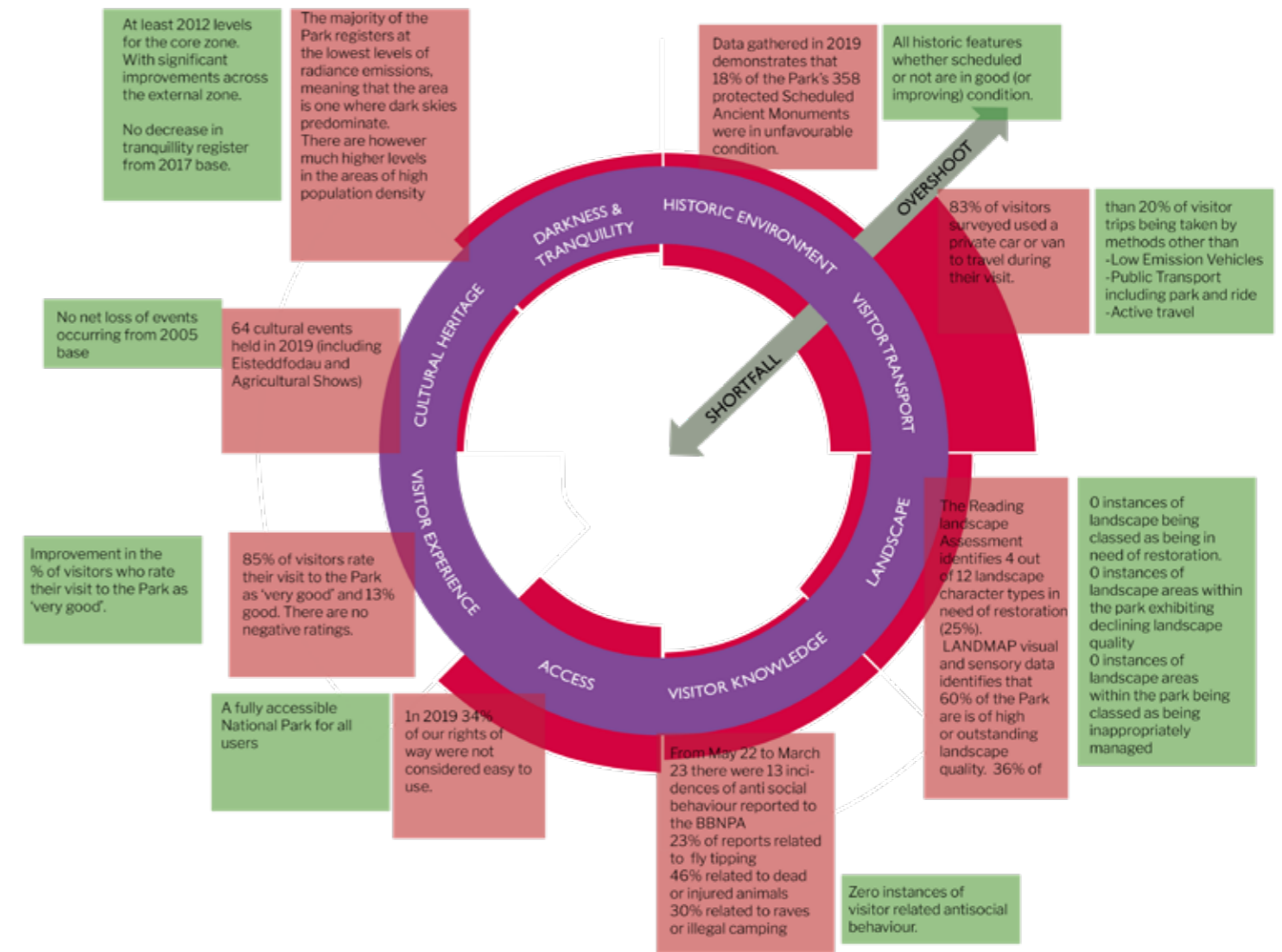
The Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Core 2022

Between the ecological ceiling and the social foundation lies the just and safe space. Within the National Park's version of the doughnut this is the space in which we would want our second purpose activities to take place. In other words, opportunities for understanding and enjoying the National Park should only happen in such a way that they do not cause us to breach our ecological ceiling or push our residents below the social foundation.

For each element we have defined where this dual boundary lies. These are shown as 'goals' on the diagram opposite.

We have also identified key indicators that give us a snapshot of where we are and set these in the red boxes against our goals.

We then use these indicators to approximate how far we are from meeting these goals, these are the red wedges that extend beyond the purple circle. Wedges that overshoot demonstrate that these factors are having an unsustainable environmental impact. Wedges that show a shortfall are impacting community sustainability.



22%

Increase in the percentage of Rights of Way within the Park being classed as 'Easy to Use' since 2011

342

More visitor cars are estimated to park at the Storey Arms area at peak times than there are car parking spaces to accomodate (<200% above capacity)

31%

Increase in the percentage of Rights of Way within the Park being classed as 'Open' since 2011

650

More visitor cars arrived at peak times in the Waterfall area post lockdown 2020 than there were car parking spaces to accomodate them (62.5% above capacity)

The architects of National Park designation, saw National Parks as providing opportunities for free access to the countryside to all members of society, for what they termed, open air recreation. This was a key element of social reform introduced after the horror of the Second World War and was seen as critical to the social and economic restoration of the nation, alongside the creation of the welfare state, the NHS and paid holidays.

How people access and utilise the countryside has been totally transformed from this post war vision. Not only has the population of the UK grown significantly - there are approximately 13 million more people in the UK than in 1949 - but car ownership has grown exponentially. In 1950 there were 4 million cars on the road, as of today that figure has grown to over 38 million. It is this combined growth in people and private car use that has had a big impact on the National Park and our ability to manage visitor pressures. Tourism, both staying and day visitors is one of the most significant elements of the local economy. Indeed, visitor spend has on the whole increased by as

much as 45% since 2007. Visitors come to the National Park for a whole host of reasons, but at the core people come to the National Park because it evokes feelings of wellbeing which benefit emotional health and happiness. The problem is not the people but their mode of access.

We started development of this plan in 2020, which was very far from a typical year. For the first time in a decade large areas of the National Park were closed and public access made illegal. "Visit later" became the tagline of the National Park in the 2020 lock-down.

State Of Understanding & Enjoying The National Park

During lock-down, the daily local walk became a source of singular comfort for many. The renewed opportunity to spend recreational time in outdoor arenas became synonymous with healing, akin to the vision of National Parks set out by Dower and Hobhouse back in the 1940s.

As if to prove the point, when lock-downs were lifted, we saw visitors return at levels never seen before

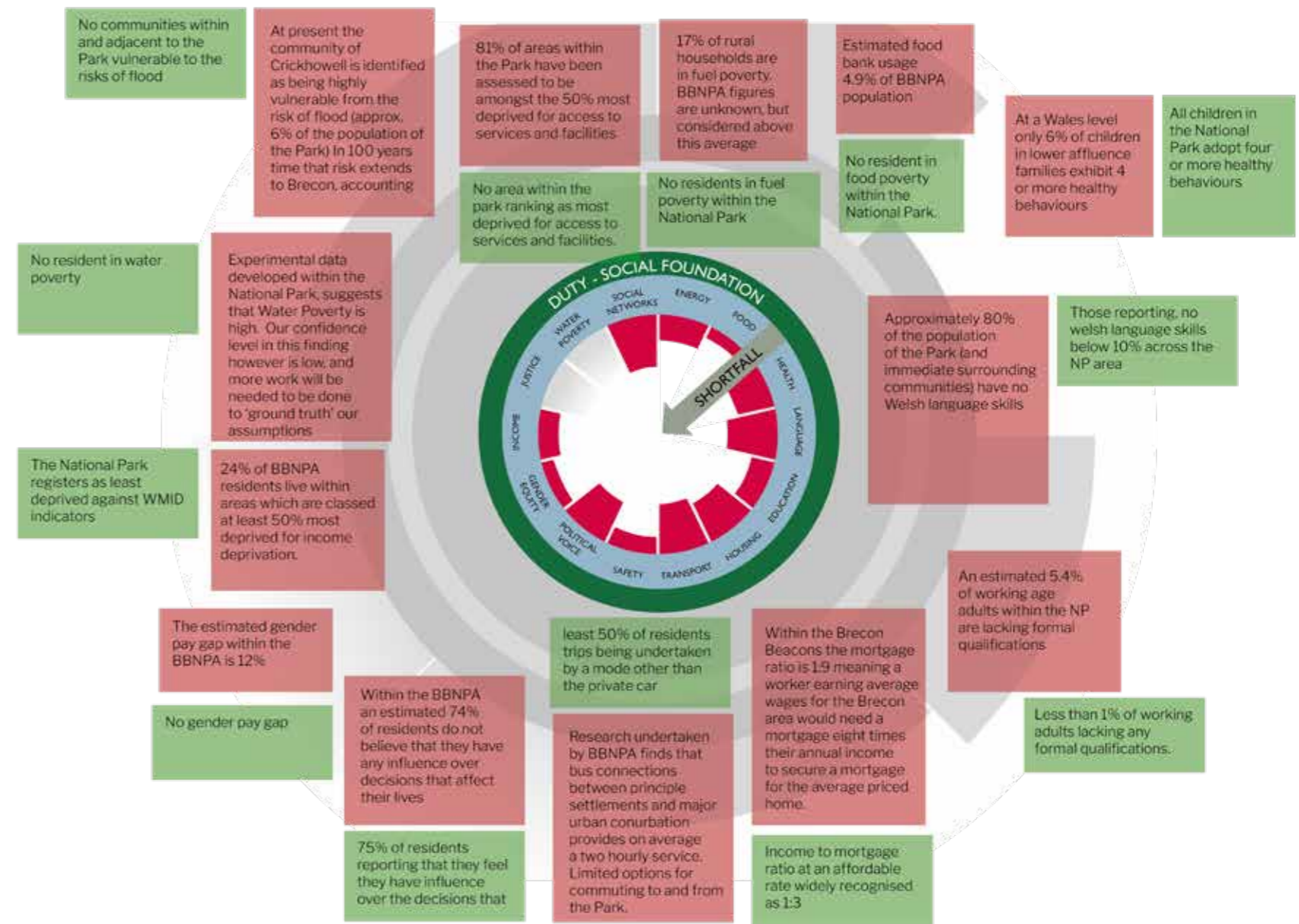
Many visitors congregate on particular, iconic locations, notably the Central Beacons at Storey Arms and Waterfall Country at Pontneddfechan. Often this means we see visitors accessing at numbers beyond carrying capacity of the area. This leads to a range of impacts which are not only detrimental to the quality of the visitor experience but have untold adverse impacts on the host communities who feel swamped by the enormity of the visitor presence.

Issues associated with visitor pressure beyond carrying capacity:

- Transportation emissions
- Road congestion and parking issues
- Increase in holiday homes and second homes
- Inappropriate recreation activity
- Noise pollution
- Upland erosion
- Impacts on sensitive habitats and wildlife disturbance



Brecon Beacon's Social Foundation 2022



The social foundation shows the key components that make up the elements of our statutory purpose and duty.



For each element we have defined where the boundary of socio-economic well-being lies. These are shown as 'goals' on the diagram opposite.

We have also identified key indicators that give us a snapshot of where we are and set these in the red boxes against our goals.

We then use these indicators to approximate how far we are from meeting these goals, these are the red wedges that fall into the hole at the centre of the doughnut, beneath the basic foundation of well-being.

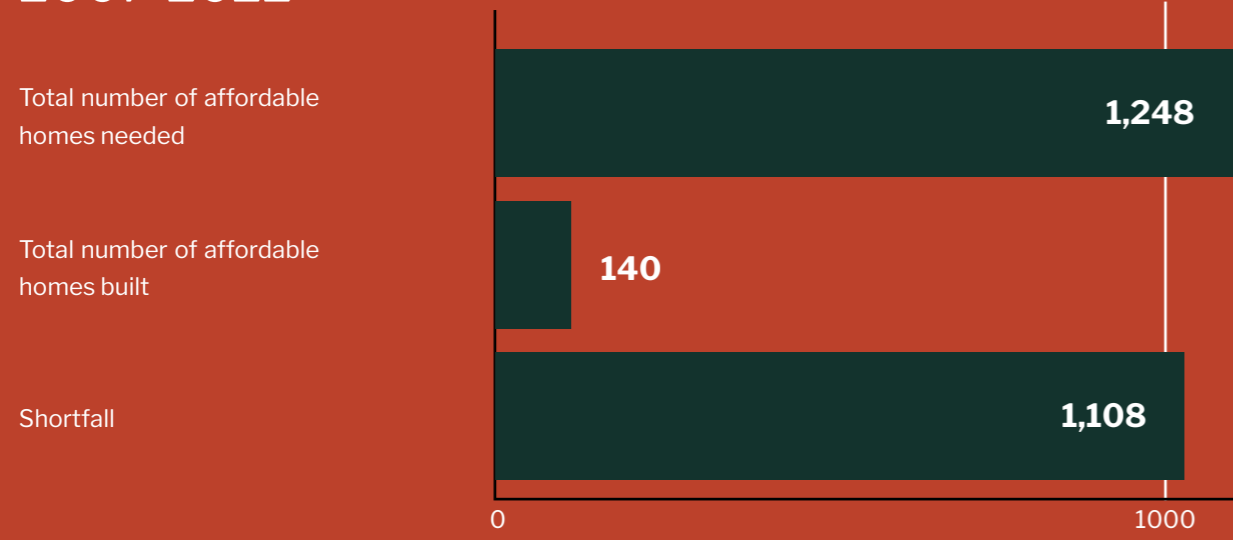
35.8%

Proportion of our total resident population over 65 by 2032

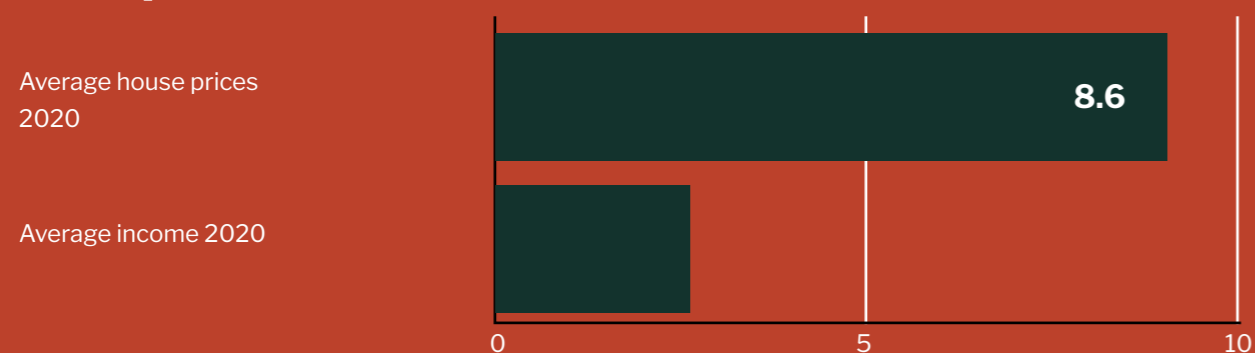
48.8%

Proportion of our total resident population between 16-64 by 2032

Affordable housing need 2007-2022



Mortgage multipliers



Our communities are at the heart of the National Park, but rural living is not without difficulty. Among the many issues currently facing communities in the National Park are - climate change; increased flood risk; fuel poverty; access to services; changes to agricultural subsidy regimes (see next); rural poverty; cost of housing; our aging population; equality and inclusion; inter-generational equity; out-migration of young people and lack of public transport. The impacts of many of these issues have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Demographic change is another key issue impacting our communities. Over the past few decades we have seen a loss of young people from the area. Why this happens is a complex story - partly it is about the pull of the bright lights of the big city, but it is also about a lack of quality employment opportunities in the National Park and the high price of housing. The loss of young people means that our resident population is getting older, and this is exacerbated by the popularity of the area for incoming retirees. People who are no longer tethered by the daily commute wish to spend their retirement in the countryside. The result is higher house prices, loss of services and facilities such as schools from within communities. This places significant pressure on our villages to absorb more growth

and provide affordable housing for younger people, whilst existing housing stock stands empty as holiday and second homes - leading to the creation of 'dormitory villages'.

Our economic make up owes much to the framework as a designation as a National Park. We are less reliant on traditional economic sectors (such as manufacturing and industry) and more on the service economy built up around the tourist trade. In turn our appeal as a tourist destination is heavily reliant on a landscape that is mostly agricultural, and its character and resilience are dependent on the actions of farmers who make their living from the land.

State Of Living & Working In The National Park

Economic prosperity as expressed through key labour market indicators can be seen to shift from more to less prosperous as you travel from the north to south of the Authority area. The rural agricultural areas of the National Park demonstrate on average greater levels of income to the more urban settlements of the (now abandoned) coal fields of the South Wales Valleys on our southern periphery. This spatial distinction is also borne out in levels of employment, education and multiple measures of deprivation, which all show a worsening trend from North to South.

Global economies have been decimated by the impacts of corona virus and the following cost of living crisis and shifts in behavior this has engendered. The National Park economy is such that we are not impervious to the shocks being felt acutely within sectors such as retail and tourism. In combination with the economic uncertainty embedded within the corona virus crisis, continued additional impacts are being predicted around Brexit, and future agricultural subsidy

regimen the Sustainable Farming Scheme. This is predicted to impact on the Agricultural sector most acutely, but will also impact all sectors reliant on the import or export of goods and services with Europe, including tourism.





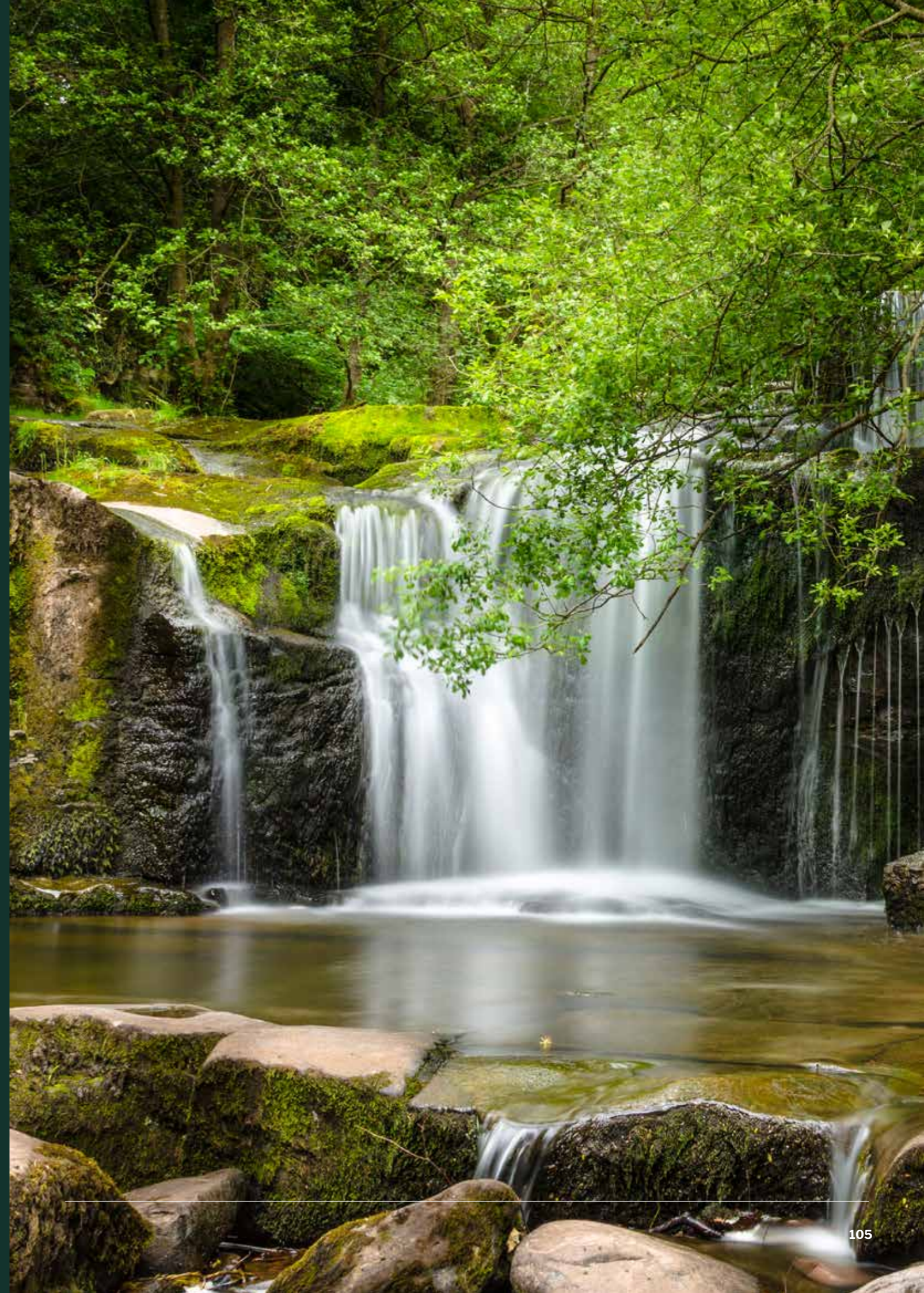
Vision

The Future National Park

To act in response to the identified issues and bring our action within our ecological ceiling and social foundation requires transformative and collaborative action.

To guide this action this plan defines a 25 year vision which seeks to implement our purposes and duty in a 21st century context, alive to the issues of the climate and nature crisis.

The vision is supported by our five missions aimed at bringing about successful implementation of our purposes and duty to create a thriving National Park for all.



Bannau Brycheiniog 2048

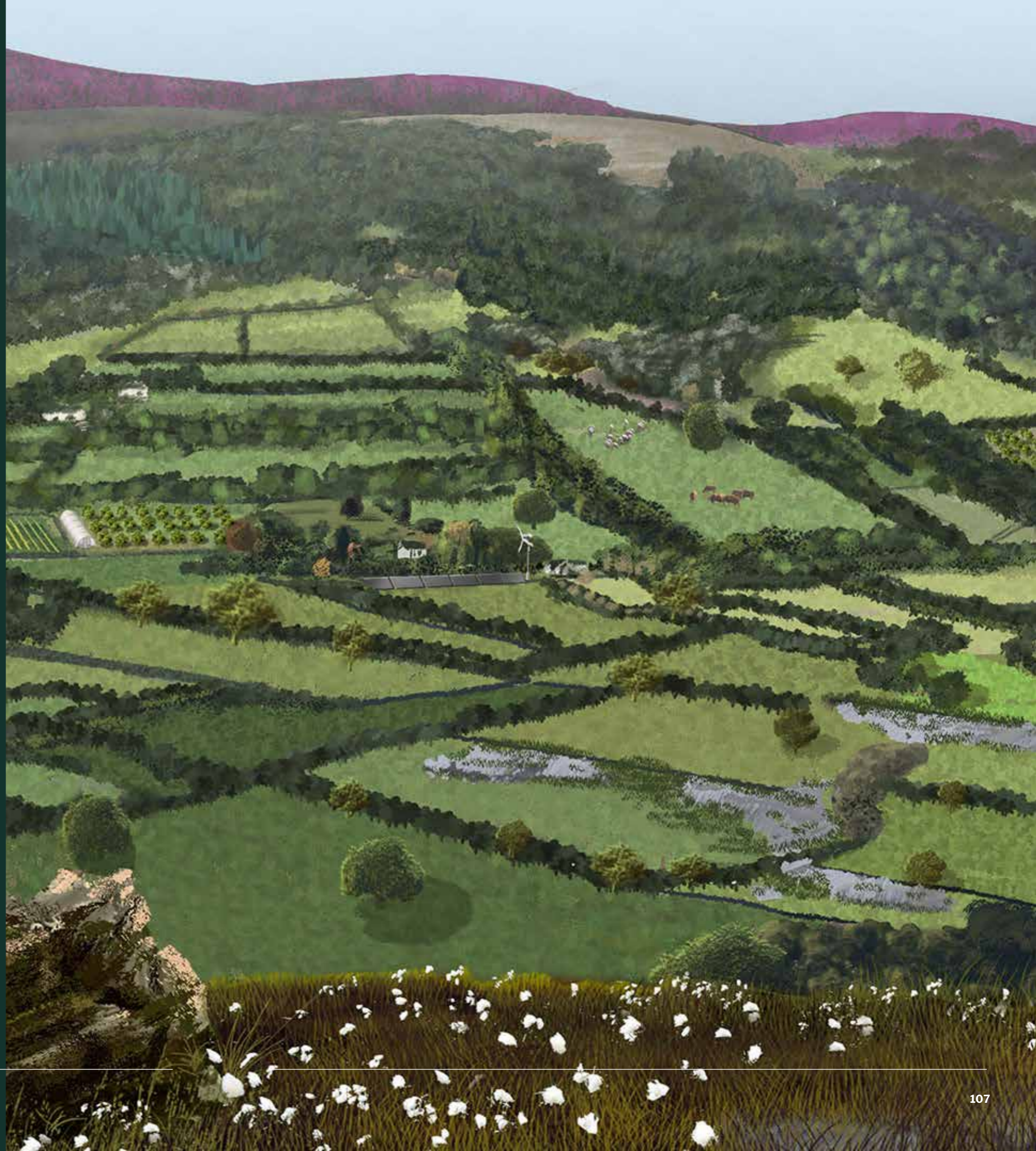
This image takes us back to the same typical scene in the National Park. This time however, we have moved the clock on 25 years to paint a picture of a possible landscape of the future.

This landscape is one where nature and farming work together to create a resilient biodiverse landscape.

A sustainable future for the National Park will embrace nature recovery, nature-based solutions to climate change, green growth, and transitioning our communities to low carbon living that is accessible to all.

We hope others will be inspired to act and that our visitors will benefit and learn from closer contact with this nature rich world. This is the driving force of our vision that we are inviting all partners to share with us.

We believe that this is an imperative that must be acted upon now, and where possible collaboratively with everyone who has a stake in the continued viability of the Park for people and nature.



Our Vision:

Our National Park will be a place 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, economic recovery and the health and social care crisis.

In 2048 Bannau Brycheiniog will be ecologically resilient and we will have surpassed net zero carbon.

Our communities will be connected, caring, collaborative and thriving.

The culture, natural beauty and environment of the Park will have brought inspiration and joy to all who live, work and visit here.





A post card from 2047

Sally Davies, Tirmawr Farm

I am now 83 years old and still walking! I have lived and worked in the park all of my life. I am taking my daily walk to try and keep fit and active. I have my youngest grandchild with me. I show her the hole in the tree made by a green woodpecker, the fox runs and badger setts. My daughter told me to take her with me because she needs some fresh air but I know it's just to keep an eye on me to make sure I don't fall.

Its autumn and the trees are going into their dormancy. I can hear the River Usk roaring through the valley after yet another heavy spell of rain. In the distance I can hear a chainsaw. My husband, daughter and grandson are laying one of our hedges...passing the ancient skill on to the next generation.

After the storm there is calm. The sun is shining down on my face, there is a brilliance of colour from the autumnal leaves.

I pick up a chewed hazelnut shell. Red squirrels have returned to the area. I show my granddaughter where the squirrel had nibbled the shell, removing the nut.

I think of the past...

I shouldn't have worried so much. I was so scared that the park was merely a preservation society. Its role being to stop any development in the park, allowing only the suited and booted to buy property. I was afraid that the Park would become full of soulless dormitory villages, but I was wrong.

Our farm business is a beef, sheep and eco-tourism business, which continues to thrive today. We are grateful for the BBNP's new approach which has enabled us to build a modular energy-efficient eco-home within the farmstead. We were eligible as we could prove that we make our living principally from the land, which incidentally carries over to other land-based sectors too. This means that my husband and I can still live on the farm where we have lived most

of our lives and we are able to pass our knowledge on and support the future generations. I'm now able to watch the grand children while my kids tend to lambing, shearing and guiding school groups around the land. My grandchildren are also now able to live on the farmstead, which is of vital support to me too, keeping an eye on, fetching and carrying, enabling me to still be independent and useful.

When this area was designated a National Park my father-in-law went to Ystradfellte School, my mother-in-law went to Trallong school. In later years my husband went to Crai school and I went to Libanus School - all of these schools were long gone by 2022. Young people were migrating out of the area because of lack of jobs and housing. Now, in the year 2047, these trends have been reversed; not only is the wildlife flourishing but so are our communities, with different generations living alongside each other, learning from each other and supporting each other.

Against the odds, the park managed to get the balance right. They didn't merely preserve a landscape - a photo in time - they have enabled it to become a living, breathing and dynamic place, with vibrant communities of all ages, and all species.

Y Bannau; A Mission Led Approach

“ We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win...

President John F. Kennedy,
Address at Rice University,
September 12, 1962

When President Kennedy set out his ambition to send humanity to the moon and bring him back safely, he created a single inspiring action which unambiguously galvanised action. From this statement a whole host of people, from experts to citizens started to work together in ways never seen before to deliver a central objective, urgently. The activity itself, took hundreds of projects, risk taking, trial and error and many failures along the way, before finally meeting its objective (Mazzacato 2021).

Sixty years since the launching of Project Apollo, the challenges this Plan needs to address - climate change, nature recovery, water quality improvements, sustainable tourism and economic prosperity for our residents to name just a few - are complex and wicked problems, which akin to the moon landing, require the best of our energies and skill.

This is why Y Bannau: The Future takes a mission led approach to the management of the Park. Setting out bold goals to act on our most pressing problems which will be achieved through collaboration across the public and private spheres. From environmental non-governmental organisations to citizens, salaried officers of our public bodies to farmers out in the field, we need to come together, to act to achieve bold transformation for the sake of future generations.

MISSION family

Our Mission approach comprises five key interconnected mission areas. We refer to them as our family of missions as they are all interconnected, reliant on one another and interrelated (see appendix 4).

These subject areas are based on our reading of the National Park Doughnut (see above), and concentrate on the key areas where the National Park breaches safe operating limits the furthest (see Issues section). These areas are those where we are in dangerous proximity to irreversible tipping points. These must be acted on as a matter of urgency. This understanding of the evidence requires concerted action in the following areas:

Climate
Water
Nature

And, in recognition of the significant breaches across almost the entirety of our Social Foundation and National Park Core, we have identified more generalised mission areas focused on:

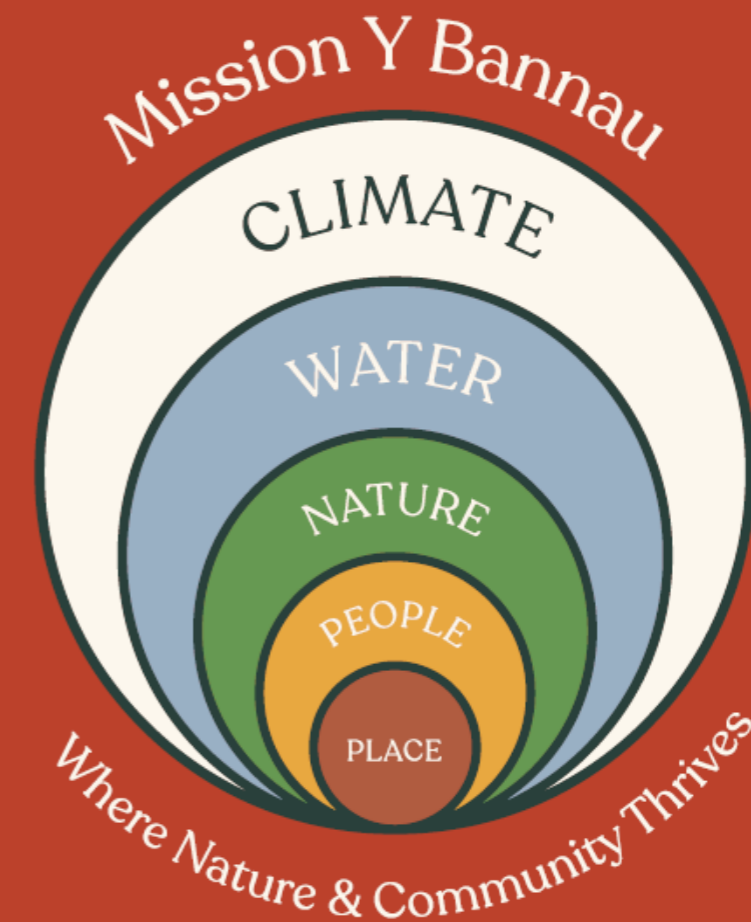
People (visitors, residents and business owners)
Place (the geographical area where impacts can be felt)

Each mission has its own chapter in this plan. These chapters explain the mission, whilst also providing a wider contextualising rationale for the mission focus. In creating mission based chapters, we acknowledge that we are establishing a false sense of delineation between the mission areas.

We know such separation is false, unfortunately it is the clearest way we can find to best communicate our vision. We want to acknowledge here that success for each mission area is actually dependent upon complex interacting systems between mission areas. To understand how our actions impact across the full range of our missions, we return to our doughnut model to provide a holistic understanding.

These mission statements form our Wellbeing Objectives for the period 2023-2028 and demonstrate how the geographic area of the Park will contribute to the delivery of the 7 wellbeing goals through the five ways of working. (See appendix 3 for further detail)

The following pages provide more detail on both the way this plan expresses these missions (the make up of the mission chapters) as well as the ways of working necessary to deliver their ambition.



Sustainability: A Definition.

The phrase sustainable and sustainability are utilised repeatedly in this plan.

To be clear, our use of the phrase follows the Brundtland definition of sustainability which was defined in 1987 as 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

In Wales sustainability has been further defined by the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015) which places a duty on all public bodies to adhere to the Sustainable Development Principle

The process of improving the economic , social environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action in accordance with the sustainable development principle

Therefore, any statement made in this plan which refers to an action, goal, outcome or objective as 'sustainable' must be read as requiring action which improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales now and for future generations.

Assessment of potential impact on National Sites Network

Lower tier plans or projects arising from the implementation of this Plan, which could have an effect on a European site such as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protected Area (SPA), are legally required to undergo a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) as set out under the Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended). Any lower tier plans or projects where adverse effects on site integrity cannot be ruled out are not supported by this management plan.

For further information see the Habitats Regulations Assessment of this Plan.



Ambitions: Defining success for the National Park.

To help readers understand the extent of the mission's reach across the National Park, we have defined a series of ambition statements which seek to provide a clear picture of what successful implementation of the missions means.

They express these changes as outcomes on the ground, and like our missions are evidence based and provide basis for future monitoring of this Plan.

These big changes will require many varied organisations and individuals working together to achieve them – not just our organisation.

Mission area

Sub- topic - breaking up the mission into its component objectives

Sequestration

Action will be happening across the national park to restore nature's ability to capture carbon from the atmosphere, in line with the climate change committee's sixth carbon budget recommendations on agriculture, land use, land use change and forestry

Habitat restoration
Accelerated habitat restoration, especially peatland restoration in line with the National Peatland Programme, will maximise carbon storage in existing ecosystems.

Land use change
Increased woodland, agro-forestry and hedgerows, with the right trees in the right places, will create new natural carbon sinks.

Sustainable farming
Changing plants and practices in farming will improve the soils ability to hold carbon.

Adaptation

People and nature will be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of climate destabilisation, in line with prosperity for all, the climate change adaptation plan for Wales.

Nature restoration
Restored, expanded and linked ecosystems and wildlife habitats will help nature to withstand pressures of a changing climate. Protected groundwater levels and adequate flow in rivers will also promote healthy ecology and enhance natural resilience to drought. Sites most at risk of fire will be managed to reduce fire loading.

Resilient infrastructure
Flood risk will be reduced by restored nature letting peak river flow and by flood protection for vulnerable buildings. The impact of temperature rises locally will be mitigated by restored nature, changes to existing buildings, and behavior change. Land use planning will ensure that new developments are built to be resilient to climate impacts.

Outcome statement - what will have been achieved by 2028

Overarching statement of ambition - objectives for Y Bannau

An example set of ambition statements

Missions: A Bold Collaborative Approach

Although our Mission approach may seem hugely ambitious, we know that by pledging to commit our own resources, and working with our partners, the change that is needed can and will happen.

Think of each of our missions as building up a tower of blocks. To build the tower you need many blocks all coming together to create the final structure, the tower itself. Each block is placed in turn, and builds on the foundation of the blocks below. In our mission tower, each block represents a project, plan, or activity, which in combination work together, to create the change that is needed.

The job of Y Bannau is to define the parameters for this future activity, it is not to prescribe the exact form it should take. In accordance with our values of involvement and collaboration the shape of each block and the contribution it makes, is for our partners to determine working with us. In the following pages you will find case studies of activities which form the foundation of these missions' towers, which we call our 'Sêr y Bannau' and details of the partnerships we will be working with to help deliver mission Y Bannau: The Future.

The National Park's Role In Delivery

To demonstrate our commitment to the mission approach we, as an organisation, set out what we believe our role is in helping deliver the missions. They are the biggest contributions we think we can make to achieve the missions.

As well as our mission-orientated approach, we also believe that we as an organisation have a central role which we define as our overarching contribution to mission Y Bannau. These define future activity which spans all our missions and will define a general pattern of activity for the organisation as a whole.



Mission y Bannau

Our contribution to mission delivery

The following defines our organisation's commitment to undertake overarching activity which will contribute towards achieving across our missions.

1. We will use our convening powers to bring together key people and organisations to form delivery-focused partnerships to enable the sharing of knowledge and expertise and the efficient coordinated use of resources. This document defines partnerships already in existence, already acting for the benefit of the National Park, which we will continue to support.
2. We will expand the reach and breadth of our academic research partnership with the objective of bringing the expertise of academic research to bear on the real-world problems of the National Park. The partnership is in the process of creating core study groups around key topic areas, such as peat, phosphates and heritage which will support achieving the missions. Individual mission chapters may identify other areas where future research is needed to support delivery.
3. We will embed the principles, values, and missions of this plan into all of the work of the organisation including our decision-making structures and ways of working, our financial management, our public communications and advocacy, and the development of all further plans and policies the organisation of the National Park is asked by statute or necessity to produce.
4. We will utilise all available resources, both now and in the future, to contribute as much as possible to mission delivery. We will advocate for mission delivery from all those bodies operating within the Park who are bound by S62(2) of the Environment Act (1995) to have due regard to our purposes and duty in their activity.
5. We will use our knowledge and expertise to help embed this plan thinking beyond our boundary, creating a mindset of exemplary and transformative action.

Sêr Y Bannau: Inspiring Action Through The Work Of Others

Y Bannau: The Future is purposefully focused on articulating objectives and outcomes. It is not centred on the 'how' of delivery. This is because we believe that the organisation's role is to set the vision for the future of the area, not dictate how it should be delivered.

We want to work with our key partners to develop detailed action plans which can create detailed route-maps to mission success. In these co-designed plans, actions toward mission delivery can be proposed, agreed and owned by each and every organisation or public body that has a responsibility to the Park.

To illustrate the sort of action that we anticipate will aid mission delivery we have identified existing projects to act as pointers to spark ideas in the

action planning of others and to demonstrate what sort of things make up the building blocks to mission delivery.

These case studies, authored by the project leads, we have called our Sêr Y Bannau (Stars of the Beacons). Some of these examples highlight current work of the organisation, others are completely independent and demonstrate the inspiring potential of the action of others.

Project lead and author of case study

Project name

Project vision

Project actions

Project relationship to Y Bannau: The Future

Stump Up For Trees

Keith Powell & Robert Penn
Co-founders Stump Up For Trees

Our Vision

We hope that by the time our project reaches maturity, we will have made a real difference to both the message and biodiversity of the Park. We believe that success for our project means an improved landscape across the region, including more native woodland woodlands and hedgerow on farms, and the restoration of habitat at scale on common land.

Our Action

Realising our ambition to plant a million trees within the living, working landscape means embracing a variety of planting methodologies, not just the traditional straight rows of trees. With new planting schemes, we support the rewilding of oldland, the planting of new hedgerows, agroforestry between food production and arable land, and the creation of wood pasture (see call 1844) on commons. Fundamentally, trees need to be planted in the best possible way, in the right place and for very good reasons.

We are Keith Powell, seventh generation Black Mountains farmer, and Robert Penn, local author and broadcaster - and together we are the founders of Stump Up For Trees, a community based charity situated in the East of the Brecon Beacons, with a mission to plant a million trees.

The charity was only formed in 2020, but the area had real traction, and now we have a wide range of local community members working with us as trustees, volunteers and fundraisers. Our model is simple and we are focused on working with the local farming community to re-purpose the best agriculturally productive areas of land for tree planting, biodiversity and natural flood management.

Our charity is heavily dependent on the local community for their support as fundraisers and managers, and also as volunteers - helping us to grow, plant and maintain trees, carry out ecological surveys and much more. We are also hugely grateful to lots of local businesses who sponsor our activities, and organisations like Ceredigion and Ceredigion who share their expertise and knowledge with us.

Our planters have 135,000 native broadleaf trees planted on a 34 hectare section of deep tracks in the steep hills of Sêr y Bannau in the Black Mountains. Not only was this the biggest woodland created in Wales during the 2020-21 planting season, it was also the first plant at such a scale in commonland.

Future Beacons is collective hope.

Knowing that we are part of a wider movement within the region to enhance the landscape for the benefit of humans and nature is of great value to us.

An example Sêr y Bannau

“ Story or narrative takes those big ideas, abstract concepts, dry facts and translates them into something very specific that we can experience, and so feel, and that’s what tells us how we feel about it emotionally, what it means to us and that’s what moves us into action.

Lisa Cron

Address at Rice University,
September 12, 1962



Y Bannau: The Future, is, as the name suggests all about the Future. Despite the human race’s immense capacity for abstract thought, it is hard for us to properly imagine the future. Evolutionarily we are hard-wired to concern ourselves with the here and now because that was essential for surviving – knowing and responding to difficulties in the future isn’t in our DNA, but it is essential if we are to collectively realise the need to take decisive action in the present for the sake of future generations.

This ability to imagine the future is called by academics ‘Future Literacy’ and many are turning to story to help us all fully feel and understand the future.

So, to help us here in Bannau Brycheiniog imagine what the future could be like as a result of this plan, we have worked with a local writer, to bring you a glimpse of the future that might be possible, drawn through the eyes of the fictional Brychan family - seventh generation farmers here in Bannau Brycheiniog. Each mission chapter ends with a glimpse into their world in 2048, a point at which we are nearing big societal goals on climate and nature. By linking people to place and especially the cultural landscape of this Park we hope to ensure that this plan is understood fully in the context of Bannau Brycheiniog.

By imagining what could be, we hope to inspire action to help make it a reality.

Voices From The Future



Maya Brychan (nee Ali)

Birth: January 2012
Peckham



Dylan Brychan

Birth: March 2012
Brecon



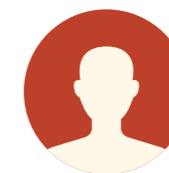
Sian Brychan (nee Thomas)

Birth: July 20, 1988
Brecon



Ioan Brychan

Birth: August 24, 1962
Death: February 8, 2042
Brecon



Dafydd Brychan

Birth: July 20, 1985
Brecon



Megan Brychan

Birth: July 2015
Brecon



Mair Brychan (nee Jones)

Birth: September 1, 1965
Llandovery



Reach net-zero greenhouse gas
emissions across Bannau
Brycheiniog National Park by 2035

Climamate

2028

What success looks like



Decarbonisation

Action across the National Park will maximise efforts toward meeting our fair share of the Paris agreements goal of limiting global temperature rises to **1.5 degrees**.



Sustainable transport

39% cut in emissions arising from travel within the National Park as a result of a shift away from petrol and diesel private vehicles to public transport, electric vehicles, and walking and cycling.

Sustainable food and drink

22% cut in emissions arising from food consumption as a result of lower carbon food and drink consumption, whilst maintaining a healthy diet.

Sustainable energy

51% cut in emissions arising from energy usage as a result of energy efficiency, and a shift away from fossil-fuels to heat and power homes, services and businesses.

Sustainable land-use

31% cut in non-CO2 emissions arising from land use as a result of habitat restoration, land use change and sustainable farming practices.



Sequestration

Action will be happening across the National Park to restore nature’s ability to capture carbon from the atmosphere, in line with the climate change committee’s sixth carbon budget recommendations on agriculture, land use, land use change and forestry.



Habitat restoration

Accelerated habitat restoration, especially peatland restoration in line with the National Peatland Programme, will maximise carbon storage in existing ecosystems.

Land use change

Increased woodland, agro-forestry and hedgerows, with the right trees in the right places will create new natural carbon sinks.

Sustainable farming

Changing plants and practices in farming will improve the soil’s ability to hold carbon.



Adaptation

People and nature will be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of climate destabilisation, in line with Prosperity for All, the climate change adaptation plan for Wales.



Nature restoration

Restored, expanded, linked ecosystems and wildlife habitats will help nature to withstand pressures of a changing climate. Protected groundwater levels and adequate flow in rivers will also promote healthy ecology and enhance natural resilience to drought. Sites most at risk of fire will be managed to reduce fire loading.

Resilient infrastructure

Flood risk will be reduced by restored nature limiting peak river flow, and by flood protection for vulnerable buildings. The impact of temperature rises locally will be mitigated by restored nature, changes to existing buildings, and behavior change. Land use planning will ensure that new developments are built to be resilient to climate impacts.

We have been putting things off year after year, we have been raising targets and saying 'Oh well, if we do it in the twenty years...' The moment of crisis has come, we can no longer avoid action.

Sir David Attenborough



You would need to plant over 2,200 Premier League football pitches with broad-leaf trees, and let them grow for over 100 years, to mitigate the combined Greenhouse Gas emissions of the Park's residents and visitors for the single year of 2019.

Greenhouse Gas Assessment Report,
Small World Consulting,
October 2022

The foundation of civilisation is a stable climate and a rich diversity of life. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has made clear that we are rapidly moving away from a safe climate for humanity on Earth, and this is the last possible decade for action to keep our planet inhabitable.

Already in the National Park we are experiencing the impacts of a destabilised climate - from extreme heat, drought and water scarcity, to extreme rainfall and flooding. This is affecting people's wellbeing and livelihoods, from farming, to public services and businesses- as well as impacting nature. Even if we take maximum action to reduce emissions now, we know that worsening impacts of climate change are inevitable. We need to take steps to adapt to unavoidable impacts

Whilst this is a global crisis, we know that what we do here will make a difference. Activity within the National Park is disproportionately contributing to climate breakdown. The UK is in the top 20 highest carbon emitters per person in the world, and the average Bannau Brycheiniog resident carbon footprint is 20% higher than the average UK resident.

There are many changes we can make together that will reduce our impact on the climate whilst maintaining a high quality of life and restoring the natural environment we all rely on now and for future generations. Some impacts of a changed climate are unavoidable and we need to plan to support people and nature to adapt. The National Park has a huge potential and responsibility to be a carbon sink and we need to help nature to recover to fulfil this vital role. This must happen in a way that retains the most productive agricultural land for food production and is fair to farmers, and it must happen in a way that enhances our rich culture and local economy and protects the historical environment.



Exemplar Respondents

The Welsh Government has asked Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority to become an 'exemplar' in responding to the Climate Emergency. We have been asked to engage with communities within the National Park, and with visitors to develop emissions reduction solutions that deliver benefits for people and the environment.

Our starting point has been to commission expert analysis of the carbon footprint of the National Park – the emissions we all produce through burning fossil fuels and consume through the products we buy here. We also had expert advice on the emissions reduction needed by everyone living and working in, and visiting, the National Park in line with the Paris Climate Agreement.

We will work in partnership with councils and other public bodies, businesses, farmers, voluntary organisations, citizen groups, communities and individuals to shape and realise the action needed.

Stump up for trees.

An ambitious,
community-based
charity focused on
woodland creation and
enhancing biodiversity



Stump Up For Trees

Keith Powell & Robert Penn

Co-founders Stump Up For Trees

We are Keith Powell, seventh generation Black Mountains farmer, and Robert Penn, local author and broadcaster and together we are the founders of Stump Up For Trees, a community-based charity situated in the East of Bannau Brycheiniog, with a mission to plant a million trees.

The charity was only formed in 2020, but the idea had real traction, and now we have a wide range of local community members working with us as trustees, employees and volunteers. Our model is simple and we are focused on working with the local farming community to re-purpose the least agriculturally productive areas of land for tree planting, biodiversity and natural flood management.

Our pilot plant saw 135,000 native broadleaf trees planted on a 64-hectare section of deep bracken on the steep flanks of Bryn Arw Common, in the Black Mountains. Not only was this the biggest woodland created in Wales during the 2020-21 planting season, it was also the first plant at such a scale on common land.

Our charity is hugely dependent on the local community for their support as landowners and managers, and also as volunteers - helping us to grow, plant and maintain trees, carry out ecological surveys and much more. We are also hugely grateful to lots of local businesses who sponsor our activities, and organisations like Coed Cymru and Coed Cadw. who share their expertise and knowledge with us.

Our Vision

We hope that by the time our project reaches maturity, we will have made a real difference to both the treescape and biodiversity of the Park. We believe that success for our project means an improved treescape across the region, including more native broadleaf woodlands and hedges on farms, and the restoration of habitat at scale on common land.

Our Action

Realising our ambition to plant a million trees within this living, working landscape means employing a variety of planting methodologies, not just the broadleaf woodlands you might associate with tree planting schemes: we support the reinstatement of old and the planting of new hedgerows, agroforestry (where food production and silviculture are combined), and the creation of wood pasture (we call ffridd) on commons. Fundamentally, trees need to be planted in the best possible way, in the right place and for very good reasons.



Future Bannau is a collective hope.

Knowing that we are part of a wider movement within the region to enhance the landscape for the benefit of humans and nature is of great value to us.



Peatland Restoration.

Restoring damaged peatland which in turn will reduce carbon dioxide loss, improve water quality and movement whilst helping facilitate nature recovery.

Peatlands are unique ecosystems and form an important part of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park's uplands landscape.

Waterlogged conditions lead to slow plant and vegetation decomposition with consequent storage of huge amounts of carbon over thousands of years. Of the estimated 15,922 hectares of peatland in Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, most are in unfavourable condition. Carbon is being released, both into the atmosphere and into the watercourses due to drying and erosion. The work we are doing forms part of efforts to conserve carbon stores worldwide in response to climate change.

At present, the Authority has identified areas that are actively degrading and secured multi-year funding from the Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places fund as well as Strategic Allocation Funding. With support from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, we are also developing restoration projects which will improve drinking water quality within the Bannau Brycheiniog Mega Catchment.

Sam Ridge

Peatland project Officer

All of the restoration works within the Park form part of the Peatlands Restoration Strategy, which responds to the National Peatlands Action Programme. This is a five-year plan for peat restoration within Wales, improving peatland ecosystem resilience. Over 200 hectares has been restored within the Park over the last ten years. Targeted restoration will also have a wider zone of benefit.

Restoration work involves Authority staff including ecologists, archaeologists, GIS specialists and wardens. Volunteers generously give their time to helping with practical elements such as hands on restoration and surveying. The work relies on permission from landowners, the support of graziers and, where on a Site of Special Scientific Interest, permission from Natural Resources Wales.

Multiple Challenges

It is now widely recognised that we are in a climate emergency. Peatland restoration helps to mitigate against that challenge, improving the security of these massive carbon stores.

Healthy functioning peatland plays an important role in nature recovery. Restored, re-wetted areas attract insects including damselflies and can support a range of ground nesting birds including curlews and golden plovers.

As restoration work scales up so does our need for a detailed understanding of our peatlands. Collaborative working is a key component with support from a growing number of Universities. Their work improves knowledge of key elements including understanding peatland condition, function and associated carbon loss within the Park.

Uncontrolled wildfires are increasing globally. Within the Park wildfires and arson threaten sensitive and protected areas including peatlands. Drying peatlands are more at risk of severe fire, burning the peat and releasing vast stores of carbon. Restoration work aims to re-wet peat, improving its resilience against fires.

Our Aim

Is to create healthy peatlands across the Park, providing a stabilising and positive influence on carbon management, nature recovery, fire management and water quality within our uplands. In delivering our aims, we will increase our peatland restoration work to help address the challenges we face, working with landowners and other agencies to help restore all of the degrading peatland areas within the Park.

Future Bannau.

Y Bannau provides a framework of understanding that focuses on the key elements within the Park and the processes relating to them. Peatland condition impacts them all to a greater or lesser extent. I am positive about the opportunities the Y Bannau: The Future approach can bring to improving our understanding of landscape scale ecosystem function as peatlands play such an important role.



Our contributions

Climate Change is a global issue which has local impact and requires local action to both prevent and prepare for.

Our role is to bring together the evidence and data to enable us all to understand better how our actions, lifestyles and behaviours with the National Park are causing climate change so that we can each target our efforts to reduce fossil fuel consumption, sequester carbon or adopt new technologies in the most effective way and places. Our role is also to galvanise action, bringing together partner organisations, residents and visitors to build a sustainable low-carbon future in the National Parks.

1. We will embed decarbonisation into all activities of our organisation - including our land and building management, transport, energy, procurement, policies and procedures, in line with the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero by 2030 goal. We will support our staff and members to adopt low carbon practices at work and at home.
2. We will work with the experts and data to understand how climate change is expected to impact the National Park, our environment, people, places and historical heritage, in the future so that we can collectively prepare and be resilient.
3. We will work with climate experts, partners and local communities to develop Net Zero, Carbon Sequestration and Climate Adaptation plans for the National Park, guided by best practice including the UN Race to Zero initiative.
4. We will support or build partnerships with businesses, communities, residents and visitors to develop and deliver projects to act on climate change including sustainable local transport, energy, carbon capture and food solutions. We will work together for solutions that also generate local income, provide skills, training and jobs, and that drive forward new ideas and technologies.
5. We will share evidence and analysis with partners, stakeholders and the public to inform those wishing to act on climate change to do and to encourage and support those who are uncertain about how they can make a difference.

Letter from Sian Brychan to her daughter Megan

February 20th 2042

To my daughter Megan,

It breaks my heart when we fight; I just can't sit with the hurt for long. We both said things after the funeral last week which cut deeply.

Grandpa loan was a constant for us all, our last connection to a simpler time. His loss has unsettled things; thrown up questions, especially around the land - what to do with it, who will take it on, and as you rightly said, "who's it for?"

This is both an apology and an explanation, some words and reason that escaped me in the heat of the moment.

Have I been "cowardly", "selfish", and "complicit"? Those are poisoned darts my love, which will fester for a while yet while I search for answers.

The reason I got so angry with your suggestion, to cover the far pasture with temporary shelters (or

even hand it over altogether), is that I am so aware of all it took to get to where we are now. I feel it - like pricks of ink that scratch the skin - this land, those hard years, have left me marked.

Let me try and explain.

Your father and I took on the farm back in 2020. Back then, there were some hot dry summers and wet winters for sure, but everything still felt 'normal'. Life ticked along - the valley as beautiful as ever, full of life and productivity. It was hard to imagine any emergency. The understanding that a fundamental change was already set in, that we had no choice but to move with it, was a slow creep. For me at least.

You and Dylan were always our priority. While you scurried around my skirt, unsure of our new home, your father and I desperately tried to get to grips with the farm, from the day-to-day to the bottom line, which quickly narrowed to a tightrope.

We did what had been done before, what we knew, focusing on our little corner, to make it work for us, for you. When things took a turn in the mid-20s, we could barely afford to keep the lights on, to buy feed or food. Just like the government, we tightened our belts and narrowed our focus even further. Our resolve sharpened; we were ruthless; we did what was needed to care for our own, to tend our patch.

Of course, like everyone else, we look back at the end of the 20s now with shame. But there are only so many strains a family can endure at once. Our instinct then was to hunker down, take what we could from less and less available - blinkered, building barriers to protect what we cared for dearly but never really dealing with the problem. What seems clear as day now - the mistakes made, opportunities missed- at the time, living it, you must understand, was anything but. It has been a hard truth, hard-won.

Now of course, since we turned things round in the years that followed, saw our neighbours and the land as allies once more, we've become a community looking out as well as in. You embody this my love and I could not be prouder: helping those less fortunate find sanctuary here, and constantly asking (and shouting!) for what is fair and just. I know it isn't easy; you must be weary with the struggle. But be proud my dear too, of yourself, of our community, its intentions and its actions, the best of us that's endured and drives us forward.

My own contributions over the last decade might seem quiet and quaint, only stretching over the hill and into town, but in some ways my priorities are just the same as they always were - to nurture and protect what we have. Now though, we're not alone, we have help and guidance to grow and connect, constantly, bigger, better, more joined up. Our regen farming and local deliveries might not seem that radical to you, nor my weekly 'gossip' with the community energy group, but it is what feels manageable to me. All I know is that compared to those darker days, the missteps we took, I tell you, it feels nothing short of miraculous!

The fight in us is forged by the challenges of our youth; my response was to nurture and protect, whereas yours is to reach out and connect. There is space and need for both. I hope you can learn to have pride in what we have here, our green resilient

home, a community renewed - to see it not only as a privilege inherited but also the result of many hands over many years. In return, I will do my best to look out and beyond, to realise that ours is a blessing to be shared.

So, was I "selfish" and "complicit"? I guess so, but just as much as anyone else was at the time. Was I "cowardly"? I don't think so, no. I did what I thought I could and should, perhaps even bravely, it was just misdirected, misguided. And for that, of course, I will always carry regret.

I hope at least you can understand me a little better now my love. So, let's talk again, and I will try better to listen and be open to change. After all, change is one of the only true constants we now have. Between us though, I am sure we can navigate it.

With all my heart,

Your proud and stubborn mother

Sian Brychan



Clean, safe, resilient, plentiful, water
resources and water environments
by 2030

Water

2028

What success looks like



Resilient Catchments

Supporting the provision of clean and sustainable water resources for Bannau Brycheiniog and beyond.



Nutrient levels

Within the Usk and Wye Catchments nutrient levels will be within safe levels for ecological resilience.

Water flow

The water levels within our rivers, ground sources and soils are sufficient for ecological and human health.

Restored ecosystems

The ecological features for which the Rivers Wye, Towy and Usk are designated as Special Areas of Conservation are fully restored and in good ecological health.

Flooding

The height of flood peak from record 2020 levels in vulnerable towns on the Usk and Wye is reduced.



High Quality Water Environments

Ensuring that the health and wellbeing benefits gained from high quality, nature rich, water environments can be experienced by all who live within and visit Bannau Brycheiniog.



Water quality

Pollutants such as heavy metals, micro plastics and pharmaceuticals will be mostly eradicated by 2030 and a pathway of action for total eradication is known.

Bathing waters

Areas of our water environment will have been allocated as being of bathing water standard, and a code of conduct for open water swimming will have been adopted across Bannau Brycheiniog.

Love your rivers

Residents and visitors will have a renewed relationship with our water environments, especially the rivers of the Park. They will be celebrated for their cultural, recreational and environmental value.

“

All water on Earth is connected, so there really is just one source of water – one, global well – from which we all draw our water. Every ocean wave, every lake, stream and underground river, every raindrop and snowflake and every bit of ice in glaciers and polar icecaps is part of this global well.

So whether you are turning on a faucet in North America, pulling water from a well in Kenya or bathing in a river in India, it is all the same water. And because it is all connected, how we treat the water in the well will affect every species on the planet, including us, now and for years to come.

Rochelle Strauss

One Well: The Story of Water on Earth



Water is the most fundamental substance associated with human and planetary health. It is the lifeblood that supports all plant and animal life on Earth as well as our key systems, such as food production, industry and sanitation.

Water as a resource is being utilised at an unsustainable rate. It is estimated that by 2050 about half a billion people are likely to be subject to water stress. This includes us here in Bannau Brycheiniog, and the wider catchments our water resources serve. 50% of Welsh Water's water abstracted on a daily basis comes from within our boundary.

In 2021, the Stockholm Resilience Centre published new data, looking at 'green water', that is the water that is embedded within soil and atmosphere and fundamental to safeguard the functioning of planetary systems. Their assessment found that as a total global human race we were using this resource at a rate and scale that is unsustainable and potentially threatening to our planetary stability, or our ability to maintain exploitation at current levels. They urged a new research agenda to determine both the threat that our use of water systems causes and a means of mitigating and adapting to changing availability within a changing climate.

It is not just water quantity that is under threat, very sadly there is both global and local data demonstrating that our water environments are being damaged through human impacts. Our activity is adding excess nutrients chemicals, heavy metals and plastics into these vital systems. Globally 35% of our wetlands have disappeared since 1970, leading to a decline in 83% of freshwater species.



One Well

Here in the National Park, the same threats are observed. Rivers and wetlands are the most ecologically important features of the National Park. They are an important part of our historic and cultural environment, providing extensive health and wellbeing benefits. However, they are also the most threatened environment and resource we have.

A range of compounding impacts have breached tipping points meaning that self-regulating natural processes essential to the quality and quantity of water environments can no longer properly function. This is particularly true in relation to phosphate levels which at the time of writing are so significant that there is a need for fundamental change in land management practice and water treatment.

This Plan's ambitions for water quality, quantity and water environments are intended to ensure that this essential and life giving resource is protected for the benefit of future generations.

We will work across organisations, environmental non-governmental organisations, citizens groups and statutory bodies to ensure we can protect this resource for the mutual benefit of people and nature.



Our contributions

Water is the fountain of life, it is our most valuable resource and our most vulnerable.

The communities of Bannau Brycheiniog have interacted with our water systems and the blue landscape throughout history.

The people of Wales and beyond rely on our water systems for the physical, mental and recreational needs - water connects us.

Our role is lead a new focus on the importance of water within the National Park, to place the protection, repair and recovery of our water systems at the heart of all that we do.

1. We will prioritise water and our water systems in all our activities and work with our staff and stakeholders to share the importance of the water mission for all.
2. We will be exemplars in establishing the Usk Catchment Partnership to lead in the full ecological recovery of the catchment for water quality, nutrient management, water security, amenity, wildlife and ecosystem services.
3. We will work in partnership to protect and enhance all our water systems within the National Park, rivers, lakes, canals, peatlands, marshes and wetlands for their role in nature recovery, climate change, flood protection, water provision and supporting the wellbeing of our communities and visitors.
4. We will support communities, households, businesses and visitors to re-connect to the blue landscape through the stories of history, culture and geology. We work in partnership with, and support, the agricultural sector to explore approaches to land management and practices that enable food production and ecological restoration to combine for the benefit of all.
5. We will share the evidence and data so that we can all understand the impact our lives and behaviours have on our water, how we can protect our water-courses and ensure they can be enjoyed for years to come.

Beacons Water Group.

A partnership between Welsh Water and Beacons Water Group, piloting innovative approaches to agricultural practice that deliver improvements to raw water quality and farm efficiency.



Bannau Brycheiniog Mega Catchment Programme Dwr Cymru Welsh Water

Nigel Elgar

Project Manager

The Beacons Water Group is a Community Interest Company comprised of a cluster of six farmers, supported by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water. The group takes inspiration from the pristine landscape of the high mountains of the Catskills, whose nature based approach to catchment management is internationally renowned.

Together the group has developed an approach that recognises and values the contribution agriculture can make to protecting the water environment. The approach empowers farmers to provide solutions to water quality risks that also provide benefits to their farm businesses.

At its heart this project is about building trust between us as a statutory body and the farmers who work on the ground so we can get to a position of shared objectives and action. Key to this is understanding and respecting each other's perspectives

Farming For Water Quality

The project seeks to understand how we can sustainably engage farm businesses as part of a whole system approach to the management of water quality. We have been working together to identify those simple, replicable interventions that benefit both water quality and farm business efficiency, such as maximising utilisation of bought in fertilisers, and simple measures to prevent soil erosion and run off.

By identifying win/win solutions, we hope to develop a model that other landowners and farmers could easily pick up and implement elsewhere. This will significantly reduce risks in the raw water environment whilst supporting a thriving agricultural sector.

Many of the farm interventions being piloted have the potential to deliver improvements to our natural environment whilst contributing to tackling the challenges presented by climate change. With the support of the Beacons Water Group members and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, we would like the National Park to contribute to and actively support the creation and facilitation of other farmer cluster groups throughout the National Park, replicating this pioneering approach.

What Y Bannau: The Future Means To Us

A thriving and balanced farming sector should be a core building block on which to build Y Bannau: The Future.

Farming has a key role to play in maintaining the beautiful landscape and natural environment, helping to tackle the impact of climate change, as well as supporting local business, communities and Welsh culture. Sustainable farming techniques will also contribute towards helping to safeguard drinking water sources from this strategically important area for future generations.

We believe that lasting change is possible, but it will take a mindset change across public bodies and land managers. We hope that we can count on Bannau Brycheiniog National Park to join us on this journey.



Invaders of The National Park.

Working in partnership to
manage Invasive Non Native
Species within the National
Park.



Invaders of The National Park.

Bev Lewis

*Invasive Non-Native Species Co-ordinator
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park*

We are working with a range of organisations, landowners, community groups and the public to address the issues of invasive non-native species within the National Park. Invasive non-natives can be really damaging to our native wildlife and habitats, by working together to remove these invaders we can help recover wider ecosystems.

We are focussing on species including; Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Rhododendron & Cherry Laurel. We have worked predominantly in the River Usk catchment, as that is where the majority of invasive species have been recorded, but we also work on other species within the National Park area.

A Growing Problem

Invasive Non-Native Species are one of the biggest threats to biodiversity. Whilst most people are aware of habitat loss and fragmentation as the number one cause they are less aware of how much of an impact invasive species have to biodiversity, people, the economy and human health.

There are already a large number of non-native species in Britain and the number becoming established is likely to increase due to the growth in world trade and global tourism. Climate change may also allow species that are currently benign in Britain to become invasive.

What Project Success Would Mean

We would like to see people with greater awareness regarding the threat to biodiversity from invasive non native species and as a result of that an improvement in their bio-security practices to prevent new invasions.

That would mean that any new invasive species would be noticed, recorded and managed early before they were at risk of becoming long term problems. It would also mean that existing invasive species problems would be under active management.

Our Action

'Prevention is better, cheaper and more efficient than the cure' we want people to be really aware about invasive species, to take bio-security precautions and to help us with recording new and existing invasive species.

We will be looking to get some of the invasive species that have already established themselves under a plan of management, in a co-ordinated sustainable way.

Future Bannau.

This work cannot be done alone, it must be done in partnership in a joined up co-ordinated way with long term impetus behind the project. Y Bannau: The Future provides the overarching framework which helps join up the dots for us all.



Extract from a eulogy for Ioan Brychan

February 2042
By Dafydd Brychan

My father, Ioan Brychan, husband to Mair, beloved Grandpa to Dylan and Megan, was, amongst many things, a poet. Sadly, I am not. If he could have written his own eulogy, it would have you both laughing and crying in the aisles. It would have been a fair tribute, I am sure.

I sadly didn't inherit his way with words, so won't provide the lyrical send-off he deserves. I will do my best though, to provide some of the words we might need.

When I close my eyes and think of Dad, he is sitting next to water. The river runs along the southern edge of the farm and he had a deep connection with it. To understand the man, you must also understand the river.

In 1995, when I was 10, Dad taught me to fish. Looking back, I now see how much more he taught me by those banks.

In those days, the river was full of salmon, shad, trout, and young wriggling lamprey. We always threw back what we caught, "for the otter's supper". Dad believed that a healthy river was a treasure to share, "Nature in full song for all to enjoy". Those words have stayed with me ever since, and like the river, at his best, he was a man full of life, full of song.

But also like the river, that spirit didn't always flow. During the drought of 2028, the water dropped lower than anything on record, lower than anyone could remember. The river stank, the harvests failed and water was rationed. If it weren't such a painful memory it would be hard to imagine. Like most people, it nearly broke him.

Yet, while others fought over local springs, Dad openly shared ours with neighbours. Mum thought he was mad. Maybe he was. But he earned a huge amount of respect that summer and when he later approached those same neighbours with plans to collectively deal with the droughts and floods - slowing the flow, holding freshwater, improving the soil - everybody listened. I even hear that Bryn plans to rename his storage pond in Dad's honour! The old romantic would have loved that, I'm sure.

Dad understood that no action, good or bad, exists in isolation. It might flow round the bend, out of sight, out of mind, but someone, somewhere downstream, would feel the effects. "No one else should ever have to tidy up your mess" he once screamed across the field, after catching me toss a can off the bridge. I never did it again.

He lived his life by this idea, this responsibility.

But, of course, as much as he protected his own stretch, he couldn't control what happened up stream, or once it had passed. The river was on its knees in the early 20s; turned from green to brown. After another decade of abuse, on 23rd May 2030, a visiting ecologist officially declared it as dead. With it, died a part of him. We watched from the house, as the next da, he sat silently for hours, carving a message into a boulder on the bank. When he was finished, he rolled it into the river and never spoke of it again.

Twelve years later, we have a river again. In fact, the week before Dad died, we sat and watched a Grey Wagtail picking insects off its surface. He said it was the first he'd seen there for 15 years. It felt like a small miracle. In reality though, it's been the result of many hands, many stubborn minds (many in this room), working together with the right guidance, to clear up the mess of others we would no longer tolerate.

The morning after Dad died, I waded into the river at the spot he rolled his boulder in. After 20 minutes of searching, I found it.

I want to finish by reading his words carved in stone.

“Mater o galon ddynol
yw gofalu am afonydd,
nid o afonydd eu hun.”

The care of rivers is not a question of rivers but of the human heart.

He might be gone, but our river lives again. I can think of no better way to honour this beautiful man and his most generous of human hearts than to continue to care for it as he did. Thank you for listening, and for all your support over the years.



A Nature Positive Bannau
Brycheiniog National Park by 2030.



Nature

2028

What success looks like



Habitat Recovery

All major habitats in the National Park, including grassland, native woodland, upland heathland, and peatland, will be on a pathway to net biodiversity gain.



Decline has been halted

Loss of habitat through land use change is halted, over-exploitation is curtailed, and invasive non-native species are controlled.

Sites of special scientific interest are conserved

All SSSIs are in favorable condition.

Degraded habitat is restored

Increase in the proportion of each habitat that is in favourable condition.

Nature has returned

Increase the total area for each habitat by restoring transformed land to natural habitat.



Species Conservation

Flagship species, that are emblematic of the National Park or specific habitats, are increasing in numbers and extent.



Threats are reduced

Critical threats to species are reduced, including harmful land & water management and invasive non-nature species.

Numbers have increased

The number of each flagship species increases.

Range has increased

The range occupied by each flagship species increases.



Ecosystem Management

Ecosystem functions and ecosystem services generated by the Park are enhanced.



Resilience is enhanced

Connectivity within and between ecosystems is increased to enhance nature's adaptation to climate change.

Ecosystem services are supported

All ecosystems within the Park, including areas under intensive use, are managed to optimise ecosystem services, including food, water, climate and amenity values.

Ecosystems are rehabilitated

Ecosystem risks, including soil erosion, pollution, flooding and fire, are mitigated to support nature and society in adapting to climate change.



“

What if we go beyond damage limitation?
What if our economic activities not only minimize impact, but also enhance ecosystems?

A nature positive approach enriches biodiversity, stores carbon, purifies water and reduces pandemic risk. A nature positive approach enhances the resilience of our planet, our societies and economies.

Johan Rockström

Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
Russell Peterson, Declaration of Interdependence, 1973

The 2019 Natural Resources Wales State of Natural Resources Report highlighted the loss of 73 species from Wales since the 1970s with a further 666 at risk of extinction. The State of the Park Report from 2020 found that eight ‘red list’ species were declining by more than 50% in Bannau Brycheiniog National Park area, including Swift, Greenfinch, Grey Wagtail, Yellowhammer, Curlew, Wheatear and Rook. Some of our most familiar birds, such as Chaffinch and Blue Tit, were shown to decline between 25 - 50%.

These declines were seen across multiple species and multiple habitats, which indicates wide-ranging problems within ecosystems, with profound consequences for nature and humanity.

The Nature Mission—ensuring that Bannau Brycheiniog National Park is Nature Positive by 2030—means turning the corner on the current state of decline, and by 2030 putting nature recovery on an upward trajectory.

We need to halt the decline in habitats, restore those that are degraded, and revert some back to nature. We must achieve this without allowing one habitat to trade-off against another. More action must be focused on the 60 plus Biological Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the National Park to ensure they are in favourable condition and exemplars of conservation. Specific attention is needed to arrest the decline of flagship species and to increase their numbers and range, by reducing threats and expanding habitat. Ecosystem services generated by the National Park – from drinking water to carbon sequestration, to a place to connect with nature – are vital to those in and beyond the National Park. More coherent, more joined-up and bigger scale action is needed to safeguard these services, and support sustainable local food production.



6th Mass Extinction

UK National Parks are Category V protected areas, meaning they are ‘living working landscapes’. It is vital that National Parks contribute fully to the UK Government’s pledge to achieve 30% of land and sea protected for nature by 2030, and further that we meet the recommendations for designated landscapes set out by the Welsh Government arising from the [‘Biodiversity Deep Dive’](#).

Our vision is for the National Park in its entirety to be functioning effectively as a protected area, supporting land uses and management strategies that contribute to habitat recovery, species conservation and ecosystem functioning. Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority is guided by the British Ecological Society recommendations for National Parks to “deliver for nature in the long term (effectiveness)” and “build ecological resilience and improve biodiversity (in the face of climate change and other environmental pressures)”.

Achieving a positive outcome for nature challenges us to evaluate the current state and trends in the National Park and leverage significant additional resources where they are most needed. Effective collaboration, at a much larger scale, will be at the heart of delivering impact. Farmers form the biggest group of land users in the National Park, and will be central to the innovations needed to achieve the nature mission.

Curlew Recovery Lifeline.



Working in partnership, at a landscape scale to help recover Curlew populations in Bannau Brycheiniog and prevent their extinction

Nicola Davies

Ecologist

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park



The Curlew is a pretty iconic species in our Welsh Countryside, with its distinctive call echoing through the lowland valleys signaling the coming of summer for generations upon generations. Sadly, since 1993 the population in Wales has fallen by over 90%. If this trajectory continues without intervention, it is predicted that the curlew will be facing country-wide extinction by 2033. Curlew is now considered to be the most pressing bird conservation priority in Wales.

The population of curlew here in Bannau Brycheiniog is the most southerly breeding population found in lowland meadows in Wales and sadly, probably the most precarious in terms of the predicted impacts of climate change.

We will be working with a wide range of stakeholders including research-based organisations, landowners, conservation organisations, policymakers, farming unions and the general public.

We are working in one of 12 Important Curlew Areas (ICA's) across Wales using the "Wales Action Plan for the Recovery of Curlew" as a general framework for direction and alongside Gylfinir Cymru – a joint working group between organisations that represent sectors of government, conservation, farming and game management in Wales.

A Pressing Challenge

This project is not just about the curlew. Curlew are an 'umbrella' species, meaning that action to help the curlew survive by finding out more and protecting their habitats will also benefit a wide range of other wildlife. The problem is we know that these habitats are under large-scale and urgent threat, and time is running out to prevent the curlew being lost from our landscape for good.

The Importance Of The Farming Community

The success of this project falls or succeeds on building a strong partnership with farmers and land managers of the Usk valley. We will be working with farmers in targeted areas to help develop viable agricultural systems that support the curlew's habitat through developing sustainable land management practices.

The Work Of The National Park

We are a lead partner within the project and are committed to supporting curlew conservation as part of a Wales wide network. We will endeavour to raise funds to deliver CWRLIP which will be based upon best practice, science and evidence, and through working with the farming community to recover curlew populations. We will also work to develop the key partnerships that are needed to make this project a success and work with our land managers, to combine their knowledge and expertise with our own to protect this magnificent bird for generations to come.

Success Means Everything

Failure doesn't bear thinking about. We are focused on the success of this project. We must halt the decline of curlews in our landscape and work towards improving their ability to thrive alongside productive agricultural systems. If we fail here, not only do we lose an iconic species from Bannau Brycheiniog, we also would be witnessing an indicator of a far greater decline in ecosystem health and the biodiversity of this National Park.

Future Bannau, Future Hope.

The ambitions set out in Y Bannau bring hope to an ecologist like me working at the grass roots of nature conservation. It raises the possibilities, and gives me strength to know that there are a range of people out there that will be working together, to halt the decline of nature for the benefit of humanity.



The Penpont Project.



The Penpont Project is the UK's first intergenerational nature recovery project of its kind, located on the Penpont estate within Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

Forrest Hogg
Project Manager
Penpont Estate

Launched in 2019 on the 2,000-acre Penpont estate in Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, the Penpont Project is an intergenerational nature recovery project bringing together young people, farmers, foresters, landowners, artists and ecologists to revive biodiversity, Welsh cultural heritage and to connect local people with nature, with all the benefits this brings.

In Wales, the 2019 State of Nature report found that 1 in 6 species are at risk of extinction. Whilst conservation action is vital today, we need to ensure our solutions are long-term, inclusive and strengthen diversity at all levels. This is why we are working across generations at Penpont.

At the heart of this approach is the recognition that, as poet Gary Snyder wrote, “the wild is not about pristine landscapes. Instead, it’s about landscapes that are rich and diverse enough to be interesting for everybody, human and non-human alike.” In other words, we recognise that land and waterscapes are deeply invested with cultural meaning, and as such, empowered and inclusive social processes are central to achieving lasting ecological regeneration and resilience. Through this work, we are creating new opportunities for young people and the local community to revive natural processes.

A Shared Challenge

We are living in one of the most biodiversity-depleted lands in the world, and climate breakdown is beginning to have serious impacts on all living beings. We have seen unprecedented floods devastate our homes, tree diseases wipe out our woodlands and extreme summer droughts impact our farming.

We are also amidst a social crisis. Our children are spending less and less time in nature, and it is becoming more widely recognised how disconnection from nature negatively impacts young people’s learning, behaviour, health and wellbeing. Unless we change this, they are less likely to fight to protect our natural heritage as adults.

The Penpont Project seeks to address these interconnected issues through an intergenerational approach to restoring land back to health whilst providing numerous opportunities for young people, and community members, to connect with nature and take meaningful action.

Collaborating for Success

Success comes through working together and co-creating a landscape rich in habitat and biodiversity and where our cultural heritage is valued and preserved. The project’s vision encompasses the needs and ambitions of a wide range of actors – from young people visiting the site regularly to the farmers and community living and working at Penpont day-to-day.

The agroecological movement offers a powerful roadmap to a land-sharing model where nature restoration and farming work together. Through restoring our hedgerows, increasing tree cover and habitat availability and adopting regenerative agricultural and conservation practices to regenerate land and waterscapes, providing habitats to struggling and providing communities with a range of co-benefits. Wales is also leading the way with innovative legislation, namely the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and we hope to embody this through our work.



Our Project

We have formed a co-management council who are deciding on how to regenerate over 450 acres of land using a blend of practices including conservation grazing, regenerative agricultural practices, agroforestry, habitat restoration and species support actions. We have conducted a wide range of ecological baseline surveys with a range of specialists and local ecologists in order to measure our success.

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority has been a key supporter of the project so far. We are members of the Tree Mapping Scheme, and have collaborated with the Park's Wardens and local community members to plant over 3,000 trees, restore hedgerows and sow wildflower seeds in targeted areas. We hope to work even closer with Park and other local groups as we continue to implement our action plan,

Future Bannau, Future Hope.

This plan represents an ambitious vision for an inclusive and ecologically rich landscape that values our traditions and ways of life. We hope our project can contribute to this transformation and be a part of a growing community working together to meet the most urgent challenge of our times.





Our contributions

Our natural environment sustains us, physically, mentally, culturally and spiritually.

Y Bannau is a living landscape, a mosaic of native, semi-native and managed habitats and ecosystems. Home to woodlands, peatlands, moorlands, pasture, meadows and more.

Our role is to use our skills and data to understand this complexity, to use this information and knowledge to work in partnership with all those who own and manage the land of the Park (including ourselves) to protect, repair and regenerate our key habitats, species and ecosystems.

We will explore and channel the emerging economic and social drivers for environmental change to support farmers, landowners and communities to establish new ways of working that support thriving communities whilst repairing and restoring our essential ecosystems.

1. We will embed nature recovery and the conservation of our living landscape in all our activities within the National Park, building on our role to conserve and protect to become beacons for nature recovery in all that we do.
2. We will be exemplars through prioritising the protection and recovery of our own land for nature recovery, and target our support in priority protected species, habitats and ecosystems within the Park e.g. SSSIs and SACs.
3. We will use our data and that of our partners and researchers to develop Nature Recovery Action Plans, prioritise species, habitats and ecosystems of the National Park to protect and restore, and to monitor progress.
4. We will establish partnerships with landowners and the agricultural sector to explore and establish regenerative farming and land management, that supports our rural economy and prepares us for the future.
5. We will work in partnership to share best practice tools and strategies, supporting everyone to understand how they can actively contribute towards conservation and nature recovery, including managing invasive non-native species.

Letter from Mair Brychan to Dylan Brychan

January 15th 2042
By Mair Brychan

Dear Dylan
One of the many joys of being your Mamgu is that
I also get to be a friend and confidant.

As a boy, you'd walk Willow with me through the valley. You would share all your secrets and worries, nattering away about this and that, while I pointed out all the plants and critters. Those funny little talks – through forest, field, and stream – are some of the happiest memories I have.

Back then, even the simplest thing, like a waxcap on the bank or blossoming crowfoot in the brook, would light up your face. The times we saw something truly exciting – a slow worm, Merlin, or Giant Puffball – you wouldn't stop blathering for weeks.

Last weekend, as we walked that very same loop, I could tell Dyl, you didn't see any of it. I can see you were suffering under a dark cloud. It must obscure so much. I wanted to tell you what I saw, though, and

some of what I've seen at the farm and on the hill over all these years. I also want to share something with you that only Tadcu knows. For years, I too have struggled with dark thoughts. To manage, I would take myself off up the lane and round the valley with a little notebook in my pocket. I'd scribble down thoughts, feelings, and little things I noticed: flowers in the hedgerow, the changing seasons on the trees, new butterflies on the wing.

I got pretty good at it! Soon I was able to recognise and name most things. Once you name something you can begin to understand it, know what it's up to. Felt like I was tuning in to hundreds of mini soap operas, full of colourful characters! Some even felt like friends. That must sound funny to you. Your batty old Mamgu! But I found after a while that I needed

it. It's been a rollercoaster mind. I've seen so much loss, so much change, everything worn threadbare. Plenty of times I didn't think it could recover. But it did Dyl! We eventually chose to restore rather than destroy, to protect rather than pull down. I just wish you could see it with those young eyes of yours again.

I think we are meant to notice. Maybe because it's always mattered so much. It is not your fault that you don't see, mind. All that time in London couldn't have helped. You've got to nurture it, I think. If we don't look, we don't see. And if we don't see, well how are we possibly going to pick out the route ahead? So, here's a little part of our story, from some bits I found looking back through those notebooks. Maybe it will help clear the path a little.

July 21st – 1992

Two years now at farm. Mum visited for first time. Took her round land and up on hill. An abundance of ladybirds. Collected some for Daffyd. Wood-ant hill in forest + handful of hare's foot inkcap, 8 common spotted orchids in meadow and a 'flock' of marsh fritillary near the brook. So many! Mum less impressed. Says she remembers 'clouds' of them 50 years ago, butterflies weighing down tree branches. Not sure I believe her, but a lovely thought!

May 14th – 2016

Dafydd, Sian and little Dyl staying for weekend. Sian 8 months pregnant (it's a girl!). Took Dyl on 'adventure'. Such fun! Everything a marvel to him. Saw Dor Beetles, Red tailed bumblebee, stonechat and skylark. A single Wood white and 2 Small Tortoiseshells. Bad year for butterflies. Lucky it doesn't take much to keep Dyl entertained. Taught him Yellowhammer call. He wouldn't stop! Not seen one since hedges came down though.

April 29th – 2027

Big argument at farm again. Bottom field a bog. Crop rotten. Dafydd thinks we should resow, loan says no point. Still pushing for regen – not sure sums work. Walked up hill to clear head. V mild – no coat. Path in a state. Bank fallen away since peatland work abandoned – water running down track. Walked

back through wood – more small holes in trees – sycamore, beach, willow. Asian Longhorn? Last thing we need, but knew it was coming. Didn't see much else. Must cheer up. Lamb in oven to celebrate Dyl's exams tonight.

September 13th – 2035

Sweltering – another summer stretching on. Last of sycamores to be felled sadly. Found shade under cobnut – one from silvopasture 'experiment'. 4 years now. Sheep seem happy, lounging under willow, nibbling fodder. Long way to go but Callum said soil improved since last time. Rose chaffer, yellow underwing caterpillar and heath bumblebee on walk up. First redwing of the year too – glad last year wasn't one-off! Always amazed what pops up – waiting in the wings for a chance again. Sian and Daf busy with first chickpea harvest (still funny to think it). Ground too hard to direct drill winter Spelt, so holding off. Dylan visiting and 'helping out'. Good to see him get his hands dirty.

November 10th – 2041

Convinced loan to join me. He struggled up hilltop, but worth it. Greeted by multicoloured carpet of Sphagnum moss! What a recovery. Bed of Hazel and Cobnut on ground in wooded pasture – mast year? Final apples, pears, and plums on trees. Rest in jars, bottles, cellar, or with neighbours. Passed thick tangle of beard lichen in wood and a delight of waxcaps in bottom field – snowy, pink, meadow. Fieldfare now here in real numbers and mixed flock or goldfinch and yellowhammer exploded from scrub in 'wild' zone. Told loan about the 'climate refugees' spotted this year – large tortoiseshell, long tailed blue, vagrant dragonfly near storage pond. Others, like Speckled wood, long gone now. Constant change. Didn't stay out long – loan tired and cold. Walked back hand in hand- like old days. Glorious sunset on our backs.

And here we are now. It's been quite a journey. Ooking forward to what's next and so pleased to have you coming back.

All my love
Mamgu.



Living, working, visiting - safely,
equitably and sustainably.

For Bannau Brycheiniog
By 2028 the people of the National
Park will be able to meet their needs
(whether health, economic,
recreational or residential) whilst
respecting and regenerating our
environment.

Visitor experience is enhanced by being
firmly embedded within sustainability
principles.

People

2028

What success looks like



Quality Of Life

Improving the quality of life and well-being for all those who live work and play in the beacons.



Future food

The sustainability and affordability of healthy food available to residents and visitors will have improved through the creation of local food networks of sustainable food production and retailing.

Future skills & jobs

The demographic mix of people living in the Park will have increased as a result of investment in rural skills for the future.

Future homes

People who need to or want to live their lives here will be able to do so within their means. There will be extensive protection against second and holiday homes where necessary. For those who cannot afford market prices there will be low-carbon community led housing options available.

Future heat & power

We will have achieved a just transition to low-carbon forms of heat and power.

Future transport

Availability and accessibility of low-carbon transport options will have increased. Active travel options will be easier to utilise day to day as will other mobility schemes such as e-car share and e-bike hire.

Future lives

The people of Bannau Brycheiniog feel connected (a sense of belonging) In communities or visitor experiences which are caring, cohesive and enriching.

Future connections

Digital connectivity is improved and provides opportunities for equal access to services, facilities and jobs.

Future economy

Local communities and businesses will benefit from a vibrant and sustainable economy focused on local wealth generation and the foundational economy. Sustainable new investment will work alongside home-grown businesses to provide good quality employment opportunities.

Equity, diversity, inclusion

We will challenge and remove discrimination and barriers to participation wherever they may occur, creating a National Park where everyone can find opportunity and belonging.

Future visitors

We will have become the torchbearers for sustainable tourism. Visiting Bannau Brycheiniog provides a unique experience, which enhances support for nature recovery, community wellbeing, and the local economy. Visitors will know our story and be motivated to help us respond to key challenges, especially through their own actions and behaviours.

Welsh language & culture

Welsh culture is thriving and celebrated as part of the rich tapestry of cultural life of Wales. There is an increased awareness and knowledge of the Welsh language and culture amongst our residents and visitors. Welsh language and culture are loved and valued by all regardless of levels of language fluency.

Sustainable businesses

There will be a support network of businesses dedicated to building a local sustainable and equitable economy within Bannau Brycheiniog.



“
Human societies
are like car engines
that constantly
redesign
themselves and
within which every
component/person
is connected to
every other

Danny Dorling

Why Demography Matters

The people of the National Park are as varied as our landscape is ancient. Here we talk of those who live within our boundaries, who have made lives here, homes here, raised families, loved, laughed and faced fears here. We also refer to those who run businesses from the Park, maybe hosting one of the 5 million visitors we see each year, maybe farming the land, raising stock on the hills as has been done for generations, or doing something completely unrelated, just happens to be here in the Park, who knows. We also refer to those visitors, those who come to soak up the views, tread lightly on our soil and enjoy a bit of our famous hospitality.

Our people are our strength, and it is through our people that we will bring about the change that is needed for a sustainable future. It is also for our future generations of residents, visitors and business owners that we reiterate again and again this need for change.

Our resident population is however getting older, with time this means that we will face a shortage of younger people of working age which will in turn have a knock-on effect on the provision of services, facilities, our economy and our future sustainability. It also skews perceptions as young people's voices are lost from our communities.

Communities are challenged across Wales by the high proportion of houses being used as second and holiday homes. Although these bring economic benefit, they also create gaps in communities where houses are unoccupied, and communities dwindle in numbers, coherence and feelings of belonging suffer.

Our visitor profile has shifted dramatically since the covid lockdowns. We are seeing more visitors than ever before, some areas of the National Park just don't have the infrastructure to support the levels of visitors that come, and as a result visitors and communities find themselves dealing with less than positive outcomes.



The Just & Safe Space

Taken in combination we see a population, both permanent and temporary which has moved beyond safe operating limits for the planet and society. Our communities are compromised, their needs are not being met, our visitors are inadvertently causing harm to the natural environments they have come to visit and value so much.

This is why our mission focuses so strongly on meeting day to day needs in a manner that respects the limits of planetary systems. Shifting the way people live, work and access the Park is critical if we are to ensure the People of the Park a safe and sustainable future.



Our Food.



Building a new local food economy in Monmouthshire & and Bannau Brycheiniog that is carbon neutral, secure, inclusive, and more prosperous.

Duncan Fisher & Sue Holbrook

Project Managers

Our Food 1200 / Ein Bwyd 1200



We're experienced and proactive local people working together through Our Food 1200 / Ein Bwyd 1200, a community benefit society. We're responding to an emergency that is threatening our climate, nature, food supplies and our health. We're working through partnerships, including with the National Park and other *Y Bannau: The Future* partners.

Our Food

To create a vibrant local food economy, we need to grow demand for local food – from residents, from local authorities, and from neighbouring cities. At the same time, we need to grow more food locally, using regenerative principles that fix carbon and do not damage nature with phosphate or nitrate pollution. To do that we must find land, attract skilled growers to work this land, and support these new small farms with finance, housing, planning, marketing and technology.

We're starting with fruit and veg because they're weekly essentials and provide the foundation for a local food economy that can, as it grows, carry other locally grown food.

Our Aims

Success will be eight things: reduced carbon emissions in our region from growing and consuming food, safe local supplies for when global food chains are disrupted, more local jobs, providing healthy and more nutritious food, reduced pollution, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, stronger community cohesion around food trade, and helping to alleviate local food poverty.

Our Actions

We're building demand for local fruit and veg – town-based marketing campaigns, working with local authorities to supply schools, and working with the Cardiff food programmes to build supply chains there. We're supporting the development of small, highly productive, commercial horticulture businesses that use regenerative techniques (fixing carbon, building soil biodiversity, and following organic principles) and that employ about 1 person/acre. We're matching growers with private landowners, we're looking for farms to buy into community ownership for multiple small food-based enterprises, and we're seeking county farms for the same purpose. We're working to increase commercial horticulture training provision and talking to school pupils about a future career in growing. We're helping new farmers to develop joint sales and marketing, find start-up and growth finance, find housing, and employ zero-carbon small-farm technologies. We're also working with local authorities and the Welsh Government to develop supportive planning regulations and policies.

We want to communicate to the local public in unison with the National Park Authority. We also want to work with the Authority to create planning regulations that support small-scale regenerative farming.

Future Bannau, Future Hope.

Y Bannau: The Future means we can work in partnership with the National Park and all its other partners. Like everyone else, we cannot achieve our aims without strong partnerships.



Black Mountains College.

Building a learning community to explore how to adapt to the enormous changes about to unfold due to climate breakdown

Creating a future in which nature and human societies thrive through outdoor learning with positive social and ecological outcome

Black Mountains College.

Ben Rawlence

Director

We started Black Mountains College in response to the challenges Climate Breakdown brings. Climate breakdown is a new era that requires a huge change in how we organise our economies and societies and how we relate to nature. The kernel of the idea was: what can a place teach you? If we are to interrogate future scenarios, what better place to do it than the beauty and the challenges facing the ecosystems of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. Plus, what a lovely place to study? Our aim is to provide training in skills and mindsets for climate adaptation deeply rooted in the landscape of the National Park.


We believe that the central challenge has to be how to build sustainable societies within planetary boundaries. This is no small feat, and we believe our students have a significant role in finding ways to implement the strategy of this plan, and by so doing showcasing our region as a beacon for the UK: this is how we can turn the super-tanker of over-consumption and the destruction of nature around.

Our Vision

We would like to see material gains in biodiversity, human development and nature recovery in the National Park alongside hundreds of graduates who have helped make those changes as part of their studies. Further, if we can inspire a re-think about what National Parks are for – their founding purpose to educate and inform and re-connect people to the life support systems of our planet, then we will have succeeded. We believe, in their widest sense, National parks should be seen as public universities with a civic mission.

Our Action

We will be working with the National Park Authority on work placements, challenge briefs, citizen science and real world to implement change. We will also be attracting dozens if not hundreds of students to the Park, to enhance our economy, our culture and to make the Park a destination for innovation in thinking and designing new ways of doing things.



Y Bannau: The Future is the manifestation of a dream.

Which is a key part of our mission and also our offer to students. We hope and expect that students will partly be coming to Black Mountains College in order to play a part in realising this vision, learning from the experience and then going on to make other visions a reality elsewhere.





Our contributions

Neither people nor nature can thrive without the other, we are all part of the complex landscape of the National Park. People have shaped the landscape and environment of the Beacons for thousands of years and have created it, protected and sometimes damaged it.

Our role is to connect or reconnect people to the natural environment and to work in partnership so that we can restore the balance of healthy thriving communities and people in the Park with nature.

1. We will embed wellbeing in all that we do - we will prioritise equality, diversity and inclusion. We will ensure our policies and procedures are aligned with our priorities of sustainability, inclusion and supporting the local economy.
2. We will reach out to people to understand how they connect or not to the National Park and learn how we can rebuild that connection. We will strive to remove the social and physical barriers to participation.
3. We will support the local economy through working to support local social enterprise, local procurement of the products and services we buy and through exploring models for income generation that will support communities, agriculture and nature to thrive e.g. payment for ecosystem services.
4. We will strengthen our connection with our communities, landowners/graziers, businesses, residents and visitors through being more visible, offering support, sharing our expertise and seeking ways to collaborate.
5. We will celebrate and promote our Welsh language and culture.
6. We will be exemplary in making the National Park more accessible to all people. We will work with the Local Access Forum to implement our Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Email from Dylan Brychan to Sian Brychan

February 18th 2042

Hi Mum

I'm currently sitting on the floor surrounded by piles of boxes. Maya has just popped down to Peckham to say goodbye to her mum (Sanaa says hi by the way), so I've put the kettle on and thought I'd send you a quick message.

Can't quite believe we are coming home. It might surprise you, but it really does feel like that (for me at least). To be honest, I think my heart never left, just the rest of me that ran away when I couldn't work out where I fitted.

Ever since we found out about the baby though, I've been thinking a lot more about this stuff – feeling you belong somewhere, that you're part of something. I know Mamgu finds it through nature and you and Dad from the land, but I realise I need people mum, beyond just family. I need to feel seen, like I matter, like I have a part to play and that people care. London gave us that for a while, but it's so big and unwieldy. We just want to be somewhere we can trace our connection and contribution, where change is tangible.

God – just watching the horrible news about that poor family. The whole thing has brought back some tough memories for Maya. She still has the same nightmare you know, endless queues of sunstroke patients, air condition broken, hospital falling in around her. It's been over 10 years you know. It will be good for her to get a few months working at the new health centre before she goes on maternity. She had her first meeting with Dr Hughes by the way, and you're right, he seems like a gem.

It was pretty grim back then, wasn't it? Was speaking to Scott about the migration ban, how even after it was lifted there was still this atmosphere – an uneasiness about new faces, especially those of colour. Scott actually said a few things back then to Maya that were pretty upsetting. He says the

whole period is a blur now. Described it as a grim dream he was sleepwalking through; says he was made callous by the hardship and hopelessness of the time. What's hilarious, is that he's now working on the decentralisation initiative you were talking about and was enthusiastically extolling the virtues of pluralism over coffee. He said diversity was “a key ingredient for local resilience, where different skills, experiences and perspectives allow a place to quickly adapt and evolve”. I couldn't stop laughing, to think this is the same guy that used to give me wedgies!

Funny how things feel so inevitable at the time. It's only later you realise that nothing is permanent, most things are a choice, and that choices are made by people. It didn't feel like we had a choice at the time – me so miserable and small and Maya burnt out and fed up. Maybe we should have stayed, been part of the group that finally turned things around? I'm honestly not sure we had it in us.

But now we're coming home! And we're not alone either. I bumped into Dan in the pub – Elle's expecting also. He said he'd been working with you and the energy group on another new project – sounds exciting. Bryony was there too. She moved back last year with her partner. They've received a government grant for a new social enterprise, something about wool and building materials (It was very noisy in The Bull, so not 100% sure). Also, you'll never guess who we are going to be neighbours with...Jo and Matt! They're moving into one of the community houses nearby. That reminds me, Jo's just finished her training and is on the lookout for land to start a market garden. I said she should speak to you guys. Makes sense, no? We've got the land; she's got the skills and appetite – seeing as it clearly won't be me or Megan taking it on!

It was so good to see so many friendly faces again. It sort of feels infectious, like a chain reaction – positive action and belief, good people and good will. I think it's always been there to be fair; it just needed a catalyst and a reason for people to come together. Tadcu used to say it was no good tending this beautiful valley if we didn't nurture and harvest the beautiful people in it as well. Maybe dad can use that for the Eulogy!

Ah, I think that's Maya coming back, she looks tired so I'll wrap this up. She's got to the point where people are offering her seats on the tube now. Think I'll pop the kettle on again.

Can't wait to see you and everyone else at the weekend.

**All my love
Dylan**



Thriving, beautiful, prosperous and sustainable places, celebrated for their cultural and natural heritage, now and forever.

Place

2028

What success looks like



Collaborating In Place For A Better Future

Collaborative action focused on a range of spatial areas to co-produce responses to the nature, climate and economic crises.



Resilient places

Which are sustainable into the future providing good access to housing, employment and service provision to meet community needs. They are measurably less reliant on external supply chains for essentials as a result of the increase in local renewable energy generation; local food supply and opportunities for community ownership.

Prosperous places

Which have proportionally increased levels of community wealth generated within the local economy through development of the foundational economy, social enterprise and the green economy

Inspiring places

Which build on the special qualities of the National Park and our international designations celebrating culture, heritage, the natural environment and Welsh language.

Well planned places

Where everyone feels a connection to their place and this provides benefit to peoples health and wellbeing. Our Places provide a high-quality built environment which provides our residents and visitors a safe place to meet, live, work, play and connect. Our businesses can thrive through connections to people, services and infrastructure.

Innovative places

Where connected networks of active citizens collaborate with businesses and key organisations to innovate place-based solutions to place based challenges.

Historic places

Where the cultural and historic environment is in good condition, valued, celebrated and better understood by residents and visitors alike. Where the synergy between the National Park's landscape and our historic parks and gardens, historic farmsteads, and rural cottages underpin our understanding and management of Place.

Central places

Our historic market towns are reinvigorated to become vibrant and viable centres for the future.

Healthy places

Where connection to our natural beauty provides healing, health and happiness. We serve and support a range of 'green' and social prescribing options for our community and beyond.

Beautiful places

Where our natural beauty is conserved and where necessary restored, so that the majesty of our landscape can be valued and loved by all.

Nature connected places

Where everyday connections to a nature-rich world are commonplace and valued.





Our places

The Places of Bannau Brycheiniog span mountain ranges, or nestle into tiny hamlets. They are homes and communities, vast ecosystems providing water or clean air beyond their boundaries, road networks that connect people and places. Places shape who we are, what we do and how we feel. They impact every aspect of our lives.



In the context of Y Bannau, our places can be loosely defined around four key groupings. For some of these groupings there are long established partnerships, many of these have contributed their own pledges to delivering Y Bannau missions and you will find more detail in the following chapter on Partners. In other areas there are opportunities for new partnerships to form, and we look forward to seeing how these develop over the lifetime of this Plan.

Landscapes

Settlements where people live and work. These could be towns like Brecon or smaller more dispersed farming communities like Llanddeusant. We focus on these places because of the fundamental threats facing rural communities, with the aim of ensuring these communities can thrive for generations to come.

Town & villages

Which have proportionally increased levels of community wealth generated within the local economy through development of the foundational economy, social enterprise and the green economy

Honey pot places

Places that people love to visit. These places have some particular special qualities that makes them attractive and can lead to detrimental levels of over-tourism. Places like our Waterfall Area. We focus on these places because of a need to manage the negative impacts from visitor pressure, turning this to positive gain for communities and the local economy, while enabling a positive visitor experience.

Transport corridors

The Park is host to some key transport corridors which have traditionally served as a means of moving private cars from A to B. Our focus on these places is to understand how sustainable transport solutions can help support communities, visitors and the local economy and the transition to net zero.

Holistic place plans

This mission is centred around co-creating and delivering holistic Place Plans with the communities of the National Park.



A place plan is a collaboration between local communities and statutory organisations, co-creating an evidence based vision for the future and plan of action. The exact areas of focus and intervention will be based on an understanding of the issues and opportunities of individual locations, but could include for example, activity relating to:

- Future food security e.g. creating local food supply chains, changes in land use.
- Future skills and jobs e.g. identifying training needs for skills for community resilience.
- Nature connectedness for preventative health provision including improving access to natural green spaces.
- Sustainable tourism e.g., creating sustainable access for tourism to pressured areas.
- Climate mitigation and adaptation e.g., community energy planning.
- Enhancing and protecting the built environment and its heritage.
- Supporting the local economy and social enterprise.
- Community cohesion and wellbeing.
- Sustainable transport, EV charging networks.
- Creation of Town Centres of the Future.

“
Press your fingers
close on this lichened
sandstone. With this
stone and this grass,
with this red earth,
this place was received
and made and remade.
Its generations
are distinct but all
suddenly present.

Raymond Williams

People Of The Black Mountains

The National Park is a designated landscape. A place that is protected for its scenic quality, its intrinsic beauty, to serve those deep connections people have to nature and natural beauty.

Our designation speaks to a period in our history where access to such landscapes was unequal and divided. The National Park movement of the 1940s gave the Nation the gift of the right to experience these places for the health and wellbeing benefits they bring, benefits that were sorely needed in a world emerging from the horror of the Second World War.

In a post-covid world we recognise that these connections are needed now more than ever, but the 21st Century has also brought with it another series of pressing needs, and asks of places such as National Parks. The role of these landscapes now is to support nature recovery, support carbon capture in ways that urban settings cannot support. We do this for the benefit of future generations in our role as a resource for the Nation. This means that the National Park must work harder and smarter as a place, to connect people and nature to ensure that both thrive in a mutually beneficial way, now and forever.

It is in Place, the anchor point of our missions, that this work comes together. It is in place that we work together to implement the solutions, to drive the change, to build the future, for our climate, water, nature and people. To work with the people and agencies who are deeply rooted in these places, at varying scales, to identify the key challenges, and work together to find the solutions that work on the ground. In doing this we seek to get at the heart of what makes places function as great places to work, live, and play - as providers of ecosystem services such as clean air, water, and locked in carbon.



**Gobaith Y
Bannau /
Hope Of The
Beacons**

We have chosen to develop this mission through the act of holistic place planning as this embodies the guiding principles the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) lays down for protected landscapes like Bannau Brycheiniog - to manage places with and through local people and mainly for and by them.

We celebrate this local level planning a process of empowerment, of distributing Authority from statutory actors to the people of the Park. It is through this action that innovation and connections are born. In this way and for that reason the ambition to embed the process of place planning at different scales, in different places is critical to the delivery of all our Missions.

Through these connections we build up a resilient network of places of hope, ready to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

Sustainable Transport Partnership.



A partnership between key transport and travel stakeholders to support sustainable transport around the Park and reach decarbonisation goals.

Helen Roderick

*Stakeholder Manager
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park*

We are currently looking at how we can make getting around Bannau Brycheiniog more sustainable. As a National Park, we are racing to net zero by 2030, and transport is a big chunk of our emissions. Welsh Government have asked us to create a sustainable transport strategy to identify areas where we can decarbonise. We are working within the national policy context, aligning with the Wales-wide transport strategy, electric vehicle strategy and active travel strategies.

Travel accounts for 70% of visitor carbon footprint, and 31% of resident carbon footprint, so changing the way we travel is really a key part of our decarbonisation journey. A sustainable transport plan will ease the pressure on our honeypot sites, and in turn, our communities that are being affected by visitor car dominant travel. One of the first findings from our evidence gathering is (not surprisingly!) that parking and traffic management is difficult, and public transport frequency is patchy.

We are reliant on partnership working to achieve our aims of sustainable transport, as our powers over transport legislation are very little. We are convening partners such as our local authorities, the National Trust and Natural Resources Wales to line up our approach. This is a great opportunity to work with a number of organisations, as there are so many people already involved in transport around the Park, so finding that consistency and shared approach will be really key.

Our aims are simply to create a National Park which has accessible, low carbon transport, which is non detrimental to the people that live and work here.

At the moment we are in our evidence-base phase, looking at the knowledge and facts which will help us form our vision, and pinpoint the priority areas for work. We will be piloting a 'park and ride' between Merthyr and Brecon which will cover some of our busy places like Pen y Fan, and we will also be looking at the available technology to allow ease of parking.



Hwb Y Gors.



A zero-carbon community hub for arts, education & enterprise.

Emily Hinshelwood

Creative Director

Awel Aman Tawe

Awel Aman Tawe is a community renewables charity set up in 1998 to address the climate emergency while supporting community resilience. We have set up the two largest renewable energy coops in Wales: Awel Co-op and Egni Co-op. These support schools and organisations to reduce their carbon emissions and become more resilient. We also plough hundreds of thousands of pounds back into the community via environmental projects and climate education.

The idea behind Hwb y Gors is to create a community hub which is dedicated to building a zero-carbon community. We believe that the changes we need to make in order to curb our carbon emissions can be fun, creative, healthy and above all bring the community together.

We want the Hwb to retain the bustle and chatter that it once had as a school, we want it to be a space for ideas, for creativity, for growth and nurturing. And all with a low carbon footprint: 90kW of solar on the roof, a 50kW ground-source heating scheme, cork insulation and traditional lime render.

It has a strong arts focus because we believe that the arts – through improvisation, play and imagination - have a significant role to play in addressing the climate crisis. And we want to build positive partnerships with other organisations who have the same drive for a positive, ethical, sustainable future.

The community is actively involved in parts of the refurbishment – for example, we've uncovered 62 windows which had been concreted over. We are working with stained glass artist Simon Howard-Morgan who is running workshops with 62 participants to make new stained glass panels for these windows. We have also worked with over 150 people to create a heritage quilt for the café that remembers the school and the history of the area.

To be a success, Hwb y Gors will be a thriving hub for the local community and beyond. We want our community to be an example to the world of how to go zero-carbon while improving our well-being, our resilience and our long-term prospects.

Hwb y Gors will host a repair café, a library of things, a community transport scheme as well as running a broad programme of workshops that help people to take climate action in all areas of their lives.

We are involving the community from the outset, engaging people in parts of the construction and decision-making. As a school, the building has 110 years of memories and we want to ensure that people still feel a sense of ownership and care for its future.

We also want to build partnerships with communities and organisations beyond the local area. We know that addressing the climate emergency requires us to work together, to pool resources, to make connections. We want to share what we know and we want to learn from others.

We are close to Y Bannau and we foresee plenty of potential for working alongside the National Park - especially with our Nature Positive programme which aims to create a sustainable, edible, restorative garden in the playground of Hwb y Gors.

Relationship to Future Bannau.

For us this plan is a positive vision for change. It believes in possibilities whilst supporting people to take the right action, whilst imagining the future we both want and need.





Our contributions

'Home is where the heart is' - we all have a strong connection to places and every place is special with unique strengths, resources and characteristics. We recognise that each place is different and that by understanding a place we can best support the people of that place to thrive and to support our natural environment.

Our role is therefore to use the data, skills and partnerships that we have to connect to people in their places and to work with them to plan, act and prepare for the future. This shapes our contribution to the place mission to the following five key areas

1. We will use our data and evidence to map and understand the places that we own and manage, so that we can engage with those who work with us in these places to manage them for people, heritage and nature recovery.
2. We will work with communities within the National Park to develop place plans that build on the special characteristics of their area, to improve quality of life, support economic well being and enhance the built and natural environment.
3. We will ensure that the special places of the National Park - our Geopark, Dark Skies, World Heritage Site, Visitor Centres, places of importance for culture, heritage, recreation and protected environments - are managed to be inclusive, accessible and exemplars where nature and people connect and thrive together.
4. We will work in partnership to connect places and make connections within and beyond the National Park boundaries. We will take the wonder of the National Park to people and we will help visitors, businesses and residents understand, celebrate and value the special qualities and places of the National Park.
5. We will work in partnership to support the local economy and develop sustainable transport solutions that help create resilient and thriving places.

Email from Mair Brychan to the rest of the family

March 8th 2042

Subject: Grandpa having the final word...

To my beloved family

It's now been a month since Ioan passed. I finally got round to clearing up his office and found this on his desk under some newspapers. It very nearly ended up in the bin! Needless to say, it had me in tears, but it also filled me with hope and gratitude.

Anyway, off to take Bran for a walk now (the only one he left out of the poem!) but thought you'd all appreciate it.

For once, I'll let him have the final word....

**See you soon
Grandma**

Beacon

We climb the hill in darkness
Seven silent silhouettes
We climb the hill with answers
Wishes, worries and regret

Dafydd lights a pyre
Burning doubts that hold us back
We are rich in resources
For years we thought we lacked

Tonight, we light a beacon each
A symbol of intent
Seven private fires lit
With each a message sent

Megan sparks passion
Pride in people and a space
Where action and intention
Matter more than birthplace

Sian lights a warning
Illuminates the land
A reminder of impermanence
That hills are shaped by hands

My own flame
Flickers in remembrance
Of tales, words, and art
There are lessons in old stories
But no living in the past

Mair lights a celebration
Nature in full song
Let me loose, let me protect you
Learn these notes to sing along

Too tired, too cold
To linger on this hill
Slowly turning home
On old bones - I've had my fill

Dylan builds a lighthouse
For those struggling in the dark
Here there is refuge
Know that you can ask

Looking back, a hill aglow
Dazzling in the night
Seven fires lit
One beacon burning bright

Maya builds a hearth
A fire to warm and nourish
A flame, self-sustaining
Fuels resilience and courage

We climbed the hill in darkness
We climb down in the light



A Post Card from 2047

A Vision By
Gavin Hogg

Penpont Estate



I rode my electric bicycle. The National Park now has progressive vehicle-free zones, with some roads now used as cycle paths. The old railway line through the park has been restored and electric trams serve the local area, and connect the Park to the outside world.

As a resident I like to cycle, it gives me a sense of freedom; I can go at my own pace, stop whenever I want to. I love to feel the air on my skin, and the wind in my face, and the sun on my skin. The old Celtic Blessing has never been more apt!

I hear silence. I hear the voice of nature. I hear birds calling and singing. A golden eagle shrieks high in the sky above me. Once common throughout Wales in the 1800s, they were successfully reintroduced into the park 10 years ago. I hear the wind rustling through the leaves of the trees. There are so many more trees now, and with climate change many different species have been successfully introduced to replace the native stock that tragically suffered from the tree pandemics of the 2020's.

I stop on a river crossing. It runs clear and clean, and the sound of rippling water fills my ears, I hear a large swoosh in the water and notice an otter playing in the shallows with her cub. Water birds sing from the undergrowth and the banks, a Reed Warbler flits through the rushes in the nearby bog. Since the traffic has been controlled the aural soundscape has become so enlivened with the sounds of nature, it is wonderful to now experience this.

There is a scent of late summer floral blossom in the air, The hedges are full of meadowsweet, honeysuckle and mallow in blossom. Changes in agricultural methods have resulted in the hedgerows becoming much wilder and more abundant with flowers, berries and insect life. The heather on the moor above me is beginning to flower. Bees are out collecting late season nectar.

The late season hay is being cut in the wild flower meadows, and there is a wonderful rich smell of drying herbage that permeates the late evening air as the sun turns the landscape gold. The electric powered tractor silently turns the hay, sending insects and dust up into the surroundings, reflecting gold in the evening light. Lime trees and sweet chestnut in savannah style field plantings, are in flower and their canopies are humming with life and the air around them is sweet with the smell of pollen

I strip off and find a swimming hole in the River Usk, the water is beautifully clean, and cool for the time of year. The fresh water invigorates my skin and as I lie on a shingle bank half floating half suspended, I gaze up at the blue sky above me. I am totally at peace; nothing can beat this sensation. The Usk has recently been declared the cleanest river in Wales, and a colony of fresh water mussels have successfully reinhabited the upper reaches of the river. It is abundant with life and I am feeling lucky that I can share this with all the other creatures that now can safely call this their home.

As I leave the water something catches my eye, I reach down and pick up a small elongated cylindrical object, I'm pretty sure that it is some kind of scat or spraint. I check on my phone and it confirms my thought that this is Beaver droppings. Over the last 10 years Beavers have made the upper reaches of the Usk their home. Being nocturnal animals, they have been hard to spot, but this evidence now confirms their presence in this region. A group of land managers and farmers have been working together on a landscape scale rewinding project of the upper Usk valleys and it is a joy to start to see the results of this work.

I have lived in the park for over 50 years now, and have worked on the land for all of that time,

dedicating my work to conservation of the land, woodlands and organic agriculture. I am happy to see that at long last the efforts of the farming community are starting to reverse the trend of biodiversity loss. A renewed mindset has come into being and nature has at last been valued; we no longer talk of 'GDP' and refer to Natural capital growth. It has taken decades to move away from unsustainable practices, and the new educational hubs and colleges in the park are providing exciting opportunities to the latest growing generation of land workers and managers.

It brings joy to my heart that I am able to witness this change, and leave behind me an environment that has a strong beating heart, one that provides prosperity to all that call this place home.

'Yes, it was worth it.'

Everyone's combined efforts have created a rich and diverse mosaic of habitats which now supports a rich array of flora and fauna, far richer than 2022.

Farming systems have radically changed, working together in cluster groups, sharing ideas, equipment and workloads. The Welsh Government have finally found the right balance, supporting agriculture to both produce nutrient dense food and a diverse range of environmental benefits.

In some areas, old field systems have been restored, with messy hedgerows that have become havens for wildlife. In other areas, enclosed land has been opened up into rich extensive woodlands, where livestock are monitored via local area networks and GPS tracking devices. Hedges have become wild havens, spilling over creating shade and habitat. Animals graze in savannah style systems and are monitored for their impact on the land at all times of the year. Wildflower meadows are now abundant throughout the park, and many more trees have been planted, occupying about 30% of the land now.

There are many more ponds and wetlands and this has radically changed the landscape, adding so many benefits to all.

Human communities within the Park, are now much more self-sufficient, and local food now supplies 80% of the community's needs. New schools and community centres have been built, binding rural people together, and providing opportunities for the younger generations.

Making the changes has been immensely challenging for everyone. Aided by some dynamic leaders and strong community bonds, a new way of life was developed. It has created a much healthier and vibrant environment for Life, for decades to come.

'Yes, it was worth it.'





Partners

“
Partnership working is central to the delivery of sustainable development within the National Parks because of the range of interests that it convenes.

National Park Management Plans Guidance
Countryside Council for Wales 2007

We do not work alone when it comes to delivering our missions.

We are dependent on the help, expertise, advice and practical skills of a range of partners, working with us towards our collective aims.

We have throughout this Plan showcased a range of projects which demonstrate the kind of action needed at scale if we are to achieve our visions (see *Sêr y Bannau*). Now we would like to turn to showcase those partnerships with whom we aim to work to help develop the detailed actions needed to create the shifts necessary.

We feel very privileged to be working in such a range and variety of partnerships, and believe it is testament to the commitment and passion felt towards Bannau Brycheiniog by such a range of people and organisations.

Some of these partnerships (like our Local Nature Partnership for example) focus on a specific topic and receive specific funding streams to act. Others are grouped around spatial areas (for example Meithryn Mynydd), and address the breadth of issues felt in place. In this way, we are able to distribute authority and delegate decision-making to the most local level possible, an aim of best practice management of living working landscapes like ours.

Developing, supporting and working within healthy partnerships is a key objective of this Plan and a key value of our organisation. Our commitment is to champion collaborative decision-making wherever possible; to value relationship building as core to success and to ensure all those who are impacted by decisions have been involved in their co-design.

Delivering the plan together

Partnership working is defined by the United Nations as:

An ongoing collaborative relationship between or among organisations from different stakeholder types aligning their interests around a common vision, combining their complementary resources and competencies and sharing risk, to maximise value creation and deliver benefit to each of the partners

Within these pages we identify the following Partnerships as being significant to the delivery Mission Y Bannau. Each section has been developed by the Partnership themselves, it is them in their own words, just as each partnership is an entity in of itself.

This list is not exhaustive and we hope over the course of this plan we will be able to keep it updated, as new partnerships form and develop for now we are very grateful to the following for their commitment to Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and the vision of this Plan:

- Black Mountains Land Use Partnership
- Dark Skies Board
- Destination Management Partnership
- Geopark Management Partnership
- Historic Environment Partnership
- Local Nature Partnership
- Meithryn Mynydd
- Usk Catchment Partnership
- Waterfalls Partnership

Black Mountains Land Use Partnership.

A pioneering, cross border, landscape-scale partnership delivering continued improvement and management of the upland areas in the Black Mountains



Phil Stocker

Chair of the Black Mountains Land Use Partnership

Established through the Welsh Government's Nature Fund in 2015, the Partnership promotes the restoration and sustainable management of the Black Mountains' natural resources and habitats and is a forum for discussion and collaboration on the current and future management, sustainability and conservation of the Black Mountains.

The Partnership aims to improve the quality of farming and environmental habitats, promote a sustainable and responsible visitation ethos, protect and conserve its natural capital such as water and soil, wildlife and biodiversity, and improve the well being and economic resilience of those who live and work in this iconic area.



BMLUP consists of graziers who live, work and manage livestock on the Black Mountains. We work in partnership with major landowners in the area, such as the Glanusk Estate; Tregoyd Estate, and Bal Mawr/Bal Bach to name a few. Regulatory bodies including Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, Welsh Water, Natural Resources Wales and Young Farmers Club are also present, alongside representation from our local community.

The Partnership and its area is primarily focused on the upland areas to the North and East of Crickhowell, up to and including Hay-on-Wye, and to the west of Craswall and Longtown. The area covers 24,600 Ha, with approximately a third of this being a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest.

We promote the restoration and sustainable management of the natural resources in our patch of land, working to ensure these bring rich benefits to those who live and work here. We aim is to bring about positive social, economic and environmental change through implementation of cooperative and sustainable land management practices in the Black Mountains.

Our objectives are:

- To improve the quality of habitats including heather regeneration.
- To increase the area and quality of grazing land.
- To control erosion on strategic sites.
- To stabilise peat resources.
- To provide a source of materials to be used for restoration works in eroded peat/mineral soil areas to improve bog condition.
- To improve access at strategic locations particularly around turnout points to increase ease of turning out stock on the hill and improve visitor experience.
- To provide for climate change adaptation and mitigation actions which improve and enhance ecosystems connectivity, biodiversity and wildlife
- To promote understanding and awareness of traditional and contemporary grazing, conservation works and other upland management practices used on the hill and the skills that these require
- To promote and support wellbeing and economic resilience of those who live and work in the area and encourage safe and sustainable visits to it
- To protect and nurture the cultural heritage of the area
- To collect, record, collate and share data and evidence pertaining to the sustainable management of the Black Mountain

The role of the Partnership is:

- To raise awareness of and champion the sustainable management of the Black Mountains.
- To foster good communication between interest for the sake of coordinating activity in pursuit of the Partnership's purpose.
- To work together on and, if appropriate, shape funding proposals for priorities identified by the Partnership.
- To seek funding for projects which further Partnership objectives.
- To lead the implementation of funded schemes in furtherance of Partnership objectives.
- To monitor the effectiveness of such schemes and evaluate their impact.

The Partnership is very much action-orientated and innovative in our approach. We have had significant success since our inception - implementing land management improvements (rewetting and revegetating 60 Ha of Peatland; restoring 1500 meters of footpaths and bridleways and bracken management over 400Ha) in delivering skills development (investing over £45,000 in rural skills training, engaging over 500 schoolchildren) and promoting safe sustainable visitation to the area (creating a range of ambassador schemes, publishing a guide book and online resources). However there is still much to do, this plan provides an overarching framework, well aligned with our own priorities in which to progress further in the future.

Dark Skies Board.

Maintaining and enhancing
the dark skies of Bannau
Brycheiniog



The Dark Sky Board of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.



The International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) status was achieved for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park in 2013. The Dark Sky Board partnership was formed immediately afterwards to work to maintain the status. Since its formation the purpose of the Board has been to maintain IDSR status. The Board has evolved in the intervening period and has agreed that its principal objective is now to maintain and enhance the nocturnal natural environment. The name of the Board (the Dark Sky Board of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park), and its membership also now reflects this focus.

Who We Are

Our members include representatives from the Usk Astronomical Society, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority, Bannau Brycheiniog Parks Society and Monmouthshire County Council.

Our Core Purpose

The Dark Skies Board aims to protect and enhance the dark skies and nighttime environment.

Our area of focus is Bannau Brycheiniog National Park however we also seek to protect and maintain an External Buffer zone around this boundary to help prevent light spill into the protected area.

We aim to do so through holistic action and advocacy which highlights the importance of dark skies for wildlife, nature, human health, the climate, economy and education.

Our Vision

To create throughout Bannau Brycheiniog National Park a night sky of natural darkness that provides multiple benefits, safeguards the environment, and provides a sense of shared heritage of primeval connectedness and wonder.

Success for the board is measured in terms of the maintenance of International Dark Skies Reserve status for the National Park. Already this long-standing achievement has supported and promoted Bannau Brycheiniog for the quality of the nighttime environment.

Future Challenges

The work of the Board is entirely voluntary and achieved through negotiation and agreement. Neither the Board nor the organisation of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park has statutory power to require improvements to lighting, nor does it control development around its borders, making the task of the board one of championing the benefits of dark sky enhancement and preservation.

Future Action

Alongside our existing schedule of outreach and educational work we are, with the Officers of the National Park, working towards two long term aspirations

1. A long established and high quality night sky and night time environment in Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, appreciated locally and nationally for the benefits it brings.
2. The value and importance of darkness is mainstream in Wales with widespread lighting control measures in place and supported by the Welsh Government.

Future Bannau.

We recognise the importance of the Management Plan to our work, and have been involved with development since the Vision and Objectives stage when Darkness was first introduced as an element of the Park's special qualities. We look forward to working with officers of the Park in the future on projects which seek to deliver shared aims around the night time environment- for people and nature.



Geopark Management Group.

We are the management group of the international Geopark designation covering the Western half of the National Park. The group brings together public, private, educational and charity sector organisations to support sustainable tourism, education and (geo) conservation

We are part of the ‘bottom-up’ global geoparks movement which began in the early 2000s, now numbering c180 around the world, with just nine in the UK. We were accepted into the European Geoparks Network in 2005 and became a UNESCO project in 2016. Although Bannau Brycheiniog is the lead partner, we collaborate with Natural Resources Wales, academia, trade and outdoor activity bodies, wildlife and heritage bodies and representatives of various tiers of local government, for their complimentary expertise, perspective and funds.



Our Role

Our principle aim is to protect and promote a deeper understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of the western half of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, and encourage appropriate economic development based on sound sustainability principles

Our Vision

Our vision would be the flourishing of vibrant communities living in harmony with healthy ecosystems, and welcoming visitors who bring benefits rather than create further issues, whilst engendering a deeper understanding on part of residents and visitors alike of the inter-relatedness of geodiversity, biodiversity and a sustainable local economy.

Future Action

We will be further developing the geopark ‘hub’ at Craig Y Nos Country Park whilst refreshing our ‘outreach’ activities across the Geopark. We also want to expand along the coalfield fringe to help these communities better integrate into the Geopark with the aim of improving health and economic outcomes.

Future Bannau.

This Plan, and its process of development, provides a welcomed framework within which the Geopark can action plan its activities with the hope of making a positive difference to this landscape, its communities and businesses, and visitors to it



Historic Environment Partnership.

—
To celebrate, conserve and enhance the historic environment of the National Park, through establishing a voluntary network of heritage organisations and community groups who share this aim.



Alice Thorne

Heritage Officer BBNPA

Co-ordinating Officer

Our partnership is one of the new partnerships established to help deliver Y Bannau: The Future through the co-design of an Action Plan (HEAP) to drive improvements in the collective management of the historic environment of the National Park. Representatives from Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, Cadw, the Clwyd - Powys Archaeological Trust, Brecon Story, Brecknock Society & Museum Friends, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Bannau Brycheiniog Park Society and the Young Archaeologists Club have contributed to development of the Action Plan, with consultation and input from a broader network of individuals, groups and agencies working in the sector.

The plan does not purport to encompass all activity – but aims to provide a foundation and framework to identify shared objectives, improve co-ordination, and focus resources. The HEAP will provide a mechanism for helping to prioritise, deliver and monitor the conservation and celebration of our heritage. This will be a working document, to be updated regularly in the coming years.



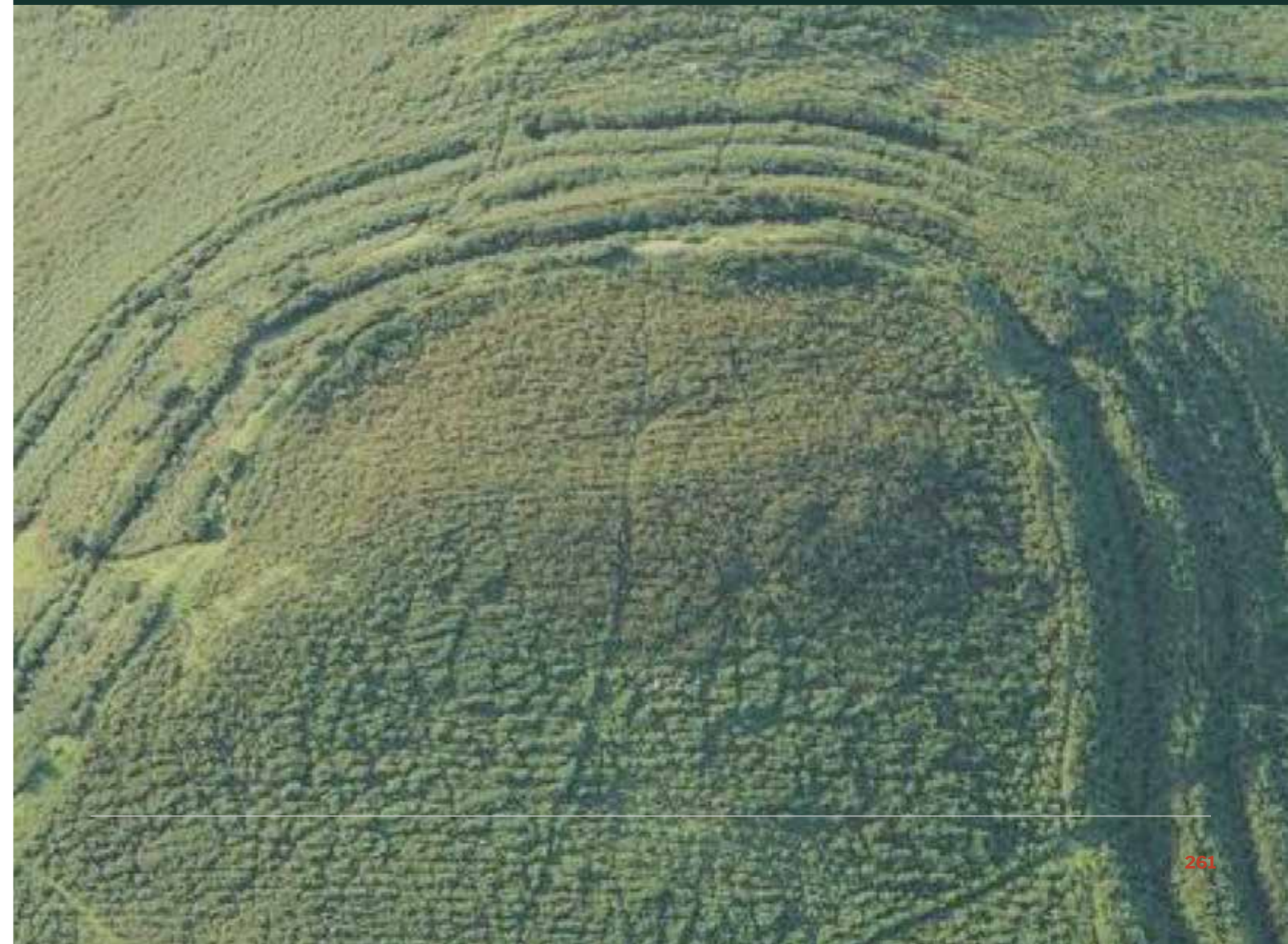
Our historic assets are a finite resource. Once destroyed, they are lost forever. Damage, neglect and loss, including loss of access, can affect the value and significance of historic sites. A commitment to managing change carefully is therefore essential to protect our Historic Environment, and the special qualities of the National Park.

However, existing under-resourcing and capacity issues in the sector will be accentuated by the challenges facing us all in the years ahead. Partnership working, and sharing action plans is one way we can work to overcome some of these resourcing challenges without lessening the protection afforded the historic environment.

Through our partnership and joint action plan we will be aiming to:

1. Define a suite of shared objectives and secure commitment to delivery
2. To promote the conservation management of the historic environment
3. To engage with communities and visitors in promoting understanding of the historic environment and cultural heritage of the Park
4. To improve collaboration, resourcing and capacity in order to support projects to enhance, manage, research, monitor, and celebrate the beautiful and varied character of the historic environment and heritage.

Our emerging Plan has been developed in partnership, to protect our Historic Environment and promote cohesion and alignment of the different groups and organisations working in the National Park. It will sit alongside other partnership plans, such as the Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) as background evidence for the National Park Management Plan *Y Bannau: the Future*, and will help the National Park Authority plan for the future. It has been prepared to help us look after the historic environment all around us.



Local Nature Partnership.



Reconnecting people with nature, whilst ensuring nature's protected and nurtured now and for generations to come.

Maria Golightly

Co-ordinating officer

Our Local Nature Partnership is uniquely placed to deliver effective action at the local level, which contributes to the overall national nature recovery agenda. There is a Local Nature Partnership in every area of Wales, whose coordinator is hosted by the Local Authority or National Park Authority. These coordinators develop and deliver activities to connect people with nature, as well as various monitoring and reporting duties.



Nature Recovery Plan

We are working to the objectives of the [The Nature Recovery Action Plan - A Future With Nature At Its Heart](#). This is a collaboration which is open to all who want to contribute. A desire and commitment to help deliver the plan is the only requirement to be involved. Current partners include representatives from a wide range of organisations, groups and individuals who all have a common interest in protecting and strengthening the National Park's ecosystems.

Reversing Decline

The partnership's goal is to help reverse the decline in biodiversity by focusing on developing resilient ecological networks (in other words "nature recovery networks") which are more diverse, greater in extent, in better ecological condition and better joined up.

We need to help people understand and connect with the idea of a healthier natural environment and the many benefits it provides when in good condition. We must celebrate and share our knowledge of the Park's natural assets, explain the potential for nature recovery and adapt our message to the audiences we're working with, to demonstrate nature's relevance to everyone

Our key objectives are:

- To improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring of ecological resilience within the National Park.
- To work with partners at all levels to unify local action for nature recovery and ensure integration with relevant natural resources plans and strategies.
- To increase the resilience of our natural environment by protecting existing semi-natural habitats, restoring degraded habitats and creating new areas of habitat.
- To identify and deliver targeted action for key species and habitats as part of a wider, integrated nature recovery action programme.
- To engage with a diversity of audiences about nature recovery using different language and techniques to highlight nature's relevance to us all and thus build engagement and action at all levels.

Future Bannau.

With its focus on nature recovery for people and place, Y Bannau: The Future helps bring our message to wider audiences. The Plan provides a strong foundation from which to develop our next Nature Recovery Action Plan, which will, we hope look to strengthen mission delivery.



Meithryn Mynydd.

Sharing information for
the better management of
common land in the west of
the National Park

Judith Harvey

Co-ordinating officer

Meithrin Mynydd is a partnership of graziers associations, graziers representatives, common landowners and relevant public sector bodies covering Mynydd Du in the West of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

Our partnership shares valuable information and facilitates the management of the common land units. We aim to gain this collaborative approach of working across the whole landscape, promoting successful and effective land management for people, nature and natural beauty.



Our Role

As a voluntary grouping, we come together to address shared problems with the aim of better outcomes for the upland areas in our management.

We currently have a range of work areas ongoing, including:

- Addressing increased recreational pressures and attempting to prevent impact on livestock grazing.
- Addressing fire-load management through effective grazing of the uplands.
- Conservation grazing for the benefit of Garn Goch Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Habitat assessments of our uplands and how agricultural practices can contribute towards nature recovery.
- Addressing the rural skills shortage and associated socio-economic challenge.

Our Vision

The commons will continue to be grazed, maintaining the economic viability of small farms. These small farms are fundamental in enhancing and protecting the Welsh heritage of the Park. They are a deeply valued part of our cultural heritage and Welsh language-speaking communities. With this support, we will see appropriate levels of grazing, which supports biodiversity gains and reduces the risk of fire load.

Future Actions

We aim to develop a Management Plan to support the continued conservation and enhancement of Y Mynydd Ddu through traditional land management practice. We aim to ensure that traditional sheep farming in the West of the Park remains economically viable whilst enabling nature to thrive. We aim for this plan to be the foundation of a range of interventions aimed at achieving our vision for the region.



(c) Peter Fry ARPS



Usk Catchment Partnership.

An emergent partnership
seeking to build back
ecological resilience to the
River Usk and its
catchment



Helen Lucocq

Strategy & Policy Manager

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

The River Usk is the longest protected river system in Wales, it is designated both as a site of special scientific interest and as a special area for conservation.

Research published by National Resources Wales found that 87% of the water-bodies within the Usk catchment are failing target levels for the nutrient phosphorus. Phosphorus is widely considered to be the nutrient most harmful to aquatic ecosystems, and that most at risk of future increase due to climate change.

Research undertaken in the catchment identified that a range of factors were contributing to the nutrient levels within the Usk and that resolving the issues could only be possible through a partnership approach to action.



Our Vision

Phosphates are not the only issue the Usk catchment is facing. Over the last few years, the extent and frequency of flooding events has increased causing significant social and economic harm. The catchment has been identified as an area threatened by a range of harmful invasive non-native species. There are other potential contaminants which as yet data has not been made available e.g. Nitrates and Ammonia, and their implications such as water pH changes and raised biological oxygen demand. Extraction levels in the Usk are very high, in part to service the Brecon and Monmouthshire canal, but also for drinking water and agricultural use. Recreational pressure on the Usk is high, with many utilising the waters for fishing and water sports.

All these factors, in combination, have taken the Usk past a tipping point of ecological integrity. Decisive action is needed urgently to address the crisis and bring about the transformative change in land management and behaviour needed.

We have been lucky to secure funding from the Welsh Government to help address the phosphate issues the Usk is facing however through the partnership we believe, that it cannot be addressed in isolation. That is why the partnership for the Usk is focusing on re-establishing and protecting the protected features of the Usk for the benefit of future generations.

A Co-Design Approach

To date, the partnership has been focused on developing a robust structure representative of the range and diversity of interests and issues that need to be addressed. Significant resource has been dedicated to co-designing this structure to ensure that it has the capacity to develop a deliverable action plan for the Usk. By focusing on co-designing the partnership's structure, we have aimed to bake in consensus from the beginning.

Partners involved in the co-design have included: Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, Natural Resources Wales, Monmouthshire County Council, Powys County Council, Newport City Council, Canal and Rivers Trust, Wye and Usk Foundation, Farmers' Union Wales, National Farmers' Union, Beacons Water Group (local farming group) and Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations. Our Work continues to be supported by the Welsh Government and their Phosphate Action Plan.

Future Action

The partnership is now looking to commission further evidence in order to collaboratively identify actions needed to build back the ecological resilience of the catchment. The partnership is supported in this work by a technical advisory group and a wider catchment forum which includes representatives of user and recreation groups. The aim is to produce an Action Plan which will be co-implemented by all members of the partnership.



Waterfall Country Partnership.

Taking action to ensure that the Waterfalls area is a safe and enjoyable place to live, work and visit.



Helen Roderick

Stakeholder Manager

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

We are a group of local people and employed officers coming together to take action on key issues facing the Waterfalls area. Our membership is necessarily broad, we have representatives from the relevant Unitary Authorities, community groups and land managers like the National Trust, the National Park Authority and National Resources Wales. We work to manage the area as a visitor destination which brings benefit to the environment and community.

We were formed some time ago and at that point our focus was strategic, bringing together key agencies to combine thinking on how the area should be collectively managed into the future. However, the pandemic saw such an increase in visitor numbers to the Bro'r Sgydau / Waterfall Country – way beyond the carrying capacity of the existing infrastructure- that our focus by necessity was very heavily orientated toward re-mediating the impacts such visitor levels bring. This action-orientated approach has proved successful in making key changes but there is still more to be done.



Future Challenges

The waterfalls area is one of the most popular visitor destinations within the whole of the National Park. This is testament to its spectacular landscape quality -majestic waterfalls plunging dramatically through lush steep wooded valleys, rich in wildlife, creating a breath-taking experience.

The challenge comes in managing the Waterfall Country's popularity in relation to the capacity of the area to safely accommodate the numbers that visit recent years the Waterfalls area have become sites of over-tourism, that is visitor numbers are now causing harm to the area at a rate and degree that urgent action is needed.

Visitor Numbers

A huge conundrum to the partnership is the question of visitor access. We want and welcome visitors to the area, we know that this area is cherished by many visitors and locals alike, but the numbers coming to the area has gone past a tipping point of safety. These visitor numbers are damaging to the fragile ecosystems that make up the environment of the Bro'r Sgydau / Waterfall Country, and also damaging to those who live in the host communities that get swamped by visitor cars each year.

Sustainable Transport

At present the only real viable way for visitors to come and enjoy Bro'r Sgydau / Waterfall Country is by private car. Not only does this create huge levels of parking pressure within small rural villages, but also generates significantly towards our GHG emissions and air pollution. The numbers of cars create chaos and disrupt the special qualities of the Park. The emissions impact on the nature and biodiversity crisis.

Providing Community Benefit

The visitor economy has the potential to contribute significantly to the income of the area and its surrounds, especially the more deprived areas of the upper Neath valley. At present, for whatever reason, visitor spend is exceptionally limited and the areas see little economic benefit from the levels of visitors that pass through each year.

Future Vision

We want to create a future where the waterfalls are a sustainable visitor destination. Managed in partnership, and contributing towards the local visitor economy. Meeting this vision is dependent upon the continued work of this partnership long into the future. Only in pooling the resources we have are we going to be able to make visiting Bro'r Sgydau / Waterfall Country a safe and enjoyable experience.

Future Bannau.

Y Bannau: The Future is well aligned with the values of the Partnership. We believe that we already make a significant contribution towards the goals of the Plan and we hope that we can raise the profile of sustainable visitor management as acting for nature, water and climate as well as for people and place.



Your Y Bannau: The Future team.

This document and the work of Management Plan is the result of a dedicated team of people who have a real passion for the future survival of the National Park. You can read more about us and how to contact us below.



Helen Roderick

helen.roderick@beacons-npa.gov.uk

Helen is a partner in a farming business and was born and bred in the Park. Helen has a passion for sustainable farming techniques and believes strongly that farmers are the future of the Park. Helen has a long history of community development in the Park and is currently leading on our stakeholder work.



Naomi Davies

naomi.davies@beacons-npa.gov.uk

Local girl Naomi lives on her parents' farm. Her background is in rural practice and has a very good head for farm diversification and business development. Naomi is one of the most efficient people you will ever meet and keeps us organized and on track. Naomi leads on site-specific development.



Liz Hutchins

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Liz Hutchins is Senior Policy Adviser, working on the Y Bannau: The Future Management Plan. Liz's background is in environmental and social justice campaigning and is passionate about building a fairer more inclusive world as we respond urgently to climate and ecological crises. Her previous role was Director of Campaigns at Friends of the Earth, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Liz lives in and loves the Park and is learning Welsh.



Sophie Jones

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Sophie grew up exploring the beacons, giving her appreciation and passion for our natural world and the biodiversity that inhabits it. Going on to study international relations and global development she developed an enthusiasm for sustainability, change-making, and history leading her to work on projects around the historic environment alongside her environmental volunteer work.



Helen Lucoq

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Helen was born in Swansea but she has had a long and affectionate history with Bannau Brechyniog (one of her favourite childhood friends was the Park's once mascot Spikey the Hedgehog). A bit of a polymath, Helen's interests range from storytelling, to heritage, to economics, although her day job is as a chartered town planner. Helen's young son is petrified of climate change, so she's promised to do her best to sort it out for him.



Chris O'Brien

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Chris has lived in Brecon for over 15 years. A chartered town planner, Chris's love of the outdoors means he has specialised in environmental matters and is working towards a hill and moorland leader qualification. He also is a passionate believer in the National Park movement and believes the benefits of the National Park should be accessible for people of all walks of life to enjoy.



Monitoring

Measuring, Monitoring, Evaluating & Reporting

Aiming For The Just & Safe Space

For the sake of Future Generations, Y Bannau: The Future must be more than a strategy that sits on a shelf. It must be more than words.

The urgency of the issues we face means that we must ensure that we embed its delivery into everything we do, whilst working with our partners to encourage them to do the same. To ensure that this plays out in the years that follow publication, the National Park Authority will put resources into monitoring the impacts of this plan, reporting on them, and advocating for further action where the data shows us the plan is not being effective.

The plan is based on the primary goal to enable the users of the Park:

To utilise the Natural Resources of the Park within planetary boundaries (not use more natural resources than the Earth can sustain for the benefit of future generations) whilst at the same time ensuring all people have enough resources to meet their basic needs (achieving the wellbeing goals) by raising living standards above the social foundation.

To visualise this goal we use an adapted version of Kate Raworth's Doughnut Model of planetary and social boundaries. It shows us where we are in relation to this overarching objective. For that reason, it provides the most appropriate tool to help us monitor our progress in delivering this plan. We can use the key indicators of the Doughnut to measure the progress made towards lasting social and environmental sustainability for the Park.

This chapter looks at each sector of the Doughnut and defines how we want to measure our progress towards the just and safe space. We take a long-term view on this action, and for that reason it has been necessary to develop a series of indicators along a trajectory over a period of about 50 years.

Monitoring Framework

Part 1.

Monitoring our Ecological Ceiling – Considering the state of our environment in relation to key planetary boundaries.



This section considers the sustainable management of natural resources within Bannau Brycheiniog.

Part two seeks to consider how you monitor the quality of life of the people who live and work within Bannau Brycheiniog.

Part three considers how the park fulfills its second purpose to provide opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the National Park, without impacting our community's quality of life, or degrade our Natural Resources.

Monitoring and reporting the five missions, - Doughnut indicators

The five missions adopted in *Y Bannau: The Future* are chosen because they are the biggest shifts needed to achieve a sustainable future for the National Park.

It is therefore important to measure and report on progress towards achieving the missions, and on wider indicators of National Park sustainability - the extent to which ecological ceiling (Planetary Boundaries) and the social foundation (Sustainable Development Goals) are being breached.

A series of indicators have been selected as the best metrics for understanding and tracking change in the National Park in relation to Doughnut Economics:

- Ecological ceiling (Planetary Boundaries)
- Social foundation (Sustainable Development Goals), and
- The 'safe and just space' in the middle of the ring reflects ecological and human wellbeing in the unique context of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

The indicators have been chosen because they represent the best direct metric or proxy, and because it is envisaged that data will be available to track change over a long timescale.

Indicators were identified through detailed workshop sessions with expert contributions from Bannau Brycheiniog National Park officers and the National Park's Stakeholder Reference Panel.

Timescales

Several different timescales are important in considering the sustainable future of the National Park.

Ongoing: Updates on the BBNPA website and other platforms, and that of partners, sharing information about actions and outcomes, celebrating successes, and highlighting opportunities and challenges.

1 year: Annual Doughnut Economics assessment 'health check' of the National Park, and annual assessment of progress in achieving the missions.

4 years: State of the Park Report 2027. The State of the Park report is an important synthesis of all the data being gathered in relation to the doughnut. It is an important moment to reflect on the key issues facing the Park in order to inform the review of Y Bannau.

5 years: The duration of *Y Bannau: The Future* management plan. Used to focus near-term action towards achieving the missions.

2030 and 2035: The timescales to achieve the nature and water missions and the climate mission respectively.

25 years: The medium-term vision for the National Park.

50 years: Long-term change horizon. Used to track long-term sustainability as indicated by Doughnut Economics metrics.

Ecological Ceiling

Domain	Sub domain	Indicator	Current situation	Scale of shift needed to return to boundary levels			
Climate	Green House Gases	Levels of GHG emissions compared with Paris aligned target.	Residents' emissions were estimated at 0.561 million tCO ₂ e, and visitors' emissions – from time spent in the Park and during travel to and from – were estimated at 0.264 million tCO ₂ e. Paris aligned targets require a reduction of net annual GHG emissions totalling 1,263,122 tCO ₂ e per year up until 2050.				
	Sequestration	Estimated levels of CO ₂ removal resulting from Land use, Land use Change and Forestry compared with Paris aligned target	Paris aligned targets anticipate the removal of 17,773.6 tCO ₂ e per annum arising from land use, land use change and forestry rising from - 42,190 tCO ₂ e sequestered in 2019 to 593,171.60 tCO ₂ e by 2050. Current (2019) LULUCF sequestration is estimated to remove 42,190 tCO ₂ e from BBNPA territorial emissions.				
Air pollution		Levels of harmful airborne pollutants in accordance with safe levels for humans/environmental protection Sulphur dioxide – 20µg/m ³ Nitrous Oxides – 30µg/m ³ Ozone – 3000 ppb, Ammonia – 1µg/m ³ N – 10-20 kg/ha/yr acid – 0.35keq/ha/yr	Particulate data Brecon (March 2023) PM 2.5 – excellent PM 10 – excellent Average 20 AQI				
			<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Ammonia</td> <td>0.92 µg/m³</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nitrogen oxides</td> <td>4.07 µg NOx/m³</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sulphur Dioxide</td> <td>0.53 µg/m³</td> </tr> </table>	Ammonia	0.92 µg/m ³	Nitrogen oxides	4.07 µg NOx/m ³
Ammonia	0.92 µg/m ³						
Nitrogen oxides	4.07 µg NOx/m ³						
Sulphur Dioxide	0.53 µg/m ³						

Domain	Sub domain	Indicator	Current situation	Scale of shift needed to return to boundary levels
Phosphorus and Nitrogen		Levels of freshwater nutrients against JNCC derived targets	67% of the water bodies assessed within the Wye SAC catchment and 88% of the water bodies assessed within the Usk SAC Catchment fail for phosphorus concentrations against JNCC derived targets. Nitrogen levels to be determined	
Invasive Non-Native Species		Instances of Invasive Non-Natives recorded within the National Park	There have been 59 INNS recorded within the boundaries of the Brecon Beacons National Park. As of February 2020 there are 4300 invasive species records held by the Local Records Centre (BIS) for the Park area	
Soil Quality		Soil ecology including organic matter, C, N, pH, microfauna/flora, hydrology, e-DNA	To be determined	
Land conversion		Area of park by principal land use	To be determined	

Domain	Sub domain	Indicator	Current situation	Scale of shift needed to return to boundary levels
Water Quality		Overall waterbody status (WFD)	2018 data identifies all assessed waterbodies within the BBNPA as being of overall good or moderate status. 50% good 50% moderate	
Biodiversity loss	Species	Farmland bird numbers	30% decline in farmland birds from 1994 to 2018 (SOPR)	
	Habitat	Condition of major habitat types	To be determined	

Climate

Principal domain	Levels of GHG emissions compared with Paris aligned target.
The most up to date data available	Residents' emissions were estimated at 0.561 million tCO ₂ e, and visitors' emissions – from time spent in the Park and during travel to and from – were estimated at 0.264 million tCO ₂ e. Paris aligned targets require a reduction of net annual GHG emissions totalling 1,263,122 tCO ₂ e per year up until 2050
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p>Green House Gases (GHG) is a catch all term for a range of gases which are emitted into the atmosphere and result in the trapping of heat, leading to the phenomena usually referred to as global warming. An increase of human derived GHG as a result of activity since the Industrial Revolution is directly correlated with rising global temperatures. In turn rising temperatures have had devastating socio-economic-environmental impacts across the globe. Without a concerted effort to limit the emission of GHG, temperatures are predicted to keep rising, leading to the triggering of a range of environmental tipping points which threaten life on the planet as we know it.</p> <p>The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France on December 2015. Its overarching goal is to hold 'the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees celcius above pre-industrial levels' and 'pursue efforts ' to limit the temperature increase to 1.5degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.</p> <p>The National Park commissioned analysis to understand what our 'fair share' of contributing towards GHG reductions to help deliver on the Paris agreement.</p> <p>We monitor GHG emissions to understand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) What sectors of the economy/society are emitting GHG and how much are they emitting (b) How much total GHG is being emitted by residents and visitors activity within the National Park (c) Where further action is needed to better cut emissions to be on track to meet our fair share of Paris aligned reductions.
What we will report and when	<p>Data is produced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), disaggregated to National Park boundaries showing territorial emissions by sector. This is updated regularly and our Annual Reports will provide this as trend data building on previous reporting.</p> <p>We will also update our 'consumption based' emission report one more time during the plan period. This consumption based report looks at those emissions referred to as Scope 3, this includes an understanding of the indirect emissions generated via visitors and residents from their lifestyle choices. It is anticipated this report will be published 2027 as part of the evidence gathering which supports plan review.</p>
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	GHG reduction year on year, in accordance with the 'glide path' to net zero by 2035 shown in A Greenhouse gas emissions assessment and target scenario for the Brecon Beacons National Park (Small World Consulting, Oct 2022)
Boundary level	Net zero GHG by 2035
Related Mission Area(s)	Climate People Place
Related objectives	Decarbonization Quality of life Collaborating in Place

Related outcomes	Sustainable transport Sustainable food and drink Sustainable energy Sustainable land use Future heat and power Future transport Resilient places Innovative places
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Data Source:

[A Greenhouse gas emissions assessment and target scenario for the Brecon Beacons National Park](#) (Small World Consulting, Oct 2022)

[UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics](#) BEIS (2022)

Sub domain	Estimated levels of CO2 removal resulting from Land use, Land use Change and Forestry compared with Paris aligned target
The most up-to-date data available	Paris aligned targets anticipate the removal of 17,773.6 tCO ₂ e per annum arising from land use, land use change and forestry rising from -42,190 tCO ₂ e sequestered in 2019 to 593,171.60 tCO ₂ e by 2050. Current(2019) LULCF sequestration is estimated to remove 42,190 tCO ₂ e from BBNPA territorial emissions.
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Alongside reduction in activity which emits GHG into the atmosphere, activity to actively sequester, and remove carbon from the atmosphere will also be necessary to meet a fair share of the Paris aligned target. Monitoring GHG removal via land use, land use change and forestry enables a picture to develop of the extent to which GHG removal is occurring within the National Park at scale and rate necessary to meet the net zero goal.
What we will report and when	Data is produced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), disaggregated to National Park boundaries showing GHG removal via LULCF
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	GHG removal year on year, in accordance with the 'glide path' to net zero by 2035 shown in A Greenhouse gas emissions assessment and target scenario for the Brecon Beacons National Park (Small World Consulting, Oct 2022)
Boundary level	Net zero GHG by 2035
Related Mission Area(s)	Climate
Related objectives	Sequestration
Related outcomes	Habitat restoration Land use change Sustainable Farming

Data Source:

[A Greenhouse gas emissions assessment and target scenario for the Brecon Beacons National Park](#) (Small World Consulting, Oct 2022)

[UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics](#) BEIS (2022)

Air Pollution

Principle domains	Levels of harmful airborne pollutants in accordance with safe levels for humans/environmental protection			
The most up-to-date data available	Particulate	Particulate data Brecon (March 2023) PM2.5 – excellent PM 10 – excellent Average 20 AQI		
	Environmental Data point Craig Cerrig Gleisiad SAC	Pollutant	2018-20 Data	Critical levels
		Ammonia	0.92 µg/m ³	1µg/m ³
		Nitrogen oxides	4.07 µg NO _x /m ³	30µg/m ³
	Sulphur Dioxide	0.53 µg/m ³	20µg/m ³	
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Air pollution has the potential to significantly impact on habitats, species and human health. We monitor emissions to understand the extent to which polluting activity is endangering human and environmental health within the National Park. Although all forms of air pollution are damaging, in general we consider the impacts of particulates on human health and therefore impacts in our most populated area, whereas other forms of air pollution, especially that arising from Nitrogen are critical in relation to environmental protection, and hence we consider data from one of our protected sites.			
What we will report and when	For particulate we will monitor data relating to Brecon our Market Town with the largest resident population. For environmental impacts we will monitor Craig Cefn Gleisiad SAC a protected site located along the A470 opposite Pen Y Fan, a visitor honey pot. These two sites have been selected as they have the potential to be most significantly impacted by human induced air pollution issues. Data will be reported on for both elements on an annual basis			
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	In general this sector is performing well against boundary levels. <i>Y Bannau</i> aims to bring about reductions in emissions, so hopefully with time we will see even better performance against these targets			
Boundary level	Excellent rating for particulates AQI 20 or lower No breach of critical load of airborne pollutants			
Related Mission Area(s)	Climate Place People			
Related objectives	Decarbonisation Sequestration Quality of life Collaborating in Place for a better future			
Related outcomes	Sustainable transport Sustainable Energy Sustainable Land Use Future transport Future Visitors Well planned places Healthy Places			

Data Source: [Air Pollution Information Service](#) data taken at grid reference 296090,221728 Craig Cefn Gleisiad SAC reporting period 2018-2020 and [Accuweather](#)

Phosphorus & Nitrogen

Sub domain	Levels of freshwater nutrients against JNCC derived targets
The most up to date data available	67% of the water bodies assessed within the Wye SAC catchment and 88% of the water bodies assessed within the Usk SAC Catchment fail for phosphorus concentrations against JNCC derived targets. Nitrogen levels yet to be reported.
Why are we monitoring this sector?	The inorganic elements Nitrogen and Phosphorus are essential to all life on earth. As a key natural resource they form an essential building block of all life cycles, including our own. Drive for cheap food production and a growing population means that the natural nitrogen and phosphorus cycle have been critically distorted leading to the over nutrification of our soils and waters with consequential ecosystem collapse. The sources which lead to excess Phosphorus and Nitrogen are multiple and complex. The use of the resource is also highly extractive, and carbon intensive. At present we monitor levels of phosphate within freshwater riverine Special Areas of Conservation to allow us to understand the extent to which we are managing Phosphorus inputs. In time we hope to expand this area to look at Nitrogen levels in freshwater as well as nutrient levels within soils (see also soil quality below).
What we will report and when	There are a number of sources of data non of which is collated by the organisation. Core sources of data are derived by NRW's compliance reporting against JNCC targets, and SAGIS modelling undertaken by DCWW. We will report on any updates in the annual report which follows – using differences to report on trend. The NPA and WUF are working together to monitor interventions on the afon crai – we will report on this data annually to demonstrate the impact of localised interventions. We will also where verified, report annually on data being collected via citizen science projects with a focus on the river Usk (Upper/middle/lower_
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	Success would be the reduction in phosphate levels entering our waterways. With the aim of all riverine SACs meeting JNCC targets for nitrogen and phosphate
Boundary level	100% of waterbodies within riverine SACs catchments falling within the NPA meeting JNCC targets for nitrogen and phosphorus
Related Mission Area(s)	Climate Water Nature People Place
Related objectives	Sequestration Adaptation Resilient catchments Ecosystem management Quality of life
Related outcomes	Habitat restoration Land use change Sustainable farming Nature restoration Resilient Infrastructure Nutrient levels Water flow Restored ecosystems Ecosystems services supported Ecosystems Rehabilitated Future Food Resilient Places

Data Source

[Compliance Assessment of Welsh river SACs Against Phosphorus Targets NRW 2021](#)

[Update to phosphorus targets for water bodies in Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\) rivers in Wales NRW 2022](#)

[Updating the SAGIS River Usk Model 2023 \(DCWW\)](#)

[Updating the SAGIS Upper Wye Model 2023 \(DCWW\)](#)

Invasive Non Native Species

Principal domain	Instances of Invasive Non Natives recorded within the National Park
The most up to date data available	There have been 59 INNS recorded within the boundaries of the Brecon Beacons National Park. As of February 2020 there are 4300 invasive species records held by the Local Records Centre (BIS) for the Park area.
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Invasive Non-Native Species can be really damaging to our native wildlife and habitats. By monitoring their instances we can understand the level of threat to our native wildlife and habitats
What we will report and when	There are two principle sources of data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The data we hold as an organisation - The data held by the Powys Biodiversity Information Service. Our data records instances within the boundaries of the National Park, areas where intervention has been implemented, and the success of those interventions. BIS hold records for all of the Park area based on the reporting of instances. In many instances there will be cross-over in our data, however we will consult both sources of data in our annual reporting, and provide an understanding of the extent of the problem throughout the park.
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	Due to the nature of the problem, we would want to see a reduction in the instances of INNS across the Park.
Boundary level	No instances of INNS reported for the National Park.
Related Mission Area(s)	Nature Water
Related objectives	Species conservation Ecosystem management Resilient catchments
Related outcomes	Threats are reduced Ecosystems rehabilitated Restored ecosystems

Data Source

[State of the Park Report \(BBNPA 2020\) Indicator 12](#)

Biodiversity Loss

Principal domain	Levels of indicator species	
The most up-to-date data available	Farmland birds	30% decline in farmland birds from 1994 to 2018
	Bats	Park level data to be determined
	Invertebrates	Park level data to be determined
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Certain groups such as birds, bats and invertebrates provide a powerful indicator of overall health of species populations. We have in the past focused on farmland birds as powerful indicators of environmental health. Many birds sit at or near the top of terrestrial and marine food chains and understanding the drivers and impacts on their populations gives us an insight into the status of other wildlife. Bats are a similarly good proxy for environmental health, their use of environments differs from that of birds so provides a more nuanced picture.	
What we will report and when	We will update this schedule to identify indicators and data for bats/invertebrates by 2025. Reporting frequency to be determined in relation to the data being used and frequency of updates. We will seek to update the assessment with the BTO in 2026/7 to inform the update to State of the Park Report	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	The Plan seeks to reverse the decline of biodiversity and increase both the numbers and extent of key 'flagship' species. Bats, invertebrates and farmland birds fall within this category. For that reason for birds would hope to see a reversal of the decline discovered through the last assessment, and ideally an increase in farmland bird numbers.	
Boundary level	Return to 1970 levels for farmland birds.	
Related Mission Area(s)	Nature	
Related objectives	Species Conservation	
Related outcomes	Threats are reduced. Numbers have increased. Range has increased	

Data Source

[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 Brd Survey, 1994 to 2018](#) (Barnes and Noble 2020)

[State of the Park Report: Biodiversity Indicators](#) (BBNPA 2020)

Supplementary domain	Condition of major habitat types.	
The most up-to-date data available	Woodland / treescapes	To be determined
	Heathland/Upland acid grasslands	To be determined
	Lowlands dry acid grasslands	To be determined
	Neutral grassland	To be determined
	Calcareous grassland	To be determined
	Improved grassland	To be determined
	Marshy grassland /Rhos pasture	To be determined
	Peatlands	In accordance with Peatlands Restoration Strategy and National Peatlands Action Programme
	Rivers and Wetlands	To be determined
	Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Within the Park of the 197 SSSI features, 163 are biological features. In 2017 54% were in favourable condition, 34% unfavourable condition and 12% unknown. There was a slight deterioration of the % of features in favourable condition since between 2014 and 2017 (State of the Park Report 2020)
Protected Sites – Special Areas of Conservation	56% of SAC features within the Park are in unfavourable condition (State of the Park Report 2020)	
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Habitats provide the building blocks to well-functioning, resilient ecosystems. Habitat loss and habitat degradation are fundamental causes of biodiversity loss at a global scale. The State of Nature Report for Wales identifies the widespread loss and degradation of habitats across Wales since the 1970s leading to widespread species loss. Although we don't have systematic data to corroborate this trend in the Park, we have no reason to believe that the picture is any different here. Although some data exists in relation to the condition of protected sites, we have not systematically monitored the state of key habitats across the Park. We recognise that this lack creates a significant gap in our understanding of the ecological condition and resilience of the Park and during this plan period we are aiming to rectify this gap in our knowledge with a planned series of 'vital signs' assessments for the key habitat types identified above.	
What we will report and when	The <i>Vital Signs</i> project looking at a light touch monitoring project of habitat condition across the Park is in development. We hope to be able to report on its findings in 2025, with annual updates each year following. By 2025 we will have commenced identifying areas to develop as Resilient Ecological Networks. Also, we will understand the National Park's role in safeguarding RENs and identifying and monitoring Nature Recovery Exemplar Areas, as well as the ecological condition of landscape character types (LCTs). By 2025, therefore, we aim to be able to record the Park's contribution to the resilience of ecosystems in accordance with its ecological Diversity, Extend, Condition, Connectivity and Adaptiveness (DECCA).	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	The Nature mission seeks to restore the condition and extent of degraded habitat with the aim of improving the resilience of the Park's ecosystems. At time of writing our baseline understanding is missing, however as data emerges and trends become	

Biodiversity Loss (cont.)

	apparent we would hope to see a year on year improvement of the extent and condition of key habitats across the park.
Boundary level	All habitats in good condition and ecosystem resilience is assured
Related Mission Area(s)	Nature
Related objectives	Habitat Recovery Ecosystem Management
Related outcomes	Decline halted. Sites of Special Scientific Interest conserved Degraded Habitat restored Nature has returned Resilience is enhanced Ecosystem Services supported Ecosystems rehabilitated.

Data sources

[Biodiversity indicators – State of the Park Report](#) (BBNPA 2020)

Land Conversion

Principal domain	Area of park by principal land use		
The most up to date data available	Areas classed as urban	5% of Park is classified as urban	
	Areas of conifer plantation	15% of Park is classified as woodland or conifer plantation.	
	Area of broadleaf woodland		
	Area of coed cae	No data	
	Area of enclosed grassland	Improved, semi-improved, unimproved	Alternative lay
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p>Globally, land use has been identified by the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) as one of the key drivers of the Nature emergency (SoNaRR 2020) (IPBES 2019). To ensure that we are acting to sustainably manage natural resources, it is essential that we understand pressures on land use, how that manifest, and to ensure that through the management of the park we are acting to promote ecological resilience rather than deplete it.</p> <p>At present we have significant gaps in our understanding what the jigsaw of sustainable land use looks like. Previous iterations of the Management Plan have attempted to do this, but without an understanding of how such a target fits with the provision of ecosystem services, particularly cultural ecosystem services in relation to landscape character.</p>		
What we will report and when	We will report on the areas of the park by key land use types as set out above. We will report on this annually, but data collected by others may not report on an annual basis.		
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<p>Work is ongoing with Reading University to marry data relating to landscape quality with proposals for LULUCF sequestration and other key data sources such as LANDMAP.</p> <p>Once that work reports we will have a better understanding of the picture that needs to emerge if we are to be using land in accordance with the sustainable management of natural resources.</p>		
Boundary level	A boundary level for this sector is yet to be determined.		
Related Mission Area(s)	Climate Nature People Place		
Related objectives	Decarbonisation Sequestration Adaptation Habitat Recovery Ecosystem management Quality of life Collaborating in Place		
Related outcomes	Sustainable Land Use Land Use Change Sustainable Farming		

<p>Nature Restoration Decline halted Degraded habitat restored Resilience is enhanced Ecosystem Services Supported Ecosystems Rehabilitated. Future food Future skills and jobs Resilient places Nature connected places</p>

Data sources

[Evidence and Research – Land Conversion](#) (BBNPA 2021)

LANDMAP – Visual and Sensory layer

[A Greenhouse gas emissions assessment and target scenario for the Brecon Beacons National Park](#) (Small World Consultancy 2022)

Soil Quality

Principal domain	Levels of soil organic matter	
The most up to date data available	Woodland	To be determined
	Heathland/Upland acid grasslands	To be determined
	Lowlands dry acid grasslands	To be determined
	Neutral grassland	To be determined
	Calcareous grassland	To be determined
	Improved grassland	To be determined
	Marshy grassland /Rhos pasture	To be determined
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p>Quality soils are essential for healthy ecosystems and food production. SoNaRR 2020 sets out that <i>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.</i></p> <p>In monitoring soil quality we have chosen to focus on soil organic matter (SOM) as a good indicator of overall soil health. Losses of SOM is associated with a loss of soil quality and function and reduced resistance and resilience to poor soil management. (SoNaRR2020 Taylor and Van-Velzen). Soil sampling will capture other parameters e.g., C, N, pH, hydrology, microfauna / flora and e-DNA, which will elucidate the Park’s biogeography.</p>	
What we will report and when	<p>The <i>Vital Signs</i> project looking at a light touch monitoring project of habitat condition across the Park is in development, this will include a programme of soil organic matter testing by major habitat types. Other soil parameters require prior discussion with soil scientists.</p> <p>By 2025 we will have commenced identifying areas to develop as Resilient Ecological Networks.</p> <p>Also, we will understand the National Park’s role in safeguarding RENs and identifying and monitoring Nature Recovery Exemplar Areas, as well as the ecological condition of landscape character types (LCTs). By 2025, therefore, we aim to be able to record the Park’s contribution to the resilience of ecosystems in accordance with its ecological Diversity, Extend, Condition, Connectivity and Adaptiveness (DECCA).</p>	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<p>We do not have detailed data for this sector at time of writing. ADAS data for all of Wales looked at the probability of soil degradation for land use types and soil quality. The probability was low in all land use types found in the Park with the exception of improved grassland, where here the probability was moderate (or high in relation to peaty soils) SoNaRR2020 Taylor and Van-Velzen). This suggests the probability of degraded soils present within the Park. As we implement the management plan, we hope to see an improvement across the Park with soil quality returning to good or excellent by 2050.</p>	
Boundary level	Healthy soils across all key habitat types	
Related Mission Area(s)	Climate Nature	
Related objectives	Decarbonisation Sequestration Adaptation Habitat Recovery Ecosystem Management	

Related outcomes	Sustainable Land Use Habitat restoration Land Use Change Sustainable Farming Nature restoration Degraded Habitat Restored Resilience is enhanced Ecosystem services supported Ecosystems rehabilitated
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Data Sources The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020) [Assessment of the achievement of sustainable management of natural resources: Land use and soils](#) NRW 2020

Water Quality

Principal domain	Overall water body status Water Framework Directive	
2018 Data	Usk Reservoir	Good
	Cray Reservoir	Moderate
	Talybont Reservoir	Moderate
	Usk - conf Afon Hydfer to conf Afon Senni	Good
	Usk - conf Afon Senni to conf Afon Crawnnon	Good
	Usk - cond Afon Crawnnon to conf Gavenny R	Moderate
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Water is an essential component of all ecosystems. Monitoring the quality and quantity of water within the wider environment allows us to understand the extent to which we are protecting this essential resource. Polluted water risks harm to the integrity and functioning of aquatic ecosystems, including potential impact on human health	
What we will report and when	<p>The Water Framework Directive (WFD) establishes a framework for the protection, improvement and sustainable use of surface water bodies (rivers, streams, brooks, lake, estuaries, canals and coastal waters) and groundwater bodies. Its purpose is to prevent deterioration and improve the status of aquatic ecosystems, promote sustainable water use, reduce pollution of groundwater and contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts.</p> <p>NRW is the competent authority for implementing the Directive and they are the body which reports on compliance.</p> <p>We will report on the overall status of all water bodies within the National Park for which we have data.</p> <p>We will report on this as and when new data is released by NRW.</p>	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	Our Water mission seeks to achieve clean, safe resilient, plentiful water resources and environments by 2030.	
Boundary level	Within the National Park all waterbodies will meet their objectives as set out in the River Basin Management Plan	
Related Mission Area(s)	Water	
Related objectives	Resilient Catchments High Quality Water Environments	
Related outcomes	Nutrient levels Water flow Restored ecosystems. Water quality Bathing waters Love your rivers	

Monitoring Framework

Part 2.

Monitoring our Social Foundation – Considering the socio economic state of the National Park in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals.

This section seeks to consider how you monitor the quality of life of the people who live and work within Bannau Brycheiniog.

Part one considers the sustainable management of natural resources with Bannau Brycheiniog.

Part three considers how the park fulfils its second purpose to provide opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the National Park, without impacting our communities quality of life, or degrade our Natural Resources.

Monitoring and reporting the five missions, - Doughnut indicators

The five missions adopted in *Y Bannau: The Future* are chosen because they are biggest shifts needed to achieve a sustainable future for the National Park.

It is therefore important to measure and report on progress towards achieving the missions, and on wider indicators of National Park sustainability - the extent to which ecological ceiling (Planetary Boundaries) and the social foundation (Sustainable Development Goals) are being breached.

A series of indicators have been selected as the best metrics for understanding and tracking change in the National Park in relation to the Doughnut Economics:

- Ecological ceiling (Planetary Boundaries)
- Social foundation (Sustainable Development Goals), and
- The 'safe and just space' in the middle of the ring which reflects ecological and human wellbeing in the unique context of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

The indicators have been chosen because they represent the best direct metric or proxy, and because it is envisaged that data will be available to track change over a long timescale.

Indicators were identified through detailed workshop sessions with expert contributions from Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority officers and the National Park's Stakeholder Reference Panel.

Timescales

Several different timescales are important in considering the sustainable future of the National Park.

Ongoing: Updates on Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority website and other platforms, and that of partners, sharing information about actions and outcomes, celebrating successes, and highlighting opportunities and challenges.

1 year: Annual Doughnut Economics assessment 'health check' of the National Park, and annual assessment of progress in achieving the missions.

4 years: State of the Park Report 2027 The State of the Park report is an important synthesis of all the data being gathered in relation to the doughnut. It is an important moment to reflect on the key issues facing the Park in order to inform the review of *Y Bannau*.

5 years: The duration of *Y Bannau: The Future* management plan. Used to focus near-term action towards achieving the missions.

2030 and 2035: The timescales to achieve the nature and water missions and the climate mission respectively.

25 years: The medium-term vision for the National Park.

50 years: Long-term change horizon. Used to track long-term sustainability as indicated by Doughnut Economics metrics.

Social Foundation				
Domain	Sub domain	Indicator	Current situation	Scale of shift needed to be within boundary
Education	Adults	Working age adults lacking any formal qualifications	An estimated 5.4% of working age adults within the NP are lacking formal qualifications	
	Schools	Attainment of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM)	5.2% of pupils eligible for free school meals achieved 5 A/A* grade GCSE (or equivalent) compared with 22% of students who do not qualify for free school meals	
Energy		Fuel poverty (10% or more of income required to be spent on energy)	17% of rural households are in fuel poverty. BBNPA figures are unknown, but considered above this average	
Food		Food poverty	Estimated food bank usage 4.9% of BBNPA population	
Gender	Equality of Pay	Gender pay gap	The estimated gender pay gap within the BBNPA is 12%	
Health		Four or more healthy behaviours per week adopted by children in low family affluence.	At a Wales level only 6% of children in lower affluence families exhibit 4 or more healthy behaviours	
Housing	Affordability	Working-age adults spending more than a third of income on housing costs	Within the Brecon Beacons the mortgage ratio is 1:9 meaning a worker earning average wages for the Brecon area would need a mortgage eight times their annual income to secure a mortgage for the average priced home.	
	Homelessness	Households threatened with homelessness	An estimated rate 37.3 per 10,000 households are homeless housed in temporary accommodation across the National Park	
Income	Poverty	Households in relative poverty	24% of BBNPA residents live within areas which are classed at least 50% most deprived for income deprivation.	
	Unemployment	Economically active people lacking quality employment	Across Wales 35.5% of people lack quality employment. Median gross weekly earnings within the	

			Park are 20% below GB levels																
Safety	Safety from harm	Levels of relative deprivation for Community of Safety	24% of BBNPA residents live within areas which are classed at least 50% most deprived for community safety measures.																
	Safety from immediate impacts of Climate Change	Risk of Flood	At present the community of Crickhowell is identified as being highly vulnerable from the risk of flood (approx. 6% of the population of the Park) In 100 years time that risk extends to Brecon, accounting for more like 30% of the population of the Park																
Language		Knowledge of the Welsh Language	Approximately 80% of the population of the Park (and immediate surrounding communities) have no Welsh language skills																
Political Voice		Individual perception on ability to influence decisions that affect their lives.	Within the BBNPA an estimated 74% of residents do not believe that they have any influence over decisions that affect their lives.																
Networks	Access to services	Levels of deprivation for access to services domain – Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation	81% of areas within the Park have been assessed to be amongst the 50% most deprived for access to services and facilities. With over a third falling within the 10% most deprived for services and facilities in Wales.																
	Social networks	Loneliness	An estimated 10% of adults over 16 resident within the park regularly feel lonely																
Transport		Availability of public transport to meet day to day needs	Research undertaken by BBNPA finds that bus connections between principle settlements and major urban conurbation provides on average a two hourly service. Limited options for commuting to and from the Park.																
Water poverty		10% or more of income required to be spent on Water Bills.	Experimental data developed within the National Park, suggests that Water Poverty is high. Our confidence level in this finding however is low, and more work will be needed to be done to 'ground truth' our assumptions.																

Education

Sub Domain	Working age adults lacking any formal qualifications	
The most up to date data available	Powys	5.6 % of all working age adults
	Carms	7.8% of all working age adults
	Mons	3% of all working age adults
	Wales	8.1% of all working age adults
	Estimate BBNPA	5.4% of all working age adults (average weighted by population density) ¹
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Access to good quality education that serves individual needs is a mark of a society which values each individual for their future contribution, and future wellbeing. Whereas it is acknowledged that education per se is of value to individuals, and that the recognition of formal qualification may not be indicative of the educational experience, or benefit this has brought to society. The measure provides a good proxy of the way our education system is serving its users.	
What we will report on annually	<i>StatsWales</i> publish data by unitary authority area on an annual basis. We will report on the data for the three Principal county areas of the National Park. Powys Carms Mons, as well as benchmarking that against a Welsh national average. Work will progress to disaggregate to the data to National Park boundary throughout the monitoring period.	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	Despite figures for our constituent local authorities being below Welsh average, there is still room for improvement. A socially equitable National Park would be one where all working age adults receive recognition for their abilities and time within meaningful education	
Boundary level	Less than 1% of working adults lacking any formal qualifications.	
Related Mission Area(s)	People	
Related objectives	Quality of life	
Related outcomes	Future food Future skills and jobs Future lives Future economy	

Data Source: Stats Wales

[Highest qualification level of working age adults by region and local authority](#) (2021)

Sub Domain	Attainment of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM)	
The most up to date data available	Mid and south West Wales	5.2% of pupils eligible for free school meals achieved 5 A/A* grade GCSE (or equivalent) compared with 22% of students who do not qualify for free school meals.
	Wales	5 of pupils eligible for free school meals achieved 5 A/A* grade GCSE (or equivalent) compared with 21% of students who do not qualify for free school meals.
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Analysis of data by the Office of National Statistics found that 'educational attainment was the most important predictor identified of the likelihood that someone will be in poverty or several material deprivation in adulthood. Their analysis found that people with low personal education levels were nearly five times more likely to be poor in adulthood than those with high personal education levels, after accounting for other factors. (Oxfam, 2020). We are monitoring the ability of pupils eligible for free school meals at key stage 4 (GCSE level) to achieve the highest level GCSE results as a measure of educational attainment.	
What we will report on annually	We will report on the percentage difference between those achieving A grade GCSEs who are eligible for free school meals and those who aren't. We will update our findings to show trends as new statistical releases are provided. We will report by Economic Action Plan area for Mid and SWW as this provides data for the park in regional context. We will benchmark against the Welsh National Average.	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	To move this domain closer to the boundary of the social foundation, we would want to see the percentage gap of attainment closing significantly, to the extent that there was no difference in attainment levels between those eligible for FSM and those not.	
Boundary level	No attainment gap correlating to FSM eligibility.	
Related Mission Area(s)	People	
Related objectives	Quality of life	
Related outcomes	Future food Future skills and jobs Future lives Future economy	

Data Source: Stats Wales

[Key Stage 4 Interim Measures by FSM](#) (2018/19)

¹ High levels of uncertainty in relation to this figure, indicative only



Energy

Sub Domain	Fuel poverty (10% or more of income required to be spent on energy)	
The most up to date data available	Rural Wales	17% of rural households are in fuel poverty
	Wales	12% of all Welsh households are in fuel poverty.
	Estimate BBNPA	Unknown
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p>Access to affordable energy to heat, light and cook is recognised as an essential component of wellbeing.</p> <p>Research conducted within the National Park has identified infrastructure constraints as compounding issues fuel poverty, many of our residents utilise oil or LPG for heating both of which are on average more expensive, or require higher one off payments which can be beyond the means of household incomes.</p>	
What we will report on annually	We will work with Stats Wales to disaggregate data to National Park boundary. Until such a time as this information is available, we will continue to report on the rural/urban breakdown	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<p>By 2048 we hope to see the eradication of fuel poverty from within the National Park.</p> <p>In the short term a reduction in the percentage gap between urban and rural findings would also indicate significant progress towards the just and safe space.</p>	
Boundary level	No residents in fuel poverty within the National Park	
Related Mission Area(s)	Climate People Place	
Related objectives	Quality of life Decarbonisation Collaborating in Place	
Related outcomes	Resilient places Innovative places Healthy places Future heat and power Sustainable energy Prosperous places	

Data Source: Stats Wales

[Highest qualification level of working age adults by region and local authority](#)

(2021)

Food

Sub Domain	Food poverty	
The most up to date data available	Powys	Total number of parcels distributed as % of population 2020-21 = 5.1% (rated 9 th highest)
	Mons	Total number of parcels distributed as % of population 2020-21 = 4.22% (rated 14 th highest)
	Carms	Total number of parcels distributed as % of population 2020-21 = 4.77% (rated 11 th highest)
	BBNPA Estimate	Total number of parcels distributed as % of population 2020-21 = 4.9% (average weighted by population density) ²
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p>Access to affordable food is a basic need and therefore any individual unable to meet this basic need would be below the social foundation.</p> <p>Prior to the Covid pandemic, there was a general picture of year on year increased demand for food bank services, suggesting an increasing challenge around food affordability</p> <p>During the covid Pandemic, the NP was provided with local data from the service meeting the needs of a significant proportion of the National Park. In March 2020 the number of vouchers processed rose by 103%. Meaning that the food by weight distributed rose by over 400%.</p> <p>Pandemic factors obviously influenced this steep rise. Wales Audit data shows that there has been a decrease from the height of the pandemic, however food bank useage has not returned to pre-pandemic levels.</p>	
What we will report on annually	We will continue to report on the number of parcels distributed as % of population within our three main constituent LAs. We will also continue to work with Brecon food bank to receive more detailed local information.	
Boundary level	No resident in food poverty within the National Park.	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<p>Any society where there is fair and equitable distribution of resources should not need to rely on foodbanks to meet the needs of its residents.</p> <p>A journey towards the just and safe space would see the use and need of food banks reducing year on year. Boundary levels would be drawn at 0 parcels distributed.</p>	
Related Mission Area(s)	People Climate	
Related objectives	Quality of Life Sequestration	
Related outcomes	Future food Future economy Sustainable Farming Prosperous places	

Data Source: Audit Wales

[Trussel Trust Total Number of Parcels Distributed as % of Population 2020-21](#)

Gender

Sub Domain	Gender Pay Gap – Equality of Pay	
The most up to date data available	Powys	15.4%
	Monmouthshire	7.1%
	Carmarthenshire	1.3%
	Wales	11.6%
	BBNPA	12.3% (average weighted by population density) ³
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Difference in pay attributed to men and women tells a story of unequal distribution of resources within society. Although active discrimination on gender basis has been unlawful since the 1970s, true equality of outcome for women is yet to be found. This domain allows us to think about how the society of the National Park functions and the extent to which women are afforded the same opportunities as men.	
What we will report on annually	We will report on the gender pay gap within our Principal areas of population. We will focus primarily on Powys as 70% of our residents live within this county, it also has the highest gender pay gap and is significantly above Welsh national average. We will report on our own Gender Pay Gap as an organisation, and seek to identify key employers within the area who would be willing to contribute to more localised data.	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	In the short term, a lowering of the GP gap within Powys to at least Welsh National Averages. In the long term eradication of the Gender Pay Gap in totality.	
Boundary level	No gender pay gap.	
Related Mission Area(s)	People	
Related objectives	Quality of life	
Related outcomes	Future skills and jobs Equity, diversity and inclusion	

Data Source: Chwarae Teg

[Gender Pay Gap 2020](#)

Health

Principal Domain	Four or more healthy behaviours per week adopted by children in low family affluence	
The most up to date data available	Lower affluence	6% of children exhibit four or more healthy behaviours
	Middle affluence	7% of children exhibit four or more healthy behaviours
	High affluence	11% of children exhibit four or more healthy behaviours
	total	9% of children exhibit four or more healthy behaviours
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p><i>Y Bannau: The Future</i> identifies the need to shift from preventative health care measures, to curative lifestyle changes.</p> <p>This measure seeks to understand the extent to which this shift is occurring, especially within the most disadvantaged within society. The measure focuses on children, as behaviour patterns adopted during childhood are more likely to be maintained into adulthood and passed on to future generations.</p> <p>This is one of the national indicators for the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and looks at the percentage of children who exhibit healthy lifestyle behaviours (not smoking, eating fruit daily or vegetables daily, never or rarely drink, physically active for an hour everyday).</p>	
What we will report on annually	The next update of this data is unknown – we will aim to update this measure as part of the next SOPR for the Park. In the interim we will look to work with Stats Wales to gather bespoke data for the Park boundary	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	We would want to see the percentage of children exhibiting four or more healthy lifestyle behaviours to increase dramatically from current levels, to around 80-90% with no differentiation on the basis of family affluence.	
Boundary level	All children in the National Park adopt four or more healthy behaviours.	
Related Mission Area(s)	People Place Climate	
Related objectives	Quality of Life Collaborating in place Decarbonisation	
Related outcomes	Future food Future skills and jobs Future economy Future transport Future lives Future connections Healthy places Well planned places Sustainable transport Sustainable food and drink	

Data Source: Stats Wales

[Number of healthy lifestyle behaviours – Health and well-being measures for children](#)

(2019-20)



³ High levels of uncertainty in relation to this figure, indicative only

Housing

Principal Domain	Working-age adults spending more than a third of income on housing costs	
The most up to date data available	Average House Prices	£245,034
	Average Salary	£28,121
	Salary to house price ratio	1:8.7
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p>The ability to adequately house yourself in a manner that doesn't put extreme pressure on other lifestyle factors should be a fundamental right of a society with wellbeing at its heart.</p> <p>In <i>Y Bannau: The Future</i> the need to transform housing provision is recognised as one of the many big shifts we need to make as a society.</p> <p>At present house prices within the National Park vastly outstrip average wages significantly. This imbalance has wider implications for our socio-economic duty, including how we provide housing, jobs and tourism accommodation.</p>	
What we will report on annually	<p>We will report on the average house price within the Brecon Beacons We will report on the average salary in Brecon (as our Principal Town) We will report on the salary to house price ratio.</p> <p>We will work to expand this data to take in other areas of the Park</p>	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<i>Y Bannau: The Future</i> includes outcome statements seeking to ensure that all our community are able to have access to good quality homes which are within their means.	
Boundary level	Income to mortgage ratio at an affordable rate widely recognised as 1:3	
Related Mission Area(s)	People Place	
Related objectives	Quality of life Collaborating in place	
Related outcomes	Future homes Prosperous places Well planned places	

Data Source

Right Move <https://www.rightmove.co.uk/house-prices/brecon-beacons.html> (Feb

2023) Adzuna <https://www.adzuna.co.uk/jobs/salaries/brecon> (March 2023)

Secondary Domain	Homeless households in temporary accommodation	
The most up to date data available	Powys	39.2 (rate per 10,000 households)
	Monmouthshire	41.3 (rate per 10,000 households)
	Carmarthenshire	15.6 (rate per 10,000 households)
	BBNPA	37.3 (estimated rate per 10,000 based on average weighted for population density) ⁴
Why are we monitoring this sector?	This provides further information to support the Principal domain. In a society with wellbeing at its heart nobody should be homeless. Homelessness is a clear indicator of a society where many fall below the social foundation.	
What we will report on annually	We will report on the homeless rates as percentage of population for the Principal Local Authority areas of Powys, Carmarthenshire and Monmouthshire. We will work with their housing authorities to determine if a BBNPA specific figure can be calculated.	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<i>Y Bannau: The Future</i> includes outcome statements seeking to ensure that all our community are able to have access to good quality homes which are within their means.	
Boundary level	Zero or near to zero instances of homeless households in temporary accommodation.	
Related Mission Area(s)	People Place	
Related objectives	Quality of life Collaborating in place	
Related outcomes	Future homes Prosperous places Well planned places Future economy	

Data Source

[Homelessness in Wales \(2021-22\) Stats Wales](#)

⁴ High levels of uncertainty in relation to this figure – an estimate based on averaging figures in accordance with population distribution

Income

Principal Domain	Poverty	
The most up to date data available	Wales	20% of households in Wales are living in relative income poverty (19/20)
	BBNPA	For the income domain Of the 38 LSOA areas within the NPA boundary 1 LSOA lies within the 10-20% most deprived category 2 LSOAs lie within the 20-30% most deprived category 6 LSOAs lie within the 30-50% most deprived category 29 LSOAs lie within the 50% least deprived category
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Y Bannau: The Future includes outcomes relating to the creation of prosperous places. Although monetary income in one factor of prosperity it is a critical one. Therefore residents ability to meet basic needs within available means is a key factor of our social foundation.	
What we will report on annually	<p>We will utilise WIMD data as this can be easily disaggregated to the Park boundary, although this is a relative measure and infrequently updated.</p> <p>We will also report on levels of poverty across Wales to provide a context, and also to demonstrate the extent to which the National Park can serve as a resource for those with limited means.</p> <p>We will use both the WIMD Income domain. And the standard UK Government measure looking at those households whose income before housing costs is 60 percent below the median household income.</p> <p>Again work will progress with Stats Wales to determine whether relative household poverty data can be collected at Park Boundary level.</p>	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<p>A prosperous Park is one which is least deprived in terms of relative poverty, therefore we would anticipate seeing improvements in WIMD data to ensure that relative deprivation for income is improved across all areas.</p> <p>In terms of relative poverty, a general reduction in the Welsh level would be anticipated, with levels in the Park keeping pace with Welsh National averages if not better.</p>	
Boundary level	The National Park registers as most deprived against WMID indicators	
Related Mission Area(s)	People Place	
Related objectives	Quality of life Collaborating in place	
Related outcomes	Future homes Prosperous places Future skills and jobs Future food Future heat and power Future transport Future lives Future economy Future connections Well planned places	

Data Source [Relative income poverty – Stats Wales \(2019/20\) /Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation Stats Wales \(2019\)](#)

Secondary Domain	Economically active people lacking quality employment		
The most up to date data available	Wales	35.5 percent of people lack quality employment	
	BBNPA	Median Gross Weekly Earnings for full time workers by LA area (2016)	
		Powys	£460.20 (85% of GB median)
		Monmouthshire	£487.70 (90% of GB median)
		Carmarthenshire	£459.50 (85% of GG Median)
GB median gross weekly earnings	£540.20		
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p>This indicator was identified as part of Oxfam Cymru’s work on the Welsh Doughnut. It looks at data relating to those in employment, but not earning two thirds above median wage and combines with unemployment amongst those actively looking for work. This captures both the availability of work and its quality. Both factors related to prosperity and critical component of a social foundation.</p> <p>Research undertaken for our Employment Land Review (2018) determined that the perception of the quality of employment within the Park is pretty poor. With the perception that mostly jobs located in the Park are seasonal, poorly paid. Data provided on a local authority basis, suggests that income falls below GB median by around 10-15% but is only slightly behind Welsh average. This suggests that perception of employment opportunities may not be matched to reality, but more shaped by the relative cost of living within the Park, notably in relation to housing costs.</p>		
What we will report on annually	<p>We will report on unemployment rates within the National Park and median wages within the Park.</p> <p>We will undertake further research to identify the quality of employment within the Park working through our research partnership.</p>		
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	In keeping with objectives relating to a prosperous Park we would hope to see the gap between GB median wage and wages in the Park close significantly to a negligible level.		
Boundary level	Negligible difference between GB median wage and wages within the National Park		
Related Mission Area(s)	People Place		
Related objectives	Quality of life Collaborating in place		
Related outcomes	Future homes Prosperous places Future skills and jobs Future food Future heat and power Future transport Future lives Future economy Future connections Well planned places		

Data Source [The Welsh Doughnut 2020 \(Oxfam Cymru\)](#)

[Brecon Beacons National Park Employment Land Review \(Litchfields 2018\)](#)



Safety

Principal Domain	Levels of relative deprivation for Community of Safety		
The most up to date and relevant data held	BBNPA	Of the 38 LSOAs within the NP boundary the following rankings for the Community safety Domain were identified	
		10% most deprived	1
		10-20% most deprived	1
		20-30% most deprived	2
		30-50% most deprived	5
		50% least deprived	29
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p>Feeling of safety is a basic need. Residents who feel unsafe or live in areas where there is a general backdrop of fear are likely to be experiencing more stress than those for whom community safety is a given.</p> <p>A key component of the social wellbeing of a community is the sense of safety, it therefore forms a key sector of our social foundation.</p>		
What we will report on annually	<p>Crime rates within the areas of the Brecon Beacons National Park against national averages.</p> <p>Community perceptions of safety surveys (through place planning programme)</p> <p>WIMD data for the Community Safety Domain as and when updated.</p>		
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<p>Levels of community safety across the Park are relatively less deprived than in other areas of Wales. However some areas experience significant deprivation in this area. We would want to see a general trend towards 50% least deprived across the Park area. With supporting qualitative data from individual communities demonstrating high levels of perceived and actual community safety.</p>		
Boundary level	50% least deprived across the Park area.		
Related Mission Area(s)	People Place		
Related objectives	Quality of life Collaborating place		
Related outcomes	Well-planned places Innovative places Future lives		

Data Source

[Brecon Beacons State of the Park Report](#)

[Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivations](#)

Sub domain	Communities at risk of flooding		
The most up to date and relevant data held	BBNPA	Communities at risk of flooding	
		Flooding vulnerability Current	Crickhowell Hirwaun (gateway) Abergavenny (gateway) Glynneath (gateway)
		Flooding vulnerability Future	Brecon
			Ystradgynlais (gateway)
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p>Flood risk is one of the most serious threats we have to the places of the National Park. During the storms of early 2020 Crickhowell experienced significant levels of flooding, damaging not only the physical infrastructure of the town (including structures of historic and cultural merit) but also significant impacts on social integrity – and feelings of safety.</p> <p>We are proposing to monitor this domain as a measure of the social impacts of climate change on our communities, and those gateway communities that support the wider tourism economy of the Park, and to which the Park acts as immediate recreational resources.</p> <p>We are also monitoring this sector to ensure that risks predicted to the Primary Key Settlement of Brecon from river flooding can be averted through catchment scale landscape management.</p>		
What we will report on annually	<p>We will report on instances of flood and its impact.</p> <p>We will report on any changes to the flood vulnerability rating of our settlements.</p>		
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<p>Ideally the social foundation is drawn at a level where we can be assured that there are no communities within and adjacent to the Park vulnerable to the risks of flood. Success would be decreasing measures of vulnerability for all communities within the Park; decreasing incidences of flood causing harm to individual and community wellbeing and a trend of reducing peak flows recorded at vulnerable communities (Brecon/Crickhowell).</p>		
Boundary level	No communities within and adjacent to the Park vulnerable to the risks of flood		
Related Mission Area(s)	Climate Water People Place		
Related objectives	Adaptation Resilient catchments Quality of life Collaborating in Place		
Related outcomes	Resilient infrastructure Flooding Future homes Resilient places Innovative places Well planned places		

Data Source

[Flood Map for Planning \(Data Maps Wales 2023\)](#)

[Draft Flood Risk Management Plan for Wales \(NRW 2023\)](#)

Welsh Language

Principal Domain	Knowledge of the Welsh Language		
The most up to date and relevant data held	BBNPA	Can understand spoken Welsh Only	5%
		Can read speak or write Welsh	16.5%
		No Welsh Language Skills	78.6%
Why are we monitoring this sector?	The Welsh language is a key part of our cultural heritage, and in keeping with National Park purposes, and key outcomes of <i>Y Bannau: The Future</i> knowledge of the Welsh Language is a basic foundation of social wellbeing, and as such forms a sector in the National Park specific doughnut model.		
What we will report on annually	Data above is taken from the latest census, data is very unlikely to be updated more. Some potential for research around attitudes to the Welsh language/ numbers of enrolled Welsh learners within National Park settlements/ enrolment levels within Welsh Language primary schools/streams as proportion of all children within the Park.		
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	In accordance with Y Bannau: the Future objectives for people and place, we would wish to see the reported figures for 'no knowledge of the Welsh language' reduce to below 10%		
Boundary level	Those reporting, no Welsh language skills below 10% across the NP area		
Related Mission Area(s)	People Place		
Related objectives	Welsh culture and language		
Related outcomes	Historic places		

Data Source

ONS Census Data Map <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/build/> (2021)

Political Voice

Principal Domain	Individual perception on ability to influence decisions that affect their lives.	
The most up to date data available	Powys	23% of adults over 16
	Monmouthshire	33% of adults over 16
	Carmarthenshire	32% of adults over 16
	Wales	30% of adults over 16
	BBNPA	26% of adults over 16 (estimated based on population distributions)
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p>The ability to contribute to local democracy is a critical component of a society operating within the just and safe space.</p> <p>In Wales, this forms part of the national wellbeing indicators.</p> <p>We similarly believe that perceptions about influence on decision making, speak widely about the value of citizenship within local democracy.</p> <p>This indicator looks at the a measure of perceptions of influence. In future other measures could be devised which look at actual participation in decision making.</p>	
What we will report on annually	<p>We will report on this measure for the principal local authority areas within the BBNPA. We will also seek to refine our estimates working with Stats Wales to have a more accurate picture of levels of perceived democratic influence.</p> <p>We will also report on the level of engagement in NPA decision making including level of influence.</p> <p>We will also report on voter turnout at all elections held within the region during the plan period.</p>	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	At present the majority of residents do not feel that they have ability to influence decisions that affect their lives. Linked to our outcomes around innovative places, we would like to see the reported figures increase significantly.	
Boundary level	The social boundary is drawn at 75% of residents reporting that they feel they have influence over the decisions that affect their lives.	
Related Mission Area(s)	Place	
Related objectives	Collaborating in Place	
Related outcomes	Innovative places	

Data source

[Percentage who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local authorities \(2021-22\)](#) Stats Wales

Networks

Principal Domain	Levels of deprivation for access to services domain – Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation	
The most up to date and relevant data held	10% most deprived	14 of 38 LSOAs
	10-20% most deprived	8 of 38 LSOAs
	20-30% most deprived	2 of 38 LSOAs
	30-50% most deprived	7 of 38 LSOAs
	50% least deprived	7 of 38 LSOAs
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p>Having adequate access to services and facilities is a necessity of life. Barriers to access impact on wellbeing, and leave people living below the social foundation.</p> <p>Adequate access to services and facilities also increases environmental and economic costs of rural living.</p> <p>We are monitoring this sector to identify whether measures that emerge in response to Y Bannau: The Future are able to address this significant lack our communities face.</p>	
What we will report on annually	<p>The NPA as part of LDP development assesses the provision of local services and facilities and scores settlements against a sustainability index. We will update this twice during the lifetime of this monitoring framework.</p> <p>Any update to national indicators such as WIMD will also be reported</p>	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<p>Y Bannau the Future, envisions outcomes for our communities which improve access to services and facilities. A movement towards the just and safe space therefore would be observed in an improvement in services and facilities and a movement from mostly deprived to mostly least deprived for LSOAs within the Park in terms of national ranking.</p>	
Boundary level	No area within the park ranking as most deprived for access to services and facilities.	
Related Mission Area(s)	Place People	
Related objectives	Collaborating in place Quality of life	
Related outcomes	Future connections Future lives Innovative places Resilient places Prosperous places Well-planned places	

Data Source

[BBNPA State of the Park Report 2020](#)

Secondary Domain	Percentage of people who feel lonely	
The most up to date and relevant data held	Powys	9% adults over 16
	Monmouthshire	13% adults over 16
	Carmarthenshire	15% adults over 16
	Wales	13% adults over 16
	BBNPA	Estimated 10% of adults over 16
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p>Research shows us that feelings of loneliness are linked to poorer mental and physical health and decreased life expectancy. Loneliness impacts quality of life to the extent that absence of loneliness is a key component of social wellbeing, and as such forms a key sector in the social floor.</p> <p>Y Bannau: The future includes outcome statements linked to feelings of connection and belonging to local communities, both outcomes which seek to address feeling of social isolation and loneliness.</p>	
What we will report on annually	<p>We will report on levels of loneliness within our constituent unitary authorities each year, and baseline this against the Welsh average.</p> <p>We will work with Stats Wales to attempt to disaggregate this data to the Park boundary, if this is possible we will report on this also.</p>	
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<p>By area Mons and Powys account for the majority of the National Park, and it is worth noting that both these regions report lower, or Welsh average levels of loneliness. Reducing levels of reported loneliness to 5% or less within the National Park, would be demonstrative of <i>Y Bannau: The Future</i> objectives being met.</p>	
Boundary level	Reported loneliness less than 5% across the NP area	
Related Mission Area(s)	Place People	
Related objectives	Collaborating in place Quality of life	
Related outcomes	Future connections Future lives Innovative places Resilient places Prosperous places Well-planned places	

Data Source

[Percentage of people who are lonely by age and gender](#) (Stats Wales August 2022)



Transport

Principal Domain	Ability to use public transport to meet day to day needs
The most up to date and relevant data held	Research undertaken by BBNPA finds that bus connections between principle settlements and major urban conurbation provides on average a two hourly service. Limited options for commuting to and from the Park.
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p>An affordable reliable public transport service provides an equitable form of transport to support daily lives. Having access to affordable transport improves quality of life by providing connections beyond the immediate locality. Allowing connections to increased employment opportunities, greater cultural and recreational resources as well as accessing greater retail offer, essential services such as hospitals and public offices.</p> <p>Lack of affordable transport options creates unnecessary barriers to such opportunities.</p> <p>Moreover reliance on private transport options is increasingly recognised as a driver of environmental pollution and increased Green House Gasses.</p>
What we will report on annually	<p>We will report on the provision of reliable, affordable public transport options available to residents and visitors.</p> <p>We will also report on any data we are able to source relating to uptake of active travel over other forms of transport, especially private car.</p>
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<i>Y Bannau: The Future</i> envisions a future for the Park where there is an improved public transport service available to meet resident and visitor needs. It also seeks to support modal shifts to more active forms of travel. We therefore hope to see a marked increase in provision of public transport options serving the area. We also would want to see a reduction in private car trips taken overall year on year
Boundary level	The social foundation would be drawn at least 50% of residents trips being undertaken by a mode other than the private car
Related Mission Area(s)	Climate People Place
Related objectives	Decarbonisation Adaptation Quality of life Collaborating in place
Related outcomes	Sustainable transport Resilient infrastructure Future transport Future connections Resilient Place

Data Source

BBNPA

Data Source

Inhouse research using <https://www.traveline.cymru/>

Water Poverty

Primary Domain	Percentage of people paying more than 5% of their income after housing costs on Water bills
The most up to date and relevant data held	Experimental data developed within the National Park, suggests that Water Poverty (paying more than 5% of income on Water costs) is high. Our confidence level in this finding however is low, and more work will be needed to be done to 'ground truth' our assumptions.
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Access to affordable provision of water, and waste water processing is an essential of life. Water is critical for health and hygiene. Therefore should be available to all at an affordable price, and without causing financial pressures on household budgets.
What we will report on annually	We will report on average water bills versus average wages within the Park boundary. Including number of residents as a proportion registered on the social tariff
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	In accordance with outcomes relating to our people and water missions, we would hope to see levels of water poverty reduce significantly from current levels.
Boundary level	No resident in water poverty.
Related Mission Area(s)	Water People
Related objectives	High quality water environments Quality of life
Related outcomes	Future economy Resilient places Prosperous places

Data Source

BBNPA

Monitoring Framework Part 3.

Monitoring our National Park Core – Considering the provision of Cultural Ecosystem Services within planetary and social boundaries.

This document is part three of a three part series, which in combination make up the Monitoring Framework for *Y Bannau: The Future* the Management Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (2023-2028).

This section seeks to consider how the organisation fulfils its second purpose to provide opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the National Park, without impacting our the quality of life of our communities or degrading our Natural Resources.

Part one considers the sustainable management of natural resources within Bannau Brycheiniog.

Part two considers quality of life issues for the residents of the National Park.

Monitoring and reporting the five missions, - Doughnut indicators

The five missions adopted in *Y Bannau: The Future* are chosen because they are biggest shifts needed to achieve a sustainable future for the National Park.

It is therefore important to measure and report on progress towards achieving the missions, and on wider indicators of National Park sustainability - the extent to which ecological ceiling (Planetary Boundaries) and the social foundation (Sustainable Development Goals) are being breached.

A series of indicators have been selected as the best metrics for understanding and tracking change in the National Park in relation to the Doughnut Economics:

- Ecological ceiling (Planetary Boundaries)
- Social foundation (Sustainable Development Goals), and
- The 'safe and just space' in the middle of the ring which reflects ecological and human wellbeing in the unique context of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

The indicators have been chosen because they represent the best direct metric or proxy, and because it is envisaged that data will be available to track change over a long timescale.

Indicators were identified through detailed workshop sessions with expert contributions from Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority officers and the National Park's Stakeholder Reference Panel.

Timescales

Several different timescales are important in considering the sustainable future of the National Park.

Ongoing: Updates on Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority website and other platforms, and that of partners, sharing information about actions and outcomes, celebrating successes, and highlighting opportunities and challenges.

1 year: Annual Doughnut Economics assessment 'health check' of the National Park, and annual assessment of progress in achieving the missions.

4 years: State of the Park Report 2027 The State of the Park report is an important synthesis of all the data being gathered in relation to the doughnut. It is an important moment to reflect on the key issues facing the Park in order to inform the review of *Y Bannau*.

5 years: The duration of *Y Bannau: The Future* management plan. Used to focus near-term action towards achieving the missions.

2030 and 2035: The timescales to achieve the nature and water missions and the climate mission respectively.

25 years: The medium-term vision for the National Park.

50 years: Long-term change horizon. Used to track long-term sustainability as indicated by Doughnut Economics metrics.

National Park Core

Domain	Sub domain	Indicator	Current situation																		
Visitor Knowledge	Behaviour	Incidences of reported antisocial behaviour via BBNPA report it form	From May 22 to March 23 there were 13 incidences of anti social behaviour reported to the BBNPA 23% of reports related to fly tipping 46% related to dead or injured animals 30% related to raves or illegal camping																	Environmental overshoot	
	Understanding	Reporting of access to information prior or during visit	39% of visitors do not access information during their visits to the Park.																		Social shortfall
Landscape	Condition	Landscape condition	The Reading landscape Assessment identifies 4 out of 12 landscape character types in need of restoration (25%).																		Environmental overshoot
			LANDMAP visual and sensory data identifies that 60% of the Park are is of high or outstanding landscape quality. 36% of the landscape quality of the Park is declining and 16% of the landscape area is in inappropriate management.																		
Visitor transport		Use of public transport to access the park and travel during stay.	83% of visitors surveyed used a private car or van to travel during their visit.																		Environmental overshoot

Historic Environment		Condition of all historic features whether scheduled or not.	Data gathered in 2019 demonstrates that 18% of the Park's 358 protected Scheduled Ancient Monuments were in unfavourable condition.																		Environmental overshoot
																					Social shortfall
Cultural heritage		Numbers of traditional community events.	64 cultural events held in 2019 (including Eisteddfodau and Agricultural Shows)																		Environmental overshoot
																					Social shortfall
Darkness and tranquillity	Darkness	Night Sky Quality	The BBNP is an International Dark Sky Reserve The majority of the Park registers at the lowest levels of radiance emissions, meaning that the area is one where dark skies predominate. There are however much higher levels in the areas of high population density.																		Environmental overshoot
	Tranquillity	Overall tranquillity of the National Park.	83% of the Park is classified as undisturbed.																		Social shortfall



Sub domain	Extent to which visitors access information about the National Park prior or during visit
The most up to date data available	Data gathered in 2017 found that 39% of visitors do not access information during their visits to the Park. Meaning that in 2017 1.6million visitors did not seek out information about the Park as part of their visit. 2021 data records 3.1million visits to the park of which 2.8million day visitors.
Why are we monitoring this sector?	The second purpose of the National Park is to provide opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the National Park. In response to this purpose, we put significant resource into providing a range of visitor information services, including training tourism providers in our ambassador programme. In making this information available, we are hoping to help develop a mindset of care in our visitors – care for the environment, and care for our communities. A mindset that could provide benefit beyond their visit, leading to behaviour changes which lead to a ripple effect of wider social and environmental benefit.
What we will report on annually	We will report on our visitor numbers each year, alongside data about the number of visitor interactions at our visitor centres etc Towards the end of the Plan period (2026-7) we will undertake a wider visitor survey to update this data and to provide more information about the changes implementation of the Plan has brought about. We will also report on annual uptake of our ambassador programme.
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<i>Y Bannau: The Future</i> Sustainable Tourism objective talks of visitors knowing 'our story' and that knowledge improving behaviours during their visit. Therefore we would want to see visitors wanting to, and being easily able to, access information about the park.
Boundary level	The boundary levels are drawn at 90% of visitors gain information about the National Park (its environment and communities) during their time here.
Related Mission Area(s)	People
Related objectives	Future Visitors
Related outcomes	Future lives

Data Source: [BBNPA](#)

[Visitor Survey](#)

[STEAM data](#)

Landscape

Principal domain	Landscape condition
The most up to date data available	The Reading landscape Assessment identifies 4 out of 12 landscape character types in need of restoration (25%). LANDMAP visual and sensory data identifies that - 60% of the Park area is of high or outstanding landscape quality. - 36% of the Park area is exhibiting declining landscape quality - 16% of the Park area is inappropriately managed for landscape quality attributes.
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Our landscape quality is fundamental to our designation. Landscape is formed through geological and natural processes, but how we experience that landscape, the meaning and significance we attach to it is culturally and social defined. This is why landscape sits in the National Park Core element of the doughnut, rather than as part of our ecological ceiling. Landscape is not in of itself an environmental phenomena. It is a human interpretation of the environment, and that human interpretation can shift as cultural priorities change. Managing landscape for the cultural ecosystem services it provides is a key function of the National Park, however such a frame can have negative impacts on both our social foundation and ecological ceiling. We monitor this element to ensure that the focus on landscape quality is equally beneficial to our environment and communities.
What we will report on annually	Due to the nature of landscape change data is not gathered on an annual basis We will aim to update BBNPA Landscape Character Assessment towards the end of the Plan cycle to understand how plan implementation is impacting landscape character. See also tranquillity above
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<i>Y Bannau: The Future</i> through the place mission seeks to ensure that the essential landscape character of the Park is conserved and enhanced through the sustainable management of natural resources. Success would therefore mean reassessment under the Reading method finding that there were 0 landscape areas in need of restoration.
Boundary level	0 instances of landscape being classed as being in need of restoration. 0 instances of landscape areas within the park exhibiting declining landscape quality 0 instances of landscape areas within the park being classed as being inappropriately managed
Related Mission Area(s)	Place
Related objectives	Collaborating in place
Related outcomes	Beautiful Places

Data Source:

[Reading Landscape Study](#)

[LANDMAP – visual and sensory layer](#)

[Landscape Character Assessment Brecon Beacons National Park \(2012\)](#)

Visitor Transport

(See also access to transport domain of the social foundation)

Principal domain	Use of public transport and/or LEV/Active Travel to access the park and travel during stay.
The most up-to-date data available	In 2016/17 835 of visitors surveyed stated they used a private car or van to travel during their visit. Visitor numbers during this period were over 4million, we could therefore estimate 3.2 million car journeys made. Carparking provision is significantly oversubscribed in tourist hotspots, between 60-200% over capacity.
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Transportation, by private cars with traditional combustion engines are the biggest sources of pollution within the National Park. The environmental impact of visitor transport in terms of GHG and particulate pollution is significant. Moreover with the car journeys, comes car parking. The National Park does not have the infrastructure to support this number of car journeys, or provision for this number of cars looking to park. This leads to problem parking within communities, causing significant disruption at times putting communities in danger by preventing passage of emergency vehicles etc.
What we will report on annually	The visitor survey will be re-run towards the end of the plan period. Annually we will report on any data we have in relation to visitor transport, including parking numbers and incidences of 'antisocial' parking reported to the NPA or partner organisations. We will also report on the useage of our EV charging stations to give an indication of the need for this service.
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<i>Y Bannau: The Future</i> envisions a modal shift in terms of visitor transport moving from private combustion engine to public transport, LEV and active travel modes. Therefore we would hope to see the number of visitor trips taken by private combustion engine cars reducing significantly during the lifetime of the plan.
Boundary level	We set our boundary level at less than 20% of visitor trips being taken by methods other than <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Emission Vehicles • Public Transport including park and ride • Active travel
Related Mission Area(s)	Climate Place People
Related objectives	Decarbonisation Quality of life Collaborating in Place Future Visitors
Related outcomes	Sustainable transport Future Transport Future lives

Data Source: [BBNPA](#)

[Visitor Survey](#) BBNPA

internal data

Historic Environment

Principal domain	Condition of all historic features whether scheduled or not.
The most up-to-date data available	Data gathered in 2019 demonstrates that 18% of the Park's 358 protected Scheduled Ancient Monuments were in unfavourable condition.
Why are we monitoring this sector?	One of the key components of National Park designation is the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage. Our historic environment is the physical manifestation that cultural heritage, it is a key national asset, as such we need to understand whether the implementation of the plan is conducive to the protection of the Historic Environment.
What we will report on annually	We can report on the condition of protected features such as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings. This will provide us part of the picture. It's the undesignated features which are most at risk from harm and so we will work through the Historic Environment Partnership to determine a mechanism for assessing and reporting the condition of these non-statutorily protected features.
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	Success would be a marked improvement in the condition of our historic environment, alongside a general recognition of the value of the historic environment by all those who live, work and visit the park.
Boundary level	Our boundary levels are ambitious being set at all historic features whether scheduled or not are in good (or improving) condition.
Related Mission Area(s)	People Place
Related objectives	Future visitors Welsh culture and language Collaborating in Place
Related outcomes	Future lives Historic places

Data Source:

[BBNPA SOPR](#)

[Buildings at risk register](#)

Cultural Heritage

Principal domain	Numbers of cultural events
The most up-to-date data available	64 cultural events held in 2019 (including Eisteddfodau and Agricultural Shows) Increasing in number and scope from the 2005 assessment
Why are we monitoring this sector?	People connect to the National Park landscape and cultural heritage through coming together at events, which also play an important role in wellbeing and community cohesion for residents and awareness, understanding and enjoyment for residents and visitors alike. Cultural events encompass a wide range from traditional local Eisteddfodai and local agricultural shows, to new forms through theatre, local arts and dramatic groups including the Young Farmers Clubs. In addition to cultural events a wide range of walking festivals and other outdoor events also take place each year.
What we will report on annually	We will report on the number of cultural events held across the park, and where data is available attendance data We will report this data as a trend year on year.
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	The occurrence of cultural events has a significant correlation with community cohesion and cultural identity. This indicator therefore helps us understand the extent to which outcomes related to supporting caring, cohesive and enriching communities. Success would therefore be an increasing number of events being held year on year. Our boundary is drawn at no net loss from 2005 base.
Boundary level	Our boundary is drawn at no net loss of events occurring from 2005 base.
Related Mission Area(s)	People Place
Related objectives	Future visitors Welsh culture and language Collaborating in Place
Related outcomes	Future lives Well-planned places Inspiring places

Data Source:

[BBNPA SOPR](#)

Darkness & Tranquility

Principal domain	Night Sky Quality
The most up-to-date data available	The BBNP is an International Dark Sky Reserve The majority of the Park registers at the lowest levels of radiance emissions, meaning that the area is one where dark skies predominate. There are however much higher levels in the areas of high population density.
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Our dark skies are a precious resource providing opportunities for quiet and deep reflection, connecting the individual to the wonders of the universe. Darkness is one of the Park's Special Qualities, but this attribute is immensely fragile and easily lost. Absence of darkness impacts our health and wellbeing; disrupts ecosystem function and over lighting has a huge carbon burden damaging to climate stability.
What we will report on annually	Each year the NPA provides a report to the International Dark Sky Association detailing compliance with the Management Plan for the reserve. We will report on the principle findings of this report We will also report on any updates to the external lighting survey as and when that is made available.
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	In keeping with outcomes relating to outcomes relating to Y Bannau as a place of inspiration, we wish to ensure that our Dark Skies continue to predominate. We would wish to see the levels of darkness improving across the entire Reserve, particularly in urban areas, and an appreciable increase in control of external lighting changes in the External Zone.
Boundary levels	At least 2012 levels for the core zone. With significant improvements across the external zone
Related Mission Area(s)	People Place Climate Nature
Related objectives	Future visitors Collaborating in Place Decarbonisation Species conservation Ecosystem Management
Related outcomes	Healthy places Well-planned places Inspiring places Sustainable energy Ecosystem resilience is enhanced Species threats are reduced

Data Source:

[BBNPA Annual Dark Skies Report\(s\)](#)

Visitor Experience

Principal domain	No change in levels of tranquillity from base.
The most up to date data available	83% of the Park is classified as undisturbed
Why are we monitoring this sector?	<p>Tranquillity is one of the National Park's Special Qualities. Its continued protection and enhancement is a key objective of the way we as an organisation manage the Park.</p> <p>Because of the relative subjectivity of the experience of tranquillity we utilise a national data set as our baseline. The national data set published by National Resources Wales considers a range of factors that in combination either contribute to or detract from tranquillity. This comprises a composite understanding of the following factors.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relative abundance, perception or experience of nature, natural landscapes and greenspaces 2. Relative freedom from intrusive visual disturbance and human influence. 3. Relative dark skies 4. Sound environment
What we will report on annually	We will report on any updates to the National Tranquillity Map produced by NRW. We are working with NRW to disaggregate the overall tranquillity rating into its component features for the National Park, this will help to determine the nature of more detailed monitoring indicators.
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	<p>As a core component of our special qualities, we would hope to see the recorded levels of tranquillity across the National Park remain the same or improve. Our boundary levels are set at the 2017 base.</p> <p>This subdomain combines with landscape quality and should be understood together (see above).</p>
Boundary level	No decrease in tranquillity register from 2017 base.
Related Mission Area(s)	Place
Related objectives	Collaborating in Place
Related outcomes	Inspiring Places Healthy Places

Data source

[Tranquil Areas Wales \(2017\) NRW](#)

Principal domain	Reported levels of visitor enjoyment
The most up to date data available	85% of visitors rate their visit to the Park as 'very good' and 13% good. There are no negative ratings
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Understanding visitor experience helps us to understand the extent to which we are delivering on our second purpose to provide opportunities for understanding and enjoyment. A positive experience is correlated to enjoying the National Park. Knowing people are enjoying this landscape makes us very happy.
What we will report on annually	We do not systematically capture data to help us report on this measure annually. Towards the end of the Plan period (2026-7) we will undertake a wider visitor survey to update this data and to provide more information about the changes implementation of the Plan has brought about for our visitor enjoyment.
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	We want to ensure that visitors continue to rate their visit to the park as good or very good.
Boundary level	We set our boundary at the 2017 base and anticipate seeing improvement in the % of visitors who rate their visit to the Park as 'very good'.
Related Mission Area(s)	People Place
Related objectives	Future Visitors Collaborating in Place
Related outcomes	Future lives Inspiring Places

Data Source: [BBNPA](#)

[Visitor Survey](#)

Access

Principal domain	General accessibility of the National Park for all users.
The most up to date data available	In 2019 34% of our rights of way were not considered easy to use.
Why are we monitoring this sector?	Our rights of way network is the principle means by which visitors and residents can experience the special qualities of the National Park. Ensuring that this network is accessible and easy to use is a mark of the extent to which we are meeting our obligations to all members of society, we therefore utilise this measure as a proxy for general accessibility. However we do recognise that it is insufficient in addressing issues of wider accessibility.
What we will report on annually	The National Park undertakes a yearly sampling exercise to assess the accessibility of a percentage of the network. The NPAs assessment is then used as a proxy for the status of the general network. We will use this data to provide a picture of the rights of way network year on year. We will also work through our Local Access Forum to design measures of general accessibility, including the accessibility of Visitor attractions and barriers to a fully accessible National Park for all.
What picture we want to see if the plan is successful	Although the network is improving in terms of its ease of use, there is still some work to do on getting this measure within social and environmental boundaries. We would hope to see the network continue to improve in terms of its ease of use. And although we know that there will be some footpaths that will by their very nature never register as easy to use, we hope that such paths will be in a very small minority.
Boundary level	A fully accessible National Park for all users.
Related Mission Area(s)	People Place
Related objectives	Quality of life Future Visitors
Related outcomes	Future Transport Equity, diversity, inclusion Nature connected places Healthy places Inspiring places

Data Source: [BBNPA Rights of Way Improvement Plan](#)

Monitoring & reporting actions by all partners

The aim of Y Bannau: The Future is to galvanise action across the National Park and beyond. Monitoring and reporting will be inclusive of all partners taking action together.

Monitoring and reporting the five missions, & Doughnut indicators

The five missions adopted in Y Bannau: The Future are chosen because they are biggest shifts needed to achieve a sustainable future for the National Park.

It is therefore important to measure and report on progress towards achieving the missions, and on wider indicators of National Park sustainability - the extent to which ecological ceiling (Planetary Boundaries) and the social foundation (Sustainable Development Goals) are being breached.

A series of indicators have been selected as the best metrics for understanding and tracking change in the National Park in relation to Doughnut Economics:

- Ecological ceiling (Planetary Boundaries)
- Social foundation (Sustainable Development Goals), and
- The 'just and safe space' in the middle of the ring which reflects ecological and human wellbeing in the unique context of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.
-

The indicators have been chosen because they represent the best direct metric or proxy, and because it is envisaged that data will be available to track change over a long timescale.

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Several different timescales are important in considering the sustainable future of the National Park. Ongoing: Updates on Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority website and other platforms, and that of partners, sharing information about actions and outcomes, celebrating successes, and highlighting opportunities and challenges.

1 year: Annual Doughnut Economics assessment 'health check' of the National Park, and annual assessment of progress in achieving the missions.

4 years: State of the Park Report 2027. The State of the Park report is an important synthesis of all the data being gathered in relation to the doughnut. It is an important moment to reflect on the key issues facing the Park in order to inform the review of Y Bannau.

5 years: The duration of *Y Bannau: The Future* Management Plan. Used to focus near-term action towards achieving the missions.

2030 and 2035: The timescales to achieve the nature and water missions and the climate mission respectively.

25 years: The medium-term vision for the National Park.

50 years: Long-term change horizon. Used to track long-term sustainability as indicated by Doughnut Economics metrics.





Appendices

Appendix one

The policy and legislative context

Appendix two

The definition of natural beauty

Appendix three

Correlation between *Y Bannau: The Future* and the seven Wellbeing Goals and Ways of Working of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

Appendix four

Interrelationship between mission and mission objectives

Appendix five

Glossary of terms

One: The legislative & Policy context

Climate

- The Environment (Wales) Act Part 2 sets Wales' national carbon budget and interim emissions reductions targets. Carbon budgets 2 (2021-2025) and 3 (2026-2030) cover the time period of *Y Bannau: The Future*
- Welsh Government Public Sector Net Zero by 2030 commitment
- UN Race to Zero
- Climate Change Committee Third Climate Change Risk Assessment for the UK
- Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious
- Climate change adaptation plan for Wales
- Climate Change Committee (2020) – Land Use: Policies for a Net Zero UK
- Climate Change Committee (2020) – The Sixth Carbon Budget including particularly: Agriculture and land use, land use change and forestry; Surface Transport; Fuel Supply; Electricity Generation; and Buildings
- Beyond Recycling: A strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality

Water

- The Environment (Wales) Act Part 1, Section 6
- Water Environment (Water Framework Directive)(England and Wales) Regulations 2017
- NRW's Compliance Assessment of Welsh River SACs against Phosphorus Targets (Report No. 489) January 2021
- Written Statement: River Pollution Summit at the Royal Welsh Show - sets out an 8 point intervention plan
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Nature

- The Environment (Wales) Act Part 1, Section 6
- Welsh Government Nature Recovery Action Plan
- National Peatland Action Programme (Wales), 2020-2025
- National Forest for Wales target of planting 43,000 hectares of trees by 2030 and 180,000 hectares by 2050
- Habitats Regulations 2017
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- Countryside Act 1968 Habitats and Species Directive 1992
- Badgers Act 1992 Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997 Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004
- Commons (Wales) Act 2006
- Heather and Grass etc. Burning (Wales) Regulations 2008
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations 2014
- Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2014, 2017
- Bern Convention 1979
- Welsh Government biodiversity deep dive recommendations focussing on protecting at least 30% of the land and 30% of the sea by 2030 (October 2022)

Emergent new legislation & policy

- Food (Wales) Act
- Updated Natural Resources Policy
- National Biodiversity Strategy
- Sustainable Farming Scheme

People

- Socio-economic Duty
- Welsh Government Strategic Equality Plan.
- Welsh Government Gender Equality Plan.
- Welsh Government Framework for Action on Disability.
- Cymraeg 2050 Welsh language strategy.
- Tourism Strategy for Wales 2020-25
- Welsh Government Economic Action Plan
- Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (2018).
- Welsh Government Economic Action Plan
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

People (cont.)

Emergent new legislation & policy

- Race Equality Action Plan (REAP) for Wales
- Welsh Government LGBTQ+ equality Action Plan.
- Welsh Government Cultural Strategy.

Place

- 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.
- The European Landscape Convention
- UK Signature: 21/02/2006
- UK Ratification: 21/11/2006
- UK Entry into force: 01/03/2007
- Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (2018).
- LANDMAP - the Welsh landscape baseline:
- The Mid Wales Area Statement
- The South West Wales Area Statement
- The South East Wales Area Statement
- The South Central Wales Area Statement
- DCfW Placemaking Charter
- CCW Statement on Natural Beauty
- Planning (Wales) Act 2015

Two: The definition of natural beauty

Purpose of a statement on natural beauty in Wales

Natural beauty as a concept emerged in the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, and was used mainly to reflect the value attached to the aesthetic and scenic aspects of landscape. In Welsh this broadly equates to the concept of 'Tirlun'. Over the years since the original concept of 'natural beauty' emerged, a number of important socioeconomic and land use changes have occurred, as well as significant changes in the policy context.

Although the term natural beauty is widely used, due to the lack of legal definition it has been open to a number of different interpretations. The whole concept of natural beauty is currently under debate, as a result of the new designations in England and in particular due a recent legal challenge resulting in the so called 'Meyrick Judgement', which returned to a highly literal definition of natural beauty. The Natural England and Rural Communities (NERC) Act seeks to address the issues raised by this judgement and provides a framework for the application of the term natural beauty but does not present a formal definition.

The National Parks Review in Wales in 2003-4 undertaken by Land Use Consultants for the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG), concluded that the concept of natural beauty was: "not well understood by all those who take decisions affecting National Parks. There is a need, therefore, for a statement describing the full scope and reach of the first purpose". In the Review Action Plan The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) was charged with progressing a number of different actions, including Recommendation 26 which requests CCW to "produce a statement on the full scope of 'natural beauty' in the first purpose including the protection of natural resources, important perceptual qualities of landscape and the breadth of cultural influences."

CCW commissioned Professors Selman and Swanwick at the University of Sheffield to research and compile information relating to natural beauty, and out of this process to draft a statement on natural beauty. This draft statement was issued by CCW for consultation in January 2006. Following comments from consultees and building on the emerging consensus the statement was further refined through a stakeholder workshop held in February 2006.

As a result of this process of research, consultation and engagement, the following revised statement on natural beauty has emerged. The statement is in two parts, with the first part seeking to provide clarification on the full scope of natural beauty and the second part providing a list of key elements which in combination make up natural beauty in support of the statement. It is a resource based approach which relates to the Welsh concept of 'tirwedd' and reflects the definition of landscape as defined in the European Landscape Convention. Ultimately as a statutory term used in legislation, any definition of natural beauty will be open to legal interpretation. However this collaborative work resulting in the statement aims to contribute towards a shared understanding of how this legal term is applied, and provide clarification for partners and to enhance their understanding of the purposes of protected landscapes. The revised statement was endorsed by CCW Council on 8th May 2006 and is presented for consideration by The Welsh Assembly Government.

A Statement On “Natural Beauty”

“Natural beauty”, when used both generally and specifically as in the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act and other legislation, is a complex and multifaceted concept that is concerned with landscape in its broadest sense¹. It relates primarily to unspoiled, but not necessarily extensive, rural landscapes that are largely free from the effects of disfiguring development or urbanisation². Although the legislation makes clear that it includes flora, fauna, geological and physiographic features, it applies not only to landscapes where nature is dominant but also to those which have been shaped and nurtured by human activities³. People perceive and appreciate “natural beauty” through all their senses, responding to many different aspects of the landscape, including its distinctive character⁴, its aesthetic qualities, the presence of wildlife, its cultural and historical dimensions and its perceptual qualities such as, for example, tranquility, remoteness and a sense of freedom⁵. Perceptions of, and preferences for “natural beauty” are informed by people’s personal characteristics, cultural backgrounds and individual interests. “Natural beauty” occurs, to varying degrees, in many, though by no means all landscapes. Some places may, however, be judged to display “natural beauty” to an outstanding degree and may as a result be recognised as warranting a national level of protection.⁶

Explanatory Notes

1. Landscape is broadly defined as; the interaction between the physical (geology, landform, air and climate), natural (soils, flora and fauna), and cultural/social (land use, enclosure, settlement) components of our environment and the way this is perceived and interpreted by people, both visually, in terms of aesthetic aspects like colour, form, texture and pattern, and by other senses, and also through individual perceptions and preferences, which are affected by people’s cultural backgrounds and interests. “Natural beauty” therefore embraces all of these components and aspects of landscape;

2. There are no truly ‘natural’ landscapes in the British Isles, but there is a spectrum of degrees of relative naturalness. “Natural beauty” in the British context means predominantly rural landscapes that have been shaped and will be shaped by the interaction of nature and human management over centuries and may include, for example, farmland, fields and field boundaries, designed parkland, small settlements, larger villages and small towns, provided that they are integral to and in keeping with, the character of the landscape (see Note 4);

3. The human activities that have shaped landscapes are many and varied. The concept of “natural beauty” does not, for example, automatically exclude the remains of small scale industrial activity which may in some cases be an important historic or cultural asset in its own right and make a significant contribution to landscape character;

4. “Natural beauty” is related to and to some degree a reflection of landscape character, in that it will often find expression in areas of landscape which have a distinct character and a strong and recognisable sense of place. Landscape character is, however, found everywhere whereas “natural beauty” is not and is a quality found particularly in valued landscapes;

5. The perceptual aspects of “natural beauty” will vary according to the character of the landscape. For example, tranquility, remoteness and a sense of freedom may be experienced in wild upland landscapes but not in more settled landscapes with farms, villages and small towns, which may instead have a sense of timelessness and of a long working together of people and nature.

6. The identification of landscapes of outstanding “natural beauty” requires careful thought about why some landscapes are valued more than others. In the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries, when landscape was still viewed largely as a static scene or picture, “natural beauty” was synonymous with scenery. It reflected the value attached to the aesthetic and scenic aspects of landscape and their spiritual and emotional effects on people. Times have now changed and so have cultural interpretations of landscape. The aesthetic and perceptual values attached to landscape, though still important, are only one of the reasons why landscape is valued today. Today judgements about “natural beauty” are really the same as judgements about landscape value, which in turn requires consideration of the different reasons why society may attach value to particular places. Defining areas of particular “natural beauty” is a matter of judgement, based on the use of professional trained eyes, but also drawing on informed consensus, including an understanding wherever possible of public perceptions. Drawing on both English and Welsh sources the criteria that can be taken into account in defining landscape value and hence defining landscapes which have outstanding “natural beauty” include some of the following:

- Scenic quality, in terms of the aesthetic aspects of landscape (those which give pleasure to the senses), its perceptual dimensions and the spiritual or emotional impact that both have on people. There should be a consensus of opinion about the beauty of the landscape, among both experts and the public;
- Sense of place, in terms of unity and distinctiveness of landscape character;
- Landscape quality, in terms of the intactness of the landscape and its condition, in so far as this helps to deliver distinctiveness of landscape character in a particular locality;
- Integrity, in terms of intact rural character and general lack of large scale, visually intrusive or otherwise inharmonious development;
- Perceptual qualities which make a particular contribution to sense of place, including wildness and tranquillity;

Important associations of the landscape with people, places or events relevant to a particular place;

- Evidence of importance through expressions or descriptions of the landscape in art, literature, music and other art forms, through language and folklore, and through modern media;
- Rarity or representativeness, either of the landscape as a whole, or of individual elements and features within it;
- Conservation interest, through the presence of features of particular wildlife, earth science or archaeological, historical and cultural interest which add value to the landscape as well as having conservation value in their own right.

Countryside Council for Wales
May 2006

Three: Well-being of Future Generations Act & Y Bannau: The Future

The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires all public bodies in Wales to carry out sustainable development. As part of this, they must set well-being objectives and take all reasonable steps to meet them.

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority is a public body. The missions and mission objectives set out in *Y Bannau: The Future* are the well-being objectives set by Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority. They include objectives to be achieved by Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority, and by partners and wider society.

The WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT (WALES) 2015 defines sustainable development in Wales as:

The process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.

Plans to meet the missions and objectives will be developed and delivered with partners during the course of the five-year *Y Bannau: The Future* management plan period. Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority Corporate Plan set out the main steps the public body itself will take to meet the well-being objectives.

How Y Bannau: The Future missions & objectives align with the Well-being of Future Generations Act

Wellbeing goal	Y Bannau: The Future mission /objective / ambition
<p>A Prosperous Wales</p> <p>An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>People mission:</p> <p>By 2028 the people of the National Park will be able to meet their needs (health, economic, recreational, and residential) whilst respecting and regenerating our environment. Visitor experience is enhanced by being firmly embedded within sustainability principles</p> <p>People mission future economy ambition:</p> <p>Local communities and businesses will benefit from a vibrant and sustainable economy focused on local wealth generation and the foundational economy. Sustainable new investment will work alongside home-grown businesses to provide good quality employment opportunities.</p> <p>Place mission objective</p> <p>Collaborative action focused on a range of spatial areas to co-produce responses to the nature, climate and economic crises.</p> <p>Place mission prosperous places ambition:</p> <p>Places which have proportionally increased levels of community wealth generated within the local economy through development of the foundational economy, social enterprise, and the green economy.</p>

Wellbeing goal	Y Bannau: The Future mission /objective / ambition
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Wellbeing goal	Y Bannau: The Future mission /objective / ambition
<p>A Resilient Wales</p> <p>A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.</p>	<p>Climate mission: Reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions across the Brecon Beacon National Park by 2035.</p> <p>Water mission: Clean, safe, resilient, plentiful, water resources and water environments by 2030.</p> <p>Water mission ambition: Supporting the provision of clean and sustainable water resources for Bannau Brycheiniog and beyond.</p> <p>Nature mission: A Nature Positive National Park by 2030</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature mission ambition - habitat recovery: all major habitats in the National Park, including grassland, native woodland, upland heathland, and peatland, will be on a pathway to net biodiversity gain. • Nature mission ambition - species conservation: flagship species, that are emblematic of the national park or specific habitats, are increasing in numbers and extent. • Nature mission ambition – ecosystem management: ecosystem functions and ecosystem services generated by the park are enhanced <p>People mission - future visitors objective:</p> <p>We will have become the torchbearers for sustainable tourism. Visiting Bannau Brycheiniog provides a unique experience, which enhances support for nature recovery, community wellbeing and the local economy. Visitors will know our story and be motivated to help us respond to key challenges, especially through their own actions and behaviour.</p>

How Y Bannau: The Future missions & objectives align with the Ways of Working

Wellbeing goal	Y Bannau: The Future mission /objective / ambition
<p>A More Equal Wales</p> <p>A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic circumstances)</p>	<p>People mission: Equity, diversity, inclusion objective: We will challenge and remove discrimination and barriers to participation wherever they may occur, creating a National Park where everyone can find opportunity and belonging.</p> <p>People mission future food ambition: The sustainability and affordability of healthy food available to residents and visitors will have improved through the creation of local food networks of sustainable food production and retailing.</p> <p>People mission future skills and jobs ambition: The demographic mix of people living in the Park will have increased as a result of investment in rural skills for the future.</p> <p>People mission future homes ambition: People who need to or want to live their lives here will be able to do so within their means. There will be extensive protection against second and holiday homes where necessary. For those who cannot afford market prices there will be low carbon community led housing options available.</p> <p>People mission sustainable businesses objective: There will be a support network of businesses dedicated to building a local sustainable and equitable economy within Bannau Brycheiniog.</p>

Ways of Working	Y Bannau: The Future
<p>Long-term</p> <p>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs</p>	<p>Y Bannau: The Future is a five-year management plan for the National Park with a 25-year horizon. Some of the missions have a beyond five-year time span including the climate and nature missions. Monitoring framework is being developed in partnership looking at goals up to 2050 (or beyond where relevant)</p>
<p>Integration</p> <p>Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies</p>	<p>Y Bannau: The Future is shaped by Doughnut Economics which combines the concepts of planetary boundaries with the UN Sustainable Development Goals to create an integrated approach to achieving well-being.</p>

Wellbeing goal	Y Bannau: The Future mission /objective / ambition
<p>A Resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.</p>	<p>Climate mission: Reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions across the Brecon Beacon National Park by 2035.</p> <p>Water mission: Clean, safe, resilient, plentiful, water resources and water environments by 2030.</p> <p>Water mission ambition: Supporting the provision of clean and sustainable water resources for Bannau Brycheiniog and beyond.</p> <p>Nature mission: A Nature Positive National Park by 2030</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature mission ambition - habitat recovery: all major habitats in the National Park, including grassland, native woodland, upland heathland, and peatland, will be on a pathway to net biodiversity gain. • Nature mission ambition - species conservation: flagship species, that are emblematic of the national park or specific habitats, are increasing in numbers and extent. • Nature mission ambition – ecosystem management Ecosystem functions and ecosystem service generated by the park are enhanced <p>People mission - future visitors objective: We will have become the torchbearers for sustainable tourism. Visiting Bannau Brycheiniog provides a unique experience, which enhances support for nature recovery, community wellbeing and the local economy. Visitors will know our story and be motivated to help us respond to key challenges, especially through their own actions and behaviour.</p>

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<p>A Healthier Wales A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<p>Water mission ambition: Ensuring that the health and wellbeing benefits gained from high quality, nature rich, water environments can be experienced by all who live within and visit Bannau Brycheiniog.</p> <p>Place mission healthy places ambition: Places which have wide ranging benefits to public health and wellbeing.</p> <p>People mission future food ambition: The sustainability and affordability of healthy food available to residents and visitors will have improved through the creation of local food networks of sustainable food production and retailing.</p>

Ways of Working	Y Bannau: The Future
<p>Long-term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs</p>	<p>Y Bannau: The Future is a five-year management plan for the National Park with a 25-year horizon. Some of the missions have a beyond five-year time span including the climate and nature missions. Monitoring framework is being developed in partnership looking at goals up to 2050 (or beyond where relevant)</p>
<p>Integration Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies</p>	<p>Y Bannau: The Future is shaped by Doughnut Economics which combines the concepts of planetary boundaries with the UN Sustainable Development Goals to create an integrated approach to achieving well-being.</p>
<p>Involvement The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves</p>	<p>Y Bannau: The Future was developed over an extended period through extensive engagement with stakeholders. A People's Assembly and a Stakeholder Reference Panel were set up, and an extensive range of policy deep dive sessions were held to facilitate informed input into the Plan.</p> <p>People mission Equity, diversity, inclusion objective: We will challenge and remove discrimination and barriers to participation wherever they may occur, creating a National Park where everyone can find opportunity and belonging.</p> <p>Place mission BBNPA contribution: We will work with communities within the National Park to develop place plans that build on the special characteristics of their area, to improve quality of life, support economic well-being and enhance the built and natural environment.</p> <p>Involvement is the core of our delivery mechanism as highlighted through the Sêr y Bannau within each mission and Partner section.</p>
<p>Collaboration Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives</p>	<p>Place mission: To work with the people and agencies who are deeply rooted in these places to identify the key challenges, and work together to find the solutions that work on the ground. In doing this we seek to get at the heart of what makes places function as great places to work, live, and play - as providers of ecosystem services such as clean air, water, and locked in carbon.</p> <p>Delivery mechanism embraces collaboration, for example through the Sêr y Bannau, within each mission and Partner section.</p>

Mission Cross Reference

The missions and their supporting objectives are interlinked and intertwined.

This table attempts to demonstrate the extent of their relationships.

Further refinement will be possible during action planning stage.

Mission	Objective													
		Decarbonisation	Sequestration	Adaptation	Resilient Catchments	High quality water environme	Habitat recovery	Species Conservation	Ecosystem Management	Quality of life	Future Visitors	Welsh Language and Culture	Sustainable businesses	Collaborating in place
Climate	Decarbonisation: The national park will maximise effort toward or Beyond our fair share of action to halve global Emissions by 2030, in line with The paris agreement’s goal of limiting global Temperature rises to 1.5 degrees.				☞	☞	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☞	✓	✓
	Sequestration Action will be happening across the national park To restore nature’s ability to capture carbon from The atmosphere, in line with the climate change Committee’s sixth carbon budget recommendations on Agriculture, land use, land use change and forestry				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☞	✓	✓
	Adapatation: People and nature will be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of climate destabilisation, in line with prosperity for all, the climate change adaptation plan for wales				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☞	✓	✓
Water	Resilient catchments supporting the provision of clean and sustainable water resources for the Bannau and beyond	☞	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	☞	✓	✓	

Mission	Objective	Decarbonisation	Sequestration	Adaptation	Resilient Catchments	High quality water environme	Habitat recovery	Species Conservation	Ecosystem Management	Quality of life	Future Visitors	Welsh Language and Culture	Sustainable businesses	Collaborating in place
	<p>High quality water environments ensuring that the health and wellbeing Benefits gained from high quality, nature Rich, water environments can be experienced by all who live within and visit the Bannau.</p>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nature	<p>Habitat recovery all major habitats in the national park, including grassland, native woodland, upland heathland, and peatland, will be on a pathway to net biodiversity gain</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<p>Species conservation Flagship species, that are emblematic of the national park or specific habitats ,are increasing in numbers and extent-- including reintroductions of indigenous species where appropriate consents and safeguards are met</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Mission	Objective	Decarbonisation	Sequestration	Adaptation	Resilient Catchments	High quality water environme	Habitat recovery	Species Conservation	Ecosystem Management	Quality of life	Future Visitors	Welsh Language and Culture	Sustainable businesses	Collaborating in place
	Ecosystem Management Ecosystem functions and ecosystem service generated by the Park are enhanced	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
People	Quality of life Improving the quality of life and well-being for all those who live work and play in y Bannau.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
	Future Visitors We will have become the torchbearers for sustainable tourism .Visiting the Bannau provides a unique experience, which enhances support for nature recovery, community wellbeing and the local economy. Visitors will know our story and be motivated to help us respond to key challenges, especially through their own actions and behaviour.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
	Welsh culture and language: Welsh culture is thriving and celebrated as part of the Rich tapestry of cultural lives of Wales. There is an increased awareness and knowledge of the Welsh Language and culture amongst our residents and visitors . Welsh language and culture is loved and valued by all regardless of level of language fluency	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓

Mission	Objective	Decarbonisation	Sequestration	Adaptation	Resilient Catchments	High quality water environme	Habitat recovery	Species Conservation	Ecosystem Management	Quality of life	Future Visitors	Welsh Language and Culture	Sustainable businesses	Collaborating in place
	Sustainable businesses There will be a support network of businesses dedicated to building a local sustainable and equitable economy within the Bannau	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Place	Collaborating in place innovative collaboriative action focused on a range of spatial areas to co-produce responses to the nature, climate and economic crises.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Five: Glossary

Biodiversity

The variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems. Includes diversity within and between species, habitats and ecosystems.

Carbon footprint

Measures the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by a person, organisation, event or product.

Carbon sequestration

(also storage and capture) (also sequestering carbon, carbon storage, carbon capture) The uptake of carbon containing substances, in particular carbon dioxide to a storage reservoir (e.g. trees, soils) so reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Circular economy

Circular economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life.

Climate change

A change in the state of the climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and/or variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer.

Condition (of a species or habitat)

The capacity to yield services relative to its potential capacity. This is usually described in relation to a desired reference state (good or favourable condition) and is typically defined in terms of extent, distribution, structures and functions, and species composition for habitats and population size structure and habitat quality for species.

Connectivity

The degree to which the landscape facilitates or impedes movement among resource patches.

Doughnut economics

A visual framework for sustainable development – shaped like a doughnut – combining the concepts of planetary boundaries with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The name derives from the shape of the diagram, i.e. a disc with a hole in the middle. The centre hole of the model depicts the proportion of people that lack access to life's essentials (healthcare, education, equity and so on) while the crust represents the ecological ceilings (planetary boundaries) that life depends on and must not be overshoot. The diagram was developed by Kate Raworth.

Ecological footprint

An indicator of the total environmental burden that society places on the planet. It represents the area of land needed to provide raw materials, energy and food, as well as absorb pollution and waste created and is measured in global hectares.

Ecosystem

Communities of interacting animals, plants and other organisms and their non-living (physical and chemical) environment.

Ecosystem services

Typically used to categorise the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. The four categories are: provisioning services e.g. food and water; regulating services e.g. flood and disease control; cultural services e.g. spiritual and recreational; and supporting services e.g. soil formation and nutrient cycling.

Greenhouse gases

A group of gases that contribute either directly to climate change (including global warming) owing to their positive radiative forcing effect, or indirectly because they can produce increases in tropospheric ozone concentrations and this increases radiative forcing (warming of the atmosphere).

Groundwater

All water which is below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil. It provides baseflow to springs, rivers and wetlands and contributes to drinking water supplies

Habitat

An ecological or environmental space/area that is inhabited by a particular organism or ecological community. It is characterised primarily by its physical features (e.g. soil, climate, water quality etc.) and secondarily by the species of plants and animals that live there. See also “Broad habitat”.

Invasive non-native species

Plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms whose introduction and/or spread outside their natural past or present ranges pose a risk to biodiversity or have other unforeseen negative consequences.

Mission

A big goal designed to set a strategic direction, inspire and galvanise action.

Natural resources

The living and non-living components of ecosystems.

Net zero

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere, by natural processes.

Nature positive

Halting and reversing the current decline in biodiversity so that species and ecosystems begin to recover.

Planetary boundaries

A set of nine processes that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth within which humanity can continue to develop and thrive for generations to come. Crossing these boundaries increases the risk of generating large-scale abrupt or irreversible environmental changes. Devised in 2009 by former Stockholm Resilience Centre director Johan Rockström with a group of 28 internationally renowned scientists.

Protected sites (or protected areas)

Areas that have been designated under EU and/or UK legislation for specific biological or geological features.

Public Service Boards

A group (board) set up in each local authority area as defined in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The boards comprise of the local authority, the local health board for an area any of part of which falls within the local authority area, the Welsh fire and rescue authority for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area, and the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Natural Resources Wales, NRW).

Regulation(s) (in a legal sense, not the same as regulation of processes and services)

A “regulation” is a binding legislative act. It must be applied in its entirety across Wales, the UK or EU (depending on the scale the regulation applies to).

Resilience (of ecosystems)

The capacity of ecosystems to deal with disturbances, either by resisting them, recovering from them, or adapting to them, whilst retaining their ability to deliver services and benefits now and in the future.

Risks

The likelihood of an outcome (usually negative) to the environment, or the potential impact of a pressure on the environment.

Semi-natural habitats

Habitats in which the vegetation is mostly composed of native plant taxa, but where human land use and other activities play a key role in community development and maintenance. Examples are numerous, ranging across the spectrum of major habitat classes in Wales, including most forms of deciduous woodland, dwarfshrub heathland, and many coastal formations. Habitat expressions least influenced by human activities are sometimes called ‘near-natural’; at the other end of the spectrum certain degraded habitats, such as modified bog, are also treated as semi-natural.

Sustainable Development Goals

17 goals adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 to provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

1. No Poverty. 2. Zero Hunger. 3. Good Health and Wellbeing. 4. Quality Education. 5. Gender Equality. 6. Clean Water and Sanitation. 7. Affordable and Clean Energy. 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth. 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. 10. Reduced Inequalities. 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities. 12. Responsible Consumption and Production. 13. Climate Action. 14. Life Below Water. 15. Life on Land. 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. 17. Partnerships for the Goals.

Targets

A target is a clear expression of a policy priority, setting out exactly what the Government wants to have done and by when. Targets let those responsible for delivery know what needs to happen, so that they can plan, monitor and deliver the specified change.

Well-being

A context- and situation-dependent state, comprising basic material for a good life, freedom and choice, health and bodily well-being, good social relations, security, peace of mind, and spiritual experience.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act

This Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It will make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. This will help us to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. To make sure we are all working towards the same vision, the Act puts in place seven well-being goals. Public Service Boards are required to put together Well-being Assessments to help implement action to improve well-being. Wellbeing Indicators will be used to measure success of actions.





Bannau
Brycheiniog

Y Bannau: The Future
The Management Plan For
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park
2023-2028