

Wye Valley AONB Villages Plan for the future

February 2022



Devauden Community
Council

St Arvans Community
Council



ARUP

wye valley
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

dyffryn gwy
Ardalo Harddwch
Naturol Eithriadol



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

ARUP

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Prepared by Arup on behalf of Monmouthshire County Council, Wye Valley AONB Partnership, Tintern Community Council, St Arvans Community Council, Trellech United Community Council and Devauden Community Council.

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Please note, proposals on private land require further discussions with private landowners.

This report is intended to be viewed and printed as an A4 double-sided document with cover page.

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Wye Valley AONB Villages - Plan for the future

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our communities and natural environment face significant and imminent change from the climate emergency and post-Covid recovery. These are radically changing the way we think about our communities and environment. We need to change our day-to-day life and leave behind many of the accepted approaches we have become used to such as our over reliance on car use. Remote working, online shopping and the internet are radically changing the way we live, access services and seek information.

Against this backdrop of major change, the natural beauty, local resources and human history of the Wye Valley has attracted residents, businesses and visitors for centuries. Each of these are intrinsically linked meaning that a careful balance is key to success or indeed failure. Where an imbalance occurs it becomes obvious. Local concerns over river pollution, speeding cars through the villages or the impact of large numbers of visitors to Tintern during peak times demonstrate how this delicate balance can shift the wrong way. To compound these challenges is the complex geography of the area as the convergence of multiple local authorities and the Wales-England border. Gaining consensus and consistency in policy, financing and governance is challenging.

Despite these challenges the area benefits from notable advantages. Beyond the obvious quality of the landscape, active and engaged community council's and residents are providing energy and ambition. Many independent local businesses have become part of the fabric each marketing the area to broad audiences and providing local jobs. The borderland location should become a point of celebration rather than a source of inertia. Success will mean embracing innovation, fronting up to contentious issues such as traffic, developing

new partnerships, accepting trial and error and building on the existing natural assets. It will require investment in a way that delivers far wider benefits to our health, our environment, our local communities and our local economies.

The question for the Wye Valley, its communities, businesses and visitors is how can this balance be struck and what does it look like?

The "Wye Valley AONB Villages Plan for the Future" sets a vision for change through short, medium and long-term projects aimed primarily at the villages that are located within Monmouthshire. At the heart of the study is a response to the community's concern over road safety. The plan provides a strategy for reducing vehicle speeds and increasing the use of sustainable transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. Importantly road safety is not considered in isolation. In recognition of the fact that within the Wye Valley tourism, landscape, local economy, governance, placemaking and transport all impact one other, the plan proposes measures for all of these six themes.

This has led to the creation of a **six-point plan for change** which responds to the six key themes identified with an emphasis on delivery. Phasing has been a key issue and the plan provides clear proposals for immediate changes to the villages such as gateway signage through to longer term aspirations for sustainable transport and tourism.

1 Ensure safe and sustainable transport

by delivering coordinated changes to the streets across the villages to make them slower for traffic, more attractive and safer for pedestrians and cyclists. To reduce car dependency 'Sustainable transport' including buses, walking and cycling should be improved by grouping bus stops, cycle hire and storage, tourist attractions and new public spaces at key locations such as Tintern as 'mobility hubs'. Bus services should be improved particularly during high season for both local people and tourists. Extending the Wye Valley Greenway could have a catalytic effect on walking, cycling and tourism if it were to be extended to the north and should be assessed for viability.

2 Conserve and enhance the landscape by working with other local authorities, agencies and land owners across the length of the River Wye to improve the health of the river as part of a 'whole catchment study'. To encourage community participation a 'Green Village' initiative is proposed to deliver small scale projects such as community food growing and habitat creation. A pilot should be delivered to test new farming practices that deliver wider benefits to nature such as less pesticide use and habitat management.

3 Enable sustainable tourism by updating the tourism strategy for the area around a business case which will provide a basis for measuring impact. The unique border location should be celebrated as a place where visitors can move between countries with just a few steps. A simple and effective brand should be developed along the lines of Iceland's Golden Circle or Scotlands North Coast 500. Delivering better tourism 'infrastructure' such as improved signage and wayfinding, bold village gateways and more opportunities to meet local people, eat local food and experience the authenticity of the valley should be considered.

4 Retain and improve the network of unique villages by recognising the distinct history and character of each of the villages and reflecting this in the proposed changes. Tintern for example has a much greater need to support tourism than a village such as The Narth which is much more attuned to local community life.

5 Support the local economy by working to delivering of high speed internet access with partners. It is recommended that a 'local circular economy' approach is adopted to support local business and to attract specific Welsh Government funding. This approach encourages local producers and supply chains to work closely with each other to retain money within the area for the people who live there rather than export to other areas. To allow people to work locally and attract new entrepreneurs new premises that allow 'co-working' or shared office space should be delivered. To ensure that local people can continue to live in the area, the Wye Valley Local Housing Needs Requirements should be updated to deliver affordable housing.

6 Provide joined-up governance by establishing a delivery group between key partners such as the local community council's, Monmouthshire County Council and the Wye Valley AONB. Cross border working with adjacent Local Authorities such as Forest of Dean District Council will be essential in sharing ideas and pooling resources. Both recommendations will be critical in making the plan a reality.

1.1 What is the background to this plan?

The plan has been put together between 2021 and 2022 by Arup who have worked closely with Monmouthshire County Council, Wye Valley AONB Unit and the local community councils.

This plan provides a blueprint for change for the villages in the Monmouthshire part of the AONB. The recommendations are strategic in nature and will direct more detailed study or set a clear path for the delivery of improvements on the ground. The plan outlines a series of proposals to improve road safety within the villages but casts the net wider to incorporate other key considerations such as transport, tourism and the local economy.

The project outcome is the result of a collaborative approach built around the courage and ambition of community leaders to improve the places they live in and an eagerness to enhance the outstanding character of the area. Arup have worked in close partnership with Monmouthshire County Council, Wye Valley AONB Unit and the four community councils (St Arvan's Community Council, Devauden Community Council, Tintern Community Council and Trellech United Community Council). A community consultation event during August-September 2021 gave local people and businesses the opportunity to shape their plan.

This report was preceded by two earlier stages of work:

Stage 1 identified the key issues, challenges and opportunities by reviewing the current situation. This included wide evidence based studies, reports, plans and strategies around green infrastructure (landscapes including habitats, woodlands, fields, parks etc), tourism, travel and transport, AONB management and regional development planning.

Stage 2 provided a draft vision and set of initial proposals for change. This formed the basis for public consultation. Following the consultation this has been reviewed and used as the basis for this final plan.

2.1 A plan for the future

The Wye Valley is a story of people and nature that has been shaped by many hands over centuries. The immediate challenges of climate change, post-Covid recovery, mobility and sustainable development require a new perspective on the future of this outstanding landscape and its settlements.

A vision is essential in providing a common approach and clear direction. The vision for this project reflects the character and importance of the Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the villages and communities nestled within and the two gateway towns of Monmouth and Chepstow.

The placemaking vision aims to define, enhance, and celebrate the uniqueness and diversity of the Wye Valley villages and their community. It aims to explore and unlock their distinct character, building on location conditions, history, heritage, landscape and the ethnographic narrative of the settlement and their people.

The vision is to ensure that short term solutions are set within the context of long term needs and challenges. It is considered over a 100 year timescale to ensure it will endure for generations to come and work with a timescale for nature. It is founded upon three simple principles:

Conserving and enhancing the communities and natural and man-made assets that define this unique place for existing and future generations.

A joined-up approach to governance, territory and integral drivers of change

Evolving to respond to changes caused by climate change and to capitalise on opportunities created by the target of net zero carbon.



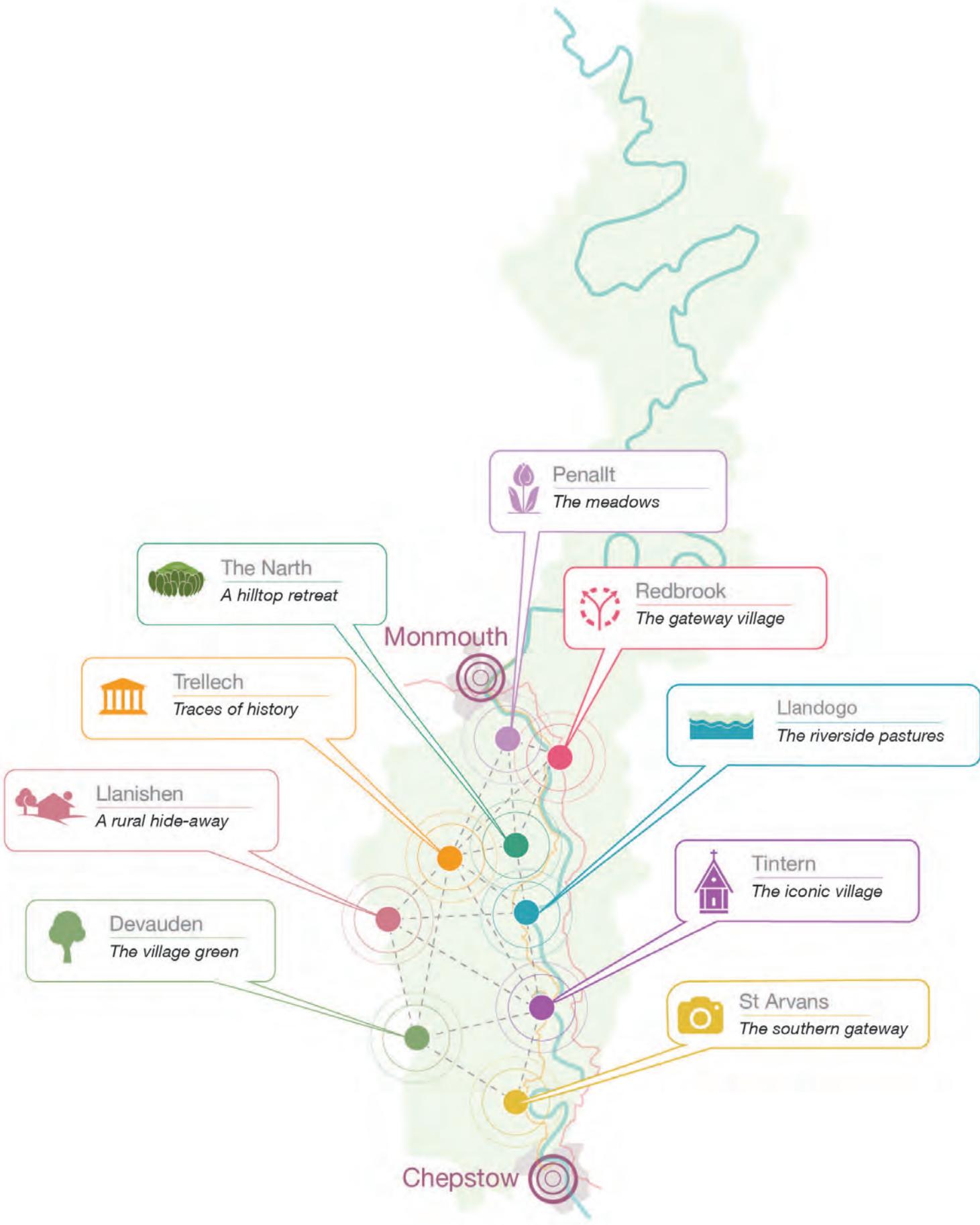
3. STUDY AREA

3.1 Study area

The scope of this study is limited to the Welsh part of the Wye Valley AONB and the 9 main settlements that have been identified with MCC:

Catbrook
Devauden
Llandogo
Llanishen
Penallt
St Arvans
The Narth
Tintern
Trellech

The geographic boundary of the study reflects the administrative boundary of Monmouthshire County Council and Welsh Government. In reality the villages of the Wye Valley AONB extend east and north into the Forest of Dean and Herefordshire. This is important because the social and economic function of the area is not restricted by the administrative boundaries. Any proposed changes discussed in this study will potentially impact other settlements. For example, a consistent approach to road safety would be more effective if managed at a broader geographical area (to include places such as Redbrook) that is consistent with the cross border AONB.



4.1 Overview

This section contains the six point plan for change in the Wye Valley AONB and its communities in Monmouthshire. The plan is formed from the six pillars of the vision, as contained in section 2 of the Stage 2 report (Appendix 1), and outlines the projects and initiatives which are recommended to meet community needs and wider sustainable development goals. Given the strength of community support for road safety improvements this is afforded priority. The plan addresses change over different timescales from smaller, localised projects such as speed reductions and signage which can be delivered early to broader and more complex initiatives such as improving the health of the River Wye.



90%



chance of survival when hit at 20mph (at 30mph this is only 50%). Source: World Health Organisation.

70%



of all emissions on our roads are from private vehicles. Source: BEIC

4.8%



The likelihood of individual obesity decreases 4.8% every km of walk per day. Source: TfL

1 in 6



species at threat of extinction in Wales

↓ 41%



Percentage of species to have declined since 1970

12%



Amount of land not used for agriculture in Wales

Source: State of Nature Report 2019

2.28 Million

Visitors to Monmouthshire in 2019

£245 Million

Generated for the local economy in 2019

Source: Visit Monmouthshire

3rd

Monmouthshire has the third highest GVA in Wales

£350k

Average house price in the Wye Valley vs the Welsh average of £213k

Source: Rightmove

4

Local authorities whose administrative boundaries cover the Wye Valley AONB

4.2 Ensure safe and sustainable transport



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Coordinated village street design

Sustainable transport strategy

Active travel and recreational access

INTRODUCTION

The two key priorities for the Transport element of the strategy are as follows:

- Improving actual and perceived road safety within the villages with the help of coordinated village street design.
- Enhancing sustainable transport provision for both residents and tourists.

The priorities identified above align with the views expressed by stakeholders alongside the key themes that underpin local and national planning policy. Both priorities complement each other as improving road safety is likely to encourage more journeys to be made by sustainable modes of transport, particularly active travel. Similarly, encouraging more trips to be made by sustainable modes of travel will reduce vehicle movements on the transport network, thus improving road safety.

COORDINATED VILLAGE STREET DESIGN

The most significant observation is the lack of distinction that is made to the road (and not street) design when entering or leaving each village. This lack of transition reinforces the sense of continuity for drivers and therefore any sense that you are entering a 'place' where people live or visit is lost. The result is an inevitable conflict between road users and people where drivers are given priority.

There are a number of measures to be explored further to reduce both perceived and actual road safety concerns. Some of these measures have been reflected in the diagrammatic plans for each village in section 5.1 "Village Plans" and further recommendations are included below:

- It is recommended that a detailed design for each of the villages is developed, where a common approach is undertaken to provide a 'kit of parts' applicable to any village. This consistent design approach will be based on shared objectives amongst stakeholders. Pilot projects, equivalent to RIBA Stage 5, can be identified to provide early trials and demonstrations of the ideas. An initial example of this has been provided for Llandogo within the Appendix of this report.
- It is also recommended that a road speed strategy is developed for the study area. We recommend this includes a 20mph speed limit for all streets within the villages. Speed reduction features will be required to enforce the proposed reductions in speed limit.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT STRATEGY

There are opportunities to enable both residents and tourists to make more journeys to, from and within the Wye Valley by sustainable modes of transport. These include:

- Improvements to the existing bus service provision, including increased service frequencies and better connectivity with more strategic bus and rail services;
- Enhancing the pedestrian and cycle network, particularly focusing on the potential extension of the Wye Valley Greenway as touristic active travel and an opportunity for habitat creation. This could form the basis of a future Levelling Up Fund bid. Enhanced pedestrian and cycle networks could also be delivered through the potential introduction of Quiet Lanes; and
- Mobility hubs that become a 'new place' with a clear and distinct sense of arrival and departure for multiple modes of transport with services and facilities to support visitors and tourists alike. Potentially located both in the north and south of the Wye Valley, these hubs would enable tourists travelling by car to transfer to another mode. The mobility hubs would include access to hire vehicles such as cycles, e-bikes and potentially electric vehicles. There is also a future opportunity for e-scooters to be made available. Further investigation is required to identify potential locations for such hubs; however, Chepstow Racecourse is suggested as a potential site to be explored further.

ACTIVE TRAVEL AND RECREATIONAL ACCESS

The Wye Valley contains numerous walking and cycling routes which form a complex network of active travel, recreational and touristic routes. For expediency, this section notes the regionally significant Offa's Dyke Path National Trail and Wye Valley Walk footpath and the emerging Wye Valley Greenway. These are the primary north-south routes which at varying points connect the river villages. Both Offa's Dyke Path and Wye Valley Walk are part of longer

walking routes linking the Wales Coast Path. As previously noted, this offers potential for the area to celebrate the beginning and end of these long distance routes.

Inclusive active travel where the needs of all people are understood and catered for is becoming an increasingly important consideration. This includes groups with typically lower levels of uptake including the elderly, BAME groups, women and people with disabilities. There is a significant opportunity for the Wye Valley to pioneer an approach to inclusive active travel by offering safe and adapted routes and means, as well as targeted marketing and branding.



The potential to engage others is huge: 55% of people from ethnic minority groups, 38% of people at risk of deprivation, 36% of women and 31% of disabled people who do not cycle would like to start.¹

1. **INCLUSIVE ACTIVE TRAVEL: 2019 ARUP REPORT AND MIXED ABILITY CYCLING**

MOVEMENT STRATEGY

To make a truly meaningful impact on transport in the area, several strategies will need to be aligned. The diagram illustrates how these are layered from changing the street design of the villages, the connecting public transport and new mobility hubs to 'get people out of their cars' and experience the Wye Valley on foot or bike.



The Arup publication Future Mobility Hubs



Sustainable transport strategy

Left: Bee-friendly bus stop, Utrecht

Right: Greener Grangetown, Cardiff

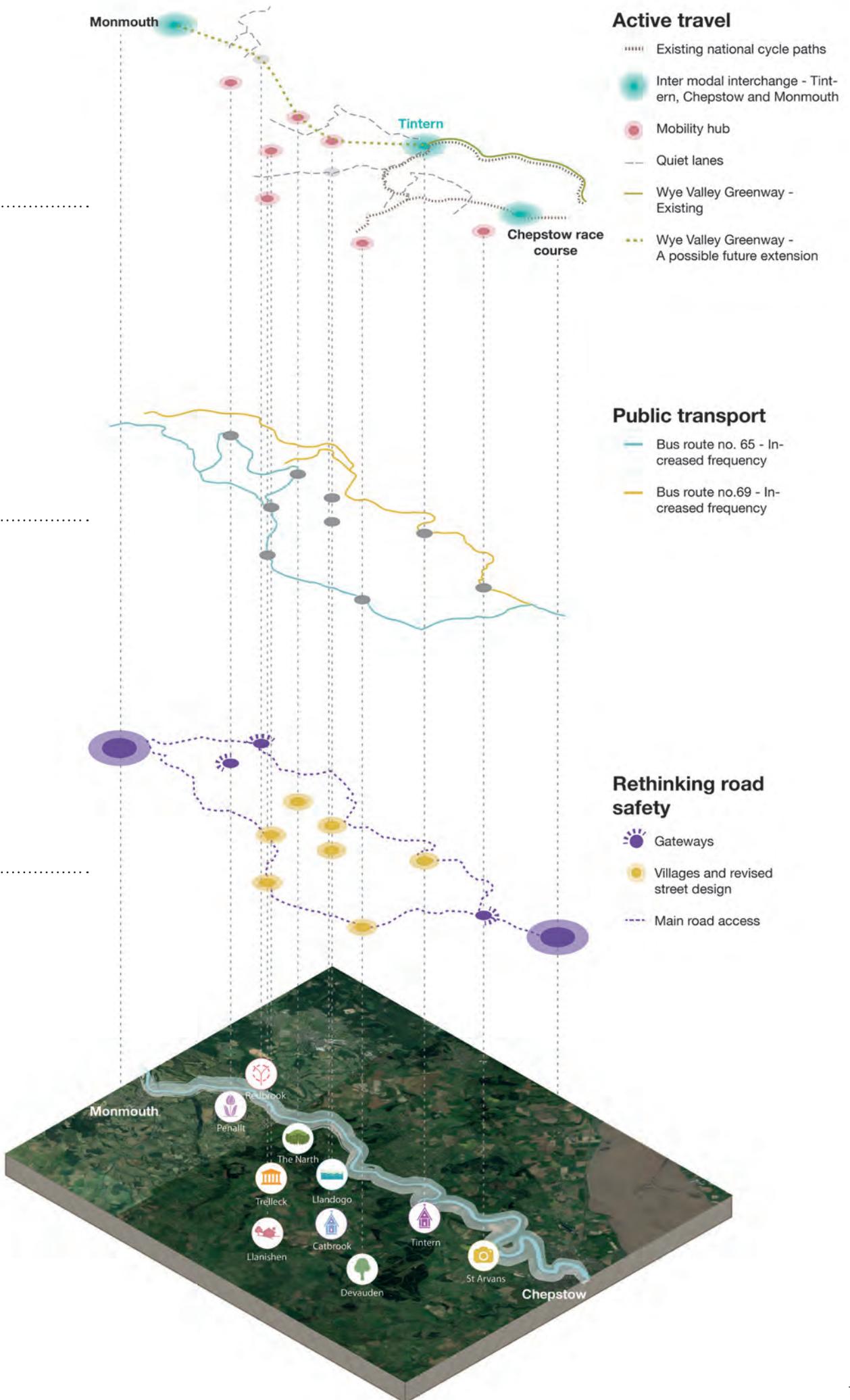


Coordinated village street design

Left: Blaenavon Ironworks, Blaenavon

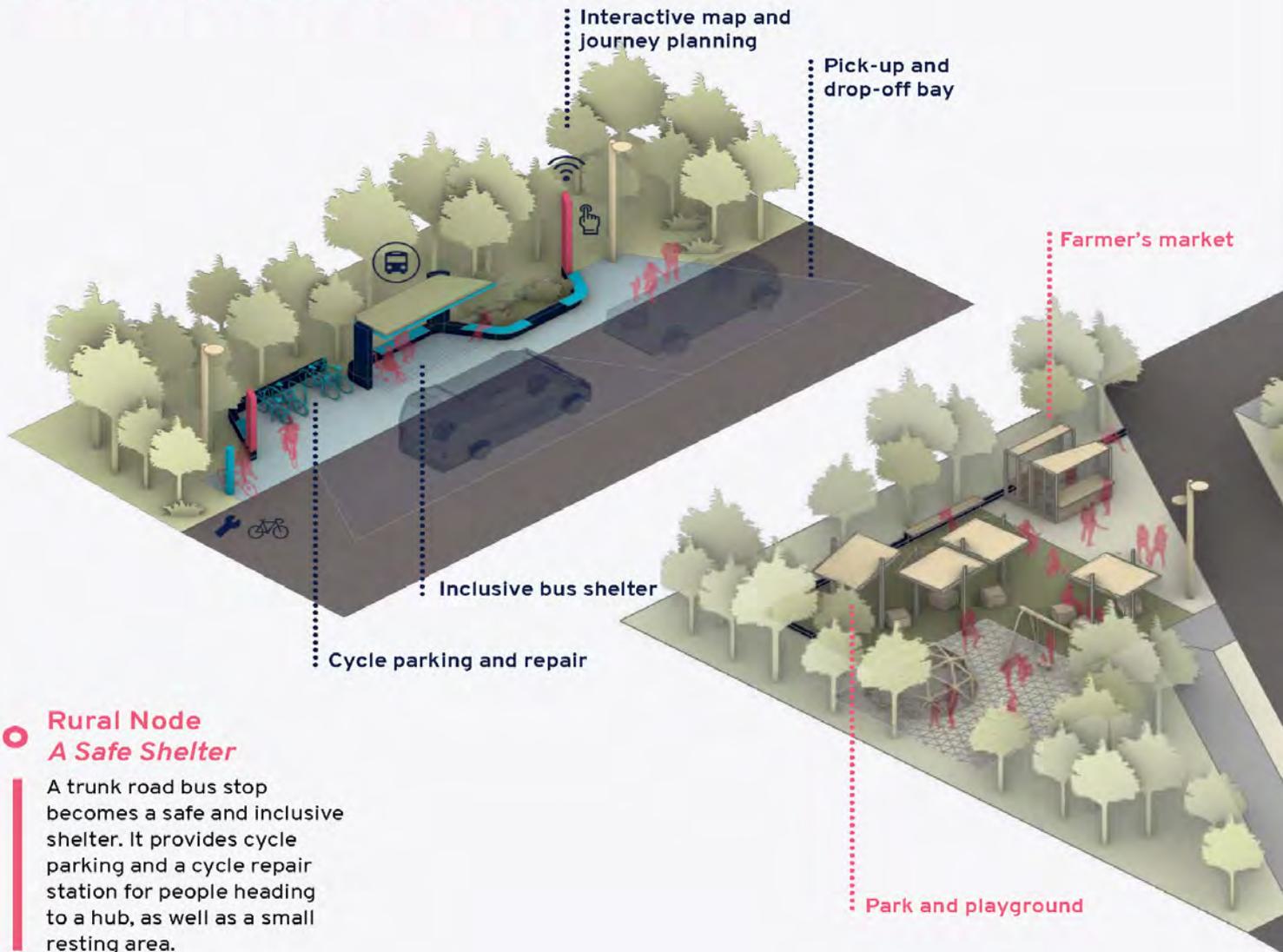
Right: Pedestrian priority spaces

2. THE LAYERS OF PROPOSED ROAD SAFETY AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AS THEY RELATE TO VILLAGES



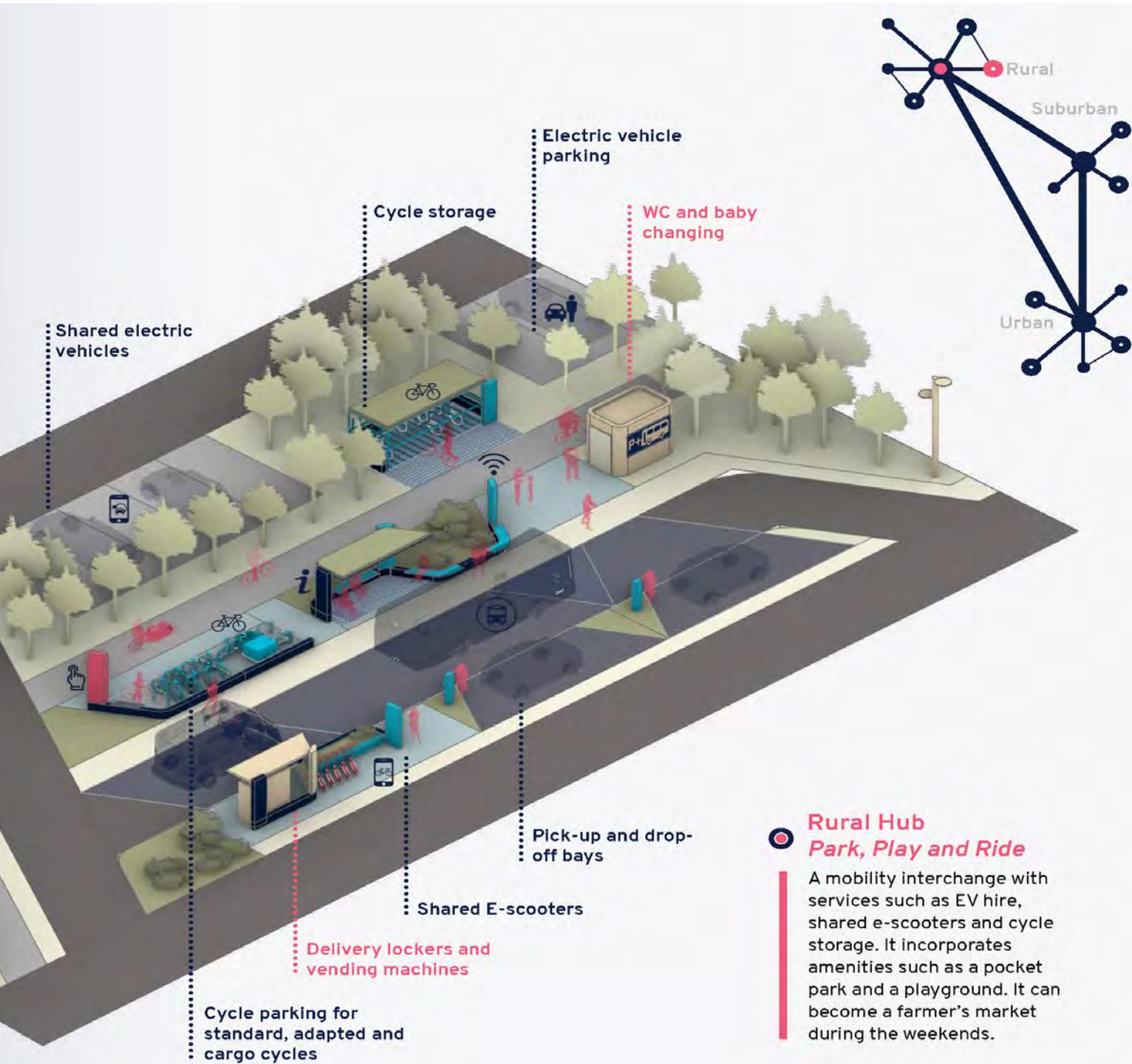
The Arup publication Future Mobility Hubs illustrates how these facilities can be delivered at three different scales namely rural, semi urban and urban. To help understanding what this may mean for the Wye Valley, the following pages contain extracts from the report to show how a rural mobility hub could look and function.

Rural Mobility Hubs



Rural Node **A Safe Shelter**

A trunk road bus stop becomes a safe and inclusive shelter. It provides cycle parking and a cycle repair station for people heading to a hub, as well as a small resting area.



Shared electric vehicles

Cycle storage

Electric vehicle parking

WC and baby changing

Pick-up and drop-off bays

Shared E-scooters

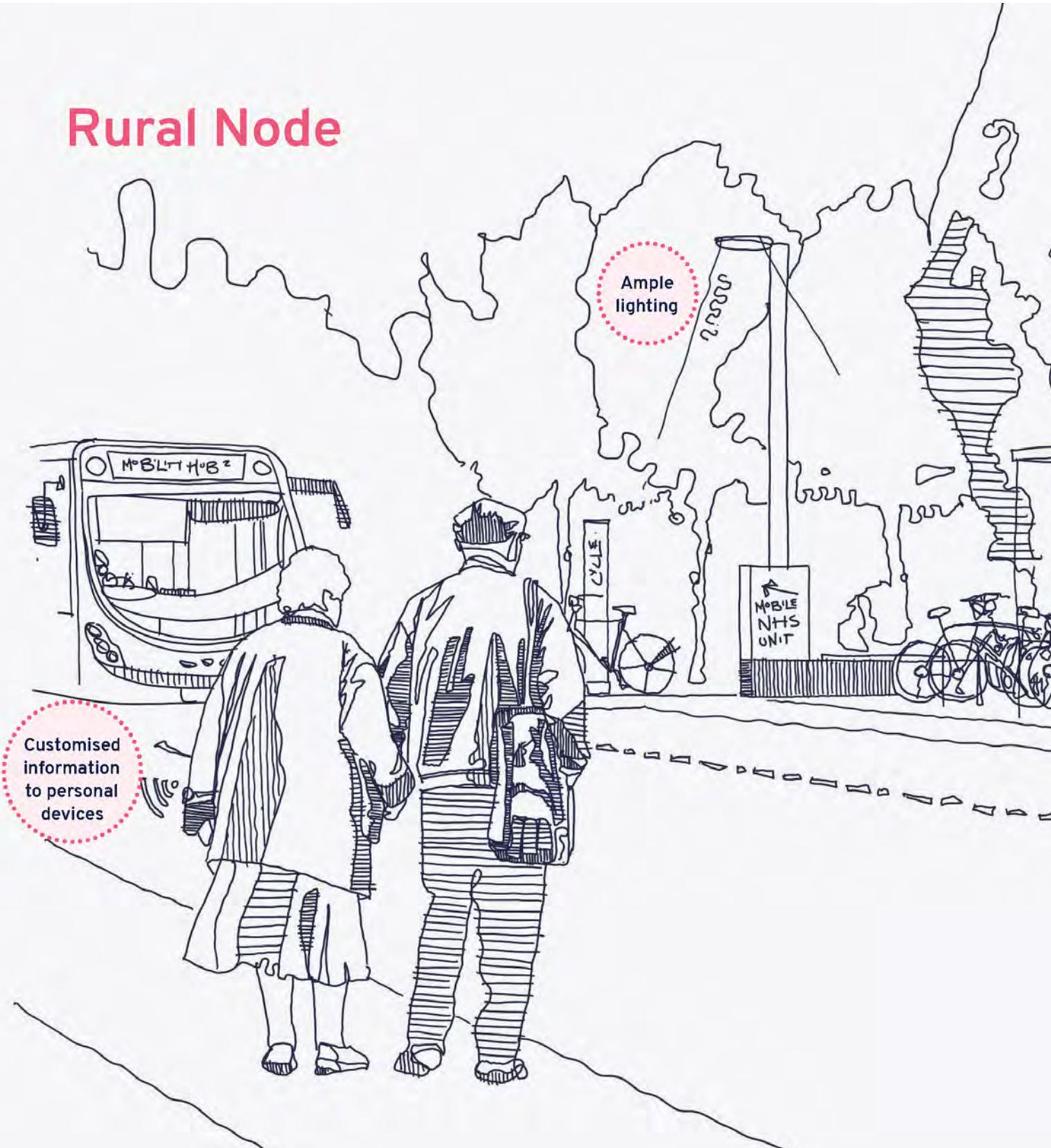
Delivery lockers and vending machines

Cycle parking for standard, adapted and cargo cycles

Rural Hub
Park, Play and Ride

A mobility interchange with services such as EV hire, shared e-scooters and cycle storage. It incorporates amenities such as a pocket park and a playground. It can become a farmer's market during the weekends.

Rural Node





Free WiFi

Enclosed heated and cooled shelter

Consistent branding

Interactive digital totem

4.3 Conserve & enhance the landscape

2

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

A health plan for the River Wye

The 'Green' Villages initiative

Pilots for sustainable farming

Carbon footprint analysis

INTRODUCTION

Green and blue infrastructure refers to the landscapes (habitats, woodlands, fields, parks etc) and water systems (rivers, tributaries, streams etc). The recommendations offered around green and blue infrastructure are cognisant of the vast body of work contained by and managed by the AONB Partnership and the recently published Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2021-2026. In response, the recommendations of this study are not based around large-scale change to the landscape and water system of the AONB. Instead, the focus of this study is on recommendations which can be aligned with community-based projects, council led initiatives or the result of collaboration.

Interventions should support wider ecological connectivity through the enhancement and conservation of trees, hedgerows, verges, riparian habitat and lowland meadows for example. A local action group (Monmouthshire Meadows) is active within the area and have successfully delivered Trellech Wet Meadows Local Wildlife Site with Gwent Wildlife Trust. The potential to create additional schemes should be explored.

A HEALTH PLAN FOR THE RIVER WYE

The current level of river pollution and subsequent impact on ecology was cited as an issue during the public consultation and indeed poor river health across the UK is of growing concern. The reasons for increased pollutant levels are complex but contributors could include;

- Fertiliser and pesticide usage associated with the intensification of agriculture
- Water run-off from our road network
- Waste water and contaminants from homes

The section of the River Wye explored in this study is located at the lower reaches of the wider river catchment area. To fully mitigate and improve the health of the River Wye a strong vision and plan is needed that covers the entirety of the river catchment area. This will need to include multiple local authorities, land owners, stakeholders across the English-Welsh border. This is a significant undertaking but without this approach the lower reaches of the River Wye will continue to be affected by issues that are beyond the control of Monmouthshire County Council, the Wye Valley AONB Partnership and NRW.

Despite this there are actions that can be taken at the local level that can help create the conditions for change and demonstrate a 'better way'. These can include;

- Localised Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to filter harmful contaminants before they find their way into the river system. Such systems use planting and landscaped features such as channels and ponds to store, filter and slowly release rainwater into streams, rivers and watercourses.
- A proactive campaign to raise awareness around household waste water and to encourage more environmentally friendly cleaning products.
- Encourage local action through community awareness initiatives. Encourage participation in citizen science, including the Wye Catchment Monitoring Project.
- Regenerative agriculture pilots that demonstrate how you can reduce or remove pesticides and manage the landscape to reduce surface run-off

In this way, the Wye Valley Villages can lead the cause for change for the wider River Wye.

THE 'GREEN' VILLAGES INITIATIVE

At a village level, it is recommended that any improvements to localised streets and public spaces are taken forward with nature-based solutions to water management such as SUDs. This can deliver multiple benefits including the creation of low maintenance filtration systems, reducing flooding, new habitat and recreation value. These are now required by Welsh Government for new road and public realm schemes.

In addition, community led initiatives which align with and support the overarching aims of the AONB can play an important role in placemaking and raising awareness amongst the community. Micro habitat creation such as the so-called Tiny-forests initiative or local food production schemes such as Incredible Edible can prove an invaluable source of positive change and help further shape the character of the villages.

So-called 'Citizen Science' where the local community contribute to wider research can be a fantastic way of encouraging participation whilst delivering meaningful research.

PILOTS FOR SUSTAINABLE FARMING

There is an opportunity to engage the agricultural community in order to deliver shared benefits for the AONB, local communities, local ecology and to mitigate climate change. Regenerative agriculture can be defined as farming practices which actively seek to conserve and enhance biodiversity, improve soil health and support the local economy.

During the study we have discussed the opportunity for MCC to utilise publicly owned land holdings for a pilot project to explore the benefits, challenges and opportunities for regenerative agriculture. We recommend this is explored further.

CARBON FOOTPRINT ANALYSIS

In 2019 Monmouthshire County Council declared a climate emergency committing to reduce its own carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. In achieving this target it is likely that Monmouthshire County Council will need to understand the contribution green and blue infrastructure can make both within the county and more specifically the study area of this report. Starting in January 2022 a carbon footprint analysis for the whole Wye Valley AONB will be undertaken. This will provide an invaluable resource which should be utilised to influence decision making and the prioritisation of projects.

LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

The landscape recommendations are formed around three layers each of which complement the extensive and successful work of the AONB and are intrinsically linked. The first layer of 'green' includes the mosaic of habitats throughout and valley, the 'blue' captures the water system including the River Wye and the final layer recognises the importance of improvement and action within the villages and communities as part of a 'whole' approach.



Pilots for sustainable farming

Left: Lowland meadows

Right: FitzPark, London



A Health Plan for the River Wye

Left: Regenerative river edge, Selwyn River catchment, Canterbury

Right: Using planting and landscape to manage water, Wisconsin



The 'Green' Villages initiative

Left: Incredible Edible (<https://www.incredibleedible.org.uk/>)

Right: FitzPark, London

3. THE LAYERS OF LANDSCAPE AS THEY RELATE TO THE VILLAGES

Green infrastructure

- Canopy
- Understory
- Lowland Meadows

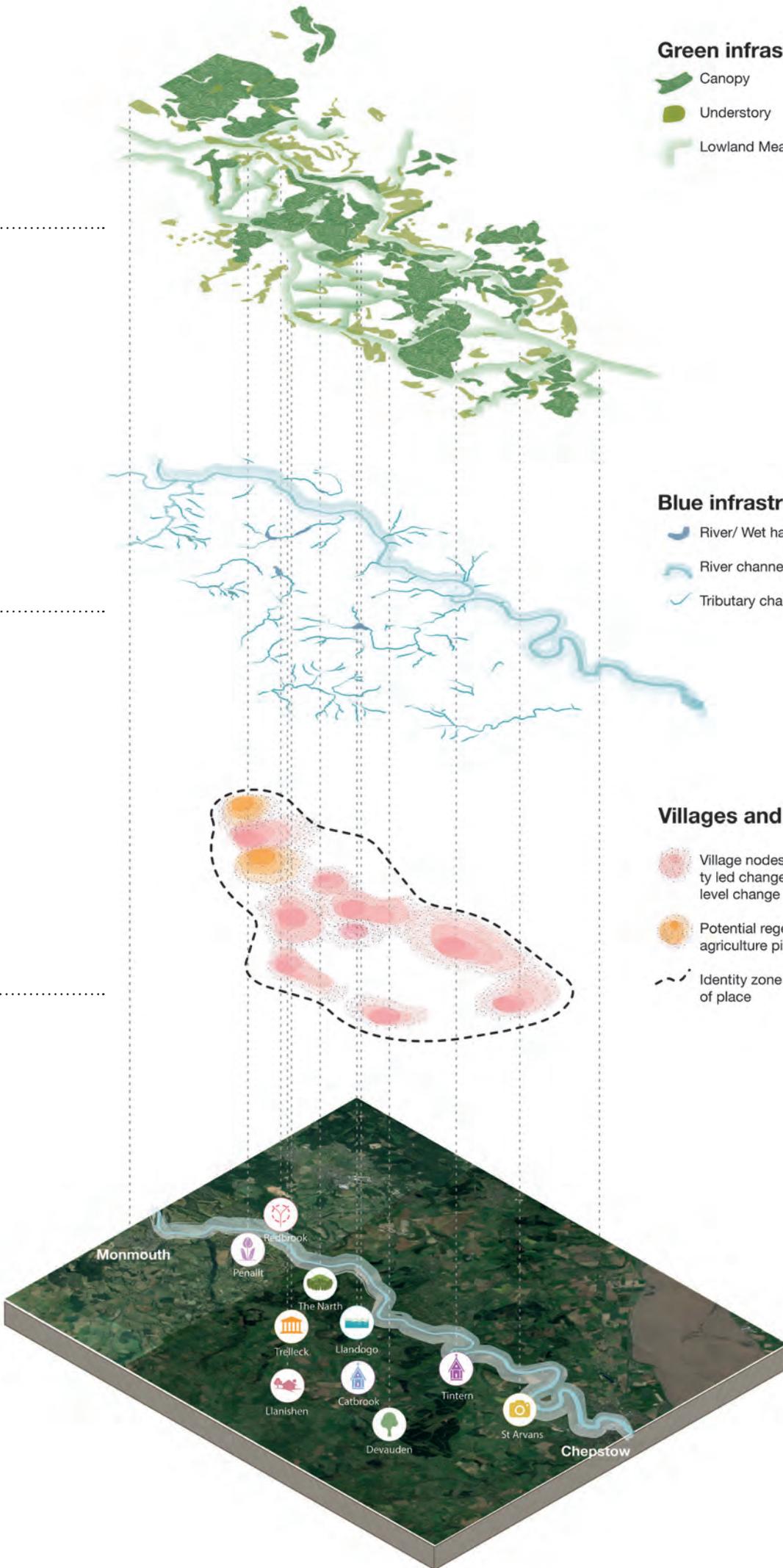
Blue infrastructure

- River/ Wet habitat
- River channel
- Tributary channels

Villages and communities

- Village nodes - community led change and village level change
- Potential regenerative agriculture pilots
- Identity zone with sense of place

Wider ecological connectivity (supported by village led initiatives)



4.4 Enable sustainable tourism



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Formulate a new tourism strategy

The views, recommendations and ideas contained within this section have been discussed with key stakeholders and are focussed on the next steps and a possible way forward. To develop an effective, future action plan for the tourism aspects of “Wye Valley Villages Plan for the Future”, there is a need to step-back and look at opportunities and challenges with a slightly broader and more strategic view and to consult with local communities, residents and businesses regarding acceptable levels of tourism at different times of the year. Sustainable tourism has benefits in terms of growing tourism for the good of the area’s people, environment and communities.

Four key considerations have been identified as integral to a future tourism strategy. These are:

1. Geographic Boundaries

The geopolitical context of the Wye Valley is evidently complex being located across multiple administrative boundaries and straddling both England and Wales. The geographic boundary of future work and management will need to be agreed. This could be focused on the villages within this report, the entire AONB or a broader area yet undefined.

2. Leadership and delivery

There will need to be agreement on who will lead on the planning and delivery of a solution as destination marketing and destination management cannot be delivered in separate silos. Further agreement is needed on who forms

part of project governance which could include communities, local business and public sector agencies.

3. Balancing tourism benefit and effect

Increasing tourism (or potentially decreasing in certain areas) poses significant questions. There needs to be an agreement on optimum level of positive benefits from tourism and potential effect for individual communities and component organisations. A clear understanding of what successful sustainable tourism looks like will need to be agreed.

4. The condition of the tourism economy

Before proceeding with a new strategy it is essential to understand the current condition of the existing tourism economy to establish whether it is ‘fragile’ or more robust. The second consideration will be to define what scale the ‘tourism engine’ should be to be more resilient.

APPROACH TO FORMULATING A NEW TOURISM STRATEGY

The following recommendations outline a series of steps to develop and deliver a new strategy:

- The swift delivery of an updated strategy and action plan (with measurable outcomes) for sustainable tourism with hard metrics and a defined business case at its heart, that can be measured and monitored so that as the strategy gets implemented, the degree of its success can be measured, and its implementation guided and shaped.
 - A new strategy should build on, and update, the Wye Valley AONB Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2011-2016. Although this report did not contain detailed metrics and economics, it did provide a clear and comprehensive picture of what sustainable tourism could look like. A review of this plan is needed to determine which elements worked and those which did not. It will be essential to understand what has changed and what new opportunities and challenges have emerged.
 - The new strategy should be based on hard data – linking into the ongoing research and data collection already being done for example by MCC / Visit Wales
 - A new strategy should also be cognisant of, and align with the Monmouthshire Destination Plan.
 - Business cases should be quantified with either 'hard', economic outcomes or social value generation. For example, the number of new full and part time jobs created, the value this brings to the local economy and relative uplift against the existing situation.
- Any new strategy should be realistic and pragmatic – but should not be afraid to be ambitious and aspirational. Without an ambitious plan, that can deliver sustainable economic and social benefits, why should stakeholders and investors want to back it and provide the resources needed? This represents evolution as opposed to revolution but will require a significant and positive step-change, built-in.
 - A new strategy should be divided into what is termed 'hardware and software'.

Software – The behaviours, methodologies, and means used to market, manage and curate the visitor experience and the destination (in general terms- the destination management plan and the destination marketing plan)

Hardware - The physical and bricks & mortar facilities, amenities and infrastructure that support the delivery of the visitor experience.

SOFTWARE OPPORTUNITIES

Brand - The development and application of a more clearly defined place brand, in terms of common, shared values; strategic messages and visual identity. The current lack of singularity, clarity, and consistency of place brand within the wider Valley, dilutes and fails to enhance a unique and compelling sense of place.

Messages that can be developed, unified, and amplified across all channels & platforms such as websites, social media, printed form and signage. These messages can be focused on encouraging the tourism behaviours that we want to promote. They might (for example) include:

- Ditch the Car! The Wye Valley is an immersive, multi-sensory experience that you can only enjoy when you get out of the car. Any visit to the Valley needs to include parking-up and getting out and into the landscape whether it be by walking, cycling, or canoeing etc.

- More to see than just a day trip! Don't just pass-through, stay overnight. There is great potential for after dark experiences such as dark skies, bat watching and son et lumière.
- Avoid the queues! The Valley is just as incredible out of season and off-peak. The Valley's scenery changes with the seasons and is maybe even more beautiful & compelling and the welcome maybe even warmer, when we are not at our busiest. For example, autumn is a wonderful time for leaf peeping in the Wye Valley. Leaf peeping is an activity where people travel to admire the changing season as the foliage turns from summer greens to the vibrant colours of autumn.

The Borderlands Theme and Identity - The English and Welsh border represents an exciting melting pot, of differing histories, languages, ethnographies, and cultures. As long as boundaries separate places in political, socio-cultural, and economic terms, borderlands will continue to be a unique venue for tourist





SUCCESSFUL PLACE BRANDING

4. **BELOW: NORTH COAST 500, SCOTLAND** (www.northcoast500.com)

5. **RIGHT: GOLDEN CIRCLE, ICELAND** (www.visiticeland.com/article/the-golden-circle/)

©<http://www.cpgrey.com>

HARDWARE OPPORTUNITIES

Hardware opportunities that the Wye Valley stakeholders can champion, lead, or partner on might include:

- Signage and Wayfinding - applying a reinvigorated and renewed place brand and visual identity, swiftly via new signage and wayfinding within the agreed geographic boundary. This could be a quick win and early deliverable demonstrating positive change for the local communities and visitors alike.
- Gateways – bold, physical forms on highways and footpaths, that signify arrival into or departure from this special and magical place. This could enhance and reaffirm the sense of place and create a positive sense of arrival which is currently missing. This represents another quick win and early deliverable.
- Visitor Attractions – especially those that celebrate and promote rural life and sustainable living, as tourists have become increasingly aware of environmental impact. If attraction opportunities are left to market forces, and the mix only curated passively, this risks a race to bottom – bringing the wrong sort of visitor for the wrong sort of occasion. Attraction operators with adequate finances are scarce across the UK and Europe. That is why partnerships, soft equity (capital grant support) and joined-up thinking will be required, to proactively plan, deliver and sustain a broader range of complementary attractions and attraction operators in appropriate locations.
- Supporting amenities – for example more serviced and or semi-serviced, accommodation and food and beverage opportunities. Celebrating the food provenance of the area, and offering the chance to really ‘meet local people’, as tourists are looking increasingly for authenticity in their experiences.
- Local Tourism Hubs – pockets of more dedicated tourist activity located strategically with parking, amenities and access to the landscape or recreation especially along the river Valley. This would mean actively curating this need in appropriate locations with the supporting amenities especially in potentially underused areas like NRW woodlands with cycle trails etc nearby.
- Main Tourism Hubs There may be scope for developing larger and more integrated tourism hubs. These could accommodate and integrate new attractions and amenities and be co-located with the inter modal interchanges discussed in section 4.2. These could be compact versions possibly, of the proposed PEAK - Peak District National Park resort campus near Chesterfield located at the prime gateways to the Valley such as Chepstow racecourse.

4.5 Reinforce the network of unique villages

4

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Celebrate the uniqueness of the villages

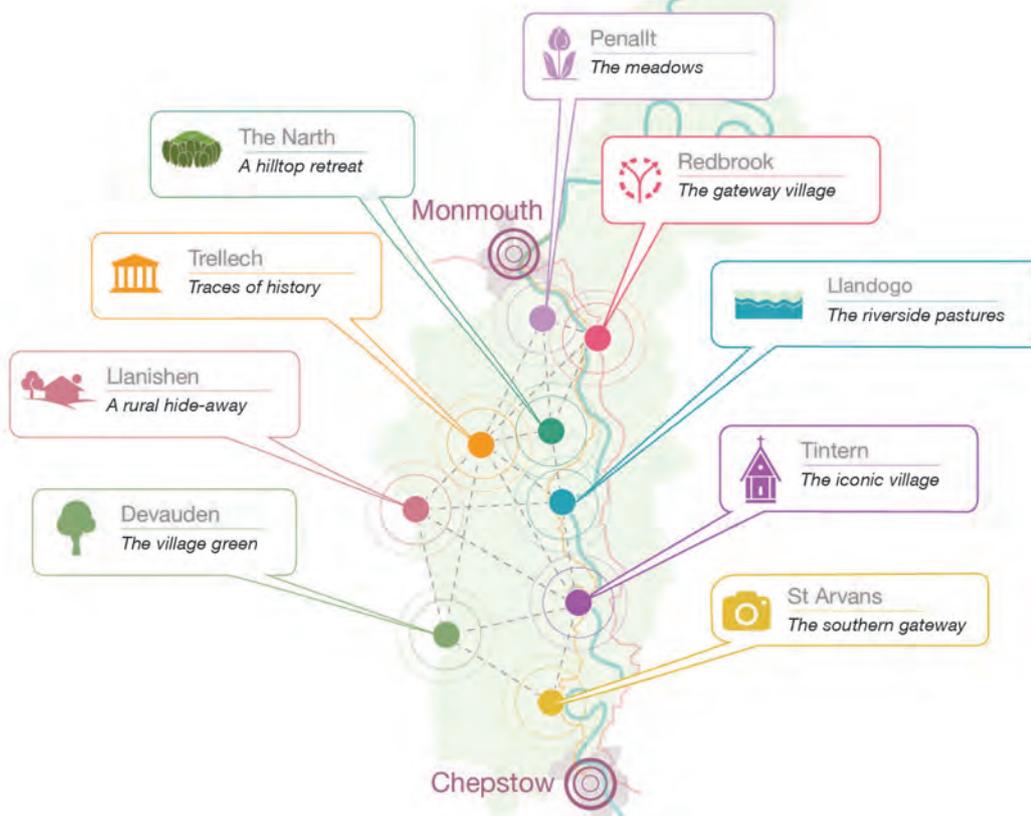
Coordinated approach to village improvements including village street design

Continued partnership working between community councils

To emphasise this uniqueness, the villages are a tapestry of settlements, moving away from the basic distinction between the villages in the valley and the ones high on the plateau between Wye Valley and Vale of Usk. This network of villages allows for unique identities to flourish and be reinforced, together with Monmouth and Chepstow as gateway towns. Of these, nine are explored within this study. Redbrook although part of the structure of villages and acknowledged here falls outside of Monmouthshire and therefore this study.

Using the same six point plan as for the overarching vision, common strategies and principles for placemaking can be defined, such as interventions that improve:

- travel and movement (road safety, active travel routes),
- tourism (signage and wayfinding, amenities and services),
- landscape (SUDs, biodiversity, trees and vegetation) and
- local economy (co-working hubs, local supply chains, digital economy and businesses)



4.6 Support the local economy



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Affordable housing strategy

Halls Together Project

Remote working hub pilot

Improving digital connectivity

Targeted circular economy fund

While Monmouthshire has the highest rate of active businesses and business births as well as the third highest Gross Value Added or GVA in Wales (this is a measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area), career opportunities and availability and quality of employment sites are limited, and the tourism industry is seasonal.

An older population is attracted to the region's high quality of life but are often in need of specific services such as health and social care and a younger population is in need of employment opportunities and incentives to drive initiatives forward locally.

Five drivers of change may support improvements and transformation of the local economy:

- Affordable housing strategy
- Remote working hub pilot
- Targeted circular economy fund for local producers and land managers
- Halls Together Project
- Improving digital connectivity

AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY

The Wye Valley is a desirable and expensive place to live but is unaffordable for many people employed locally and younger people. The high cost of housing may also be discouraging new and existing local businesses. Specific actions could be:

- Encourage construction of new houses and address the need for affordable and varied housing stock.
- Increase availability of housing sites to provide differing residential products and to enable higher rates of jobs per dwelling.
- Address the wider geographic differences in employment and housing markets in the region.

To address this issue it is important to to revise the Wye Valley Local Housing Needs Requirements specifically for the villages and to implement the Rural Allocations Policy.

REMOTE WORKING HUB PILOT

One way to raise the profile of the region as a dynamic place to do business is to work with Welsh Government and private operators to deliver a pilot remote working hub in one of the villages. This would provide office type accommodation on a flexible basis, access to IT, fast internet and attractive meeting and socialising spaces. This could benefit local communities and businesses in order to increase social capital, create skills networks and drive initiatives forward.

TARGETED CIRCULAR ECONOMY FUND

Exploring current circular economy funds can identify localised opportunities for local producers and land managers. There is an opportunity for increasing entrepreneurship (such as the Wye Valley Producers collective), capacity of businesses, earnings and retaining of economically active people within the production sector around the principle of a local circular economy.

HALLS TOGETHER PROJECT

This is a community project being guided by a steering group of representatives from village halls and community councils. The aim is to encourage and facilitate Community Facilities to work together to share best practice and benefit from joint ventures such as training, bulk purchasing, compliance and funding. Areas of focus have been identified through a questionnaire to hall community facilities.

IMPROVING DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

Good quality digital infrastructure and connectivity is central in facilitating digital businesses, education, social inclusion, and inward investment in the region. The hills and valleys of the Wye Valley make it difficult to deploy traditional approaches to digital infrastructure such as laying cables. Specific actions could be:

- Provide better broadband infrastructure such as Next Generation Access or wireless broadband coverage to reduce out commuting.
- An application by MCC/RDP to the Welsh Government Local Broadband Fund 2022/23 following the completion of the Welsh Government Open Market Review. This will focus on technologies that take into account the topography of the valley.
- Continue to work with Monmouthshire Broadband/Broadband partners to deliver their current plan for 'Fibre to the Premises' internet in Tintern and Trellech



4.7 Provide joined-up governance

6

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Establish a delivery group

Cross border working

ESTABLISH A DELIVERY GROUP

Leadership, ownership and identity will be decisive when it comes to delivering the vision for the “Wye Valley Villages AONB Plan for the Future”. The action and delivery plan that will support the Plan for the Future will need strong, constant and proactive management and guidance. That will ensure successful and viable funding and delivery of a programme of projects that will be defined for each of the six points of the plan.

An integrated approach is essential to resolve issues and realise opportunities. The Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) is currently the main cross-border body, consisting of local authorities, government agencies and interested public, private and voluntary sector organisations, that oversees the AONB Management Plan and the AONB Unit, and advises partners on issues, initiatives and strategies relating to the AONB.

CROSS BORDER WORKING

Many of the challenges and opportunities in the Wye Valley are not bound by geographical or administrative boundaries and the “increasingly complex and widespread environmental, social and political challenges transcend traditional management boundaries” as the AONB management plan states. The opportunity is to create cross border partnerships with national entities, whose strategies and plans aim to achieve similar objectives and jointly coordinate, plan, deliver and fund future projects.

Clear and strong governance and removing traditional boundaries between the public and private sector could further enhance collaboration and integration between the existing plans and projects and offer support to new or grassroots initiatives.



THE WILD HARE



5.1 Village Plans

These plans illustrate the ideas developed during the course of the project. In some instances they fall within privately owned land or will require more design, feasibility and investigation. In such instances this will require a longer time frame to assess viability and will require more in depth conversations to build consensus.

Suggestions are offered for particular uses within certain village halls. These should not be considered as the only potential uses and alternative ideas are recommended as the plans develop.

The following pages contain diagrammatic plans explaining how these proposed interventions could be implemented in each village and includes an individual action plan for each village setting out the projects and key information around timescale, the partners needed to delivery and the level of priority.

5.2 Catbrook

The village is a community rather than a focal point for tourism. As with the North the quiet, secluded character of the village is a defining feature. Accordingly, proposed change is limited. Subtle interventions could help garner greater community cohesion, increase the sense of place and cater for low impact tourism in the form of walkers/hikers.

- 1 Village gateway** with 20mph speed limit and unique gateway sign
- 2 Traffic calming** street design such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water





5.2 Catbrook Action Plan

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
Opportunity -Encourage lower vehicle speeds. Overall recommendations here are limited to road safety in response to feedback from the public consultation				
5.2.1	Road Safety and placemaking	Creation of village gateway signage	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.2.2	Road Safety	20mph speed limit through village (2023 based on current proposals from WG).	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
MCC	MCC/Community council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund, Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places funding.	Budget would need to be secured	£10-15k subject to detail design (please note this could vary significantly depending on the type of signage).	MCC, AONB, Community Councils,
MCC	MCC/WG	MCC Operational Budget - via WG 20mph plans	Exists within current budget	tbc	MCC, Community Councils, AONB, WG

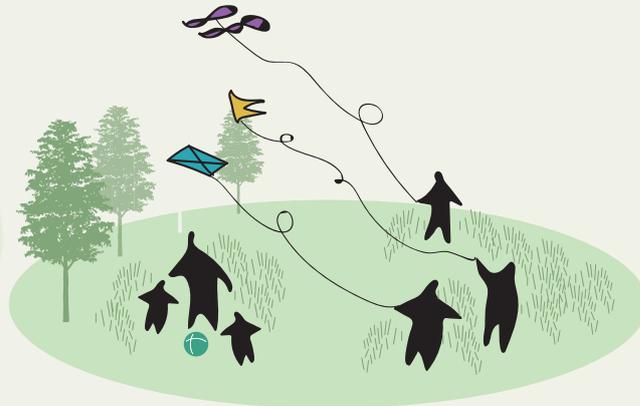
5.3 Devauden

By contrast to the destination villages such as Tintern, the character of Devauden reflects its function as a community and less as a tourism destination. During the engagement process concern was raised over the volume and speed of vehicle movement. The active community hall and community council can play a key role in delivering change on the ground. The initial proposals are:

- 1 Village gateway** with 20mph speed limit and unique gateway sign
- 2 Traffic calming** street design such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water.



- 3 Community agriculture scheme** such as Incredible Edible (Usk). Location to be determined.



- 4 Village green enhancements -**
The main feature of note is the village green which contains the interpretative feature for John Wesley . Given the importance of the Wesleyan movement and its global reach, there is an opportunity to enhance this space to support multiple purposes for the community and visitors. Small habitat creation such as species rich grassland or wildflower planting will bring ecological benefits and enhance the environment. Another opportunity is to relocate some bus stops to the village green area.
- 5 Memorial Hall -** a gathering place for the community with added facilities such as cycle parking, EV charging, wayfinding and wifi. It is also worth exploring other ideas such as temporary village pub and small habitat creation around the hall.
- 6 Safe cycle paths** for people of all abilities with bike facilities at Memorial Hall.



Similar road safety measures proposed at Itton Village. Proposals to be captured and identified at a later stage.



5.3 Devauden Action Plan

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
Opportunity -Encourage lower vehicle speeds. Opportunity -Community agriculture				
5.3.1	Road Safety and placemaking	Creation of village gateway signage	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.3.2	Road Safety	20mph speed limit through village	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.3.3	Street Design	Detail design changes to the street to encourage lower speeds such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water. To be defined via the recommended coordinated village street design.	Development project/pilot	High

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
MCC	MCC/Community council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund, Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places funding.	Budget would need to be secured	£10-15k subject to detail design (please note this could vary significantly depending on the type of signage).	MCC, AONB, Community Councils,
MCC	MCC/WG	Welsh Government Local Transport Fund	Identified within forthcoming budget	tbc	MCC,WG, Community Councils
MCC	MCC/Community Council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund (2021-22 Round)	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - dependent on scale and specification of improvement.	MCC, WG, Community Councils

5.3 Devauden Action Plan

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
5.3.4	Community Agriculture/ Growing	Deliver a community agriculture scheme as an early win for the Green Village Strategy. Consider aligning to existing initiatives such as Incredible Edible (Usk). Communicate ideas with Coleg Gwent and Wye Valley AONB to explore opportunities for collaboration and knowledge share.	Community based project	High - Quick Win
5.3.5	Village Green Enhancements	Localised improvements to the green including small habitat creation (such as species rich grassland or appropriate wild flower planting to be agreed with MCC).	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.3.6	Relocation of bus stops	Consider relocating bus stops to the village green area.	Development project/pilot	High
5.3.7	The Hood Memorial Hall	Consider extending small habitat creation to areas around the hall aligned to the Green Village Strategy.	Community based project	High - Quick Win
5.3.8	The Hood Memorial Hall	Explore additional ideas raised during the consultation such as a temporary village pub (assumed as a 1 day a week event).	Community based project	High - Quick Win

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
Third Sector	Community Council	Community Funding tbc	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - such schemes can be realised with minimal to no capital expenditure assuming land is already acquired.	Community Councils, AONB, Coleg Gwent, Existing initiatives such as Incredible Edible
Partnership	MCC/Community Council	Community Funding, Sustainable Development Fund tbc	Budget would need to be secured	tbc	Community Councils, MCC, Bus Operators, Monmouthshire Meadows
Partnership	MCC/Community Council, Bus operator	Multiple Funding Sources to be defined	Budget would need to be secured	tbc	MCC/Community Council, Bus operator
Third Sector	Community Council	Community Funding, Collaboration with NRW/ Woodland Trust tbc	Budget would need to be secured	tbc	Community Council, Monmouthshire Meadows Groups AONB, MCC, Wildlife partner (e.g. Gwent Wildlife Trust).
Third Sector	MCC/Community Council	Community Funding,	Budget would need to be secured	Assumed as no additional cost or minimal community funding.	Community Councils, MCC, Bus Operators

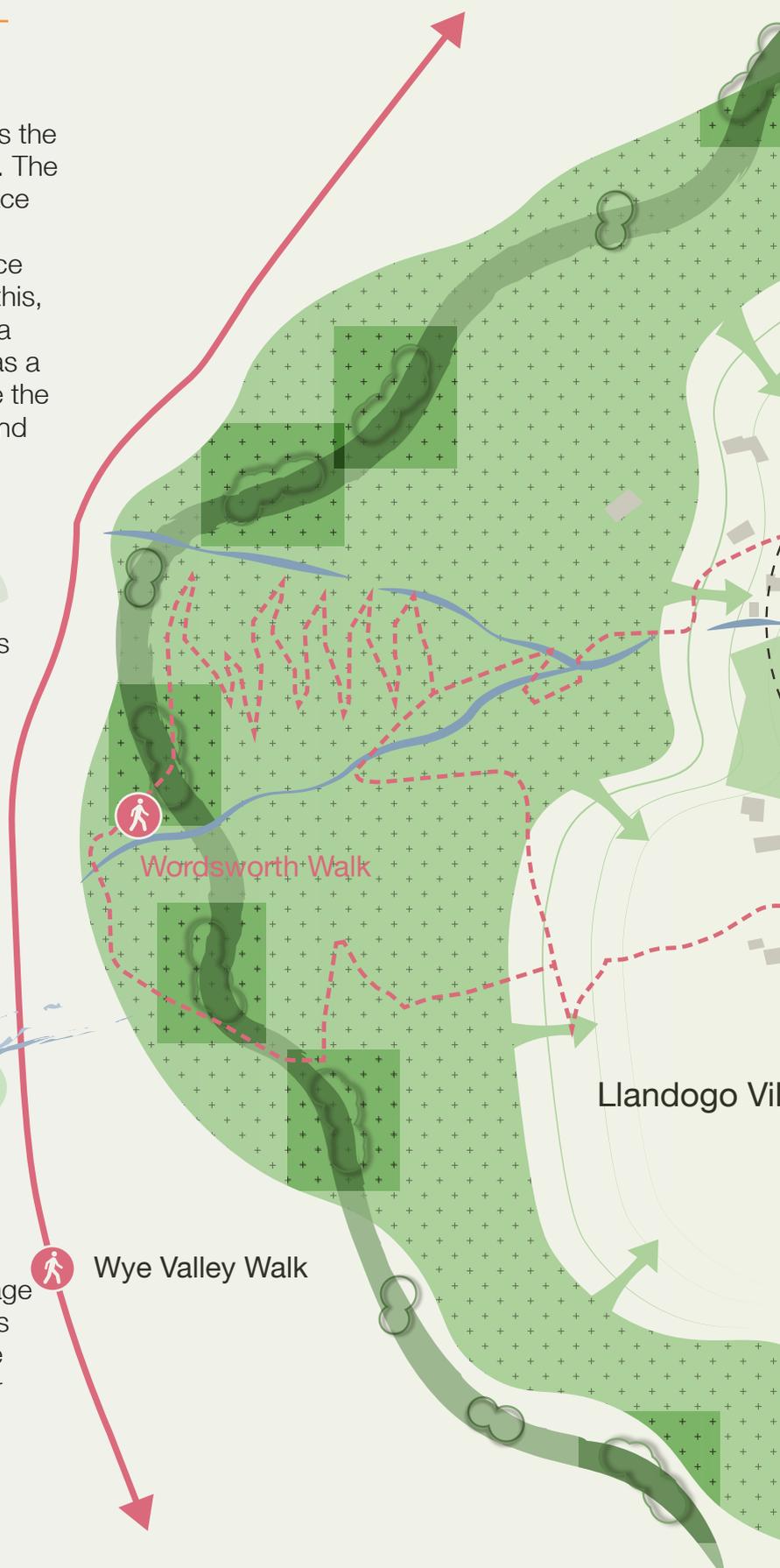
5.4 Llandogo

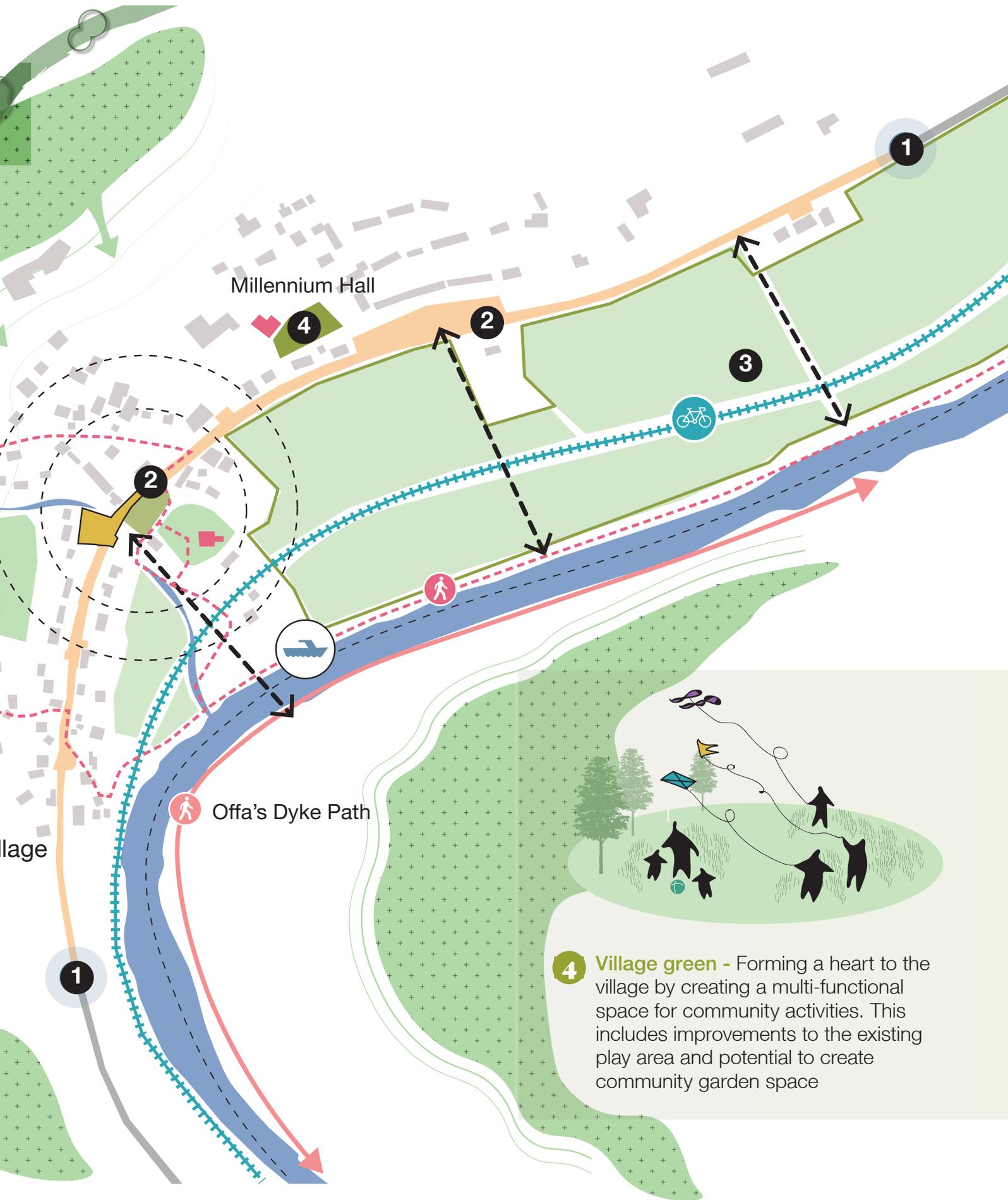
One of the riverside villages, Llandogo lacks the tourism profile and status of nearby Tintern. The village has no single defining feature or space and although it enjoys a riverside access, it feels disconnected from the river which once supported the local trow industry. Despite this, the village has significant potential as both a pivot point for multiple walking points and as a place. The initial proposals seek to reshape the village to harness the natural advantages and rediscover its history.

- 1 Village gateway** with 20mph speed limit and unique gateway sign
- 2 Traffic calming** street design such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water.



- 3 Llandogo Meadows** - Enhancing the biodiversity of the lowland river meadows and reconnecting the village to the river through improved access for walkers and cyclists. Please note this would require private landowner agreement.





4 Village green - Forming a heart to the village by creating a multi-functional space for community activities. This includes improvements to the existing play area and potential to create community garden space

5.4 Llandogo Action Plan

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
<p>Opportunity - Encourage lower vehicle speeds. Opportunity - Improved access to the river Opportunity - lowland meadow enhancement Opportunity - Improved park/green space adjacent to Millennium Hall</p>				
5.4.1	Road Safety and placemaking	Creation of village gateway signage. Align this with the approach to the network of villages by assigning a particular theme/name for each village.	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.4.2	Road Safety	20mph speed limit through village	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.4.3	Street Design	Detail design changes to the street to encourage lower speeds such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water. To be defined via the recommended coordinated village street design	Development project/pilot	High
5.4.4	Community-led lowland meadow enhancement	Engage with local landowners, Gwent Wild life Trust and the local community to determine interest, viability and potential delivery of lowland meadow enhancement	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
MCC	MCC/Community council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund, Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places funding.	Budget would need to be secured	£10-15k subject to detail design	MCC, AONB, Community Councils,
MCC	MCC/WG	Welsh Government Local Transport Fund	Identified within forthcoming budget	tbc	MCC,WG, Community Councils
MCC	MCC/Community Council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation	Budget would need to be secured	tbc	MCC, WG, Community Councils
Partnership	Monmouthshire Meadow Group	Multiple Funding Sources to be defined	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - dependent on scale of improvement. Consider the use of crowd funding	Community Council, Monmouthshire Meadows Groups AONB, MCC, Wildlife partner (e.g. Gwent Wildlife Trust).

5.4 Llandogo Action Plan

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
5.4.5	Millennium Hall green	Improve the existing green space, small scale habitat creation in line with the Green Village Strategy and consider the potential to create community garden space (such as Incredible Edible)	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.4.6	Millennium Hall green	Provide improved play equipment and ensure this caters for all abilities	Development project/pilot	High
5.4.7	River access	Engage with local landowners to explore the potential for new access routes from the village to the river. Align with potential meadow enhancement noted above	Community based proejct	High - Quick Win

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
Partnership	Community Council	UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Funding grant e.g. Ashley Family Foundation. Collaboration with NRW/ Woodland Trust	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - dependent on scale of improvement. Consider the use of crowd funding.	Community Council, third sector organisations such as Incredible Edible
Partnership	Community Council	Multiple Funding Sources to be defined	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - dependent on scale of improvement	Community Council, MCC, third sector groups and local school
Partnership	Community Council	Multiple Funding Sources to be defined	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - dependent on scale of improvement and routes. Potential to collaborate with third sector organisations such as Gwent Wildlife Trust	Community Council, third sector organisations such as Gwent Wildlife Trust, land owner(s)

5.5 Llanishen

Like Devauden and the Narth, Llanishen is largely community focused. The village backs on to the B4293 partially screening it from passing traffic. It is fragmented in form, extending west away from the main road. Whilst the screening helps mitigate the impact of passing traffic for residents the lack of an evident 'place' for those passing through does little to discourage speeding vehicles.

- 1 Village gateway** with 20mph speed limit and unique gateway sign
- 2 Traffic calming** street design such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water





5.5 Llanishen Action Plan

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
Opportunity -Encourage lower vehicle speeds. Overall recommendations here are limited to road safety in response to feedback				
5.5.1	Road Safety and placemaking	Creation of village gateway signage. Align this with the approach to the network of villages by assigning a particular theme/ name for each village.	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.5.2	Road Safety	20mph speed limit through village	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.5.3	Street Design	Detail design changes to the street to encourage lower speeds such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water. To be defined via the recommended coordinated village street design	Development project/pilot	High

k from the public consultation					
DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
MCC	MCC/Community council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund, Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places funding.	Budget would need to be secured	£10-15k subject to detail design	MCC, AONB, Community Councils,
MCC	MCC/WG	Welsh Government Local Transport Fund	Identified within forthcoming budget	tbc	MCC,WG, Community Councils
MCC	MCC/Community Council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund (2021-22 Round)	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - dependent on scale and specification of improvement.	MCC, WG, Community Councils

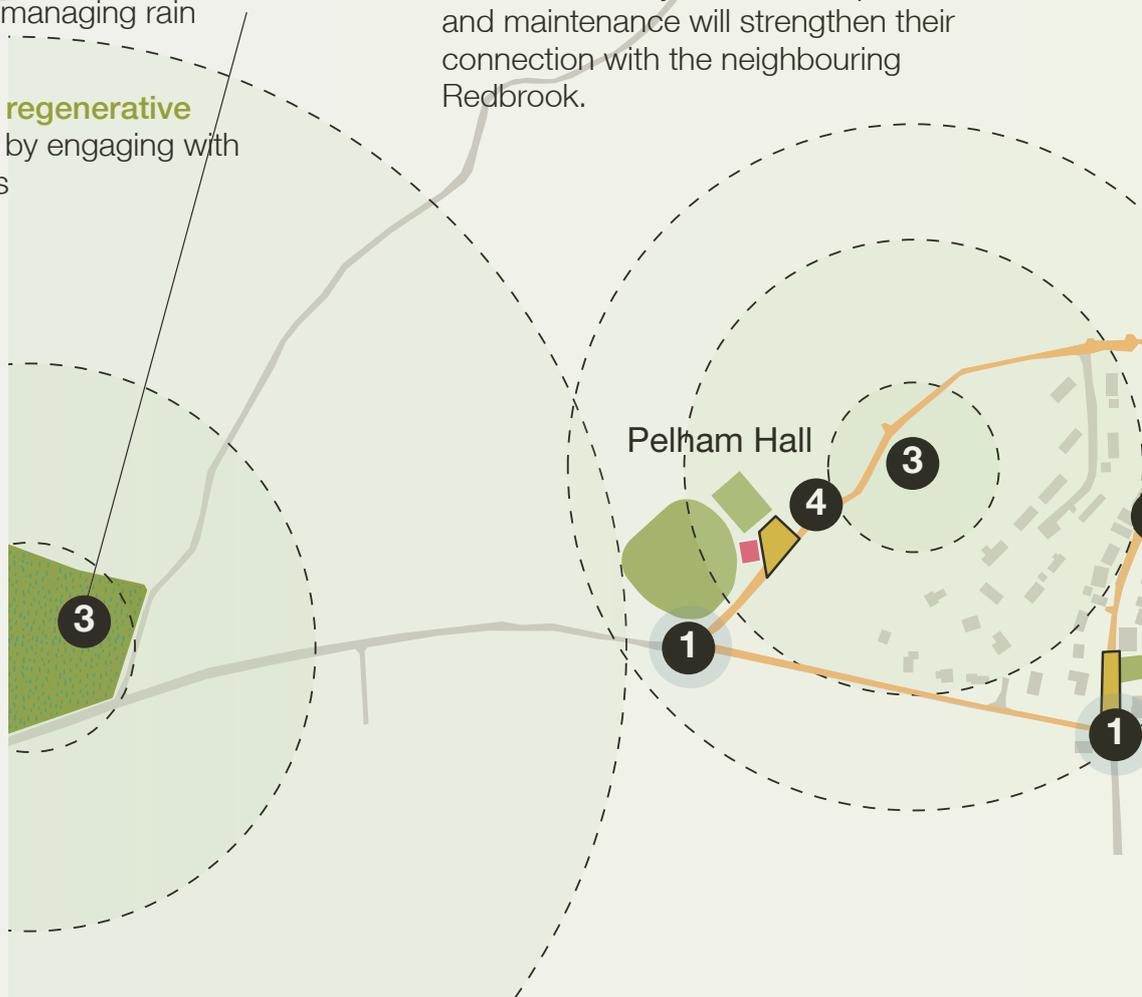
5.6 Penallt

The village enjoys a prominent location elevated at the head of the valley. The area is largely community focused with visitor destinations focused around Humble by Nature and Pelham Hall. Initial proposals are cognisant of these enterprises and build on these assets and the natural environment to shape a broader proposition around regenerative agriculture.

- 1 Village gateway** with 20mph speed limit and unique gateway sign
- 2 Traffic calming** street design such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water
- 3** The deployment of **regenerative agricultural pilots** by engaging with willing collaborators



- 4** The use of Pelham Hall as a **remote working hub** enhanced to cater for the community with gardens, allotments and coffee shops
- 5 Redbrook Bridge** is a vital part of the community life and its repair and maintenance will strengthen their connection with the neighbouring Redbrook.





5.6 Penallt Action Plan

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
Opportunity - Encourage lower vehicle speeds. Opportunity - Sustainable farming plot Opportunity - Remote working hub				
5.6.1	Road Safety and placemaking	Creation of village gateway signage. Align this with the approach to the network of villages by assigning a particular theme/ name for each village.	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.6.2	Road Safety	20mph speed limit through village	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.6.3	Street Design	Detail design changes to the street to encourage lower speeds such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water. To be defined via the recommended coordinated village street design	Development project/pilot	High

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
MCC	MCC/Community council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund, Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places funding.	Budget would need to be secured	£10-15k subject to detail design	MCC, AONB, Community Councils,
MCC	MCC/WG	Welsh Government Local Transport Fund	Identified within forthcoming budget	tbc	MCC,WG, Community Councils
MCC	MCC/Community Council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - dependent on scale and specification of improvement.	MCC, WG, Community Councils

5.6 Penallt Action Plan

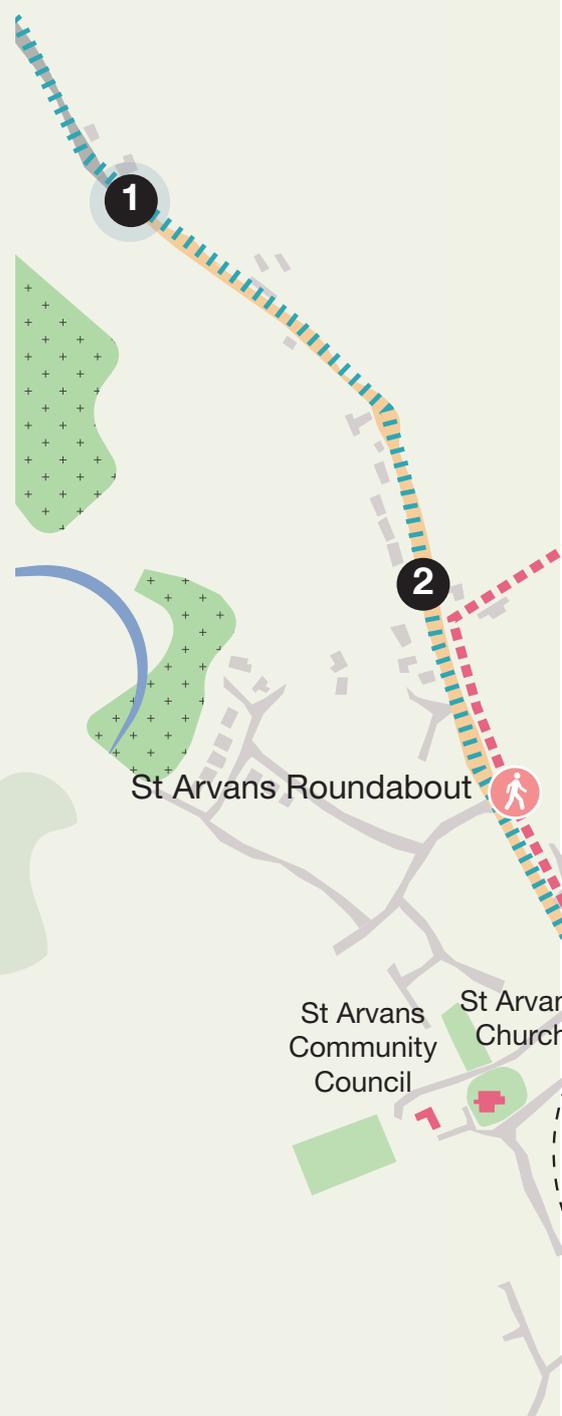
NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
5.6.4	Sustainable farming pilot	Public sector led demonstrator for sustainable land management. Engage with the NFU, NRW, Coleg Gwent, Humble By Nature and local farmers to identify willing collaborators for land management pilots. Support with the strategic aims of the project and help initiate. Measure outcomes and lessons learned. Align this with MCC	Development project/pilot	Medium
5.6.5	Remote working hub - Pelham Hall	Liaise with the operator to explore the potential to create a remote working hub. Please note this was raised as a possibility doing engagement	Development project/pilot	Medium
5.6.6	Redbrook Bridge improvement	Gloucestershire Couty Council to undertake maintenance works on the existing bridge. Consider a new lighting strategy to denote the importance of the bridge but ensure this is designed to mitigate any potential impact on wildlife/ light pollution. Potential to incorporate as part of the sustainable transport study and/or Wye Valley Greenway proposals.	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
JV	AONB/MCC	Coleg Gwent contribution. Sustainable production grant (Wales). Farm Business Grant (Wales). Glastir Small Grants scheme (Wales). UK Shared Prosperity scheme.	Budget would need to be secured	If of sufficient scale consider UK Shared Prosperity Fund (For example as part of a county wide strategy). Alternatively small scale delivered in collaboration with Coleg Gwent - circa £25,000. Additional funding sources are available to supplement a smaller scale project.	NFU, NRW, MCC, Coleg Gwent, local land owners, Wye and Usk Foundation.
MCC	MCC	Private Sector investment	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - subject to private sector proposals and available funds	MCC, AONB, Community Councils, TfW, Bus operators
Partnership	AONB/GCC	Multiple Funding Sources to be defined	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - subject to level of intervention which could range from limited maintenance to more significant infrastructure and intrusive works to the bridge as part of a broader active travel system such as the Wye Valley Greenway.	MCC, WG, Community Councils, GCC, Sustrans, Railway Heritage Trust

5.7 St Arvans

The village marks the southern gateway to the Wye Valley and is immediately north of Chepstow racecourse. It marks the connection between the B4293 and A466 linking the lower reaches of the valley with the upper area. Despite this strategic importance there is little to mark this important location whilst local residents experience the dual negative of passing traffic with little direct benefit from visitors.

- 1 Village gateway** with 20mph speed limit and unique gateway sign
- 2 Traffic calming** street design such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water
- 3** The use of Chepstow racecourse as a **transport hub** to encourage greater use of sustainable transport and as an entry point to the strategic walking routes.





5.7 St Arvans Action Plan

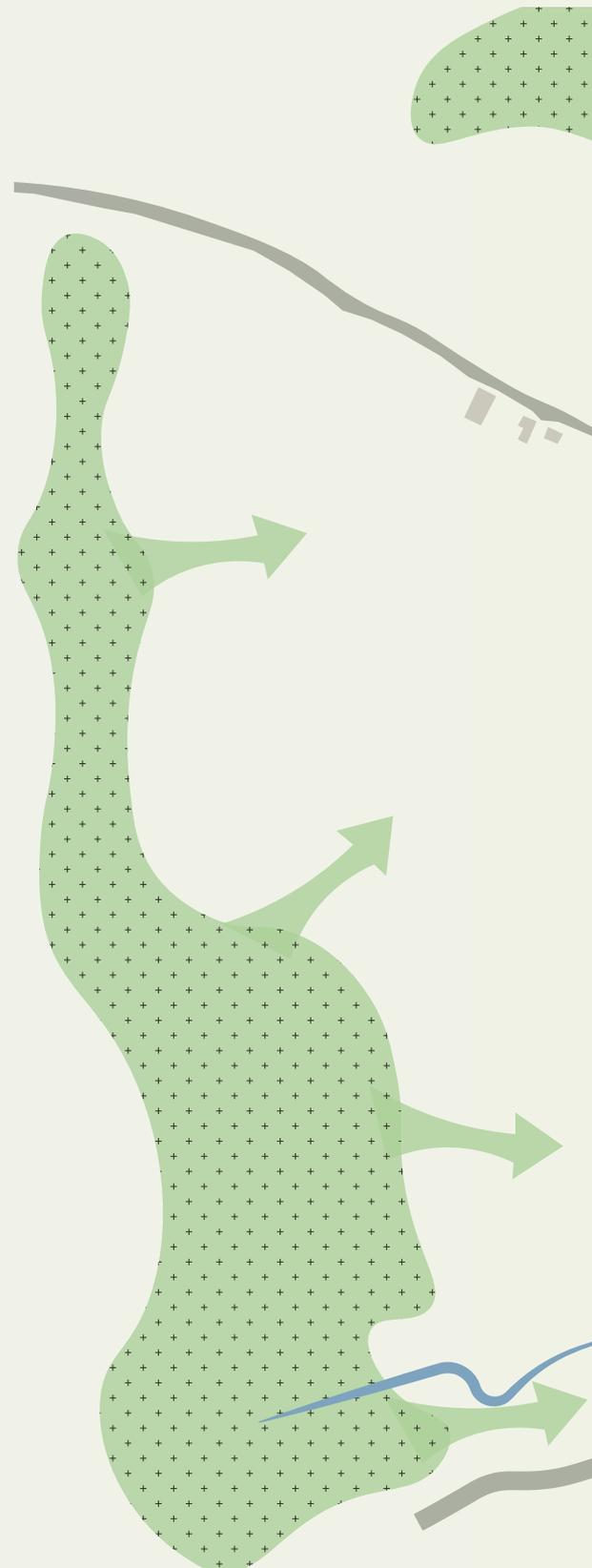
NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
Opportunity -Encourage lower vehicle speeds. Overall recommendations here are limited to road safety in response to feedback				
5.7.1	Road Safety and placemaking	Creation of village gateway signage. Align this with the approach to the network of villages by assigning a particular theme/name for each village. Particular opportunity to mark the entrance of the Wye Valley.	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.7.2	Road Safety	20mph speed limit through village	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.7.3	Street Design	Detail design changes to the street to encourage lower speeds such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water. To be defined via the recommended coordinated village street design	Development project/pilot	High
5.7.4	Chepstow racecourse transport hub	As part of the recommended sustainable transport strategy undertake a feasibility study which includes design, funding and delivery for a potential new sustainable transport hub. Undertake this as part of the recommended Sustainable Transport Strategy	Further study	High

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
k from the public consultation					
MCC	MCC/Community council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund, Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places funding.	Budget would need to be secured	£10-15k subject to detail design	MCC, AONB, Community Councils,
MCC	MCC/WG	Welsh Government Local Transport Fund	Identified within forthcoming budget	tbc	MCC,WG, Community Councils
MCC	MCC/Community Council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - dependent on scale and specification of improvement.	MCC, WG, Community Councils
Joint Venture	MCC	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund (2021-22 Round)	Budget would need to be secured	refer to sustainable transport strategy action	MCC, AONB, Community council, Chepstow racecourse, private operators, bus operator

5.8 The Narth

Like Devauden, The Narth is a community rather than a focal point for tourism. The quiet, secluded nature of the village and wooded setting are defining characteristics. Proposed change in the Narth is limited considering the residential nature of the village. However, subtle interventions could help garner greater community cohesion, increase the sense of place and cater for low impact tourism in the form of walkers/hikers.

- 1 Village gateway** with 20mph speed limit and unique gateway sign
- 2 Traffic calming** street design such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water.





5.8 The North Action Plan

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
<p>Opportunity -Encourage lower vehicle speeds. Overall recommendations here are limited to road safety in response to feedback from the public consultation</p>				
5.8.1	Road Safety and placemaking	Creation of village gateway signage. Align this with the approach to the network of villages by assigning a particular theme/ name for each village.	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.8.2	Road Safety	20mph speed limit through village	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.8.3	Street Design	Detail design changes to the street to encourage lower speeds such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water. To be defined via the recommended coordinated village street design	Development project/pilot	High

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
MCC	MCC/Community council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund, Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places funding.	Budget would need to be secured	£10-15k subject to detail design	MCC, AONB, Community Councils,
MCC	MCC/WG	Welsh Government Local Transport Fund	Identified within forthcoming budget	tbc	MCC,WG, Community Councils
MCC	MCC/Community Council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - dependent on scale and specification of improvement.	MCC, WG, Community Councils

5.9 Tintern

The remains of Tintern Abbey are one of the defining features of the Wye Valley. This is where visible history, past industry, the picturesque landscape and village life reflect the Wye Valley in one place. This places pressure on what is a small settlement to successfully manage the complex balance between visitors and residents. The initial proposal seeks to address this and enhance the village.

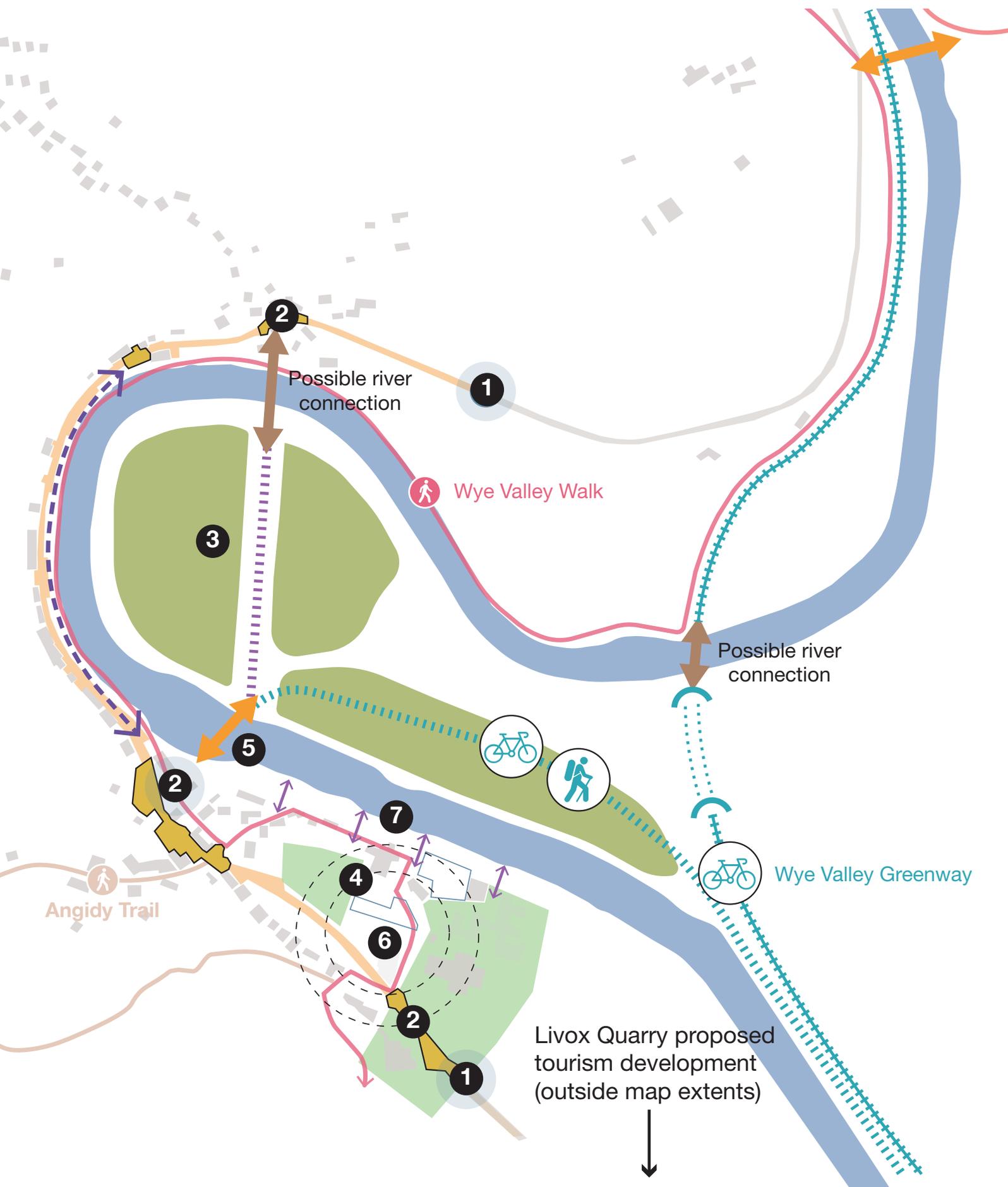


- 1 Village gateway** with 20mph speed limit and unique gateway sign
- 2 Traffic calming** street design such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water. Design interventions to create clear, attractive and safe routes between Tintern and Tintern Parva and the wider network of recreational routes. The design and maintenance proposals are extended to include verges and other areas of public realm including the car parking areas.



- 3 A car free environment**, with enhanced amenity and habitat. Please note this would require private landowner agreement.

- 4 Tintern hub** (subject to land owner approvals) - An agglomeration of services and uses around the Abbey such as tourist information, local businesses and a new transport hub to encourage greater use of sustainable transport and reduce the volume of traffic further along the valley. This includes bike hire stations, parking and links to Park & Ride. Other opportunities include adapting existing buildings to create space for new entrepreneurs and inclusive facilities such as adult changing facilities.
- 5 Wireworks Bridge improvements** and public realm, access and signage improvements on approach to the bridge
- 6 Temporary or seasonal art/signage/installations** aligned with trials for park & ride to help mitigate potential parking issues.
- 7 Low cost seasonal river crossings** such as ferry/chain crossings



5.9 Tintern Action Plan

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
<p>Opportunity -Encourage lower vehicle speeds. Opportunity -Create a new transport hub for cycling (hire and safe storage), EV charging, buses, seating landscape Opportunity -Enhance the sense of place through new signage and gateway markers Opportunity -New river crossing</p>				
5.9.1	Road Safety and placemaking	Creation of village gateway signage	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.9.2	Road Safety	20mph speed limit through village	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.9.3	Street Design	Detail design changes to the street to encourage lower speeds such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water. To be defined via the recommended coordinated village street design. Ensure the design solutions create clear, attractive and safe routes between Tintern and Tintern Parva and the wider network of recreational routes. Given the importance of Tintern within the area to tourism, ensure the design and maintenance proposals are extended to include verges and other areas of public realm including the car parking areas.	Development project/pilot	High

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
MCC	MCC/Community council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund, Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places funding.	Budget would need to be secured	£10-15k subject to detail design (please note this could vary significantly depending on the type of signage).	MCC, AONB, Community Councils,
MCC	MCC/WG	Welsh Government Local Transport Fund	Identified within forthcoming budget	tbc	MCC,WG, Community Councils
MCC	MCC/Community Council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund (2021-22 Round)	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - dependent on scale and specification of improvement.	MCC, WG, Community Councils

5.9 Tintern Action Plan

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
5.9.4	Bike hire trial	Work with private sector operators to trial bike hire stations to provide access to the area's trails and roads for local people and visitors. Ensure provision is made for inclusive bikes and Electric bikes for the less-abled. Consider the trial over the summer season and in tandem with the park and ride trial which is noted below.	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.9.5	Park and ride trial	Work with bus operators and MCC to create a trial park and ride during high season. Explore opportunities with local landowners such as Chepstow racecourse or Chepstow station operators to provide the park and ride facility. Link to bike hire trial (noted above) to provide continuous car-free movement.	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.9.6	Transport hub	Undertake a feasibility study which includes design, funding and delivery for a new sustainable transport hub. Undertake this as part of the recommended Sustainable Transport Strategy	Further study	High
5.9.7	The Island	As part of Green Villages Initiative, work with the private land owner to explore the potential for habitat enhancement on the prominent area of land on the eastern bank of the River Wye.	Development project/pilot	Medium
5.9.8	Wireworks Bridge Improvements	GCC proposed refurbishment works to be undertaken end of 2022 based on current known plans.	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
Private Sector	MCC/Cadw/Private operators	Private Sector investment	Budget would need to be secured	£15-20k	MCC, Community Council, Cadw, AONB, Private Operator
Joint Venture	MCC/community councils, local stakeholders (to be identified)	Private Sector investment	Budget would need to be secured	tbc	MCC, Community Council, Cadw, AONB, Private Operator
MCC	MCC/Community Council, Bus operator, Cadw, AONB, Private operators	Welsh Government Local Transport Fund	Budget would need to be secured	£25-50k for feasibility study. Please note that this should be either coordinated with the wider sustainable transport strategy or undertaken as part of that scope	MCC, Community Council, Cadw, AONB, Private Operator
Partnership	FoD/GCC/Community Council	Farming and protected landscapes Fund - England tbc	Budget would need to be secured	tbc	FoD/GCC/Community Council, MCC, AONB
Partnership	GCC	tbc	Budget would need to be secured	tbc	MCC, Community Councils, AONB, Gloucestershire County Council, Sustrans

5.9 Tintern Action Plan

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
5.9.9	Wireworks Bridge Approaches	Partnership working required with Sustrans to improve the approaches to Wireworks Bridge - public realm, access and signage improvements	Development project/pilot	
5.9.10	Temporary public realm	Explore new opportunities temporary or seasonal signage/decoration/art works (for example the Luke Jerram art installation at Tintern Abbey, and Christmas markets). Align these with suggested trials for park and ride to help mitigate potential parking issues.	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.9.11	Tintern Hub	To address immediate parking concerns - progress the concept to a detailed proposal with key stakeholders. Align this with the sustainable transport strategy. Engage with Cadw to explore opportunities for the adaptation of existing buildings or the delivery of temporary buildings to create space for new entrepreneurs, inclusive facilities (such as adult changing facilities) and the suggested bike hire and Park & Ride as early wins.	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.9.12	River crossing	Consider low cost, light weight temporary or seasonal ferry/chain crossings subject to tidal. Consider high level feasibility for permanent crossing as part of the wye valley greenway	Development project/pilot	Medium

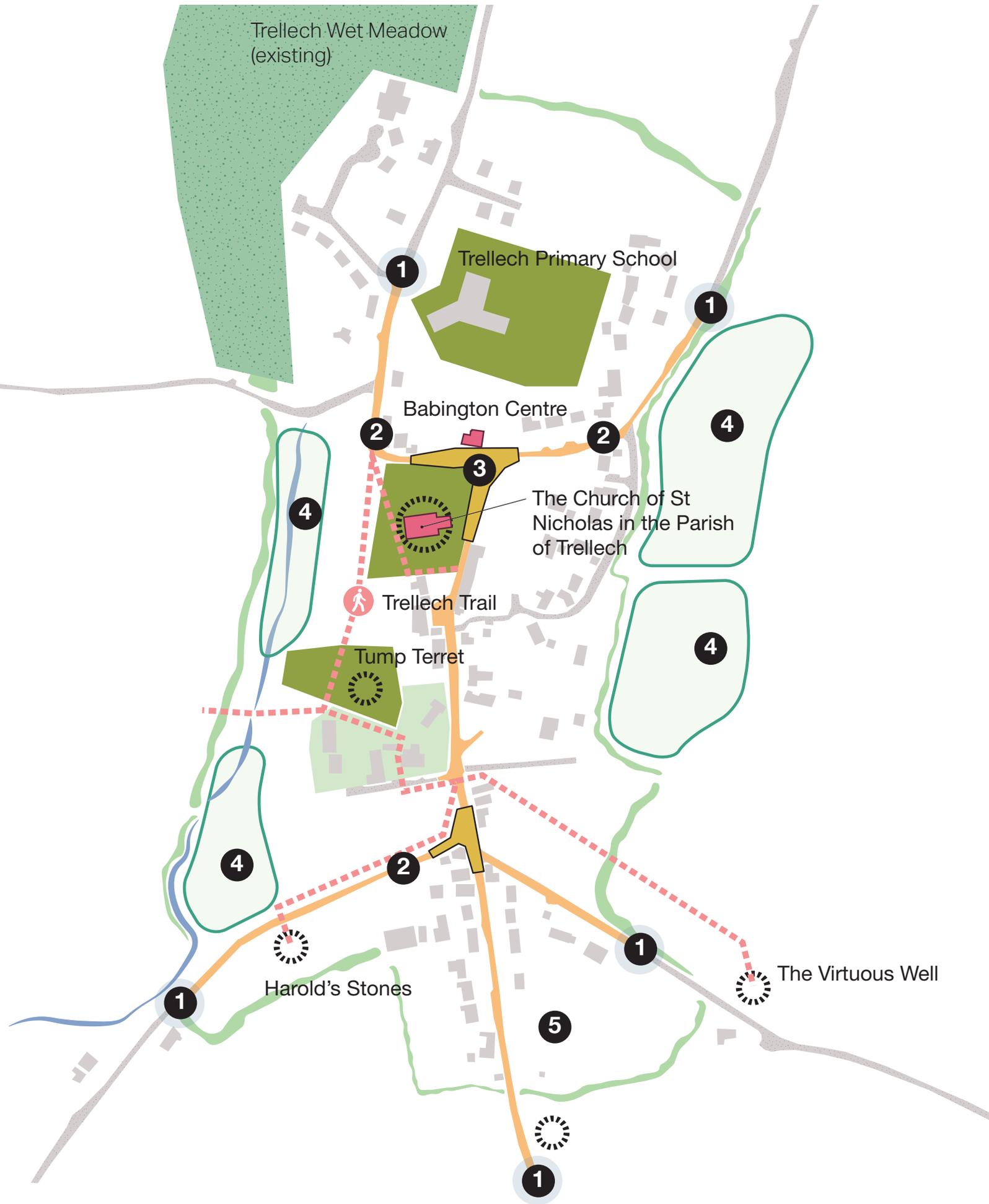
DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
Partnership	Sustrans	tbc	Budget would need to be secured	tbc	MCC, Community Councils, AONB, Gloucestershire County Council, Sustrans
Partnership	AONB, MCC, Community Councils, Cadw	Community Funding tbc	Budget would need to be secured	tbc. Opportunities to secure funds from Arts Council Wales	MCC, Community Council, Cadw, AONB, Arts Council Wales, Wye Valley River Festival CIC
Partnership	AONB, MCC, Community Councils, Cadw	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund (2021-22 Round). Potential Cadw funding and WG Remote Working Hub.	Budget would need to be secured	tbc. Opportunity to draw on multiple funding sources	MCC, Community Council, Cadw, AONB,
Partnership	AONB, MCC, Community Councils, NRW, private operator (tbc)	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential Levelling Up Funding as part of a potential bid for the Wye Valley Greenway.	Budget would need to be secured	tbc. Opportunity to draw on multiple funding sources. Feasibility of permanent structure	

5.10 Trellech

The historic pattern of buildings, archaeology and surrounding open pasture of Trellech create one of the most distinct villages. Although these features have the potential to attract larger visitor numbers, Trellech retains the feel of a rural village in contrast to the destination of Tintern. Addressing the future role of Trellech within the Wye Valley needs consideration. A carefully orchestrated offer which maintains tranquillity for residents while attracting a new audience of visitors could positively support the wider offer of the Wye Valley.

- 1 Village gateway** with 20mph speed limit and unique gateway sign
- 2 Traffic calming** street design such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water. Design interventions will focus on village entry points and key locations including the space between Babington Centre and the Church of St Nicholas
- 3 Trellech Welcome Point** - A focal point for tourists or hub formed around the existing pub

- 4 Community-led lowland meadow enhancement** - engaging with local landowners, Gwent Wildlife Trust and the local community to determine interest, viability and potential delivery of lowland meadow enhancement.
- 5 A low impact tourist site** related to the local historic assets and medieval village. Please note the location has not been confirmed and would require private land owner agreement.



5.10 Trellech Action Plan

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
<p>Opportunity - Encourage lower vehicle speeds. Opportunity - Explore further the potential to create low-impact tourist accommodation Opportunity - Extend the existing community meadows project Opportunity - Lowland meadow enhancement Opportunity - Low impact tourism Opportunity - Enhance the sense of place through new signage and gateway markers</p>				
5.10.1	Road Safety and placemaking	Creation of village gateway signage. Align this with the approach to the network of villages by assigning a particular theme/ name for each village. Highlight the presence of the Trellech Trail.	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.10.2	Road Safety	20mph speed limit through village	Development project/pilot	High - Quick Win
5.10.3	Street Design	Detail design changes to the street to encourage lower speeds such as raised crossings, material changes, pedestrian priority spaces and landscape planting as part of nature based solutions to managing rain water. To be defined via the recommended coordinated village street design. Focus design interventions on village entry points and key locations including the space between the Babington Centre and the Church of St Nicholas.	Development project/pilot	High

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
MCC	MCC/Community council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund, Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places funding.	Budget would need to be secured	£10-15k subject to detail design	MCC, AONB, Community Councils,
MCC	MCC/WG	Welsh Government Local Transport Fund	Identified within forthcoming budget	tbc	MCC,WG, Community Councils
MCC	MCC/Community Council	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund (2021-22 Round)	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - dependent on scale and specification of improvement.	MCC, WG, Community Councils

5.10 Trellech Action Plan

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
5.10.4	Trellech Welcome Point	Work with Babington Hall/operators of the Lion Inn to explore opportunities to align street improvements with broader touristic opportunities such as signage and wayfinding to nearby historic attractions and footpaths and tourist information.	Community based project	High
5.10.5	Low impact tourist site	Undertake early engagement with local landowners, MCC planning and community councils to test interest in developing a low impact tourist site related to the local historic assets and medieval village. Ensure synergy with any emerging update to the sustainable tourism strategy	Further study	Medium
5.10.6	Community-led lowland meadow enhancement	Engage with local landowners, Gwent Wild life Trust and the local community to determine interest, viability and potential delivery of lowland meadow enhancement	Development project/pilot	High

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
Partnership	Community Council/ private operator	Multiple Funding Sources to be defined	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - subject to level of intervention agreed.	MCC, Community Councils, private businesses
Partnership	MCC/Community Council	No initial capital required	Exists within current budget	n/a	MCC/Community Council
Joint Venture	Monmouthshire Meadow Group	Multiple Funding Sources to be defined	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - dependent on scale of improvement. Consider the use of crowd funding	Community Council, Monmouthshire Meadows Groups AONB, MCC, Wildlife partner (e.g. Gwent Wildlife Trust).

5.11 The Action Plan

The following pages contain the overarching actions that will deliver the six point plan.

1 Ensure safe and sustainable transport

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
1.1	Road Safety and sustainable transport strategy			
		<p>Opportunity - Encourage lower vehicle speeds</p> <p>Opportunity - Improve the appearance of the Wye Valley Villages through revised street design</p> <p>Opportunity - Improve the pedestrian and cyclist experience and safety to encourage more active travel</p> <p>Opportunity - Improve biodiversity flood resilience</p>		
1.1.1	Coordinated Village Street Design	Undertake detailed design and delivery for each of the villages using a common approach to provide a 'kit of parts' applicable to any village. Implement this consistent design approach, based on shared objectives amongst stakeholders. Identify pilot projects to provide early trials/ demonstrations of the ideas. Equivalent RIBA Stage 5.	Development project/pilot	High
1.1.2	Sustainable transport strategy	Instruct a study to detail a sustainable transport strategy. The study should provide details for delivering improved bus services, mobility hubs and active travel infrastructure to support sustainable tourism and community travel needs. The study should include the recreational routes within the Wye Valley to respond to concerns over maintenance and access for people of all ages and abilities. Particular focus should be afforded to the potential extension of the Wye Valley Greenway as touristic, active travel and habitat opportunity. This could form the basis of a future Levelling Up Fund bid.	Further study	High

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
MCC	MCC	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund	Budget would need to be secured	% of construction budget	MCC, AONB, Community Councils, Bus Operators
MCC	MCC	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Potential project funding via WG Active Travel Funding & Local Transport Fund, Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places fund	Budget would need to be secured	£50k - £100k	MCC, AONB, Community Councils, TfW, Bus operators

2 Conserve and enhance the landscape

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
2.1	Health Plan for the River Wye			
Opportunity - Improve the health and ecology of the River Wye				
2.1.1	Whole Catchment Strategy	Maintain input into the Wye Nutrient Board, the Wye Catchment Partnership and related activity to support and promote actions to improve river water quality.	Partnership activity	Medium
2.1.2	Nature based solutions	Support nature based solutions and climate change mitigation approaches for the Wye Valley to aid delivery of the AONB Management Plan, MCC Green Infrastructure Strategy and Nature Recovery Plans.	Partnership activity	High
2.1.3	Community Projects	Encourage local action, community awareness initiatives and demonstration projects. Encourage participation in citizen science, including the Wye Catchment Monitoring Project.	Community based project	Medium
2.2	Green Villages Initiative			
Opportunity - Create community projects aligned to the strategic aims of the AONB				
2.2.1	Green Villages Initiative	Work with community councils and other community groups (e.g. school) to initiate a series of localised projects which align with the AONB Management Plan, MCC policy (eg 2014 Pollinator Policy) and WG policy. For example, localised food production, micro habitat creation and community agriculture and planting at village entry points or approaches. Explore opportunities to integrate citizen science to help monitor and evaluate interventions	Community based project	High - Quick Win

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
MCC/AONB/ NRW	MCC/AONB/NRW/ Welsh Water	Alignment of multiple operating budgets. Welsh Water, NRW,MCC, AONB.	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - subject to level of intervention agreed	AONB, MCC, Welsh Water, EA, NRW, Local Authorities (Wales and England)
MCC/AONB/ NRW	MCC/AONB	Alignment of multiple operating budgets/ new budgets, SLSP etc.	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - subject to level of intervention agreed	MCC/AONB/NRW
Third Sector/ MCC/AONB/ Community Councils	MCC/AONB/Welsh Water	Multiple operating budget alignment. Welsh Water, NRW,MCC, AONB operating budget, SDF grant	Budget would need to be secured	tbc - subject to level of intervention agreed	Welsh
Third Sector	AONB/Community groups and community councils	UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Funding grant e.g. Ashley Family Foundation. Collaboration with NRW/ Woodland Trust	Budget would need to be secured	£1m + to be eligible at scale for future fund criteria. Or Small Community Grants/ Philanthropic donations.	Community Councils, local school, MCC, NRW, AONB, Woodland trust Wales

2 Conserve and enhance the landscape

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
2.3	Pilots for sustainable farming			
Opportunity - Deliver a pilot project to demonstrate practices and techniques for sustainable agriculture and build new partners				
2.3.1	Sustainable Farming Pilot	Public sector led demonstrator for sustainable land management. Engage with the NFU, NRW, Coleg Gwent and local farmers to identify willing collaborators for land management pilots. Support with the strategic aims of the project and help initiate. Measure outcomes and lessons learned. Align this with MCC	Development project/ pilot	Medium
2.4	Carbon Footprint Analysis			
Opportunity - Understand existing carbon footprint of the AONB and share knowledge with partners				
2.4.1	Implement actions/ recommendations from the AONB Carbon Footprint Analysis	Starting in January a carbon footprint analysis for the whole Wye Valley AONB will be undertaken. The methodology is a carbon footprint model developed for the National Parks in England, based predominantly on bottom-up consumption-based estimates of postcode-level activities both for domestic and non-domestic actors, namely Residents, Visitors and Industries.	Further study	High

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
ships.					
JV	AONB/MCC	Coleg Gwent contribution. Sustainable production grant (Wales). Farm Business Grant (Wales). Glastir Small Grants scheme (Wales). UK Shared Prosperity scheme.	Budget would need to be secured	If of sufficient scale consider UK Shared Prosperity Fund (For example as part of a county wide strategy). Alternatively small scale delivered in collaboration with Coleg Gwent - circa £25,000. Additional funding sources are available to supplement a smaller scale project.	NFU, NRW, MCC, Coleg Gwent, local land owners, Wye and Usk Foundation.
AONB	AONB	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation	Budget would need to be secured	n/a	MCC, AONB

3 Retain and improve the network of unique villages

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
3.1	Placemaking			
Opportunity - Coordinated approach to improvement of the Wye Valley and its villages				
3.1.1	Village Improvement Plans	Please refer to the action plans for each village		

4 Enable sustainable tourism

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
4.1	New Tourism Strategy			
Opportunity - Define geographic boundaries/governance of a tourism strategy				
Opportunity - Create an improved balance between tourism benefits and tourism impacts on local communities				
Opportunity - Improved productivity of the local economy				
Opportunity - Clear alignment with other policies and initiatives such as AONB Management plan and MCC policies				
4.1.1	Sustainable tourism strategy and action plan update	Rapidly deliver an updated tourism strategy and action plan. This should be framed around a defined business case. The strategy should build upon the Wye Valley AONB Sustainable Tourism Strategy (2011-2016) and Monmouthshire Destination Management Plan.	Further study	High
4.1.2	Hospitality & Tourism Sector Circular Economy Strategy	Undertake a study which identifies opportunities for collaborative reuse and recycling of surplus food, drink and other materials. Opportunities for sustainable distribution (e.g. electric vehicle fleet). Improving efficiency and waste reduction in the local area. Translate the findings into action on the ground by undertaking an action plan.	Further study	High

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POTENTIAL BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR/ COLLABORATOR

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
MCC	MCC	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation. Business Wales Tourism Funding.	Budget would need to be secured	tbd	MCC, AONB, Community Councils, VisitDeanWye, Adjoining LA's
MCC	MCC	WG Circular Economy Fund (Administered by WRAP). Welsh Tourism Investment Fund . Green Growth Fund (Wales). Circular economy for SMEs - NICER programme (part of Innovate UK).	Budget would need to be secured	£100k +	MCC, AONB, Community Councils, VisitDeanWye, Adjoining LA's

5 Support the local economy

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
5.1	Local Economy			
Opportunity - Improve entrepreneurship Opportunity - Provide more affordable housing Opportunity - Raise the profile of the area as a place for business				
5.1.1	Affordable housing strategy	Linked to Local Plan update -revise Wye Valley Local Housing Needs Requirements specifically for the villages. Identify rural exception sites and potential public sector land to provide a diverse affordable housing offer to retain younger people and support local employment. Work with local communities to develop affordable housing that meets local need and benefits the local community through implementing the Rural Allocations Policy.	Ongoing MCC initiative	High
5.1.2	Remote Working Hub Pilot	Work with WG and private operators such as IndyCube/ Pelham Hall to deliver a pilot remote working hub in one of the villages. Further feasibility on location, format and need for the hub to be progressed.	Development project/pilot	High

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
MCC	MCC Affordable Housing Team	MCC Housing Revenue Account - subject to confirmation	Exists within current budget	n/a	Arup, AONB, Community Councils
MCC/ Community Interest Company/ Private Operator	MCC	WG Remote Working Hub initiative.	Budget would need to be secured	Potential £10k-25k for feasibility work (WG funding available).	Arup, AONB, Community Councils

5 Support the local economy

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
5.1.3	Targeted circular economy fund/bid support for local producers and land managers.	Explore current circular economy funds to identify localised opportunities. Increase entrepreneurship, capacity, earnings, retention of economically active people within the production sector (e.g. food and drink) around the principle of a local circular economy.	Further study	High
5.1.4	Halls Together Project	MCC/RDP project to encourage and facilitate Community Facilities to work together to share best practice and benefit from joint ventures such as training, bulk purchasing, compliance and funding. Areas of focus have been identified through a questionnaire to hall community facilities. Project is being guided by a steering group of representatives from village halls and community councils.	Community Project	High

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
MCC	MCC	WG Circular economy fund. Sustainable development fund (AONB). Sustainable production grant. Accelerated Growth Programme (business wales). Green Growth Fund (WG). Project Helix fund Wales. Cywain programme	Budget would need to be secured	Total value of funding could exceed £500k+	Arup, AONB, Community Councils
MCC/ Project Steering Group	MCC	RDP LEADER			MCC/ Community Facilities & Community Councils

5 Support the local economy

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
5.1.5	Improving Digital Connectivity	On completion of the WG Open Market Review which will identify future plans for digital infrastructure rollout, MCC/RDP to consider an application to the WG Local Broadband Fund in 2022/23. Application will focus on improvements to digital connectivity through the use of a range of appropriate technologies which take into account the topography of the Valley.		High - Quick Win

6 Provide joined-up governance

NO.	INITIATIVE	DETAIL	TYPE	PRIORITY
6.1	Governance			
Opportunity - Continued partnership working Opportunity - Renewed cross border collaboration				
6.1.1	Establish a delivery group	Maintain the formal partnership between MCC, Wye Valley AONB and the community councils for project planning, feasibility, business development, implementation and engagement.	New/extended partnership	High
6.1.2	Cross Border Working	The project presents an opportunity to reinvigorate partnerships with adjacent LA's e.g. FoD, Herefordshire around key subjects such as sustainable tourism, sustainable transport and the River Wye water quality. Undertake knowledge share workshops and seek a common approach and identify opportunities for further collaboration.	New/extended partnership	High

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POSSIBLE BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR / COLLABORATOR
MCC			Budget would need to be secured		MCC/ Community Facilities & Community Councils

DELIVERY MECHANISM	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING SOURCE	BUDGET AVAILABILITY	POTENTIAL BUDGET	CONTRIBUTOR
Partnership	All parties. MCC lead	MCC Operational Budget - subject to confirmation	Exists within current budget	n/a	MCC, AONB, Community Councils
Partnership	All parties. MCC lead	Operational budget	Exists within current budget	n/a	MCC, AONB, Community Councils, Parish Councils, FoD District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Herefordshire Council

6. NEXT STEPS

6.1 How will the plan evolve and be delivered?

This is one of the most frequently asked questions and it is important to understand what this plan will do and where it will lead. Expectations will have been raised through the process and naturally people will be impatient to see change on the ground. The process is illustrated below. Immediate actions should be:

Establish the delivery group and define who is involved, who is leading and where responsibility lies.

Identifying and agree on priority projects to be taken forward. In doing so establish where funding is likely to come from with particularly attention to the Welsh Government Infrastructure Finance Plan (2022-23 to 2024-25).

Test the appetite for ‘quick win’ community led initiatives such as the ‘Green Villages Initiatives’ with local people and existing groups with similar aims and objectives.

This current project ends here

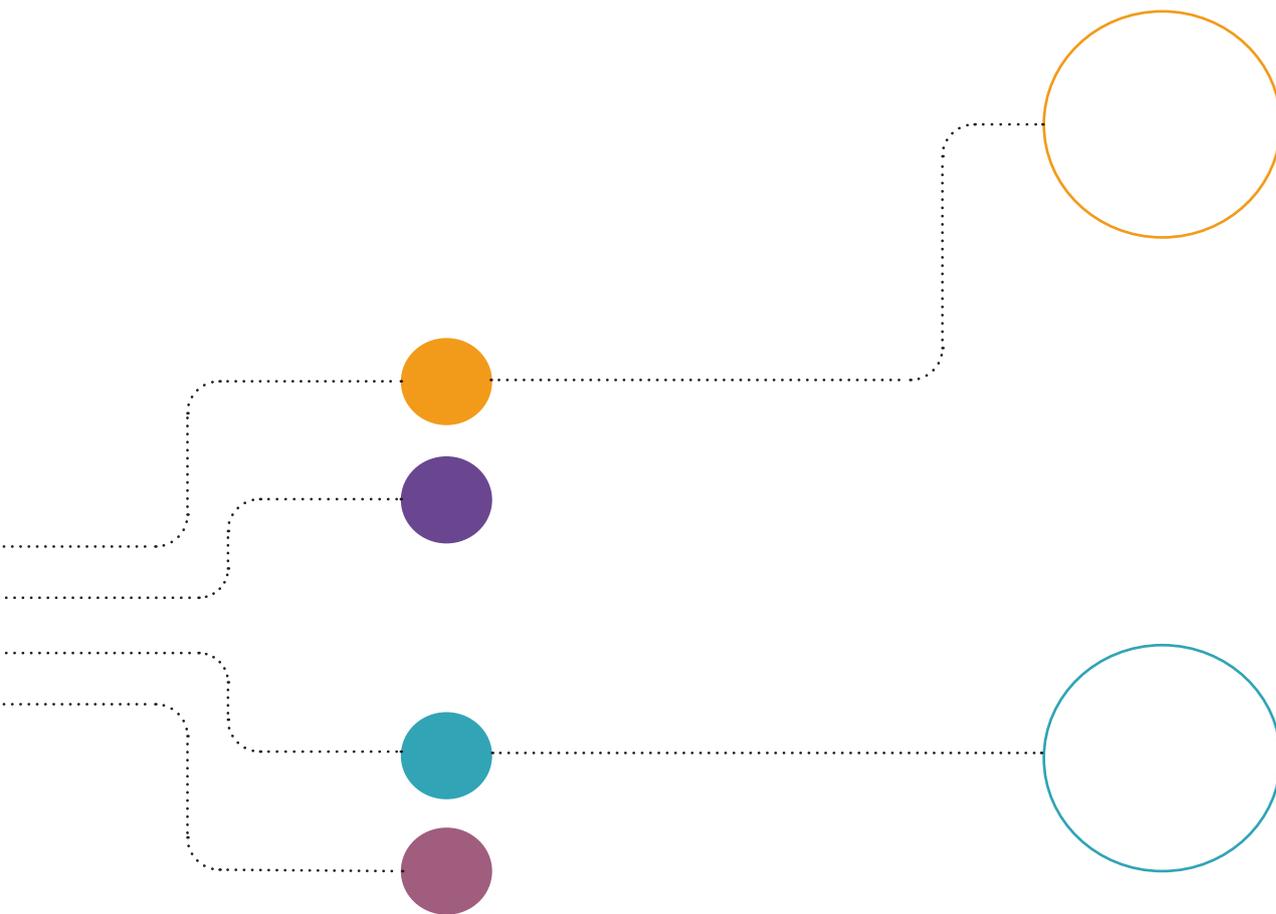


The Start 2020

Monmouthshire County Council, the Wye Valley AONB Partnership, Devauden Community Council, TIntern Community Council, Trellech United Community Council and St Arvan’s Community Council agree a plan is needed to address road safety.

The six point plan 2022

- In partnership with Arup, the Wye Valley Villages plan is created.
- The plan identifies a number of priority projects and outlines how these can be delivered.
- The plan responds to the need for a more joined approach which includes for example tourism, landscape and the local economy.



Detailing the projects 2022

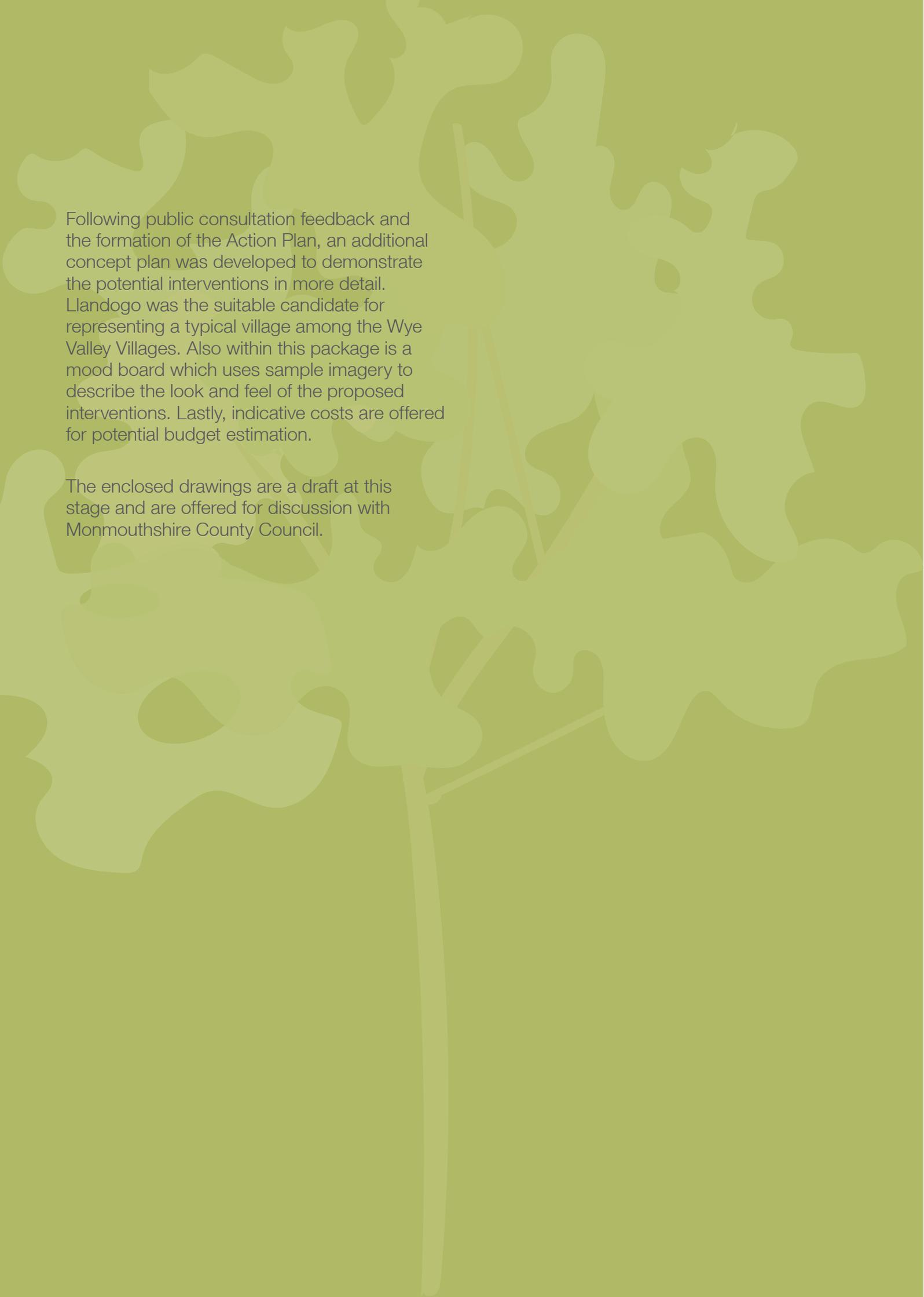
- The priority projects will be identified and developed further subject to funding.
- A decision will be made on who is best placed to take these forward and who they should partner with
- Early 'quick-win' projects will be delivered if possible such as gateway signage.
- Action Plan to be a living document, revised and added to overtime.

Change on the ground 2022 - onward

- Potential pilot projects may take place. Further public engagement will be conducted on the detailed proposals.
- Larger projects such as the coordinated street design will evolve and begin to be implemented subject to funding.
- Continued engagement between the key stakeholders including the community councils, Monmouthshire County Council and Wye Valley AONB Partnership

Appendix 1

Llandogo Illustrative plan



Following public consultation feedback and the formation of the Action Plan, an additional concept plan was developed to demonstrate the potential interventions in more detail. Llandogo was the suitable candidate for representing a typical village among the Wye Valley Villages. Also within this package is a mood board which uses sample imagery to describe the look and feel of the proposed interventions. Lastly, indicative costs are offered for potential budget estimation.

The enclosed drawings are a draft at this stage and are offered for discussion with Monmouthshire County Council.



TIMBER

Timber is used to represent the natural landscape of the Wye Valley



STONE

Stone is inspired by the landscape and local geology. It is also one of the materials used in historic buildings of the area



METAL

Metal is a tribute to the early industrialisation of the area



KEY

- - - - - Existing footpath/PROW
- - - - - Potential new paths (subject to land ownership agreements)
- Disused railway transformed into cycle path
- - - - - Potential extension of cycle path to connect to The Greenway
- Existing trees
- Improved/ new bus shelter
- Village gateway sign
- Seating
- Bollard with lights
- - - - - Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS)
- Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS)
- Retained hedgerow
- Raised road surface
- Low traffic zone
- Improved/ new footpaths
- Lowland meadow creation

Rev	Date	By	Chkd	Appd

ARUP

4 Pierhead Street
Cardiff CF10 4GP
Tel +44 (0)29 2047 3727
www.arup.com

Client

Monmouthshire County Council

Project Title
**Wye Valley Villages-
Plan for the future**

Drawing Title

Scale at A1: 1:1500
Role: Placemaking
Suitability: DRAFT

Arup Job No: 279417-00

Name: **Llandogo Illustrative Plan**

DRAFT



Bee-friendly bus stops - green roofs and live bus schedules



Wayfinding & interpretation



Permeable surfaces & SuDS



Seating made of natural material such as stone or wood



Natural play area

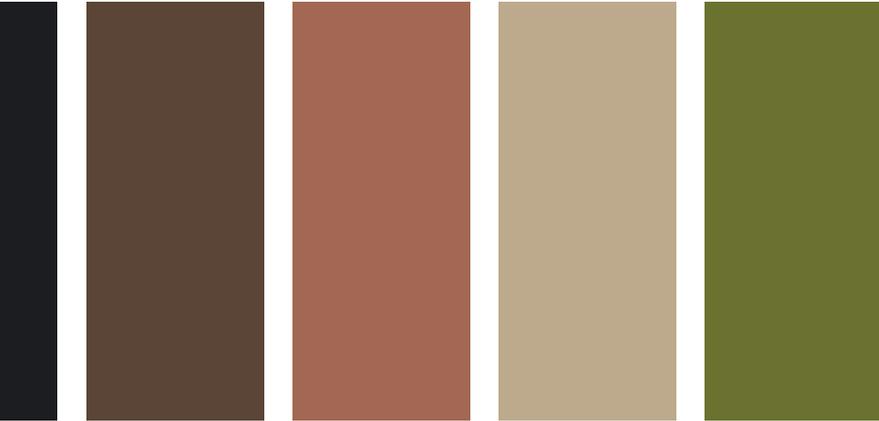




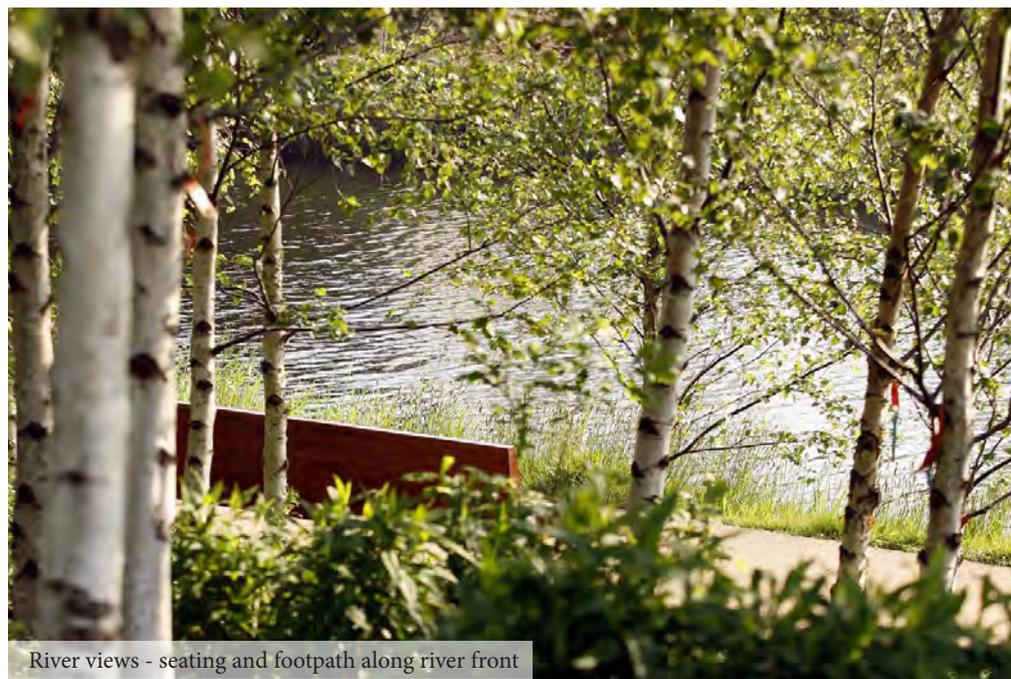
Wayfinding & interpretation



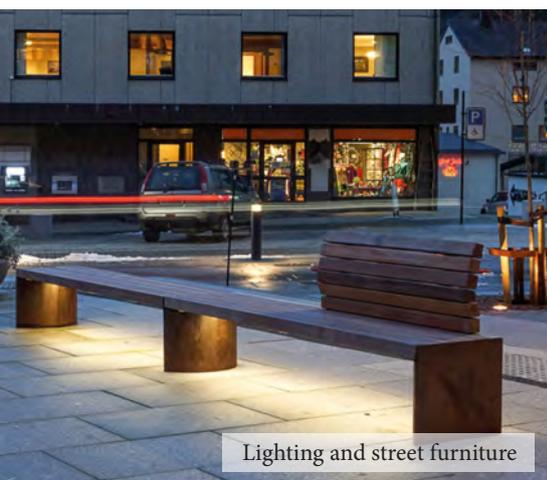
Village gateway signs



Natural play



River views - seating and footpath along river front



Lighting and street furniture



River access

INDICATIVE COSTING	Indicative Cost	Gateways	Streets around key spaces	
Green and blue enhancements (SuDS) - includes drainage, soil, edging, silt traps	£1,250/ m2			
Green enhancements (Planting) - Ornamental grasses; including imported subsoil and topsoil	£105/ m2			
Amenity grass; include imported subsoil and topsoil	£11.18/ m2			
Wildflower planting	£1.30/ m2			
Tree (PC £400); including excavating tree pits by hand (assumed 1500x1500x1000mm deep) and backfilling with excavating material	£580/ unit			
Build outs	£5,000			
Patching up road/fixing broken elements	£180/ m2			
Alterations to general layout, use of basic materials, limited interventions - i.e road is retained	£400/ m2			
Alterations to general layout, creation of extent of public realm, seating, lighting, tree planting, SuDS - i.e road is reduced	£560/ m2			
Alterations to general layout, creation of extent of public realm, seating, lighting, tree planting, SuDS - i.e road is removed	£720/ m2			
Bespoke sign (basic material)	£1,000/ unit			
Seating (average range)	£1,290/ unit			

INDICATIVE COSTING	Indicative Cost	Gateways	Streets around key spaces	
Play equipment - small	£5,000			
Play equipment - medium	£12,000			
Play equipment - high	£30,000			
Lighting (6-8m column, average cost)	£1,630/ unit			
Cycle racks	£350/ unit			
Picnic table	£1,380/ unit			
Fingerpost	£750			
Crossing - High friction surface	£22/ m2			
Natural stone paving	£170/ m2			
Footpath	£28/ m2			
PROW access; 50mm self-binding gravel, 100mm sub-base	£17/ m2			
Change of single speed limit where minimal infrastructure is required	£15,000			

INDICATIVE COSTING	Indicative Cost	Gateways	Streets around key spaces	
Change in speed limit where four new street lighting columns are required to illuminate a new 20mph speed limit	£15,000			
Vehicle Activated Sign. Solar powered, design and installation	£8,500			
Pair of dropped crossings with tactile paving	£4,000			
Zebra crossing, no additional lighting or road surfacing required	£35,000			
Zebra crossing, including street lighting upgrade and resurfacing	£65,000			
Cycle lane within existing carriageway	£90/ lm			
Shared, segregated or unsegregated footway/ cycleway within existing footway, including drainage but not including lighting	£1,125/ lm			
2-bay metal framed passenger shelter- including solar lighting	£8,500			
2-bay metal framed passenger shelter- including mains lighting	£10,000			
Raised access kerbs - per stop	£5,000			

Appendix 2

Stage 1 report

Wye Valley Villages Plan

Stage 1 Presentation Feb 9th 2021



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

| Wye Valley AONB | Community councils

ARUP

Wye Valley Villages – Where are we now?

1. The wider picture
2. Transport and mobility
3. Placemaking
4. Socio-economic
5. Reflections and moving forward

The Wider Picture

Drivers of change post Covid

Demographics

1.5 million

people in CCR

20%

growth forecast
2017-2037

(www.cardiffpartnership.co.uk)

Climate change

**Net Zero
Carbon**

by 2050 in Wales

Announced today

2019

Welsh Government &
MCC declare climate
emergency

Health & Well-being

60%

Welsh population that are
overweight or obese

Public Health Act (Wales) 2017

Drivers of change post Covid

Movement

Legal requirement for Welsh LA's to map and plan for active travel infrastructure

Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013

Tourism

10%

Increase in tourist visits (2007-2018) in Monmouthshire

2021 Staycation bounce

The heritage county of Wales

STEAM trend report 2007-2018
MCC LDP

Digital

17%¹

Growth in internet sales as percentage of total retail sales

-10%²

Decline of high street retail business in Wales

¹ ONS data Nov 2006 - May 2019

² ONS data 2012-2017

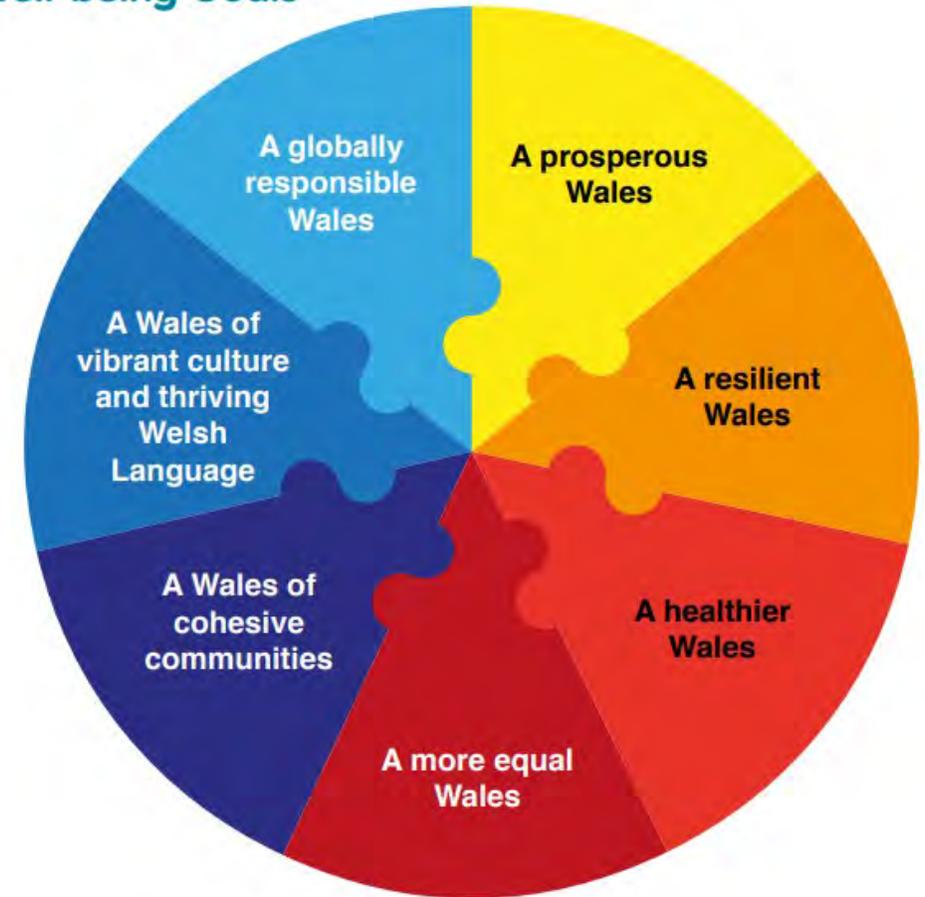


‘Cathedral thinking’

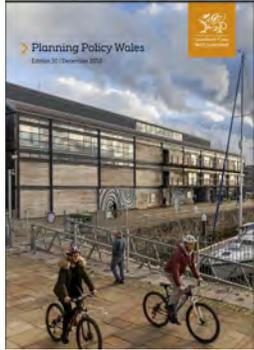
- It is a time of great change – we need to be thinking very differently about what we do and why
- Wellbeing Duty – The 7 Goals
- 5 Ways of working – Collaboration/partnership, community involvement
- Post-Covid – Build back better



Well-being Goals



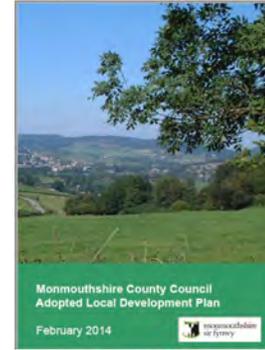
Planning Policy Context



Planning Policy Wales 10 (2018) Promotes well-being through placemaking

Key principles for guiding development:

- Growing our economy in a sustainable manner
- Making best use of resources
- Facilitating accessible and healthy environments
- Creating & sustaining communities
- Maximising environmental protection



Monmouthshire County Council LDP (2011 – 2021)

Key issues addressed through the plan are:

- Building sustainable communities
- Promoting sustainable economy
- Valuing the environment – designated environmental sites across the LDP area
- Achieve sustainable accessibility
- Respecting distinctiveness

Work is underway on the Replacement LDP (2018 – 2033) which is anticipated for adoption in Autumn 2023.

Planning Policy Context – Local



Summary of SWOT session

Conducted with Arup and the client team

17.12.2020

- Transport weaknesses
- Threats to local economy
- But most opportunities in tourism and local economy



STRENGTHS

Tintern has an active business group	Strong sense of the 'village' as a community	Attractive villages along the route	You can get out easily - M4 way connection	Authenticity and natural connections
Tintern - Local craft shops	High quality buildings	There is a 'highway network' that takes you through the valley (out here maintenance)	Long season - autumn and shoulder seasons	International recognition
Appreciation of local history	Tourism offer	Stakeholders linked in already for the study	accessible from M48 to South or A40 from North	Internationally recognised landscape
Road closure - 10. head, water/pumping station	Brand recognition nationally and locally	Unique and exciting	Good connectivity with the rest of the UK	Dark skies (lack of light pollution)
Benefits from being part of Wye Valley brand	Tourism ambassadors	Unique - not Welsh/English /midlands.	A very popular area with cyclists	
Benefit of being part of Wye Valley brand	Local history	Historical for day visitors - accessible from Wales and England	Well established driving route - 'pleasure'	

WEAKNESSES

Lack of connectivity between destinations	Coordination/linkages between destinations	It suggests there needs to be a balance of day trip driving through tourists	Quality of walking routes	Road safety/speeding	of public transport
Lack of digital connectivity	Wrong people coming at the wrong time on the wrong missions	On the edge of being highly green - Original 'Wye Valley' landscape	Narrowness of roads/lanes	Structural issues - Wreworks bridge - high cost repair	very boggy footpaths
Lack of business investment - highlighting to other businesses	Lowest tourism destination - immediate visitors but limited further north	Historical connections - 'Wye Valley' landscape	Highly fragmented - maintenance issues - safety Annual closure in summer	SATNAV orientation	speeding traffic
Poor Mobile reception / broadband	Weakness with private infrastructure, services, convenience areas	Lack of identity of the Wye Valley and individual villages	Traffic is prioritised over cyclists and pedestrians	Limited access and understanding of the upper valley areas	A very popular area with cyclists
Lack of adequate caravan sites	Subconscious focus on Tintern	Boundary issues - borders	Poor sustainable transport connections.	Tintern bottleneck	Threats to local economy - tourism
Too few WCs	Too easy to be a drive through visitor, and too easy to leave	Lack of public transport connections.	A466 stability issues	Highway Maintenance design guide not adopted	Loss of vistas in some parts

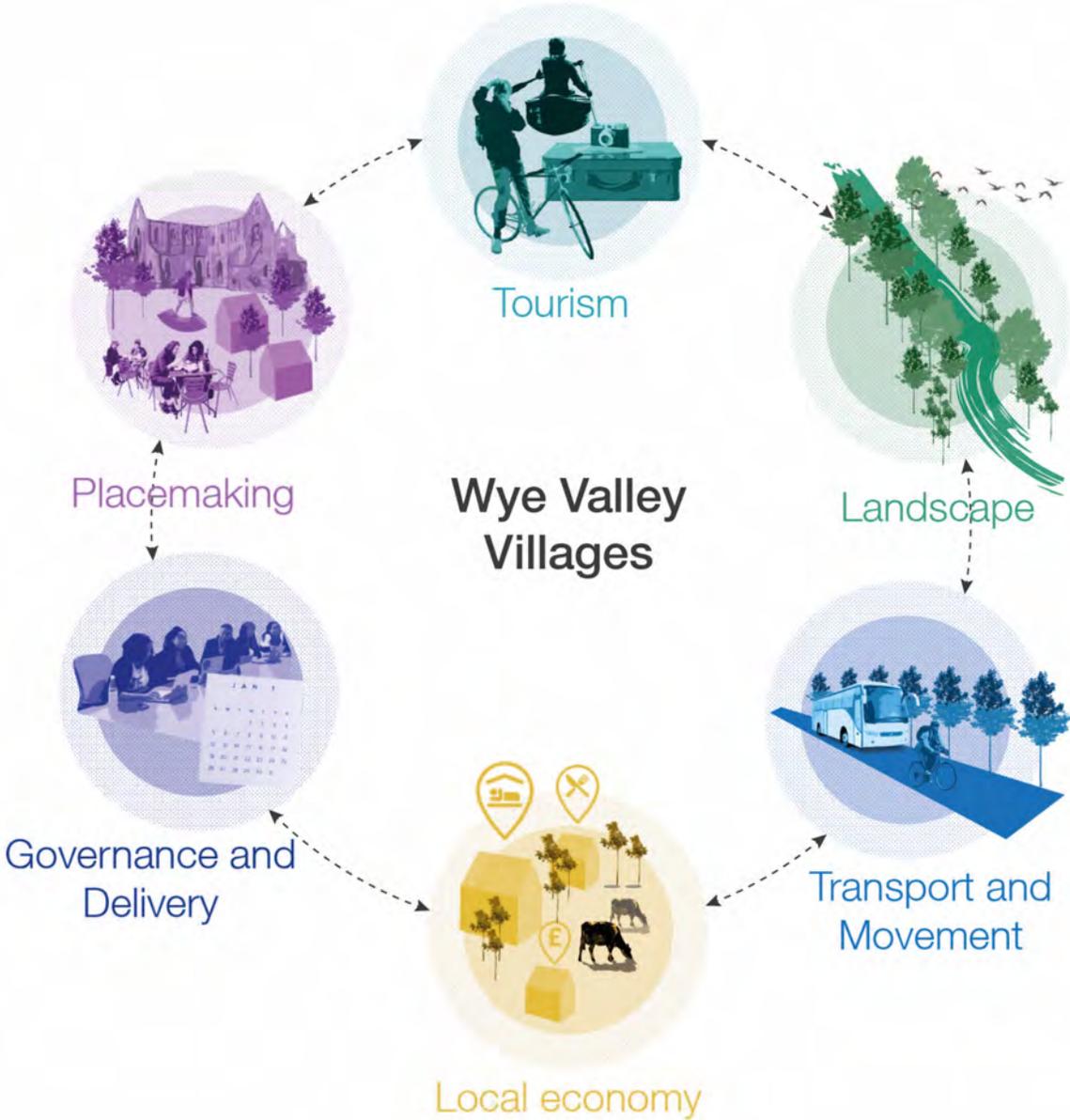
THREATS

High cost of property may prevent opening 'shops' in other villages on the edge	Dormitory villages and unaffordable to people in local employment	Reduced tourism - visitor heavy, which are our highest spending visitors	Anti cycling feeling - encourage some villagers	Local businesses - some are struggling
Covid impacts on businesses. Risk some won't survive	Limited money on day-to-day basis	If the economy is 'no longer' returning to normal, the tourism will be affected and not return	Lack of land for additional parking	Local businesses - some are struggling
High cost of property, potential demand for new housing	Jobs in tourism businesses are affected - they will need to be replaced	Unmanaged tourism - day trippers from longer stays	Lack of engagement from stakeholders - need people	Local businesses - some are struggling
Where will the funding come from to prime initiatives	Sustainability of local businesses - changing history of local businesses	Lack of engagement from stakeholders - need people	A466 stability of existing road	Environmental - flooding - local events
Closing businesses	No sustainable business network to tap into	Competition between businesses and residents	Access for all - narrow pavements, uneven surfaces, very busy	Tree disease - Ash die-back, impact on landscape
Affordability for younger people	20mph legislation changes	Challenging to be more resilient, perhaps in terms of the way we manage the village	Investment needed for bridges	

OPPORTUNITIES

Chepstow Racecourse	Build in enthusiasm and support for new businesses	Increased popularity of staycations	Staycations post Covid	Motorway - 100000 vehicles a day - 100000 vehicles a day - 100000 vehicles a day	20mph legislation changes	Increased opp for active travel
Livox Quarry Site	Diversification of businesses and agriculture	Opportunity to improve referrals between tourism offers / sites	Already a tourist market for the product	Conversations with coach operators	Introduction of electric bikes	Local businesses - some are struggling
Growing interest in local food and goods	Local businesses - some are struggling	Local businesses - some are struggling	Green tourism	Beginning of motorway - 100000 vehicles a day - 100000 vehicles a day	Blue sky thinking - opp to trial and test	
Increased focus on walking routes	Quarry site - south of Tintern. Purchased - log cabin scheme	Join villages as one entity - 'The Wye Valley' Branding app	New IDP could review policies to support tourism	Active travel	More strategic approach to GI	
Local businesses - some are struggling	Engagement with local tourism	Pragmatic tourism manager	Draw into expertise			

Six Pillars



Transport and movement

Key issues



Despite enthusiasm for active travel in AONB, most trips made by car (commuters and tourists- > 80%) Mixed reasons: lack of alternatives, no seamless door-to-door links



Limited bespoke guidance for street design – status in design process



Traffic levels are generally stable, with lower than average levels of HGVs. Incompatibility between large agricultural vehicles, villages and road network



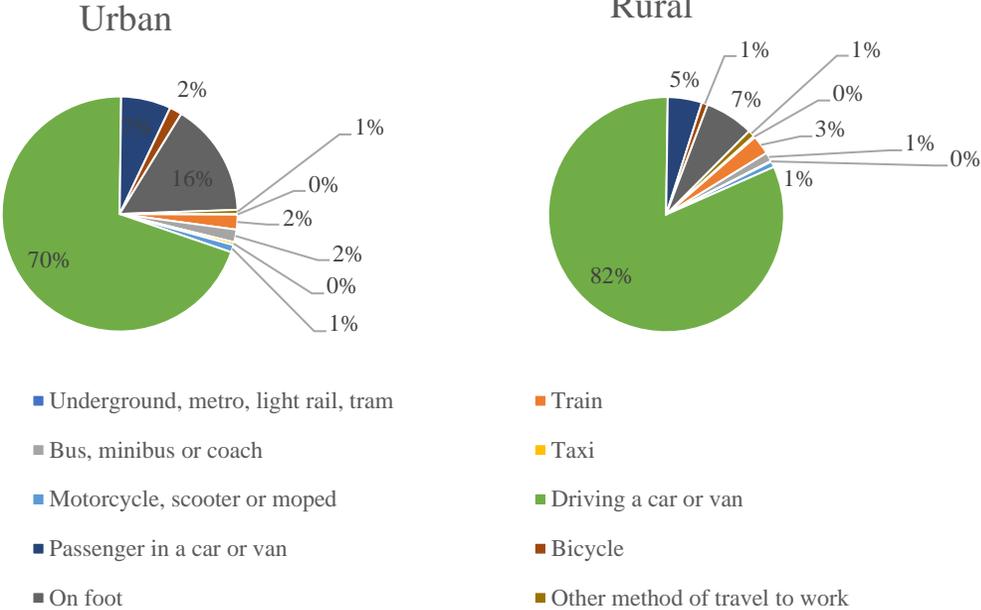
Car parking demand varies significantly by place and by season. There is very limited provision for EV charging.



Public transport requires subsidy and is not currently seamlessly integrated with other transport modes. Does perform a vital service to many residents, including school pupils.

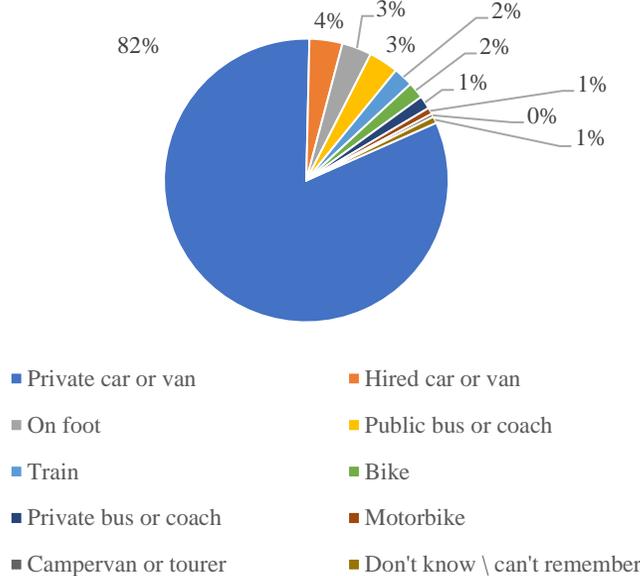
Mode of Travel

Commuting



Source: Census Journey to Work data, Monmouthshire, 2011

Tourism



Source: Visit Wales Visitor Survey 2016

Active Travel – Key Themes

Severance caused by busy roads

- Busy road such as the A466 can divide places and people
- The A466 routes through Llandogo, Tintern and Redbrook
- Redbrook have introduced a zebra crossing on the A466 which can reduce severance

Car has priority over other modes

- Road space prioritises cars over other modes
- Some footways reduce in width to accommodate on-street parking
- No road space designated to cycles
- Limited examples of controlled crossings



Controlled crossing on the A466, Redbrook



Narrow footway associated with on-street parking, Tintern

Active Travel – Key Themes

Limited footway provision

- Some villages such as Trelleck, The Narth, Brockwier and Devauden have limited footway provision in places
- Many side roads/lanes have no footway provision
- Speed limit reduced to 20mph in Trelleck, improve pedestrian environment and safety

Formal crossings along desire lines

- Desire lines associated with local facilities and leisure routes
- Limited examples of formal crossing to facilitate movements over busier roads such as the A466 in St Arvens and Tintern
- On-street parking as potential to limit visibility for pedestrians



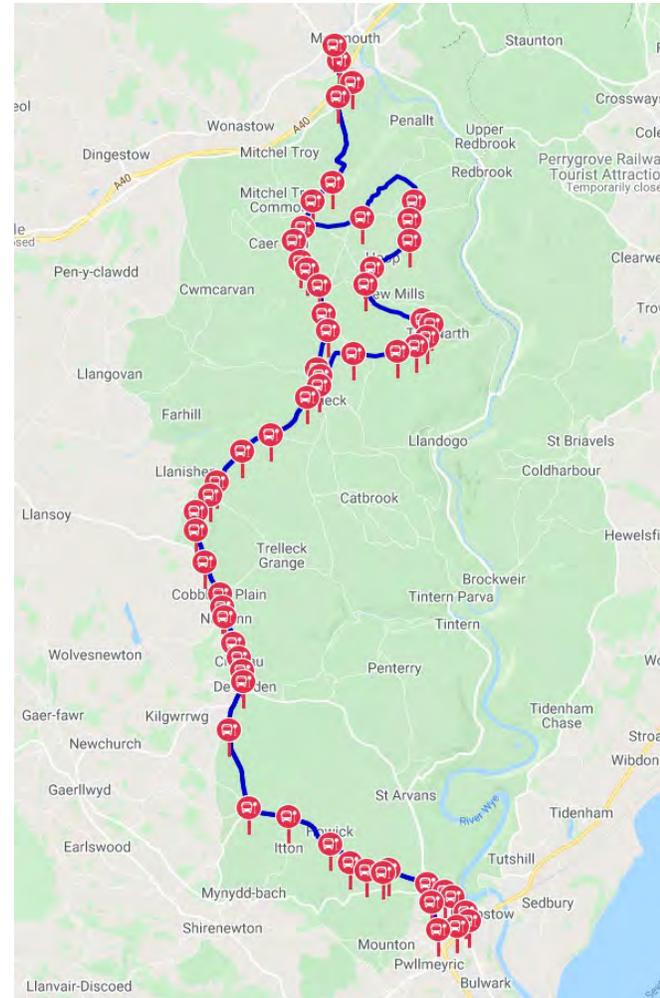
Limited footway provision, Brockwier



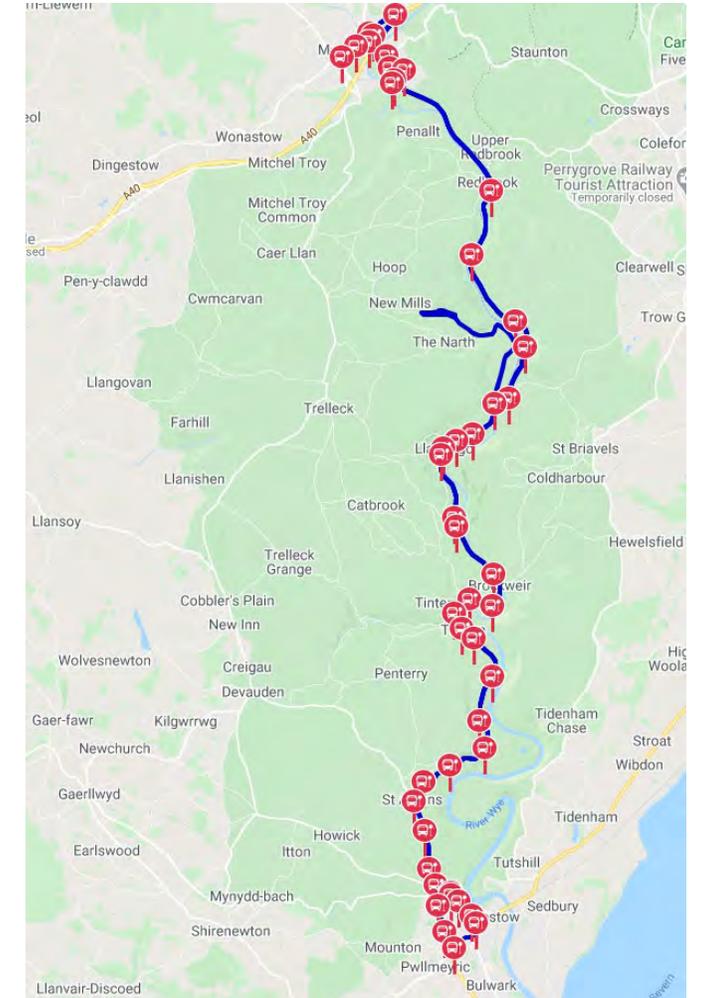
PROW without on crossing A466, north of Tintern

Public Transport

- **No. 65 bus service routes between Chepstow and Monmouth via the B4293**
- **No. 69 routes via A466**
- **Both bus routes operate five services a day (Monday to Saturday)**
- **Two-three hours between each bus route**
- **Enables but does not encourage journeys to be made by bus**



No. 65 Bus Route (source traveline.cymru)



No. 69 Bus Route (source traveline.cymru)

Road Traffic Collisions

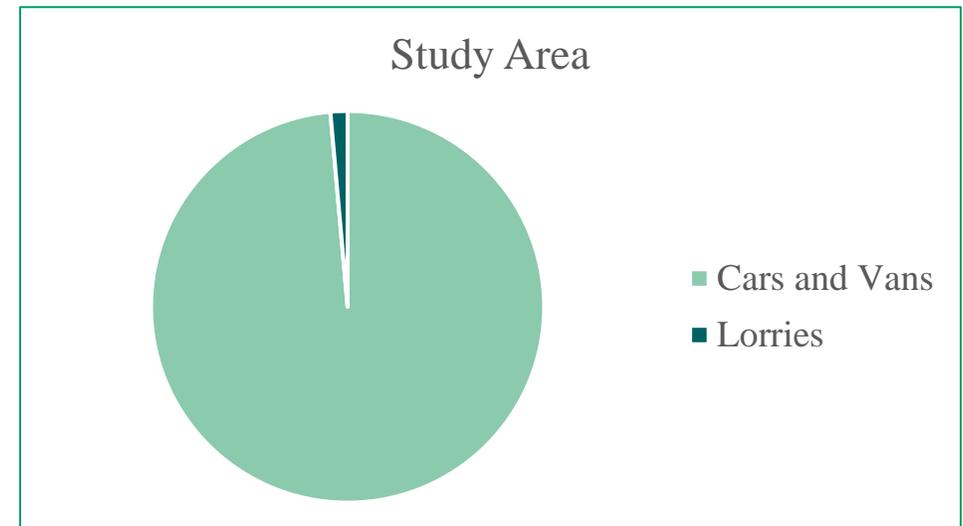
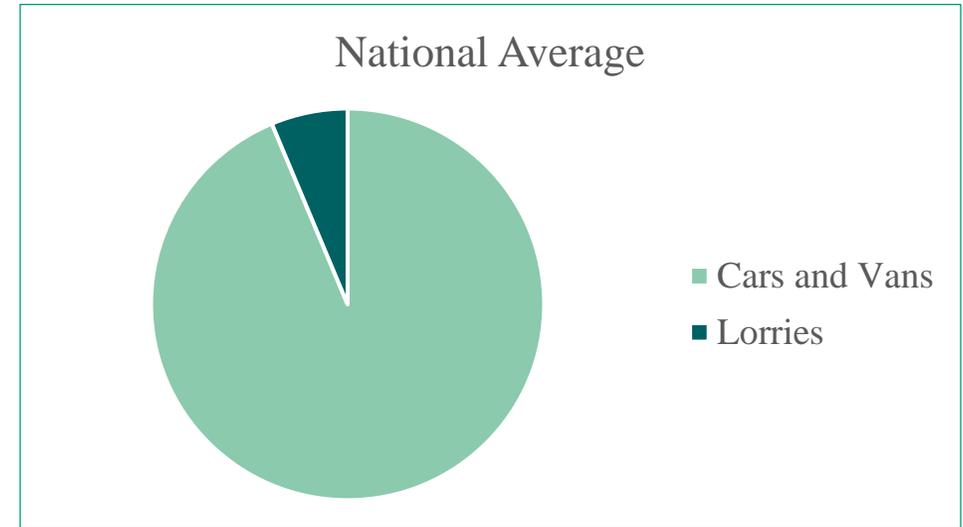
- No accident clusters identified over the past five years
- 1 collision involving a pedestrian within the study area
- Eight collisions recorded on the A466, including three serious
- Ten collisions involving cyclists, of which seven were serious



Collisions between 2015-2019 (crashmap.com)

Agricultural Traffic

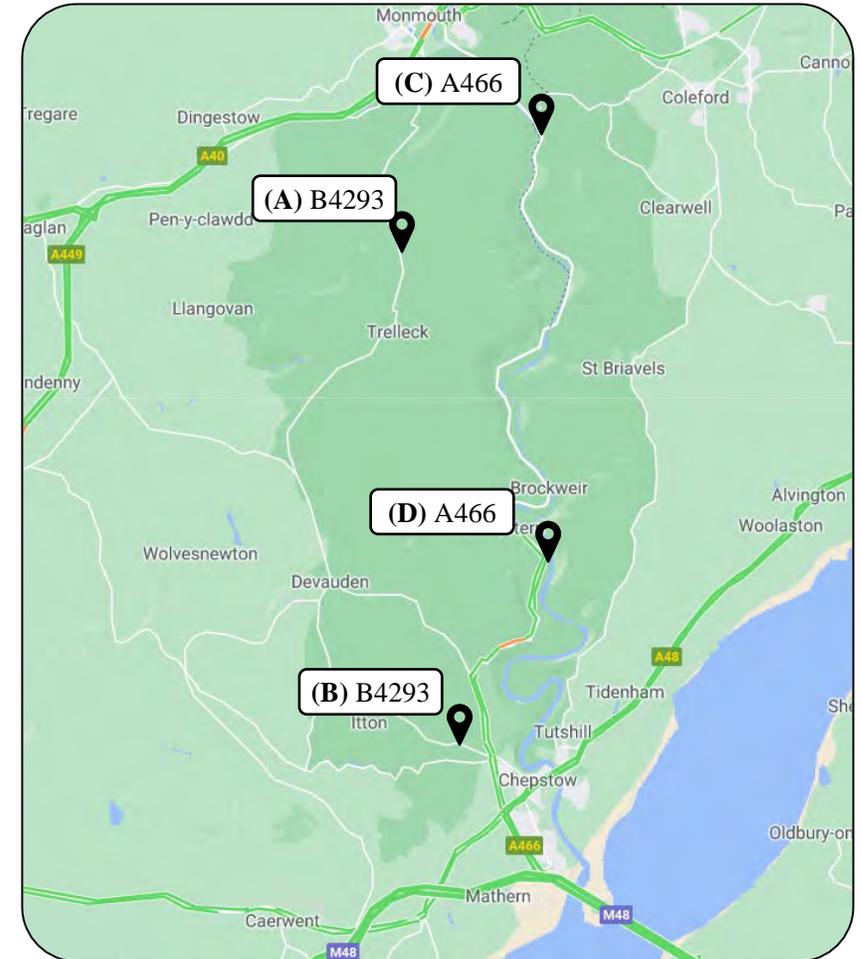
- **Opportunities to consolidate agricultural movements**
- Average proportion of large vehicles on road network is 6.3%
- Large vehicles account for 1.4% of traffic on roads in the study area
- Reducing agricultural movements may not have tangible benefits



Traffic Flows and Speeds

Link	2013	2016	2019	Growth
A) B4293	2756	3788	2818	0.37%
B) B4293	2567	2674	3570	6.51%
C) A466	3855	3278	3306	-2.37%
D) A466	4143	3919	3961	-0.73%

Daily Traffic Flow (roadtrafficdata.dft.gov.uk)



Utilisation of Car Parks

- Visitor parking across Lower Wye Valley are of varying standards
- Parking at Abbey Mill and Old Station can suffer from congestion owing to lower capacities
- Larger car park at Tiintern (over 150 spaces) also reaches capacity at peak
- Surveys required to improve understanding of utilization



Design Guides



Market stalls in the street

informal parking

tree planting where practical

Ballards (used sparingly) reinforce speed reduction

End of road markings

Market Cross, or other feature, with seating contribute to reducing vehicle speed.

Paving & kerbs appropriate to the context & pedestrian usage

Change in road surface

APPROACHING THE CENTRE OF THE VILLAGE/TOWN

Traffic in Villages

Safety and Civility for Rural Roads

A toolkit for communities



Dorset
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

hamilton-baillie
associates

Produced by the Dorset AONB Partnership in conjunction with Hamilton-Baillie Associates
Written by Sue Mitchell and Ben Hamilton-Baillie

Traffic in Villages

- Prepared for Dorset AONB
- Emphasis on contextual design, as opposed to standardised approach across multiple localities
- Gateway treatments provide transition of environment for drivers
- Narrowing of carriageway and removing road marking to reduce speeds
- Defining the centre of the village and meeting places through highway layout, materials, parking availability and wider streetscape to ensure sense of place is maintained



St Armal,
Brittany

Design Guides



Streets for All

Advice for Highway and Public Realm Works
in Historic Places



Streets for All – Historic England

5 goals for public realm enhancement:

1. An inclusive environment
2. Public safety and ease of movement
3. A healthy environment that supports out wellbeing and cohesion
4. A high quality environment
5. Economic benefit

Wye Valley Highway Design Guide

- Prepared by Monmouthshire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire highways offices in 2011, but not adopted.
- Based on 4 guiding principles:
 1. Unless there is an overriding safety issue, do as little as possible.
 2. Take account of the specific traffic flow and character of the road to ensure the proposals are not over specified.
 3. Unless there is an overriding reason, copy the style and materials that have been used over time.
 4. Consult with the staff in the AONB Partnership Office.



CONSULTATION DRAFT

HIGHWAY DESIGN GUIDE

for the

Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

July 2011

Andrew Blake,
Wye Valley AONB Officer,
Wye Valley AONB Office,
Hadnock Road,
Monmouth,
NP25 3NG
aonb.officer@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk

Case Studies



- Visitor gateways – to engage visitors in and raise awareness of its attractions and travel options
- Integrated public transport links to popular walking routes
- E-bike cycling holidays



- New 'bike bus', new routes and increased frequency
- Cycle hire improvements, including e-bikes
- Marketing campaign for coach and rail options
- Result: 14% mode shift away from car in Lake District

Case Studies



Case Study
Sewta Car Share database
www.sewtacarshare.com



The ten local authorities in the Sewta region have joined together to create a regional car share database. This Internet facility will provide a free matching service to anyone in the region interested in car sharing.

Users are required to register by providing postcode details and information on their travelling habits. A search mechanism allows them to search for colleagues or neighbours with similar travelling patterns and returns contact details to encourage people to get in touch.

The service was launched on 14th June 2005 and is free to users, however, there is the facility to join a 'private' group which will provide additional security features. This service will cost an estimated £400 per year.

For more information visit: www.sewtacarshare.com



Case Study
Brecon Bike Bus

The award winning service operates every Sunday from Cardiff and Swansea from the end of May until the end of August. Cyclists can to hop on and hop off at a number of locations throughout the Beacons. The specially designed trailer is capable of carrying approximately 25 bicycles and the drivers have been given special training to help with loading and unloading. The service also provides excellent access to walkers who want to enjoy the Brecon Beacons.

A return trip from Cardiff costs £5.50 per person and £2 per bicycle.

For more information contact: Brecon Beacons Tourist Information
01874 622 485
Or visit:
www.visitbreconbeacons.com



Case Study
Car Clubs
MOORCAR

MOORCAR is a not-for-profit community Car Share scheme, the first rural-based car share scheme in the UK. MOORCAR is a co-operative and own a pool of vehicles for the use of the membership. It is not commercial car hire, these are community owned vehicles so all the benefits of cost saving, flexibility and freedom to get about, go straight where they're needed – the local community. Vehicles can be hired for an hour or the weekend as required. Members are free to choose the car that best suits your needs.

Typically costs can range from between £2.80 and £4.95 per hour depending on vehicle type and hire location. Users then pay between 17 and 19 pence per mile. The majority of Car Club schemes have an annual subscription of approximately £100.

Even if you can afford to own a private car, the cost of insurance, tax, MOT and the inevitable maintenance and service bills make many people ask whether it is worth the bother. Owning a modest family car can cost between £1,500 and £3,000 per year. Add to that the environmental hazards caused by ever-increasing car ownership, such as pollution, traffic and parking congestion. It is high time someone thought of an alternative. A decade of experience in Europe has shown that one car share vehicle can replace five privately owned cars.

For more information: www.moorcar.co.uk
www.carclubs.org.uk

Future of Mobility

‘Facilitating transition to net zero’

- Wales Transport Strategy - Improve sustainable access to key visitor attractions
- Wales EV Charging Strategy – Public/private partnerships to deliver charging hubs in rural areas, integrated with renewable energy

‘By 2025, all users of electric cars and vans in Wales are confident that they can access electric vehicle charging infrastructure when and where they need it.’

Vision for the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales (2020)

Key opportunities



Explore opportunities for inclusive active travel. Update Travel Plan. Increase funding for active travel schemes for both visitors and residents. Creation of new cycle loops with classified climbs. Reduced price ticketing for sustainable access.



Street design guidance could be introduced / enhanced to improve active travel facilities and sense of place in villages, reducing severance. Opportunity to implement through both development control and LHA action.



Support remote working and circular economy to reduce the need to travel. Review of HGV routing and preparation of mapping for hauliers. Freight consolidation; agricultural consolidation.



Parking - Integrated approach needed. Needs to be considered along with tourism. Agile/flexible strategy needed – seasonal variations (multi-purpose spaces). Mobility hub approach. Very limited provision for EV charging.



Public transport needs to be seamlessly integrated with other transport modes. Benefits need to be multi-faceted eg air pollution, modal shift, equality and reduced impact. Opportunities to brand and enhance Chepstow Station. DrT Grass Routes service to work with app booking

Placemaking

AONB MGMT PLAN DEDUCTIONS

What does this landscape need to thrive?

CONSERVE & ENHANCE

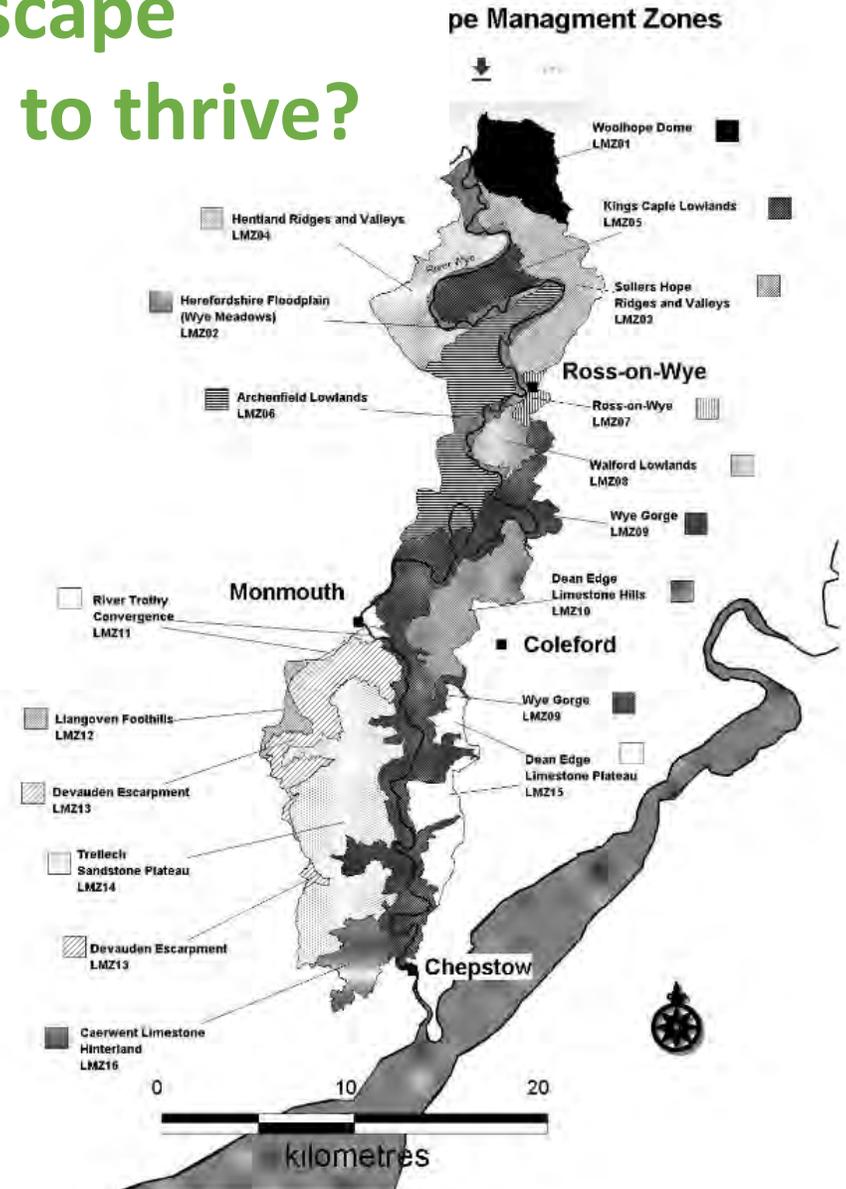
PEOPLE & PLACE

"To describe landscape to others without invoking an experience is to fundamentally ignore our relationship with place and miss what it is to be human" National Association for AONB's

NATURAL BEAUTY: flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features

RISKS:

- water
- soil
- tree fall
- flooding & transport
- species distribution
- pests & disease
- fire
- new crop introductions
- increase visitors
- historic environment

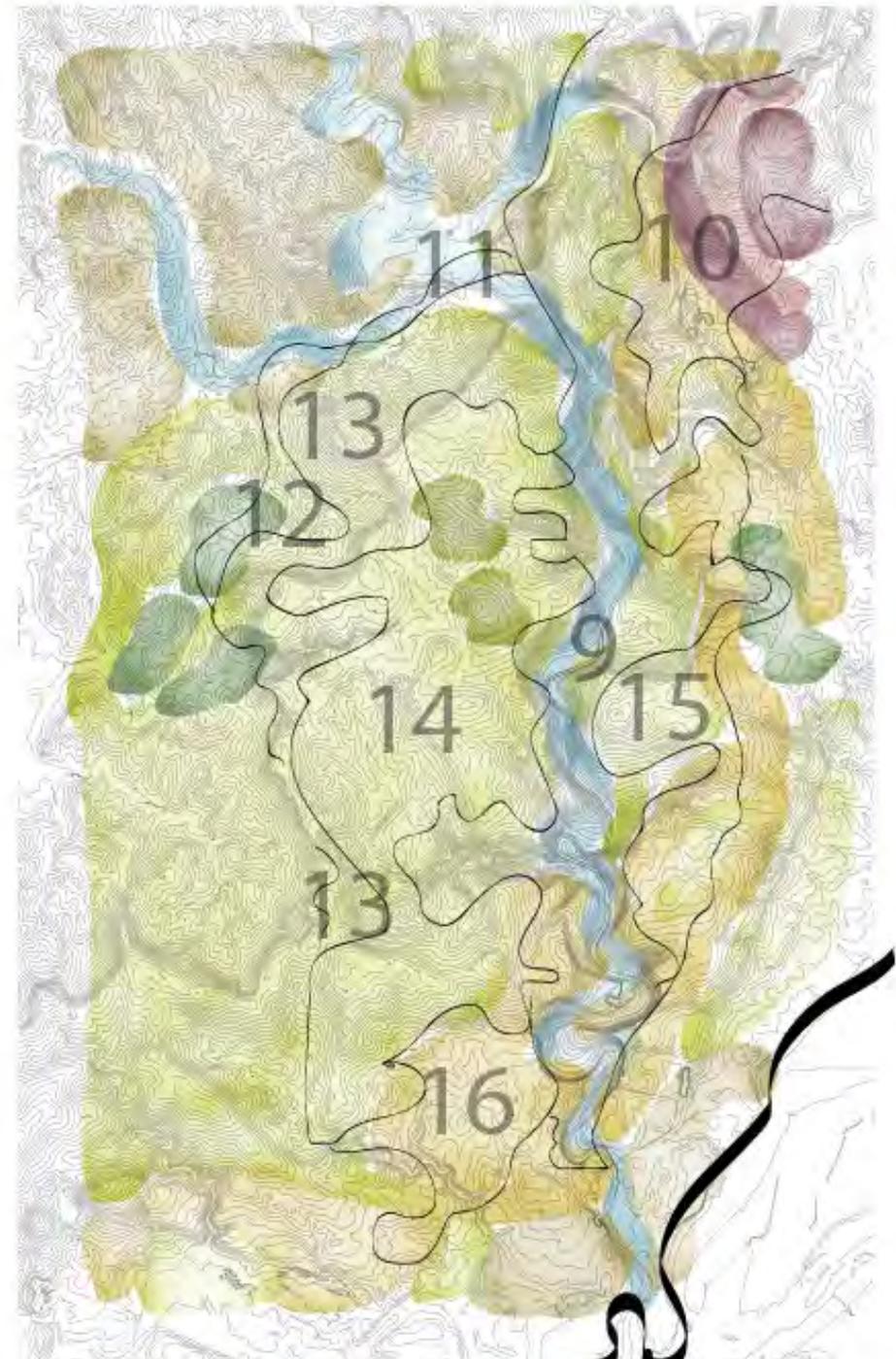


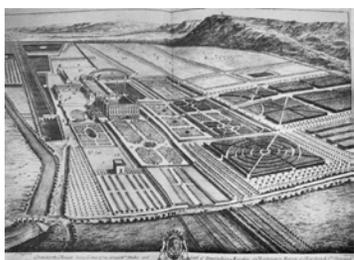
MAPPING DEDUCTIONS

Heritage

Biodiversity

Recreation







Resource extraction

'Invisible' Agriculture

Who is the landscape for?

Pre-industrial revolution settlement

Deforestation

Non-motorised transport



Disrupted habitat connectivity

Agrobusiness

Places for people?

Post-industrial Settlement

Infrastructure

Motorised transport

Wye Valley AONB Strategic Vision



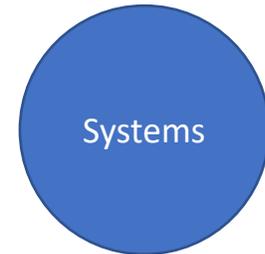
People

- inspiration
- distinctive landscape mix
- heritage assets conserved & enhanced
- local work
- minimal visitor/resident conflict
- benefit to villages and businesses
- internationally important landscape



Wildlife

- natural & heritage assets conserved & enhanced
- robust, interconnected mosaic of habitats
- ecosystem services & resources
- internationally important landscape



Systems

- positive adaptation
- ecosystem services & resources
- local work
- partnership with broader communities

4.4.2 “The **landscape approach** as it relates to conservation, agriculture and other land uses seeks to address the increasingly complex and widespread environmental, social and political challenges that **transcend traditional management boundaries**. The landscape approach helps to bring together the disciplines associated with the humanities, and social and natural science in a way that creates policy useful to not only help deliver environmental outcomes but for the delivery of **important social and economic objectives**. To do this we have to really understand that meeting ground between **people and place**; the **intended and unintended** ways we interact with the environment up which we depend as a species. this means not just viewing traditional policy areas at a landscape scale but seeing **landscape as a framework where the skills and assets of people and the social and economic processes that drive them are fundamentally and intrinsically interconnected with nature and the physical environment.**”



Abundant mosaic

Living wage
For all

Ecoagriculture

Nature as
medicine

Inclusive Landscape

Clean atmosphere
& soil

Resilient Villages

Swimmable Rivers

Safe, expanded
active travel
radius for children

LESSONS FROM ELSEWHERE

Governance: People & Place



Whanganui: Legal Personhood



 www.nationalgeographic.com

This river in New Zealand is a legal person. How will it use its voice?

Soon, the government will recognize a mountain as a legal person as well. Here's how it happened, and what it may mean.

Tenure & Stewardship

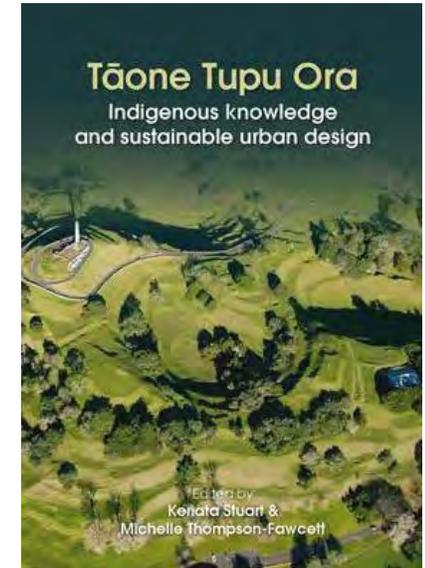
Research by indigenous peoples into the principles of their traditional knowledge has been growing significantly. A particularly exciting avenue in that research has been the relatively recent focus on the innovative application of traditional understandings to current situations and to planning for the future. What future can we envision from that traditional knowledge?

Indigenous knowledge is a complex concept that continues to be variously defined and debated, even with regard to what term to use: traditional knowledge, local knowledge, traditional wisdom, etc.... In general terms, indigenous knowledge is the accumulated understanding that a local community develops over many generations. It commonly encompasses values, skills and practices that guide the long-term behaviour and actions of a group in its locality.

One meaningful way of describing it for the purposes of this book is provided by Royal (5). In brief, he takes such a notion to be a,

Knowledge tradition or system that has arisen specific to a particular ecology, environment or place ... [that] has grown upon a lengthy tenure a particular people have enjoyed with that place.

The advantage of Royal's characterisation of indigenous knowledge is that it both prioritises the fusion of the human and natural world and diminishes the focus on colonisation in defining indigeneity.



The river is a living being. Parliament passed legislation declaring that Te Awa Tupua—the river and all its physical and metaphysical elements—is an **indivisible, living whole**, and henceforth possesses 'all the rights, powers, duties, and liabilities' of a legal person.'

Ko au te awa, ko te awa ko au. I am the river, the river is me.

LESSONS FROM ELSEWHERE

Design: People & Place



Golden Circle, Iceland



SOUTH ICELAND

ICELAND'S SOUTH COAST IS HOME TO SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST WILDLY BEAUTIFUL SCENERY. THE CLASSIC GOLDEN CIRCLE IS BEHIND YOU AT THE TOWN OF VESTMANNAYJÓR. ALONG THE COAST ARE PARADISE FOR THEIR FRESH SEAFOOD.

SOUTH ICELAND

Discover the beauty of the South Coast of Iceland, from the dramatic fjords and glaciers to the stunning landscapes and unique culture. The South Coast is a must-visit destination for anyone looking for a truly unforgettable experience.

WITH THE GOLDEN CIRCLE ROUTE, CONNECTING REYKJAVÍK, HALGRÍMUR AND ÖRFUK, SOUTH ICELAND IS A VERY POPULAR DESTINATION FOR VISITORS.



Central Otago Rail Trail, New Zealand



OTAGO CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL

VIEW MAP

EXPLORE OUR TRAIL

- About Our Trail
- Tour Planners
- Independent Travel
- Accommodation
- Bike Hire
- Food & Wine
- Transport
- Other Services
- See & Do
- Events
- Get in Touch
- Latest

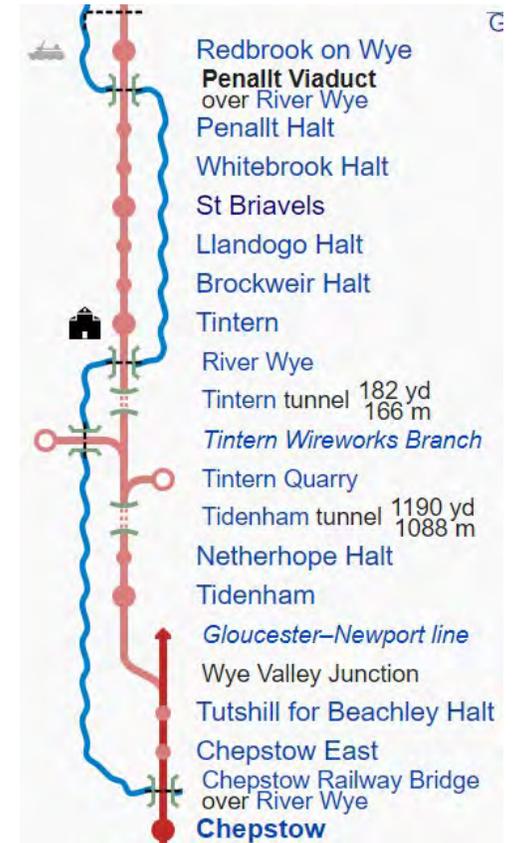
Share the love!

2016

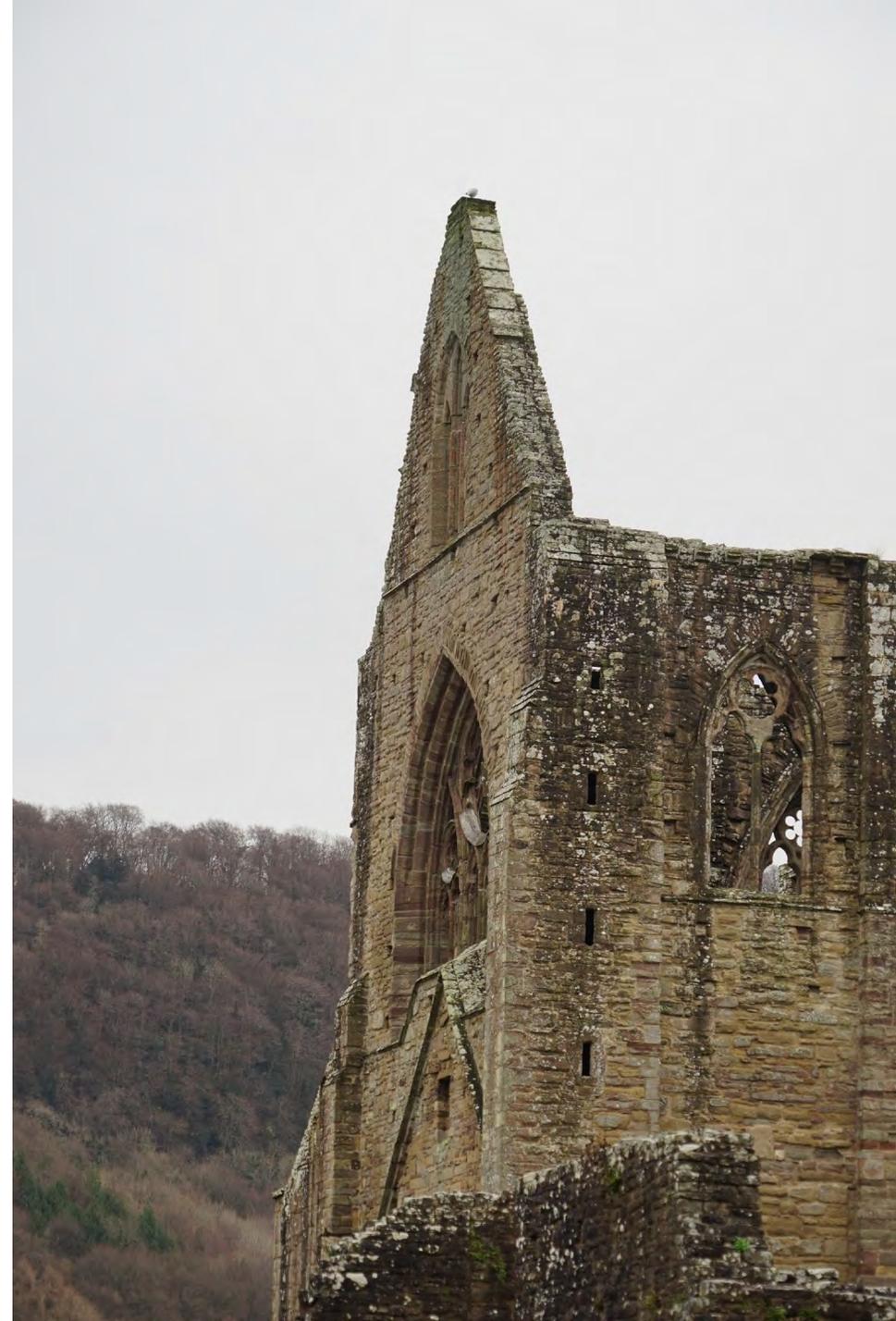
Wye Valley villages

- Places to live
- Places to work
- Places to visit
- Places to stay

- Places to discover; identity, history, nature, traditions, culture



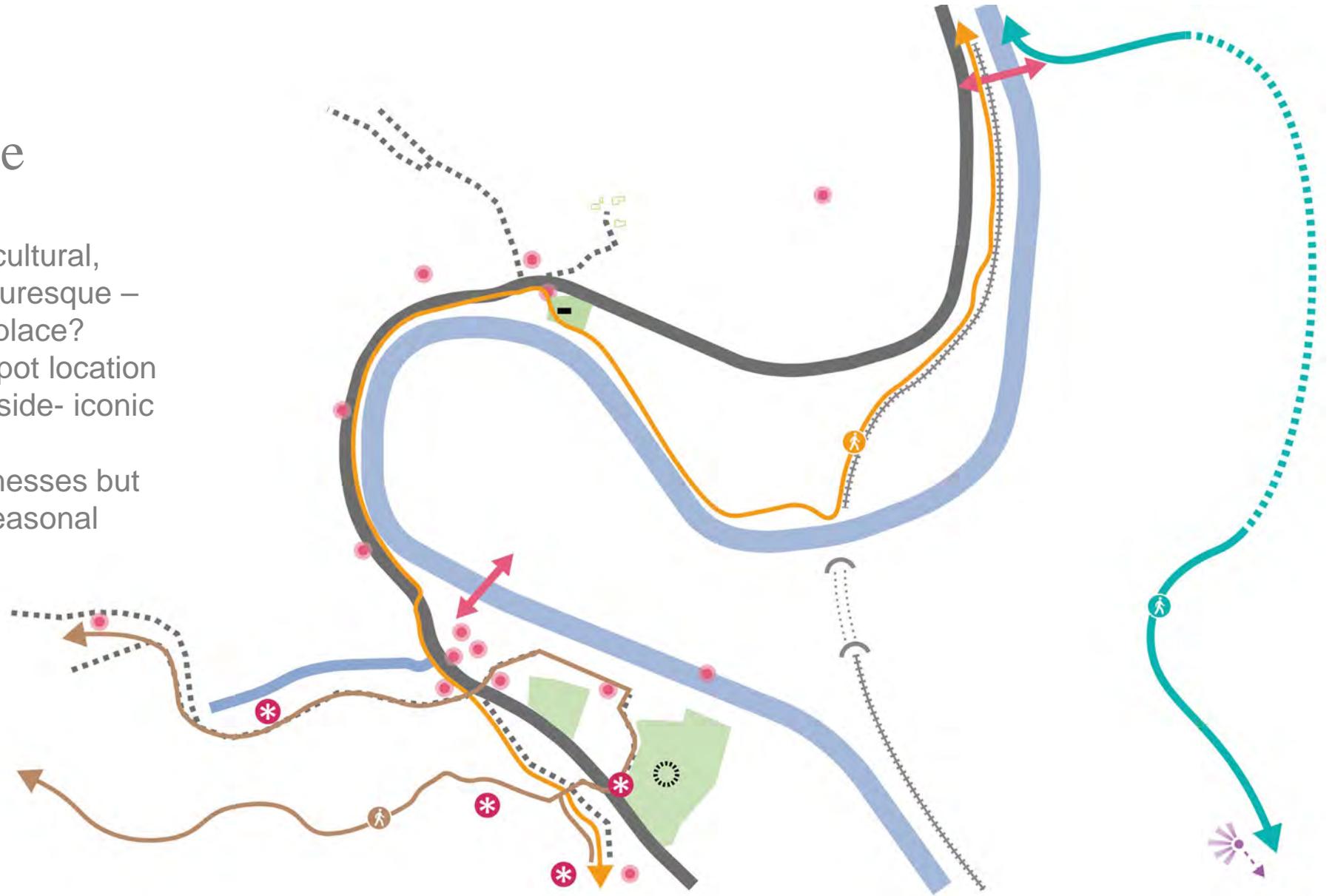
Tintern



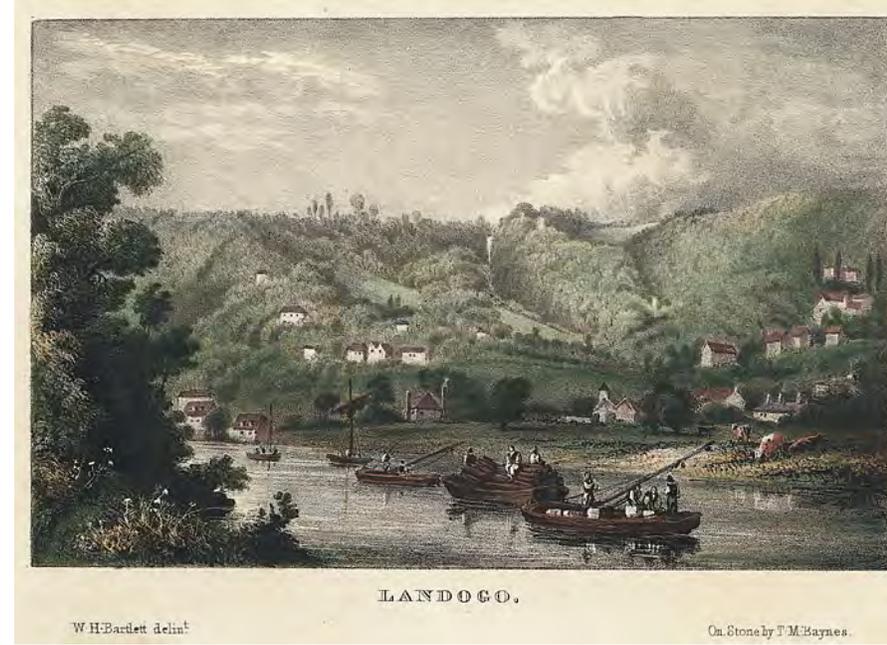
Tintern

The iconic village

- Layers of history – agricultural, religious, industrial, picturesque – The Wye Valley in one place?
- One of if not *the* Honeytrap location
- Visible history and riverside- iconic landmarks
- Clustering of local businesses but fragmented offer and seasonal



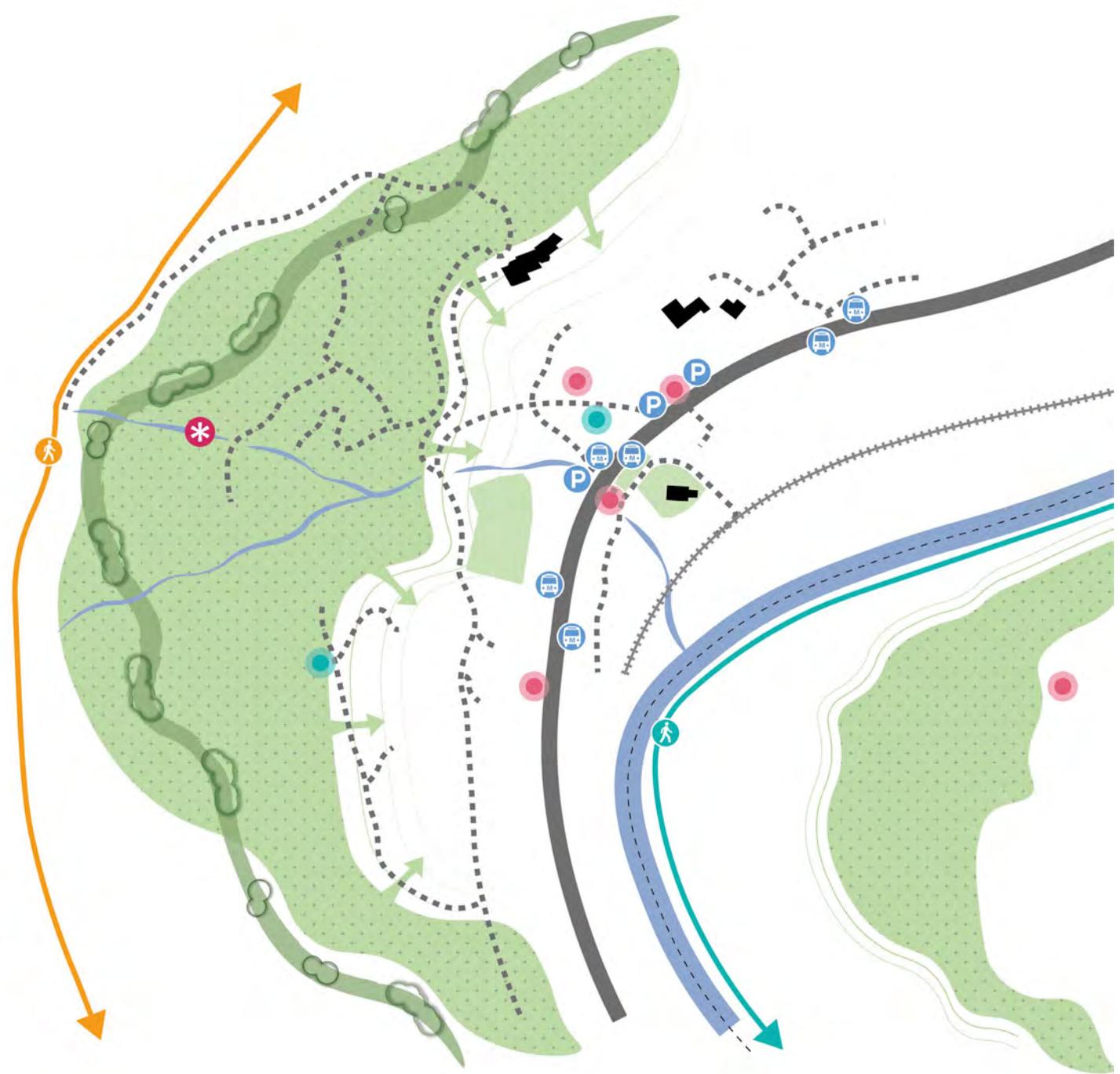
Llandogo



Llandogo

The riverside pastures

- Riverside conservation area-natural port and amphitheatre
- Boat making heritage (trow)-few obvious traces remain
- A pivot for many hiking routes (Wye Valley walk)
- Linear – a sequence of interest points but discernible heart
- All landscapes within the line of sight

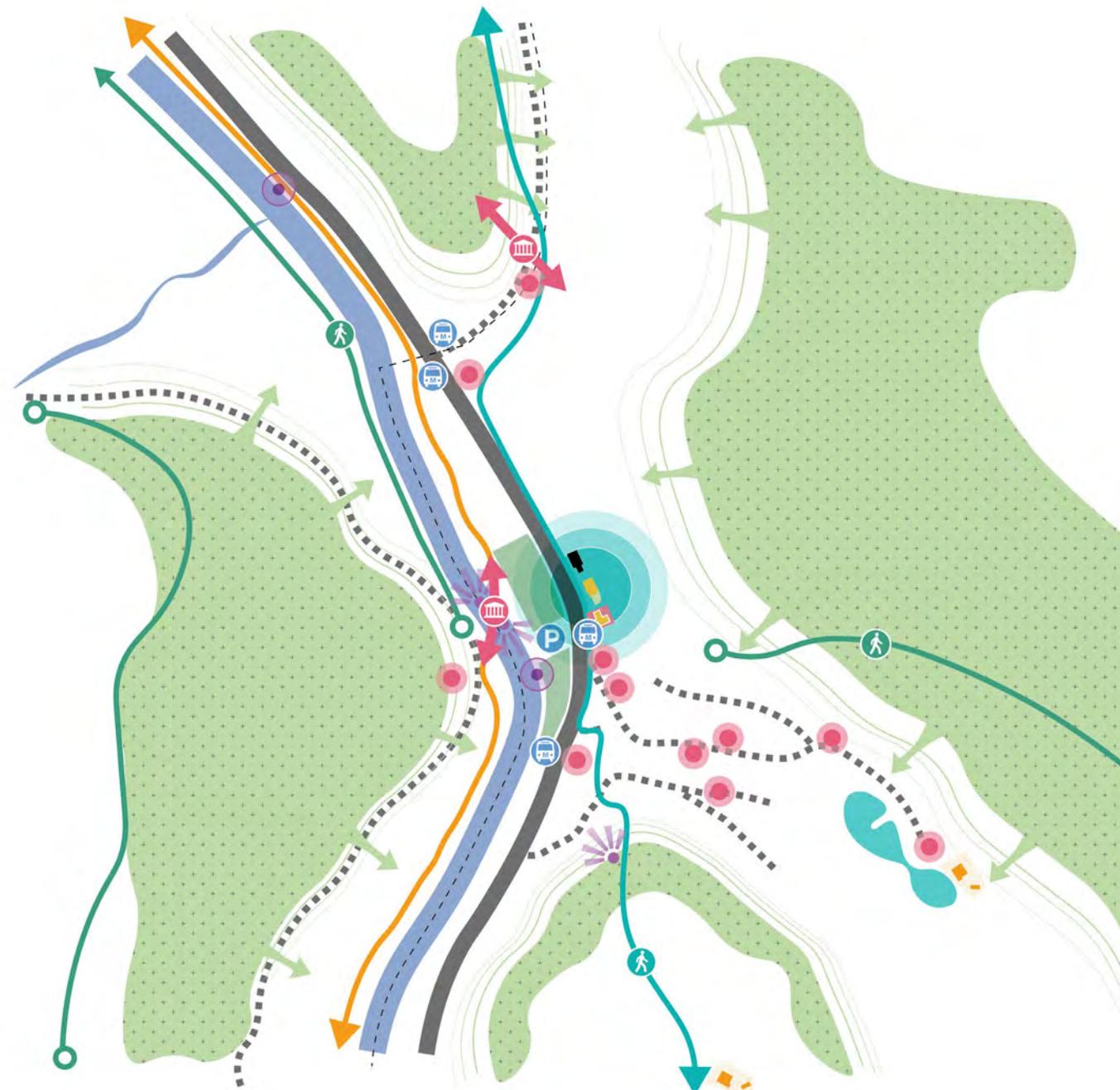




Redbrook

The gateway village

- A bridging point (Pennalt viaduct) between east-west and Wales and England
- Traces of industry
- Nestled in the valley(s)
- Gateway markers – hills and pubs
- Space for activation along the river edge



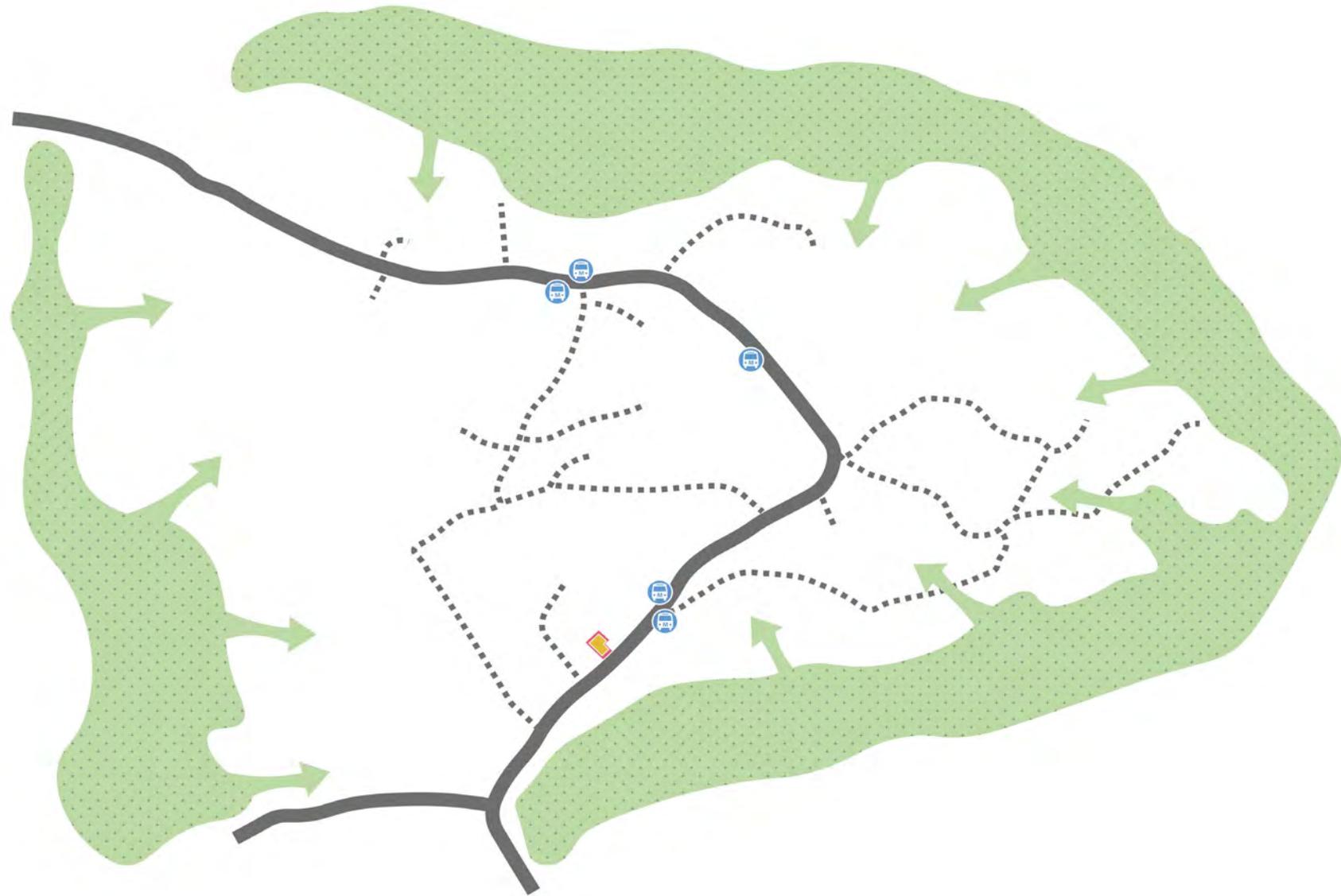
The North



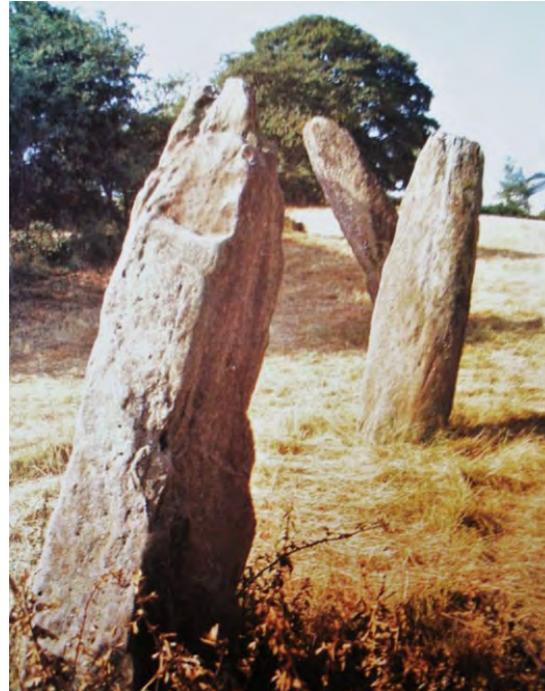
The Narth

A hilltop retreat

- Hilltop location, framed and defined by woodland
- Disperse, informal settlement
- Buildings set within landscape
- Quiet, secluded, soft
- A web of rural, village lanes
- Start of trails



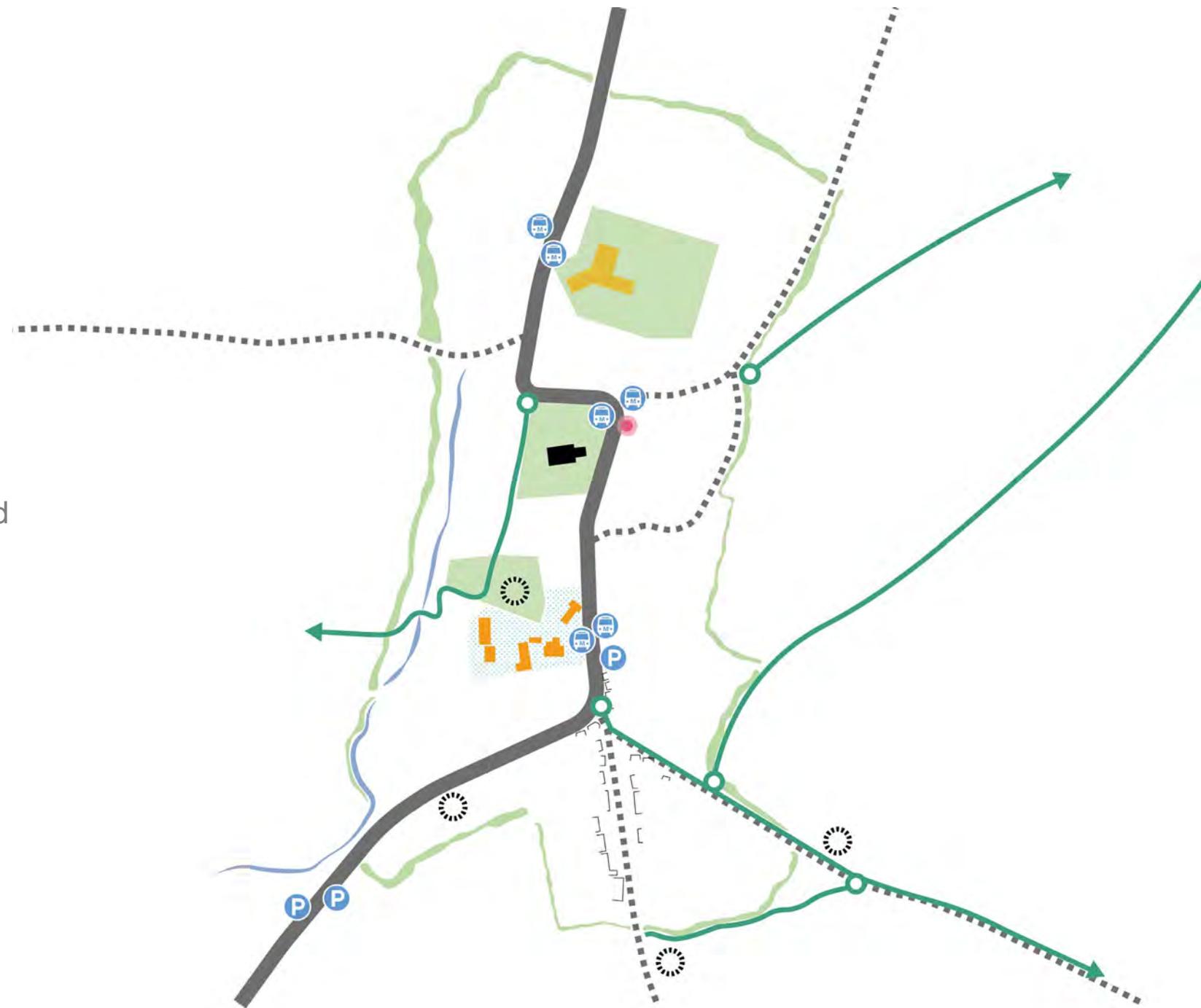
Trellech



Trellech

Traces of history

- Common language of buildings and materials in conservation area
- Historic pattern of buildings
- Serial views, spaces and landmark buildings
- Framed by open pasture
- Discover layers of history, myths and legends (Bronze age, medieval)



Devauden



Devauden

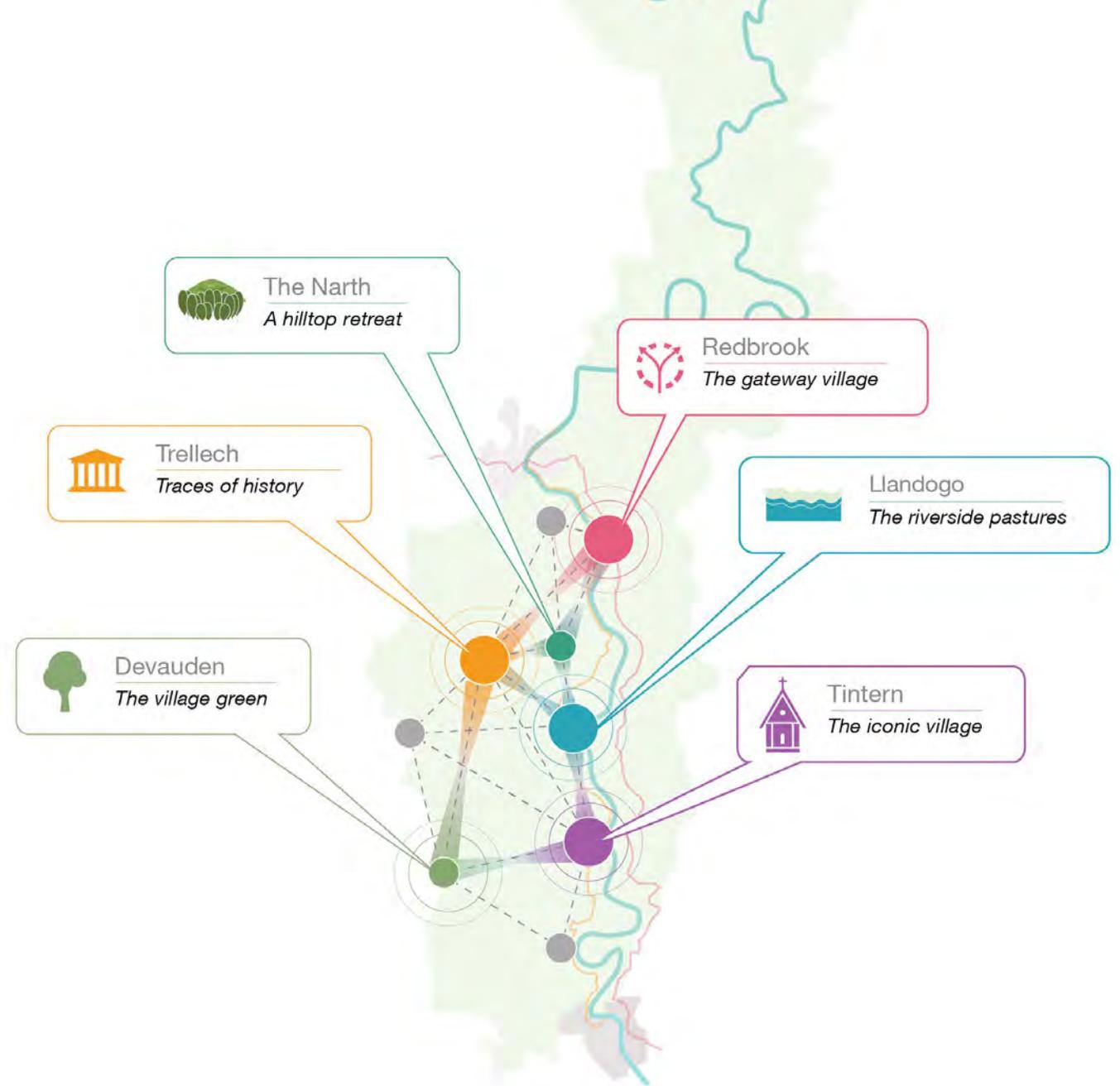
The village green

- The Ridgeway - spectacular views
- A true village green
- Pressure for new growth
- Gateway village
- Agricultural community
- Hidden treasures (Veddw garden)



Tapestry of villages

- Define, extract and celebrate the diversity and uniqueness of each village -legibility
- Explore and unlock unique character and opportunities for each
- Consider common strategies eg street design, storytelling signage, digital
- Consider as a network
- the sense of community



Co-operative working, innovation, media and profile
Playing to strengths - independents

“We are competitors but we work together,”

The screenshot shows the BBC News website. At the top, there are navigation links for Home, UK, World, Business, Politics, Tech, Science, Health, and Family & Education. Below this, there are regional links for Wales, Wales Politics, Wales Business, North West, North East, Mid, and South West. The main headline is "Crickhowell named Best Place to Live in Wales by Sunday Times". The article is by Matt Lloyd from BBC Wales, dated 12 April 2019. There are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Email, along with a "Share" button.

The screenshot shows the Financial Times website. The main headline is "Crickhowell is the town that went offshore". A sub-headline reads "Welsh traders mimic aspects of multinationals' tax avoidance in 'fair tax' experiment". There is a "UK tax" tag and a "Add to myFT" button. The article includes a photograph of a stone bridge over a river in Crickhowell. Social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Save are visible on the left side.

The screenshot shows The Guardian website. The main headline is "Butcher, baker and revenue-maker: Crickhowell named UK's best high street". A sub-headline reads "Brecon Beacons town is fighting the dominance of supermarkets". The article is by Steven Morris, dated 16 Nov 2018. There is a profile picture of Steven Morris and a photograph of a street scene in Crickhowell. The Guardian logo and navigation links are visible at the top.

The screenshot shows the BBC News website. The main headline is "Community could buy Crickhowell pub following planning row". The article is dated 9 July 2015. There are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Email, along with a "Share" button. Below the article is a photograph of a large crowd of people gathered in front of a pub building.

The screenshot shows The Independent website. The main headline is "Crickhowell: Welsh town moves 'offshore' to avoid tax on local business". A sub-headline reads "The Powys tax rebellion, led by traders including the town's salmon smokery, local coffee shop, book shop, optician and bakery, could spread nationwide". The article is by Adam Sharwin, dated 10 November 2015. There is a photograph of a street scene in Crickhowell. The Independent logo and navigation links are visible at the top.



Portmeirion –
multi functional
places



Altrincham – adapting spaces

Socio-economics

Population & Demographics

Overview & Challenges

- **Disperse** population yet **distinctive** identify across AONB.
- **Younger Out Migration.** Well educated but face underemployment befitting qualifications. Lack of local University presence leading to out migration.
- **Ageing Population.** Median Age 48 – Oldest in CCR. Monmouthshire could have less than 2 people of working age for every over 65 by 2036.
- **Labour supply shortfall** relative to long term care provision will become increasingly acute

Opportunities

- **Talent Attraction & Retention:** Targeting the right opportunities will attract and retain a younger economically active demographic and reduce County's Median age. Plan for the golden thread of place specific education, employment and housing choice.
- **Embrace the Silver Economy.** Ensure consumers as well as active economic contributors are adequately provided for locally? Support those keen to use retirement as an opportunity to explore new lifestyle opportunities linked to Wye Valley.
- **Demonstration for innovative public services** such as rural healthcare provision. Transferable skills from Covid affected sectors (retail, hospitality)



Enterprise & Employment

Overview & Challenges

- Monmouthshire has **highest rate of active businesses and business births** as well as the third highest GVA in Wales.
- Local enterprises in the AONB are often characterised by **low pay and seasonal employment**.
- The majority of County employment comes from distribution, education, manufacturing, public administration and tourism.
- **Pre Covid 40% of County residents out commuted to work.** Out commuters on average earn approximately 28% more than those who work in County.
- Growth in sectors such as **restorative land management and education, local food & drink production, food tourism and digital health care.**
- Provide support structures for **entrepreneurship within Wye Valley..**

Opportunities

- **Grow on space requirements** to support healthy business growth and development within the Wye Valley.
- Feasibility for provision of **additional storage and distribution space** for local food and drink producers. Wye Valley Producers Hub
- **Co working and rural innovation space** for remote working residents to meet regularly as well as encouraging visitors to extend stays.
- Ensure **higher education pathways reflect the future skills needed in rural and land-based economies** - digital health, agronomy, arboriculture, recreation.
- Develop **business support packages** specifically targeted at rural sectors including food and drink, tourism, hospitality & care.
- **Design bespoke pathways** for young people through the Kickstart Scheme and FE/HE Placements.
- **Social Value in Procurement** - Increase number of local SME's securing public service contracts.



Digital Infrastructure

Overview & Challenges

Digital deprivation levels are high in rural Monmouthshire, at 12.5% compared to 3-4% of the rest of CCR which restricts micro enterprise activity and home working and impacts access, poverty and skills.

Opportunities

- Work with network providers to roll out better Next Generation Access Broadband coverage
- Improve mobile phone coverage
- Public sector led drive for digital upskilling and service provision through AI and Internet Of Things. Rural care and healthcare test bed.



Housing Need & Affordability

Overview & Challenges

Wye Valley is a desirable place to live. Average house prices are the highest in Wales (£307,000)

Opportunities for affordable housing provision are limited. Average ratio of earning to house prices is 12:1 for those living and working in the area.

Evidence that the high cost of housing drives out migration to cheaper adjacent areas such as Newport or Torfean and is also constraining local businesses growth & resilience.

Opportunities

- Ensure housing is inclusive supporting the needs of long-term balanced communities.
- Encourage landowners to bring forward rural exception sites for affordable housing schemes adjacent to settlement boundaries.
- Affordable rental housing in demand
- Operationally essential rural enterprise dwellings for land-based workers or for farm succession planning (TAN 6 :Planning for Sustainable Communities)



Wye Valley Villages Stage 1 Reflections

1. There is a clear legal and policy framework for change.
2. Cross-roads post-Covid and climate change - new models are emerging, are we proactive or reactive?
3. An integrated approach is essential to resolve issues and realise opportunities.
4. Transport issues needs a nuanced, agile solution.
5. We need a place-based approach to retain and celebrate the uniqueness of the villages and places.
6. Our thinking needs to be action-based.
7. Moving forward – think big, little, bold. Grassroots will be key.
8. Need to think about immediate needs and the long term - What if we developed a 100 year plan? What will success look like?

Appendix 3

Stage 2 report

Wye Valley Villages Stage 2 Report

August 2021

Issue 1.3

An amendment has been made on September 15, 2021



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

| Community councils

wye valley

Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

dyffryn gwy

Ardalo Harddweli
Naturiol Eithriadol

ARUP

Stage 2 Report

1. Page 3 Introduction Wye Villages Plan for the Future
 - 1.1 Purpose & objectives
 - 1.2 Drivers of change
2. Page 6 Draft vision
3. Page 7 Stakeholder engagement
4. Page 10 National and regional context
5. Page 13 Wye Valley context
6. Page 15 Six Pillars
 - 6.1 Sustainable Transport & Road Safety
 - 6.2 Landscape Green & Blue Infrastructure
 - 6.3 Tourism
 - 6.4 Local economy
 - 6.5 The Villages - Placemaking
 - 6.6 Governance
7. Page 51 Next steps

1. Introduction Wye Villages Plan for the Future

1.1 Purpose & objectives

The “Wye Valley AONB Villages Plan for the Future” will be a strategic framework plan that sets a holistic vision for transformation through a programme of short, mid and long-term interventions.

The need for the Plan was triggered by issues around road safety and village infrastructure, which form part of a much more complex set of issues and challenges. This means that potential solutions can only be effective if addressed and set in a broader context and with an integrated approach. In this case such a holistic approach and understanding offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to drive generational change on all fronts. The AONB Management Plan (2021-2026) describes this context driven approach by the need to ensure transport is sustainable, integrated, and compatible with the purpose of its destination.

The objective of this Plan is to define the key elements and structure of a holistic vision and to offer a perspective on how this vision can deliver a transformational change in an era that is already demanding we address socio-economic, political and environmental challenges. For visitors and residents, there is a bigger opportunity to promote and enhance the AONB with a long term perspective, while addressing immediate issues and challenges.

We will identify and define these key elements through three stages of work with the client team, specialist consultants and key stakeholders, and by doing so, jointly shape the vision. The results of the second stage and draft vision are presented here.

The aim of the first stage of work was to identify key issues, challenges and opportunities to set a solid evidence base. Our Stage 1 Report offers a cross cutting summary and distils the essence of a broad, sometimes divergent evidence base, consisting of studies, reports, plans and strategies around green infrastructure (landscapes including habitats, woodlands, fields, parks etc), tourism, travel and transport, AONB management and regional development planning.

The purpose of the second stage of work has been to define a draft vision for the Wye Valley AONB Villages Plan for the Future and six key themes as pillars of that vision. The objective of this stage 2 report is to submit the vision, the programme of key themes and potential projects to wider public consultation, in order to gain valuable feed-back and inform the final vision.

This Plan is funded by Monmouthshire County Council, the Wye Valley AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and the Welsh Government Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places programme.

1.2 Drivers of change

We have identified three key “drivers of change” that condition future transformation and are key to unlocking future potential and opportunities of the vision:

Sustainability

In response to the Paris Accord on Climate Change, The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provide a blueprint at the highest level to direct decision-making towards environmental, political, social and economic sustainability for future growth and change.

At a national level The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) offers a radically different way of approaching development and change. The Act enshrines in law the need to consider the impact of our decisions on future generations. This can be thought of as ‘Cathedral thinking’ a reference to the altruism shown by the medieval craftsmen who dedicated their lives working on buildings they knew would not be completed within their lifetime.

In 2019 both the Welsh Government and Monmouthshire County Council declared a climate emergency recognising the need for urgent action to combat the effects of global climate change.

This will impact upon and permeate all decision making. It will mean prioritising sustainable travel (public transport and active travel), climate change mitigation, renewable energy, local circular economies and ensuring local people can sustain themselves through access to employment and housing.

Governance:

Engagement to date has laid bare the complex geopolitical context of the Wye Valley and the Wales-England border. The wide range of stakeholders and delicate balance required between tourism and residents adds further weight to the need for carefully considered governance. To avoid a disparate response without clear ownership there will need to be an integrated approach where efforts are joined-up around a shared objective. This will be essential in ensuring;

- That finite public funding is maximised and added value created
- There is one (external) voice which speaks for the (lower) Wye Valley
- The brand and reputation of the (lower) Wye Valley is consistent irrespective of political boundaries
- Leadership and ownership are clearly defined and agreed by stakeholders with greater cross border collaboration.



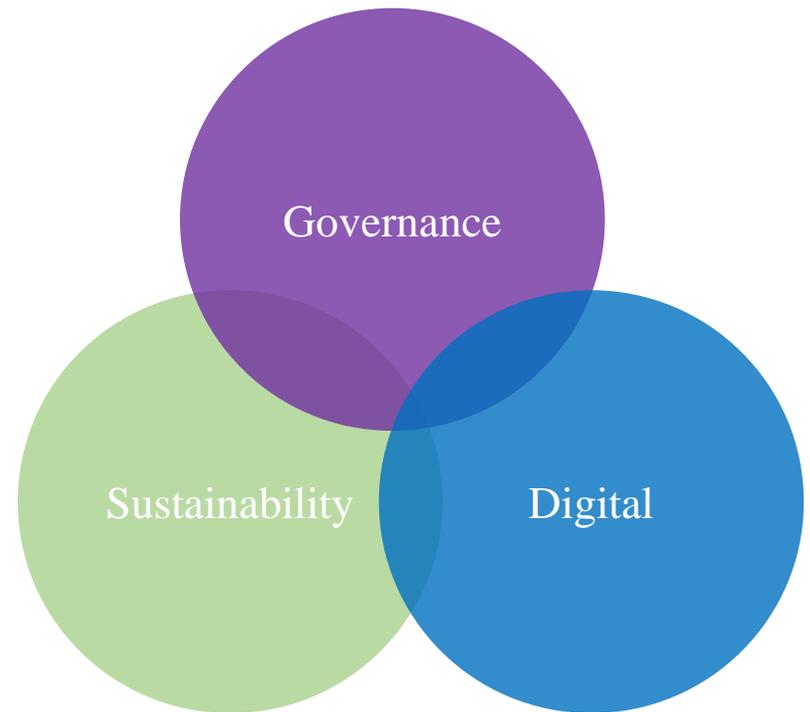
The 7 well-being goals of the WGFA

Digital:

Technology continues to rapidly change the way we live. The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated many latent trends enabled by the devices and software that are now part of daily life. Increased online services and remote working are:

- Allowing us to blend work and lifestyles with more working from home
- Increasing market reach for smaller enterprises who are no longer confined to a narrow geography
- Increasing the way we use, interact and access transport from app based bike hire, ticketless transport to live feed travel information
- Changing the way we explore an area through geolocation mapping or web sites which showcase a place or area.
- The rise of co-working spaces in place of traditional, 'fixed' office space.
- Increasing dependency on approval based platforms such as Tripadvisor for decision making

The current lack of widespread, fast internet largely due to the topography of the Wye Valley will continue to limit the potential of enterprise until a solution is found. The ability of the Wye Valley villages, its enterprises and people to capitalise on the societal changes that are taking place around us will be directly linked to the sophistication of the digital infrastructure.



The drivers of change for the Wye Valley

2. Draft vision

The vision builds on the existing AONB character and the distinctive identity of the different villages, as well as the two gateway towns of Monmouth and Chepstow.

Updated vision statement:

The Wye Valley is a story of people and nature that has been shaped by many hands over centuries. The immediate challenges of climate change, post-Covid recovery, mobility and sustainable development require a new perspective on the future of this outstanding landscape and its settlements.

Our vision is to ensure that short term solutions are set within the context of long term needs and challenges. It is considered over a 100 year timescale to ensure it will endure for generations to come and work with a timescale for nature. It is founded upon three simple principles:

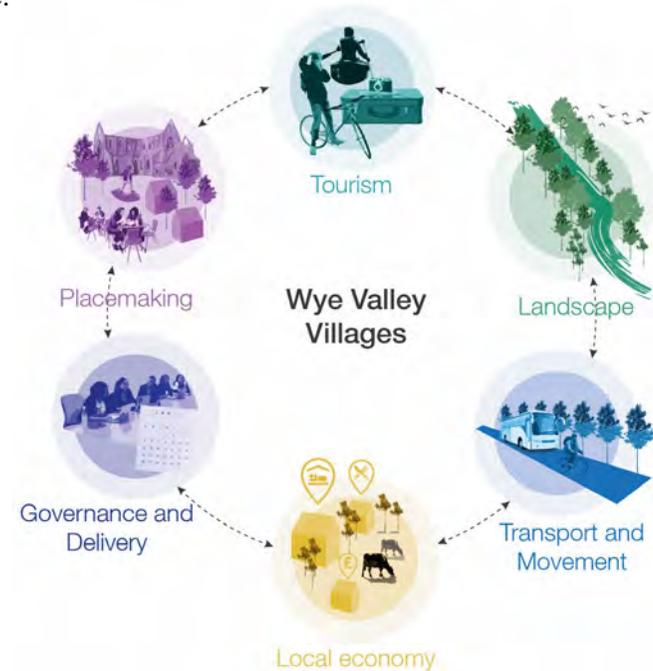
- Conserving and enhancing the natural and man-made assets that define this unique place for existing and future generations.
- A holistic approach to governance, territory and integral drivers of change
- Evolving to respond to changes caused by climate change and to capitalise on opportunities created by the target of net zero carbon.

We have defined six key themes that form the pillars of our vision, which are:

- placemaking,
- governance,
- tourism,

- landscape,
- transport and movement
- local economy.

The first two pillars, placemaking and governance, are also overarching themes to the other four. For each of these pillars we have set out a programme for future transformation, the guiding principles that define that transformation and the potential projects that can emanate from the programme.



The Six Pillars

3. Stakeholder engagement

Liaison with key stakeholders and the wider public which recognises the importance of consultation to understand issues and challenges and for a collaborative approach to project definition and opportunities is a fundamental part of our process.

Representatives of the client group that commissioned the work, Monmouthshire County Council, The Wye Valley AONB Partnership and Community Council representatives from Devauden, St Arvans, Tintern and Trellech United, have been an invaluable soundboard for our work throughout the process.

Targeted stakeholder conversations have been held with Andrew Blake, Manager of the Wye Valley AONB, Nicola Edwards, Destination Manager of MCC and Helen O’Kane (Puzzle Wood) and Rachael Geddes (Humble by Nature), members of the board of “Forest of Dean & Wye Valley Tourism” the official Destination Management Organisation. Their ideas and feedback have helped shape the vision and key pillars.

A wider public consultation period will be held in summer 2021, during which the vision and six pillars will be made available in digital format through a “Virtual Engage” format. Feedback and suggestions will be captured and summarised to inform the next and final stage of work.

SWOT

A SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) assessment was undertaken on December 17th 2020, as part of the inception meeting for the Wye Valley Villages project. The results of the assessment, that was based on the six pillars of the vision, are summarised here.

Strengths

- Recognised tourist location with 2 internationally recognised walking routes
- Wide range of experiences – eg micro breweries, vineyards and trails.
- Unique border location between Wales and England
- The people and communities of the valley
- History – birthplace of British tourism, Tintern Abbey and early industrialisation
- Internationally recognised landscape and habitats
- Good connectivity with the rest of the UK
- Existing businesses and entrepreneurs such as Wye Valley Producers

Weaknesses

- Lack of fast internet
- Uneven tourist pressures for example Tintern struggles to cope during high demand.
- Too many people simply drive through and don’t dwell
- Road safety within the villages

3. Stakeholder engagement

Weaknesses (continued from previous page)

- Lack of a clear separate identity for each of the villages
- Lack of public transport
- Lack of sustainable local employment opportunities for young people

Opportunities

- Growing interest in local food and goods
- Reduced commuting because of home working and a subsequent reduction in traffic
- Increase in home-grown tourism
- Delivering truly sustainable tourism that assists the local economy without harming community life or the natural environment
- Attracting new visitors from outlying settlements (eg Cardiff, Bristol, Birmingham)
- Supporting and delivering sustainable transport

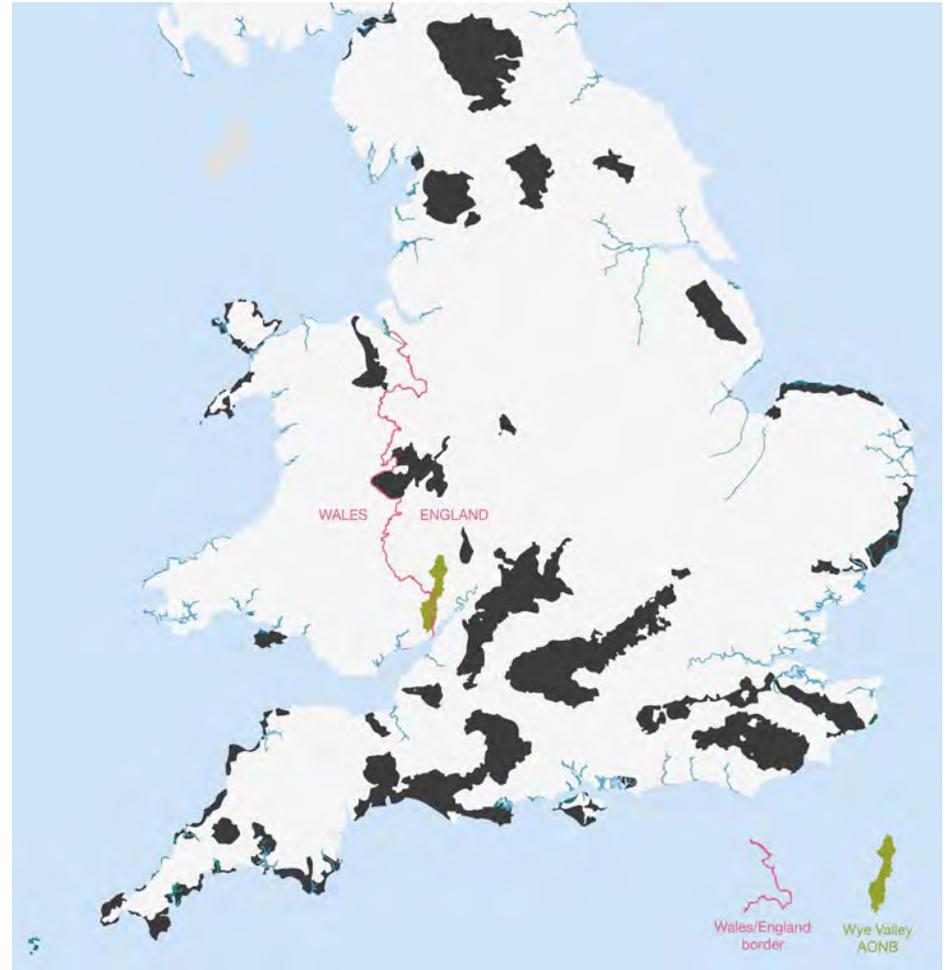
Threats

- Lack of affordable housing
- Environmental damage from climate change
- The complexity of geo-political relations (England and Wales and multiple local authorities may complicate delivery of proposed interventions
- Competing views between residents and businesses
- Covid impacts on existing businesses
- Failing to adapt to future changes

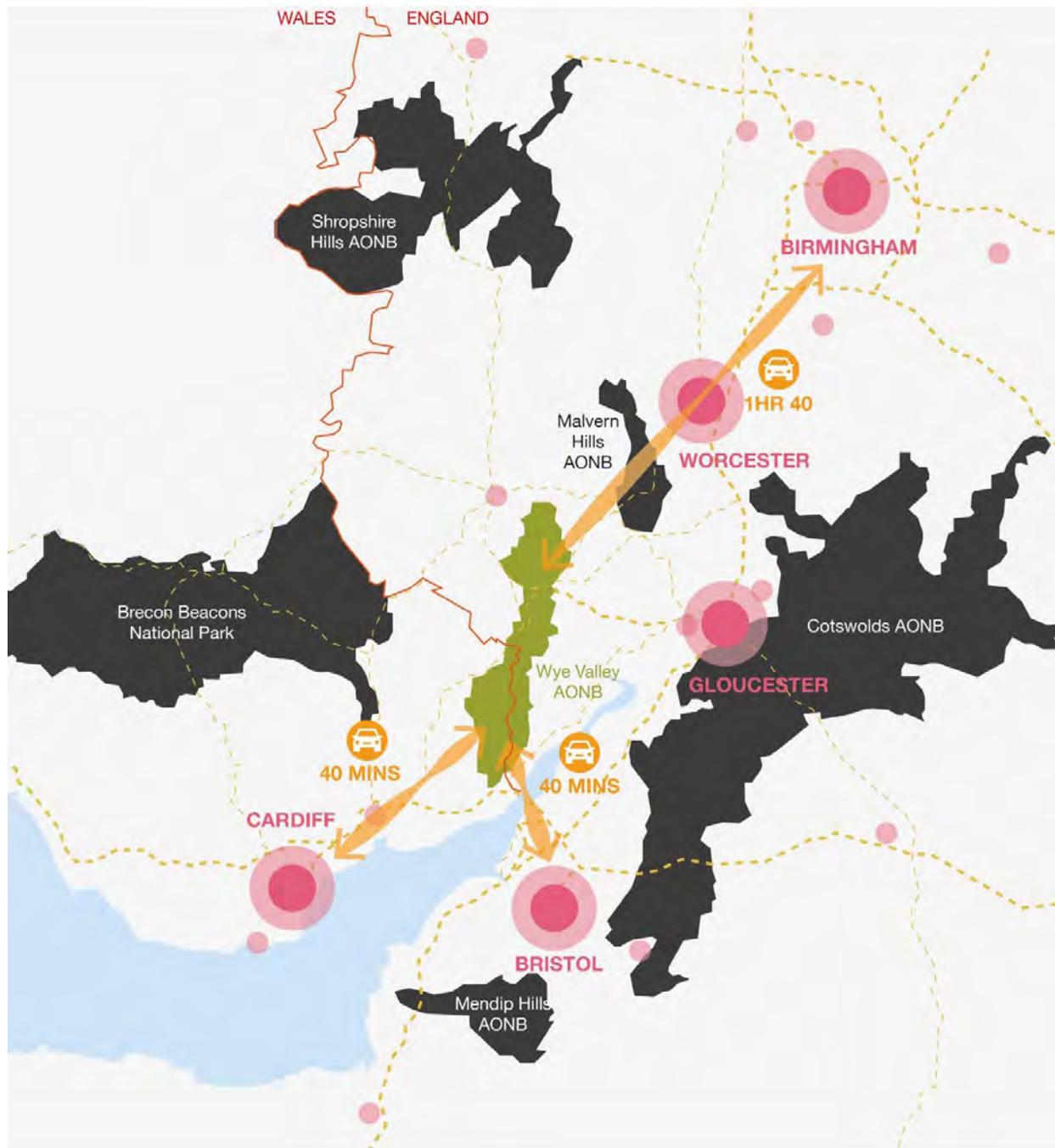
4. National and regional context

AONB National context

When considering the Wye Valley at a national scale it is useful to consider the extent and location of other AONB designations. Whilst each are unique in their own right it is noticeable that of the UK's 46 AONB's only the Wye Valley straddles national boundaries. The Wye Valley is a true 'border territory' where the interface of political boundaries, settlements, cultures, nationalities and the natural environment has shaped the 'uniqueness' of the area. This should be embraced and celebrated through the approach to tourism, branding and marketing but also points to the complexity of governance that exists.



AONB's of England and Wales

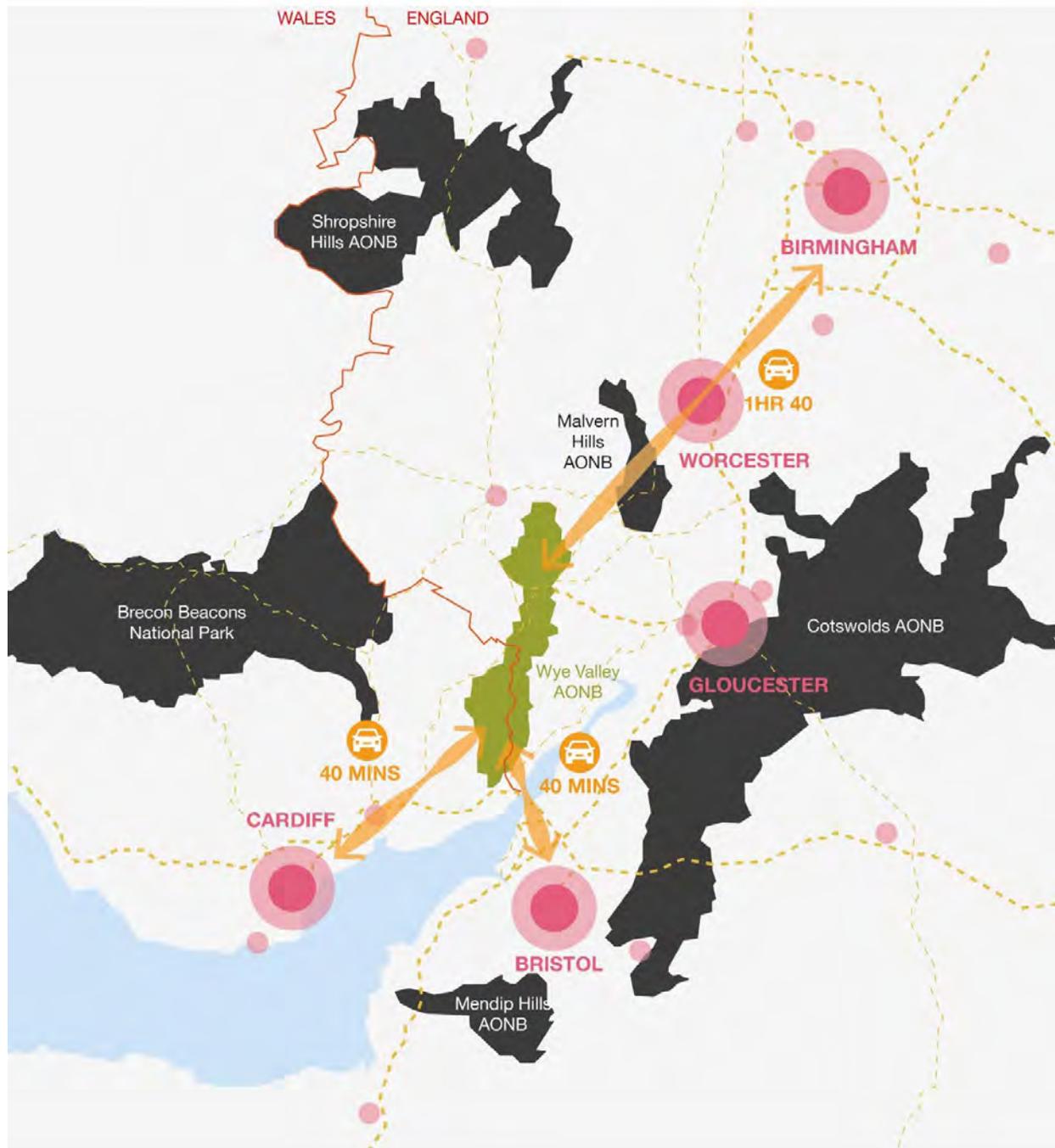


Regional context

For the purpose of this report, the regional context is illustrated in the accompanying diagram. This reveals a number of considerations:

The urban context

The proximity of Cardiff (40 mins travel time), Newport (30 mins), Bristol (40 mins) and Birmingham (1hr 40 mins) provides a significant pool of latent visitors and markets for local businesses. As technology continues to add greater flexibility to people’s living and working lifestyles, these same areas are also likely to generate ‘would-be’ new residents, further increasing pressure on finite local housing and community infrastructure. This should also be seen as an opportunity to attract a younger generation of entrepreneurs to help drive the local economy.



The Wye Valley is part of a collection of landscapes including the Cotswolds, Shropshire Hills and Brecon Beacons. Despite separate governing bodies these are a network of nationally Protected Landscapes, not independent landscapes which have the potential for mutual gain through greater collaboration and cross-selling. Through the engagement process it had become evident that these invisible boundaries are ignored by entrepreneurs such as Visit DeanWye who see the value in sharing digital tourism platforms with partners in the Cotswolds. This perspective is essential in understanding how the Wye Valley interacts with surrounding areas. It will frame the outcomes of this study – the proposed transformations for the Wye Valley and its communities.

A conduit north-south

The natural east-west barrier formed by the River Wye is manifest in geopolitical boundaries that have existed in some form for centuries. The north-south alignment of Offa's Dyke remains an important historical monument, broad territorial boundary and walking route of national significance. The Wye Valley marks the southern gateway to this route and the landscapes to the north. For many it will be the start and end of journeys, experiences and visits and as such it is important to remember that the Wye Valley in itself is part of a broader offer.

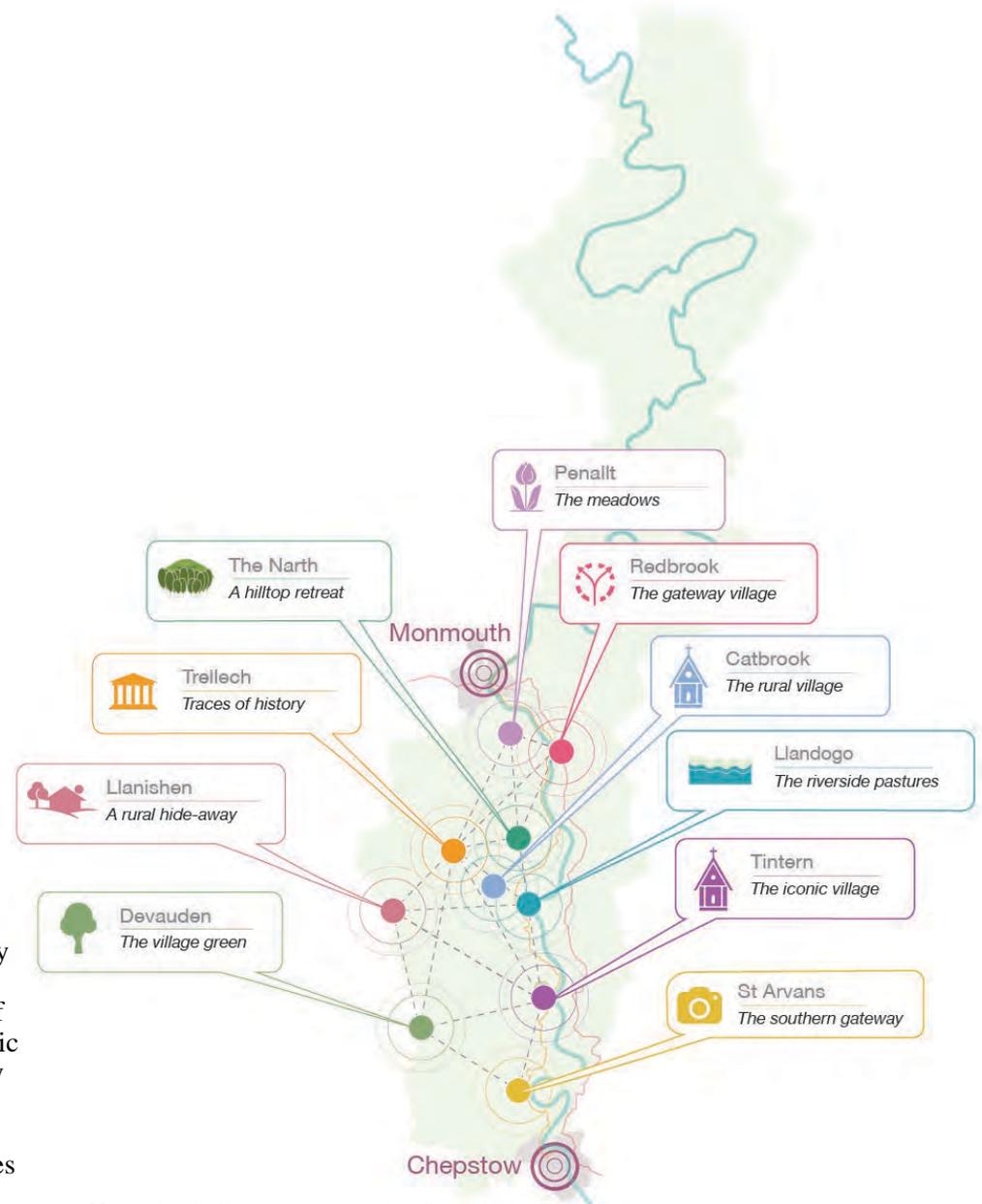
5. Wye Valley context

Study area

The scope of this study is limited to the Welsh part of the Wye Valley AONB and the 9 main settlements that have been identified with MCC:

- Trellech
- Penallt
- The Narth
- Devauden
- Tintern
- St Arvans
- Llandogo
- Llanishen
- Catbrook

The geographic boundary of the study reflects the administrative boundary of Monmouthshire County Council and Welsh Government. In reality the villages of the Wye Valley AONB extend east and north into the Forest of Dean and Herefordshire. This is important because the social and economic function of the area is not restricted by the administrative boundaries. Any proposed changes discussed in this study will potentially impact other settlements. For example, a consistent approach to road safety would be more effective if managed at a broader geographical area (to include places such as Redbrook) that is consistent with the cross border AONB boundaries.



Network of villages as presented in Stage 1
Please note Redbrook is outside of the study area

A network of Villages

During the initial stages of engagement with the community councils the villages were presented as a network or system not as separate and independent settlements. This reflects the community and social connections between villages, the movement of people and trade within the area and the need for a collaborative and joined-up approach to key issues such as road safety.

This network is bound by the river to the east, the higher land and escarpment to the west and bookended by Monmouth and Chepstow north and south.

Activity

Touristic activity is traditionally closely aligned to the river corridor. This is due in large part to the ease of access offered by the A466 and the presence of Tintern Abbey and historically by the river and then the railways as transport routes. The villages on the higher ground in contrast are generally more residential and community in nature, however have a different offer towards tourism that could be further explored.

Roads

Road safety and traffic concerns have been identified as a priority concern for the community councils. Understanding the exact causation of traffic and speeding is complex but an appreciation of the local road network reveals part of the problem.

The villages have developed around two key routes, The A466 and B4293 which effectively form a circuit. Both routes connect Chepstow and the M4 corridor with Monmouth and the A40 to the north serving as strategic transport routes. The linear nature of the valley and general lack of faster (and therefore convenient) east-west routes both within the study area and beyond help to amplify movement along these routes. The scenic value of the A466 in particular will entice movement based on recreational value.

Chepstow and Monmouth

Although both towns are situated outside of the study area they play an important role in the function of the valley. Both offer employment, education, retail and service provision for the villages. They are also existing and potential markets for enterprises within the study area.

Chepstow provides the nearest point of access to the rail network while Chepstow racecourse is an important generator of income to the local economy.

6. Six Pillars

6.1 Sustainable Transport & Road Safety

Introduction

The two key priorities for the Transport element of the strategy are as follows:

- Improving actual and perceived road safety within the villages; and
- Enhancing sustainable transport provision for both residents and tourists.

The priorities identified above align with the views expressed by stakeholders alongside the key themes that underpin local and national planning policy. Both priorities complement each other well as improving road safety is likely to encourage more journeys to be made by sustainable modes of transport, particularly active travel. Similarly, encouraging more trips to be made by sustainable modes of travel will reduce vehicle movements on the transport network, thus improving road safety.

Road Safety

The most significant observation is the lack of distinction that is made to the road (and not street) design when entering or leaving each village. This lack of transition reinforces the sense of continuity for drivers and therefore any sense that you are entering a ‘place’ where people live or visit is lost. The result is an inevitable conflict between road users and people where drivers are given priority.

There are a number of measures to be explored further to reduce both perceived and actual road safety concerns. Some of these measures have been reflected in the diagrammatic plans for each village in section 6.5 “The Villages-Placemaking” and further recommendations are included below:

- **Street Design Manual:** it is recommended that a design manual is prepared that details how streets within the Wye Valley should be designed to enhance both character and function. These design standards can be used to encourage consistent good quality street design within each of the villages. Design solutions will be tailored to the specific needs of each village.
- **Road Speed Strategy:** alongside the Street Design Manual, it is recommended that a road speed strategy is developed for the study area. We recommend this includes a 20mph speed limit for all streets within the villages.
- **Village Transport Schemes:** speed reduction features will be required to enforce the proposed reductions in speed limit. Bespoke transport schemes are recommended for each village, responding to the individual opportunities and constraints of the existing transport network. These should be delivered in alignment with the standards set out in the Street Design Manual.

The above recommendations will positively contribute to the wider strategy of each village acting as a disruptor to the wider road network, changing the overall character of the route.

Sustainable Transport

There are opportunities to enable both residents and tourists to make more journeys to, from and within the Wye Valley by sustainable modes of transport. These include:

- Improvements to the existing **bus service provision**, including increased service frequencies and better connectivity with more strategic bus and rail services;
- Enhancing the **pedestrian and cycle network (active travel)**, including the provision of a north/south cycle route extending the existing Wye Valley Green Way, and also could be delivered through the potential introduction of Quiet Lanes; and
- **Intermodal interchanges** at tourism hubs that become a ‘new place’ with a clear and distinct sense of arrival and departure for multiple modes of transport with services and facilities to support visitors and tourists alike. Potentially located both in the north and south of the Wye Valley, these hubs would enable tourists travelling by car to transfer to another mode. The mobility hubs would include access to hire vehicles such as cycles, e-bikes and potentially electric vehicles. There is also a future opportunity for e-scooters to be made available. Further investigation is required to identify potential locations for such hubs; however, Chepstow Racecourse is suggested as a potential site to be explored further.
- There are also opportunities for smaller **mobility hubs** to be located in strategic locations across the Wye Valley, by relocating existing bus stops in the Villages to more strategic locations (such as village greens and village halls), to enable the transition from car to other modes of travel, both for residents and for visitors.

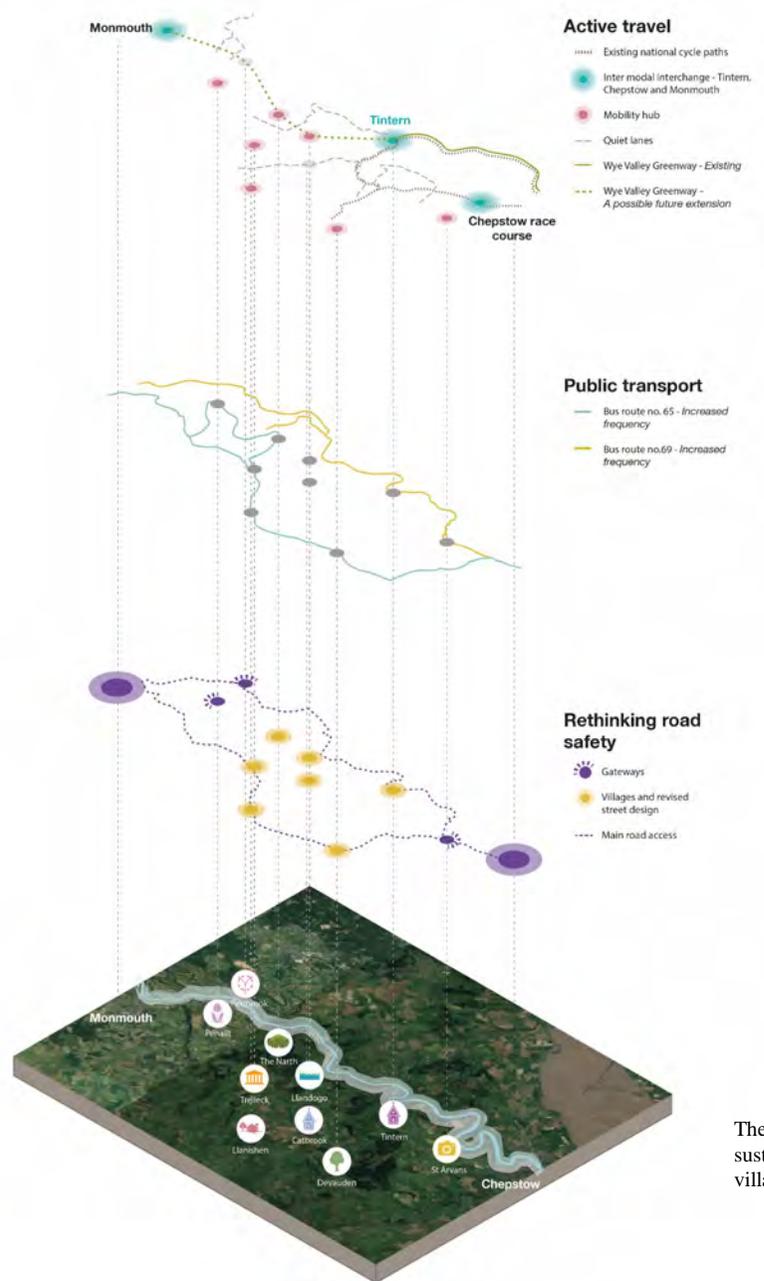
Active Travel and recreational access

The Wye Valley contains numerous walking and cycling routes which form a complex network of active travel, recreational and touristic routes. For expediency, this section notes the regionally significant Offa’s Dyke Path National Trail and Wye Valley Walk footpath and the emerging Wye Valley Greenway. These are the primary north-south routes which at varying points connect the river villages. Both Offa’s Dyke Path and Wye Valley Walk are part of longer walking routes with the former linking the Wales Coast Path. As previously noted, this offers potential for the area to celebrate the beginning and end of these long distance routes.

Inclusive active travel where the needs of all people are understood and catered for is becoming an increasingly important consideration. This includes groups with typically lower levels of uptake include the elderly, BAME groups and women. There is a significant opportunity for the Wye Valley to pioneer an approach to inclusive active travel by offering safe and adapted routes and means, as well as targeted marketing and branding.



Inclusive Active Travel: 2019 Arup report and mixed ability cycling.



The layers of proposed road safety and sustainable transport as they relate to the villages



Shared space Caernarfon



Top: Gravel riding is growing in popularity creating an opportunity for a new audience.
Above: Inclusive active travel caters for all ages and ability – Greater Manchester

6.2 Landscape - Green & Blue Infrastructure

Green and blue infrastructure refers the landscapes (habitats, woodlands, fields, parks etc) and water systems (rivers, tributaries, streams etc). The recommendations offered around green and blue infrastructure are cognisant of the vast body of work contained by and managed by the AONB Partnership and the recently published Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2021-2026. In response, the recommendations of this study are not based around large-scale change to the landscape and water system of the AONB. Instead, the focus of this study is on recommendations which can be aligned with community-based projects, Council led initiatives or the result of collaboration.

Net Zero Carbon

In 2019 Monmouthshire County Council declared a climate emergency and a target of net zero carbon by 2030. In achieving this target it is likely that Monmouthshire County Council will need to understand the contribution green and blue infrastructure can make both within the county and more specifically the study area of this report. Similar carbon assessments assess the sequestration value of council owned/publicly owned assets and the impact future changes to natural systems can make. Whilst this report does not make a specific recommendation for a particular course of action, this should be viewed as a cross cutting theme.

Pilot projects for regenerative agriculture

There is an opportunity to engage the agricultural community in order to deliver shared benefits for the AONB, local communities, local ecology and to mitigate climate change. Regenerative agriculture can be defined as farming practices which actively seek to conserve and enhance biodiversity, improve soil health and support the local economy.

During the study we have discussed the opportunity for MCC to utilise publicly owned land holdings for a pilot project to explore the benefits, challenges and opportunities for regenerative agriculture. We recommend this is explored further.

Wider enhancement opportunities

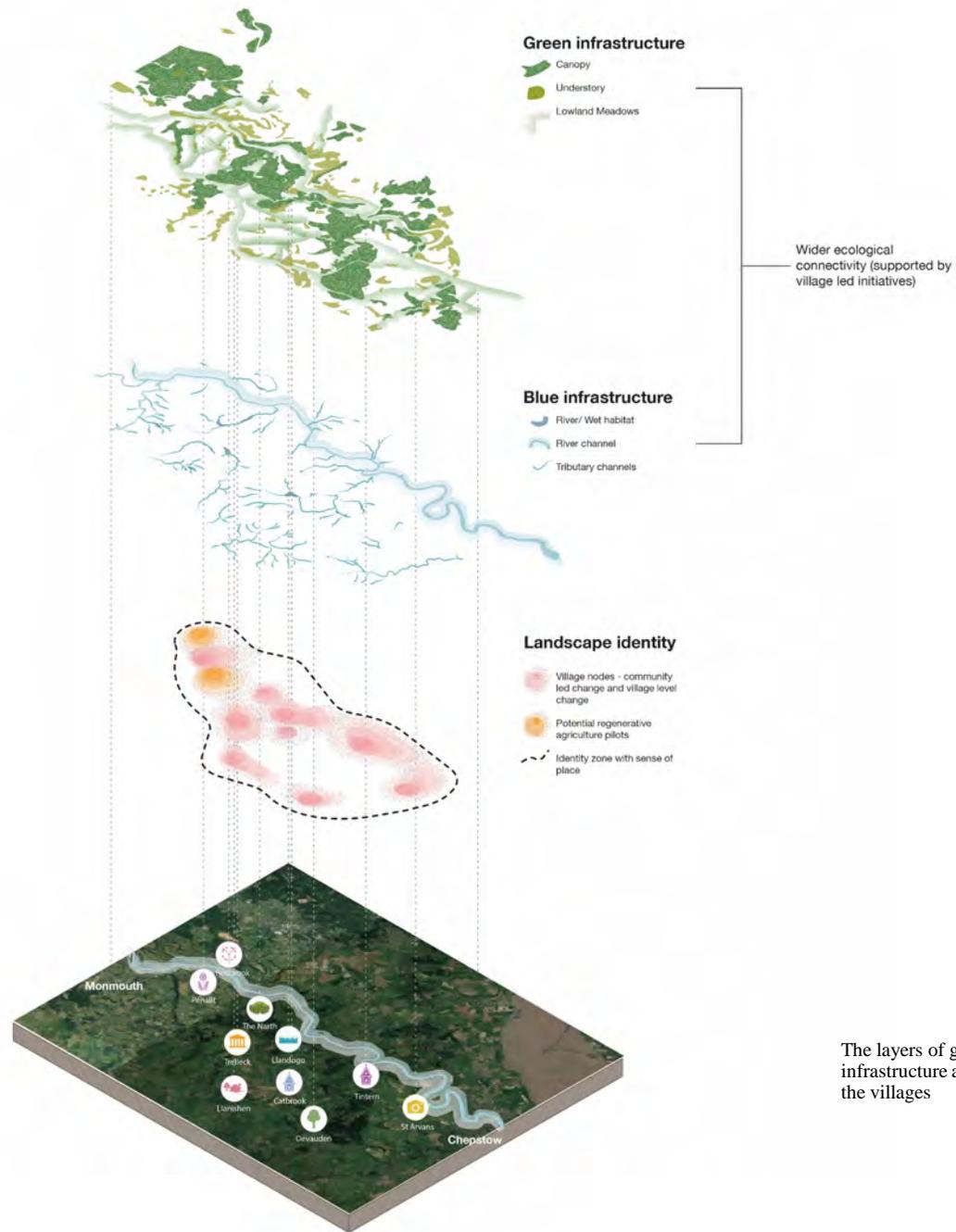
Interventions should support wider ecological connectivity through the enhancement and conservation of trees, hedgerows, verges, riparian habitat and lowland meadows for example. A local action group (Monmouthshire Meadows) is active within the area and have successfully delivered Trellech Wet Meadows Local Wildlife Site with Gwent Wildlife Trust. The potential to create additional schemes should be explored.

Village level change

At a village level, it is recommended that any improvements to localised streets and public spaces are taken forward with nature-based solutions to water management. This is often referred to as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs). Such systems use planting and landscaped features such as channels and ponds to store, filter and slowly release rainwater into streams, rivers and watercourses. These can deliver multiple benefits including the creation of low maintenance filtration systems, reducing flooding, new habitat and recreation value. These are now required by Welsh Government for new road and public realm schemes.

Community led change

In addition, community led initiatives which align with and support the overarching aims of the AONB can play an important role in placemaking and raising awareness amongst the community. Micro habitat creation such as the so-called Tiny-forests initiative or local food production schemes such as Incredible Edible can prove an invaluable source of positive change and help further shape the character of the villages.



The layers of green and blue infrastructure as they relate to the villages



Community and village led green and blue infrastructure

Above: Native planting was designed into the Fitzpark temporary park in London. Monmouthshire has a successful track record of delivering small native perennial planting (including County Hall, Usk). This theme should be extended to each village as part of the public realm enhancements.

Above right: Incredible Edible projects encourage community food production. Already existing in Usk, these could be encouraged within the villages to encourage healthy eating, biodiversity and to reflect the aims of the AONB Management Plan.

Bottom right: Mini Forest projects (Cardiff Bay shown) are small scale community tree planting schemes.



6.3 Tourism

The views, recommendations and ideas contained within this section have been discussed with key stakeholders and are focussed on the next steps and a possible way forward. To develop an effective, future action plan for the tourism aspects of “Wye Valley Villages Plan for the Future”, there is a need to step-back and look at opportunities and challenges with a slightly broader and more strategic view.

We recommend sharp, swift, and a more joined-up overview, building on historic work already undertaken that can clearly identify strategic priorities, actions and quick tactical wins.

Key considerations of this strategy (and the impending action plan that will outline how the recommendations should be delivered) should include the overarching project governance and the approach to formulating the strategy. Our considerations are presented as a series of key questions to be responded to and agreed between stakeholders as the basis for a future Tourism strategy.

Project Governance

1. Geographic Boundaries

What are the geographic boundaries of the project / destination? More specifically is it the nine villages examined in this study? The area of the Wye Valley AONB in Wales? The Wye Valley AONB as a whole? Or another geographic boundary?

2. Leadership and delivery

Who are the organisations that will form part of the planning and delivery solution and who will lead the process? Destination marketing and destination management cannot be delivered in two separate silos which suggests the AONB partnership with MCC support. Furthermore, if the governance of tourism includes communities, does it include tourism business and employees from within those communities e.g., Humble by Nature? If it does include businesses, does it include external, or cross-border, or private organisations such as Visit Dean Wye?

3. Balancing tourism benefit and effect

What is the acceptable balance between tourism benefit and tourism impact for each individual community and component organisation? To add further, when considering this, what does sustainable tourism success really look like? This is a key question given that managing and curating future, sustainable tourism will require substantial resources, and a reversal of the erosion of public sector resources and services that have marked recent history.

4. The condition of the tourism economy

When considering the need and appetite to grow the tourism opportunity in the Wye Valley, there are two key questions to consider. Firstly, how “fragile is the tourism economy”? And secondly, what scale does the ‘tourism engine’ have to therefore be in order to be robust?

Approach to formulating a new tourism strategy

The following recommendations outline a series of steps to develop and deliver a new strategy including:

- The Swift delivery of an updated strategy and action plan (with measurable outcomes) for sustainable tourism with hard metrics and a defined business case at its heart, that can be measured and monitored so that as the strategy gets implemented, the degree of its success can be measured, and its implementation guided and shaped.
- A new strategy should build on, and update, the Wye Valley AONB Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2011-2016. Although this report did not contain detailed metrics and economics, it did provide a clear and comprehensive picture of what sustainable tourism could look like. A review of this plan is needed to determine which elements worked and those which did not. It will be essential to understand what has changed and what new opportunities and challenges have emerged.
- The new strategy should be based on hard data – linking into the ongoing research and data collection already being done for example by MCC / Visit Wales
- A new strategy should also be cognisant of, and align with the Monmouthshire Destination Plan.
- Business cases should be quantified with either ‘hard’, economic outcomes or social value generation. For example, the number of new full and part time jobs created, the value this brings to the local economy and relative uplift against the existing situation.
- Any new strategy should be realistic and pragmatic – but should not be afraid to be ambitious and aspirational. Without an ambitious plan, that can deliver sustainable economic and social benefits, why should stakeholders and investors want to back it and provide the resources needed? This represents evolution as opposed to revolution but will require a significant and positive step-change, built-in.
- A new strategy should be divided into what is termed ‘hardware and software’.
 - **Software** – The behaviours, methodologies, and means used to market, manage and curate the visitor experience and the destination (in general terms- the destination management plan and the destination marketing plan)
 - **Hardware** - The physical and bricks & mortar facilities, amenities and infrastructure that support the delivery of the visitor experience.

- **Software** might include.
 - Brand - The development and application of a more clearly defined place brand, in terms of common, shared values; strategic messages and visual identity. The current lack of singularity, clarity, and consistency of place brand within the wider Valley, dilutes and fails to enhance a unique and compelling sense of place.
 - Messages that can be developed, unified, and amplified across all channels & platforms such as websites, social media, printed form and signage. These messages can be focused on encouraging the tourism behaviours that we want to promote. They might (for example) include:
 - ***Ditch the Car!*** *The Wye Valley is an immersive, multi-sensory experience that you can only enjoy when you get out of the car. Any visit to the Valley needs to include parking-up and getting out and into the landscape whether it be by walking, cycling, or canoeing etc.*
 - ***More to see than just a day trip!*** *don't just pass-through, **stay overnight.***
 - ***Avoid the queues!*** *The Valley is just as incredible out of season and off-peak. The Valley's scenery changes with the seasons and is maybe even more beautiful & compelling and the welcome maybe even warmer, when we are not at our busiest.*

- The Borderlands Theme and Identity. The English and Welsh border represents an exciting melting pot, of differing histories, languages, ethnographies, and cultures. As long as boundaries separate places in political, socio-cultural, and economic terms, borderlands will continue to be a unique venue for tourist activities. This sense of passing from one world to another, of encompassing within a few steps two realms of experience, enchants and fascinates tourists. There is a rich opportunity to amplify this theme both in marketing and experiences across the Valley.

Right: Borderlands – comparator managed landscapes located at national boundaries.



- **Hardware** opportunities that the Wye Valley stakeholders can champion, lead, or partner on might include:
 - Signage and Wayfinding - applying a reinvigorated and renewed **place brand** and visual identity, swiftly via new signage and wayfinding within the agreed geographic boundary. This could be a quick win and early deliverable demonstrating positive change for the local communities and visitors alike.
 - Gateways – bold, physical forms on highways and footpaths, that signify arrival into or departure from this special and magical place. This could enhance and reaffirm the sense of place and create a positive sense of arrival which is currently missing. This represents another quick win and early deliverable.
 - Visitor Attractions – especially those that celebrate and promote rural life and sustainable living, as tourists have become increasingly aware of environmental impact. If attraction opportunities are left to market forces, and the mix only curated passively, this risks a race to bottom – bringing the wrong sort of visitor for the wrong sort of occasion. Attraction operators with adequate finances are scarce across the UK and Europe. That is why partnerships, soft equity (capital grant support) and joined-up thinking will be required, to proactively plan, deliver and sustain a broader range of complementary attractions and attraction operators in appropriate locations.
 - Supporting amenities – for example more serviced and or semi-serviced, accommodation and food and beverage opportunities. Celebrating the food provenance of the area, and offering the chance to really ‘meet local people’, as tourists are looking increasingly for authenticity in their experiences

- Local Tourism Hubs – pockets of more dedicated tourist activity located strategically with parking, amenities and access to the landscape or recreation especially along the river Valley. This would mean actively curating this need in appropriate locations with the supporting amenities especially in potentially underused areas like NRW woodlands with cycle trails etc nearby.
- Main Tourism Hubs There may be scope for developing larger and more integrated tourism hubs. These could accommodate and integrate new attractions and amenities and be co-located with the inter modal interchanges discussed in section 6.1 Sustainable Transport and Road Safety. These could be compact versions possibly, of the proposed PEAK - Peak District National Park resort campus near Chesterfield located at the prime gateways to the Valley such as Chepstow racecourse.

Right: PEAK is a proposed all year leisure, education, wellness and entertainment destination set in 300 acres of reclaimed parkland on the edge of the Peak District National Park and Chesterfield.



6.4 Local economy

While Monmouthshire has the highest rate of active businesses and business births as well as the third highest GVA in Wales, career opportunities and availability and quality of employment sites are limited, and the tourism industry is seasonal.

Four drivers of change may support improvements and transformation of the local economy, changing demographics, business dynamics, digital infrastructure and housing diversity. The following section included a short description of each and a list of actions.

Changing demographics: An older population is attracted to the region's high quality of life but are in need of specific services and a younger population is in need of employment opportunities and incentives to drive initiatives forward locally. Specific actions could be:

- Attract and retain young people through providing the right employment, high quality education, apprenticeships, graduate placements and startup schemes
- Explore new ways of delivering health and social care such as the use of technology for remote consultation and targeting training for the care sector to ensure a ready supply of trained staff



Left: The Glove Factory
Bradford on Avon. Digitally
enabled rural co-working

Digital Infrastructure: Good quality digital infrastructure and connectivity is central in facilitating digital businesses, education, social inclusion, and inward investment in the region. The hills and valleys of the Wye Valley make it difficult to deploy traditional approaches to digital infrastructure such as laying cables. Specific actions could be:

- Provide better broadband infrastructure such as Next Generation Access or wireless broadband coverage to reduce out commuting
- Enhance community, recreational and cultural facilities (e.g. community hubs, co-working spaces) to promote capacity building activities with local communities and businesses in order to increase social capital, create skills networks and drive initiatives forward
- Promote digital workforce skills and digital customer services as well as business digital capacity and automation
- Enhanced tourism offer through the use of products such as augmented reality at sites such as Tintern Abbey
- Continue to work with Monmouthshire Broadband/Broadband partners to deliver their current plan for 'Fibre to the Premises' internet in Tintern and Trellech

Business dynamics: There is opportunity for increasing entrepreneurship (such as the Wye Valley Producers collective) and growth in sectors such as environmental land management, local food processing and distribution, food tourism and education. Specific actions could be:

- Raise the profile of the region as a dynamic place to do business and as an investment opportunity for the private sector

Business dynamics (continued from previous page)

- Strengthen partnerships with Coleg Y Gwent to develop training and skills for the next generation to support hospitality, tourism and food promotion
- Increase the number of local suppliers securing public service contracts and more flexible approaches to the promotion of smaller-scale businesses based on indigenous resources
- Invest in key growth sectors such as manufacturing, business, professional and scientific and arts, entertainment and recreation



Housing diversity: Wye Valley is a desirable and expensive place to live, but it is unaffordable for people employed locally and young people. The high cost of housing may also be discouraging for new and existing local businesses. Specific actions could be:

- Encourage construction of new houses and address the need for affordable and varied housing stock.
- Increase availability of housing sites to provide differing residential products and to enable higher rates of jobs per dwelling.
- Address the wider geographic differences in employment and housing markets in the region.



Below: The Wye Valley contains important enterprises for local produce

6.5 The Villages - Placemaking

The placemaking vision aims to define, enhance, and celebrate the uniqueness and diversity of the Wye Valley villages and their community. It aims to explore and unlock their distinct character, building on location conditions, history, heritage, landscape and the ethnographic narrative of the settlement and their people.

To emphasise this uniqueness, we consider these villages as a tapestry of settlements, moving away from the basic distinction between the villages in the valley and the ones high on the plateau between Wye Valley and Vale of Usk. This network of villages allows for unique identities to flourish and be reinforced, together with Monmouth and Chepstow as gateway towns. Of these, nine are explored within this study. Redbrook although part of the structure of villages and acknowledged here falls outside of Monmouthshire and therefore this study.

Using the same six key pillars as for the overarching vision, common strategies and principles for placemaking can be defined, such as interventions that improve:

- travel and movement (road safety, active travel routes),
- tourism (signage and wayfinding, amenities and services),
- landscape (SUDs, biodiversity, trees and vegetation) and
- local economy (co-working hubs, local supply chains, digital economy and businesses)



These proposed interventions are early ideas for the public and stakeholders to comment on. In some instances they fall within privately owned land or will require more design, feasibility and investigation. In such instances this will require a longer time frame to assess viability and will require more in depth conversations to build consensus.

Suggestions are offered for particular uses within certain village halls. These should not be considered as the only potential uses and alternative ideas are welcomed.

The following pages contain diagrammatic plans explaining how these proposed interventions could be implemented in each village and includes a brief summary text for each.

The accompanying key provided here defines each of the proposed interventions.

Interventions key

Tourism

-  Camping/ glamping
-  Interpretation (signs/ information boards)
-  Scenic trail
-  Information point
-  Hotel
-  Historical interest
-  Nature reserve
-  Wild swimming
-  Wayfinding (directions signposting)
-  Lay-by for views

Landscape

-  Enhanced habitat
-  Nature based rainwater management
-  Native perennial planting
-  Mix of new tree species
-  New park
-  Food production
-  Sports/ play

Economy

-  Co-working
-  Publicly accessible wifi
-  Local shop
-  Restaurant
-  Farmer's market
-  Apps and QR codes
-  Energy efficient lighting
-  Digital skills
-  Live timetabling

Transport and movement

-  Safe and more attractive footways
-  20mph zone
-  Shared space design
-  Car/ EV parking and charging
-  Bike/ electric bike storage/ hire
-  Bus/ electric bus stop
-  Boat hire/ boat launch
-  Gateway feature

Movement

-  Existing road
-  Existing trail
-  Wye Valley Walk
-  Proposed vehicle gateway
-  Proposed shared space
-  Proposed street enhancements
-  Cycle path
-  Proposed enhanced pedestrian access

Landscape/ open space

-  Existing hedgerow/ green buffer
-  Existing woodland
-  Existing open green space
-  Monument/ historical feature
-  Proposed open space enhancements
-  Viewpoint
-  Local landmark building

TINTERN

'The Island'
Car free environment,
enhanced amenity,
habitat. Please note this
would require private
landowner agreement.



Safe pedestrian
and cycle link,
with public realm
improvements



Village gateway



Possible river
connection

Wye Valley Walk

Old Station Tintern



Village gateway from
Wireworks Bridge



Lower Wireworks



Angidy Trail

Possible river
connection

Tintern hub

*subject to land owner approvals



Offa's Dyke Path

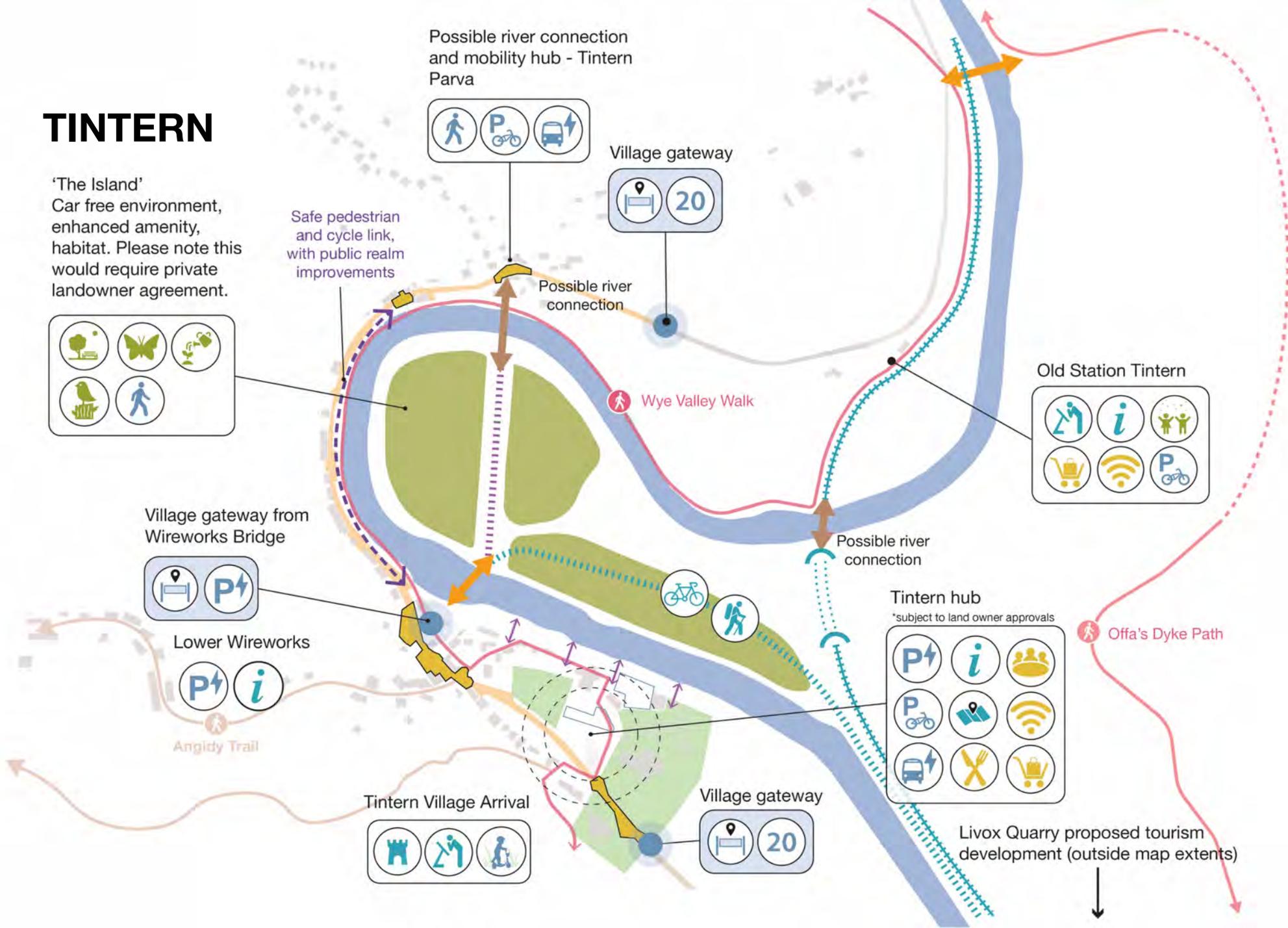
Tintern Village Arrival



Village gateway



Livox Quarry proposed tourism
development (outside map extents)



Tintern

The remains of Tintern Abbey are one of the defining features of the Wye Valley. This is where visible history (the Abbey), past industry, the picturesque landscape and village life reflect the Wye Valley in one place. This places pressure on what is a small settlement to successfully manage the complex balance between visitors and residents. The initial proposal seeks to address this and enhance the village through:

- Street design to increase the sense of place, improve biodiversity and flood resilience (via SuDS) and improve road safety.
- A new connection over the River Wye to aid the movement of people through Tintern and potentially creating new opportunities for placemaking
- The agglomeration of services and uses around the Abbey such as tourist information, intermodal interchange and local businesses
- A new transport hub to encourage greater use of sustainable transport and reduce the volume of traffic moving further along the valley
- A new mobility hub and possible new river connections to better link Tintern Parva



DEVAUDEN

Village Gateway



St James Devauden

Memorial Hall



Village Green



Village Gateway



Village Gateway



Sustrans National Cycle Route

Veddw House Garden

Similar road safety measures proposed at Itton Village. Proposals to be captured and identified at a later stage.



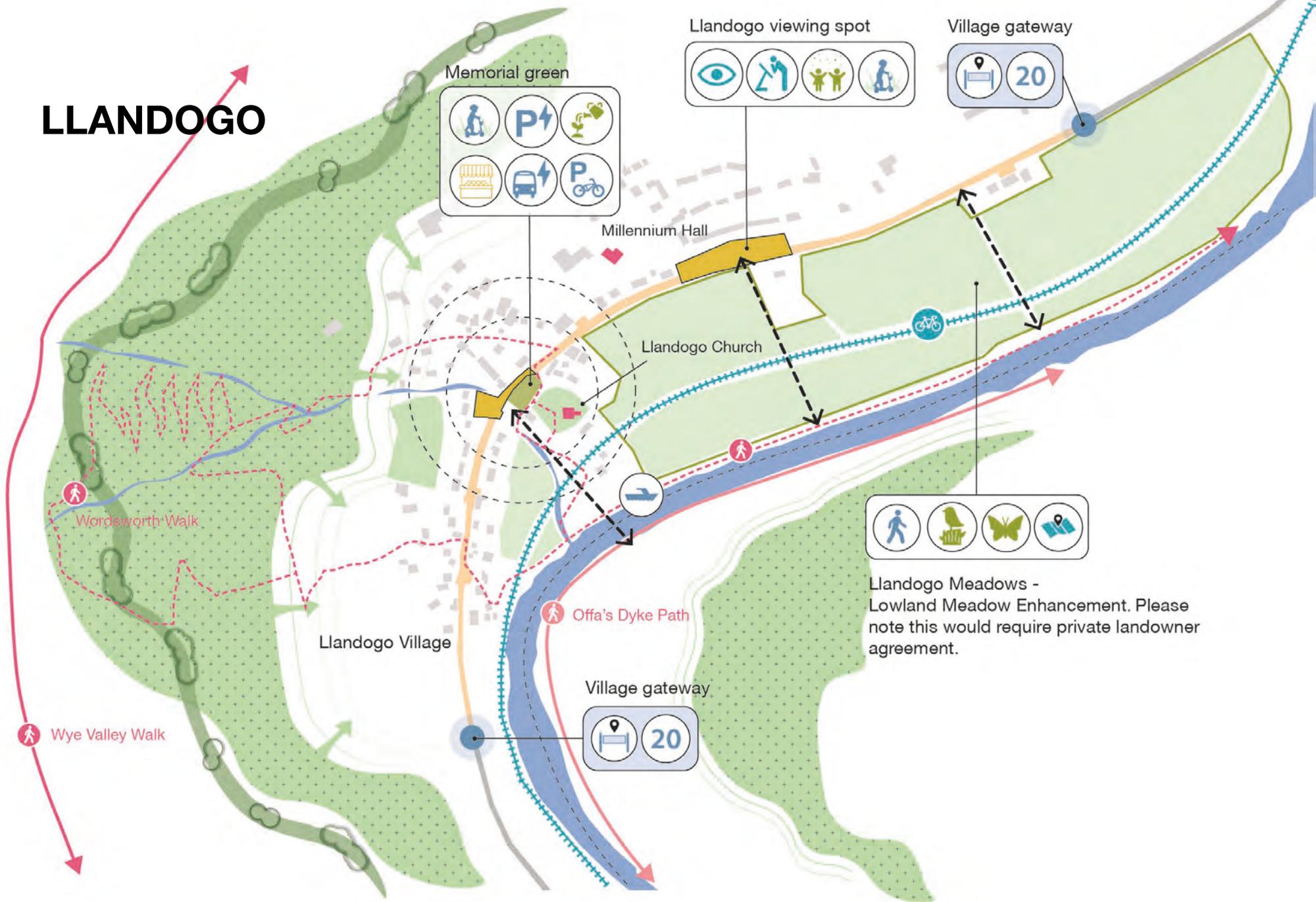
Devauden

By contrast to the destination villages such as Tintern, the character of Devauden reflects its function as a community and less as a tourism destination. During the engagement process concern was raised over the volume and speed of movement. The main feature of note and opportunity is the village green which contains the interpretative feature for John Wesley . Given the importance of the Wesleyan movement and its global reach, there is an opportunity to enhance this space to serve multiple purposes for the community and visitors. The active community hall and community council can play a key role in delivering change on the ground. The initial proposals are:

- Revised street design to increase the sense of place and improve road safety
- The transformation of the village green into a space which supports multiple uses and enhances the sense of place



LLANDOGO



Llandogo Meadows -
Lowland Meadow Enhancement. Please
note this would require private landowner
agreement.

Llandogo

One of the riverside villages, Llandogo lacks the profile and status of nearby Tintern. The village has no single defining feature or space and although it enjoys a riverside access, it feels disconnected from the river which once supported the local trow industry. Despite this, the village has significant potential as both a pivot point for multiple walking points and as a place. The AONB are currently investing in the restoration of Wordsworth Walk and Cleddon Shoots SSSI. The initial proposals seek to reshape the village to harness the natural advantages and rediscover its history by:

- Street design to increase the sense of place, improve biodiversity and flood resilience (via SuDS) and improve road safety.
- Forming a heart to the village by creating a multi-functional space within the village green
- Enhancing the biodiversity of the lowland river meadows
- Celebrating the maritime past by creating a new focus for river activities such as a new wharf, water-craft making and associated interpretation
- Reconnecting the village to the river through improved access for walkers and cyclists



THE NARTH



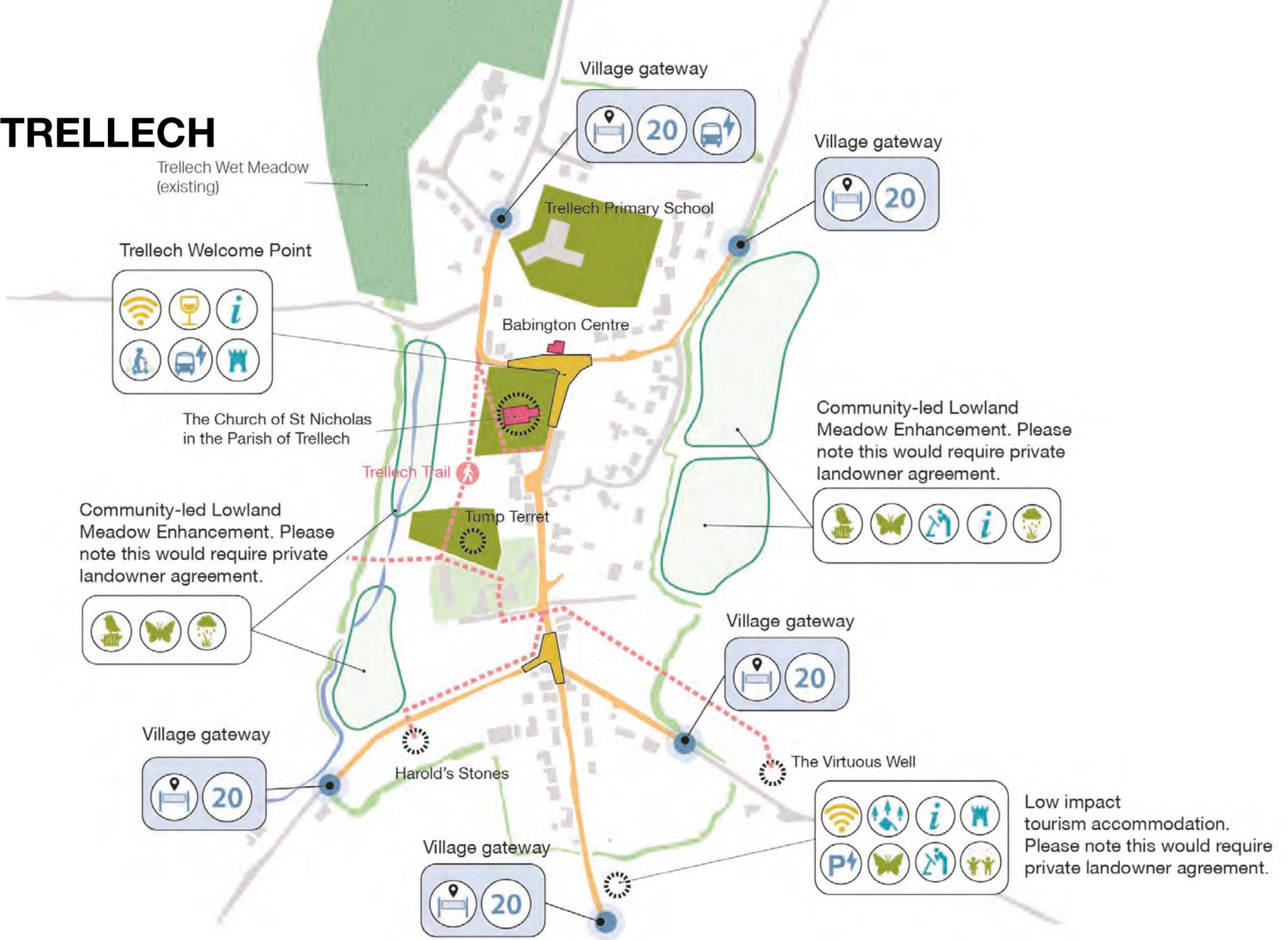
The Narth

The village is like Devauden a community rather than a focal point for tourism. The quiet, secluded nature of the village and wooded setting are defining characteristics. Proposed change in the Narth is limited considering the residential nature of the village. However, subtle interventions could help garner greater community cohesion, increase the sense of place and cater for low impact tourism in the form of walkers/hikers. The initial proposals are to;

- Use the village hall as the location for themed events (such as local food markets) to entice walkers and hikers and to provide respite stop.
- Street design to increase the sense of place, improve biodiversity and flood resilience (via SuDS) and improve road safety.



TRELLECH



Trellech

The historic pattern of buildings, archaeology and surrounding open pasture of Trellech create one of the most distinct villages. Although these features have the potential to attract larger visitor numbers, Trellech retains the feel of a rural village in contrast to the destination of Tintern. Addressing the future role of Trellech within the Wye Valley needs consideration. A carefully orchestrated offer which maintains tranquillity for residents while attracting a new audience of visitors could positively support the wider offer of the Wye Valley. The initial proposition includes

- Street design to increase the sense of place, improve biodiversity and flood resilience (via SuDS) and improve road safety
- A focal point for tourists or hub formed around the existing pub
- The continuation of habitat enhancement from Trellech water meadows to include the surrounding pasture land by encouraging participation from the community and local school
- A low impact tourism accommodation site and visitor parking/mobility hub



LLANISHEN

Scenic routes



Village green and mobility hub.
Please note this would require private landowner agreement.



Village gateway



St Dennis' Church

Llanishen Village Hall

Village gateway



Llanishen

Like Devauden and the Narth, Llanishen is largely community focused. The village backs on to the B4293 partially screening it from passing traffic. It is fragmented in form, extending west away from the main road. Whilst the screening helps mitigate the impact of passing traffic for residents the lack of an evident 'place' for those passing through does little to discourage speeding vehicles. The initial proposal considers a more radical approach:

- Street design to increase the sense of place, improve biodiversity and flood resilience (via SuDS) and improve road safety.
- Diverting the B4293 to reduce vehicle speeds and create a new village heart (a green)
- An option to further divert the B4293 to create space for new homes set around the village green



ST ARVANS

Village gateway



St Arvans Memorial Hall and Field



St Arvans Roundabout



Village entry space

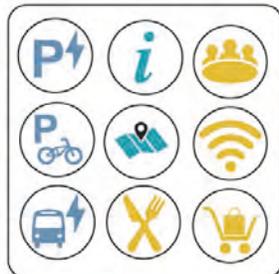


St Arvans Church

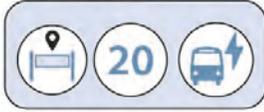
Village gateway



Intermodal interchange at Chepstow racecourse. Please note this would require private landowner agreement.



Village gateway



Existing cycle path



Chepstow Race Course

Wye Valley Walk

Scenic Routes



Eagle's Nest

365 Steps

Lower Wyndcliffe viewpoint

Cold Bath

Lover's Leap

Giant's Cave

Piercefield Park

St Arvans

The village marks the southern gateway to the Wye Valley and is immediately north of Chepstow racecourse. It marks the connection between the B4293 and A466 linking the lower reaches of the valley with the upper area. Despite this strategic importance there is little to mark this important location whilst local residents experience the dual negative of passing traffic with little direct benefit from visitors. The initial proposals for St Arvans includes:

- Street design to increase the sense of place, improve biodiversity and flood resilience (via SuDS) and improve road safety.
- Creating a prominent feature through street design and landscape design to denote the importance of this gateway
- The use of Chepstow racecourse as a transport hub to encourage greater use of sustainable transport and as an entry point to the strategic walking routes.



PENALLT

Potential pilot areas for regenerative agriculture. Please note this would require private landowner agreement.



Potential pilot areas for regenerative agriculture. Please note this would require private landowner agreement.



Village gateway



Pelham Hall Local Hub



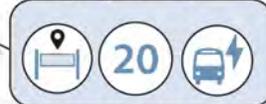
The Old Baptist Chapel

Pentwyn Farm Nature Reserve

Wyeswood Common Nature Reserve

Puddingstone & Pub Trail

Village gateway



Village gateway



Humble By Nature

Redbrook Bridge

Wye Valley Walk

Penallt

The village enjoys a prominent location elevated at the head of the valley. The area is largely community focused with visitor destinations focused around Humble by Nature and Penallt Hall. Initial proposals are cognisant of these enterprises and build on these assets and the natural environment to shape a broader proposition around regenerative agriculture.

- Street design to increase the sense of place, improve biodiversity and flood resilience (via SuDS) and improve road safety.
- The deployment of regenerative agricultural pilots aligned to Humble by Nature, the existing nature reserves and village
- The use of Penallt Hall as a rural enterprise hub



DRAFT

CATBROOK

Village shared space junction



Existing paths

Memorial hall



Village gateway

Reduced vehicle speed to improve walking and cycling connections to existing paths

Existing paths

Village gateway



Distillery

Village gateway



Village gateway



Catbrook recreation ground



Biodiversity improvement site.
Please note that this would require private landowner agreement

Catbrook

The village is a community rather than a focal point for tourism. As with the North the quiet, secluded character of the village is a defining feature. Accordingly, proposed change is limited. Subtle interventions could help garner greater community cohesion, increase the sense of place and cater for low impact tourism in the form of walkers/hikers. The initial proposals are to;

- Improve existing walking and cycling connections through the village
- Provide enhanced habitat
- Deliver new street design to increase the sense of place, improve biodiversity and flood resilience (via SuDS) and improve road safety.



6.6 Governance

Leadership, ownership and identity will be decisive when it comes to delivering the vision for the “Wye Valley Villages AONB Plan for the Future”. The action and delivery plan that will support the Plan for the Future will need strong, constant and proactive management and guidance. That will ensure successful and viable development, funding and delivery of a programme of potential projects that will be defined for each vision pillar (travel & movement, landscape, local economy and tourism).

An integrated approach is essential to resolve issues and realise opportunities. The Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) is currently the main cross-border body, consisting of local authorities, government agencies and interested public, private and voluntary sector organisations, that oversees the AONB Management Plan and the AONB Unit, and advises partners on issues, initiatives and strategies relating to the AONB.

Many of the challenges and opportunities in the Wye Valley are not bound by geographical or administrative boundaries and the “increasingly complex and widespread environmental, social and political challenges transcend traditional management boundaries” as the AONB management plan states. The opportunity is to create cross border partnerships with national entities, whose strategies and plans aim to achieve similar objectives and jointly coordinate, plan, deliver and fund future projects.

During the next stage of work, we will need to define or identify a governance structure that is able to deliver the vision. Clear and strong governance and removing traditional boundaries between the public and private sector could further enhance collaboration and integration between the existing plans and projects and offer support to new or grassroots initiatives.

Monmouth



Wye Valley Villages



Chepstow



7. Next steps

- Stage 3 work will include:
- Review of initial proposals with the client team.
- Public consultation and review and summarise the feedback and results.
- Develop the vision into a holistic strategic framework plan with an action plan.
- Consider the creation of a village design guide.
- Roadmap and Recommendations to deliver the Plan of the Future.

The action plan will include a high-level delivery and funding strategy, identifying priorities for the short, mid and long term.

We will also include recommendations for next steps, such as a Business Plan for tourism, a Street Design Manual, road safety projects and pilot projects.



Digital public engagement using Arup Virtual Engage

Appendix 4

Public engagement summary

Welcome to the
Wye Valley Villages
Virtual Engage

Devauden Community Council
Tirfryn Community Council
St Arvans Community Council
Trellech United Community Council

ARUP



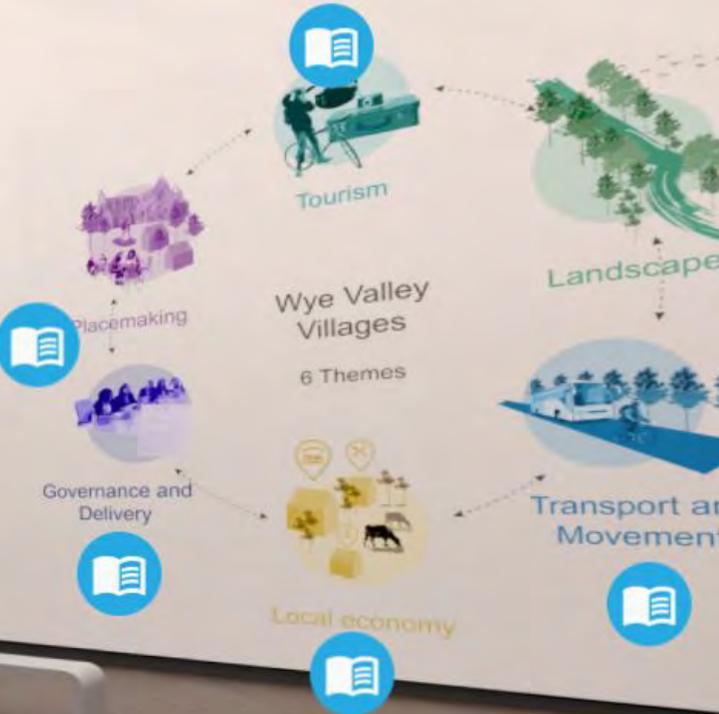
Vision

The Wye Valley is a story of people and nature that has been shaped by many hands over centuries. The immediate challenges of climate change, post-Covid recovery, mobility and sustainable development require a new perspective on the future of this outstanding landscape and its settlements.

Our vision is to ensure that short term solutions are set within the context of long term needs and challenges. It is considered over a 100 year timescale to ensure it will endure for generations to come and work with a timescale for nature. It is founded upon three simple principles:

- Conserving and enhancing the natural and man-made assets that define this unique place for existing and future generations.
- A holistic approach to governance, territory and integral drivers of change.
- Evolving to respond to changes caused by climate change and to capitalise on opportunities created by the target of net zero carbon.

We have defined six key themes that form the pillars of our vision, you can view these here.



Wye Valley Villages Virtual Engage Summary

Oct 2021

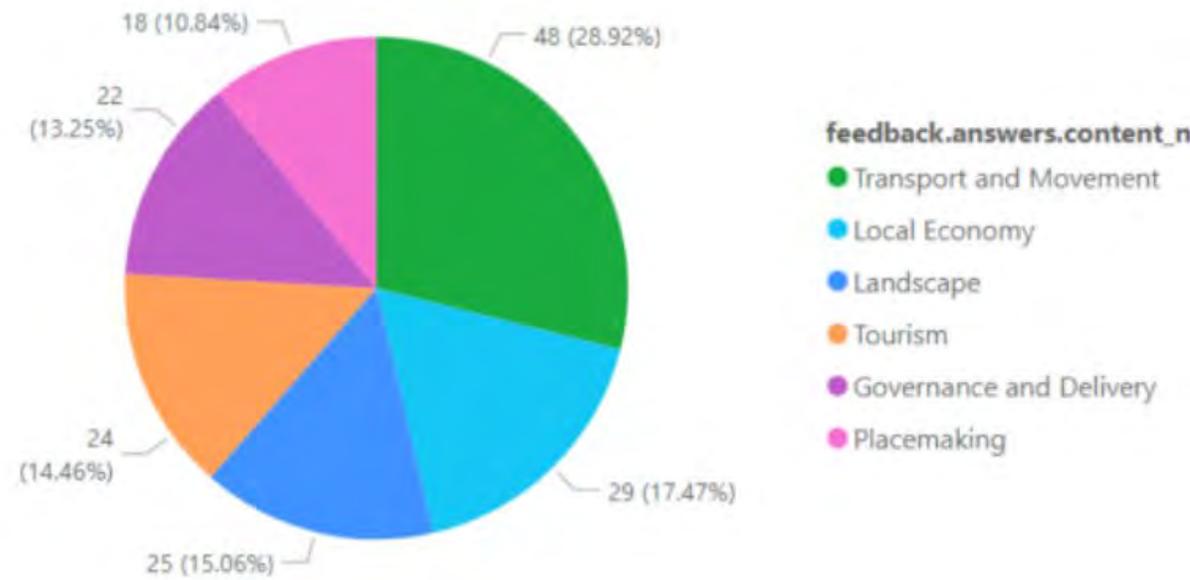
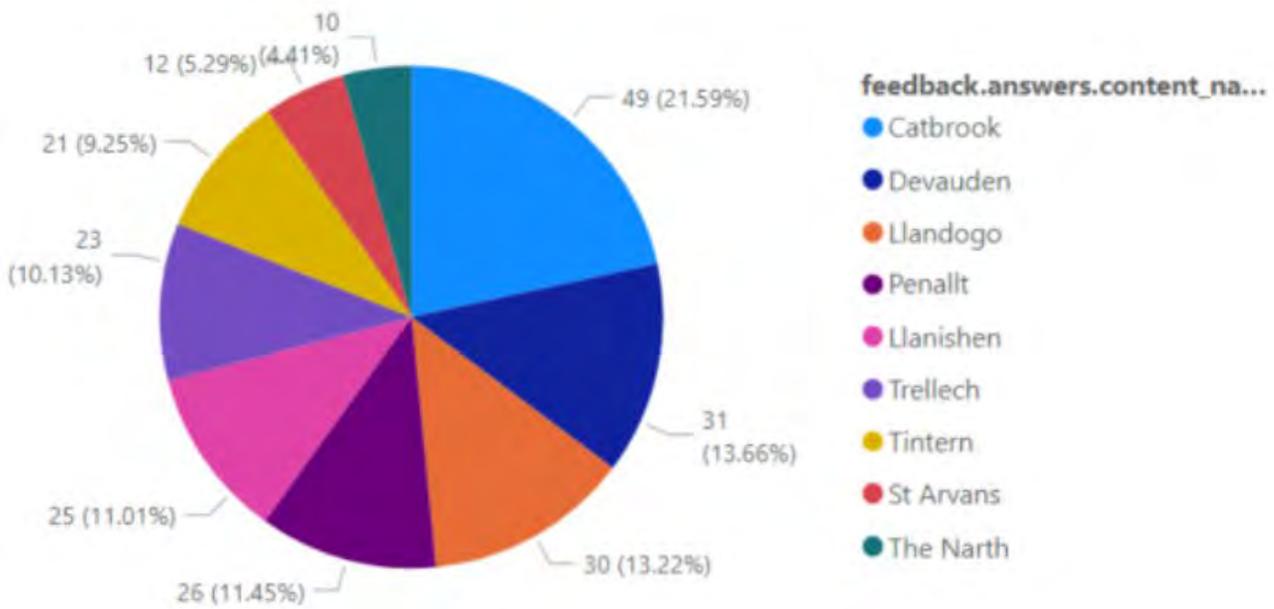


Image above :Results from virtual engage

6 week engagement

Total No of responses: Good response level - **260** (244 from VE)

Last Refreshed 16/12/2021 2:04:46 PM

Select Date Range to Filter Visuals

8/11/2021 8/11/2022

Note: User-defined privacy settings preclude the collection of certain data. Discrepancies between total figures may occur as a result.

Total Page Views

3707

Total Users

1587

Users by Hour of the Day



Top Sources of User Traffic

Facebook	39.46%
Direct	28.20%
Monmouthshire Government Website	17.12%
Twitter	7.06%

Pageviews by Date



Users by Location

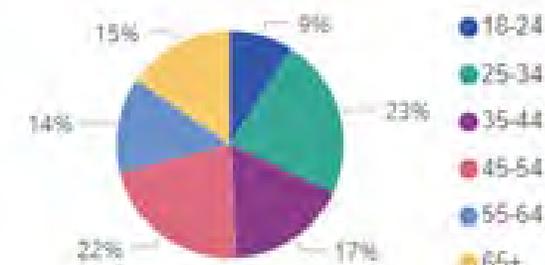


Users by Day of the Week

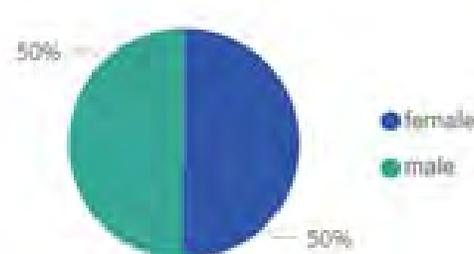


User Demographics and Systems (All Users Across Entire Consultation Period)

Age



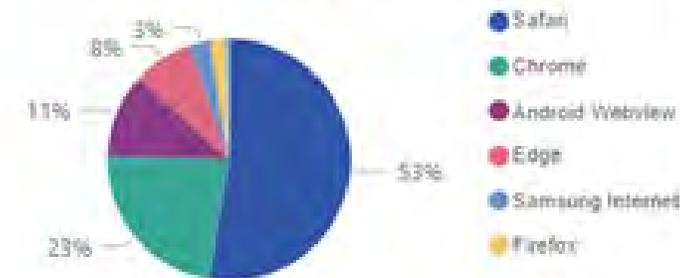
Gender



Device Category



Browser



Key messages

- General consensus and support for Road Safety (20mph, village gateways)
- General support for the concept of the network of villages
- Need to focus intervention and where to offer limited change. Limited support for intervention in some villages (Catbrook)
- Messaging around active travel is key – we need to show it is for all
- We need to do more to improve accessibility and inclusivity – maintenance, ease of access for all ages, abilities
- The River Wye needs to feature more strongly
- Final report will need to be refined – clarity of proposed intervention and language
- The ‘how’ question is prevalent. Clear messaging on delivery needed for final report

Themes - Feedback

Local Economy

What do you like?



Affordable housing



Job Opportunities



Supporting local businesses

What don't you like ?



Lack of social housing



Lack of new employment opportunities



Impact of (potential) housing on AONB

What further suggestions do you have?



Village halls as work hubs (WFH)



Support local businesses



Housing Diversity

Transport & Movement

What do you like?



Speed limits



Wye valley Greenway



Network of villages

What don't you like ?



Limited public transport



Unsafe cycling



Sharing roads with cyclists & scooters

What further suggestions do you have?



Bike racks & amenities



Link active travel & public transport



Tourists using public transport & cycle paths

Landscape

What do you like?



Regenerative agriculture



Improved Ecology



Nature based approach

What don't you like ?



Agricultural pollution (inc river)



Maintenance of routes



Lack of climate action

What further suggestions do you have?



Nature based tourism



Managing forest health



Support rewilding projects

Placemaking

What do you like?



Unique identity for each village



Speed limit



Integrated network of villages

What don't you like ?



Tourist infrastructure



Lack of consideration for pedestrians



Need more consideration for children & elderly

What further suggestions do you have?



Platform that pulls together news/events



Community supported agriculture



Repurposing historical buildings

Tourism

What do you like?



Access to river



Local Identity



Wye valley brand

What don't you like ?



Lack of focus on history



Risk of losing tranquillity of the valley



Funding & Delivery

What further suggestions do you have?



Immersive experience



Arts & cultural activities



Hop off /on buses & tours

Governance & Delivery

What do you like?



Joined up governance



Integrated approach



Network of villages

What don't you like ?



Cross border thinking



Not quantifying success of proposals



River pollution – wider reach needed

What further suggestions do you have?



Retain Welsh identity, language & culture



Influencing sat nav routing to enhance status of quiet lanes



Dedicated village agents

Villages - Feedback

Trellech (23)

What do you like?



Meadow enhancement
(6)



Gateways
(5)



Road safety
(4)

What don't you like ?



Existing road safety measures
(5)



Lack of clarity on 'shared spaces'
(2)



Meadow enhancement
(2)

What further suggestions do you have?



Road safety measures
(9)



Recreational activities & cafes
(4)



Pedestrian access
(5)

Catbrook (49)

What do you like?



Speed limit
(23)



Gateways
(7)



New paths
(6)

What don't you like ?



New paths
(37)



Catbrook meadows
(17)



Shared space
(11)

What further suggestions do you have?



More land for village hall activities
(3)



Enhance recreation ground
(2)



No interventions needed
(4)

Tintern (23)

What do you like?



Access to river
(13)



Cycle lanes
(5)



Pedestrian access
(5)

What don't you like ?



Gateways
(2)



The island
(3)



River crossing
(existing bridge)
(2)

What further suggestions do you have?



Additional parking
(2)



Refurbish old abbey hotel
(2)



Clean the river
(welsh water)
(2)

Devauden (31)

What do you like?



Speed limit
(13)



Cycle lanes
(7)



Village green
(4)

What don't you like ?



Village green
(15)



Speed limit
(4)



Farmers market
(1)

What further suggestions do you have?



More traffic measures
(9)



Pedestrian crossing
(4)



Improve existing footpaths
(4)

St Arvans (12)

What do you like?



Speed limits
(7)



Village
Gateway
(4)



Increased
value of local
hubs (3)

What don't you like ?



Hotel (wye
valley walk
route)
(4)



Terminology in
the report
(2)



Traffic calming
measures
(2)

What further suggestions do you have?



Traffic
calming
measures
(3)



Parking
provision
(2)



Expand
existing local
shop
(2)

Llandogo (30)

What do you like?



Speed limit
(6)



Access to river
(7)



Pedestrian
paths
(4)

What don't you like ?



Memorial green
(11)



Tourism
(3)



Viewing point
(3)

What further suggestions do you have?



Improve play
area
(3)



Improve
existing
footpaths
(2)



Safe pedestrian
access
(4)

The Narth (8)

What do you like?



Speed limit
(4)



Overall scheme
(2)



Narth as a
hilltop retreat
(1)

What don't you like ?



Noise from
motor bikes
(1)



Signage & road
markings
(2)



Large proposed
houses
(1)

What further suggestions do you have?



No more
street lighting
(4)



Parking
provision
(2)



Expand
existing local
shop
(2)

Penallt (26)

What do you like?



Redbrook
bridge
(7)



Connecting Penallt
& Redbrook
communities (3)



Value of
local hubs
(3)

What don't you like ?



Redbrook
bridge
maintenance
(14)



Safe pedestrian
access
(2)



River pollution
(4)

What further suggestions do you have?



Redbrook
bridge
maintenance
(13)



Community
connectivity
between MCC
& GCC (2)



Community
orchard &
allotments
(2)

Llanishen (25)

What do you like?



Speed limit
(12)



Community hub
(2)



Pavement
improvements (2)

What don't you like ?



Location of
village green
(11)



A new village
green
(2)



unsafe
pedestrian
crossings (2)

What further suggestions do you have?



Better parks
and play
areas
(3)



Safe pedestrian
access
(3)



More traffic
calming
measures
(3)

Next steps

- Feedback meeting with community councils Oct 14th
- Arup to edit and update final report
- Issue Draft to client team w/e Oct 29th Oct
- Final report w/e 19th Nov



TINTERN
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL

Devauden Community
Council

St Arvans Community
Council



ARUP

wye valley
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

dyffryn gwy
Ardal o Harddwch
Naturol Eithriadol



monmouthshire
sir fynwy