

## DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES IN WALES

### ***Purpose***

To update members on activity with the Designated Landscapes in Wales.

### **FOR INFORMATION**

### ***Key Issues***

- Following appointment of the new Welsh Government First Minister and the subsequent Cabinet reshuffle, Huw Irranca-Davies MS became the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs with responsibility for National Landscapes and Julie James MS became Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government and Planning, with responsibility for National Parks.
- The National Landscapes Association (NLA) hosted an event in April 'Celebrating Wales' National Landscapes' at the Pierhead Building, Cardiff Bay that was attended by both Cabinet Secretaries Julie James MS and Huw Irranca-Davies MS.
- Tirweddau Cymru Landscapes Wales (TCLW), held a seminar in Bangor in May on 'Decarbonising the Designated Landscapes of Wales; working with our communities to achieve net zero'.
- Andrew Blake, Wye Valley National Landscape Manager, took over the chair of TCLW at the seminar.
- The Biodiversity Deep Dive Designated Landscapes Subgroup presented its final report to Welsh Government and has continued to meet to address how Designated Landscapes can contribute to the 30 by 30 target.
- Welsh Government have been working with National Landscape lead officers and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on future funding options.

### ***Reasons***

National Landscape partnerships and lead officers in Wales work co-operatively through the National Landscapes Association (NLA) and with the National Parks through Tirweddau Cymru Landscapes Wales (TCLW). Both Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are also closely engaged with both organisations. The independently chaired Biodiversity Deep Dive Designated Landscapes Subgroup is another collaborative forum that helps progress policy development and delivery.

### ***Implications***

'Celebrating Wales' National Landscapes' was a special event hosted by the National Landscapes Association on 24th April at the Pierhead Building, Cardiff Bay. The purpose of the event was to celebrate the beauty and significance of Wales' National Landscapes and the dedicated work of their respective teams. The event was sponsored by Julie James, MS for Swansea West (including Gower National Landscape) and Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government and Planning. Huw Irranca-Davies MS also attended in his new

role Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs with responsibility for National Landscapes. Both spoke of their passion for areas of outstanding natural beauty and in support of the rebranding to National Landscapes. They also applauded the dedication and efforts of the teams who work tirelessly to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of Wales's our national landscapes. Cllr Mrs Ann Webb, chair of the Wye Valley National Landscape JAC attended along with several staff members from the National Landscape Team and Monmouthshire County Council.

The Tirweddau Cymru Landscapes Wales (TCLW) Seminar, held on 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May in Bangor provided an opportunity to take a closer look into Decarbonising the Designated Landscapes of Wales, following the work by Small World Consulting carried out for each of the eight Designated Landscapes in 2022. Delegates explored the role of Designated Landscapes in the climate emergency, and how working with local communities can help achieve net zero. For more information see <https://landscapeswales.org.uk/tclw-seminar-2024-working-with-our-communities-to-achieve-net-zero/>

Andrew Blake, Wye Valley National Landscape Manager, became Chair Elect of TCLW at the Seminar. Catherine Mealing Jones, CEO of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority was nominated Vice Chair. For further information see <https://landscapeswales.org.uk/new-chair-and-vice-chair-for-tirweddau-cymru/>

The Biodiversity Deep Dive Final Report has been presented to Welsh Government. The Designated Landscapes Subgroup has continued to meet to address some critical questions about the role of Designated Landscapes and how they can contribute to the 30 by 30 target.

Welsh Government are reviewing the funding streams currently provided to Designated Landscape bodies (National Park Authorities and National Landscape partnerships) to assess if the funding could be more streamlined and better targeted at WG priorities. The current funding allocations end in March 2025. It is intended that any revision are implemented for April 2025, subject to the Comprehensive Spending Review.

### ***Background***

Tirweddau Cymru Landscapes Wales (TCLW) is the partnership of the Designated Landscapes in Wales: three National Parks and five National Landscapes (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), who are working together to address key shared challenges, including action on the climate change and nature emergencies. TCLW combines the strengths of its partners, working together for the benefit of Wales and its people, securing the long-term resilience of the landscapes and their communities. TCLW includes the lead officers from National Landscapes and National Park, Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and the National Landscapes Association.