



**Dyffryn Gwy**  
Tirwedd Cenedlaethol

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**Wye Valley**  
National Landscape

## **Management Plan 2026-2031**

### **Framework Structure and draft policies for review**

January 2026

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# Proposed Management Plan document structure

## **FRONT MATTER**

Title, map, forewords, executive summary

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

About Plan; The WVNL, Review 2021-26; Delivery; Monitoring; How to use (policy cascade/framework)

## **2. THE WVNL TODAY**

Special Qualities; Statement of Significant; Condition; Key Issues; Setting

## **3. VISION**

Vision; Vision to Outcomes; Outcomes to actions/policies

## **4. NATURE**

6 policies; Background; Special Features; Key Issues

## **5. CLIMATE**

5 policies; Background; Special Features; Key Issues

## **6. WATER**

3 policies; Background; Special Features; Key Issues

## **7. PEOPLE**

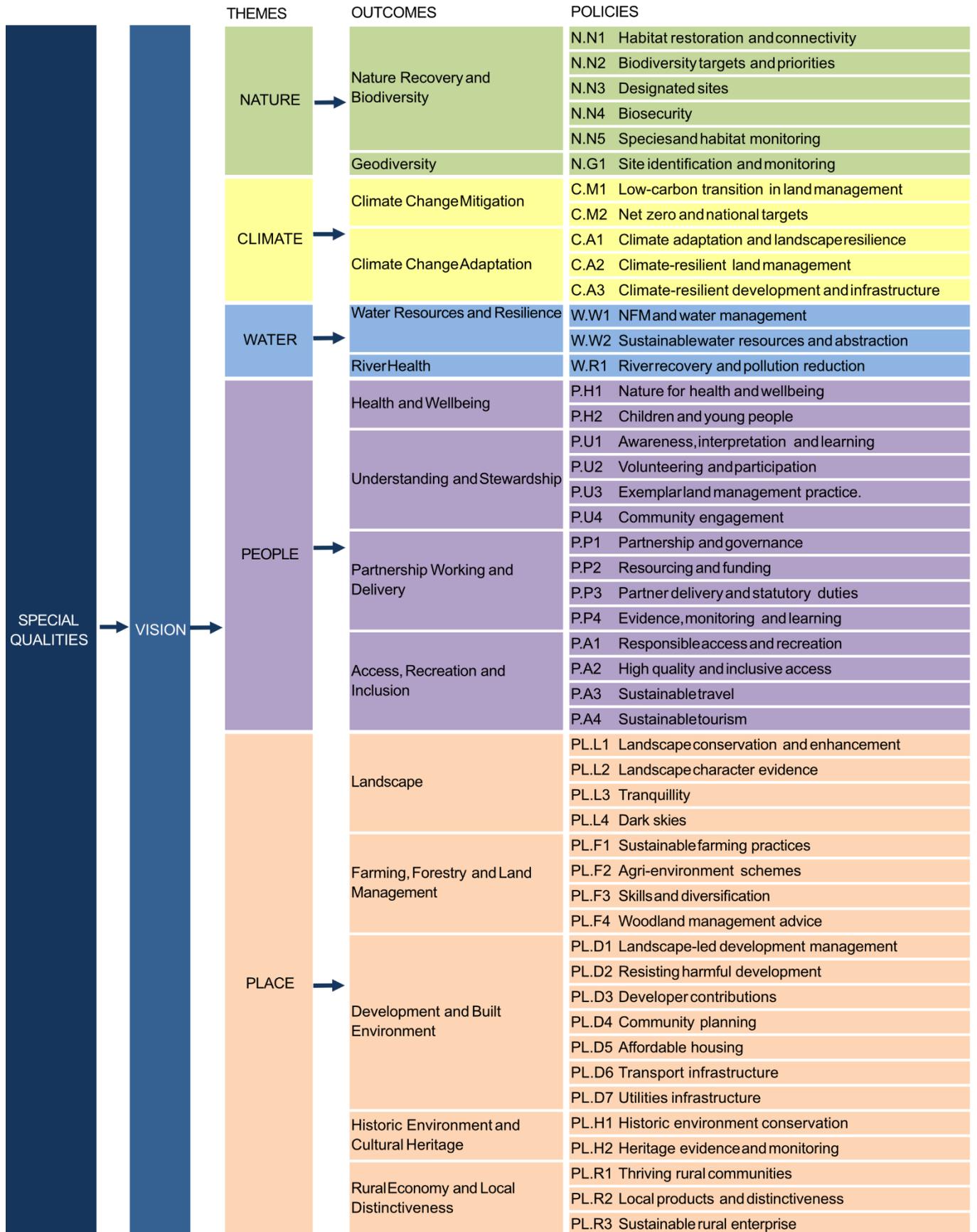
14 policies; Background; Special Features; Key Issues

## **8. PLACE**

20 policies; Background; Special Features; Key Issues

## **9. APPENDICES**

SEA; HRA; Glossary



# Special Qualities

\*\*Statistics/data to be updated

Special Quality	Extent	Recognition	Condition	Changes or Threats	
<b>Overall</b>					
1	<b>Overall Landscape - 16 Landscape Management Zones with key features</b>	Whole National Landscape	Nationally designated protected landscape: Outstanding (see county Landscape Character Assessments and LandMap)	Purpose of National Landscape designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty	Sustainable land management &/or ownership that conserves or enhances key landscape characteristics and features; Inappropriate land management may degrade or destroy landscape features (including neglect, addition of inappropriate features, ongoing loss & decline of elements that define landscape character resulting in increased uniformity and loss of distinctiveness)
<b>Biodiversity</b>					
2	<b>Woodlands - Diversity of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) including 35 SSSIs and many ancient/veteran trees</b>	**27.5% woodland cover in National Landscape. c6685 ha of Ancient woodland covers 20.42% of National Landscape. SSSIs cover 1587 ha, 4.85% of National Landscape. Public Forest Estate (PFE) cover 15.3% of National Landscape	Diversity of ASNW and PAWS including 35 SSSIs and many ancient/veteran trees. Some plantation and other woodland.	**Varied; much ASNW under managed, some PAWS being restored [in English part of National Landscape 71% of woodland SSSIs in favourable condition]	Inappropriate management may degrade or destroy habitat or species; Lack of management may result in loss of habitat for light-demanding species and coppice/understorey; Disease may decimate key species (eg. Ash dieback,

Special Quality	Extent	Recognition	Condition	Changes or Threats	
					Phytophthora); Invasive non-native species (eg. Rhododendron, Laurel); Climate change
3	<b>The river &amp; tributaries, and associated floodplains, wetlands and geomorphology</b>	c40km of main river, plus numerous minor tributaries and floodplains and wetlands throughout the National Landscape	River Wye SAC/SSSI plus other SSSIs	**Range of issues affecting condition including: siltation, pollution, invasive species, bankside management. River Wye SAC: England 0% favourable, Wales 0.36% favourable [NRW/NE assessment 2020]	Unsympathetic land management may degrade or destroy habitat and species, including river engineering for flood control, recreational interest or development; Pollution and siltation from agriculture, development and storm water overflow; Invasive non-native species (eg. Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed, signal crayfish); Loss of fish, including salmon and eels; Barriers to fish migration; Climate change - drought or flood; Disease
4	<b>Species-rich grassland, including small field pattern of un/semi-improved grassland, often bounded by drystone walls or old hedges</b>	Scattered through-out National Landscape	Numerous local sites and some SSSIs	Variable; some SSSIs in favourable condition, much semi-improved grassland in unfavourable declining condition	Inappropriate management may degrade or destroy habitat, including over-grazing or under-grazing, fertiliser application; Conversion to arable or improved grassland; Development

Special Quality		Extent	Recognition	Condition	Changes or Threats
5	<b>Boundary habitat diversity &amp; connectivity, e.g. between grassland &amp; woodland, farmland &amp; heathland, tidal river &amp; ASNW, hedges &amp;/or drystone walls, lanes, banks, verges and fields &amp; woods</b>	Throughout National Landscape	Recognised locally and some national recognition	Variable	Inappropriate management may degrade or destroy habitat, including over-cutting or neglect of hedges, removal of hedgerow trees, neglect or removal of drystone walls, widening of lanes; Agricultural intensification; Development
6	<b>Orchards - Traditional orchards mostly cider apples and perry pear also commercial apple standard and bush orchards</b>	Throughout National Landscapes, dependant on geology and topography. New commercial orchards being planted.	Traditional orchards mostly cider apples and perry pear also commercial apple standard and bush orchards	Many traditional orchards redundant or underused. New commercial planting of bush orchards	Lack of, or inappropriate, management practices, may damage or destroy trees, including weather damage or harmful grazing by stock, particularly horses; Development of land for housing
<b>Geological</b>					
7	<b>Dramatic geology and geomorphology – Silurian limestones, Old Red Sandstones, Quartz Conglomerate, full sequence of Carboniferous limestones, and active and past geomorphology</b>	Whole National Landscape	Silurian Rocks and Carboniferous Limestone internationally important; Lower Devonian Old Red Sandstone and Quartz Conglomerate nationally important; several RIGS and SSSIs; Good, incised river meanders & superimposed drainage globally important examples for educational purposes	Good	Inappropriate development or land management may degrade or destroy features; Quarrying; Natural weathering

Special Quality	Extent	Recognition	Condition	Changes or Threats	
<b>Visual and Sensory</b>					
8	<b>Picturesque, extensive &amp; dramatic views</b>	Throughout National Landscape but majority overlooking the Wye	72 viewpoints identified. 20 included in Overlooking the Wye Landscape Partnership Scheme including 4 SMs at Piercefield	Varied; some spectacular, some overgrown, some inaccessible, health & safety poor at some [Assessment of Historic & Picturesque Viewpoints in National Landscape, 2001]. Overlooking the Wye Landscape Partnership Scheme conserved &/or enhanced	Changes in ownership &/or land management may degrade or block both physical access to viewpoints and/or the view window; Inappropriate land management may degrade or destroy the landscape viewed from a viewpoint including large single structures, large developments or the cumulative impact of small developments
9	<b>Overall sense of tranquillity, sense of remoteness and naturalness / wildness and dark skies</b>	Much of National Landscape	Varied	Poor to good, with localised disturbance [CPRE, CCW, NRW maps]	Changes in land management including new or expanding development and intensification of use (i.e. inappropriate tourism and recreation or increasing road or air traffic); Loss of trees due to disease; Change driven by new standards and legislation e.g. street lighting, highway construction may lead to loss of tranquillity, sense of remoteness and dark skies.

Special Quality	Extent	Recognition	Condition	Changes or Threats	
<b>Historic Environment</b>					
10	<b>Historic environment and landscape – Palaeolithic to Iron Age sites; Roman and early medieval remains including Offa’s Dyke; medieval defensive and ecclesiastical sites; post-medieval industrial landscapes and railway heritage</b>	Throughout National Landscape	Paleolithic occupation at Arthur's Cave; 18 prehistoric SMs, 3 Roman SMs (included c.50km Offa's Dyke); 5 Castle SM (Chepstow, Goodrich, Raglan, Monmouth, Penyard, St Briavels); 4 Ecclesiastical SMs (Tintern, Grace Dieu, Llanthony, Monmouth); several post-medieval industrial SMs. Numerous other undesignated sites	Variable. Some excellent, some in need of conservation	
11	<b>Ancient and veteran trees</b>	Scattered through-out National Landscape, particularly in ASNW and parkland	Range of species but oak particularly important. Also small-leaved lime in ASNW	Variable. Many in good condition, some in need of conservation management	Inappropriate management may degrade or destroy trees, including felling, damage during development, harmful grazing by stock, particularly horses; Disease (eg. Ash dieback, Acute Oak Decline)
12	<b>Historic / registered parks and gardens</b>	Scattered through-out National Landscape	11 Registered Parks & Gardens. Numerous designed landscapes (non-registered)	Variable. Some excellent, some in need of conservation	Inappropriate management may degrade or destroy historic features
13	<b>Vernacular architecture: Farmsteads, Commoners cottages, Estate houses</b>	Through-out National Landscape, dependant on geology	Varied – no one dominant style due to varying geology. 17 Conservation Areas	Varied, dependant on geology & building materials	Inappropriate management may degrade or destroy historic features

Special Quality		Extent	Recognition	Condition	Changes or Threats
<b>Language</b>					
14	<b>Welsh language &amp; accent; Forest of Dean &amp; South Herefordshire dialects &amp; accents</b>	Varied through-out National Landscape	9.9% of Monmouthshire population able to speak Welsh increasing in all age groups except over 65s. Welsh taught in schools in Monmouthshire.	Welsh usage consolidating in Monmouthshire [2011 Census]	Loss of local identity can further erode traditional usages; Influences of universal education and media
<b>Access and Recreation</b>					
15	<b>Old tracks: often in sunken ways &amp;/or bounded by drystone walls</b>	Through-out National Landscape. *Routes with public access for MPVs mapped by TRF at <a href="http://www.greenroadmap.org.uk">www.greenroadmap.org.uk</a> and by GLASS at <a href="http://www.trailwise2.co.uk">www.trailwise2.co.uk</a>	Some in Rights of Way network, some County Road (Highways), some other highways, remainder private. No formal cataloguing and assessment	Variable	Degradation of surface and/or boundary features due to changes in levels of usage &/or ownership or management, eg. water erosion, deep rutting and waterlogging, hard surfacing, widening, etc.; Blockage and/or obstruction; Unclear classification and misleading signage
16	<b>Extensive recreational network of circular and linear footpaths and trails including Offa's Dyke Path and Wye Valley Walk</b>	Through-out National Landscape	Offa's Dyke Path - National trail; Wye Valley Walk - Regional		
17	<b>Access land</b>	Forestry England and Welsh Government woodland and Woodland Trust holdings eg. Haugh Wood, Chase Wood & lower Wye Valley woods	Good	Good [Woodland dedicated as Access Land under CROW]	Changes in legislation or sale removing access rights

Special Quality		Extent	Recognition	Condition	Changes or Threats
18	<b>Small commons; largest are Coppet Hill, Broadmoor, Staunton Meend, Whitelye, The Hudnalls</b>	**455ha scattered throughout National Landscape	Generally good	Generally good	Obstruction to access; Lack of, or inappropriate, management

[Ecosystems goods and services table based on current plan to be included]

## Vision

The 20 year vision for the Wye Valley National Landscape is where:-

	<b><u>Theme alignment</u></b>
Nature is flourishing and connected, with more, better and joined-up grassland, wetland and tree cover, along with a healthy River Wye.	<b>Nature; Water</b>
The resilient landscape stores more carbon and water, and vibrant soils sustain nature friendly farm businesses producing nutrient dense food.	<b>Climate; Water; Place</b>
The Outstanding Natural Beauty and Special Qualities continue to inspire people to conserve and enhance them	<b>Place</b>
Everyone can experience and care for the National Landscape, with inclusive access and more sustainable ways to visit and get around.	<b>People</b>
Communities and businesses thrive with a nature positive, low-carbon rural economy providing local skilled work.	<b>People</b>

# Themes and Outcomes

The management plan is organised into five themes – **Nature, Climate, Water, People and Place** – to provide a clear logic chain from the National Landscape’s Special Qualities to outcomes and policies. The five-theme structure reflects Natural England’s and Natural Resource Wales’ Management Plan guidance, aligns with DEFRA’s Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF), and ensures cross-border policy duties are addressed. Water is treated as a standalone theme to reflect the central importance of the River Wye and catchment pressures for the National Landscape and its communities.

## Outcomes

The outcomes are what we want to achieve by 2031 and are grouped under each theme.

### Nature

- Nature Recovery and Biodiversity – The biodiversity of the National Landscape is conserved, enhanced and restored through robust and resilient ecological networks that connect habitats across the National Landscape.
- Geodiversity – Sites important for scientific and general understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the geodiversity heritage of the National Landscape are conserved and enhanced.

### Climate

- Climate Change Mitigation – The National Landscape, its communities and visitors contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon storage through sustainable land use, land management and development.
- Climate Change Adaptation – The National Landscape and its communities are prepared for and resilient to the impacts of climate change, including through natural flood management, drought resilience, and adaptation of land management practices.

### Water

- River Health – The River Wye and all watercourses in and around the National Landscape are restored to good ecological status with clean water that supports thriving wildlife and contributes to the wellbeing of people and the local economy.
- Water Resources and Resilience – Water is stored and managed sustainably across the National Landscape, with natural solutions that reduce flood and drought risk, support farming and land management, and contribute to a resilient landscape.

### People

- Access, Recreation and Inclusion – Travel to and within the National Landscape is increasingly sustainable and integrated, with improved public transport, walking and cycling routes. People of all backgrounds and abilities enjoy recreation and visiting

the WVNL in ways that conserve and enhance its natural beauty and benefits local communities economically and socially.

- Health and Wellbeing – Opportunities for people to benefit from the National Landscape for their physical and mental health and wellbeing are enhanced, connecting more people to nature and the outdoors.
- Understanding and Stewardship – People’s understanding and appreciation of the National Landscape, why it is designated, and its Special Qualities are increased through education, interpretation, volunteering and engagement, inspiring care and action for the National Landscape.
- Partnership Working and Delivery – Proactive and imaginative achievements in the National Landscape continue through successful partnerships, effective governance, evidence-based decision-making and sustainable resourcing.

## **Place**

- Landscape – The natural beauty of the National Landscape is conserved and enhanced, with its natural and cultural features and processes, including its Special Qualities and features of the Landscape Management Zones.
- Farming, Forestry and Land Management – Farming, woodlands and trees are managed sustainably to conserve and enhance the National Landscape’s natural beauty, Special Qualities and distinctive landscape features.
- Development and Built Environment – Development in the National Landscape and its setting is landscape-led, conserves and enhances natural beauty and the area’s Special Qualities is climate-resilient, and meets the needs of local communities.
- Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage – The historic environment and cultural heritage of the National Landscape are conserved and sympathetically managed, with engagement promoted to secure long-term care.
- Rural Economy and Local Distinctiveness – Viable rural enterprises derive benefit from and enhance the natural resources and local distinctiveness of the National Landscape, contributing to a nature-positive, low-carbon economy that provides local employment.

# Policies

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## NATURE

### Nature Recovery and Biodiversity

**The biodiversity of the National Landscape is conserved, enhanced and restored through robust and resilient ecological networks that connect habitats across the National Landscape.**

#### **N.N1 Habitat restoration and connectivity**

Develop, implement and promote schemes and initiatives that conserve, enhance and restore the National Landscape's biodiversity, strengthens ecological networks and natural processes, and increases resilience to climate and other environmental change, including through nature-based solutions and landscape-scale habitat connectivity.

#### **N.N2 Biodiversity targets and priorities**

Contribute to the delivery of national, regional and local biodiversity and nature recovery targets, including commitments to protect and manage at least 30% of land and water for nature by 2030 and beyond, with a focus on key habitats and species relevant to the Wye Valley National Landscape.

#### **N.N3 Designated sites**

Work with partners to ensure the management of all statutory designated sites and locally designated sites in the National Landscape so that they are in favourable condition and within robust ecological networks.

#### **N.N4 Biosecurity**

Develop, implement and promote initiatives to prevent, control and manage invasive non-native species, pests and diseases that pose a risk to the National Landscape's biodiversity, farming, forestry and woodland. Ensure measures are compatible with the purposes of designation and the area's Special Qualities, and are informed by ongoing identification and monitoring.

#### **N.N5 Species and habitat monitoring**

In partnership with relevant conservation organisations, individuals and Local Biological Record Centres, identify and monitor key indicator and/or priority species and habitats, including utilising historic data.

## **Geodiversity**

**Sites important for scientific and general understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the geodiversity heritage of the National Landscape are conserved and enhanced.**

### **N.G1 Site identification and monitoring**

Work with geoconservation organisations, local Record Centres, site managers and partners to identify, record and monitor significant geodiversity features and sites (including SSSIs and LGS/RIGS), and to secure their protection and positive management. Maintain key geological exposures and access where appropriate, and ensure quarrying operations and restoration conserve and enhance the National Landscape's geodiversity interest, natural beauty, Special Qualities and landscape features.

## **CLIMATE**

### **Climate Change Mitigation**

**The National Landscape, its communities and visitors contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon storage through sustainable land use, land management and development**

#### **C.M1 Low-carbon transition in land management**

Promote land management practices and implement initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon storage in soils, woodlands, hedgerows and other habitats across the National Landscape, contributing to national and regional net-zero and carbon sequestration targets.

#### **C.M2 Net zero and national targets**

Work with partners and stakeholders to decarbonise and reduce energy demand in existing and new buildings, infrastructure and transport, including promoting renewable and low-carbon energy solutions that will not have significant adverse impacts the natural beauty, Special Qualities and landscape features of the National Landscape.

## Climate Change Adaptation

**The National Landscape and its communities are prepared for and resilient to the impacts of climate change, including through natural flood management, drought resilience, and adaptation of land management practices.**

### **C.A1 Climate adaptation and landscape resilience**

Work with partners to implement the Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the National Landscape, engaging with stakeholders across relevant sectors to recognise climate risks and vulnerabilities, and to prioritise actions that build landscape and community resilience.

### **C.A2 Climate-resilient land management**

Encourage, advise and support farmers and land managers to adapt to changing climate conditions, integrating climate adaptation as a core component of land management, agri-environment schemes and rural development support, and promoting practices that build resilience and sustainability.

### **C.A3 Climate-resilient development and infrastructure**

Ensure that climate change adaptation is a significant driver in all new development, infrastructure and transport provision within and around the National Landscape, promoting designs and layouts that are resilient to climate impacts.

## **WATER**

### River Health

**The River Wye and all watercourses in and around the National Landscape are restored to good ecological status with clean water that supports thriving wildlife and contributes to the wellbeing of people and the local economy.**

### **W.R1 River recovery and pollution reduction**

Support, promote and participate in collaborative catchment action to restore and maintain the ecological health of the River Wye and its tributaries within and around the National Landscape. Develop and implement initiatives, working with partners, regulators, farmers, landowners and other stakeholders to take targeted action on pollution prevention, habitat restoration and land management within and around the National Landscape, helping to achieve statutory conservation objectives and agreed water quality targets.

## Water Resources and Resilience

**Water is stored and managed sustainably across the National Landscape, with natural solutions that reduce flood and drought risk, support farming and land management, and contribute to a resilient landscape.**

### **W.W1 NFM and water management**

Promote and implement nature-based approaches to enhance water quality and water quantity across the National Landscape and its tributaries and water bodies, including natural flood management, sustainable drainage, grassland, floodplain and wetland restoration, riparian buffers, soil management and targeted woodland planting.

### **W.W2 Sustainable water resources and abstraction**

Promote and support sustainable water use and water resources management within and around the National Landscape, including appropriate abstraction, efficient water use and on-farm water storage, to reduce pressure on watercourses during low flows. Ensure water-related infrastructure is sensitively sited and designed to conserve and enhance the National Landscape's natural beauty, Special Qualities and landscape features.

## **PEOPLE**

### Access, Recreation and Inclusion

**Travel to and within the National Landscape is increasingly sustainable and integrated, with improved public transport, walking and cycling routes. People of all backgrounds and abilities enjoy recreation and visiting the WVNL in ways that conserve and enhance its natural beauty, and benefits local communities economically and socially.**

### **P.A1 Responsible access and recreation**

Promote and encourage inclusive access and recreation that conserves and enhances the National Landscape's natural beauty, Special Qualities and landscape features, working with partners to enhance visitor experiences, encourage responsible behaviour, and manage visitor pressures by directing use to more robust and/or less sensitive locations.

### **P.A2 High quality and inclusive access**

Improve access for all, including under-represented groups and people with disabilities, by identifying gaps in provision and working with partners to deliver access enhancements with sustainable design and maintenance that conserve and enhance the National Landscape's natural beauty, special qualities and landscape features.

#### **P.A3 Sustainable travel**

Promote sustainable travel options for reaching and moving around the National Landscape that reduce car dependency, including public transport, walking and cycling, and support initiatives that link sustainable travel options.

#### **P.A4 Sustainable tourism**

Promote the National Landscape as a sustainable tourism destination, supporting tourism activity and development that conserves, enhances and helps people enjoy its Special Qualities. Use tourism and visitor evidence, including engagement and feedback, to guide the visitor economy, visitor management and ongoing conservation and enhancement.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

**Opportunities for people to benefit from the National Landscape for their physical and mental health and wellbeing are enhanced, connecting more people to nature and the outdoors.**

#### **P.H1 Nature for health and wellbeing**

Promote opportunities for people to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing through inclusive nature-based and/or nature-friendly outdoor activities in the National Landscape. Work with health and social care bodies, local authorities and delivery partners to embed the National Landscape in prevention and wellbeing, including green and blue social prescribing and targeted programmes for under-represented groups.

#### **P.H2 Children and young people**

Encourage and support initiatives and environmental education opportunities that help children and young people experience the National Landscape first-hand, building confidence and skills, and fostering appreciation of its Special Qualities and how they can be conserved and enhanced.

#### **P.H3 Local food**

Promote opportunities for people to improve their health and wellbeing through access to affordable, locally produced food within the National Landscape. Work with local authorities, health bodies, community organisations and delivery partners to

strengthen local food networks, build food literacy and improve access to sustainable and seasonal food choices, particularly for communities experiencing barriers to access.

## **Understanding and Stewardship**

**People's understanding and appreciation of the National Landscape, why it is designated, and its Special Qualities are increased through education, interpretation, volunteering and engagement, inspiring care and action for the National Landscape.**

### **P.U1 Awareness, interpretation and learning**

Promote understanding of the National Landscape, its designation and Special Qualities among residents, visitors, organisations and businesses through communication, interpretation and learning, connecting people with its natural, cultural and historic heritage, and raising awareness of the National Landscape's high-quality environment in attracting and retaining businesses, investment and skills.

### **P.U2 Volunteering and participation**

Support and develop opportunities for people and organisations to take part in caring for the National Landscape, including active participation in nature recovery, citizen science and responding to pressures that arise beyond the National Landscape boundary.

### **P.U3 Exemplar land management practice.**

Promote the National Landscape as a living, working landscape by increasing understanding of the value of farming and land management to the local economy and to sustaining the National Landscape's Special Qualities and distinctive landscape features. Share knowledge, skills and good practice to support continuous improvement and strengthen the National Landscape's role as an exemplar of sustainable land management.

### **P.U4 Community engagement**

Foster pride and connection to the National Landscape's Special Qualities and sense of place, and enable inclusive involvement in its management and delivery. Ensure engagement is accessible (including Welsh language provision where appropriate) and support volunteering and citizen participation that builds skills and stewardship across all parts of the community.

## **Partnership Working and Delivery**

**Proactive and imaginative achievements in the National Landscape continue through successful partnerships, effective governance, evidence-based decision-making and sustainable resourcing.**

### **P.P1 Partnership and governance**

Maintain and develop effective partnerships and governance arrangements to lead and coordinate delivery of the Management Plan, ensuring the National Landscape Partnership is an effective forum for collaboration, advocacy and decision-making on issues affecting the National Landscape. Share good practice nationally.

### **P.P2 Resourcing and funding**

Secure and sustain funding and resources from local and national government, partners and other sources to support the delivery of the National Landscape Management Plan and the conservation and enhancement of the National Landscape's natural beauty, Special Qualities and landscape features.

### **P.P3 Partner delivery and statutory duties**

Work with and encourage relevant authorities and delivery partners to fulfil their statutory duties in relation to the National Landscape designation and to embed the Management Plan in their own plans, programmes and decision-making.

### **P.P4 Evidence, monitoring and learning**

Develop, coordinate and maintain a proportionate, shared evidence base and monitoring programme for the National Landscape including robust baseline information, to assess landscape condition and the direction of change. Use consistent indicators and analysis to inform priorities, measure progress against Management Plan outcomes, evaluate what works, and share learning locally and nationally to support adaptive management and continuous improvement in delivery.

## **PLACE**

### **Landscape**

**The natural beauty of the National Landscape is conserved and enhanced, with its natural and cultural features and processes, including its Special Qualities and features of the Landscape Management Zones.**

### **PL.L1 Landscape conservation and enhancement**

Promote and develop policies and initiatives to conserve, enhance, restore or create the features and elements that maintain the Special Qualities, landscape character and natural beauty of the National Landscape. Ensure their sustainable management and avoid, mitigate, reduce or remove detrimental features.

#### **PL.L2 Landscape character evidence**

Promote and ensure the use of the Landscape Character Assessments and Historic Landscape Characterisation to inform local distinctiveness in development plans, strategies, guidance, developments and landscaping schemes.

#### **PL.L3 Tranquillity**

Ensure the conservation and enhancement of the National Landscape's relative tranquillity, sense of remoteness and naturalness. Work with local authorities, communities, land managers and businesses to avoid and minimise activities and development that would significantly or cumulatively erode tranquillity, and to secure improvements to minimise intrusive noise and visual disturbance.

#### **PL.L4 Dark skies**

Promote and protect dark sky places across the National Landscape, and work with partners to minimise light pollution for the benefit of natural beauty, nocturnal wildlife and human wellbeing. Promote and provide advice on best-practice lighting design and seek opportunities to reduce existing light pollution.

## **Farming, Forestry and Land Management**

**Farming, woodlands and trees are managed sustainably to conserve and enhance the National Landscape's natural beauty, Special Qualities and distinctive landscape features.**

#### **PL.F1 Sustainable farming practices**

Encourage and work with farmers, landowners and land managers to develop and adopt sustainable management practices that conserve and enhance the National Landscape's natural beauty, Special Qualities and landscape features, and disseminate good agricultural practices through networks, partnerships and training.

#### **PL.F2 Agri-environment schemes**

Influence and shape agri-environment and other land management schemes to support practices that deliver conservation and enhancement of the National Landscape's natural beauty, Special Qualities and landscape features. Encourage, advise and support uptake by farm businesses of all sizes.

#### **PL.F3 Skills and diversification**

Support the development and continuation of both traditional and innovative land management skills and practices, and appropriate farm diversification opportunities, that are compatible with the purposes of the National Landscape and conserve or enhance its Special Qualities and economic, social and ecological resilience.

#### **PL.F4 Woodland management advice**

Provide advice and support to woodland owners and managers on sustainable, multi-purpose woodland creation, restoration and management that conserves and enhances the National Landscape's Special Qualities, including sensitive restoration of planted ancient woodland sites (PAWS).

## **Development and Built Environment**

**Development in the National Landscape and its setting is landscape-led, conserves and enhances natural beauty and the area's Special Qualities is climate-resilient, and meets the needs of local communities.**

#### **PL.D1 Landscape-led development management**

Ensure that statutory planning documents and local plans provide a consistent and coherent framework of policies relating to the National Landscape, and that all development proposals within the National Landscape and its setting adopt a landscape-led approach.

#### **PL.D2 High quality design**

Ensure high standards of design, materials, energy efficiency, drainage, landscaping and Green Infrastructure in all developments, including Permitted Development, and that they conserve and enhance the National Landscape's natural beauty, Special Qualities and landscape features including scale and setting and benefit or enhance the natural environment.

#### **PL.D3 Resisting harmful development**

Oppose development that would create a persistent, dominant or incongruous feature; or give rise individually or cumulatively to effects harmful to the character or setting of the National Landscape, its Special Qualities or landscape features; or adversely affect internationally, nationally or locally designated sites.

#### **PL.D4 Developer contributions**

Ensure the use of planning obligations, community infrastructure levies and other mechanisms to secure contributions from development towards the conservation and enhancement of the National Landscape's Special Qualities, infrastructure and community facilities.

### **PL.D5 Community planning**

Encourage and support community involvement in local planning and placemaking, including through neighbourhood development plans and community strategies, ensuring that such plans contain coherent objectives for conserving and enhancing the National Landscape's natural beauty, Special Qualities and landscape features, and that their implementation and effectiveness are monitored.

### **PL.D6 Affordable housing**

Prioritise and support the provision of affordable housing that meets evidenced local needs within rural communities in the National Landscape, ensuring that housing is of high design quality, appropriate to its setting, and compatible with the conservation and enhancement of the National Landscape's natural beauty, Special Qualities and landscape features.

### **PL.D7 Transport infrastructure**

Ensure transport infrastructure, traffic management and highway schemes are designed and implemented in ways which support reduced car dependency and minimise environmental impacts, while also conserving and enhancing the National Landscape's natural beauty, Special Qualities, and landscape features.

### **PL.D8 Utilities infrastructure**

Ensure utilities infrastructure, including power, telecommunications and digital connectivity, is sensitively designed, sited and installed to conserve and enhance the National Landscape's natural beauty, Special Qualities and landscape features. Support the undergrounding of overhead lines where this would benefit skylines and key views, and encourage mast-sharing and co-location of telecommunications equipment.

## **Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage**

**The historic environment and cultural heritage of the National Landscape are conserved and sympathetically managed, with engagement promoted to secure long-term care.**

### **PL.H1 Historic environment conservation**

Conserve, enhance and promote the National Landscape's historic environment by working with landowners, national agencies and partners to develop and support schemes, policies, advice and sympathetic management that maintain and restore historic features, sites and landscapes.

### **PL.H2 Heritage evidence and monitoring**

Improve the understanding, recording and appreciation of the National Landscape's historic environment through research, monitoring, heritage recording and

interpretation, working with local authorities, archaeological trusts, community groups and the wider public to maintain and enhance heritage databases and records

## **Rural Economy and Local Distinctiveness**

**Viable rural enterprises derive benefit from and enhance the natural resources and local distinctiveness of the National Landscape, contributing to a nature-positive, low-carbon economy that provides local employment.**

### **PL.R1 Thriving rural communities**

Support and encourage community-led initiatives and investment that sustain the vitality, diversity and quality of rural communities within the National Landscape, including retention and improvement of local services, employment and facilities.

### **PL.R2 Local products and distinctiveness**

Support markets and initiatives for local products and services, that draw on and reinforce the National Landscape's Special Qualities, landscape features and sense of place. Encourage and support local producers to supply local markets and strengthen demand for local produce among public bodies, consumers, accommodation providers and food outlets.

### **PL.R3 Sustainable rural enterprise**

Support rural businesses and micro-enterprises to become more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable through advice, training and cooperative schemes, raising awareness of good practice that conserves and enhances the National Landscape's natural beauty, Special Qualities and landscape features.