



**Gillespies**

# A PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK FOR WALES CANDIDATE AREA BOUNDARY REPORT

FINAL REPORT – DECEMBER 2024

# A PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK FOR WALES

## CANDIDATE AREA BOUNDARY REPORT

Prepared for Natural Resources Wales by Gillespies LLP  
in association with Countryside

FINAL REPORT DECEMBER 2024

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## SCOPE OF THE WORK

- 1.1 This report describes the Candidate Area Boundary for a proposed new National Park in Wales. In addition to a detailed description of the boundary, it includes detailed boundary maps at 1:25,000 (Maps 1 - 25) and an Index map covering the boundary. Due to large file sizes, these maps are provided separately in the Boundary Atlas which is available to view online at [Wales's New National Park Proposal - Public Consultation 2024 - Natural Resources Wales Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#). The report should be read in conjunction with the Proposed National Park for Wales Evaluation Report 2024<sup>1</sup>, which was published as part of the public consultation period which ran from 7 October to 16 December 2024. This report defines a Candidate Area for the proposed National Park and explains why it has sufficient nationally important and recognised natural beauty, and opportunities for the enjoyment of open-air recreation to merit designation. It also explains why areas have been excluded from the Candidate Area. The report is available to view online at [Wales's New National Park Proposal - Public Consultation 2024 - Natural Resources Wales Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#)
- 1.2 This is the final document in a suite of reports produced by Gillespies as part of detailed evaluation work to identify a National Park Candidate Area, carried out in 2024. The sequence and contents of the different reports is set out below:
- **Evaluation Report**  
A detailed evaluation of the study area against the statutory Natural Beauty and Recreation designation criteria.
  - **Appendix A: Evaluation Area Figures**  
Mapping of Wildlife, Heritage and Recreation resource for the 32 landscape evaluation units that were assessed in the evaluation report.
  - **The Candidate Area**  
A map illustrating the full extents of the assessed Candidate Area - from Prestatyn/ the North Wales Coast, to the southern extents of the Berwyn.
  - **Candidate Area Boundary Atlas**  
The Candidate Area boundary illustrated on 1:25,000 O/S maps.
  - **Candidate Area Boundary Report** (this report)  
A narrative description of the features, physical boundaries, settlements and geographical places that the Candidate Area boundary follow.

## FORMAT OF THE REPORT

- 1.3 The report is presented in three sections:
- Section 1: Introduction
  - Section 2: Findings of the Boundary Setting Process
  - Section 3: Description of the Candidate Area Boundary.

<sup>1</sup> Natural Resources Wales (2024) Proposed National Park for Wales Evaluation Report



## 2. FINDINGS OF THE BOUNDARY SETTING PROCESS

### DETAILED BOUNDARY SETTING CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE CANDIDATE AREA

- 2.1 As explained in paragraph 8.1 of the Proposed National Park for Wales Evaluation Report (2024), on completion of the main natural beauty evaluation phase, the draft Candidate Area boundary was then subject to a further phase of detailed boundary testing and refinement. Evidence collated during the natural beauty assessment for each of the Evaluation Areas was re-considered, focussing on areas where particular issues had been highlighted during the evaluation stage. Further desk and field work was undertaken, and refinements were made to the proposed Candidate Area.
- 2.2 This detailed boundary definition work was based on the detailed boundary setting considerations in Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Guidance Note (GN 010)<sup>2</sup>, an extract of which is attached as Appendix B. It also took account of precedent set out in landscape designation decisions by the Secretary of State and Planning Inspectors' reports regarding past landscape designation projects, including those applying the principle of 'wash over'. In addition, boundary mapping conventions applied by Ordnance Survey<sup>3</sup> were also taken into consideration.
- 2.3 In applying the boundary setting considerations it is worth clarifying the following:
- Where the boundary follows a minor quiet rural lane or track, which may be used for recreation, it has been included and is usually mapped to the edge of the metalled highway. Public rights of way alongside a proposed boundary are also normally included. Where a boundary line follows a more major road the area of carriageway is excluded. Road embankments are also excluded, except where they contribute to the natural beauty of an area.
  - When a small watercourse, such as a brook, is used as a boundary, it is presumed in law that the boundary will adjust naturally with any movements in the watercourse's position, except in cases of abrupt changes, such as those caused by flooding, where the boundary remains as originally set. According to Ordnance Survey convention, when these features are designated as boundaries, they should be marked 'for the time being' in each instance within the boundary description to indicate that the boundary may shift over time as the watercourse's position changes. However, this convention was not applied to the boundary descriptions for this project, as it was deemed to make the descriptions less clear. Instead, this document clarifies that such boundaries will adjust with any future, gradual changes in the watercourse's location.
  - Where no clear features exist on the ground, (for example where a boundary crosses a road), it is acceptable to draw a boundary in a straight line from point to point where the end points are clearly identifiable features on the ground.

### OVERVIEW OF THE CANDIDATE AREA BOUNDARY

- 2.4 The broad rationale for the Candidate Area boundary is as follows, starting at its western edge near Ruthin and moving sequentially and in a clockwise direction:
- The Candidate Area boundary follows the existing National Landscape boundary along its western, northern and eastern edges – broadly between Ruthin, Prestatyn and Chirk.
  - Continuing clockwise, the boundary follows the Welsh – English border southwards.

<sup>2</sup> Natural Resources Wales (2022) Procedural Guidance: Statutory Landscape Designation (GN 10)

<sup>3</sup> An Illustrated Guide to Boundary Making, Ordnance Survey, 1986.



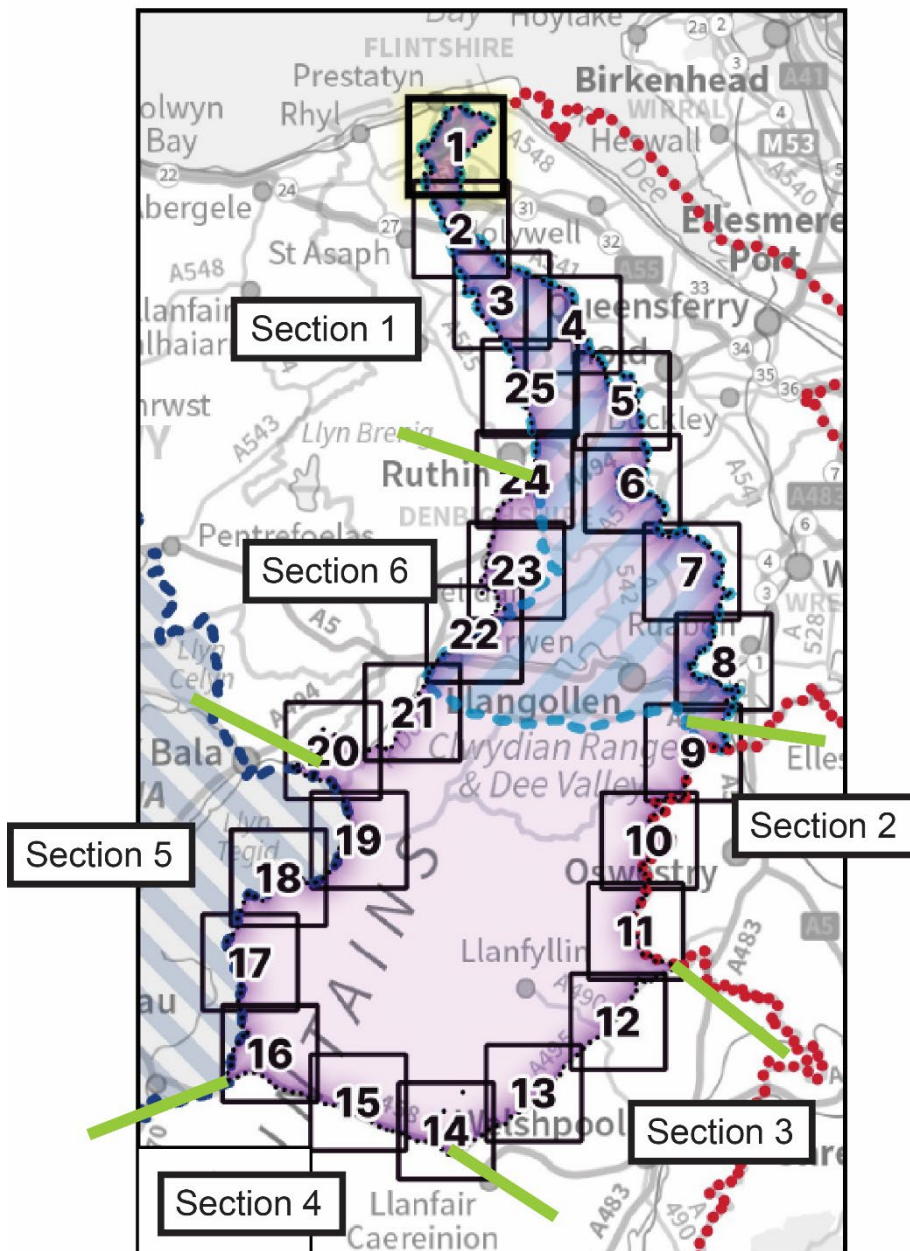
- Where the Welsh-English border meets the A495 and the Meifod Valley, the Candidate Area boundary follows the A495, excluding the settlement of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain. The boundary follows the main road through the village of Meifod, including settlement to the west of the road and Listed Buildings to the east of the road.
- At the southern point of the study area, the Candidate Area boundary turns west to follow the A548 along the Banwy Valley, until it meets the Eryri National Park boundary. The northern extents of the following villages and hamlets are included and areas south of the road excluded - Llanfair Caereinion, Llanerfyl, Llangadfan, and Foel.
- The Candidate Area boundary follows the Eryri National Park boundary northwards to the Upper Dee Valley at Llandderfel - just to the east of Bala.
- The Candidate Area boundary follows the outer edges of two LANDMAP Visual and Sensory units that take in the valley floor and wooded hillslopes around Llandderfel. The eastern edge follows the Gwynedd/ Denbighshire County boundary southwards, joins the B4401 and runs northeast along the toe of the Berwyn hillslopes.
- The settlements of Llandrillo and Cynwyd lie along B4401. The area of Llandrillo to the south of the B4401 is included as is the part of the village to the north within the Conservation Area. The upper section of Cynwyd to the east of the B4401 is included within the Candidate Area.
- Just north of Cynwyd the Candidate Area boundary joins and follows the National Landscape boundary with no change until the Morwynion Valley and A5104. Corwen is included, with Clawdd Poncen and Trewyn Fawr excluded.
- From the A5104, the Candidate Area boundary turns northwards following field boundaries and short sections of lanes towards the village of Llanellidan (included within the area) before joining the A494 towards Pwll glâs which is excluded except for a row of houses to the east of the road.
- The Candidate Area boundary then follows a lane eastward across the Vale of Clwyd to Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd, before joining the National Landscape boundary near Ruthin. The Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Conservation Area and houses to the south of the lane area are included within the area. The 20th and 21st Century housing north of the lane is excluded.

# 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE CANDIDATE AREA BOUNDARY

## CANDIDATE BOUNDARY SECTIONS

3.1 As illustrated on the plan below this chapter describes the proposed Candidate Area boundary in detail based on the following sections.:

- Section 1: Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd to Bronygarth
- Section 2: Bronygarth to Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain
- Section 3: Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain to Neuadd Bridge
- Section 4: Neuadd Bridge to Eryri National Park
- Section 5: Eryri National Park to Upper Dyffryn Dyfrdwy (Dee Valley)
- Section 6: Upper Dyffryn Dyfrdwy (Dee Valley) to Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd.





- 3.2 The descriptive text begins with a brief overview of the section’s extent and the rationale for its delineation. Relevant 1:25,000 boundary maps (Maps 1–25) are listed and should be consulted alongside the text. Additionally, the Evaluation Areas from the Proposed National Park for Wales Evaluation Report (2024) are referenced to facilitate easy cross-referencing with earlier evaluation findings.
- 3.3 The Candidate Area boundary is then described in detail, with the narrative proceeding sequentially in a clockwise direction around the boundary. To enhance readability, the descriptions are divided into shorter sections. Throughout this text, any mention of ‘the boundary’ should be understood as referring to ‘the proposed Candidate Area boundary’.

## **SECTION 1: LLANFAIR DYFFRYN CLWYD TO BRONYGARTH (BOUNDARY ATLAS MAPS 1 – 8, 24, 25)**

### **Introduction**

- 3.4 The Candidate Area boundary follows the existing National Landscape boundary along its western, northern and eastern edges - between Ruthin, Prestatyn and Chirk. The assessment which was informed by detailed field work confirmed the existing boundary of the National Landscape remained a robust line to follow and defines a landscape of sufficient Natural Beauty to merit inclusion within the Candidate Area.

### **Evaluation Areas in this Section**

- EA2: Prestatyn - Dyserth Scarp and Trelawnyd Plateau
- EA3: Vale of Clwyd North at St Asaph
- EA4: Clwydian Range North
- EA5: Caerwys Lowlands
- EA7: Vale of Clwyd Denbigh - Ruthin
- EA8: Clwydian Range Central
- EA9: Wheeler Valley
- EA10: Mold Lowlands
- EA11: Eryrys Uplands
- EA12: Alyn Valley
- EA17: Llantysilio to Ruabon Mountain
- EA18: Rhos Slopes
- EA19: Dee Valley and Llangollen
- EA23: Ceiriog Valley

### **Detailed Boundary Description**

#### **Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd to Prestatyn**

- 3.5 This section starts to the south of the county town of Ruthin and approximately 1km to the northeast of Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd village at the foot of the Clwydian Hills and the boundary of the National Landscape.

From here it follows the B5429 northwards before turning northeast along the A494 at Pentre and continuing along the main road to Llanbedr-Dyffryn-Clwyd, where it turns northwest off the A494 to follow the western edge of the settlement before joining the B5429. It follows this road northwest out of Llanbedr-Dyffryn-Clwyd and then onto Llanbedr Road. Continuing along the foot of the Clwydian Hills the boundary extends along Llanbedr Road passing through the small cluster of properties at Hirwaen where it becomes Forest Road. The boundary continues along Forest Road crossing the Cyffion Crossroads and passing through Llangynhafal where the road becomes Ffordd Prenol and stays on this road to Llangwyfan.

- 3.6 The boundary continues northwards along the lane to the west of Highfield Park and then follows field boundaries and the boundary of the National Landscape in a broadly northwesterly direction across an area of sloping fields between the Clwydian Hills and the lower farmed landscapes of the Clwyd Valley.
- 3.7 Near Cae'r Fedwen the boundary rejoins the local road network, turning west for a short distance along one of the lanes running down from the Clwydian Hills and joining the B5429 as it heads north to Aberwheeler.
- 3.8 To the south of Aberwheeler the boundary diverts in a northeasterly direction away from the B5429 and follows a public right of way before joining local lanes and a short section of Offa's Dyke Path north towards Bodfari. Just before the village the boundary runs west along a short section of disused railway line before turning off the railway line and passing around the southern edge of Bodfari County Primary School. From here it runs north, crossing Derwen Terrace and rejoins the B5429 north of Bodfari.
- 3.9 North of the village the boundary joins the B5429 and continues in a northwesterly direction following the road and crossing several incised valleys on the lower slopes of Clwydian Hills. The boundary continues to follow the B5429, passing through the village of Tremeirchion. The older settlement to the east of the lane is included within the Candidate Area. The 20<sup>th</sup> Century settlement west of the lane is excluded. North of the village the boundary heads northwards past roadside properties and farmsteads before crossing the A55 North Wales Expressway at Rhualt and passing to the east of the village which lies outside the Candidate Area.
- 3.10 Continuing to follow the National Landscape boundary northwards, the boundary briefly joins Offa's Dyke Path and follows Cwm Road across a well-wooded east-west orientated Cwm valley.
- 3.11 The boundary continues in a northerly direction along Cwm Road to Dyserth below the steep slopes of Y Foel and Moel Hiraddug where it diverts off the road to follow a public right of way along the rear boundaries of properties fronting onto the Cwm Road. At Lower Foel Road, the boundary turns abruptly east to rise up the steep slopes of Y Foel and Moel Hiraddug and avoids a disused quarry on the southern edge of the village.
- 3.12 Crossing open access land, the boundary extends east to the civil parish boundary on the eastern side of Moel Hiraddug Fort which it follows north to Hiraddug Road, where it turns northwest following this road before diverging north along a public right of way to the east of properties at Maes Hiraddug and joining the Clwydian Way at the A5151.
- 3.13 After crossing the A5151 the boundary continues to follow the Clwydian Way along a section of the Prestatyn - Dyserth Way (disused railway line) which passes around the western toe of Graig Fawr with Dyserth waterfall and lower village to the west. At Meliden the boundary diverts east and away from the Clwydian Way but continues to follow the boundary of the National Landscape around the northern and eastern toe of Graig Fawr. The boundary turns to a more northeasterly direction following the lower slope of the steeply rising land at Tan-yr-Allt and the hillside above Prestatyn. The settlement of Meliden and Prestatyn is excluded from the Candidate Area.

#### Prestatyn to the A55 North Wales Expressway

- 3.14 Toward the eastern extents of Prestatyn, the boundary joins Ffordd Gronant and follows this road eastwards as far as Gronant where it diverges south and then east around the southern side of the settlement before

joining Llanasa Road. It continues along this road in a southeasterly direction for approximately 1km and crossing The Dingle before turning south to follow a minor road (Kelston Court Road) to Llanasa. On reaching the village the boundary follows the existing National Landscape boundary around the south side of the settlement. It then runs in a south westly direction along the minor road towards Trelawnyd, before diverting off this road to extend around the northern edge of the village at the toe of Gop Hill and joining the A5151 on the western edge of Trelawnyd, so excluding it from the Candidate Area.

- 3.15 After following the A5151 for a very short distance, the boundary heads southwards along Cwm Road, and then southeast along Caerwys Road to Pen-y-rhos. Here, the route turns south along an unnamed road, ascending and then descending the eastern slopes of Mynydd y Cwm, before crossing The Clwydian Way on the western side of Coed Jenny-Morgan and then the A55 (North Wales Expressway in cutting).

#### A55 North Wales Expressway to Gwernymynydd

- 3.16 After crossing the A55 the boundary continues to follow the National Landscape boundary south along an unnamed road, passing to the east of the Pennant Lead Mine Engine House and then turning southeast along the lane which follows the edge of Coed Bron-fawr. The estate of Bryngwyn Hall lies to the north and outside the Candidate Area. Continuing in a southeasterly direction, the boundary follows the upper slopes of a tributary valley of the Afon Chwiler (Wheeler Valley) before descending into the main valley and crossing the area of flooded sand pits near Maes-mynan Home Farm and Hall and following the eastern edge of the farm and hall before joining the A541 in the valley floor of the Afon Chwiler. It follows the A541 in a broadly southeasterly direction along the valley floor, briefly diverting off the road to include the Old Mill at Melin y Wern which lie within the Candidate Area.
- 3.17 The boundary continues to follow the National Landscape boundary along A541 and the well-wooded valley of the Afon Chwiler, passing to the east of Nannerch and including it. Approximately 2 km west of Hendre, it turns south off the A541, following Star Crossing Road to Fforest Farm. Here, the boundary turns southeast along an unnamed road, passing to the east of Cilcain and including the village before joining Cilcain Road and descending the steep slope into the Nant Gain Valley near the confluence of Nant Gain with the Afon Alun. The boundary then continues to follow Cilcain Road, following a short section of the Clwydian Way and crossing the river before ascending the steep valley side to Pont-newydd.
- 3.18 At Pont-newydd, the boundary turns south off Cilcain Road to follow the western edge of the village, which is characterised by some prominent valley side ribbon development which is excluded from the Candidate Area. At the southern end of the valley, it crosses Pant y Buarth to follow an unnamed road which runs south between the Afon Alun and Cefn Mawr Quarry – excluding the latter. At Loggerheads Country Park it turns sharply east to follow a footpath across steeply sloping woodland on the southern edge of the quarry, turning northeast and then north around the quarry before joining Cadole Road and turning east at its junction with Hafod Road.
- 3.19 Continuing to follow the existing National Landscape boundary, the boundary leads east and then southeast along Hafod Road to Gwernymynydd village where it follows a slightly convoluted route along a combination of footpaths and a short section of the A494 around the western edge of the village to exclude the village and ribbon development along the A494 from the Candidate Area.

#### Gwernymynydd to Llandegla Forest

- 3.20 South of Gwernymynydd, the boundary diverts south through woodland then heads east across a small disused quarry to join Glyndwr Road where it turns south, following this road until it joins Ffordd Glyndwr Lane at Owain Glyndwr Inn. Here the boundary diverts briefly eastwards before continuing south along Ffordd Glyndwr Lane.
- 3.21 Following the existing National Landscape boundary along Ffordd Glyndwr Lane, the boundary continues between Nercwys Forest (within the Candidate Area) and Coed Gwern-rhiw (outside and to the east of the

Candidate Area). South of this woodland the boundary crosses Mynydd Du southwards, then turning westwards along the lane forming the northern edge of Maes y Droell Quarry. The boundary continues westwards along the unnamed road towards Pant-y-gwlanod, where the boundary turns south following a footpath along the western edge of Graig Quarry which is excluded from the Candidate Area. The boundary follows this footpath south of the quarry until it reaches the B5430 where it briefly joins the Clwydian Way.

- 3.22 After crossing the B5430, the boundary continues to follow the National Landscape boundary and short section of the Clwydian Way along a winding unnamed road through an area of disused lead mines and farmland, past Llyn Cyfynwy (included within the Candidate Area), before joining the B5430 near the property called Pant Terfyn. It continues on the B5430 for a short distance until it reaches Rhydtalog Bridge. Here it diverts off the road to extend around the western edge of Rhydtalog before joining the A5104 just south of the settlement. After crossing the A5104, the boundary continues to follow the National Landscape boundary and the Clwydian Way across an area of Open Access Land along the western boundary of woodland northwest of Nant-y-Frith Reservoir, passing the eastern edge of settlement at Maes-Maelor and turning east along the A525 for a short distance before turning south along a footpath which leads to Llandegla Forest.

#### Llandegla Forest to Trefechan

- 3.23 At the northern edge of Llandegla Forest the boundary turns east along an unnamed road which runs in broadly parallel alignment to the A525 to the north until it turns south at a footpath that leads across open limestone scarp and follows this footpath path to join Allt Eisteddfod, east of Eisteddfod Farm. The boundary then follows this lane until it becomes Ffordd Isaf and then School Lane around the southern edge of Gwyfryn which is excluded from the Candidate Area. Continuing in a southeasterly direction along School Lane and then Church Road, the boundary diverts off Church Road to follow the rear boundary of properties on the upper slope of the Afon Clwyedog before descending the steeply sloping valley side into the Afon Clywedog (River Clwedog) Valley where it joins the B5426 and crosses the Afon Clywedog. From here the boundary follows the B5426 in a southeasterly direction toward New Brighton and past Minera Lead Mines Country Park and Esclusham and Minera Mountain. New Brighton lies to the west of this section of the B5426 and is included in the Candidate Area. The boundary continues to follow the B5426 southwards around the foot of Minera Mountain to Hafod Wen, where it turns southwest off the B5426 and follows Hafod Wen which rises up a tributary valley of the Afon Clywedog before turning south and broadly following the contours of the mountain along winding roads including Fron-dêg, Pen-y-Fron Farm Road and Cae Glas Lane toward a property called Tan-y-Fron. From here the road turns eastwards and descends the lower hillslopes joining Bronwylfa Hill close to Pentrebychan Brook and woodland surrounding a property called Bronwylfa.
- 3.24 The boundary turns west along Bronwylfa Hill and crosses Bronwylfa Brook rising up the hillside towards Ty Mawr Reservoir. Immediately east of the reservoir the boundary turns south along Ty Mawr, following this road and the National Landscape boundary until it becomes Hall Lane and then Ty Canol Road. After crossing the stream which drains Pant-glas Reservoir, the boundary turns west on Tai-nant Farm Road which it follows to the small settlement of Tai-nant in the steep-sided valley of Nant y Crogfryn.

#### Trefechan to Newbridge

- 3.25 After crossing Nant y Crogfryn in Tai-nant, the boundary turns south along Bridge Street and follows this road to Trefechan, where it runs onto Trefechan Farm Road and follows this road west until Trefechan Farm where it turns south off the road. The boundary then follows a combination of footpaths and field boundaries south, passing between Top Reservoir (within the Candidate Area) and Bottom Reservoir (outside the Candidate Area), and joining Church Street near Plas-uchaf to the west of Penycae which is excluded from the Candidate Area.

- 3.26 The boundary continues to follow Church Street in a southwesterly direction across its intersection with Sunny Bank and Bowers Road where it becomes Cross Street. At Pen-y-bryn it turns west along Pen-y-bryn Road before turning south on the access track to Ysgubor Isaf Farm. Passing the farm, the boundary then descends the upper slopes of Tower Hill following footpath and field boundaries towards the wooded valley of Tref-y-nant Brook which it crosses south of Nant Uchaf Farm. South of the brook, the boundary briefly follows Tower Hill before turning south off the road to cross the lower slopes of Tower Wood above Gronwen Reservoir. It then crosses Garth Trevor Road and follows the rear boundaries of properties on the western edge of the village, before briefly joining Maes Mawr Road and Pen y Gaer Road before turning south to follow field boundaries as far as Trevor Hall Road where it turns south. Garth and Garth Trevor are both excluded from the Candidate Area.
- 3.27 The boundary continues to follow Trevor Garth Road and the National Landscape boundary, joining Offa's Dyke Path east of Trevor Hall and turning north along the A539 for a short distance.
- 3.28 The boundary then turns northeast close to properties on Llangollen Road and follows the southern settlement edge of Trevor, crossing a dismantled railway line before following the western side of the Llangollen Canal and the B5434 passing to the west of the Telford Inn and Trevor Basin. In the wooded area to the south of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct Car Park the boundary turns sharply south to follow the eastern edge of the canal to New Road. After crossing New Road, it follows field boundaries to the east of Trevor Basin and the branch of the Llangollen Canal which heads south to Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.
- 3.29 At the north side of the aqueduct the boundary turns east to follow field boundaries along the well wooded northern valley side of the Afon Dyfrdwy (River Dee) Valley. At Dolydd it turns into a small tributary valley of the river for a short distance before following the southwestern edge of Dolydd and Cefn-bychan to Ty Mawr Country Park. After crossing the railway line, the boundary joins the B5605 and follows this road around the eastern edge of Newbridge, excluding the settlement from the Candidate Area.

#### Newbridge to the Welsh - English border

- 3.30 The boundary follows the B5606 and crosses the Afon Dyfrdwy at Newbridge and continues to follow the wooded corridor of the B5605 as it turns east and then south, following the course of the river. It diverts west off the road near Pent y Bont Works and follows the southern edge of the woodland that lines the eastern side of the river before, rejoining the B5605 on the north side of Pentre and crossing the Wrexham to Shrewsbury railway line and Llangollen Canal in quick succession. At the canal crossing the boundary briefly joins Offa's Dyke Path before diverting southeast along the A5 away from Offa's Dyke Path which heads west.
- 3.31 Just before the A5 crosses the route of the Whitehouse Canal Tunnel the boundary turns south along New Hall Farm Road, passing to the west of Chirk Marina and a former golf course which are excluded from the Candidate Area. To the east of New Hall, the boundary turns off New Hall Farm Road, following a footpath south along the west side of the former golf course and joining Llwyn y Cill at the northern edge of Mynattyn Wood. It continues to follow this road as runs to the east of Mynattyn Wood and crosses the eastern part of the Chirk Castle Estate, which is owned and managed by the National Trust. South of the Lady Margaret's Park Caravan and Motorhome Club Campsite which lies within Reservoir Wood and outside the Candidate Area, the boundary briefly turns east alongside the southern edge of the caravan site, following a footpath towards Chirk Aqueduct and along the western edge of Baddy's Wood which occupies the steeply sloping valley sides of the Afon Ceiriog (River Ceiriog). Close to the edge of Chirk village and the aqueduct, the boundary meets the B4500 and turns sharply west following the valley floor at the foot of the steeply and well-wooded south-facing slope of the valley. The boundary follows this road to Castle Mill where it turns south off the B4500 and joins Offa's Dyke Path before crossing the river and the Llwybr Maelor Way and ascending the steep north-facing slope of the Afon Ceiriog Valley.

- 3.32 Partway up the valley side at Pen-y-bryn is the Welsh – English border and it is at this point that the boundary diverts south away from the National Landscape boundary which continues in a northwesterly direction.

## SECTION 2: BRONYGARTH TO LLANSANTFFRAID-YM-MECHAIN (BOUNDARY ATLAS SHEETS 9, 10 & 11)

### Introduction

- 3.33 This section of the Candidate Area boundary in the main follows the Welsh – English border as it extends south between Bronygarth and Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain along the eastern edge of the Berwyn Foot Hills and Tanat Valley. The assessment which was informed by detailed field work confirmed that this boundary included landscape of sufficient Natural Beauty to merit inclusion within the Candidate Area.
- 3.34 Evaluation Areas in this Section
- EA 24: Berwyn Foothills North
  - EA26: Tanat Valley

### Detailed Boundary Description

#### Bronygarth to Rhydycroesau

- 3.35 This section starts on the southern valley side of the Afon Ceiriog. From here the boundary follows Offa's Dyke Path in a broadly southwesterly direction, following well-defined field boundaries through an area of rolling wooded farmland plateau. In taking this route, it crosses the Llwybr Ceiriog Trail, an incised well-wooded tributary valley of the Afon Ceiriog, and some unnamed roads which cross the farmland. It passes to the west of Mount Wood before diverting briefly away from Offa's Dyke Path but continuing to follow the line of the Scheduled Monument. The boundary then crosses Morlas Brook and the wooded corridor of the B4579 close to a small cluster of properties known as Craignant (outside the area), before continuing south along the border to the west of Offa's Dyke Path. Selattyn Hill lies to the east outside the Candidate Area.
- 3.36 Continuing in a broadly southerly direction the boundary follows generally the well-treed field boundaries and shelterbelts that help define the Welsh – English border. At Orseddwen the boundary turns west and follows a small stream valley incised into the higher ground to the north of Cefn Coch forest that covers the northern valley side of the Afon Morda (River Morda). After crossing an unnamed road on the northernmost point of Cefn Coch, the boundary follows the northern edge of the plantation and descends a tributary valley which is incised into the steep northern valley side of the Afon Morda. At the confluence of the tributary stream with Afon Morda, the boundary turns to follow the Morda along its southeasterly course following the southern boundary of Cefn Coch.
- 3.37 At its confluence with another smaller stream valley, the boundary turns west following the course of the smaller stream up its incised valley before diverting south near the head of the valley to follow a well-defined field boundary and joining the Llwybr Ceiriog Trail as it descends into the Afon Cynllaith Valley southeast of Pen-y-gwely Reservoir. The boundary then turns to a more southeasterly direction following the Afon Cynllaith along the valley floor as far as the small settlement of Rhydycroesau.



### Rhydycroesau to Llansantffraid-Ym-Mechain

- 3.38 At Rhydycroesau the boundary crosses the B4590 and continues to follow the Cynllaith in a southwesterly direction as it flows downstream through Bryn-coch Dingle and the Rhydycroesau Woodlands. At the southern end of Bryn-Coch Dingle, it emerges from the narrow wooded valley and continues to follow the Welsh – English border along the meandering course of the Afon Cynllaith as the valley broadens out to the southwest. Coed Cochion covers the steep slopes to the east, within England and outside the Candidate Area.
- 3.39 At an unnamed road east of Llansilin, close to a property called Pont Pentre-gwyn, the boundary diverts east to follow a small tributary of the Afon Cynllaith before turning south away from the stream and follows the Welsh – English border, which in this location appears to have a somewhat arbitrary alignment with little reference to natural or man-made features on the ground.
- 3.40 The boundary joins the B4580 to the northwest of Graig-wen Wood, turns west briefly along the road and then south along a small tributary valley of the Afon Cynllaith as it rises in a southwesterly direction parallel to an unnamed road at the foot of the steeply sloping hill covered by Graig-wen Wood. Near the southern extents of this wood, the boundary swings west following field boundaries up the steep eastern slopes of Mynydd-y-Bryn. It continues in a broadly southwesterly direction along the Welsh – English border, mainly following the field boundaries through an area of elevated small-regular fields. After crossing the unnamed road to the east of Sycharth, it continues in a southerly direction along the straightened course of a small stream and then the Nant Goch stream along its incised and well-wooded valley, before crossing an unnamed road near the cluster of buildings at Nant Goch Farm. From here, the boundary diverts away from the watercourse to cross an open field and rejoin the course of the Afon Cynllaith near Pen-y-bont on the B4396. The boundary then follows the Afon Cynllaith along its meandering southeasterly course until it joins the Afon Tanat (River Tanat).
- 3.41 Continuing along the Welsh – English border, the boundary follows a short section of the Afon Tanat as it flows through the broad valley floor between the steeply rising land to the north and south. Just south of Glan-yr-afon Cottage, the boundary diverts away from the river to head south up the valley side along field boundaries to the west of Garth Wood. The boundary continues in a south westerly direction along the upper scarp edge of the Tanat Valley, before joining Gelli-Lwyd Lane and following this road south to its junction with another unnamed road close to a cluster of buildings at Cefn Ucha. The boundary follows this road for a short distance before turning east along a small tributary of Nant-y-Glyn as far as Winllan Lane. The boundary follows the lane south eastwards for a short distance until the roadside stream is culverted under the road. At this point, the boundary turns sharply north ascending the steep slope to the east of the property called Glyn. At the top of the steepest part of the slope it turns to follow the field boundaries in a broadly southwesterly direction across the higher ground. The boundary crosses the unnamed road which links Llanyblodwel to Llansantffraid-ym-mechain and continues southeast following a footpath past Coed yr Erw-hir which descends into the Tanat Valley and the A495 near Bryn Tanat Hall.
- 3.42 The boundary departs from the Welsh English Border to follow the A495 briefly in a southwesterly direction to Pen-y-maes Lane close to the Afon Tanat (River Tanat). The boundary then follows the A495 westwards to Llansantffraid-Ym-Mechain.

## SECTION 3: LLANSANTFFRAID-YM-MECHAIN TO NEUADD BRIDGE (BOUNDARY ATLAS SHEETS 11, 12, 13 & 14)

### Introduction

- 3.43 The boundary of the Candidate Area is aligned with the A495 as it runs through the Meifod Valley, between Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain and Neuadd Bridge. The assessment which was informed by detailed field work

confirmed the A495 as a pragmatic physical boundary to follow in an area of transitional landscape between the Berwyn uplands and the rolling hills and valleys of Welshpool and defines a landscape of sufficient Natural Beauty to merit inclusion within the Candidate Area.

3.44 Given that this is a short section of the boundary, it is not subdivided into shorter descriptive sections.

### Evaluation Areas in this Section

- EA26: Tanat Valley
- EA30: Severn Farmlands North
- EA32: Severn Farmlands South
- EA29: Vyrnwy and Banwy Valley and Hills

### Detailed Boundary Description

3.45 This section starts east of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain where the A495 runs very close to the Afon Tanat. From here the boundary follows the main road in a southwesterly direction, crossing Nant-y-Glyn at Pemnisa'r-llan Bridge. At the northern edge of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain where it diverts off the A495 to follow the northern edge of the settlement which is excluded from the Candidate Area along the foot of Foel Hill.

3.46 West of the cemetery the boundary crosses the B4395 and a dismantled railway line before following field boundaries in a southerly direction through open farmland and rejoins the A495 near the well-treed stream valley of the Afon Cain (River Cain). From here it continues to follow the A495 at the foot of the steep western valley side of the Vyrnwy Valley. Continuing along the A495 past its junctions with the A490, the boundary follows the well-defined break in slope where the wide flat valley floor meets the steep wooded western valley side, which rises to Moel y Main and Allt y Main.

3.47 South of Allt Y Main the boundary continues along the A495 in a southwesterly direction toward Meifod where it diverts south of the settlement edge and away from the road to include the more historic part of the village in the Candidate Area.

3.48 The boundary rejoins the A495 on the southwestern edge of the village and continues in a southwesterly direction along the A495 and passing the distinctive landform of Gallt yr Ancr and the small linear settlement of Glascoed before crossing the Afon Efyrynwy at Pont Neuadd Mechain close to its confluence of Afon Efyrynwy and Yr Hafesb.

After crossing the Afon Efyrynwy, the boundary continues along the A495 in a southwesterly direction, broadly following the course of Yr Hafesb and passing to the south of a caravan park at the foot of the steep and well-wooded hillslopes of Ffridd Mathrafal. South of Dolgead Hall, the boundary joins the A458 at Neuadd Bridge.

## SECTION 4: NEUADD BRIDGE TO ERYRI NATIONAL PARK (BOUNDARY ATLAS SHEETS 14, 15 & 16)

### Introduction

3.49 The boundary of the Candidate Area is aligned with the A458 as it runs through the Banwy Valley, between Neuadd Bridge and Eryri National Park. The assessment which was informed by detailed field work confirmed the A495 as a pragmatic physical boundary to follow in an area of transitional landscape between the Berwyn Mountains to the north and the Cambrian Mountains to the south. It defines a landscape of sufficient Natural Beauty to merit inclusion within the Candidate Area.

3.50 Given that this section of the boundary has few settlements or built features of note, it is not subdivided into shorter descriptive sections.

### Evaluation Areas in this Section

- EA29: Vyrnwy and Banwy Valley and Hills
- EA25: Berwyn Mountains South

### Detailed Boundary Description

- 3.51 This section starts on the A458 at its crossing of the Afon Banwy (River Banwy) at Neuadd Bridge. Immediately after the bridge it passes Neuadd Bridge Caravan Park which is situated next to the river to the south of the road outside the Candidate Area. It then continues along the A458 as the road to run in a northwesterly direction along the valley of the Afon Einion (River Einion).
- 3.52 After crossing the Afon Einion, the boundary runs through the narrow gap between the steep slopes of Moel Bentyrch to the north of the road and Disgwylfa to the south (outside the area), before heading to Llanerfyl in the Banwy Valley. It briefly diverts off the A458 to pass around the north side of Llanerfyl which is excluded from the Candidate Area, before rejoining the A458 close to the Afon Banwy at the western edge of the village.
- 3.53 After crossing the Afon Banwy, the boundary continues to follow the A458 through the valley floor of the Afon Banwy, passing through Llangadfan, including settlement north of the road within the Candidate Area where it crosses Glyndwrs Way.
- 3.54 At the small settlement of Foel the boundary crosses the Afon Twrch (River Twrch), a large tributary of the Afon Banwy which flows south into the Banwy Valley from Dyfnant Forest and the uplands to the north. It then continues along the A458 which broadly aligns with the north side of the Afon Banwy Valley.
- 3.55 Heading westward, the boundary ascends as the valley narrows and rises as it draws closer to the upper reaches of the Afon Banwy and the edge of Eryri National Park.
- 3.56 At Pont Nant-y-dugod, the boundary meets and joins the Eryri National Park boundary where it turns north to follow the course of the Afon Dugod (River Dugod).

## SECTION 5: ERYRI NATIONAL PARK TO THE UPPER DYFFRYN DYFRDWY – DEE VALLEY (BOUNDARY ATLAS SHEETS 16, 17 18 & 19)

### Introduction

- 3.57 The Candidate Area boundary follows the existing boundary of Eryri National Park through the rugged and remote uplands between Pont Nant-y-Dugod and the Afon Dyfrdwy Valley (Dee Valley) near Llandderfel. The National Park boundary is also the administrative boundary between Gwynedd and Powys.
- 3.58 The assessment which was informed by detailed field work confirmed the existing boundary of the National Park remained a robust line to follow and defines a landscape of sufficient Natural Beauty to merit inclusion within the Candidate Area.

## Evaluation Areas in this Section

- EA25: Berwyn Mountains South
- EA27: Llyn Efyrrwy
- EA21: Berwyn Mountains North
- EA20: Mynydd Mynyllod and the Dee Valley

## Detailed Boundary Description

- 3.59 This section starts at Pont Nant-y-Dugoed and the boundary of the Eryri National Park boundary where it turns north to follow the course of the Afon Dugoed (River Dugoed).
- 3.60 The boundary follows the boundary of the National Park north along the valley floor as it ascends into the uplands, passing to west of the large commercial forestry plantation at Llechwedd Du within the Candidate Area. It then crosses an area of open and remote upland of the southern Berwyn, broadly running along the highest points of the Berwyn plateau and skyline of the Afon Dyfi (River Dovey) and Dinas Mawddwy valley to the west just outside the Candidate Area. Named summits which the boundary crosses or passes very close to include Drum Ddu, Carreg y Frân, Carreg y Big, Bryn Glâs, Craig Y Pant, after which the boundary descends slightly to cross the unnamed road connecting Lake Vyrnwy with the Afon Dyfi Valley.
- 3.61 After crossing the road, the boundary turns in a slightly northeasterly direction, passing Foel y Groes, to the summit of Moel y Cerrig Duon, and the upper reaches of several tributaries of the Afon Eiddew (River Eiddew), Afon Nadroedd (River Nadroedd) and Afon Yn y Groed (River Yn y Groes) which flow into Lake Vyrnwy.
- 3.62 At the Afon Nadroedd, the boundary turns sharply south eastwards to follow the watercourse downstream, to a block of plantation woodland at the foot of Foel Y Garnedd. The boundary turns northwards following the forest /moorland edge before following the Nant Nadroedd Bach upstream to the road crossing between Bala and Llyn Vyrnwy.
- 3.63 After this road the boundary takes a straight line north eastwards to a boarder stone at Stac Rhos and another at the head of Bwlch Cam to the south of Penllyn Forest (outside the Candidate Area). The boundary then crosses Cynriau Nod before heading north eastwards to Bryn Melyn-bâch then descends a tributary of the Nant Cwm Pydew to join the B4391 just northwest of Pont Cwm Pydew
- 3.64 The boundary follows the B4391 down Cwm Sian Llwyd in a northerly direction and passing east of Queen's Quarry and Llandderfel Quarry before turning to a northwesterly direction and descending through Coed Ty'n-y-gwrych to a hairpin bend in the road, where the boundary turns sharply to the south as it drops down into the Dyffryn Penllyn, crossing the Caletwr (River Caletwr), a tributary of the Afon Dyfrdwy (River Dee).
- 3.65 After crossing the river, the boundary continues to follow the B4391 in a northwesterly direction as the road runs along the base of the southern valley side of the Afon Dyfrdwy.
- 3.66 It continues along the B4391 until near the property called Ty-tan-y-graig where the boundary diverts northwards across the valley floor and away from the Eryri National Park boundary which continues westwards along the south side of the Afon Dyfrdwy Valley.

## SECTION 6: UPPER DYFFRYN DYFRDWY (DEE VALLEY) TO LLANFAIR DYFFRYN CLWYD (BOUNDARY ATLAS SHEETS 20, 21 & 22)

### Introduction

3.67 The Candidate Area boundary through this section is based on the assessment which was informed by detailed field work and broadly follows the upper Dyffryn (Dee Valley), before crossing it at Corwen, crossing the Dyffryn Morwynion near Morfydd and then entering the Dyffryn Clwyd (Vale of Clwyd) near Llanellidan. It follows the outer edges of two LANDMAP Visual and Sensory units, a section of county boundary between Gwynedd and Denbighshire and a section of National Landscape boundary north of Cynwyd. It defines a landscape of sufficient Natural Beauty to merit inclusion within the Candidate Area.

### Evaluation Areas in this Section

- EA20: Mynydd Mynyllod and the Dee Valley
- EA21: Berwyn Mountains North
- EA19: Dee Valley and Llangollen
- EA17: Llantysilio to Ruabon Mountain
- EA16: Pwll-Glâs

### Detailed Boundary Description

#### Dyffryn Penllyn to Llandrillo

- 3.68 This section starts at the boundary of Eryri National Park on the B4391 near the property called Ty-tan-y-graig. From here the boundary turns north off the B4391 to cross the Dyffryn Penllyn, a disused railway line and the Afon Dyfrdwy before joining the B4401 north of the river and turning east to follow this road around the afforested lower slopes of Ffridd Bodweni. South of the property called Tyn-y-ddol, the boundary turns north off the B4401 and broadly follows a combination of field boundaries and woodland edges along the toe of the hill slopes that form the western valley side of the Afon Dyfrdwy. The boundary passes to the west of Llandderfel which is included in the Candidate Area. It turns east to follow a small stream, crossing the Cefnddwysarn (road) and continuing to follow the stream into a wooded valley before it turns north along field boundaries before joining the B4402 north of Llandderfel. It follows this road northwards broadly parallel to a tributary of the Afon Dyfrdwy and passes around the toe of Moel y Calch (within the Candidate Area).
- 3.69 As the B4402 turns west, the boundary diverts off the road continuing in a broadly northerly direction and follows the access track to the property called Cae-Coryn. Passing around the north side of Cae-Coryn, it turns southeast following field boundaries across the well treed hillslopes below Ffridd yr Henbias (outside the Candidate Area). The boundary then continues eastwards and crosses the unnamed road before joining the course of Nant Gwastadedd (the county boundary of Gwynedd and Denbighshire). It then follows the course of the stream south before diverting away from the stream in a southwesterly direction along the edge of Coed Dol-y-gadfa to Pioneer Road. The boundary crosses the Afon Dyfrdwy valley floor south eastwards, over a disused railway, the river, briefly following the access road to Crogan Estate before meeting the B4401 on the south side of the floodplain. It then follows the B4401 which aligns with the foot of the southern valley side.

- 3.70 The boundary follows the B4401 eastwards towards Llandrillo. The boundary follows the B4401 through the village, making a small diversion north of the road and to the west of the Afon Ceidiog (River Ceidiog) to include the Conservation Area and St Trillo's Church. The settlement north of the B4401 is otherwise excluded from the Candidate Area.

#### Llandrillo To Morwynion Valley

From Llandrillo, the boundary continues along the B4401 in a northeasterly direction along the eastern side of the Afon Dyfrdwy floodplain and crosses the Afon Llynor (River Llynor) at Pont yr Hendwr. The valley floor is outside the Candidate Area.

- 3.71 At Cynwyd the boundary continues along the B4401 through the centre of the village with settlement to the east of the B4401 included within the Candidate Area. The boundary briefly coincides with the North Berwyn Way. Some 500m north of Cynwyd, the boundary joins the National Landscape boundary and diverts northwards away from the road along a short section of footpath that crosses open fields toward the Afon Dyfrdwy (River Dee) and Hen Eglwys Plwyf Llangar (Llangar Old Parish Church). Here it turns in a more northeasterly direction following the National Landscape boundary and North Berwyn Way along right hand bank of the Afon Dyfedwy (River Dee). Before Corwen, the boundary crosses the Afon Dyfrdwy (River Dee) on a footbridge and follows the North Berwyn Way along the left hand bank of the river northeastwards to Pont Corwen, where the A5 crosses the river. The boundary continues to follow the left hand bank of the river as it flows around the north side of Corwen (included within the Candidate Area) and to the south of Trewyn Fawr (outside the Candidate Area). To the southeast of Trewyn Fawr the boundary turns sharply northwards, briefly joining a section of green lane and the North Berwyn Way towards the B5437.
- 3.72 At the B5437 where the North Berwyn Way meets the Dee Valley Way, the boundary follows the Dee Valley Way northwestwards along a section of the disused railway line below the steep slopes that rise to Caer Drewyn Hillfort (within the Candidate Area). Still following the boundary of the National Landscape, the boundary then turns north eastwards along a short section of the unnamed road that links the B5437 with the A5104. It turns east off the road and away from the Dee Valley Way following field boundaries along the break of slope between the valley floor and rising slopes of Llantysilio Hills included within the Candidate Area. A line of overhead powerlines parallels this section of the Candidate Area and lies outside the area except for one short section. The boundary crosses a B-road before turning northwards across the floor of the Morwynion Valley where it joins the A5104.

#### Morwynion Valley to Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd

- 3.73 The boundary follows the A5104 for approximately 100m before diverting northward along the access track to the property called Bryn Tangor (outside the Candidate Area), and away from the A5104 and the National Landscape boundary. North of the property the boundary follows the west and northern edge of a small plantation at Moel Truan and runs in a broadly northeasterly direction along field boundaries and a footpath before turning north near the property called Pwll-pridd and joining a lane to the west of a property called Casgen-Highgate. Both properties lie within the Candidate Area.
- 3.74 Running west along the lane for a short distance, the boundary turns north along a shallow stream valley. It then follows a series of field boundaries and a farm access track, eventually meeting an unnamed road near the property called Groes-wen (outside the Candidate Area). The boundary then turns north off this road heading north westwards, with several changes in direction as it follows field boundaries, an unnamed road, woodland edges and stream courses. The boundary meets an unnamed road at a property called Hafotty to the west of Cae Coed (both lie within the Candidate Area). From here the boundary follows the lane northwards towards Llanelidan.
- 3.75 At Llanelidan the boundary briefly joins the B5429 before turning north along the unnamed road that links the B5429 with the A494 near Nantclwyd Hall.



3.76 From Nantclwyd Hall the boundary follows the A494 northwards along the western edge of the Afon Clwyd (River Clwyd) Valley towards Pwll-glâs. Except for a row of houses along the southern edge of the A494, the village of Pwll-glâs is excluded from the Candidate Area. Continuing along the A494, the valley narrows significantly at Eyrarth House Wood. At the eastern edge of the woodland the landscape opens into the Vale of Clwyd. The boundary turns off the A494 along the unnamed road to Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd, crossing the Afon Clwyd and a disused railway line before ascending into the village. The boundary follows the road through the village. Where it meets the A525 it turns north briefly and follows the edge of the Conservation Area which includes the church of St Cynfarch (St Mary). Settlement north of the road is otherwise excluded from the Candidate Area. After joining the A525 in the centre of the village, the boundary follows Church Mews Road eastwards across the Vale towards the rising Clwydian Hills and the National Landscape Boundary which follows the B3429. This brings us full circle and concludes the Candidate Area boundary description.

## 4 APPENDIX 1: NATURAL RESOURCES WALES' DETAILED BOUNDARY SETTING GUIDANCE

The following guidance is extracted from Natural Resources Wales (2022) Procedural Guidance: Statutory Landscape Designation (GN 10)

### DETAILED BOUNDARY SETTING

The Candidate Areas and Desirability to Designate Assessments provide evidence to inform where a draft boundary might be considered for a new National Park or AONB, or for the extension to an existing landscape designation. Candidate Areas that don't fully or only partially met the designation criteria, may be excluded at this stage. This is often more likely for areas that are on the edge of the proposed designation. As set out previously, land that does not fully meet the criteria may be included as 'wash over areas' as there is no legal requirement for each individual parcel of land to qualify provided it sits within a wider tract of qualifying land.

Decisions on boundary setting adhere to a range of principles and conventions that NRW and Natural England adhere to. This ensures that decisions are made in a clear and consistent basis. Each section of proposed boundary is defined using the spatial evidence and application of the boundary setting considerations.

## BOUNDARY SETTING CONSIDERATIONS

### TRANSITION AREAS

The boundary is not usually a sharp distinction between areas of differing quality. Often there will be a transition of natural beauty and opportunities for open-air recreation across a sweep of land: in those cases, the boundary chosen should be an easily identifiable feature within this transition. The boundary is usually drawn towards the high-quality end of the transition to include areas of high-quality land and excludes areas of lesser quality land. Visual associations may also be used to help define the extent of land for inclusion in these circumstances.

### TYPES OF BOUNDARY

Wherever possible, an easily distinguishable permanent physical boundary feature should be chosen. Boundaries should be clear and unambiguous. Where a boundary follows a road, the road verges and embankments may be included in the designation where they blend into the wider landscape.

### ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES

Where local government boundaries follow suitable lines, it may be administratively convenient to adopt them. In many cases, however, they will be unsuitable. Land ownership is not itself a reason for including or excluding land from designation. There will often be instances where part of a landholding sits within the designated area and part sits outside.

### INCLUSION OF SETTLEMENTS

A settlement should only be included if it lies within a wider tract of qualifying land, having regard to the influence of the settlement on the land in question. Each settlement should be assessed on its individual merits, with particular consideration on the character, qualities and relationship to adjoining countryside. The extent to which countryside penetrates the built-up area may also be relevant.

### INTEGRITY OF SETTLEMENTS

Towns or villages should not normally be cut in two by a National Park or AONB boundary. The ability of a settlement to act as a gateway to a designated area is not dependent on its inclusion with a designation. A settlement does not equate to a community council area and the division of community council areas is acceptable in drawing a boundary.

### INCONGRUOUS DEVELOPMENT

Unightly development on the edge of a National Park or AONB should generally be excluded unless it is of a temporary or transient nature.

### LAND ALLOCATED FOR DEVELOPMENT

Land on the margins of a National Park or AONB identified in development plans or having the benefit of planning permission for major built developments (including the extraction of minerals and other deposits) should normally be excluded from a National Park or AONB, unless the land will be developed or restored to a land use and quality which contributes to Park or AONB purposes. Land cannot be included merely to seek to protect it from legitimate development proposals.

### FEATURES OF INTEREST

Areas and features of wildlife, geological, geomorphological, historic, cultural or architectural value which are situated on the margins of a National Park or AONB should be included where practicable providing that they are situated within a tract that meets the statutory criteria.

## MARINE BOUNDARIES

In coastal areas where a marine boundary is to be drawn, the boundary should follow the mean low water mark or the County boundary in the case of estuaries.

The proposed boundary is mapped, and each section is accompanied by a detailed explanation and justification setting out why the area is included. This detailed description is essential to ensure that the correct areas and features are included in any future designation, also that the correct features are identifiable on the ground that the boundary follows.

For some areas it may be appropriate to consider a number of different options of where a boundary could be considered. It is usual practice to refine these draft boundaries informed by technical expertise, detailed assessment of evidence and fieldwork to develop a single proposed boundary for the area.

Proposed boundaries are often an area of public interest and may be subject to refinement following public and statutory consultation. As part of Welsh Ministers' consideration of any Designation Order made by NRW, they will take into account the proposed boundaries; any representations or objections received; and whether the provisions of the legislation should apply to the proposed area. Before confirming or making a designation order with or without modifications, Welsh Ministers have powers to consult NRW (Para 2(50) Schedule 1 of NPACA 1949 and S83 CROW 2000).

When defining the boundary, it is essential that for each section the following are recorded:

- Issues influencing the boundary line
- Identifiable features that have been used which the boundary follows
- Relevance or use of administrative boundaries
- Inclusion or exclusion of settlements close to the edge
- Current development management considerations relevant to the boundary
- Inclusion or exclusion of features of interest on the edge
- Where a boundary is part of an existing designation boundary review, issues associated with the existing designation boundary may also be recorded and corrected.

The mapping of a boundary must also follow cartographic drafting conventions based on case law, including Ordnance Survey Guidance on Boundary Making. These include the following:

- Main roads and railways which form a boundary should generally be excluded. Boundaries should generally be mapped to the edge of the metalled highway. However, where there are embankments or cuttings the boundary should be drawn along the outer edge or fence line, and embankments/cuttings excluded.
- Where a boundary follows a minor track, quiet lane or right of way, these features should be included.
- Where a boundary follows a feature which moves with time, including small watercourses, or Mean High or Low Watermark, the boundary is fixed to the feature and will move with it if it changes due to natural processes. Any subsequent manmade changes to the course of a watercourse would not however result in movement of the boundary.
- Viaducts, flyovers, piers and overhead gantries are not classified as ground features and do not form suitable boundary features.
- Where there is no fixed feature on the ground, a boundary may be drawn in a straight line between two identifiable features.

# GILLESPIES

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