

Welsh Language Impact Assessment Form

This Welsh Language Impact Assessment enables NRW to consider the principles and requirements of our Welsh Language Standards in relation to the Policy Making Standards (Standards 84 – 89) and to ensure compliance with The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

The [Welsh Language Impact Assessment Guidance](#) must be read prior to completing this form to ensure that all the considerations are considered and to ensure compliance with our Welsh Language Standards.

(Mae'r ffurflen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd)
(This form is also available in Welsh)

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Title of Proposal | Wales's New National Park Proposal |
| Name of team completing assessment | Designated Landscapes Programme Team and Welsh Language Specialist Advisor |
| Date assessment started | October 2024 |
| Version number | Version 1 Version 2 updated July 2025 following NRW Board Decision |

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|---|--|
| Date assessment finalised | |
| Date of assessment review if applicable | Assessment will continue to be reviewed throughout the lifetime of the project |

Give a description of the proposal its aims and objectives

In its Programme for Government (2021-2026), The Welsh Government set out its intention to designate a new National Park based on the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape (formerly an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or AONB).

NRW is the Welsh Government's statutory adviser on landscape and natural beauty and the designating authority for any new National Park or National Landscape (AONB). As a result, Welsh Government commissioned Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to evaluate the case for this designation.

NPAC 1949 makes legislative provision for NRW to designate new National Parks in Wales.

Section 5(2) of the NPAC 1949 lists the criteria NRW must cover in considering a National Park designation. The Act defines that a National Park must be an 'extensive tract of country in Wales which it appears to NRW, meets statutory requirements in terms of its:

(a) natural beauty and:

(b) the opportunities it affords for open-air recreation

And that having regard to both its character and its position in relation to centres of population, it is considered to be especially desirable that it is designated for National Park purposes. Natural beauty and opportunities for open-air recreation are therefore the designation criteria which must be satisfied for an area to be designated. The purposes of a National Park once designated, are set out in Section 5(1) NPAC as follows:

- conserving and enhancing its natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and
- promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public.

The purposes of a designation once designated are not the same as the designation criteria which must be satisfied in order to designate the area. This distinction can be overlooked and lead to a misunderstanding of what can be considered when undertaking a designation process.

The legislation directs NRW to consider all of these elements.

National Parks are important for our environment. They help us to:

- tackle the nature emergency
- achieve more sustainable tourism

The Environment Act 1995 notes that the National Parks of Wales have two purposes:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks; and
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities (of the park) by the public

National Park Authorities have legal duties to:

- Prepare, consult and publish a management plan for the National Park area
- Seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park
- Prepare, consult and publish the Local Development Plan
- Undertake the local development management planning function

As the statutory designating authority NRW is expected to:

- consult with local communities and relevant local authorities
- assess the geographical features in the area
- check the suitability of the area against legal definitions of what a National Park should be
- determine the ideal boundaries of the new park
- make recommendations to our Ministers

The proposed area identified for a potential new National Park cover areas within of Powys, Wrexham, Flintshire, Denbighshire and Gwynedd Local Authorities.

[Proposed Candidate Area Boundary Map for New National Park](#)

Does the proposal contribute to Welsh language legislation or strategies in place?

NRW's work in evaluating the case for a new National Park has complied with NRW's Welsh Language Standards in ensuring that all public information published is available in Welsh with engagement sessions, online and face to face proactively providing the opportunity for other to engage with us in Welsh. All the information for the consultation on the park boundary during Autumn 2024 was available in Welsh and provided the opportunity for feedback to be provided in Welsh. More information can be found under the heading "Could the proposal affect the use of the Welsh language" below on the engagement and consultation which took place.

The creation of a new National Park Authority would be a new public organisation, and would contribute to the following Welsh language legislation and strategies in place as part of their legislative duties: -

1. Article 7 – European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages

Under Article 7 - European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (which the Welsh language is included), it is a duty on public organisations to:

- Safeguard minority languages through facilitating and encouraging their use in public and private life.
- Consider the linguistic impact decisions made can affect the use of the language.
- Obligation to consult and seek views of Welsh language users.

2. Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

Public organisations are subject to Welsh Language Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and have a legal duty to provide Welsh language services to the public of Wales equal to the services provided in English. This also includes services to their own workforce by providing opportunities for colleagues to work through the medium of Welsh, provide training opportunities to develop their language skills with the aim of increasing the use of Welsh.

In implementing the Standards, The Authority would be required to assess each new or vacant post for Welsh language skills. All public facing roles who deal with customers, partners, stakeholders and local communities etc will require sufficient capability within The Authority to provide a Welsh language service.

Section 26 and 29 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 relates to our Policy Making Standards (Standards 84 – 89) within our Welsh Language Standards policies and prioritises:

- The need for public organisations to consider what effects (positive, negative or negligible) decisions can have on the use of the language, and ensuring the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language.

A new National Park Authority would be subject to Welsh Language Standards No 1 Regulations – One of the requirements of the No 1 Regulations standards will be to adopt a 5-year Strategy that sets out how the Authority proposes to promote the Welsh language and to facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely in the National Parks area.

3. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 (“the Act”) gives a legally binding common purpose namely the seven well-being goals. One of the seven well-being goals are as follows: A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Wales of Vibrant Culture and thriving Welsh Language A Globally responsible Wales.

For the Authority the core duty in the Act (the well-being duty) is that the Authority must set well-being objectives that maximise its contribution to achieving the well-being goals set out above, and must take all reasonable steps to meet those wellbeing objectives in accordance with the sustainable development principle.

4. **Welsh Government Cymraeg 2050 Strategy Cymraeg 2050:** A million Welsh speakers (gov.wales) aims to see the number of Welsh speakers increasing to a million by 2050. The strategy has three themes for increasing the use of the language:

Increasing the number of Welsh speakers

- Languages transmission in families
- Statutory education
- Post compulsory education
- The education workforce, resources, and qualifications

Increasing the use of Welsh

- The workplace
- Social use of Welsh

- Services

Creating favourable conditions – infrastructure and context

- Community and economy
- Culture and media
- Wales and the wider world
- Digital technology
- Linguistic infrastructure
- Language planning
- Evaluation and research

A new National Park Authority would contribute to the aims and objectives of Cymraeg 2050, through its core work as a public authority in Wales, promoting the use of Welsh its culture and heritage, employment of Welsh speakers, provide opportunities for their staff to develop language skills and provide their services in Welsh to the public, customers, stakeholders and staff.

5. [Historical Environment Records in Wales](#)

Under the provisions of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (the Act),³ Welsh Ministers must compile and keep up to date a historic environment record for each local authority area in Wales. They must also make the historic environment records publicly accessible and provide advice and assistance to those wishing to retrieve and understand the information that they contain.

National Parks are one of the public bodies who must have regard to the above guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers and contribute to the compilation of historic environment records and assist in keeping them up to date, using these records in exercising their function.

This work will help to ensure that Historic Welsh Place Names continue to be used verbally and on record for future generations.

Current linguistic profile of the geographical area(s) concerned if applicable

Use Census 2021 data [Welsh language, Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/people-and-population/population-statistics/articles/welsh-language-wales/2021) and Welsh Government Annual Population Survey [Welsh language data from the Annual Population Survey: October 2022 to September 2023 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/population-survey/welsh-language-data)

The map below shows the Welsh speaking skills of those living within the candidate area for the proposed National Park

Welsh Speaking Skills in the Candidate Area

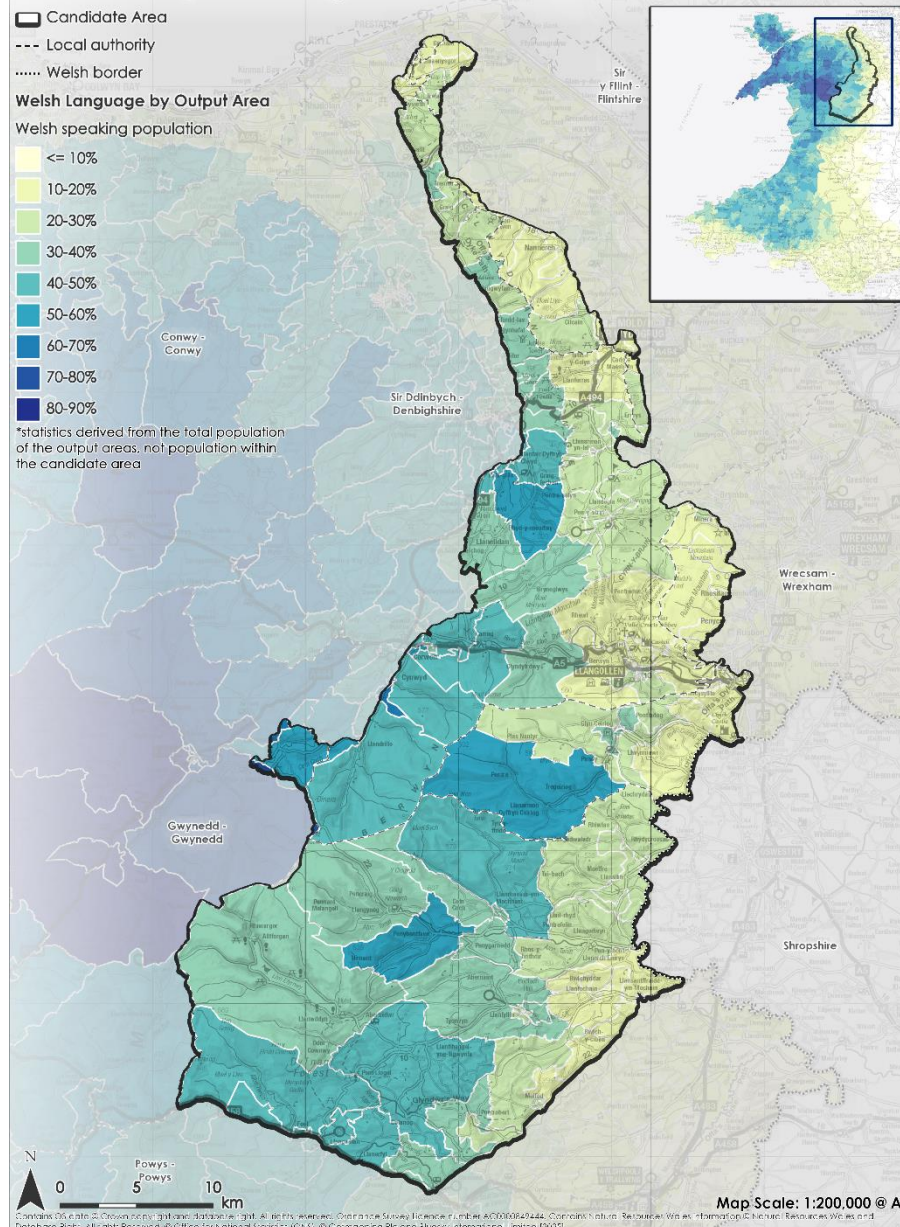
- Candidate Area
- Local authority
- Welsh border

Welsh Language by Output Area

Welsh speaking population

- <= 10%
- 10-20%
- 20-30%
- 30-40%
- 40-50%
- 50-60%
- 60-70%
- 70-80%
- 80-90%

*statistics derived from the total population of the output areas, not population within the candidate area



The above candidate map shows the areas within the proposed boundary where the density of Welsh speakers and Welsh speaking communities can be found within the area. Though the number of Welsh speakers within the boundary are low in some of the communities, the map shows there are a number of communities where over 50% of the population are Welsh speakers, where the language will be used as a community language. During our public engagement sessions, a number of those present had a good awareness of the culture and language and its importance to the area, with a number having received Welsh lessons in school, though did not consider themselves as Welsh speakers.

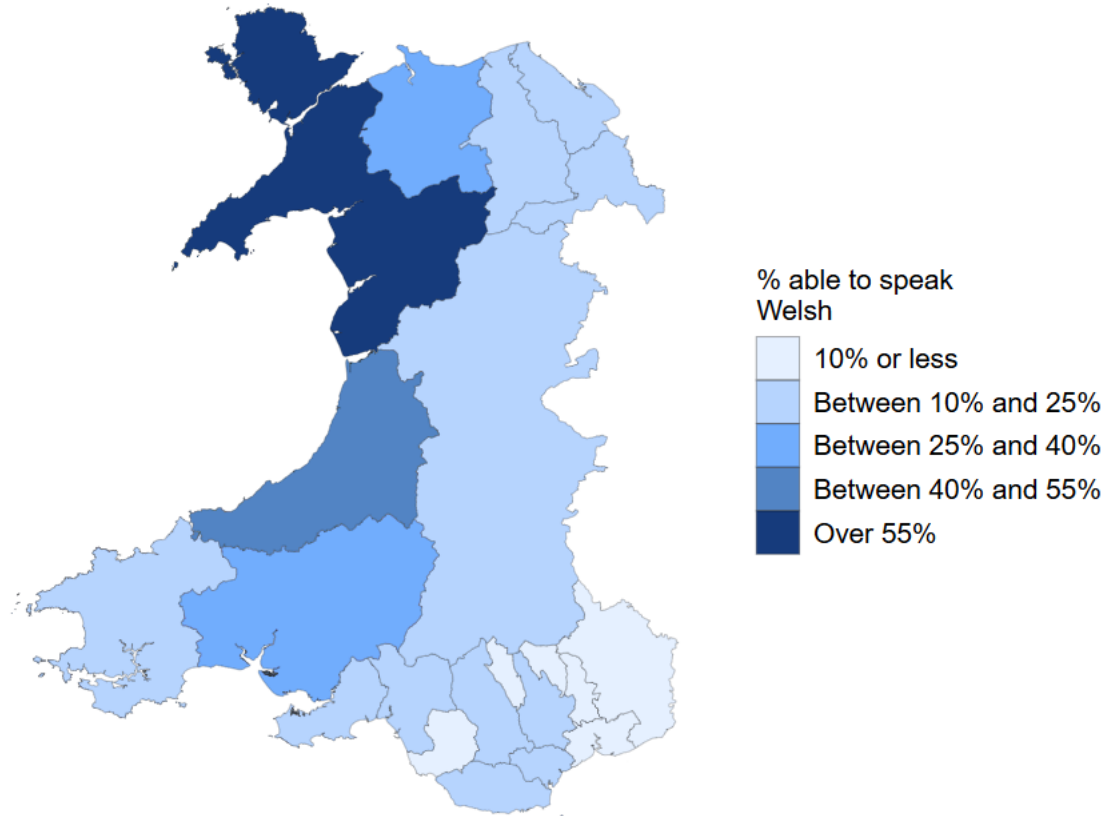
The map shows that the areas with the highest density of Welsh speakers are the traditional farming and rural communities within the proposed boundary. According to Welsh Government 29.5% of those employed in the agricultural industry are Welsh speakers and is the sector which employs the highest numbers of Welsh speakers. The candidate map above also supports this statistic.

Those employed in the agricultural industry are at the heart rural communities where the language is used daily, with the majority living and conducting their business through the medium of Welsh naturally in their daily lives. These farming communities also help to maintain the cultural traditions and way of life passing it down to future generations.

Historically farming has played a big part in Wales' history and culture with the landscape and language intertwined. The names of fields are just one example of how farming and how the fields were used and farmed have influenced their names, which have been passed down the generations and continue to be used to this day. Also to note the majority of our topographic names only have Welsh names, which are descriptive of mountains, hills, valleys and rivers and reflect a direct human response to the environment.

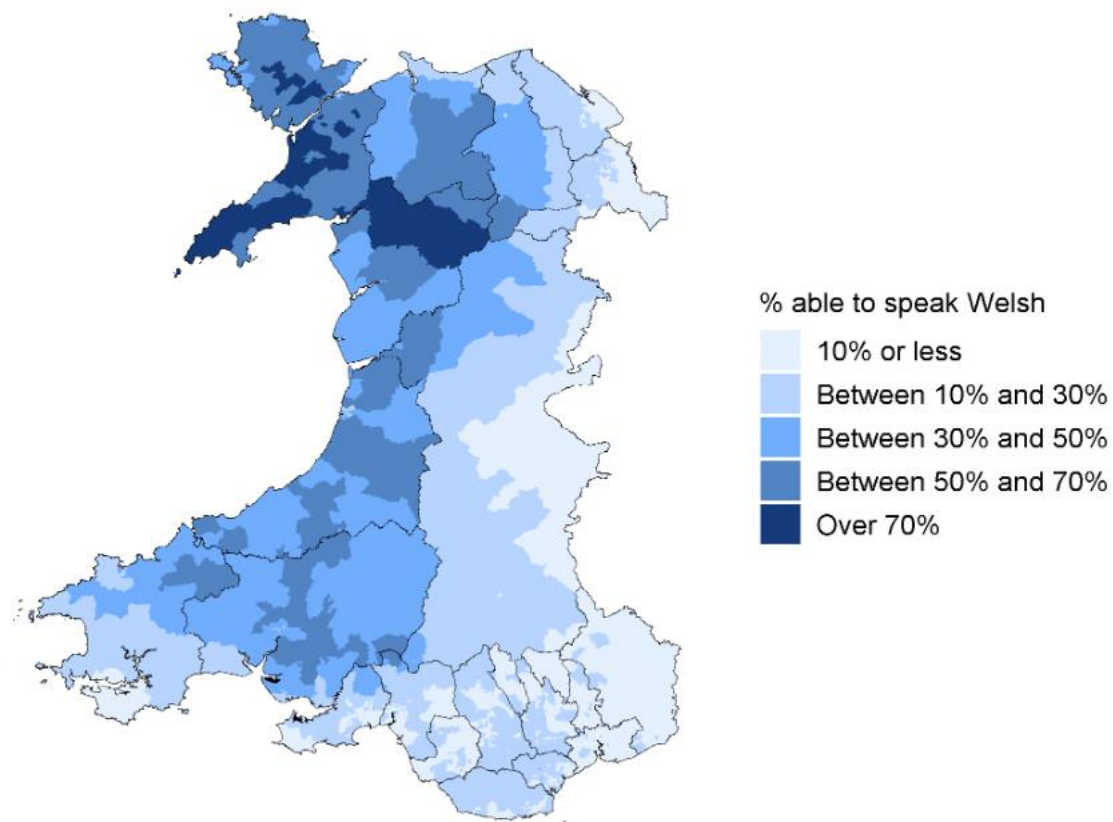
Census 2021 data

The map below shows the where Welsh speakers aged three and over live by Local Authority, with the highest percentages shown being in North-West Wales and lowest in South-East Wales.



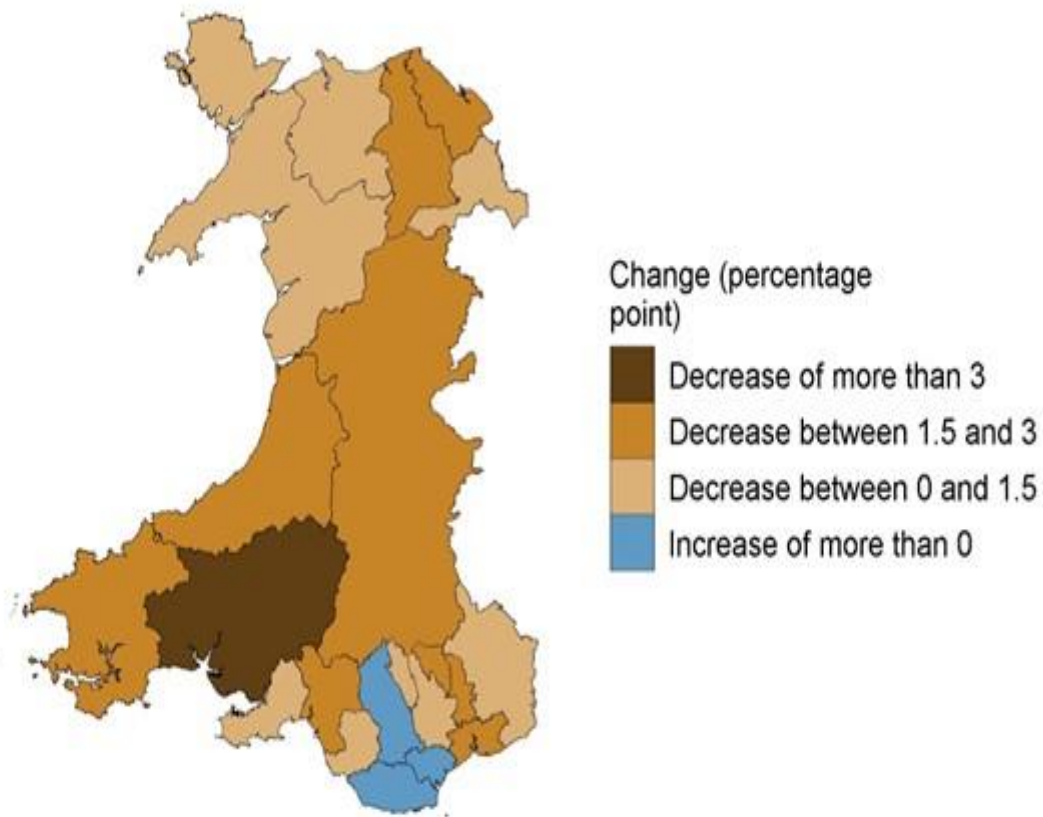
Source: Census of population, 2021

The map below shows in more detail where within Local Authorities the density of Welsh speakers aged three and older live. With the highest percentage able to speak Welsh living in North-West Wales.



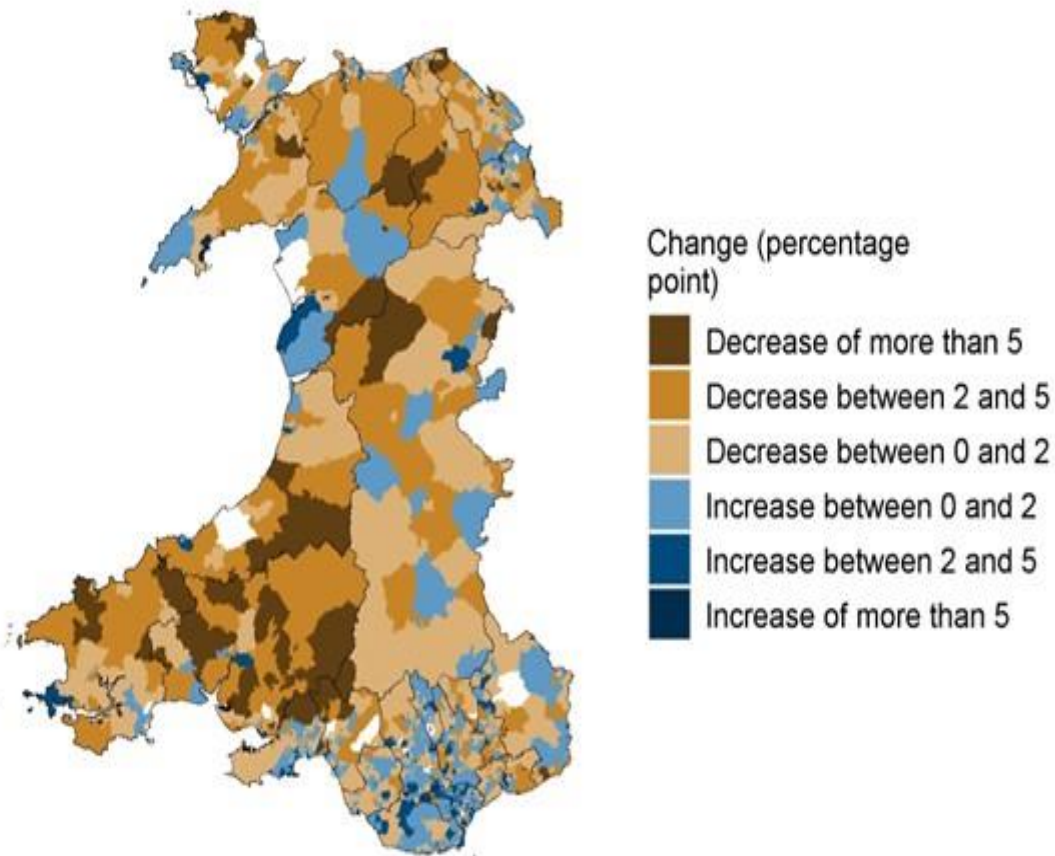
Source: Census of population, 2021

The map below shows the change in proportion able to speak Welsh, by Local Authority, 2011 and 2021



Source: Census of population, 2011 and 2021

The map below shows the change in proportion able to speak Welsh, by Lower Layer Super Output Area, 2011 and 2021



Source: Census of population, 2011 and 2021

The Census 2021 data shows that 17.8% (538,300) of people in Wales over the age of 3 are able to speak Welsh. The Local Authorities with the highest percentage of Welsh speakers are Gwynedd (64.4%), Isle of Anglesey (55.8%), Ceredigion (45.3%) and Carmarthenshire (39.9%). The local authority with the highest number of Welsh speakers is Gwynedd (73,600), followed by Carmarthenshire (72,800). Welsh speakers of course can be found across the whole of Wales and in every Local Authority.

According to the 2021 Census, Carmarthenshire saw the largest decline in the percentage able to speak Welsh from 43.9% in 2011 to 39.9% in 2021. Powys, Denbighshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion all saw a decline of two or more percentage points

in the proportion of Welsh speakers. Increases in the proportion of Welsh speakers were seen in Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff

The decline within the candidate area compares unfavourably with the position in Eryri (probably reflecting the Education policy of Gwynedd) and the potential to focus more on language planning for this to create a positive change.

All local authorities that saw a decrease in the proportion of Welsh speakers, there was also a decrease in the total number of speakers.

Analysis of Census 2021 in relation to Welsh Language

- 17.8% (538,300) of population of Wales age 3+ can speak Welsh, this is a reduction of 23,700 since 2011 where 19% (562,000) could speak Welsh.
- The population has risen to 3,107,500, which is the highest number ever recorded and an increase of 1.4% (44,000) since 2011 Census where the population number was 3.06 million.
- 29.1% (905,000) of residents were born outside Wales this is an increase of 1.8% (68,000) since the 2011 Census, with an increase of 23,000 of people born in England living in Wales.

Census 2021 results show that the population of Wales has increased with more people born outside Wales recorded living here than the 2011 Census. Those born outside of Wales are less likely to be able to record that they can speak Welsh than those born here, and this of course influences the percentage who can speak Welsh.

Office for National Statistics from Census 2021

Office for National Statistics have analysed and published data and analysis on the population and communities across Wales by Local Authority as a whole as follows: -

[How life has changed in Flintshire: Census 2021.](#)

In relation to the Welsh language in Flintshire the highlights are: -

- Flintshire has a population of 155,000 in total, having increased by 1.6% since the 2011 Census
- 11.6% (17,980) are able to speak Welsh, this is a decrease of 1.5% from the 2011 Census
- 88.4% (137,020) are unable to speak Welsh, the number has increased by 5,500 since the 2011 Census

- 47.9% (74,245) have been born in Flintshire, with England being the next represented with 44.3% (68,665) who were born there

[How life has changed in Denbighshire: Census 2021](#)

In relation to the Welsh language in Denbighshire the highlights are: -

- Denbighshire has a population of 95,800, with the population having increased by 2.2% since 2011 Census
- 22.5% (21,555) are able to speak Welsh, this is a decrease of 2.1% from the 2011 Census
- 77.5% (74,245) are unable to speak Welsh, the number has increased by 3,800 since the 2011 Census
- 58.8% (56,400) have been born in Wales, with England being the next represented with 35.2% (33,700) who were born there.

[How life has changed in Wrexham: Census 2021](#)

In relation to the Welsh language in Wrexham the highlights are: -

- Wrexham has a population of 135,100 with the population having increased by 0.2% since the 2011 Census
- 12.2% (16,482) are able to speak Welsh, this is a decrease of 0.7% from the 2011 Census
- 87.8% (118,530) are unable to speak Welsh, the number has increased by 2,400 since the 2011 Census
- 67.9% (98,100) have been born in Wales, with England being the next represented with 23.2% (31,400) who were born there

[How life has changed in Powys: Census 2021](#)

In relation to the Welsh language in Powys the highlights are: -

- Powys has a population of 133,200, with the population having increased by 0.1% since 2011 Census
- 16.4% (21,844) are able to speak Welsh, this is a decrease of 2.2% from the 2011 Census
- 83.6% (111,355) are unable to speak Welsh, the number has increased by 3,500 since the 2011 Census
- 47% (62,604) have been born in Wales, with England being the next represented with 46.9% (62,470) who were born there

[How life has changed in Gwynedd: Census 2021](#)

In relation to the Welsh language in Gwynedd the highlights are: -

- Gwynedd has a population of 117,400 with the population having decreased by 3.7% since 2011 Census
- 64.4% (75,605) are able to speak Welsh, this is a decrease of 1% from the 2011 Census
- 35.6% (41,794) are unable to speak Welsh, the number has increased by 3,400 since the 2011 Census
- 66.9% (78,200) have been born in Wales, with England being the next represented with 27.1% (31,815) who were born there

To note – Gwynedd has the highest percentage and numbers of Welsh speakers in Wales, closely followed by Anglesey (55.8%) and Ceredigion (45.3%).

[Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) and Welsh Government joint work plan on coherence of Welsh language statistics](#)

Annual Population Survey for Wales

The Annual Population Survey for Wales estimates that 27.7% (851,700) of people in Wales over the age of 3 are able to speak Welsh. Children and young people account for 46.8% (237,600) of those able to speak Welsh. Highest percentage are in Gwynedd 77.9% (93,600), Denbighshire 34.4% (32,100), Flintshire 19.1% (29,600), Wrexham 24.6% (33,800) and Powys 32.2% (41,100).

Carmarthenshire 52.3% (93,300) and Cardiff 22.8% (83,300) are able to speak Welsh. The lowest numbers were in Blaenau Gwent 14% (9,500) and Merthyr Tydfil 18 % (10,600).

It is important to note here that the difference in the data between the Census and Annual Population Survey for Wales is due to the difference between the data sources and how it is collected etc. But Welsh Government have stated that this is the first time the Census data shows a decline in the number of Welsh speakers whilst the survey estimates that the numbers are increasing.

Census results and information is the official data set for Welsh language.

[Welsh language data from the Annual Population Survey: October 2023 to September 2024 | GOV.WALES](#)

The Commission for Welsh speaking Communities

The Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities was established by the Welsh Government in August 2024 released a report with recommendations for Welsh Government to develop public policy to strengthen Welsh speaking communities, which have

increasingly becoming under threat through migration of Welsh speakers out of Wales and non-Welsh speakers migrating into Wales.

[45614 Interim report by The Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales](#)

The report acknowledges that the economy, Welsh language workplaces, community development, housing, town and country planning, equality diversity and inclusion, education and community-based language planning are all important policy areas that need addressing to help the challenges Welsh speaking communities are facing.

Could the proposal affect the use of the Welsh Language?

NRW held an early engagement period in 2023 and a public consultation in 2024.

The engagement period in 2023 ran through October and November and was designed to share the study area, listen to views and collect information about local issues. The engagement period was publicised through the projects webpage, social media outlets plus local print and national news coverage on both the ITV and BBC evening news programmes.

Over seven hundred people (619 in person and 105 online). 966 questionnaire responses were received, and a summary report is available in the report found in the link below: -

(Wales's New National Park Proposal 2023 Engagement Period Report)

The public consultation in 2024 ran from 07/10/2024 to 16/12/2024. A draft boundary map (referred to as the 'Candidate Area') was shared alongside a series of new evidence collected in 2023-4, including:

A report on the special qualities of the area, A report on the forces already causing change to the special qualities, A report outlining the management options available to address those 'forces for change' and a detailed landscape evaluation report which identified which areas were thought to meet the statutory requirement for inclusion in a National Park.

The consultation encouraged participants to complete a feedback questionnaire, and the results were independently analysed and are available to view here. [Wales's New National Park Proposal - Public Consultation 2024 - Natural Resources Wales Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#)

Analysis from Public Consultation Responses in relation to Welsh language

Name for National Park: -

Working with the Royal commission on the ancient and historical monuments of Wales, Welsh Government and having taken advice from the Welsh Place-names standardisation panel, two options were identified as potentially suitable for the proposed National Park, both Welsh only names.

During the consultation 749 (49%) responded to favour Parc Cenedlaethol - Glyndŵr – National Park

424 (28%) responded to favour Parc Cenedlaethol – Bryniau Clwyd a'r Berwyn – National Park

347 (23%) suggested other names, however no single name emerged as a popular choice among these.

383 did not respond to the question

A Welsh only name will support The Authority in having a Welsh rather than a bilingual identity from the start.

Analysis of questions asked in consultation - effects the designation of a National Park would have on the Welsh language

A report of the responses and themes from the consultation questionnaire has been analysed and below is information from the feedback provided in relation to the Welsh language, culture and heritage. Question 8, 9 and 10 in the consultation questionnaire asked for specific feedback on effects on the Welsh language: -

Question 8 in the consultation asked: What is your Welsh language ability?

- 1834 responded to question 8 above
- 356 (19%) were fluent Welsh speakers
- 564 (30.10%) were able to understand and speak some Welsh
- 344 (18.36%) were learning Welsh
- 570 (30.42%) had no understanding of Welsh

- 77 (4.03%) did not respond to the question

Question 9 in the consultation asked: What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

1,126 individual responses were received to Question 9, and analysed into themes as below: -

General positive effects on the Welsh Language: -

- 144 (12.8%) of the responses to the question were categorised as the respondent feeling the designation of a National Park would have “a positive effect on the Welsh language by increased promotion of the language and culture to a wider audience, and in encouraging more use of Welsh by Welsh speaking staff employed in dealing with the public, both by the National Park Authority and tourism industry within the boundary area.e.g. *“Positive effects increased by exposing more people to Welsh language and culture’*.”

General negative effects on the Welsh Language: -

- 201 (17.9%) of the responses to the above question were categorised as the respondent feeling there would be a negative effect on the Welsh language if the area was designated as a National Park. Responses received noted that the designation would not help the use of the language due to its closeness to the English border and more use of English within the boundary, with those visiting not appreciating the importance of the language to Welsh culture and heritage.

Housing/ Holiday – second homes, housing costs, housing uses: -

- 172 (15.3%) who responded to Question 9 responded that the designation would have a negative effect on the language due to changes in housing availability, costs and uses.
- Concern raised there could be an increase in housing stock being purchased for holiday or second home use by people from outside the area, decreasing the availability of housing stock for local people, increasing in house prices leading to difficulties in locals purchasing houses in their home communities.
- 6 responded with suggested mitigation of these issues e.g. *‘If these effects are to be mitigated then local housing support must be considered and strict restrictions placed on the establishment of holiday lets and Airbnb’s and holiday homes and applications to change existing homes into businesses.’*

Infrastructure: -

- 60 (5.3%) responded felt that the designation would have a negative effect on the language due to the area’s infrastructure. These responses do not answer the question asked in question 9, and no correlation between the

standard of the infrastructure in the area could affect the Welsh language in the area. Though one response received stated how they would use the language with those visiting the area in cursing them in certain circumstances.

Tourism: -

- 118 (10.5%) responded on the effects the designation would have on the area due to tourism, responses received were both positive and negative in relation to the language.
- Negative responses were in relation to the increase in the number of visitors to the being detrimental to the language, others raised concern that the visitors will be English speaking hence services being provided in English including signage instead of the focus being on the use of Welsh signage and place names.
- Positive responses provides states that this would be an opportunity for the language to be introduced to more visiting the area, some also noted it would be important to ensure that those visiting the area could understand what was stated on signs and explaining the origin of place names which would be interesting to non-Welsh speakers.

Local Economy/ community: -

- 118 (10.5%) responses were received that the designation would have an impact on the language and on the local community and economy, or changes within it, with both positive and negative effects viewed.
- Positively it was felt that with the designation there would be more pride in the area for generations to come, and it may provide jobs for younger people helping them to stay in Wales.
- Negative comment stated the designation could potentially see native Welsh speakers having to leave the area.

Impact of spoken English: -

- 89 (7.9%) responses were received that the designation would affect the language due to the impact of English being spoken within the area.
- Positive impacts were received with a number responding that they did not believe there would be an effect on the language or its growth due to impact of spoken English within the park and that visitors should be welcomed.
- Positively response received saw the creation of a National Park would provide new opportunities to protect the language in the area.
- Negative impacts received noted that due to the close proximity of the proposed boundary to large English cities, the predominant language used would be English leading to less use of the language.

Promote Welsh language / heritage / culture: -

- 279 (24.7%) responded in relation to the effect the designation would have on promoting the language, heritage and culture.

- The majority of responses felt that the designation would have a positive effect on the language due to promotion of the language, heritage and culture of the area. Noting that it is an opportunity to expose those visiting the area to the language and elements of our culture. It was also noted that the development of visitor attractions would further enhance this, with visitors being provided with the opportunity to learn basic Welsh words and phrases, being seen as a positive effect for non-Welsh speakers to the new National Park.

Bilingual signage / information

- 151 (13.4%) responded on the effect the designation would have on the use of bilingual signage and information.
- The responses were positive expressing that bilingual signage and interpretation within the boundary of the park would provide more visibility to the language and culture and a sense of pride to local people in promoting and celebrating this with others. ‘
- Ensuring the use of Welsh Place-names was seen as a positive impact to engage with those visiting, providing the opportunity to engage and explain their meaning.

Welsh language education: -

- 121 (10.8%) responded that the designation would affect the language due to Welsh language education.
- Repeated responses were received that the language should be taught in all schools in Wales. Whilst other felt that there was too much focus on “Welshness” which can be discriminatory.
- It was also noted that due to the closeness of the border with England, learning Welsh is resisted and likely to remain an English-speaking area and it is unlikely there will be a rise in Welsh medium education within those areas.

Question 10 in the consultation asked: Please also explain how you believe this proposal could be formulated or changed to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language, and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

The question also asked the respondent to explain how they felt the proposal could be formulated or changed to have no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language, and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Overview: -

- 755 responses were received to question 10, with the majority answered the same or similar to Question 9

Due to the steps taken in the assessment procedure as outlined above, NRW does not foresee that the work in evaluating the case for a new National Park is likely to affect the use of the Welsh language, or treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language, However, it is believed that if the designation is approved and a New National Park Authority is created,

which will also be a public organisation. The Authority through implementation of its legislative policies and strategies which it would be required to have in place would support and promote the use of the Welsh language positively which will help mitigate the concerns raised in the consultation responses noted above.

Examples of Policies, Strategies and Plans a New National Park Authority would be required to have in relation to the Welsh Language: -

The measures outlined below currently apply to all the local authorities within the candidate boundary, the benefit of the national park is that it would provide a framework and bring a consistent spatially targeted approach to language planning within the park boundary.

1. Under the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011, the Authority would be required to implement a Welsh Language Standards policy on what services they would provide and how in Welsh to customers, partners, stakeholders and their own staff. This would include a policy on using Welsh internally within the organisation for the purpose of promoting and facilitating the use of the language.
2. The Authority's Welsh Language Standards policy would require that when developing policies and strategies, considerations would need to be given to the Welsh language as part of the work as outlined in Section 26 and 29 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 relating to Policy Making Standards (Standards 84 – 89):
 - The need for public organisations to consider what effects (positive or negative) their decisions in exercising its functions and conducting its business or undertaking can have on the use of the language, and ensuring the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language. This would not be limited to written documents only.

Where impacts identified or likely to be on the Welsh language, a Welsh Language Impact Assessment would need to be completed to identify any positive or negative impacts the policy decision could have on the use of the language and ensuring the language would be treated no less favourably than the English language.

3. Standard 145 of The Authority's Welsh Language Standards policy would require The Authority to have a 5-year strategy setting out how The Authority would promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language as part of their work within the park boundary. The Strategy would need to include objectives how the Welsh Language could be promoted through its work and areas of influence.

Each Local Authority within the park boundary have a 5-year Welsh Language Promotion Strategy with their own visions, aims and priorities for the language for each individual area: -

Wrexham Council - [Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2022-2027](#)

Wrexham Council's vision for the language is: -

- *To Increase the number of Welsh speakers in the county borough up to 12.9%*.*
- *To facilitate, increase and promote the use of the Welsh language in the County Borough and give residents the opportunity to live their lives through the medium of Welsh if they so wish.*
- *To create an increased understanding of the Welsh language and Welsh culture amongst non-Welsh speaking residents.*

** 2022-2027 - Due to the uncertainty around the fate of the Census, this target might have to be reconsidered should we need to use different data sources to track any increase over the life of the strategy and thereafter.*

Flintshire Council - [Welsh Language Promotion Strategy - 2019 - 2024](#)

Flintshire Council's aim for the language in their strategy is: -

To support and safeguard the Welsh language for the benefit of present and future generations. We will support an increase of the current level of Welsh speakers from (13.2%/ 19,343) within the county to 21,891 (15%) during this period by: -

- *Increasing the number of Welsh speakers in the county.*
- *Increasing the use of Welsh within the county.*
- *Creating favourable condition for the language to flourish.*

Denbighshire Council - [Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2023 - 2028](#)

Denbighshire Council's vision for the language is: -

- *The Corporate Plan 2022-27 makes a firm commitment to ensure that the Welsh language is a thriving and evolving language.*
- *Denbighshire is a predominantly bilingual county with a rich heritage and culture. We are proud of this and want that pride to be reflected in our daily work with communities, residents and our staff.*

- *We are committed to ensuring that the principles of the Welsh Language Standards are the basis for the method in which we provide services to the public; we want people to be able to access services through their natural language of choice, at every stage of their lives.*
- *We wish to build on the bilingual culture and ethos of the organisation, providing training and social opportunities for our staff to work in Welsh and to increase their confidence to use the language in the workplace.*
- *We wish to work with partners and the wider community to ensure that Welsh is a thriving language in Denbighshire.*
- *We have an ambition to be sector leaders in the development of the Welsh language in Wales.*

Powys County Council – [Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2025-30](#)

Powys County Council's vision for the language in their newly published Strategy -*More people are supported to speak Welsh confidently throughout Powys and use the language in their communities.*

The objectives in the strategy are: -

- *Increase the number of children and young people in Powys who speak Welsh confidently.*
- *Increase the use of Welsh in our internal work.*
- *Encourage businesses, the voluntary sector, and community organisations in Powys to use Welsh in their customer service offering*

Cyngor Gwynedd - [Welsh Language Strategy 2023 - 2033](#)

Cyngor Gwynedd's vision for the language is: -

- *We intend to create an inclusive strategy, with the main objective being increasing opportunities for everyone of Gwynedd's residents to see and use the Welsh language in different contexts.*
- *By working on raising status and increasing people's use of the language in every aspect of their lives, we will also hope to increase the motivation for others to learn the language.*
- *We will give specific attention to try and increase young people's use of the language over the next years, including showing them the value of the language as a skill for the world of work, and attempt to increase the informal opportunities for them to use the Welsh language in their daily lives.*
- *We will also try to give specific attention to how we can have a positive influence on the way residents use the Welsh language in the numerous ways that technology is a part of their lives.*

4. The Environment Act 1995 would require the National Park Authority to prepare a Management Plan for the National Park. Each National Park Authority must prepare a five-yearly Management Plan "which formulates its policy for the management of the relevant Park and for the carrying out of its functions in relation to that Park" (Section 66 of the Environment Act, 1995). [Environment Act 1995](#)

The plan would include how The Authority would look after the countryside, conservation and wildlife, culture and heritage and any other special qualities within the park boundary. Welsh language considerations would be considered as part of developing the plan as well as the requirements of the Policy Making Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. A Welsh Language Impact Assessment would need to be drafted for the plan to assess the potential impact the plan would have on the use of the language within the park boundary and what action the plan could include to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts.

5. [Technical advice note \(TAN\) 20: planning and the Welsh language | GOV.WALES](#) - provides guidance to public authorities on how to give appropriate consideration to the Welsh language in the planning system and comply with the requirements of planning and other legislations.

The Authority would have a statutory obligation to develop a Local Area Development Plan (LDP) setting out a land use planning framework for The National Park and provide a foundation to determine planning applications within the park boundary. The plan when being developed would need to consider local strategies, issues and objectives and consider how the plan would likely impact on the use of the Welsh language and sustainability of communities. A Welsh Language Impact Assessment would need to be drafted for the plan to assess the potential impact the plan would have on the use of the language within the park boundary and what action the plan could include to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts.

Any special features of importance, from its cultural heritage and wildlife within the park boundary would need to be considered and included in the LDP.

The plan would bring consistency to developments within the park boundary which currently falls to the 5 local authorities within the proposed park boundary, each with their own LDP's and different priorities and objectives in relation to protecting the Welsh language, heritage and culture, and protecting Welsh-speaking communities from further dilution which are social and cultural characteristics of some of the communities within the boundary.

Wrexham, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Powys and Gwynedd Local Authority Local Development Plans

Each of the 5 Local Authorities which lie within the proposed boundary of the National Park currently have their own LDP focussing on their own priorities and Welsh language considerations. Having one LDP for the National Park would bring consistency to planning processes and procedures within the National Park boundary.

To note- Some of the Local Authority LDP's are in the process of being reviewed and replaced.

Wrexham Council LDP – [Wrexham Local Development Plan 2 \(LDP2\) 2013 to 2028 | Wrexham County Borough Council](#)

Flintshire Council LDP – [Flintshire Local Development Plan 2015 - 2030](#)

Their plan acknowledges the need for new developments to support and sustain the language and cultural identity.

The plan also recognises the importance tourism plays in supporting and diversifying rural communities and rural economy as follows: -

Tourism has a key role to play in the economy of Flintshire and in particular it is important in supporting and diversifying rural communities and the rural economy. Welsh Government recognises that tourism is 'vital to economic prosperity and job creation' and 'can be a catalyst for regeneration, improvement of the built environment and environmental protection' (Para 5.5.1 PPW11). Tourism in Flintshire covers a range of attractions, such as, historic market towns like Mold and Holywell/ Greenfield Valley, coastal caravan holidays at Talacre, walking and cycling along the coastal path or more active pursuits throughout the AONB. In terms of cultural identity and cultural attractions, Flintshire has a relatively small but strong and distinctive Welsh speaking community. This cultural identity manifests itself through the demand for Welsh language education, a wide variety of Welsh language or bilingual community groups and events throughout the year from the Cadi Ha Springtime Festival in May to the Taith y Fari Lwyd in December and many more in between.

Denbighshire Council LDP – [Denbighshire County Council - Local Development Plan - data.gov.uk](#)

The LDP published is for 2006 – 2021 an updated plan has not yet been published. The current published plan notes: -

Providing a realistic scale of development. Developing a distinct identity, unique sense of place, outward looking, safe communities, enhancing Welsh language and culture, improved accessibility to the rural hinterland.

That Denbighshire, through sustainable development, will have a vibrant urban coast, with thriving market towns and rural areas. The housing and employment needs of the County will be met, the high-quality environment protected and

enhanced, and a high quality of life maintained for all communities with full recognition that we have a strong Welsh language and culture that should be maintained and protected throughout the County.

Key issues facing the County (in no particular order)

Welsh language and culture may be threatened by some types and scale of development.

Welsh Language 7. The Local Development Plan will ensure that the impact of new development on the Welsh language and culture will be assessed in all parts of the county.

Theme: Respecting Distinctiveness is concerned with the identity of an area, about what makes it unique and what creates a sense of place. This includes aspects such as the character of the communities within Denbighshire, the quality and variety of the built and natural environment, the use of the Welsh language and the culture of the area.

Powys County Council LDP - [Powys County Council Local Development Plan 2011 - 2026](#)

Welsh Language Considerations 10.1 All public documentation should be published bilingually in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards which the Council follows. Where SPG content relates to the Welsh Language itself, earlier draft documents (Stages 1-3) may require to be translated from the outset of the preparation process to ensure all stakeholders, including Welsh language stakeholders, are provided with appropriate documentation. The impact assessment process (section 9.1) will identify Welsh Language requirements in respect of each SPG.

Cyngor Gwynedd LDP - [Gwynedd Local Development Plan - Information](#) – Cyngor Gwynedd are in the process of developing a new Local Development Plan following a decision in 2023 to cease the joint working agreement on Planning Policy with Cyngor Ynys Môn, with a new Gwynedd Planning Policy Service established.

Cyngor Gwynedd introduced [Article 4 Direction](#) from September 2024 to manage houses used as second homes and holiday accommodation. Which means planning permission is required to change the use of the property into a second home, short-term holiday lay or specific mix use of a property.

Information can be found further in this assessment which explaining the purpose of Article 4 Direction.

Creation of a new National Park Authority

Eryri National Park – According to their Welsh Language Annual Monitoring Report for 2023/24, on 31 March 2024 The Authority employed 149 members of staff with 142 (95.3%) being able to work bilingually. [Annual Monitoring Report 2023-24](#)

The National Park Authority works closely with Eryri's organisations, businesses, landowners and communities to secure a sustainable future for the National Park.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park – According to their Welsh Language Annual Monitoring Report for 2023/24, on 31 March 2024 The Authority employed 191 members of staff with 24 (12.5%) were fluent Welsh speakers with a further 13 (6.8%) able to discuss matters confidently in Welsh. [Report-23-24-Welsh-Language-Standards.pdf](#)

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park – According to their Welsh Language Annual Monitoring Report for 2023/24, 10 members of staff were fluent Welsh speakers with 6 able to discuss matters confidently in Welsh. The Authority's website states that over 100 staff are employed by them; the Welsh Language Annual Report does not state the exact number of staff The Authority employs. [Welsh Language Standards Compliance Report](#)

Potential for a New National Park Authority – on the use of the Welsh language

A new National Park Authority is likely to have a Welsh only corporate identity following the examples of two of the existing National Parks namely Eryri and Bannau Brycheiniog National Parks. Its purpose, functions and responsibilities will also be the same as the existing National Park Authorities and it is likely that the Authority as an employer would be of similar size in terms of staffing. All new or vacant roles within The Authority will need to be assessed for Welsh language skills and categorised as requiring those skill for post as essential, desirable, not required or needed to be developed whilst in the role in line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. This will provide opportunities for those with Welsh language skills to secure roles within the Authority and opportunities for others to develop these skills whilst in their roles.

The Authority as a new organisation and employer has the potential to have a positive impact on the use and promotion of the Welsh language within its boundary due to its purpose, roles and responsibilities as an organisation, the policies and plans they will be required to implement which include considerations to the language through its purpose, policies and strategies to support the ambition of Cymraeg 2050 of having one million Welsh speakers using the language in all aspects of their lives.

The Authority would be expected to have an internal language policy explaining how it would provide opportunities for staff to use their Welsh language skills within the workplace, this forms part of the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards and also support the aims and objectives of Cymraeg 2050. As a new public organisation The Authority has the potential develop itself as a bilingual workplace in its ways of working from the start.

All 3 of the current National Park Authorities employ staff with a wide range of skills to carry out the various roles required to fulfil their purpose. For example, roles which involve conservation work, countryside management, wardens, visitor and tourist information assistants, planners, community development officers, education officers, administrators and management staff. Some roles are office based whilst others will be more field based. There is also likely to be opportunities for volunteering roles too. A new National Park Authority as an employer is potentially likely to appeal to a wide range of people with a number of these roles being public facing roles which will require Welsh language skills to fulfil. A new National Park Authority is likely to provide good employment as well as career progression opportunities and may also help to lessen the out-migration of young people and those with Welsh language skills from their home communities.

All three current Authorities engage, consult and work with organisations, businesses, landowners and communities within their boundaries, as will any new Authority.

The Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities August 2024 report [45614 Interim report by The Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales](#) states that the economy is important where Welsh is a community language. The Authority as a new employer would provide employment in a variety of roles which could help to lessen the out-migration of young people from rural communities, which within the proposed boundary are also the Welsh speaking communities, and also attract those who have left to return to work and live in their home communities once again. A new National Park is also likely to attract businesses to the area as well as potential for new businesses start-ups supporting rural economy and providing employment.

The Future Generations [Executive Summary: Future Generations Report 2025](#) has been written to support the delivery of the ambitions of the Well-being Future Generations Act. The report is written to help and support politicians and public body leaders in making better decisions in maximising their contribution towards the seven well-being goals to improve lives of the people of Wales now and in the future. Page 21 of the report includes recommendations in relation to Culture and Welsh Language Mission, which recommends that all public bodies develop plans to increase the use of Welsh internally within their workplaces. This would allow Welsh speakers to use their language in all aspects of their lives, which in-turn would develop a bilingual culture within public organisation workplaces. This would also help with staff retention and Welsh language skills.

Other relevant research or data

Welsh Government policy amendment to planning legislation

WG has introduced amendments to planning legislation to manage the impact second homes and holiday lets has on communities in Wales. These changes mean that Planning Authorities can introduce Article 4 Direction to manage the use of second homes and holiday lets.

Article 4 Direction enables Planning Authorities to respond to the needs of their areas for specific developments to remove permitted development rights including changes of use to a property in certain limited situations as necessary to protect local amenity or wellbeing of an area.

[Article 4 Direction in Eryri - Planning and Development](#)

[Article 4 Direction Justification Report](#) – Eryri National Park carried out research on the impact holiday homes (short term lets and second homes) and holiday accommodation has had on the availability of housing stock for local communities within the park boundary. The purpose of the report published in March 2024 following research was to reach a decision based on evidence gathering on the introduction of Article 4 Direction to control the use of houses in Eryri National Park.

The report considers the difficulties communities in Eryri National Park face due to the high numbers of holiday homes and holiday accommodation which threatens the social, cultural and economic prosperity and sustainability of communities in Eryri. The aim of the report is to find a conclusion to introducing Article 4 Direction as a mechanism to control the use of houses within the park boundary to ensure that there is sufficient supply and a suitable choice of housing to meet local community needs.

The aim of the report is to reach a decision on introducing Article 4 Direction to control the use of houses in Eryri National Park.

[Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#) – The Plan focusses on affordability of housing, second homes through the perspective of the Welsh language and considers what action is required to maintain linguistically vibrant geographical Welsh-speaking communities and Welsh Government's Programme for Government and the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru sets out a range of actions to help manage future numbers of second homes and short-term lets. The Plan acknowledges that whilst this impacts communities across Wales, it does vary according to local circumstances and areas which in turn has a negative impact on the availability and affordability of housing for local people especially in rural and coastal areas.

The Plan notes that sustaining a strong economy as well as a sufficient supply of affordable homes is necessary to creating vibrant communities where the Welsh language can thrive.

In March 2024 Welsh Government made a statement of how they intend to use policy to address the issue: -

[‘Unparalleled’ and ‘groundbreaking’ measures are tackling second homes and affordability in Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

We have extended powers for local authorities to charge a discretionary premium rate of council tax on second homes and empty homes from 1 April 2023, the maximum that they can choose to apply will rise from 100% to 300%. We have also changed the rules around short-term holiday accommodation, which means that to be liable for non-domestic rates (rather than council tax) short-term holiday let operators must be available to let for at least 252 days in any 12-month period and actually let for a minimum of 182 days within that period. This will ensure that owners and their guests make a fair contribution to host communities.

Welsh Government established a pilot area to test a number of interventions and to assess their effectiveness in managing second homes and their impact on affordability. Working with Gwynedd Council, Grŵp Cynefin and Snowdonia National Park, the pilot is currently running in Dwyfor.

In February 2025 Welsh Government released their evaluation on phase 1 of this project which was more of a scoping phase to carry out research, gather information and data. Phase 2 (October 2024 – September 2025) will involve further consultation, research and gathering qualitative insights to inform Phase 3 of the project. More information on this can be found in the link below: -

[Evaluation of the Second Homes and Affordability Pilot: phase 1 report \(2023 to 2024\) \(summary\) \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

Further Research on Housing and Planning Policy Interventions

[Dwyfor second homes and affordability pilot | GOV.WALES](#) – Welsh Government recognise in this report that there many communities in Wales have second homes, holiday lets and empty homes, which leads to less housing and affordable housing, this can affect the vitality of some communities and the Welsh language within those communities.

Second Homes

Evidence and recommendations in the [Second homes: Developing new policies in Wales](#) based on 2020 results found there were 24,423 second homes in Wales in total. It was found that second homes are found in several parts of rural Wales which are also primarily our traditional Welsh speaking communities.

Evidence gathered from the report: -

The highest numbers of second homes were in areas of Gwynedd (4,900) and Pembrokeshire (4,072) Local Authorities, both who lie within Eryri and Pembrokeshire National Parks. Whilst the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park lies across a number of Local

Authorities namely, (South Powys, Monmouth, East Carmarthenshire, Northern Rhondda, Merthyr Tydfil and small areas of Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen). The number of second homes within those Local Authorities are as follows, Powys (1,313), Monmouth (200), Carmarthenshire (1,125), Rhondda Cynon Taf (226), Merthyr Tydfil (214), Blaenau Gwent (0) and Torfaen (7).

A map of the boundary of the National Park can be found further down in this document. The report notes the number of second homes within the Local Authorities which the proposed National Park boundary will lie within are as follows: -

Gwynedd = (4,900)

Powys = 1,313

Denbighshire = 422

Flintshire = 268

Wrexham = 0

The above figures do not include properties registered as businesses e.g. houses let out and Airbnb's etc. The report notes that they also form a significant part of housing stock in areas where second homes are high.

The report states that holiday accommodation contributes and supports the local economy as they can be owned by members of the local community or those who stay in the accommodation spend money within the community, where the same does not apply to second homes in the same way.

The report includes research carried out in relation to – “*The impact of second homes on the sustainability of communities and the Welsh language*”. The report focused on four assumptions around this statement as follows: -

- Second homes are responsible for the increase in house prices in specific communities
- If there were fewer second homes, local people would move to these communities to live
- Reducing house prices is desirable
- Second homes harm the Welsh language

The conclusion and recommendation from the report states that there is a need for policy intervention to help reduce numbers of second homes gradually over the years in those communities affected.

[Written Statement: Update on action to address Second Homes and Affordability \(16 October 2024\) | GOV.WALES](#)

[Second homes: What does the data tell us? \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#) – This information was published by Welsh Government in 2023 and gives an overview of the data sources available in relation to second homes in Wales.

There publication states that there is no clear definition for what is classed as a ‘holiday home’ as they are used for different reasons which can include a private holiday home, second address for work purposes or properties used as short-term lets. Changes to planning legislation in October 2022 created a new “Use Class Order” for properties which made it easier to differentiate between how a property is used.

Data within the publication in relation to the annual Council Tax Dwellings shows that there was an increase of chargeable second homes in Wales between 2018-19 and 2021-22 showed an increase of 6% (from 23,426 to 24,873). The data published shows that this dropped by 4% in 2022-23 (23,974), with data showing an increase in 2023-24 (24,170).

In the table below is data found in the publication on chargeable second homes by Local Authorities within the proposed National Park and also Local Authorities are located are as follows: -

| Local Authority | 2021 -2022 | 2022 - 2023 | 2023 - 2024 |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Gwynedd (Eryri National Park lies within this area) | 5,098 | 4,720 | 4,758 |
| Powys | 1,333 | 1,342 | 1,376 |
| Denbighshire | 393 | 397 | 422 |
| Flintshire | 280 | 273 | 269 |
| Wales as a total | 24,873 | 23,974 | 24,170 |

UK House Price Index Wales – December 2024

The [UK House Price Index Wales: December 2024 - GOV.UK](#)– which is the latest publication at the time of drafting this assessment, shows that house prices in Wales decreased by 0.5% between November – December 2024.

17 of the 22 Local Authorities saw an average increase in house prices over the last 12 months, Gwynedd showed the lowest annual percentage change, decreasing by - 5.2% to £193,000 in the 12 months to December 2024, closely followed by Anglesey -5.1%, Ceredigion – 2.4%, Conwy -0.6% and Powys -0.3%.

[The Effect of Tourism on Language in Gwynedd - Arsyllfa - Supporting the Welsh rural economy](#) – research carried out in Gwynedd in the 1990's looked at the relationship between specific sectors of the economy which included tourism with the Welsh language also explored. More recent data shows a stronger relationship between the tourism sector and the language over the last twenty years due to the industry providing employment enabling local people to remain living and working in the area, therefore tourism is an important in sustaining the local economy. The article also acknowledges the role tourism plays in attracting people who don't speak Welsh to live in the area who buy houses unaffordable to local people, thus being a possible threat to the language.

Management Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog National - [Y-Bannau-The-Future.pdf](#)

The plan notes issues with increase in the number of holiday homes and second homes, with a greater interest in visiting the countryside by many returning visitors following lockdown with the landscape attracting many more tourists. The plan acknowledges the lack of employment opportunities to keep the younger population within the communities, with an aging population of retirees who want to spend time in the countryside. This results in higher house prices, less affordable housing and a loss of local schools from within communities due to the decreasing number of children.

Research carried out by Eryri National Park on attitudes and experiences of residents and visitors

Information found in the [Snowdonia Visitor and Residents Survey 2021 Report Beaufort Research.pdf](#) was commissioned by Eryri National Park (then known as Snowdonia) to carry out a survey of visitor and local residents views on the attitudes and experiences of those visiting and living within the park to better understand their needs. Some areas in the report focuses on the Welsh language and its communities within the park.

Page 25 of the report notes the analysis of the responses where residents were prompted with a list of features of the Snowdonia National Park and asked which ones were the official special qualities of the park: -

- 74% selected “Vibrancy of the Welsh Language and Strong community identities”
- 74% selected “Strong community identities”

Page 29 of the report notes the analysis of the responses where residents were asked how satisfied they were with different aspects of SNPA's work: -

- 78% selected they were very satisfied or fairly satisfied with how the park were using and promoting the Welsh language, whilst 11% selected they were not very satisfied or not at all satisfied.

Page 31 of the report notes the main improvement suggested by local residents was for SNPA to work and communicate more with local people.

- 17% suggested the park needed to improve their work and communication with local people, with 1% suggesting a need to improve their work in protecting and promoting the Welsh language.

The Authority itself if established would also provide good employment opportunities with all the job roles requiring to be assessed for what Welsh language skills are needed to carry out each role within the Authority as required by the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 for all public organisations in Wales. This would also include those who carry out work on the Authority's behalf (third parties) who would also need to comply with the requirements of the Measure as part of their contract agreement.

[Eryri National Park - Annual Report 2023-2024](#) – the report explains how through The Authority's cultural heritage management the Welsh language is promoted through various planned initiatives as well as part of their ways of working and in supporting cultural events celebrating the language, projects "Geiriau Diflanedig" "The Lost Words" working in partnership with others, safeguarding the use of Welsh Place-names and developing Yr Ysgwrn as a cultural centre to promote the language and culture heritage of Wales.

National Centre for Learning Welsh

[2022 - 2023 Statistics | Learn Welsh](#) – The report was published in April 2024 for academic year 2022-2023, with the data showing that there is an increase in the number who are learning Welsh each year. There is no data on location of learners, this could be due to the change in learning practices since Covid, and the statistics showing the majority are now learning online rather than face to face where learners can join from across Wales and beyond.

Whilst the number of learners are increasing at entry level, there is a significant drop in the number who continue to become fluent Welsh speakers.

The data for 2022 – 23 shows: -

- 16,905 unique learners were developing their language skills with the National Centre for Learning Welsh

- 3,215 majority learning between ages 35-44, closely followed by 3,210 learning between ages 25-34
- 13,825 majority were of white ethnicity
- 11,280 majority were learning at Entry Level
- 770 least learning at Proficiency- fluency level

How Tourism supports local economy

The 1995 Environment Act established independent National Park Authorities and introduced a duty on the National Parks to seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of communities.

- National Park Wales - Together for Health and Wellbeing Report - summarises that National Parks play two vital roles in which they: -
- Provide settings for promoting health and well-being by providing setting for activities where people can be active and participate in activities such as walking or a place to relax enjoy the quiet spaces and scenery.
- Provide environment for a diverse ecosystem to thrive by maintaining clean air, drinking water and land.
- Welsh Government's Wales visitor economy profile: 2024 [HTML] | GOV.WALES which is based on data and statistics in 2022/23. The report identified seven Tourism, Hospitality and sub-sectors of Tourism Industries in Wales.

The main findings of the report were: -

- 11.8% (159,000) were employed in Tourism, Hospitality and Tourism Industry subsectors across the whole of Wales.
- 77% (123,000) of employment was in hospitality.
- 6.8% (91,000) employed in food and beverage services
- 1.9% (26,000) employed in accommodation for visitors
- 56% of jobs in tourism were part-time, with 59% of jobs in hospitality being part-time.

Percentage and number employed in Tourism, Hospitality and Tourism Industry

- 26% (41,340) – North Wales
- 8% (12,720) – Mid Wales
- 22% (34,980) South West Wales
- 44% (69,960) South East Wales

Whilst a new National Park is likely to draw more tourists to the area, the report shows that employment within tourism-related industries are substantially lower than the £14.85 median hourly paid at year ending April 2023 for the tourism

industry.

The report notes that tourism related industries accounted for 5.1% (£3.8 billion) Gross Value Added in Wales as a total in 2022.(These are preliminary figures).

- STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor) is a tourism economic impact modelling process which gathers measurement of tourism from the bottom up, through its use of local supply side data and tourism performance and visitor survey data collection.

The STEAM and Tourism reports found in the links below show an increase in Tourism in the Local Authorities which lie within the National Park boundary. The creation of a National Park is likely to attract more tourism to the areas concerned which will benefit the local economy within the boundary and beyond with overnight stays, food outlets,

STEAM Annual Report 2022 - Powys County Council – number of visitors increasing, though below pre-pandemic figures.

- Economic impact - £1.12 billion
- Visitor days - 11.75 million

Denbighshire sees uplift in Tourism Figures for 2023 | Denbighshire County Council – tourism figures have increased for 2023.

- Economic impact - £736.05 million
- Total visitor numbers – 6.39 million, day visitors – 7.72 million

Flintshire Destination Management Plan

- Economic impact - £259 million
- Overnight visitors - 3.7 million, day visitors - 2.7 million

New Data Reveals Significant Impact of Tourism on Wrexham – tourism figures are increasing annually.

- Economic impact - £151 million

- Day visitors – 1.9 million, overnight visitors 430,000

STEAM Summary Report 2023 Cyngor Gwynedd – tourism figures for 2022

- Economic impact – £1.72 billion
- Total visitor number – 8.02 million, number of visitors staying – 4.07million, day visitors – 3.95million

Tourism Research and Statistics | Visit Snowdonia

The above research shows that tourism is growing organically in the area, which is close to the boundary with England and within easy travelling distance of some of its large towns and cities. Post-covid has seen an increase in the number and diversity of people visiting rural areas with social media being an influencer in promoting features not previously known by tourists. With the designation of a new National Park, it is likely that these figures will increase with the possible likelihood of leading to additional employment within the park boundary and beyond in the tourism industry. Whilst this will provide employment for those living within the communities, it must be acknowledged that a high percentage of employment within the tourism industry is seasonal part/time work and minimum or just above wage.

The establishment of a new National Park Authority would through their policies and procedures promote and protect the Welsh language, culture and heritage through their day-to-day work and engagement work.

[The Agriculture \(Wales\) Act 2023 Introducing the Sustainable Land Management Framework](#)

One of the four Sustainable Land Management (SLM) objectives which will underpin agricultural support and regulation in Wales considers the Welsh language and its importance to the agricultural sector and communities, this helps to contribute to the well-being goals under section 4 of that Act, and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016: -

Conserve and enhance the countryside and cultural resources and promote public access to and engagement with them, and to sustain the Welsh language and promote and facilitate its use: We will support actions that conserve and enhance our countryside and its cultural traditions, including promoting and facilitating the Welsh language. We will also work on making our green spaces more accessible to everyone, so all of Wales can appreciate our land and farming.

[Ffermio Bro: a new scheme for farmers in Designated Landscapes - Landscapes Wales](#) – this new scheme will provide additional support and funding to farmers in designated landscapes to support nature friendly farming practices in Welsh National

Parks and Landscapes. Applicants will need to satisfy a specific criterion to the Designated Landscape body to qualify for the scheme: which includes a condition in relation to the Welsh language: -

- Conserve and enhance the countryside and cultural resources and promote public access to and engagement with them, and to sustain the Welsh language and promote and facilitate its use.

Engagement in drafting Welsh Language Impact Assessment

As part of our work in drafting this Welsh Language Impact Assessment we took the opportunity to engage with the Welsh Language Officers of Local Authorities which fall within the proposed boundary of the National Park to discuss policies, strategies and plans they had in place which considered the Welsh language. This included research they had in relation to the impact of tourism could have on the use of the language within their areas. Information shared by the Local Authorities can be found within this assessment.

We held discussions with the following Local Authorities: -

Powys

Flintshire

Denbighshire

Gwynedd

Wrexham

As part of this work, we have also requested meetings with Eryri National Park, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Welsh Language Officers. Again, to gain an understanding on the work of the National Parks as well as what policies, plans and procedures they are required to have and any research or findings they had on the impact of tourism on the use of the Welsh language. Information from those engagements can be found within this assessment.

We held discussions with: -

Eryri National Park

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

We also met with staff from The Welsh Language Commissioner's Office in June 2024 and in March 2025 seeking their advice and guidance on ensuring that we gave due consideration to the impact the decision to designate a new National Park in Wales could have on the use of the Welsh language and in treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language, and in ensuring we had sufficient evidence to support our findings.

Assessing Impact

Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 gave Welsh an official status in Wales equal to the English language, as part of their duties public sector organisations are required to identify impacts on the Welsh Language. There should be no negative impacts on opportunities for people to use Welsh and the language should be treated no less favourably than the English language.

In this section there is a need to consider the direct and indirect effects the proposal could have on opportunities to use the Welsh language. Whilst for some proposals the effects will be more than for others, as the number of effects increase there will be a need to make more of an effort to demonstrate those effects clearly. As a minimum there is a need to identify positive, adverse and negligible effects to show that a conscientious effort has been made to identify the effects.

| Impacts Identified |
|--|
| <p>Direct Impacts - Positive</p> <p>One of the purposes of National Parks is to – <i>conserve and enhance cultural heritage of the National Parks under The Environment Act (2015)</i></p> <p>The designation of a National Park is likely to have a positive effect on the Welsh language within the park boundary which currently has pockets in density of Welsh speakers. The work of The National Park Authority would include ensuring that all their services and information to the public is available in Welsh and English and promoting the language, culture and history of Wales as part of their day-to-day work across The Authority boundary. This will raise awareness of the language and culture to a wider audience than present who are already visiting the area as a whole and preserving for future generations.</p> <p>The creation of a National Park Authority is likely to create employment as an organisation with various roles across the boundary of the park. As a public organisation each new or vacant post will need be assessed for Welsh language skills, a number of roles within The Authority will be public facing roles and will require Welsh language skills to provide a bilingual service.</p> <p>A Management Plan would be developed and include how The Authority would look after the countryside, conservation and wildlife, culture and heritage and any other special qualities within the park boundary. Welsh language considerations would be considered as part of developing the plan as well as the requirements of the Policy Making Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. A Welsh Language Impact Assessment would need to be drafted for the plan to assess the potential</p> |

impact the plan would have on the use of the language within the park boundary and what action the plan could include to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts.

The Authority would have a statutory obligation to develop a Local Area Development Plan (LDP) setting out a land use planning framework for The National Park and provide a foundation to determine planning applications within the park boundary. The plan when being developed would need to consider local strategies, issues and objectives and consider how the plan would likely impact on the use of the Welsh language and sustainability of communities. A Welsh Language Impact Assessment would need to be drafted for the plan to assess the potential impact the plan would have on the use of the language within the park boundary and what action the plan could include to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts.

The Local Development Plan would bring consistency to developments within the park boundary which currently falls to the 5 local authorities within the proposed park boundary, each with their own LDP's and different priorities and objectives in relation to protecting the Welsh language, heritage and culture, and protecting Welsh-speaking communities from further dilution which are social and cultural characteristics of some of the communities within the boundary.

[Ffermio Bro: a new scheme for farmers in Designated Landscapes - Landscapes Wales](#) – this new scheme will provide additional support and funding to farmers in designated landscapes to support nature friendly farming practices in Welsh National Parks and Landscapes. Applicants will need to satisfy a specific criterion to the Designated Landscape body to qualify for the scheme: which includes a condition in relation to the Welsh language.

The new National Park Authority is very likely to have a Welsh only name, therefore presenting a Welsh identity to a new public organisation.

Direct Impact: Negligible

No direct impact has been identified on the opportunities for people to use the Welsh language through our work to evaluate the case for the proposed new National Park in Wales. The designation itself would have no direct impact on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. This is because Section 5(2) of the NPAC 1949 lists the criteria NRW must cover in considering a National Park designation. The Act defines that a National Park must be an 'extensive tract of country in Wales's which it appears to NRW that, by reason of its:

(a) natural beauty and:

(b) the opportunities it affords for open-air recreation having regard to both its character and its position in relation to centres of population, it is especially desirable that it is designated for National Park purposes. Natural beauty and opportunities for open-air

recreation are therefore the designation criteria which must be satisfied for an area to be designated. The purposes of a National Park once designated set out in Section 5(1) NPAC as follows:

- conserving and enhancing its natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and
- promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public.

If designation is approved the work of establishing a National Park Authority will follow.

Direct Impacts - Adverse

Due to the close proximity of the border with England the National Park is likely to attract more tourists to the area, some visiting may not appreciate the importance of the language and its role in Welsh culture, with an increase in the use of English within the area.

Impact of increased tourism on local communities within the boundary which includes Welsh speaking communities which tend to be in more rural areas, and farming communities, with more visitors using the countryside and the additional problems this will cause the farming communities who are predominantly Welsh speaking.

Evidence found that a high percentage of second homes were found in Gwynedd and Pembrokeshire Local Authorities two areas where National Parks already exist.

Research carried out for the Welsh Language Communities Plan show that local residents in certain areas e.g. Gwynedd are unable to afford to buy a new home due to the gap between the average salary earned and house prices. An increase in housing stock being purchased for holiday or second home use which could lead to an increase in house prices, this is likely to decrease the availability and affordability of housing stock for local people, leading to young and local people leaving the area to find work with better salaries with a better opportunity in being able to afford to buy property. This outward migration which includes Welsh speakers affects the linguistic viability in communities.

Indirect Impact - Positive

Creation of a National Park is likely to increase employment opportunities in the tourism and hospitality sector within its boundary leading to the creation of sustainable communities which includes Welsh speaking communities within the boundary area.

A new National Park would also be likely to attract new businesses to develop visitor attractions creating new employment in the area.

Welsh speaking parents and those developing their language skills living and working in the area are likely to want their children to receive a Welsh medium education and are more likely to want to live in Welsh speaking communities, helping to sustaining those communities and the language for the future.

The areas with a high density of Welsh speakers within the park boundary are likely to be those in the rural areas within the boundary and employed in the agriculture sector and farming communities which are also the predominantly Welsh speaking communities within the boundary. The designation of a National Park provides opportunities for diversification to accommodate the tourism industry which could provide an opportunity to support the socioeconomic infrastructure of Welsh-speaking communities.

Indirect Impacts – Negligible

Records show that the number of tourists visiting the area has already been increasing, with the close proximity to the border the area is already very popular with visitors already coming to the area as day visitors.

Indirect Impact Adverse

Due to the close proximity to the border with England the increase in job opportunities may lead to an increase of people coming across the border travelling into Wales for work, this could reduce job opportunities for local residents.

Property owners can make more income can be from short term holiday lets than renting on a permanent basis to a local family, therefore rental market options for local residents continue to decrease. This could possibly lead to not enough permanent residents to sustain a local community or its economy e.g. schools, shops businesses, community groups etc which could have an adverse effect on the Welsh speakers and Welsh learners within the community as the opportunities to socialise through the medium of Welsh is also lost.

Reduced numbers of children in the community can lead to closure of local schools, nurseries and Cylchoedd Meirthyn who provide early years Welsh medium education. Closing schools and such facilities impact on the community with children needing to travel to receive an education, which in rural areas can be some distance. Convenient facilities within the community help in the sustainability of rural communities, with schools often seen as a community hub in bringing people together.

| |
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| What action (s) can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
| <p>NRW is the Welsh Government's statutory adviser on landscape and natural beauty and the designating authority for any new National Park or National Landscape (AONB). As a result, Welsh Government commissioned Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to evaluate the case for this designation.</p> <p>Our role in the process is independent to make an evidence-based recommendation for the benefit of the people of Wales, accounting for all relevant legislation. Part of the requirements under our Welsh Language Standards policy is that we carry out a Welsh Language Impact Assessment identifying the impacts designating a new National Park is likely to have on the use of the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language.</p> <p>NRW held an early engagement period in 2023 and a public consultation in 2024 where questions in relation to the impact designating a new National Park would have on the use of the Welsh language and in treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language. Responses to the Welsh language questions have been analysed and considered to ensure the assessment gave due consideration to the Welsh language and includes positive, negative and negligible impacts and what action can be taken to mitigate negative impacts identified.</p> <p>If a New National Park Authority is established than a separate Welsh Language Impact Assessment may be required, but the following actions should be considered as a means to mitigate against risks identified following assessment and feedback from engagement and consultation: -</p> <p>A New National Park Authority as a public organisation would be subject to Welsh Language Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. The Authority would be required to draft and publish on their website a Welsh Language Standards policy explaining how what services they would provide to the public and their own staff in Welsh and how.</p> <p>The Standards would also require The Authority to develop a Welsh Language Promotion Strategy setting out how The Authority would promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language as part of their work within the park boundary. The Strategy would need to include objectives how the Welsh Language could be promoted through its work and areas of influence.</p> <p>As part of implementing Welsh Language Standards, The Authority would be required to assess the Welsh language skills requirements of each new or vacant post it plans to advertise, and noting whether the skill is required as essential, desirable or be developed when the successful candidate is appointed to the post, or no Welsh language skills required.</p> |

Theme 3 of the Cymraeg 2050 strategy places an emphasis on creating favourable conditions to protect the Welsh language and enable it to thrive, specifically with the aim of 'Supporting the socioeconomic infrastructure of Welsh-speaking communities. Many areas with a high density of Welsh speakers are those with a higher proportion of the population employed in agriculture, the public sector and tourism. Cymraeg 2050 notes that it is important to sustain and grow communities with a high density of Welsh speakers. Analysis of the Census 2021 shows a high density of Welsh speakers living in the more rural and farming communities within the proposed boundary of the park.

[The Agriculture \(Wales\) Act 2023 Introducing the Sustainable Land Management Framework](#)

One of the four Sustainable Land Management (SLM) objectives which will underpin agricultural support and regulation in Wales considers the Welsh language and its importance to the agricultural sector and communities, this helps to contribute to the well-being goals under section 4 of that Act, and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016: -

Conserve and enhance the countryside and cultural resources and promote public access to and engagement with them, and to sustain the Welsh language and promote and facilitate its use: We will support actions that conserve and enhance our countryside and its cultural traditions, including promoting and facilitating the Welsh language. We will also work on making our green spaces more accessible to everyone, so all of Wales can appreciate our land and farming.

[Ffermio Bro: a new scheme for farmers in Designated Landscapes - Landscapes Wales](#) – this new scheme will provide additional support and funding to farmers in designated landscapes to support nature friendly farming practices in Welsh National Parks and Landscapes. Applicants will need to satisfy a specific criterion to the Designated Landscape body to qualify for the scheme: which includes a condition in relation to the Welsh language: -

- Conserve and enhance the countryside and cultural resources and promote public access to and engagement with them, and to sustain the Welsh language and promote and facilitate its use.

The Environment Act 1995 notes that the National Parks of Wales have two purposes:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks; and
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities (of the park) by the public

National Park Authorities have legal duties to:

- Prepare, consult and publish a management plan for the National Park area
- Seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park
- Prepare, consult and publish the Local Development Plan

- Undertake the local development management planning function

A new National Park Authority will be required to develop a Local Development Plan (LDP) in relation to planning regulations within the boundary of the National Park. This will bring consistency in the planning rules across the park and the Local Authorities within the boundary. The development of an LDP will be subject to a Welsh Language Impact Assessment to ensure that planning developments do not impact negatively on the Welsh language within the boundary of the park.

A Local Development Plan is likely to help create more balanced communities whilst protecting their needs and creating opportunities for people to live locally. This given time will improve opportunities for people to live in their home communities which will help to ensure that the Welsh language continues to be in use within communities for the future. The National Park Authority could consider introducing the Article 4 Direction, this would in the long-term create sustainable communities, ensuring a sufficient supply and a suitable choice of housing that meets the needs of local people. High numbers of holiday accommodation and second homes ("holiday homes") can be a real threat to the social, cultural and economic prosperity of communities. Without intervention, housing prices could increase becoming unaffordable to local people. Potentially this would mean younger people or families with children having to move out of their community for affordable housing, with more affluent people who are likely to be older moving into the local community.

The Environment Act 1995 would require the National Park Authority to prepare a Management Plan for the National Park. The plan would include how The Authority would look after the countryside, conservation and wildlife, culture and heritage and any other special qualities within the park boundary. Welsh language considerations would be considered as part of developing the plan as well as the requirements of the Policy Making Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

A new National Park Authority would have the potential to provide consistency around Welsh language policy matters within its competence.

For consideration by Local Authorities within the National Park boundary

Local Authorities within the candidate map boundary should consider the powers The Welsh Government's Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan which states that sustaining a strong economy as well as a sufficient supply of affordable homes is necessary to creating vibrant communities where the Welsh language can thrive. Powers have been extended to local authorities to charge discretionary premium rate of council tax on second homes and empty homes from 1 April 2023.

Action(s) and recommendations

State below what are the intended actions and recommendations proposed to mitigate or increase the impact the proposal could have on the ability to use the Welsh language.

All actions and recommendations identified should be included here including what action is going to be taken to mitigate or reduce negative impact.

Actions taken by Natural Resources Wales

| Actions and recommendations identified | What are you going to do? | What will be the intended outcome/difference made? | Who is responsible? | Timescale and any resource implications and comments |
|--|--|---|----------------------------|--|
| Carry out a Welsh Language Impact Assessment | Draft a Welsh Language Impact assessment to identify if the proposal is likely to impact on the use of the Welsh language and treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language | The assessment will be used as part of the decision process to designate a new National Park, with actions identified that can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts identified, or to better contribute to positive impacts | Natural Resources Wales | Prior to a decision being made on the designation of a new National Park |
| Continue to provide an equal opportunity for people to engage with | Promote and provide a proactive language choice during consultation process | Ensure that Welsh speakers can engage with us in their preferred language | Natural Resources Wales | During consultation process |

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| the assessment process in Welsh | | | | |
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Actions and recommendations identified to mitigate or reduce negative impact for new National Park Authority

| Actions and recommendations identified | What are you going to do? | What will be the intended outcome/difference made? | Who is responsible? | Timescale and any resource implications and comments |
|--|--|---|----------------------------|---|
| A New National Park Authority as a public organisation would be subject to Welsh Language Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. | Develop a Welsh Language Standards Policy explaining how what services they would provide to the public and their own staff in Welsh and how and published on The Authority's website. | Ensure that services are always available in Welsh equal to those available in English. Treating the Welsh and English languages equally. | National Park Authority | To be discussed with Welsh Language Commissioner |
| The Authority would be subject to Regulations no 1 under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and would be required to | Develop a Welsh Language Promotion Strategy setting out how The Authority would promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh | The Strategy would need to include objectives how the Welsh Language could be promoted through its | National Park Authority | To be discussed with Welsh Language Commissioner |

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|--|--|--|-------------------------|---|
| develop a Welsh Language Promotion Strategy | language as part of their work within the park boundary. | work and areas of influence. | | |
| Advertising new or vacant posts | Assess the Welsh language skills requirements of each new or vacant post The Authority plans to advertise, and noting whether language skills are required as essential, desirable or be developed when the successful candidate is appointed to the post, or no Welsh language skills required. | Ensure there is sufficient capacity and capability to provide a proactive Welsh language service as a public organisation. | National Park Authority | As part of implementing Welsh Language Standards policy |
| Ffermio Bro: new scheme for farmers in Designated Landscapes | This new scheme which is likely to be managed by The Authority will provide additional support and funding to farmers in designated landscapes to support nature friendly farming practices in Welsh National Parks and Landscapes. | <p>Applicants will need to satisfy a specific criterion to the Designated Landscape body to qualify for the scheme: which includes a condition in relation to the Welsh language: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the countryside and | National Park Authority | To be confirmed |

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | | cultural resources and promote public access to and engagement with them, and to sustain the Welsh language and promote and facilitate its use. | | |
| Develop a Local Development Plan (LDP) | A new National Park Authority will be required to develop a Local Development Plan (LDP) in relation to planning regulations within the boundary of the National Park. | This will bring consistency in the planning rules across the park and the Local Authorities within the boundary. The development of an LDP will be subject to a Welsh Language Impact Assessment to ensure that planning developments do not impact negatively on the Welsh language within the boundary of the park. | National Park Authority | To be confirmed |
| The Environment Act 1995 would require the National Park Authority to prepare a | The Management Plan to include how The Authority would look after the countryside, conservation and wildlife, culture and | Ensure that the plan does not impact negatively on the use of the Welsh language or treat the Welsh language less | National Park Authority | To be confirmed |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|-------------------|
| Management Plan for the National Park. | heritage and any other special qualities within the park boundary. Welsh language considerations would be considered as part of developing the plan as well as the requirements of the Policy Making Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. | favourably than the English language and protecting culture and heritage within the boundary of the National Park | | |
| To consider The Welsh Government's Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan | Consider the powers The Welsh Government's Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan which have been extended to local authorities to charge discretionary premium rate of council tax on second homes and empty homes from 1 April 2023. | Helping in sustaining a strong economy as well as a sufficient supply of affordable homes is necessary to creating vibrant communities where the Welsh language can thrive. | Local Authorities with the park boundary | For consideration |

Welsh Language Impact Assessment Version 1 Completed by:

| Name | Position | Date |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Lyn Williams | Specialist Advisor Welsh Language | 28.5.25 |

Welsh Language Impact Assessment Version 1 Review by:

| Name | Position | Date |
|-----------------------------|---|----------|
| Keith Davies 11.8.2025 | Principal Advisor Designated Landscapes | 2.6.2025 |

Welsh Language Impact Assessment Version 1 Approved prior to NRW Board decision by:

| Name | Position | Date |
|------------|---|----------|
| Ash Pearce | Designated Landscapes Programme Manager / Team Leader | 2.6.2025 |

Summary of NRW Board decision on designation of new National Park

The candidate boundary for the National Park has been updated to a final proposed boundary for the National Park following the **public consultation period in 2024 and subsequent detailed evaluation of the detailed boundary following the boundary setting conventions set out in GN10..** The revisions improve the coherence and defensibility of the proposed boundary and enhance alignment with the statutory designation criteria, natural beauty and opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The proposed boundary includes Gronant and Talacre dunes and retains the distinctive landscape of the Clwydian Range and Berwyn uplands and closely associated areas of notable natural beauty, with tranquillity and wildness, habitats and species of high value and opportunities for open air recreation.

Retained areas provide opportunities for ecological enhancements, peatland restoration and for farming to benefit from nature focussed agri-subsidies and funding.

Areas of Powys which were included in the candidate boundary have been excluded from the final proposed boundary due to the less clear demonstration of the overall coherence of the designation criteria in these areas.

Name of National Park

Parc Cenedlaethol - **Glyndŵr** – National Park remains the proposed name. which has strong historical, cultural and geographical connection to the proposed boundary area. The use of Glyndŵr will give the National Park a Welsh identity from the start.

NRW Board authorised to proceed to statutory consultation on a National Park at their meeting on 16.7.25.

Welsh Language Impact Assessment Actions Review 23.7.25 – following NRW Board decision

Actions and recommendations made by NRW Board

| Actions and recommendations identified | What are you going to do? | What will be the intended outcome/difference made? | Who is responsible? | Timescale and any resource implications and comments |
|---|---|---|----------------------------|---|
| Update Welsh Language Impact Assessment | Include map of new proposed boundary for National Park | Updated information following NRW Board decision on 16.7.25 | Natural Resources Wales | Prior to statutory consultation |
| | Include updated map showing Welsh speaking skills of those living within the proposed boundary for National Park | Updated information following NRW Board decision on 16.7.25 | Natural Resources Wales | Prior to statutory consultation |
| | Assess if the change to the proposed boundary has any further implications of the use of the Welsh language or in treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language | Provide updated information for feedback and making informed decisions as part of statutory consultation on proposed boundary | Natural Resources Wales | Prior to statutory consultation |

Welsh Language Impact Assessment Version 2 updated following NRW Board decision on 16.7.25

The map below shows the Welsh speaking skills of those living within the final proposed boundary area for the National Park

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Assessment of Impact following update to proposed boundary for National Park

The above change from the candidate area to the proposed boundary for the National Park highlights the areas with densities of Welsh speakers and Welsh speaking communities within the proposed boundary. Natural Resources Wales don't believe that the assessment on the impacts on the use of the Welsh language or in treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language made in version 1 of this assessment will change due to the proposed boundary change and the approval by Natural Resources Wales Board to proceed to a statutory consultation.

Additional impacts have been identified below due to the change in the boundary: -

Positive Direct Impact on raising awareness of the Welsh Language

Including the Gronant and Talacre Dunes which are located in an area where there is a low percentage, and numbers, of Welsh speakers is likely to increase visibility of the language due to bilingual interpretation and information by the National Park Authority. This is likely to raise awareness of the language, culture and history of the area along with the Welsh names and terms for wildlife, habitats and species within the dunes. This coastal area has high tourism numbers being close to the border with England. The National Park's work within the area will raise awareness of the use of the Welsh language to those visiting the area from Wales and beyond.

Positive Direct Impact on raising awareness of Welsh language, history, and culture

Parc Cenedlaethol - **Glyndŵr** – National Park. The decision to use the name Glyndŵr will give the National Park a Welsh identity which has strong historical, cultural, and geographical connection to the proposed boundary area.

Impacts on exclusion of areas in Powys from proposed boundary

Most of the impacts identified in version 1 of this assessment are also likely to impact areas of Powys now excluded from the proposed boundary of the National Park due to the close proximity of the area and communities to the proposed border. Some of the impacts identified in version 1 of this assessment that will not impact on the areas excluded will be the responsibilities identified that may fall to a National Park Authority to manage and implement as part of their duties. E.g ability to benefit from. Ffermio Bro.

Possible Direct Negative Impact on exclusion of areas of Powys from boundary

Some of the Powys area excluded from the proposed boundary includes high density of Welsh speakers and traditional farming and rural communities. The Ffermio Bro new scheme for farmers in Designated Landscapes which may be managed by The

Authority will not apply to those outside the boundary. Applicants need to satisfy specific criteria to the Designated Landscape body to qualify for the scheme which includes a condition in relation to the Welsh language as explained in version 1 of this assessment.

The new farming support in Wales through the Sustainable Farming Scheme which is available to the farming sector across Wales also includes conditions to protect history, culture and the Welsh Language, acknowledging the importance of maintaining the language and ensuring it continues to thrive in rural communities who use and speak the language in all aspects of their lives. This scheme will apply to the farming industry in the area of Powys excluded from the proposed boundary.

Direct negligible Impact on exclusion of areas of Powys from boundary

The areas of Powys excluded are areas where 30 – 50% of the community speak Welsh. The numbers may be low but percentages of Welsh speakers within this area are high with pockets of Welsh speaking communities where the language is used as a community language. The exclusion of these areas is unlikely to impact on the community to use the language or treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language. Most of the Welsh speakers within these communities are the traditional farming and rural communities where the language is spoken naturally in all aspects of their lives, which is unlikely to change due to the exclusion of these areas from the proposed boundary.

Welsh Language Impact Assessment Version 2 completed by:

| Name | Position | Date |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Lyn Williams | Specialist Advisor Welsh Language | 6.8.25 |

Welsh Language Impact Assessment Version 2 Reviewed by:

| Name | Position | Date |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| Keith Davies | Principal Advisor Designated Landscapes | 11.8.2025 |

Welsh Language Impact Assessment Version 2 Approved by:

| Name | Position | Date |
|------------|---|-----------|
| Ash Pearce | Designated Landscapes Programme Manager / Team Leader | 11.8.2025 |

Assessment Review (date tbc) – following statutory consultation

Actions reviewed and recommendations

| Actions and recommendations identified | What are you going to do? | What will be the intended outcome/difference made? | Who is responsible? | Timescale and any resource implications and comments |
|---|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
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Welsh Language Impact Assessment Update, Review and Approval following statutory consultation (insert date)

| Name | Position | Date |
|------|----------|------|
| | | |

Assessment Review (ensure that assessment is reviewed following any update or change, and a final copy sent to iaithgymraeg@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)