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# Wales's New National Park Proposal

## Public Consultation Leaflet

October – December 2024

[naturalresources.wales](https://naturalresources.wales)

# What is the Wales's New National Park Proposal?



Welsh Government has commissioned Natural Resources Wales (NRW), as the Designating Authority, to evaluate the case for creating a fourth National Park in Wales. Based on the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) it would be (if designated) the first new National Park in Wales since 1957.

NRW is following a statutory procedure and gathering evidence.

If the evidence shows that the criteria relating to Natural Beauty and opportunities for open air recreation are met, and the area is nationally important, then a National Park Designation Order will be submitted. Welsh Government Ministers will consider this and decide whether to confirm, refuse or vary the Order. If confirmed, a new National Park would be designated.

## Why are we consulting with you now?

The main aim of the public consultation is to gather your feedback on the draft boundary map, referred to as the Candidate Area.

We also want to:

- Share the evidence that we are accumulating.
- Share the Candidate Area for a potential National Park designation.
- Give you an opportunity for you to contribute evidence.
- Gather and understand new perspectives and information not already identified.
- Engage with a wider audience and hear from those affected, but who's views are less well represented in our work so far.
- Help decide if it is desirable for a National Park to be created.

## What has changed since the 2023 engagement period?

We carefully considered all the responses to our engagement period in 2023 and presented our initial findings in an engagement report published on our project website. We have since completed a series of assessments that inform us if a National Park is the most suitable course of action and give us a clearer understanding of what the geographical extent of the proposed National Park should be.

The reports we have completed so far were based on the Area of Search shared in 2023, together with some additional areas that we added following evidence submitted at the engagement period in 2023. The following assessments were completed with the help of independent consultants:

- **Special Qualities Assessment** - those qualities of the area worthy of protection or enhancement.

- **Forces for change** - the dynamic influences already, or likely to impact on the special qualities.
- **Management Options** - the options available to help manage the forces for change.
- **Evaluation Areas** - a detailed landscape evaluation of the initial Area of Search and areas added following the engagement period in 2023 identifying areas that do or do not meet statutory requirements for a designation.
- **Candidate Area** - a draft boundary map of the area where evidence supports National Park designation.

Further work is ongoing to assess the potential impact of a new National Park designation on Public Health, the Welsh Language and Nature. We are also continuing to work with a range of stakeholders including Local Authorities to understand how to adapt proposals so that benefits can be maximised, and risks mitigated.

## The Candidate Area

The 'Candidate Area' map identifies those areas that, after detailed evaluation by an independent and experienced landscape consultant, are found to meet the statutory criteria for a National Park.

The Candidate Area is made up of these key areas: The Clwydian Range, Llantysilio to Ruabon Mountain, Dee Valley, Wheeler and Alyn Valley, Trelawnyd Plateau, Pwll-glas, Berwyn,

Tanat Valley, Lake Vyrnwy, Dyfnant Forest.

Some areas previously included in the Area of Search have not been included in the Candidate Area namely Gronant Dunes and Talacre, the Vale of Clwyd, Halkyn Mountain and Hope Mountain.

Following representation provided during the engagement period we evaluated areas additional to the Area of Search.



As a consequence we have included an area in Pwll-glas, focused on Llanelidan, together with the Dee Valley and wooded hillslopes at Llandderfel to the Candidate Area. It was also concluded that the Mynydd Mynyllod area did not meet the statutory criteria.

## Get involved

We are consulting with you now on the Candidate Area map and supporting evidence.

We want to hear your feedback.

There will be events running throughout the consultation period for you to view maps and speak with members of the project team. You only need to attend one event (online or in-person) as the content is the same for each. There will also be events for targeted stakeholders such as elected members, those in the agricultural sector and landowners, renewable energy sector, environment and heritage groups, recreation and access groups, businesses and tourism groups, and utilities. The dates of all the events are displayed online. Please encourage family and friends to contribute their feedback too.

Once you have had a chance to view the Candidate Area map and evidence summary, we encourage



you to share your feedback with us. The public consultation period is designed to give you every opportunity to have your say and runs from Monday 7 October until Monday 16 December 2024.

**Accessibility:** If you would like this engagement leaflet in a different format, please email [designated.landscapes.programme@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:designated.landscapes.programme@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk) and we will do our best to help.

## Share your feedback

### Questionnaire

Please provide your feedback by completing our questionnaire.

Our short summary of the evidence and the full reports are available on our project website and at the events to read prior to responding to our consultation questionnaire.

We are interested in any new evidence or feedback you may have in relation to the map. Please be specific as changes will require supporting evidence.

**The easiest way to submit your feedback is online. Scan the QR code.**



If you are unable to do this online, you can complete a paper copy and send it back to us Freepost. All you need is an envelope.

Freepost Plus RTJJ-AAKE-HKKU, Wales's New National Park Proposal, Natural Resources Wales, Maes y Ffynnon, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW

All responses need to be received by 23:59 on Monday 16 December 2024. This includes postal responses so please allow plenty of time for delivery.

Any responses received after this date may not be considered as part of this stage of consultation.

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions about the Wales's New National Park Proposal, the consultation process or need help with completing a questionnaire.

Call customer care: **03000 653000** or email: [enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

## What happens next?

All the feedback we receive will be carefully analysed and considered by the team working on the Wales's New National Park Proposal.

A public consultation summary report will then be published in 2025. This report will summarise and respond to the feedback received and will be

made available to the public on our project website.

Once we have gathered all the evidence, made amendments and undertaken all impact assessments, a statutory consultation will take place later in 2025.



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## Evaluation timeline

