

Wales's New National Park Proposal

Final assessment of land for designation report



Report No: 938, updated, September 2025

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About Natural Resources Wales

Natural Resources Wales's purpose is to pursue sustainable management of natural resources. This means looking after air, land, water, wildlife, plants and soil to improve Wales's well-being, and provide a better future for everyone.

Evidence at Natural Resources Wales

Natural Resources Wales is an evidence-based organisation. We seek to ensure that our strategy, decisions, operations and advice to Welsh Government and others are underpinned by sound and quality-assured evidence. We recognise that it is critically important to have a good understanding of our changing environment.

We will realise this vision by:

- Maintaining and developing the technical specialist skills of our staff;
- Securing our data and information;
- Having a well-resourced proactive programme of evidence work;
- Continuing to review and add to our evidence to ensure it is fit for the challenges facing us; and
- Communicating our evidence in an open and transparent way.

This Evidence Report series serves as a record of work carried out by Natural Resources Wales. It also helps us to share and promote use of our evidence by others and develop future collaborations.

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Crynodeb gweithredol

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn nodi'r asesiad terfynol o dir i'w ddynodi ac yn cefnogi'r Ffin Arfaethedig ar gyfer Parc Cenedlaethol newydd yng Nghymru ar gyfer ymgynghoriad statudol yn Hydref a Gaeaf 2025.

Mae'n ymateb i adborth a gafwyd o'r ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus ar yr Ardal Ymgeisiol arfaethedig yn 2024, a oedd yn cynnwys heriau i ardaloedd o dirwedd a oedd wedi'u cynnwys a'u heithrio.

Rhannodd adroddiad Gwerthuso Gillespies 2024 ardal astudiaeth y Parc Cenedlaethol yn 32 o unedau tirwedd (Ardaloedd Gwerthuso) ac asesodd bob un am dystiolaeth o Harddwch Naturiol a chyfleoedd ar gyfer Hamdden Awyr Agored (y meini prawf ar gyfer dynodiad statudol). Mae'r dystiolaeth hon yn sail i faint Ardal Ymgeisiol 2024.

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn nodi adolygiad CNC o'r 32 Ardal Werthuso gan ystyried sylwadau'r ymgynghoriad, tystiolaeth bellach ac ymweliadau safle CNC, i ddod i gasgliad ar faint ardal o dir sy'n gymwys ar gyfer Parc Cenedlaethol arfaethedig, er mwyn symud ymlaen i ymgynghoriad statudol yn 2025. Cadarnhaodd adolygiad CNC y canlynol:

- Mae mwyafrif Ardaloedd Gwerthuso Gillespies wedi'u cadarnhau fel rhai sy'n bodloni'r meini prawf statudol ac mae ganddyn nhw gefnogaeth y cyhoedd. Mae eu maint llawn (wedi'i addasu yn ôl yr angen i fodloni ystyriaethau manwl o ran pennu ffiniau) wedi'i gynnwys yn y Parc Cenedlaethol arfaethedig.
- Arweiniodd yr adolygiad o dystiolaeth, cyd-destun a chefnogaeth y cyhoedd at gynnwys EA1 Twyni Talacre a Gronant. Mae maint llawn yr Ardal Werthuso (wedi'i addasu yn ôl yr angen i fodloni ystyriaethau manwl o ran pennu ffiniau) wedi'i gynnwys o fewn ffiniau arfaethedig y Parc Cenedlaethol.
- Canfuwyd bod yr Ardaloedd Gwerthuso canlynol yn cynnwys rhywfaint o amrywioldeb o ran y dirwedd a oedd yn bodloni'r meini prawf statudol yn gydlynol ar draws yr ardal gyfan. Arweiniodd hyn at addasiad o fewn rhai Ardaloedd Gwerthuso i gynnwys maint gofodol Harddwch Naturiol yn well a chael gwared ar rai Ardaloedd Gwerthuso lle'r oedd amrywiad yng nghryfder a phatrwm Harddwch Naturiol yn golygu ei bod yn anodd cynnwys tir cymwys o fewn ardal gydlynol ar gyfer dynodiad.
- Mae Ardaloedd Gwerthuso gyda gwelliannau i adlewyrchu maint gofodol Harddwch Naturiol a chydlyniant yr ardal derfynol yn cynnwys: EA20 Mynydd Mynyllod a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy Uchaf, EA26 Dyffryn Tanat, EA28 Hirnant a Rhialgwm.
- Mae Ardaloedd Gwerthuso y cafodd y rhan fwyaf neu'r cyfan ohonynt ei eithrio oherwydd amrywioldeb mewn Harddwch Naturiol a phroblemau cydlyniant yn cynnwys: EA29 Dyffryn a Bryniau Efyrrwy a Banwy, EA30 Tir Ffermio Hafren Gogledd, EA32 Tir Ffermio Hafren De.

Mae'r broses hon wedi arwain at newidiadau i ffin yr Ardal Ymgeisiol. Mae ffin arfaethedig y Parc Cenedlaethol:

- bellach yn cynnwys Twyni Gronant a Thalacre
- wedi'i haddasu i gynnwys ardal gydlynol o harddwch naturiol yn well o fewn ucheldir yr ardal, y dyffrynnoedd sy'n torri drwyddo a'r ymyl arfordirol.
- yn eithrio ardal fawr o iseldir wedi'i phoblogi o fewn Powys.

Mae ffiniau arfaethedig 2025 y Parc Cenedlaethol yn cynrychioli safon uwch ar gyfer bodloni'r meini prawf statudol. Mae CNC yn ystyried bod y diwygiadau'n gwella cydlyniant a'r gallu i amddiffyn y ffiniau arfaethedig ac yn gwella'r aliniad â gofynion statudol ar gyfer dynodi.

Mae Adroddiad ar Ffiniau Parc Cenedlaethol Arfaethedig Glyndŵr Medi 2025 – Rhif Adroddiad Tystiolaeth CNC: 945 yn ymateb i ganfyddiadau'r adroddiad hwn ac yn amlinellu ardal gydlynol o dirwedd gymwys ar gyfer y dynodiad arfaethedig. Disgrifir a darlunir y ffin fanwl mewn cyfres o 22 o fapiau ffiniau.

Executive summary

This report sets out the final assessment of land for designation and supports the Proposed Boundary for a new National Park in Wales for statutory consultation in Autumn and Winter 2025.

It responds to feedback received from the public consultation on the proposed Candidate Area in 2024, which included challenges to areas of landscape that had been included and excluded.

The Gillespies Evaluation report 2024 subdivided the National Park study area into 32 landscape units (Evaluation Areas) and assessed each for evidence of Natural Beauty and opportunities for Open-air Recreation (the statutory designation criteria). This evidence underpins the extent of the Candidate Area 2024.

This report sets out NRW's review of the 32 Evaluation Areas in the light of consultation comments, further evidence and NRW's site visits, to conclude on the extent of an area of land that qualifies for a proposed National Park to proceed to statutory consultation in 2025. NRW's review confirmed:

- The majority of the Gillespies Evaluation Areas have been confirmed as meeting the statutory criteria and have public support. Their full extent (adjusted as necessary to meet detailed boundary setting considerations) are included within the proposed National Park.
- The review of evidence, context and public support led to the inclusion of EA1 Talacre and Gronant Dunes. The Evaluation Area's full extent (adjusted as necessary to meet detailed boundary setting considerations) are included within the proposed National Park boundary.
- The following Evaluation Areas were found to contain some variability in landscape that met the statutory criteria test coherently across the entire area. This led to an adjustment within some Evaluation Areas to better capture the spatial extent of Natural Beauty and the removal of some Evaluation Areas where variance in the strength and pattern of Natural Beauty made inclusion of qualifying land within a coherent area for designation problematic to achieve.
- Evaluation Areas with amendments to reflect the spatial extent of Natural Beauty and coherence of the final area include: EA20 Mynydd Mynyllod and Upper Dee Valley, EA26 Tanat Valley, EA28 Hirnant and Rhialgwm.
- Evaluation Areas in the main or totally removed due to variability in Natural Beauty and coherence issues include: EA29 Vyrnwy and Banwy Valley and Hills, EA30 Severn Farmlands North, EA32 Severn Farmlands South.

This process has resulted in changes to the Candidate Area boundary. The proposed National Park boundary:

- now includes Gronant and Talacre Dunes

- has been refined to better capture a coherent area of natural beauty within the area's uplands, intersecting valleys and coastal edge
- excludes a large area of settled lowlands within Powys

The 2025 proposed National Park boundary represents a higher bar for meeting the statutory criteria. NRW consider that the revisions improve the coherence and defensibility of the proposed boundary and enhance alignment with statutory designation requirements.

The Proposed Glyndŵr National Park Boundary Report September 2025 – NRW Evidence Report No: 945 responds to the findings of this report and draws together a coherent area of qualifying landscape for proposed designation. The detailed boundary is described and illustrated in a series of 22 boundary maps.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

In its Programme for Government (2021-2026), Welsh Government sets out its intention to designate a new National Park in Wales based on the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Since 2024, AONBs have been branded as 'National Landscapes' but retain the AONB title under legislation.

As a result, Welsh Government has commissioned Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to evaluate the case for this designation. We (NRW) are the Welsh Government's statutory adviser on landscape and natural beauty and the designating authority for any new National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs, now known as National Landscapes).

We have established a team to lead this work which includes data and evidence gathering, engagement and consultation with local communities and other key stakeholders. A statutory process will be followed, and after consultation, we will present a recommendation to Welsh Government based on the evidence gathered.

If there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the statutory criteria relating to Natural Beauty and opportunities for open air recreation are met, and that the area is of such national significance that National Park purposes should apply, a Designation Order will be submitted to Welsh Government. Welsh Government will then consider this and decide whether to confirm, refuse or vary the Designation Order. If confirmed, Welsh Government will establish a new National Park in Wales.

1.2 Assessment of Land for Designation

This review of the 2024 evaluation, following public consultation on a Candidate Area, determines whether there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the statutory criteria relating to Natural Beauty and opportunities for open air recreation are met.

There is no statutory definition of Natural Beauty, but the term is widely used to refer to landscapes of high distinctiveness, scenic quality and cultural value. Whilst this can be seen as a subjective attribute of a landscape, professional landscape analysis and evidence can be used in a structured and transparent way to explain the judgements made.

NRW's GN 010 - Statutory landscape designation: procedural guidance (NRW 2022) sets out criteria for identifying landscapes with Natural Beauty. It has been developed in response to previous designations in the UK and provides guidance for assessing Natural Beauty and drawing up the boundaries of statutory designated landscapes. The following are the main criteria used to assess the presence of Natural Beauty:

- Landscape quality
- Scenic quality
- Relative wildness

- Relative tranquillity
- Natural heritage features
- Cultural heritage

The main criteria are supported by a number of associated factors and indicators to aid the assessment, as set out in the GN010.

Opportunities for open air recreation is the second statutory criteria for designation as a National Park. These opportunities for the quiet enjoyment of the special qualities of the area, are essential to fulfil the second purpose of the designation to: promote the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities by the public.

There is no legal definition of what opportunities for open-air recreation means in this context, except that generally accepted, as set out in GN010:

- Must be open-air and not organised games;
- Must have regard for the land;
- Provide a markedly superior recreational experience; and
- NRW can give regard to the position of the proposed designation in relation to centres of population

In assessing the potential of the area for designation, the project has evolved with NRW undertaking or commissioning a number of evidence reports, and considering public feedback in the refinement of a final boundary for a proposed National Park.

Below we set out the sequencing of assessments, public consultation feedback and NRW's responses at the time:

The Area of Search Report in 2023 NRW Report No: June 2023

This analysed the landscapes of north east Wales for evidence of Natural Beauty and opportunities for open air recreation, focussing on Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB (now National Landscape).

Public consultation on the Area of Search 2023

Public consultation generated requests for some additional areas to be assessed for inclusion within a potential National Park:

- Mynydd Mynyllod and the Upper Dee Valley
- Land to the north west of Hope Mountain
- The Clywedog Valley at Coedpoeth
- Park in the Past, the Castle and Caer Estyn Hillfort at Caergwle
- The full extents of Bryn Gwyn Hall Registered Park and Garden, near Caerwys

The Area of Search was amended to include these areas and became the geographical extents for the next assessment:

Gillespies Evaluation report 2024 (in association with Countryside and Fiona Fyfe Associates Ltd)

This report draws together findings of a more detailed assessment of Natural Beauty and opportunities for open-air recreation. During site visits Gillespie's identified some additional areas along the edges of the study area and recommended their inclusion:

- A southerly extension to EA16 Pwll-Glâs to include landscape with a very similar character and quality - NRW agreed to this;
- An eastern extension to EA32 Severn Farmlands South to include a small section along the eastern side of the Meifod Valley - NRW landscape team visited this area and considered the area didn't have sufficient natural beauty and opportunities for outdoor recreation to justify its inclusion. This area was not included for evaluation.

The resultant study area evaluated by Gillespies is shown in Figure 1. The study area was subdivided into 32 landscape units (Evaluation Areas), to allow assessment against the statutory criteria to be presented in a clear and transparent way.

Figure 2 illustrates the 32 Evaluation Areas. The areas assessed by Gillespies as meeting the designation criteria then went onto define the extent of the Candidate Area (also illustrated in this figure).

Public consultation on the Candidate Area Autumn 2024

Feedback received from the public consultation on the proposed Candidate Area 2024, included challenges to areas of landscape that had been included and areas excluded. The feedback was collated in a Public Consultation Report (NRW & Resources for Change 2025).

Final assessment of land for designation report - NRW Report No: 938

This report sets out NRW's review of the 32 Evaluation Areas in the light of public consultation comments, further evidence and NRW's site visits by its landscape team (including a Chartered Landscape Architect), to evaluate and conclude on the extent of an area that qualifies for a proposed National Park, to proceed to statutory consultation 2025.

Table 1 Sets out NRW's review of the 32 Evaluation Areas.

Table 2 Summarises the findings of Table 1 and how going forward this informs the extent of the proposed National Park, that will proceed to statutory consultation 2025.

The Proposed Glyndŵr National Park Boundary Report September 2025 – NRW Report No: 945

This report responds to the findings of the Final assessment of land for designation report - NRW Report No: 938 and draws together a coherent area of qualifying landscape for proposed designation. The detailed boundary is described and illustrated in a series of 22 boundary maps accompanied with a Key Plan.

2. NRW's review of the Evaluation Areas to inform the extent of the proposed National Park.

2.1 Introduction

This section shows the Evaluated Area (2024) in Fig.1 and Proposed Candidate Area (Gillespies Report) in Fig. 2. NRW's review of the Gillespies Evaluation Areas and Proposed Candidate Area is described. This has informed the proposed National Park area that NRW considers meets the statutory criteria.

The detailed boundary setting has resulted in minor adjustments to the alignment of the Evaluation Area map with the proposed Candidate Area map and Proposed Boundary for the National Park map.

The Gillespies Evaluation Report 2024 provides an evaluation of 32 Evaluation Areas against the two statutory criteria - Natural Beauty and opportunities for Open-air Recreation.

Table 1 Sets out NRW's review of the 32 Evaluation Areas.

Table 2 Summarises the findings of Table 1 and how going forward this informs the extent of the proposed National Park, that will proceed to statutory consultation 2025.

Figure 1 Evaluated Area

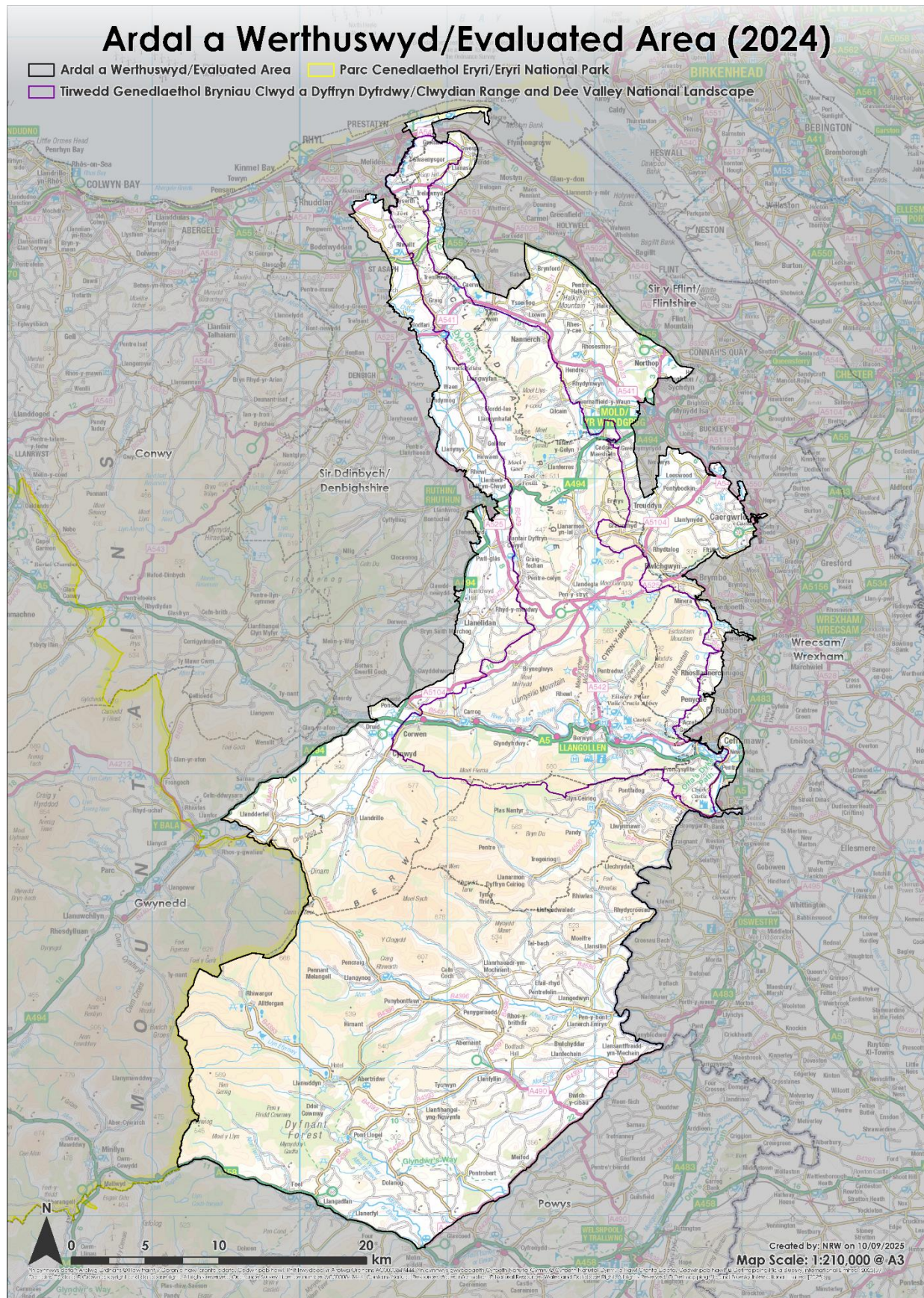
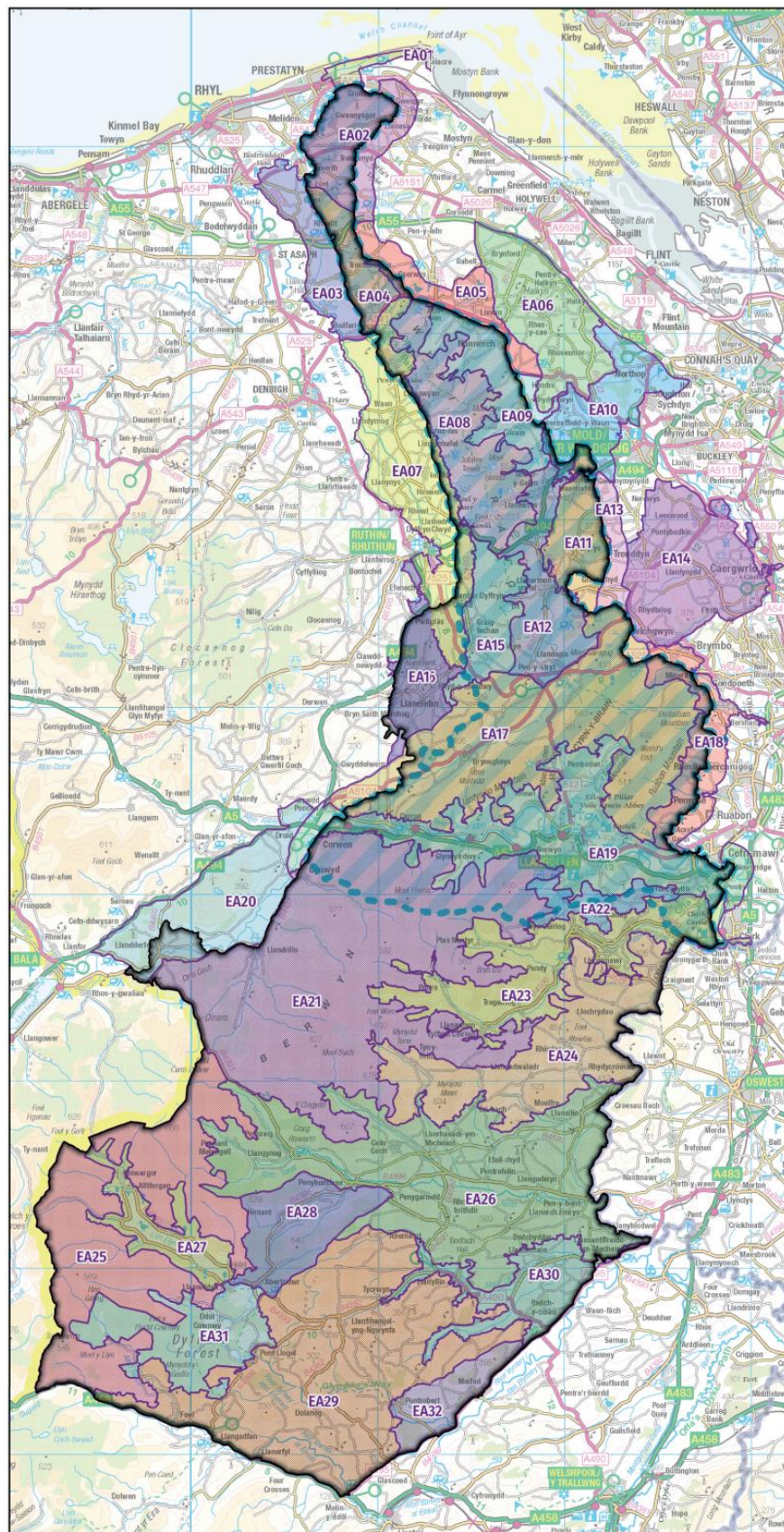


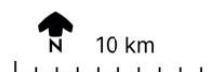
Figure 2 Proposed Candidate Area (Gillespies Report)



A Proposed National Park for Wales


Figure 36 - Candidate Area


- Candidate Area
- Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape
- Evaluation Area
- EA01 Talacre and Gronant Dunes
- EA02 Prestatyn - Dyserth Scarp and Trelawnyd Plateau
- EA03 Vale of Clwyd North at St Asaph
- EA04 Clwydian Range North
- EA05 Caerwys Lowlands
- EA06 Halkyn Mountain
- EA07 Vale of Clwyd Denbigh-Ruthin
- EA08 Clwydian Range Central
- EA09 Wheeler Valley
- EA10 Mold Lowlands
- EA11 Eryrys Uplands
- EA12 Alyn Valley
- EA13 Eryrys Slopes
- EA14 Hope Mountain
- EA15 Clwydian Range South
- EA16 Pwll Glas
- EA17 Llantysilio to Ruabon Mountain
- EA18 Rhos Slopes
- EA19 Dee Valley and Llangollen
- EA20 Myrdd Mynydd and the Upper Dee Valley
- EA21 Berwyn Mountains North
- EA22 Berwyn Foothills North
- EA23 Ceiriog Valley
- EA24 Berwyn Foothills South
- EA25 Berwyn Mountains South
- EA26 Tanat Valley
- EA27 Llyn Efyrrwy
- EA28 Hirnant and Rhialgwm
- EA29 Vyrnwy and Banwy Valley and Hills
- EA30 Severn Farmlands North
- EA31 Dyfnant Forest
- EA32 Severn Farmlands South





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Table 1 Evaluation Areas – Review of Evidence


Evaluation Area EA1 – Talacre and Gronant Dunes	
	
<p>Gillespies Summary Evaluation</p>	<p>With a very large part of the EA covered by nationally/internationally important nature conservation designations, there is no doubt that natural interest of the EA is outstanding. Related to this, the composition of extensive semi-natural and natural habitats underpins a very strong and distinctive sense of place, with a high landscape and scenic quality. The provision of open-air recreation and the associated opportunities for the enjoyment of the coast is also excellent.</p> <p>However, the landscape and scenic quality of the EA as a whole is affected by the much lower quality of the farmland and a golf course to the south. As part of this, a proliferation of intrusive built development and incongruous land uses around the southern, western and eastern fringes of the EA notably erode and detract from the experience of natural beauty, especially when viewed from higher ground to the south. Furthermore, there is only a very narrow corridor of lesser quality landscape within the EA that could potentially connect the higher quality coastal landscape to north with the National Landscape to the south. Considering all of these factors, it is recommended that all of EA should be excluded from the proposed Candidate Area.</p>
<p>Public Consultation Feedback</p>	<p>Significant and strong support for inclusion of this EA, with very little opposition. Locally specific evidence about species was provided, this being the only breeding site for Little Terns in Wales. It also provides habitat for Natterjack Toad, Sand Lizard and specific Lepidoptera species. It is a unique and distinct area and there is a significant opportunity to benefit nature via the National Park mechanism.</p>


Review of Evidence	NRW proposes to include Gronant and Talacre Dunes within the NP boundary. Public consultation evidence and the findings of the Benefits of Nature report clarified the rarity of this landscape within Wales and the rarity of the species it supports. The Gillespies assessment had already identified Natural Beauty and Recreation provision being strongly evident. Gillespies recommended not including this area due to negative effects of development. It is NRW's view that the negative effects are not sufficiently significant to warrant excluding an area of notable Natural Beauty and Recreation provision. The original decision was marginal and the supplementary evidence is sufficient to justify the inclusion of this area.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the entire area of EA1 in the Proposed Boundary.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of EA1.
Evaluation Area EA2 – Prestatyn-Dyserth Slopes and Trelawnyd Plateau 	
Gillespies Summary Evaluation	<p>Within the large majority of the EA that is designated National Landscape, most of the landscape retains a high landscape and scenic quality and although some parts have been affected by land use change and unsympathetic development, overall, the EA is still considered to meet the test of having an 'outstanding natural beauty'. With regard to the eastern fringes that are outside of the National Landscape, there is no strong evidence to suggest that the landscape is of sufficient natural beauty to merit further consideration.</p> <p>In relation to recreation, there are a wealth of opportunities to enjoy the outstanding landscape of the westerly escarpment, many of which are easily accessible and close to large centres of populations.</p>


	As part of this, the nationally important Offa's Dyke National Trail is a key feature. To the east of the EA, recreational opportunity is largely limited to the use of National Cycle Network Route 5 and PRow, although as the network is relatively extensive and well connected, there are many opportunities for the quiet enjoyment of the National Landscape. As such, it is recommended that all areas within the National Landscape are included within the proposed Candidate Area, while the areas outside the National Landscape should be excluded .
Public Consultation Feedback	Strong support for inclusion of all areas within the National Landscape. No specific evidence in opposition to exclusion of areas outside the National Landscape.
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include all areas within the National Landscape, exclude those outside.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape.
Evaluation Area EA3 – Vale of Clwyd North and St Asaph 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	Although the EA exhibits a relatively high landscape and scenic quality and has a wealth of nationally important cultural interests that often manifest in a distinctive sense of place, the contribution of natural interest to the experience of natural beauty is quite limited, as are the perceptions of relative tranquillity and wildness. Considering all of these factors, the natural beauty of the landscape is not considered to be outstanding. Furthermore, as the EA has relatively limited access to, and opportunities for, the enjoyment of open-air recreation, it is recommended that all of landscape should be excluded from the proposed Candidate Area.


Public Consultation Feedback	Whilst there were a small number of comments in support inclusion, no specific evidence was put forward to justify this. Also agreement this area should be excluded.
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Exclude the entire area of EA3 from the Proposed Boundary.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape.
Evaluation Area EA4 – Clwydian Range North 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	Most of the EA, all of which is designated National Landscape, retains a high landscape and scenic quality and although some parts have been affected by land use change and unsympathetic development. Despite this, overall, the EA is still considered to meet the test of having an 'outstanding natural beauty'. In relation to recreation, there is a good provision of opportunities to enjoy the outstanding landscape, in particular via the nationally important Offa's Dyke National Trail and Pilgrim's Way. The landscape is also in quite close proximity to large centres of population and there are some opportunities to further improve the recreational offer. As such, it is recommended that all of EA within the National Landscape should be included within the proposed Candidate Area.
Public Consultation Feedback	Support for inclusion of the area as within the National Landscape
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.


Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the entire area of EA4 within the Proposed Boundary.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape.
Evaluation Area EA5 – Caerwys Lowlands 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>In relation to factors that contribute to natural beauty, there are some important features and qualities but as their influence is relatively localised, none of the criteria are rated as 'high'. Although the heavily wooded Ysceifiog valley has a very strong sense of place where the interplay of the distinctive National Landscape backdrop results in a highly scenic composition, the experience of natural beauty is not considered sufficient at the landscape scale. Consequently, the natural beauty of the EA is not judged to be outstanding. Furthermore, the provision of open-air recreation is also quite limited, with relatively few opportunities to enjoy the landscape. Considering all of these factors, it is recommended that all of EA outside of the National Landscape should be excluded from the proposed Candidate Area. Given the higher landscape and scenic quality of the small area of land that is within the National Landscape however, this part of the EA should be included.</p>
Public Consultation Feedback	Support for inclusion of small area within the National Landscape, No specific evidence in opposition to exclusion of areas outside the National Landscape. Some support for inclusion based on presence of Dormice, Bats, Broadleaved woodland.
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the small area within the National Landscapes, exclude the area outside.


Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape.
Evaluation Area EA6 – Halkyn Mountain 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>With large parts of the EA designated a SAC and a Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, there is no doubt that the natural and cultural interest of this unique landscape makes a very significant contribution to the experience of natural beauty. Easily accessible opportunities for the recreational enjoyment of the landscape are also very good. However, for the reasons given above (primarily impacts of development) , both landscape and scenic quality are only considered to be average and although there are some scenic parts, the overall quality of the landscape is not considered to be outstanding in the context of a National Park designation. Furthermore, to the west of the EA, all of the intervening landscape between this EA and the National Landscape is recommended for exclusion from the proposed Candidate Area. As such, it is recommended that all of this EA should be excluded from the proposed Candidate Area.</p>
Public Consultation Feedback	<p>Support from local residents for inclusion, also opposition based on lack of natural beauty and mining/quarrying interests. Evidence to support based on the unique and distinct area of Common Land, recreation, native species and cultural/industrial heritage, against inclusion is evidence of compromised natural beauty and mining/quarrying activity. Also some support for exclusion.</p>
Review of Evidence	<p>Gillespies recommendation was based on significant detractors to natural beauty; as a statutory requirement, the recommendation to exclude was clear. The detractors to natural beauty are too significant to overturn the recommendation based on</p>


	the submitted evidence. Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Exclude the entire area of EA5 from the Proposed Boundary.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape.
Evaluation Area EA7 – Vale of Clwyd Denbigh-Ruthin 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>With nearly the entire EA within the Vale of Clwyd Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, along with a good coverage of other important historic features and associations, the cultural interest of the EA significantly contributes to the appreciation of natural beauty. With regard to natural interest however, the EA exhibits little notable value. Concerning factors relating to landscape and scenic quality, the EA exhibits a prevailing rural quality although in terms of its landscape and physiographic features, the simple pattern lacks diversity. Perceptions of relative tranquillity and wildness are also quite limited. Considering these factors, the natural beauty of most of the landscape outside of the National Landscape is not considered to be outstanding. Furthermore, as the EA has very little to offer in providing access to, and opportunities for, the enjoyment of open-air recreation. Therefore, it is recommended that most of the EA should be excluded from the proposed Candidate Area.</p> <p>However, as the landscape to the south of Dyffryn Clwyd is strongly contained by a dramatic backdrop of the Clwydian uplands to the east, and the highly distinctive low wooded hills of Pwll-Glâs (EA16) to the west, it affords a high scenic quality with a strong sense of place. As such, it is recommended that this part of the EA, in addition to the narrow westerly swathe of the National Landscape, should be included</p>

	within the proposed Candidate Area. Although the recreational offer is relatively minimal, it should be recognised that this small area of landscape serves as a scenic gateway into the National Landscape from the nearby town of Ruthin.
Public Consultation Feedback	Whilst there were a small number of comments in support of inclusion, for its medieval towns, estate parkland and field systems, no specific evidence was put forward to justify this. Also some support for exclusion as area should be reserved for agriculture.
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Exclude the majority of the EA, with a small part to the south and narrow westerly swathe of the National Landscape to be included.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Majority to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape, the southern boundary between EA15 and EA16 has been defined in detailed boundary setting.
Evaluation Area EA8 – Clwydian Range Central 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	Nearly all of the EA, all of which is designated National Landscape, retains a high landscape and scenic quality and with a wealth of natural and cultural features, the EA is still considered to meet the test of having an ‘outstanding natural beauty’. In relation to recreation, there is an excellent provision of widespread opportunities to enjoy this stunning landscape and its associated wealth of natural and cultural interest. As such, it is recommended that all of EA should be included within the proposed Candidate Area.
Public Consultation Feedback	Support for inclusion of the area as within the National Landscape

Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the entire area of EA8 within the Proposed Boundary.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape.
Evaluation Area EA9 – Wheeler Valley 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>The large majority of the EA that is designated retains a high landscape and scenic quality, and with a wealth of cultural features, this distinctive valley landscape is still considered to meet the test of having an ‘outstanding natural beauty’. In relation to recreation, apart from the opportunities for the quiet enjoyment of the countryside via the network of PRow, the EA offers very little other open-air recreational provision or access to features of natural and cultural interest. However, as there are very extensive areas open access in the adjacent EA8 (<i>Clwydian Range Central</i>) that overlook this highly scenic landscape, it is an important part of the wider recreational resource. The EA also lies in quite close proximity to large centres of population. For these reasons, it is recommended that all of EA within the National Landscape should be included within the proposed Candidate Area.</p> <p>With regard to the small part of the EA outside of the National Landscape to the east of Cilcain that extends into the narrow of Nant Alyn, this area is affected by the presence of caravan parks and a nearby quarry. As such it is recommended that this should be excluded from the proposed Candidate Area.</p>
Public Consultation Feedback	Strong support for inclusion of the main part of the area within the National Landscape. No specific evidence in

	opposition to exclusion of the small part outside the National Landscape.
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the main part of the area within the National Landscape, exclude the small part outside.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape.
Evaluation Area EA10 – Mold Lowlands 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>With regard to factors relating to natural beauty, the EA scores relatively high in most cases. In particular, the composition of rolling irregular pastures with a good coverage of Ancient Woodlands contributes to a distinctive sense of place and strong rural character. The large areas of designed parkland also make a valuable contribution to the experience of natural beauty. However, although the landscape is of significant cultural interest and exhibits strong time depth, the landscape and scenic quality is not considered to meet the high standards of National Park, despite being very attractive. Moreover, the recreational offer is very limited and therefore, it is recommended that all of EA outside of the National Landscape should be excluded from the proposed Candidate Area for designation. The small part within the National Landscape, most of which is designated as a SAC, should however be included</p>
Public Consultation Feedback	No specific evidence in opposition to exclusion of the main part of the area outside the National Landscape. Support for inclusion of the small part within the National Landscape.
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation

Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Exclude the majority of the EA outside the National Landscape, with a small part, mostly within a SAC in the National Landscape to be included.
Defining the extent/location of boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape.
Evaluation Area EA11 – Eryrys Uplands 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>The large majority of the EA that is designated National Landscape retains a high landscape and scenic quality and with a wealth of natural and cultural features, this highly distinctive landscape is still considered to meet the test of having an ‘outstanding natural beauty’. In particular, the rocky limestone hills make a very important contribution to this unique landscape. In relation to recreation, the EA also offers a very good provision of access opportunities to enjoy a wealth of natural and cultural features, along with some stunning views of the wider landscape. The EA also lies in quite close proximity to large centres of population. For these reasons, it is recommended that all of EA within the National Landscape should be included within the proposed Candidate Area.</p> <p>With regard to the small part to the south of the EA that is outside of the National Landscape, the impact of Stoddard’s quarry (now closed), notably erodes the landscape and scenic quality of the local area and therefore, it is recommended that this should be excluded from the proposed Candidate Area.</p>
Public Consultation Feedback	Strong support for inclusion of the main part of the area within the National Landscape. No specific evidence in opposition to exclusion of the small part outside the National Landscape.
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.

Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the main part of the area within the National Landscape, exclude the small part outside.
Defining the extent/location of boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape.
Evaluation Area EA12 – Alyn Valley 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	With very nearly all of the EA designated as National Landscape, the landscape retains a high landscape and scenic quality and with a wealth of natural and cultural features, this highly distinctive landscape is still considered to meet the test of having an ‘outstanding natural beauty’. In particular, the high scenic quality of the valley makes a very important contribution to the appreciation of natural beauty, as well as significantly contributing to the recreational enjoyment from nearby upland landscapes to the east and west of the valley. As such, it is recommended that all of the EA within the National Landscape should be included within the proposed Candidate Area, with the very small part of non-National Landscape excluded .
Public Consultation Feedback	Strong support for inclusion of the main part of the area within the National Landscape. No specific evidence in opposition to exclusion of the small part outside the National Landscape.
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the main part of the area within the National Landscape, exclude the small part outside.
Defining the extent/location of boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape.

Evaluation Area EA13 – Eryrys Slopes



Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	Although the EA forms an important backdrop to the lower-lying landscape to the east, and a transition to the National Landscape to the west, none of the factors that relate to natural beauty are especially strong or apparent. Landscape and scenic quality is quite ordinary, and there are relatively few natural and cultural features of interest. The strength of perceptual qualities is also very limited. Furthermore, as the EA has very little to offer in providing access to, and opportunities for, the enjoyment of open-air recreation, it is recommended that all of EA should be excluded from the proposed Candidate Area.
Public Consultation Feedback	No specific evidence in opposition to exclusion of the EA.
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Exclude the entire area of EA13 from the Proposed Boundary.
Defining the extent/location of boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape.

Evaluation Area EA14 – Hope Mountain



Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	The landscape associated with Hope Mountain, as well as the wooded valleys to the south and the more rural parts towards the centre of the EA, exhibit a notably higher landscape and scenic quality than the northern
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	<p>parts and the upland fringe landscape to the south-west of the EA. Although these more scenic parts might have some potential to meet the test of 'outstanding' natural beauty in isolation, given that the upland fringe landscape between these areas and the National Landscape boundary further to the west is of much lesser quality, a coherent and sufficient tract of connecting high quality landscape cannot be identified. Notwithstanding this key point, apart from the Country Park and the network of PRow, the EA has little to offer in providing access to, and opportunities for, the enjoyment of open-air recreation. Considering all these factors, it is recommended that all of EA should be excluded from the proposed Candidate Area.</p>
Public Consultation Feedback	<p>Significant support for inclusion from local residents and endorsed by community councils. Evidence to support focussed on recreational opportunity, providing linkages to surrounding areas and protection of rare species and opportunity for enhancing ecological networks/nature recovery. Some detailed feedback was included. Some support for exclusion based on mineral extraction.</p>
Review of Evidence	<p>Gillespies report concluded it should not be included, fragmentation of the wider area meant that on balance the area was excluded. Agree with the Gillespies evaluation, whilst there is some evidence to support the recreation criteria, there is insufficient natural beauty to justify inclusion.</p>
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	<p>Exclude the entire area of EA14 from the Proposed Boundary.</p>
Defining the extent/location of boundary	<p>Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape.</p>

Evaluation Area EA15 – Clwydian Range South



Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	With all of the EA designated as National Landscape, most of the landscape retains a high landscape and scenic quality and with a wealth of natural and cultural features, the EA is still considered to meet the test of having an ‘outstanding natural beauty’. In relation to recreation, there is a good provision of relatively widespread opportunities to enjoy this stunning upland landscape, and its associated wealth of natural and cultural interest. As such, it is recommended that all of EA should be included within the proposed Candidate Area.
Public Consultation Feedback	Support for inclusion of the area as within the National Landscape.
Review of Evidence	Mainly agree with the Gillespies evaluation, however a small part of this EA extends outside of the National Landscape to the west and should also be included as it links and is strongly associated with the adjacent parts of EA7, EA16 and EA17.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the entire area of EA15 within the Proposed Boundary.
Defining the extent/location of boundary	Majority of the detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape, with the small part to the west to be incorporated in a new area linking EA7, EA16 and EA17.

Evaluation Area EA16 – Pwll-Glâs




Gillespies Summary of Evaluation


With a very high proportion and a distinctive pattern of Ancient Woodlands, along with limestone cliffs, small rolling hills and areas of parkland, the EA exhibits a strong sense of place. Limestone cottages and farmsteads also make a notable contribution to sense of place, and a strong pattern of irregular pastures enclosed by species rich hedgerows with mature trees and small woodlands, contribute to a very rural and intimate experience. A strong time-depth is also experienced throughout the EA. Although recreational opportunities are largely limited to the quiet enjoyment of the countryside via the PRoW network, this is very extensive and well-connected. There are also good opportunities to further enhance the network to establish locally promoted circular routes that link with the town of Ruthin, as well cycle routes along the quiet rural lanes. As such, it is recommended that nearly all of EA should be **included** within the proposed Candidate Area.


The small area recommended for **exclusion** lies to the north of the A949 where a golf course detracts from the appreciation of natural beauty. Further north towards Ruthin, it is considered that this part of the EA does not constitute a sufficient tract of land to form a coherent designated area at the landscape scale, especially as the landscape to the north of Dyffryn Clwyd within EA7 (*Vale of Clwyd Denbigh – Ruthin*) is recommend for Candidate Area exclusion.


Public Consultation Feedback

Limited feedback; suggested inclusion of whole of area from Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd to Pwll-Glâs (most of this part of EA7 and EA16 included in CA) and amendment to include all of the SSSI- Craig Adwy-wynt a Choed Eyarth House a Chîl-y-groeslwyd to ensure management of the SSSI and features is coherent. No new evidence submitted to justify a change. Some support and opposition for inclusion based on


	boundary splitting the village/SSSI and on potential future mineral extraction.
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the main part of the EA in the Proposed Boundary, include the SSSI, exclude small area north of A949.
Defining the extent/location of boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the western boundary of the EA to be included, linking to EA7, EA15 and EA17.
Evaluation Area EA17 – Llantysilio to Ruabon Mountain 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>Despite the negative influence of some incongruous elements and land uses, the large majority of the EA retains a high landscape and scenic quality, particularly the areas of distinctive uplands. As such, the EA is considered to still meet the test of ‘outstanding’ natural beauty. Of particular relevance, extensive areas of SPA make a very significant contribution to its natural and scenic value. In relation to recreation, there is an excellent provision of widespread opportunities to enjoy this stunning upland landscape, and its associated wealth of natural and cultural interest. As such, it is recommended that all of EA within the National Landscape should be included within the proposed Candidate Area. Due to the influence of a line of pylons and a weak landscape pattern however, the lower non-National Landscape slopes along the western edge of the EA are recommended to be excluded.</p>


Public Consultation Feedback	Strong support for inclusion of the main part of the area within the National Landscape. No specific evidence in opposition to exclusion of the slopes along the western edge outside the National Landscape. Minor opposition to Ruabon Mountain, but already within National Landscape.
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation and note that the northern part of the western edge includes many of the attributes of EA16 and forms a strong connection to EA16 and EA15 and the National Landscape to the north and east. This part is included in the proposed Candidate Area.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the main part of EA17 in the proposed National Park boundary, exclude the slopes along the western edge outside the National Landscape, with the exception of the north part of the western edge that links to EA16 and EA15.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Majority to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape, with the north western boundary between EA17 and EA16 defined in detailed boundary setting.
Evaluation Area EA18 – Rhos Slopes 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	Located within the National Landscape, it is clearly evident that the highly scenic upper slopes still meet the test of 'outstanding' natural beauty and although the provision of open-air recreation is quite limited, this is a relatively small area of landscape that is very close to an extensive area of Open Access within EA17 (<i>Llantysilio to Ruabon Mountain</i>). As the upper slopes form a gateway into this area from large centres of nearby population, it is therefore recommended that this part of EA should be included within the proposed Candidate Area. However, the landscape and scenic quality of the lower non- National Landscape slopes is notably weaker. The northern area is also influenced

	by pylons, overhead wires and the settlement edge of Coedpoeth which affects the farmed valley section of the Clywedog valley. It is therefore recommended that the eastern part of the EA should be excluded .
Public Consultation Feedback	Support for inclusion of the upper slopes within the National Landscape. No specific evidence in opposition to exclusion of the lower slopes along the eastern edge outside the National Landscape.
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the upper slopes within the National Landscape of EA18 in the Proposed Boundary, exclude the lower slopes along the eastern edge outside the National Landscape.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape.
Evaluation Area EA19 – Dee Valley and Llangollen 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>For the large majority of the EA that falls within the National Landscape, the EA still clearly meets the test of 'outstanding' natural beauty. Of particular note, this highly scenic valley offers some of the most the varied and extensive coverage of natural and cultural features, many of which can be accessed and enjoyed by a wide range of recreational opportunities. For these reasons, it is recommended that all of EA within the National Landscape should be included within the proposed Candidate Area.</p> <p>With regard to the small parts of the EA outside of the National Landscape at the eastern and western outer extents of the EA, there areas are notably less scenic and are influenced by busy roads and settlement. As such, it is recommended that these parts of the EA should be excluded.</p>


Public Consultation Feedback	Strong support for inclusion of the main part of this area within the National Landscape. No specific evidence in opposition to exclusion of the small parts outside of the National Landscape at the eastern and western outer extents of the EA.
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the main part of EA19 that is within the National Landscape in the Proposed Boundary, exclude the small parts outside the National Landscape at the eastern and western outer extents of the EA.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the current boundary of the National Landscape.
Evaluation Area EA20 – Mynydd Mynyllod and the Upper Dee Valley 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>With regard to factors of natural beauty, the EA scores relatively high in relation to landscape and scenic quality. In particular, the two Mosaic Lowland Valleys units that form a setting to the picturesque village of Llandderfel are especially scenic, and with a very distinctive backdrop of the nearby Berwyn uplands and the Eryri National Park, there is a very strong sense of place. The natural character and quality of the meandering River Dee also makes a significant contribution to the natural beauty of this part of the EA. With good PRow links from Llandderfel, and opportunities to further develop the recreational offer along the river, most of the two Mosaic Lowland Valleys units are therefore recommended for inclusion within the proposed Candidate Area.</p> <p>In relation to the highly scenic Upland Grazing units of the Mynydd Mynyllod, their natural beauty is notably eroded by the prominence of the Braich Ddu wind farm. When viewed from the valley to the south-east, the appreciation of these uplands is also diminished by</p>


	<p>the presence of intrusive land use taking place along the intervening valley sides. The rural character of the central and eastern end of the Dee Valley is also weakened by fragmented field boundaries and occasional presence of suburban dwellings, caravan park development, horsiculture and solar panels. Whilst the Mynydd Mynyllod exhibits some strong landscape qualities in its own right, the uplands feel quite detached from the proposed Candidate Area. For all of these reasons, it is proposed to exclude the Mynydd Mynyllod uplands from the Candidate Area, as well as areas with weaker natural beauty to the east and north.</p>
Public Consultation Feedback	<p>Significant support for inclusion of Mynydd Mynyllod, many repeating the same information, based on natural beauty, nature, including Curlew populations, recreation and heritage. Some support for exclusion, relating to impact of wind farm and other developments, but also interest in renewables. Some of the evidence provided by Gillespies has been challenged.</p> <p>Feedback has been supportive of including the Upper Dee Valley based on ecological benefits, mainly from a desire to take a whole catchment approach, some support for inclusion of a section between Cynwyd and Llandrillo for visual continuity and to protect historic assets, otherwise little additional information relating to the statutory criteria.</p>
Review of Evidence	<p>Agree with the Gillespies evaluation; the majority of Mynydd Mynyllod is not of sufficient natural beauty due to the detracting developments and fragmented field boundaries and detachment from the main upland block of the Berwyn to the east. Similarly the Dee Valley to the north and east of this EA is weak on the natural beauty criteria.</p> <p>The two Mosaic Lowland Valley units which form the setting to Llandderfel are especially scenic, along with the meandering River Dee at this point and backdrop of Eryri and the Berwyn and this part of the EA should be included but amendments are required to better define the boundary of this area.</p>
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	<p>Exclude the majority of E20, Mynydd Mynyllod and the Upper Dee Valley, with the exception of the area to the south west around Llandderfel, which should be</p>

	included in the Proposed Boundary with amendments to better define the boundary of this area in relation to the statutory criteria. Detailed boundary setting adjustments to be made to the boundary proposed by Gillespies.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on the south western part of EA20 only to be included, linking to EA21, otherwise following the Eryri National Park boundary, the boundary of EA21 and current National Landscape boundary to the north. The EA extents around Llandderfel follow a LANDMAP visual and sensory evaluation area. It is recommended that detailed boundary setting be guided by the northern valley viewshed.
Evaluation Area EA21 - Berwyn Mountains North 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	The EA exhibits a wealth of natural, cultural and perceptual qualities that combine to instil a very strong sense of natural beauty. Of particular relevance, extensive areas of SPA/SSSI make a very significant contribution to its natural and scenic value. In relation to recreation, there is an very good provision of widespread opportunities to enjoy this stunning upland landscape, and its associated wealth of natural and cultural interest. As such, it is recommended that all of EA should be included within the proposed Candidate Area.
Public Consultation Feedback	Mostly positive feedback in relation to the Berwyn range being included (comments against N Powys inclusion generally, however these comments mostly did not appear to relate to the Berwyn e.g. referencing improved farmland and settlements not remote uplands). Information submitted relating to illegal offroad vehicles-there is potential for a NP to address these issues. Strong evidence that the Berwyn uplands are of highest potential for nature benefits


Review of Evidence	<p>Although there were significant objections in Powys, these did not meaningfully distinguish between the areas being described in the objections (improved farmland, settlements and remote communities) and the more remote uplands found in this area. There are significantly better opportunities in these upland areas for farming to benefit from nature focussed agri-subsidies and funding opportunities such as Ffermio-Bro, Peatland restoration, SFS collaborative layer for example. Strong evidence for inclusion in NP with some significant potential benefits to more focussed management of the challenges experienced in the area. Agree with Gillespies evaluation.</p> <p>The area exhibits strong natural beauty and very good opportunities for recreation and so meets the statutory criteria.</p>
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the entire area of EA21 in the Proposed Boundary.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on boundary of EA21 (and EA20) to the west and to the east by boundary setting within EA23, EA24 and EA26.
Evaluation Area EA22 – Berwyn Foothills North 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>Although most factors relating to natural beauty are not rated as highly as many other EAs within the National Landscape, it is considered that the northern part of the EA still meets the test of 'outstanding' natural beauty. With regard to the southern part outside of the National Landscape, its scenic appreciation is significantly enhanced by some spectacular views of the Ceiriog valley. From lower-lying areas, the EA also forms an important undeveloped backdrop. With regard to recreation within the EA, the landscape has very little to offer although from adjacent EAs, it forms part</p>


	<p>of the wider landscape that contributes to recreational enjoyment.</p> <p>Whilst the EA has a limited provision of recreational opportunities, with few natural and cultural features that contribute to the experience of natural beauty, it should be recognised that this EA is very small and in the context of the higher quality surrounding EAs, all of which are recommended for inclusion within the proposed Candidate Area, it still has a significant function in relation to a potential National Park designation. As such, it is recommended that all of the EA should be included within the proposed Candidate Area.</p>
Public Consultation Feedback	Strong support for inclusion of the northern part of this area within the National Landscape. No specific evidence in opposition to exclusion of the southern part outside of the National Landscape. General opposition to inclusion of North Powys.
Review of Evidence	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the entire area of EA22 within the Proposed Boundary.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Contained within Candidate Area, detailed boundary setting to be based on boundary of EA21 to the west and EA23 to the east.

Evaluation Area EA23 – Ceiriog Valley	
	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>The Ceiriog valley is a highly scenic rural landscape that with very steep enclosing valley sides exhibits a very strong sense of place. The valley also has a wealth of natural and cultural features to enjoy, including the designed landscape of Chirk Castle. The valley also offers an excellent range of accessible</p>


	recreational opportunities, located in quite close proximity to large centres of population. As such, it is recommended that nearly all of EA should be included within the proposed Candidate Area. As Chirk Aqueduct straddles the Welsh-English border and the site is covered by management of the World Heritage Site, the valley floor which comprises a thin slither of the EA has however been excluded .
Public Consultation Feedback	Significant opposition to this area being included, some support. Objections/evidence are based on planning implications and agriculture, and limited infrastructure for more tourism, rather than the statutory criteria. Assessment of the potential impacts is ongoing.
Review of Evidence	Some variation in the strength of evidence to support inclusion, with evidence decreasing from west to east. Wrexham Council have a number of promoted trails for recreation. There are some pressures from illegal offroad vehicle use. Strong evidence to justify inclusion under the statutory criteria. Agree with Gillespies evaluation. The Chirk Aqueduct, railway viaduct and canal basin however contribute to a strong sense of place and drama to the valley. The location of the Welsh/ English border is not conducive to including all of the valley floor or the full width of the aqueduct. Given its positive contribution and value for open air recreation we consider it be included as far as possible within the boundary.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the majority of EA23 within the Proposed Boundary. Follow the Welsh/English border to include the canal basin and part of the Aqueduct so far as it lies within Wales.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to the east to be based on minor amendments to EA23 boundary, as above.
Evaluation Area EA24 – Berwyn Foothills South 	

<p>Gillespies Summary of Evaluation</p>	<p>The EA exhibits a high scenic quality, as well a strong time depth with a good range of range of historic features. The landscape also has a strong rural character and distinctiveness. Its appreciation is also significantly enhanced by some highly scenic views of the Ceiriog and Tanat valleys, and to the north-west, the Berwyn uplands. From lower-lying areas, the EA also forms an important undeveloped backdrop. With regard to recreation within the EA, the landscape has relatively little to offer although from adjacent EAs, it forms part of the wider landscape that contributes to recreational enjoyment. As such, it is recommended that all of EA should be included within the proposed Candidate Area.</p>
<p>Public Consultation Feedback</p>	<p>Opposition from local and farming community, some support including a desire to prevent wind farm development. General opposition to inclusion of North Powys.</p>
<p>Review of Evidence</p>	<p>No evidence submitted to support exclusion. Natural Beauty is variable across the EA. NRW's review:</p> <p>There is notable Natural Beauty within the valley at Moelfe; the peak and hillslopes of Gryn Moelfre forming a notable peak and backdrop to Llansilin and views from Sycharth (ancestral home of Owain Glyndŵr (scheduled monument) – both within EA26 Tanat Valley to the south.</p> <p>The south facing hillslopes of the Berwyn foothills continue westwards and merge with the Berwyn Mountains. There is strong topographical unity in how the Tanat Valley is framed by the uplands. The upland character of these foothills contribute greatly as an attractive backdrop of the settled Tanat valley farmland below. There are some dramatic long ranging aerial views from the lanes and paths that cross the high points, notably from lanes descending towards Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog and the lane between Pen y Gwely and Spring Hill looking towards Y Berwyn. Space, open views, remoteness and views of Y Berwyn create a strong perception of tranquillity.</p> <p>Recreational provision is low key but with frequent opportunities to access the area along a network of lanes, bridleways and trackways and promoted trails – Llwybr Ceiriog Trail.</p>


	Agree with the Gillespies evaluation.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the entire area of EA24 within the Proposed Boundary.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to take account of the assessment for the adjacent EA26 Tanat Valley to the south, the coherence of areas that can be connected, and detailed boundary setting considerations.
Evaluation Area EA25 – Berwyn Mountains South 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	The EA exhibits a wealth of natural, cultural and perceptual qualities that combine to instil a very sense of natural beauty. Of particular relevance, extensive areas of SPA/SSSI make a very significant contribution to its natural and scenic value. In relation to recreation, there is an excellent provision of widespread opportunities to enjoy this stunning upland landscape, and its associated wealth of natural and cultural interest. As such, it is recommended that all of EA should be included within the proposed Candidate Area.
Public Consultation Feedback	Mostly positive feedback in relation to the Berwyn range being included (comments against North Powys inclusion generally, however these comments mostly did not appear to relate to the Berwyn e.g. referencing improved farmland and settlements not remote uplands). Information submitted relating to illegal offroad vehicles-there is potential for a NP to address these issues. Strong evidence that the Berwyn uplands are of highest potential for nature benefits
Review of Evidence	Although there were significant objections in Powys, these did not meaningfully distinguish between the areas being described in the objections (improved farmland, settlements and remote communities) and the more remote uplands found in this area. There are significantly better opportunities in these upland areas for farming to benefit from nature focussed agri-


	<p>subsidies and funding opportunities such as Ffermio-Bro, Peatland restoration, SFS collaborative layer for example. Strong evidence for inclusion in NP with some significant potential benefits to more focussed management of the challenges experienced in the area. RSPB work ongoing for nature recovery.</p> <p>The area exhibits strong natural beauty and very good opportunities for recreation and so meets the statutory criteria. Agree with Gillespies evaluation.</p>
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include the entire area of EA25 in the Proposed Boundary.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting to be based on boundary of Eryri to the west. Detailed boundary to the south has been defined. East boundary has been defined in EA26, EA28, EA29 and EA31.
Evaluation Area EA26 – Tanat Valley 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>With a large part of the EA designated as a Registered Historic Landscape, the landscape exhibits a very strong time depth and cultural identity. In particular, a distinctive pattern of Ancient Woodlands and irregular, anciently-enclosed fieldscapes on valley sides make very valuable contribution to experience of natural beauty, as does a wealth of visible cultural heritage features scattered throughout the landscape. The interplay between the intimate valley floor, rolling valley sides and enclosing uplands and narrow upper valleys is highly scenic, and the very distinctive composition and the strong pattern of irregular pastures enclosed by species rich hedgerows with mature trees and small woodlands also contributes to a traditional rural character. Although landscape and scenic quality to the east is not as strong as the more dramatic parts to the west, the landscape still retains a strong sense of place and coherent experience of natural beauty. The natural beauty of the landscape is also enhanced by the appreciation of a wealth of varied habitats and</p>

	<p>wildlife and in most places, the landscape is very peaceful.</p> <p>Although the provision of opportunities for the enjoyment of outdoor recreation is largely limited to the network of PRow, its extensive nature provides good access to the wealth of natural and cultural heritage throughout the landscape. As such, it is recommended that all of EA should be included with the proposed Candidate Area.</p>
Public Consultation Feedback	<p>Most feedback in opposition to inclusion due to concerns about high levels of visitor numbers already impacting the daily lives of communities, congestion on narrow lanes, litter/access problems for farmers/landowners, lack of adequate infrastructure; opposition focussed around Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. General opposition to inclusion of North Powys.</p>
Review of Evidence	<p>NRW's review. Natural Beauty is variable across the valley:</p> <p>Scenic quality is particularly notable within the steep side U shaped valley to the east of Pen-y-Bont Fawr, with dramatic peaks and cwms cutting into the rising uplands of the Berwyn. The shape of the valley draws the eye to the Berwyn skyline. Evolving sequential views and sense of arrival are very impactful.</p> <p>To the east towards the Welsh/English border, the rounded hills of Mynydd-y-briw and scarp edge of Craig Orllwyn are distinctive and lie within an area of attractive rolling hills and small secluded valleys that have strong visual presence from the B4396 between Pentrefelin and Llangedwyn. To the north lies Sycharth, the ancestral home of Owain Glyndwr (motte and bailey scheduled monument). Tranquillity is strong, with attractive views towards the Berwyn Foothills (Gryn Moelfre) within EA24 to the north.</p> <p>The Tanat Valley floor has traditional settled farmland character, improved grasslands and intense agricultural activity with limited recreational opportunities. Whilst features are generally intact scenic quality and sense of place comes from the enclosing hillslopes and skylines. Expression of Natural Beauty isn't as strong within the valley floor.</p>


	<p>The hillslopes enclosing the valleys southern side are most distinctive towards the east in the vicinity of Llangedwyn. The valley narrows giving prominence to the strong pattern of wooded slopes. As the valley widens to the west, the hillslopes along the southern valley side form an attractive backdrop but are diminished by the scale of the valley.</p>
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	<p>Include the upper Tanat Valley where it intersects and is enclosed by the Berwyn uplands.</p> <p>Include the hills and valleys that follow the Welsh/English border between Gyrn Moelfre/ Llansilin southwards to the B4396 between Pen-y-bont Llanerch Emrys and Pentrefelin (includes Sycharth and its setting).</p> <p>Exclude the settled lowland farmed valley.</p> <p>Exclude the hillslopes that enclose the valley along its southern side. Whilst there is evidence of Natural Beauty, it is fragmented. The assessment for EA 30 to the south also removes this area from further consideration. In identifying a coherent area NRW has determined the B4396 provides a defensible boundary to follow from the Welsh/English border, before turning northwards towards the edge of the Berwyn foothills.</p>
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	<p>Detailed boundary setting is to include the upper Tanat valley; follow roughly the break of slope between the Berwyn foothills and the valley lowlands (as far as physical features allow) eastwards; extend southwards to take in Craig Orllwyn, then follow the B4396 eastwards to Pen-y-bont Llanerch Emrys and the Welsh/English border.</p>
<p>Evaluation Area EA27 – Llyn Efyrnwy</p> 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>Focused on the highly scenic Lake Vyrnwy, the <i>Llyn Efyrnwy</i> EA is a unique landscape with very distinctive sense of place. The interplay between the large</p>


	<p>expansive of open water and the heavily forested valley sides are particularly dramatic and at the head of the valley, the incised Eunant valley has a strong semi-natural character, where a nearby backdrop of encircling uplands (with EA25) enhance its high scenic quality. With a wealth of designated habitats, including the accessible RSPB nature reserve, the landscape supports an abundance of wildlife. Structures associated with the Lake Vyrnwy reservoir, including the straining tower and approach bridge, dam, and road bridges, form highly impressive cultural features that further contribute to the natural beauty of the area. In relation to recreation, the EA offers an excellent provision of various activities to enjoy the stunning scenery of the lake and surrounding landscape, many of which are easily accessible. As such, it is recommended that all of EA should be included within the proposed Candidate Area.</p>
Public Consultation Feedback	<p>Positive feedback regarding inclusion (generic objection to North Powys inclusion or that it should be added to Eryri NP, but such objections did not appear to relate specifically to this area and were focussed on other areas).</p>
Review of Evidence	<p>Strong evidence to support natural beauty and particularly recreation opportunities. Nature recovery and conservation activity ongoing in the area.</p> <p>Although significant objections in Powys, these did not meaningfully distinguish between the areas being described in objections (improved farmland, settlements and remote communities), and this evaluation area. Support from RSPB as large landowner in this area and significant opportunities for farming to benefit from nature focussed agri-subsidies and funding opportunities such as Ffermio-Bro, Peatland restoration, SFS collaborative layer for example. Strong evidence for inclusion in NP with some significant potential benefits to more focussed management of the challenges experienced in the area * see Forces for Change</p>
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	<p>Include the entire area of EA27 in the Proposed Boundary.</p>
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	<p>Area enclosed within Candidate Area. Detailed boundary setting based on Eryri NP boundary in EA25</p>


	to the west and has been defined in EA28, EA29 and EA31 to the east.
Evaluation Area EA28 – Hirnant and Rhialgwm 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>Most northern and eastern parts of the EA generally exhibit a high landscape and scenic quality, with a strong rural character. Compared to other surrounding EAs however, the extent and number of natural and cultural features that contribute to the appreciation of natural beauty is relatively limited. To the west of the EA, extensive areas of forestry also weaken the experience of natural beauty. In relation to recreation, the EA offers a good provision of accessible opportunities to enjoy the landscape, and areas of forestry could be further enhanced to provide promoted walking and cycling routes, and associated car parks.</p> <p>The appreciation of natural beauty is less strong to the west as the landscape transitions from areas better represented in the EA. There is however a good provision of access to enjoy the landscape. This area is also bordered by EAs that more strongly meet the natural beauty criteria and as such, it may be considered for inclusion as it sits within these tracts of qualifying land. Including this area therefore enables a contiguous large-scale area of landscape that strongly meets the assessment criteria to be included within the Candidate Area. It is therefore recommended to include this EA within the proposed Candidate Area.</p>
Public Consultation Feedback	Little specific feedback in relation to this EA. General opposition to inclusion of North Powys.
Review of Evidence	NRWs review: Cwm Hirnant has a strong evidence of natural beauty – through a combination of attractive, tranquil scenic qualities within a quiet remote valley. Sense of time depth from traditional farming, stone farm buildings and the roadside group of buildings and chapel at Hirnant are distinctive and contribute to a sense of place. The north western side of the valley

	<p>has most visual presence - with scale and height comparable with the Berwyn.</p> <p>Opportunities for outdoor recreation within Cwm Hirnant are low key, but the public rights of way, forest tracks and the B4396 access to Llyn Vyrnwy, contribute to wider connectivity.</p> <p>Rhialgwm – a peak of similar height to the Berwyn is heather clad and has visual presence from the south. Strength of character and Natural Beauty is however lessened by extensive afforestation along its hillslopes and some angular and abrupt edges. The small remote valley (Nant y Brithyll) to the north is attractive with some traditional stone farmhouses of some age. The expansion of farmsteads is however prominent and erodes rural character.</p>
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Include Cwm Hirnant along its the north west side (scale and height comparable with the Berwyn Mountains) and exclude Rhialgwm and Nant y Brithyll valley.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	The B4396 from Pen-y-bont-Fawr to Llanwddyn (Llyn Vyrnwy) provides a defensible feature to draw the boundary to.
Evaluation Area EA29 – Vyrnwy and Banwy Valley and Hills	
	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>This large EA has a deeply rural character where the interplay between intimate valley floors with rolling wooded valley sides and ridges, exhibits a highly scenic and distinctive composition. There is a good coverage of Ancient Woodland scattered on valleys sides, and a strong pattern of irregular pastures enclosed by species rich hedgerows, with mature trees and small woodlands, throughout most the EA. With a wealth of cultural features, this very peaceful landscape also exhibits a very strong time-depth.</p> <p>Towards the southern edge of the AoS there are however localised pockets of landscape that exhibit a weaker landscape character and quality. The drawing of a detailed boundary to exclude these areas was</p>

	<p>however problematic, given the lack of strong and defensible boundaries in this area. For this reason, the edge of the Candidate Area follows the A548.</p> <p>Although recreation is largely limited to the quiet enjoyment of the landscape via the extensive network of PRow, the Glyndwr's Way National Trail is a key feature. There are also further opportunities to enhance the footpath network and establish cycle routes along rural lanes. Consequently, it is recommended that all of EA should be included within the proposed Candidate Area.</p>
Public Consultation Feedback	<p>Little specific feedback in relation to this EA. General opposition to inclusion of North Powys.</p>
Review of Evidence	<p>NRW review – there are some distinct pockets of natural beauty, but at scattered isolated locations within this large evaluation area.</p> <p>Moel Bentyrch is a prominent mountainous peak and landmark along the southern boundary.</p> <p>The Vyrnwy valley – a shallow valley with strong patterns of woodland in places, followed by Glyndwr's way between Dolanog and Pontrobert. In places strong perceptions of traditional rural life, remoteness and tranquillity.</p> <p>The wooded valley at Pont Llogel is highly attractive. An NRW car park, picnic site and promoted walks provide good opportunities for open air recreation.</p> <p>The twisting upland valley of the Afon Twrch at Foel within the far west of the area, which has associated characteristics with the uplands of the Berwyn and Dyfnant Forest.</p> <p>There are some attractive combinations of woodland and landforms dotted through the area.</p> <p>There is also strong visual enclosure in places with few views within and beyond the area affecting sense of place. Whilst attractive, Natural Beauty is not strongly experienced.</p> <p>To the north of the EA towards Pen y Bylchau, is a remote semi-upland plateau area of improved grasslands and wet flushes. The landscape pattern of fragmented hedgerows, post and wire fencing is weak. Natural Beauty is not strongly evident.</p>

Confirmation/Proposed Changes	<p>Exclude EA29, with the exception of the wooded valley at Pont Llogel and the Afon Twrch valley towards the western edge of the area.</p> <p>The dispersed isolated patterns of Natural Beauty means that much of the EA does not meet the statutory criteria. The weakness of scenic quality and landscape condition at Pen y Bylchau also limits the ability to link what areas there are of Natural Beauty to the Berwyn uplands.</p>
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	<p>Detailed boundary setting is now guided by the evaluation and confirmed extents of EA 28 Hirnant and Rhialgwm to the north and EA 31 Dyfnant Forest to the west and the identification of defensible boundary.</p>
<p>Evaluation Area EA30 – Severn Farmlands North</p> 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>Focused on a scenic valley that accommodates the River Cain, the rolling valley sides enclosed by wooded hills exhibit a strong sense of place, and a traditional rural character. An extensive pattern of small irregular fields with intermittent patches of mixed broadleaf and deciduous woodland that closely follows the underlying landform are particularly distinctive. There are also several wooded Registered Parks and Gardens on valley sides that, in addition to the irregular fieldscape, instil a strong sense of time-depth throughout most of the landscape. Listed buildings are also scattered throughout the EA, with dense clusters within the villages of Llanfyllin and Llanfechain. Towards the eastern edge of this area there are some pockets of landscape that exhibit a weaker landscape character and quality. The drawing of a detailed boundary to exclude these areas was however problematic, given the lack of strong and defensible boundaries in this area. For this reason, the edge of the Candidate Area follows the A495.</p> <p>Although recreation is largely limited to the quiet enjoyment of the landscape via the extensive network</p>

	of PRoWs, there are further opportunities to enhance the footpath network through the creation of circular walks around villages, and establish cycle routes along rural lanes. Although this EA does not score as highly as some other EAs, on balance, it is recommended that all of EA should be included within the proposed Candidate Area.
Public Consultation Feedback	General comments opposed to improved lowland farmland and lower and easterly areas of North Powys to be excluded.
Review of Evidence	NRW's review: Similar to the adjacent EAs of 26 and EA29, there are pockets of distinctive scenic landscape where Natural Beauty is notable (wooded valley sides, knolls and strong topographical unity to the valley), but the expression of Natural Beauty across the evaluation area is weaker elsewhere. Opportunities for open air recreation are limited.
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	Exclude the entire area of EA30 from the Proposed Boundary.
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	Detailed boundary setting is guided by the evaluation and confirmed extent of EA 31 Dyfnant Forest to the west; EA 28 Hirnant and Rhialgwm to the northwest; and EA 26 Tanat Valley to the north.
Evaluation Area EA31 – Dyfnant Forest 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	Although extensive forestry clearly detracts from landscape and scenic quality, there are some highly scenic parts, particularly to the east of the EA and along the River Vyrnwy corridor. Where forestry does not obscure views, the interplay between the intimate valley floor and rolling valley sides, with a backdrop of uplands, provides a highly scenic and distinctive composition of contrasting landscapes with a strong sense of place. In relation to recreation, Dyfnant Forest and the associated Rainbow Trails offer an

	<p>excellent provision of accessible opportunities to enjoy the forest via foot, bike or horse. The forest lies between EA25 (<i>Berwyn Mountains South</i>) and EA29 (<i>Vyrnwy and Banwy Valley and Hills</i>) which both meet the natural beauty criteria. The character of the Dyfnant EA has a bearing on the adjacent EAs. As such, it is recommended to include all of the EA within the proposed Candidate Area. This recognises the value of part of the area for its natural beauty, the recreation provision across the area and its geographical relationship with the Berwyn and Vyrnwy Valley.</p>
Public Consultation Feedback	<p>Positive feedback in relation to recreation opportunities, general opposition to inclusion of North Powys.</p>
Review of Evidence	<p>High scoring for recreation criteria, more mixed and variable for natural beauty, but links well to Berwyn Uplands and Llyn Efyrrwy.</p>
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	<p>Agree with the Gillespies evaluation. Include the entire area of EA31 with minor amendments.</p>
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	<p>Detailed boundary setting has been defined to the north in conjunction with EA28 and to the east with EA29.</p>
<p>Evaluation Area EA32 – Severn Farmlands South</p> 	
Gillespies Summary of Evaluation	<p>Focused on a scenic valley that accommodates the River Vyrnwy, the rolling valley sides enclosed by wooded hills exhibit a strong sense of place, and a traditional rural character. An extensive pattern of small irregular fields with intermittent patches of mixed broadleaf and deciduous woodland that closely follows the underlying landform are particularly distinctive. The intact pattern of irregular fields with associated farms, lanes and other historic structures, also instil a strong sense of time-depth throughout the landscape. Towards the eastern edge of this area there are some</p>

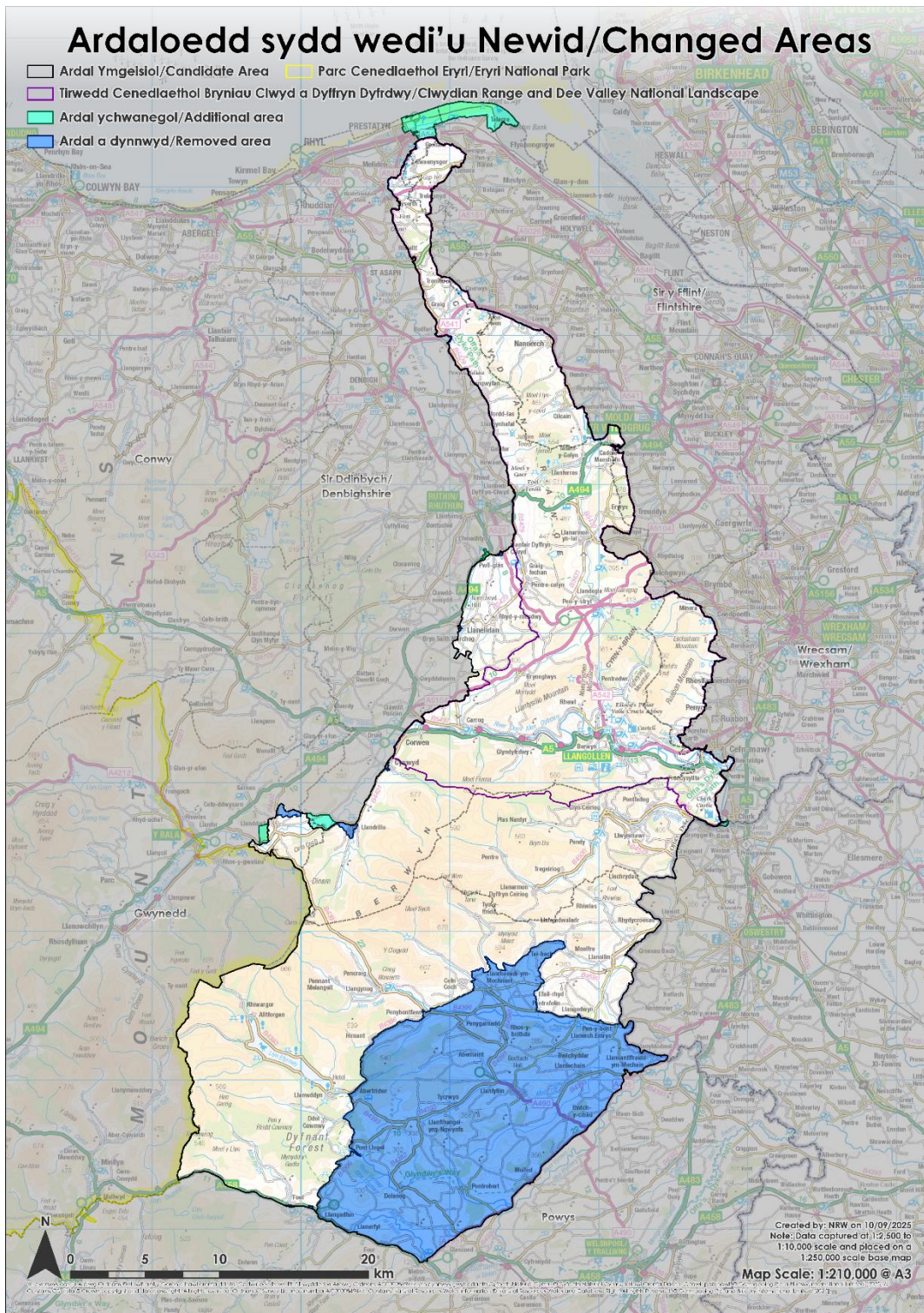
	<p>pockets of landscape that exhibit a weaker landscape character and quality. The drawing of a detailed boundary to exclude these areas was however problematic in an area with few strong and defensible boundaries to follow. For this reason, the edge of the Candidate Area follows the A495. Although recreation is largely limited to the quiet enjoyment of the landscape via the extensive network of PRoW, the Glyndwr's Way National Trail is a key feature. There are also further opportunities to enhance the footpath network and establish cycle routes along rural lanes. Consequently, it is recommended that all of EA should be included within the proposed Candidate Area.</p>
Public Consultation Feedback	<p>General comments opposed to improved lowland farmland and lower and easterly areas of North Powys to be excluded. Difficulty of dividing area into parts to be excluded/included. Some historic and conservation interests. Views to areas to the east, moving to a different landscape character.</p> <p>Some support for including the entire Vyrnwy Valley to protect the setting of the Grade I Listed church at Meifod and the site of the Princes of Powys' castle at Mathrafal.</p>
Review of Evidence	<p>NRW's review: Similar to the adjacent EAs of 29 and EA30, there are pockets of distinctive scenic landscape where Natural Beauty is notable (wooded valley sides, knolls and strong topographical unity to the valley), but the expression of Natural Beauty across the evaluation area is weaker elsewhere. Glyndwr's Way passes briefly through the area, otherwise opportunities for open air recreation are limited.</p>
Confirmation/Proposed Changes	<p>Exclude the entire area of EA32 from the Proposed Boundary.</p>
Defining the extent/location of the boundary	<p>Detailed boundary setting now lies along the western boundary of EA29 and it's interface with EA 31 Dyfnant Forest.</p>

Other Areas – referred to in public consultation responses		
Area	Public Consultation Feedback	Review of Evidence
Ruthin	Support for inclusion (not included in Candidate Area so no negative feedback/not tested) mainly based on historic character and buildings and a desire for tourism/regeneration benefits as a gateway to a new NP and to tourists from the northern coastal areas.	Urban area with considerable modern development, including retail/industrial parks not suitable for inclusion. Inclusion in a NP not the appropriate mechanism for urban regeneration, town would benefit from tourism as a gateway on the edge but outside NP.
Rhuddlan	Minor support for inclusion (not included in Candidate Area so no negative feedback/not tested).	Urban area with considerable modern development, including retail/industrial parks and not suitable for inclusion. Lies just outside EA3, within the Vale of Clwyd, which is entirely excluded.
Denbigh Moors, Mynydd Hiraethog, Clocaenog Forest, Llyn Brenig	Support for inclusion (not included in Candidate Area so no negative feedback/not tested) based on recognition of their value but did not address the reasons they were excluded from the CA initially.	<p>Evidence focussed on recreational opportunities, providing linkages to surrounding areas and some opportunities for enhancing ecological networks.</p> <p>Outside the CA. No new evidence on natural beauty to support inclusion of these areas, which are fragmented in their scenic quality attributes/impacted by developments including wind farms and separated from the Clwydian Range by the Vale of Clwyd, which does not meet the statutory criteria for inclusion.</p>

Caergwrle & Caer Estyn	Support for inclusion based on cultural heritage.	In/adjacent to EA14, which is entirely excluded.
Corwen, Owain Glyndŵr territory & Gwyddelwern, Caer Drewyn & Moel Fodig hillforts	Support for inclusion based on cultural heritage.	Corwen lies within the National Landscape, unclear what is meant by 'Owain Glyndŵr territory', part of the historic area is within the CA, Gwyddelwern is outside the CA, Caer Drewyn & Moel Fodig hillforts included in CA.
Efenechtyd	Support for inclusion based on limestone pavement.	Outside CA and northern part of EA16 is excluded due to golf course/not sufficiently coherent natural beauty.
Meifod Valley outside CA	Limited positive feedback around extending the CA to include both sides of the valley, general negative feedback regarding this lowland part of North Powys. Not included in Candidate Area so no negative feedback/not tested.	Evidence based mainly on opinion that both sides of the valley are of similar scenic value, considered in relation to EA32. No specific evidence to support inclusion, review of evidence indicates EA32 should be excluded.
Areas south of the CA	Some limited positive feedback around extending the CA to the south, as there are some scenic areas south of the CA boundary. General negative feedback regarding inclusion of this part of North Powys. Not included in Candidate Area so no negative feedback/not tested.	Evidence of some areas of high scenic quality to the south of the CA boundary, however the review of evidence indicates parts of EA29 should be excluded and the boundary determined by the included parts of EA29 and EA21.
Chirk Castle	Support for inclusion of historic building/parkland.	Castle and parkland are currently within the National

		Landscape so included within Proposed Boundary.
Clywedog Valley	Support for inclusion based on river valley.	Partly included in CA-EA18.
Offa's Dyke & Montgomery Canal	Support for inclusion based on National Trail/heritage canal.	Offa's Dyke is a National Trail partly within National Landscape/CA, section through eastern lowlands not included. Montgomery Canal associated with Severn Vale and eastern lowlands, not within CA.
Wynnstay Hall Estate	Limited support for inclusion of historic building/parkland on cultural heritage grounds.	Not within CA. No specific evidence to justify inclusion of this area to the east of the A5 within the Proposed Boundary. Surrounding area is fragmented by quarries and intensive farmland.
Elan Valley	Limited support was expressed for inclusion of this areas based on its natural beauty and recreational opportunities.	The Elan Valley lies some 42km south of the Candidate Area southern boundary, within the Cambrian Mountains and is unrelated and separated by large areas of landscape that are not included in the CA and areas that would not fulfil the statutory criteria.

Figure 3 Changed Areas



Parc Cenedlaethol Arfaethedig Glyndŵr/Proposed Glyndŵr National Park (2025)

Parc Cenedlaethol Arfaethedig Glyndŵr/Proposed Glyndŵr National Park (2025) Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri/Eryri National Park
Tirwedd Genedlaethol Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy/Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape

Created by: NRW on 10/09/2025
Note: Data captured at 1:2,500 to 1:10,000 scale and placed on a 1:250,000 scale base map
Map Scale: 1:300,000 @ A4

3. Conclusions of Review of Evidence for Evaluation Areas

Following analysis of the public consultation feedback and review of the evidence, the Proposed Boundary for the National Park is based on changes or no change to the extent of Evaluation Areas included or excluded in the Gillespies Report as follows:

No Change – Extent of Evaluation Areas to be included or excluded remain as recommended in Gillespies Report (adjusted as necessary to meet detailed boundary setting considerations).

Partial Change – Amendments to the spatial extent of Evaluation Areas included or excluded from the recommendations in the Gillespies Report following review

Full Change – Recommendation to include or exclude Evaluation Areas changed from Gillespies recommendation following review

Table 2 Evaluation Areas Changes

No Change – Extent of Evaluation Areas to be included or excluded remain as recommended in Gillespies Report (adjusted as necessary to meet detailed boundary setting considerations)	
EA2 Prestatyn-Dyserth Slopes and Trelawnyd Plateau, EA3 Vale of Clwyd North and St Asaph, EA4 Clwydian Range North, EA5 Caerwys Lowlands, EA6 Halkyn Mountain, EA7 Vale of Clwyd Denbigh-Ruthin, EA8 Clwydian Range Central, EA9 Wheeler Valley, EA10 Mold Lowlands, EA11 Eryrys Uplands, EA12 Alyn Valley, EA13 Eryrys Slopes, EA14 Hope Mountain, EA15 Clwydian Range South, EA16 Pwll-Glâs, EA17 Llantysilio to Ruabon Mountain, EA18 Rhos Slopes, EA19 Dee Valley and Llangollen, EA21 Berwyn Mountains North, EA22 Berwyn Foothills North, EA23 Ceiriog Valley, EA24 Berwyn Foothills South, EA25 Berwyn Mountains South, EA27 Llyn Efyrynwy, EA31 Dyfnant Forest.	
Partial Change – Amendments to the spatial extent of Evaluation Areas to be included or excluded from the recommendations in the Gillespies Report following review	
EA20 Mynydd Mynyllod and the Upper Dee Valley	Exclude the majority of E20, Mynydd Mynyllod and the Upper Dee Valley, with the exception of the area to the south west around Llandderfel, which should be included in the Proposed Boundary. Amendments to be made to the boundary proposed by Gillespies to better reflect the Statutory Criteria.
EA26 Tanat Valley	<p>Include the upper Tanat Valley where it intersects and is enclosed by the Berwyn uplands.</p> <p>Include the hills and valleys that follow the Welsh/English border between Gyrn Moelfre/ Llansilin southwards to the B4396 between</p>

	<p>Pen-y-bont Llanerch Emyrs and Pentrefelin (includes Sycharth and its setting).</p> <p>Exclude the settled lowland farmed valley.</p> <p>Exclude the hillslopes that enclose the valley along its southern side.</p>
EA28 Hirnant and Rhialgwm	Include Cwm Hirnant along its the north west side (scale and height comparable with the Berwyn Mountains) and exclude Rhialgwm and Nant y Brithyll valley.
EA29 Vyrnwy and Banwy Valley and Hills	Exclude EA29, with the exception of the wooded valley at Pont Llogel and the Afon Twrch valley towards the western edge of the area.
Full Change – Recommendation to include or exclude Evaluation Areas changed from Gillespies recommendation following review	
EA1 Talacre and Gronant Dunes	Entirely included (previously excluded)
EA30 Severn Farmlands North	Entirely excluded (previously included)
EA32 Severn Farmlands South	Entirely excluded (previously included)

Conclusions

This process has resulted in changes to the Candidate Area boundary. The proposed National Park boundary:

- now includes Gronant and Talacre Dunes.
- has been refined to better capture a coherent area of natural beauty within the area's uplands, intersecting valleys and coastal edge.
- excludes a large area of settled lowlands within Powys.

The 2025 proposed National Park boundary represents a higher bar for meeting the statutory criteria. NRW consider that the revisions improve the coherence and defensibility of the proposed boundary and enhance alignment with statutory designation requirements.

4. Detailed Boundary Setting

This review of the Candidate Area and resulting Proposed Boundary has informed the detailed boundary setting, which has followed the methodology set out in GN010. We received a number of generic comments from the public consultation in 2024, as well as the detailed comments on Evaluation Areas and other areas set out in Table 1, above. We received a number of comments from the environmental sector regarding the desirability to include the entire area of SSSI's where the boundary of the 2024 Candidate Area currently dissects them, leaving some areas within and some outwith the Candidate Area. Our conclusion is to make minor amendments to better capture SSSIs where they intersect with the NPCA boundary where feasible.

We are working within the framework of the 1949 Act -Designating based upon Natural Beauty and Recreation. This means the evaluation process that led us to the National Park Candidate Area is sound and is the basis for any further variations leading to a defined boundary and statutory consultation.

The Proposed Boundary includes an amendment of the boundary within Powys. These changes are explained in Table 1 and are justified purely on the statutory criteria of natural beauty and opportunities for open air recreation. The changes fit well with the nature of objections from within Powys, which related to concerns about the inclusion of more intensively managed lowland agricultural areas, planning concerns and pressures on limited rural infrastructure.

The Proposed Boundary retains the distinctive landscape of the 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. These retained areas also provide opportunities for ecological enhancements, peatland restoration and significant opportunities for farming to benefit from nature focussed agri-subsidies and funding opportunities such as Ffermio Bro and the Sustainable Farming Scheme.

5. References

Gillespies (2024) A Proposed National Park for Wales Evaluation Report Final Report- October 2024. Available on request from NRW.

NRW (2022) GN 010 – Statutory landscape designation: procedural guidance. Available on request from NRW.

NRW (2023) Area of Search for a potential National Park in North-East Wales. Available on request from NRW.

NRW & Resources for Change (2025) Wales's New National Park Proposal 2024 Public Consultation Report. Available at:

[Wales's New National Park Proposal 2024 Public Consultation Report.pdf](#)