

PARCIAU CENEDLAETHOL CYMRU
Lle i enaid gael llonydd



NATIONAL PARKS WALES
Britain's breathing spaces

Evidence to the Sustainability Committee 11th March 2010

Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri
Snowdonia National Park

Parc Cenedlaethol
Arfordir Penfro
Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park

Parc Cenedlaethol
Bannau Brycheiniog

Brecon Beacons
National Park

Cymdeithas Awdurdodau
Parciau Cenedlaethol Cymru

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Parciau Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog, Arfordir Penfro ac Eryri yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth
Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast, and Snowdonia National Parks. Working in Partnership.



Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri
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1. Introduction

A Vision for the Welsh National Parks

"The Welsh National Parks are protected landscapes of international importance which capture much of what is distinct and special about rural Wales, environmentally and culturally. Although predominantly rural in nature, the Parks contain a resident population of over 80,000, are close to important urban communities and have significant potential to enrich the lives of the people of, and visitors to, Wales and to contribute positively to public health and well-being and to the Welsh economy."

"They are living landscapes, moulded by their communities over thousands of years. They are places where sustainable development is promoted for the benefit of the environment, the economy and for Park communities. They are places that experiment with new approaches in sustainable development and environmental conservation, providing exemplars of best practice for wider Wales, and helping to shape and lead future rural policy and practice. They are also places where all who can influence the future of the Parks work together to conserve and enhance their natural beauty, biodiversity and cultural identity, in line with sustainable development principles."

"Guided by the Park Authorities, these special areas are becoming progressively richer and more diverse in terms of landscape, wildlife and heritage and are enjoyed and cherished by a full cross-section of society."

WAG Policy Statement for National Parks and National Park Authorities, March 2007

- 1.1 The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA); the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) and Snowdonia National Park Authority (SNPA) manage the three National Parks in Wales. The National Parks Authorities (NPAs) are independent local authorities operating within the local government framework. They were created by the 1995 Environment Act.
- 1.2 The National Parks are considerable environmental, economic and social assets. They cover approximately 20% of the land mass of Wales and are home to a wide range of internationally important landscapes that contain unique natural and historic environments. In 2006, the Valuing the Environment partnership study found that the National Parks contributed £205 million to GDP, generated £177 million of income and supported 12,000 jobs. They also contribute to the health and social wellbeing of the nation. One way they do so is by providing the public with the space to enjoy outdoor recreation.
- 1.3 National Parks have two statutory purposes set out within Section 61 of the 1995 Environment Act:

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

In carrying out these responsibilities the NPAs shall to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.

- 1.4 These statutory undertakings secure environmental protection whilst promoting the public enjoyment of the outdoors *and* the development of communities within National Parks. We share the belief held by the Welsh Assembly Government that there is considerable potential within the National Parks to deliver and support sustainable development; development that achieves positive environmental, social and economic outcomes.
- 1.5 NPAs contribute to the delivery of the Welsh Assembly Government’s strategic agenda, *One Wales: A Progressive Agenda for the Government of Wales*, and is regarded as a delivery partner for the Government’s strategic plans and policies, including the *Environment Strategy for Wales; Making the Connections* and the *Wales Spatial Plan*.
- 1.6 The Welsh Assembly Government’s *Policy Statement for National Parks and National Park Authorities (2007)* provides our medium-term strategic guidance. The annual *Strategic Grant Letter*, produced by the Welsh Assembly Government in conjunction with the NPAs, is the mechanism by which Government prioritises the delivery of its strategic agenda through setting a number of “priority objectives”. Apart from a few NPA-specific objectives (typically one, or two per NPA, per year), the objectives apply across all three NPAs, though the form and method of local implementation may differ. Contact is maintained with Government officials throughout the year and the NPA Chairs and Chief Executives meet with the Sustainability Minister twice a year (late Spring and late Autumn) to discuss the performance of NPAs against the objectives in the Strategic Grant Letter.
- 1.7 In comparison with other bodies within the public sector NPAs are relatively small organisations, especially given the large area of Wales covered by the National Park designation.

	BBNPA	PCNPA	SNPA
Staff Numbers			
Full time	89	112	117
Part time (including seasonal)	43	59	55
Total	132	171	172
Income 2008/09 (£ 000)			
Funding Source			
National Park Grant	3,287	3,448	4,415
Council Tax Levies	1,096	1,149	1,471
Other (local income, car parks, other grants, etc)	1,945	3,630	3,481
Total	6,328	8,227	9,367

In order to deliver our statutory purposes NPAs must work in partnership, and possess a successful track record of delivery.

- 1.8 To facilitate partnership working Section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995 places a duty on all relevant authorities (public authorities, private utilities etc) to have regard to the statutory purposes when making decisions, or working on projects, within or near the National Parks. The Welsh Assembly Government prepared guidance on the application of the duty in 2005. We share its belief that the duty can help underpin even stronger partnership working within the National Parks – recognising the fact that these areas are national assets and responsibility for them should not rest on a single statutory body.
- 1.9 The NPAs are fully committed to the Welsh Assembly Government’s *Making the Connections* agenda, especially given that the integrated model of public sector delivery suits the partnership model we have developed out of necessity. We strive to add value to the work we undertake collaboratively. Our local connections; connections to other protected areas, such as the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs); and working partnerships with Government agencies, such as CCW, mean that we are able to add value to national schemes, ensuring efficient delivery of national programs and policies.
- 1.10 For the purpose of committee scrutiny the rest of this paper, a collaborative effort, has been divided into three sections setting out the work undertaken by the three NPAs since the publication of the 2007/08 Strategic Grant Letter. Each section addresses a particular theme, these are entitled:
- Climate Change
 - Planning
 - Access
 - Sustainable Development: Adding Value

Each section focuses upon NPA delivery in these key areas of work over recent years. We have also taken the opportunity to set out what we perceive to be key challenges and opportunities now, and into the future.

- 1.11 The role of National Parks has evolved over the past sixty years, and is likely to evolve over the next sixty, these issues are discussed in the IWA’s report for CCW, “Living with our landscape”. NPAs remain well positioned to contribute directly to Wales’ response to climate change and its transition to a more sustainable society through embodying the idea of ‘transition landscapes’. In an economically uncertain and carbon constrained future:
- they demonstrate that long-term socio-economic wellbeing goes much further than the traditional quantitative definitions of economic success
 - they contribute to the UK effort to engineer a soft landing from production peaks in oil and natural gas through sympathetic and imaginative deployment of renewables
 - they safeguard the natural assets (e.g. soil and water) which underpin domestic food supply; and,
 - they explore dynamic interpretations of National Park purposes based on landscape function, and lead the debate on the new emergent landscapes likely in the face of climate change.

"The range of potential impacts make climate change both a vitally important and wide agenda for the NPAs – involving activity across the range of their work – in the coming years."

*WAG Policy Statement for National Parks and National Park Authorities
(page 5)*

2. Climate Change

National Parks exhibit the full range of vulnerabilities and can be viewed as early warning areas to identify, monitor and extrapolate environmental changes.

Occupying a significant portion of rural Wales, the National Parks are well placed to safeguard and benefit from the ecosystem goods and services increasingly relied upon by urban areas i.e. food; carbon sequestration; clean water; clean air; flood mitigation; green recreational space.

2.1 Delivery

- 2.1.1 Since 2007, the Welsh Assembly Government has used their Strategic Grant Letters to draw attention to climate change as a specific area of focus. The NPAs have worked to deliver strategic priorities concerning climate change as well as deliver local initiatives.
- 2.1.2 We believe that effective habitat management, and the scientific basis of decision making have important roles to play in our response to climate change; Government shares this belief. NPAs were asked to assess the impact of climate change on habitats and vulnerable species. NPAs now have a pool of baseline data. This data has enabled the identification of at-risk areas and is informing decisions concerning the allocation of resources.
- 2.1.3 We strongly support the Forestry Commission's view that there should be a net increase in woodland cover in Wales, provided that due consideration is given to landscape and species selection within National Parks. The three Parks aim to maintain their woodland holdings in favourable condition for wildlife and for recreational use. This requires timber to retain an economic value. NPAs are therefore engaged in a range of supply-chain initiatives to develop new processing techniques and end-uses (e.g. construction industry, furniture manufacture) including developing the potential of timber as a renewable source of fuel.
- 2.1.4 NPAs support a range of initiatives within the National Parks that improve the capacity of farmers, communities and landscapes, to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Green Valleys project aims to turn the Brecon Beacons into a net exporter of renewable energy; meeting the future electricity needs of the communities within the National Park; promoting energy efficiency, and improving the condition of upland water stores. In a short space of time the project has led to participating households slashing their carbon footprints by 20% and the project was a joint winner of NESTA's "Big Green Challenge", winning the project £300,000 in additional funding. Pembrokeshire Coast and Snowdonia NPA are similarly promoting grassroots engagement through the ability to target Sustainable Development Fund/CAE grant aid and offering planning and conservation advice.
- 2.1.5 At an organisational level all three NPAs have reached Green Dragon level four and are able to monitor and reduce their carbon footprint. SNPA has, for instance, reduced its carbon emissions by 21.3% between 2005/06 and late

2009, and plans to reintroduce small-scale hydro at its education centre, Plas Tan Y Bwlch, turning it into an energy *and* education resource. This effort has received national recognition at the WLGA's Excellence Wales Awards alongside PCNPA's landscape gallery, Oriel Y Parc in St. Davids.

- 2.1.6 The planning policies of NPAs have all been "climate proofed", enhancing their adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change. At a national, strategic policy-level, NPA officers collaborate with colleagues across partner organisations to contribute to the emerging strategies and plans for Wales. For example the NPAs are represented on the Land Use and Climate Change Group. We also believe that programmes such as Glastir have huge potential to address climate change in a more integrated and equitable fashion, reflecting land managers' newly recognised role as 'carbon custodians'.

2.2 Opportunities and Challenges

- 2.2.1 According to the WAG Land Use and Climate Change Group upland soils in Wales contain 406 mega tonnes of carbon and a large proportion of that is found within the National Parks. Climate change challenges us to invest to ensure that these stores of carbon remain sequestered, and where possible, increased, to complement urban mitigation efforts. Action to sequester and manage carbon will have additional urban benefits such as, the protection of fresh water supplies and helping to mitigate the risk of urban flooding.
- 2.2.2 For the purpose of tackling climate change we aspire to become the local delivery agents as national policies are shaped. We believe that NPAs are suitably placed to identify, work with and develop suitable local partnerships. For example, Glastir provides an opportunity to raise awareness of planning for climate change and manage the transition to sustainable agriculture. Land managers would be rewarded for maintaining and improving carbon stores i.e soils and woodlands; thereby protecting habitats, promoting biodiversity and creating ecological "connectivity" within the wider landscape.
- 2.2.3 With careful planning NPAs believe that National Parks can become test-beds for widely applicable, community-orientated solutions to environmental problems.
- 2.2.4 The infrastructure requirements of rural areas will need to be met to provide communities with the "green" choices that are becoming increasingly available to urban residents.
- 2.2.5 Given the diversity of Wales' National Parks and the urgent, large-scale nature of climate change, the institutional reaction will be important. NPAs are well suited to add value to the responses of partners in local government and other areas of the public, private and voluntary sectors.
- 2.2.6 NPAs look forward to building on and sharing the success of conservation land management schemes such as Rhaglen Tir Eryri in SNP, Gwarchod Y Parc in PCNP, and catchment-based, upland programmes in BBNP. We believe that such initiatives, carefully targeted and complementary to Glastir, have a role to play in building wildlife, landscape and economic resilience to climate change.

“The NPAs’ role as the local planning authorities for their areas is a vitally important one, and one that fully underpins their key statutory purposes and one that contributes to the delivery of sustainable development.”

the Policy Statement for National Parks and National Park Authorities
(pages 10 and 11)

3. Planning

NPAs are free standing independent local planning authorities (LPAs). There are 25 LPAs in Wales - 22 unitary authorities and 3 National Park Authorities.

3.1 Delivery

- 3.1.1 NPAs have each adopted a National Park Management Plan (NPMP) for their area. The NPMP sets out a sustainable vision and action plan for each National Park. It is not just a plan for the Authority. It provides an action plan to guide the activities, plans and proposals of relevant authorities in the National Park. The relevant authorities are what are commonly referred to as Section 62 authorities, but land managers, the general public and other stakeholders also have critical roles to play.
- 3.1.2 The NPAs are making excellent progress with the preparation of their Local Development Plans (LDPs). In terms of progress two of the National Park authorities are amongst the top six local planning authorities in Wales. The LDPs will provide a robust policy framework within which land use planning decisions will be taken. The LDPs will guide decisions on planning applications to ensure a sustainable future for the Park and their communities.
- 3.1.3 The NPAs have responded positively to the Welsh Audit Office (WAO) report published last year. NPAs in the past have been criticised for their relatively poor performance in terms of the speed of determining planning applications. Whilst speed is only one of several indicators of quality of service the NPAs have improved their performance significantly during the past 12 to 18 months. For example, BBNPA has improved its speed of determination from 23% in eight weeks in April 2008 to 79% in December 2009. PCNPA and SNPA have made similar significant improvements, for example, in January this year 100% of householder applications in PCNP were approved within eight weeks.
- 3.1.4 Through their planning role NPAs seek to ensure that new developments meet high environmental quality standards. The three NPAs have adopted a joint *Sustainable Design Guide*. Local distinctiveness is important to maintain a sense of place and attention to improving the character of the historic building stock is given a high priority.
- 3.1.5 The NPAs are committed to delivering the affordable housing targets in *One Wales*. For example, the NPAs have prepared and adopted their Affordable Housing Delivery Statements and they are supporting and joint funding the Rural Housing Enablers (RHEs) for their area. Since 2007 NPAs have approved in the region of 100 affordable housing units. We are working on a collaborative basis with neighbouring authorities to assess need and to develop policies and guidance.
- 3.1.6 The NPAs have an excellent track record of approving small micro-electricity generation schemes. For example, since 2007 the NPAs have approved approximately 150 schemes representing the range of conventional technologies; hydro, wind and solar/photovoltaic. WAG policy on renewable

energy is set out in *Planning Policy Wales, Ministerial Interim Policy statement* and *Technical Advice Note 8*. The policy states that LPAs should support renewable energy projects provided environmental impacts are avoided or minimised and the integrity of nationally- and internationally-designated areas are not compromised. As National Parks are essentially landscape designations large scale wind farms and major hydro schemes are not appropriate. However, opportunities exist for small-scale domestic hydro and biomass schemes. For example, in Snowdonia there are 20 hydro schemes in or on the edge of the Park making the Park a net exporter of electricity. PCNPA has given permission for the landfall elements and conversion compound of the innovative Tidal Energy Ltd generator in Ramsey Sound. The pre-commercial turbine was supported by the Assembly's Environment Development Fund.

3.2 Opportunities and Challenges

- 3.2.1 Planning can play its part in providing a supply of affordable housing in accordance with the commitment in *One Wales* but the planning system is not the solution to affordability in the housing market.
- 3.2.2 Further development of renewable energy will require improvements to the transmission infrastructure i.e. the National Grid. This may have implications for National Parks from a landscape designation perspective.
- 3.2.3 The Welsh Assembly Government reviewed the National Parks and NPAs in 2004. The report by Land Use Consultants and Arwel Jones Associates recommended that National Parks should be test beds for sustainable development. We would like to see the Welsh Assembly Government use the National Parks to test out innovative sustainable planning solutions.
- 3.2.4 Emerging sustainable technologies such as Tidal Energy Ltd's tidal stream generator off the Pembrokeshire Coast offer considerable generation and monitoring opportunities while utilising National Parks as test-beds.

“A significant proportion of the new “access land” lies within their boundaries. Important economic, health and community benefits are potentially available for the communities within and adjacent to the parks – and the NPAs have a clear role in realising these benefits.”

*WAG Policy Statement for National Parks and National Park Authorities
(pages 10 and 11)*

4. Access

National Parks contain nearly 197,000 hectares of open access land, around 51% of open access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW). Almost 7,900 km of public rights of way are also found within them.

Access is an economic asset. For example, in Pembrokeshire it was estimated in a 1995 study that their National Trail attracts £19 million in tourist spend each year. Access also promotes better health and greater social wellbeing. The NPAs are committed to ensuring that a wider cross-section of society is able to access the National Parks and to enjoy their special qualities.

4.1 Delivery

4.1.1 Since 2007 NPAs have successfully attracted over £665,450 in grant aid to fund the repair and maintain footpaths and open up new routes to cyclists and disabled people. SNPA for example pioneered the Uplands Paths Partnership securing over £3 million in Objective One funding between 2002 and 2008.

4.1.2 BBNPA has responsibility for public rights of way in the Park and was one of the first in Wales to adopt a Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

4.1.3 The Least Restrictive Access approach underpins the work of NPAs and contributes to Government policies to promote social inclusion. NPAs have opened up paths for disabled people, and have replaced stiles with other, more accessible, structures such as “kissing gates”. The Pembrokeshire Coast Path currently has 90 stiles, when it used to contain 530 in 1991. NPAs also organise tours with the promotion of social inclusion in mind. A wide range of guided tours promote access to visitors from a wide range of social backgrounds and physical abilities. Following Welsh Assembly Government funding, nineteen more locations along the Pembrokeshire Coast have been made accessible by wheelchair. In Snowdonia the NPA is using voice trails to interpret the cultural heritage of the area and to enable better understanding of their environment for people with visual impairment.

4.1.4 NPAs web sites contain a wealth of information about how a wide cross section of society can enjoy the Park. PCNPA has developed a website that promotes over 200 walks suited to a wide range of abilities.

4.1.5 NPAs through their warden/ranger service and Access Forums maintain links with landowners and other users. Some NPAs have regular liaison meeting with the farming unions and other representatives.

4.1.6 Increasingly NPAs are working jointly with CCW and the National Trust. For example, SNPA has a joint wardening agreement with CCW to manage a National Nature Reserve.

4.1.7 NPAs are investing heavily in the footpath network. BBNPA for example has restored in excess of 6km of upland footpath over the past two years. We

recognise that a range of experiences need to be catered for, including those regarded as more arduous; accordingly, some selected sections of rights of way are deliberately kept challenging.

- 4.1.8 NPAs are working with partners to facilitate access to the coast and inland waters. In the Brecon Beacons, BBNPA are progressing an exemplar project to improve water-based recreation opportunities with the benefit of funding under the SPLASH programme.
- 4.1.9 In November 2008 NPA access officers shared best practice with their peers from across the country management sector including the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; countryside management officers from local government; and bodies such as the National Trust. We are committed to sharing best practice and experience concerning the management of large numbers of people in the countryside, thereby contributing to target 26 of the Environment Strategy for Wales.

4.2 Opportunities and Challenges

- 4.2.1 Many visitors come to enjoy the scenery, to walk, cycle, and to take part in water based activities. However, increased numbers, as we experienced last year and expect for years to come, put significant pressures on the infrastructure. The effects include footpath erosion; litter; traffic and parking congestion; and illegal off-roading.
- 4.2.2 Visitors have the widest range of opportunities available to them to experience National Parks via paths, cycle paths, bridleways, slipways, new public transport services etc. Working with partners NPAs need to promote the health and socio-economic benefits of increased access to the countryside.
- 4.2.3 Increased access to the National Parks increases pressure on the infrastructure, paths, gates etc, but it also creates opportunities to develop local skills. Local land owners, farmers and residents could in the future be encouraged to undertake access land management including upland erosion management, commons management and other related estates tasks, thereby providing local economic benefits to local communities.
- 4.2.4 The socially excluded face social and economic barriers to the National Parks. Additional funding would enable the expansion of the *Mosaic* programme to the Welsh National Parks. *Mosaic* was originally piloted in England and Wales, but it is currently an England-only project managed by the Campaign for National Parks, that aims to build sustainable links between black and minority ethnic communities and the National Parks. If the funding became available we would like to build upon the work of the Brecon Beacons NPA that led the project, when it was piloted in Wales.
- 4.2.5 2010 marks the 40th anniversary of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. PCNPA - still learning - would be delighted to share experience as the all-Wales coast path is created, and looks forward to setting new benchmarks in coastal trail management.

“The NPAs are rightly recognised as being important players in the delivery of sustainable development. Although relatively small organisations, they should aim to be models/exemplars in this area, not least through their delivery of the Welsh Assembly Government’s Sustainable Development Fund which has been supporting a wide range of community-based sustainability projects since 2000.”

*the Policy Statement for National Parks and National Park Authorities
(page 5)*

5. Sustainable Development: Adding Value

The National Park Management Plans provide the strategic framework for sustainable action within National Parks. Updated Management Plans, developed in collaboration with communities and stakeholders, have embedded sustainable development principles across all areas of work.

Covering environmental, social and economic considerations, sustainable development is a broad, cross-cutting theme that complements the National Parks statutory responsibilities, and one in which we can add value to the work of our partners and other stakeholders.

5.1 Delivery

- 5.1.1 All three NPAs have produced their National Park Management Plans which have been tested against and publically consulted on under the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal regulations which assesses them for their environmental, social and economic effects.
- 5.1.2 The Sustainable Development Fund/CAE is a rare example of a grant system that supports more innovative, and often therefore higher risk, projects. Since 2007, more than 100 projects within and on the periphery of the National Parks have received support. The Fund has an excellent multiplier effect; for every £1 invested in local projects an additional £4 is secured from other sources. The 2007 review of the Fund by Cardiff University concluded that it was “having an impact in sustainable development terms at the local level and higher in Wales.”
- 5.1.3 Through partnership working the NPAs have delivered a range of sustainable transport projects throughout Wales. Sustainable transport partnerships have promoted integrated transport solutions within National Parks, not simply substituting one form of transport for another. Local communities benefit from additional rural public transport. PCNPA supports the Greenways Partnership, coastal shuttles and Havenlink. BBNPA has developed its Visitor Transport Initiative and the Beacons Buses, while SNPA works within the Green Key Partnership. However, funding is a major issue. For example, in Snowdonia the funding for Green Key has come to an end and partners are hypothecating parking charges to support a skeleton Sherpa service.
- 5.1.4 National Parks attract millions of visitors that stay for an estimated 28.7 million visitor days (STEAM 2007). Without effective management tourism at this scale can put at risk or damage the special qualities that attract people in the first place. For example, the opening of Hafod Eryri on the summit of Snowdon, a building with sustainable credentials and a welcome economic investment to the area, has led to a 20% rise in visitors. SNPA are working with the Snowdon Mountain Railway to manage this increase. We support the ongoing engagement with the tourism industry to reduce environmental impacts and make it more sustainable. This work requires the support of tourism operators

and marketing bodies. In this area of work, BBNPA has achieved the *European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas*, while all three NPAs positively contribute to their local tourism and tourism-related partnerships.

- 5.1.5 Communities are an important feature of the National Parks. They embody the cultural heritage of a landscape and are able to relate to its historic environment; as well as manage the land through agriculture. NPA policies seek to deliver sustainable communities that maintain and improve local and regional distinctiveness such as the Welsh language. We also support affordable housing developments within the National Parks; promote cultural initiatives that engage with residents and recognise the need for a critical mass of social and economic infrastructure that make these communities sustainable.
- 5.1.6 While we have established trends that reduce our carbon emissions we are also contributing to public sector efforts to reduce the wider *ecological footprint* of public bodies. We are working with the WLGA to explore the piloting of the use of ecological foot printing methodologies, and have collaborated on funding bid to support the development of this work.

5.2 Opportunities and Challenges

- 5.2.1 We aspire to share the lessons we have learned and experiences we have gained from delivering sustainable development beyond the National Park boundaries. These lessons include the role played by communication, interpretation and education; and our track record of bringing together disparate partners from across national, regional and local boundaries to pull in the same direction and achieve common aims.
- 5.2.2 In the current economic situation schemes such as the Sustainable Development Fund/CAE acquire greater significance. Officers work diligently with applicants to maximise the environmental, social and economic return on the investment. SDF/CAE funded projects also provide wider lessons for promoting sustainability in Wales.
- 5.2.3 Despite a strong love of and affinity for National Parks, the vast majority of visitors travel to and within them in private cars, despite the environmental impacts. This "values/action" gap needs to be closed. The challenge will be to establish with partners a fully integrated public and recreational transport network that is able to sustain and develop local economic opportunities such as activity tourism.

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