

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith /  
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee  
Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y Chweched Senedd / Priorities for the Sixth Senedd

PR20

Ymateb gan Ymgyrch y Parciau Cenedlaethol / Evidence from Campaign for National Parks



Campaign for National Parks is the independent national voice for the 13 National Parks in Wales and England. Our mission is to inspire everyone to enjoy and look after National Parks – the nation’s green treasures. We have been campaigning for over 80 years to ensure that our National Parks are beautiful, inspirational places that are relevant, valued and protected for all.

Campaign for National Parks brings together a wide variety of people and organisations to address issues affecting National Parks and take action to keep these beautiful places safe. We draw on a large pool of experts among our members, many of whom are actively involved in designated landscapes and their communities, across Wales and England and further afield. We also work closely with the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes.

We would like the Committee to prioritise an inquiry on how National Parks can contribute to Welsh Government’s environmental priorities, particularly the role of these areas in helping to tackle the climate emergency.

It is disappointing that there is no mention at all of National Parks in the letter from the Minister and Deputy Minister of 30 July. However, Welsh Government has previously emphasised the role of National Parks in mitigating and adapting to climate change in its priorities for designated landscapes (see, for example, the Valued and Resilient policy statement published in 2018<sup>1</sup>). Furthermore, in the letter<sup>2</sup> which accompanied the most recent funding settlement for National Park Authorities (NPAs) Welsh Government highlighted the importance of the next few years as a time to take action on the climate and acknowledged that a lack of capacity is holding back NPAs’ ability to undertake various work

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<sup>1</sup> <https://gov.wales/priorities-areas-outstanding-natural-beauty-and-national-parks-2018-valued-and-resilient>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/08\\_21-Remit-Letter.pdf](https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/08_21-Remit-Letter.pdf)

including biodiversity and climate change mitigation projects. It would be really timely for the Committee to be looking at whether NPAs have the right tools and resources and what needs to change to enable them to do more in this area.

There is further information about this topic in the report we published recently on National Parks and the Climate Emergency<sup>3</sup>. This looks at the climate-related activity already underway in National Parks in Wales, such as the measures to reduce car use in Snowdonia. Following a Parking and Transport Review in 2020 they have introduced measures such as a pre-booking system for visitors wishing to park cars in the busiest part of the Park<sup>4</sup>. NPAs have also introduced initiatives aimed at helping visitors to understand the impacts of climate change, for example, Pembrokeshire Coast NPA has set up a number of fixed point photography posts around the Coast where visitors are encouraged to take a photograph which can then be emailed to the NPA for inclusion in a time-lapse film which shows the changes<sup>5</sup>. Our report considers what needs to change if National Parks are to play a truly leading role in tackling the climate emergency and sets out a number of recommendations for Welsh Government and NPAs including the establishment of new Nature, People and Climate Commissions.

We are happy for this response to be made public. Please contact Ruth Bradshaw (email: [ruthb@cnp.org.uk](mailto:ruthb@cnp.org.uk)) if you would like any further information about any of the points we have raised.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cnp.org.uk/ClimateReport2021>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.snowdonpartnership.co.uk/projects>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/get-involved/changing-coasts/>