



Ymddiriedolaeth  
Genedlaethol  
National Trust

## **A NATIONAL TRUST RESPONSE TO THE WELSH GOVERNMENT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (NDF) CALL FOR EVIDENCE & PROJECTS MARCH 2017**

### **Summary of evidence**

This evidence highlights the key role that the NDF will have to embed the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and Environment Act requirements. It outlines some principles to help ensure a national framework which puts sustainable development at its core.

It is structured around the questions set out in the Welsh Government's Call for Evidence.

### **Why have you submitted this evidence?**

The National Trust is Europe's largest conservation body with over four and a half million members and an annual turnover of more than £450 million. Established over 115 years ago, our primary purpose is to promote the preservation of special places for the benefit of the nation. To achieve this aim we manage over 250,000 hectares of countryside, 3620 listed buildings, and more than 770 miles of coastline across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We own 57 villages and wholly or partly own six World Heritage Sites and manage 8% of registered historic parks and gardens. More than 100 million visits are made every year to the properties in our care.

We are a major business as well as a charity. We own Europe's largest network of holiday cottages and gift shops, are a large-scale landlord and farming enterprise, and on occasion we also act as a developer, creating visitor facilities, converting farm buildings for business use and constructing housing with the ultimate aim of supporting our conservation work.

The National Trust has a keen interest in planning and infrastructure issues. We have championed a strong, effective land use planning system since the 1920s. We strongly believe that planning exists to serve the public's present and future interests. We believe that good planning is an essential tool for balancing a variety of land use interests in the pursuit of an overriding public one and for ensuring sustainable futures for the Wales' special places.

We wish to thank Welsh Government for allowing our involvement at this formative stage in policy development the approach. We wish to endorse the NDF as a conceptual plan and a mechanism to help bring forward the new ways of working and joining up of programmes identified through the Environment Act, Planning Act

and Future Generations Act. We would wish to see the NDF as an overarching plan to enable local delivery in a manner which protects what is special and valued for future generations.

**How should this evidence inform the development of the NDF? How does this evidence and any actions it recommends help achieve the 7 well-being goals?**

Principles we would wish to see established within the NDF include:

- Delivery of planning is currently through **LDPs and SDPs**. In order to avoid the fragmentation of the planning system it needs to be clear how the NDF will work with and through these plans to enable local delivery.
- The recognition and spatial interpretation of the **Natural Resources Policy** as a major and material consideration in the NDF. This policy and the subsequent **Area Statements** should have consequences for the management of our natural resources and as such deserve recognition.
- The need to recognise and spatially identify the 25% of Wales designated as **nationally important landscapes**, National Parks and AONBs, and their significance in influencing the manner in which national development priorities are planned.
- The NDF should consider information available relating to the **historic and cultural environment** of Wales. It could bring forward LANDMAP<sup>1</sup> data to help inform and identify areas of high landscape quality across Wales as well as the Register of Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens.
- The NDF needs to recognise the sensitivity of the coastline given its outstanding landscape and biodiversity importance. Climate change and rising sea levels and the need for **adaptive change at the coast** should be considered within the NDF. The National Trust is working around the Welsh Coast to take a sensitive, and adaptive approach, Cwm Ivy, Gower and Porthdinllaen, Gwynedd are examples that could be specifically identified.
- There should be full integration of the NDF with the forthcoming **Marine Spatial Plan**.
- The identification of **Green Infrastructure** as an asset and national priority. The NDF would spatially recognise the full suite of Protected Sites for biodiversity. It should also recognise other green infrastructure including the existing canal network and our National Cycle Network, National Trails and Wales Coast Path both for the benefits they provide to people and their role as green corridors.

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<sup>1</sup> [Datasets](#) gathered by Natural Resources Wales on Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual and Sensory, Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape.

### **Why is the evidence of national significance?**

The most effective way to deliver these initiatives is through national frameworks to ensure that best practice is rolled out across Wales and leadership and incentives provided by Welsh Government. Despite there being broad benefits for local authorities, communities and businesses, this does require a way of thinking differently about planning and it will only be achieved to reach its full potential with a collective effort. The NDF is the ideal place for this, so local planning systems are supported and guided appropriately to make the decisions they need to, in order to safeguard future generations and our future environment.

### **For more information please contact:**

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