

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025

ERYRI NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Introduction and Context

Eryri National Park Authority (ENPA) is a National Park Authority. All three National Parks in Wales share two statutory purposes. These are to:

- conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area
- promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.

Welsh National Park Authorities are also required by law, in pursuing these purposes, to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities.

Eryri National Park is 823 square miles in size and the home to 25,702 people, 33.2% of which are over the age of 60, with ≈59% of residents Welsh speaking. Eryri is the largest National Park in Wales and attracts almost 4 million visitors annually. 70% of the National Park is in private ownership. The remainder is in various forms of State ownership. The National Park Authority owns only ≈0.45% of the Park area.

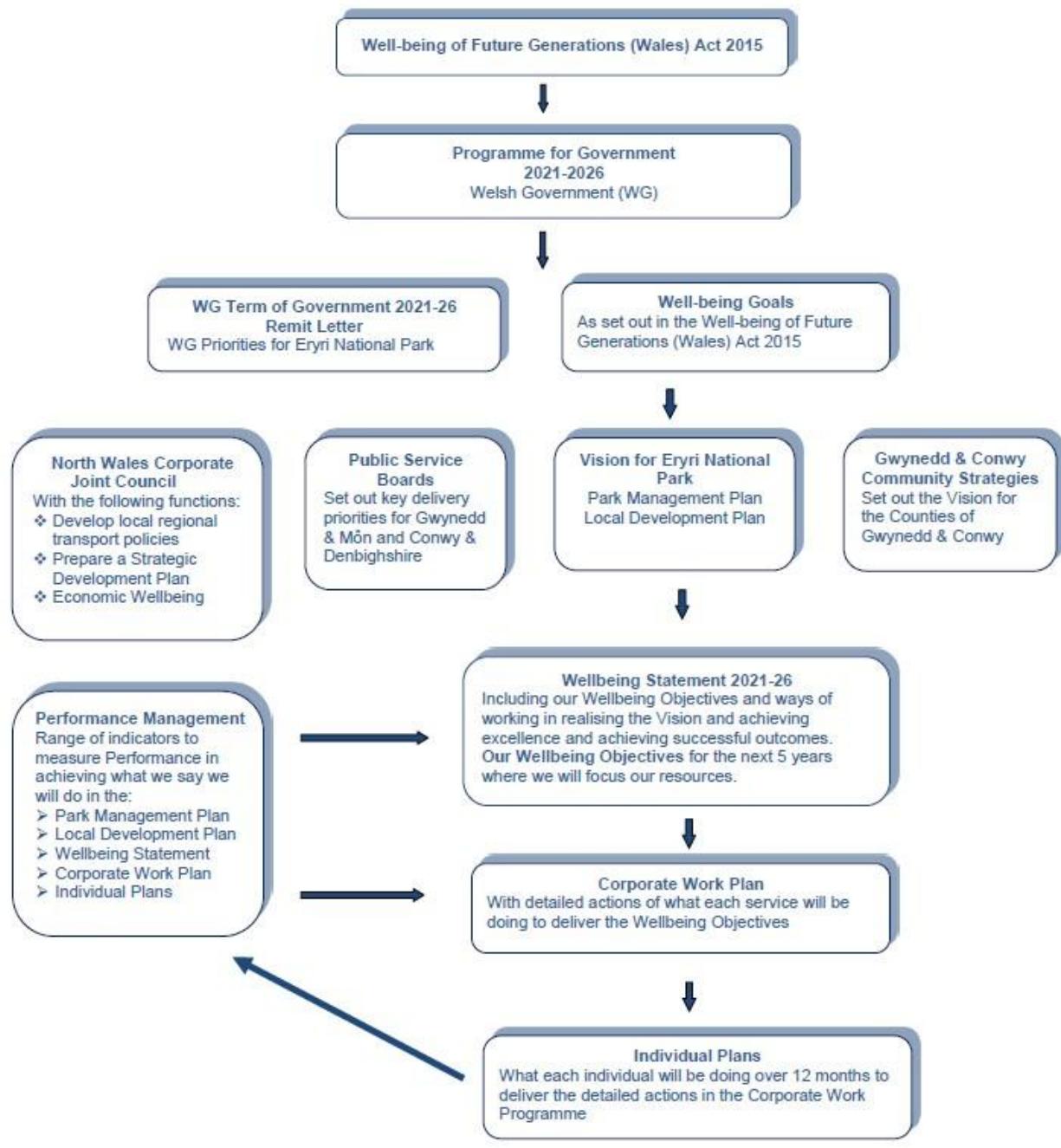
ENPA is subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act. ENPA led the co-production of 'Cynllun Eryri' the Eryri National Park (ENP) Management Plan (covering the period 2020-2025) – see [Cynllun Eryri](#). The vision for the Park is outlined in Cynllun Eryri and was developed through extensive external consultation with the public and our key stakeholders. Reporting is through the annual Cynllun Eryri Progress Report and 5-yearly State of The Park Report. The Section 6 Duty is linked to the ENPA's delivery of the WFG Act goals (including the Resilient Wales goal) and the 5 ways of working through the ENP Management Plan. Amongst other purposes, this Management Plan fulfills the function of the statutory Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Plan and Well-being Plan required of the NPA by Welsh legislation. A Well-being Statement for the Authority was developed over the course of 18 months and sets out new Well-being Objectives which describe how they will help the Authority achieve the seven well-being goals for Wales. It was adopted in March 2021. ENPA's operations are based around building resilience as per the Well-being Objectives – resilient environments, resilient communities, and resilient ways of working. The sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR) principles are core to much of the ENPA's operations. ENPA is fully engaged with NRW's Area Statement Process e.g. attending and inputting into multiple co-production workshops and ongoing consultation events (e.g. Dee Catchment and Llifo Conwy workshops). The contents of the North-west Wales and the Marine Area Statements are overarchingly consistent with the ENP Management Plan. ENPA is a partner on the north-west Wales Public Service Board (PSB) and sits on the PSB's Climate Change sub-group.

The following flow chart gives the context for the ENPA's Corporate Planning Framework.



THE GOLDEN THREAD

ERYRI NATIONAL PARK's CORPORATE PLANNING FRAMEWORK



Highlights, Key Outcomes and Issues

Highlights

The involvement of ENPA with an unprecedented number of current and recently completed LIFE projects has undoubtedly enabled meaningful and prioritized action for biodiversity at scale, both in Eryri and beyond.

These include:

- Celtic Rainforests Wales LIFE project (£8M - ENPA is the lead beneficiary)
- LIFE River Dee (£8M - ENPA is an associated beneficiary) – finishing 2027
- LIFE Quake (£4.5M - ENPA is an associated beneficiary) – finishing 2027
- Sands of LIFE (£4M - ENPA was a stakeholder) – finished in 2024
- Curlew LIFE (£4M - ENPA was a stakeholder) – finished in 2024
- New LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs (£5.2M - ENPA was an associated beneficiary) – finished in 2024.

ENPA are the lead partner on the Heritage Lottery Fund ‘Carneddau Landscape Partnership’ 2020-2025. This is a £4M co-produced project with multiple work-streams, many of which are biodiversity orientated.

Welsh Government ‘National Peatland Action Programme’ funding (administered via NRW) to ENPA as a Strategic Funding Partner has been transformational in enabling large-scale peatland restoration in Eryri.

ENPA’s position as a partner in the Welsh Government ‘Local Places for Nature’ funded LNP (Local Nature Partnership) Cymru 2023-2025 & 2025-2027 projects is seen as vital for capacity-building, data growth, advocacy and implementation with respect to S6/biodiversity enhancement in Eryri.

ENPA delivered the Welsh Government ‘Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places’ funded (£0.16M) Afon Mynach ‘Natural Flood Risk Management’ Project during 2023-2025. The project worked with a cluster of nine farmers in Cwmtirmynach to ‘slow the flow’ and improve water quality in this catchment that is failing in terms of phosphate.

These projects instigate nature recovery on a meaningful scale in Wales. See [Conservation Work | Eryri National Park](#) for further details of a selection of these projects.

The Yr Wyddfa Partnership and its resultant place-based plan (Yr Wyddfa Partnership Plan / Cynllun Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa) and Fforwm Eryri - created to co-produce the new National Park Partnership Plan (Cynllun Eryri) - ensure that members from all sectors in the area are fully engaged in the decision-making process for all aspects of conservation within the National Park.

The Dark Sky North Wales ‘Prosiect Nos’ project has been outstanding in terms of engaging the communities of north Wales with the multiple benefits of dark skies. ENPA’s Dark Sky Officer was part of a pan-Wales Working Group which wrote and launched the [Good Practice Guidance: Planning for the Conservation and Enhancement of Dark Skies in Wales](#) document in February 2025. The Guidance was the winning entry for two awards at the Landscape Institute Awards in November 2025. The Guidance won the ‘Excellence in Landscape Planning and Assessment’ award and the ‘President’s Award – Best Landscape Scheme of the Year’. ENPA has been working with a lighting designer to create a ‘Dark Sky friendly’ luminaire suitable for domestic properties which has also won a recent award - [LIT Lighting Design Awards 2025](#).

Key outcomes

The greater emphasis in Wales on the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty generally means that more Authority members, senior managers, staff and partners are aware of the Duty and the importance of being able to demonstrate meaningful compliance. The timing of the introduction of the Section 6 duty in parallel with the process of truly co-producing the current ENP Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri) has been an opportunity to fully integrate biodiversity and well-being into the ENPA's foremost strategic document. All projects have a significant element of community engagement (e.g., guided walks, talks and presentations, volunteering opportunities, arts workshops). Local contractors are used wherever possible.

Having Partnership, Communication and Wardening Teams has provided capacity for developing long-term solutions to long-standing problems in and around Eryri e.g., over-tourism and its negative impacts, unsustainable practices (e.g., use of plastics and traffic congestion).

Issues

Disincentives nationally need to be greater to prevent people impacting the decline in biodiversity by short-circuiting proper procedure e.g., pre-development/pre-application site clearance. Planning services are stretched across Wales and ENPA is no exception. A lack of enforcement officer capacity can give the impression that developments that contravene planning conditions and negatively impact biodiversity are not always compelled to take restorative action.

It is a recurring puzzle why applications for Buildings Regulations consent for certain operations (e.g., re-roofing) do not seem to undergo Habitat Regulations Assessments by the relevant competent authorities.

ENPA has a green procurement policy. Additional measures should be added to the policy where appropriate when procuring through various methodologies that allow biodiversity or nature-based weighting to be applied. These should be tailored individually to suit each circumstance for maximum effect.

All the 'Dark Sky friendly' retrofitting work is totally dependent on goodwill. Despite all the success of Project Nos, there isn't an effective mechanism outside of the planning process for regulating the installation of lighting that isn't 'Dark Sky friendly' across Eryri and the wider region. It can feel like playing 'whackamole' at times when a retrofitting scheme is successfully negotiated and implemented at one location, only for someone else nearby to install lights that aren't 'Dark Sky friendly'. Following some initial and successful trials, there is now a need for an initiative to facilitate replacement of the least 'Dark Sky compliant' luminaires in the area on a transformative scale.

There is no doubt that the National Peatland Action Programme has been revolutionary in delivering large scale peatland restoration. A similar national programme is greatly needed with respect to ancient broadleaved woodlands.

A matter that isn't acknowledged sufficiently is the large-scale problem of sitka spruce tree seed dispersal and colonization of semi-natural habitats across Eryri.

A national conversation is needed about what is going to replace the LIFE fund domestically.

Action Report		
NRAP Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels:		
Action carried out to:	Examples:	Measures and/or indicators monitored:
Embed biodiversity action across the organisation's functions	<p>The ENPA's primary statutory purpose includes conserving and enhancing the wildlife of the area. Internationally important habitats and species are one of the nine Special Qualities of Eryri. Biodiversity is also intrinsic to a number of the other Special Qualities of the National Park (e.g., inspiration for the arts) and is therefore a core feature of numerous actions outlined in the National Park Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri) that was launched in November 2020. The ENPA co-produced its National Park Management Plan through an extensive series of consultations (final consultation in January/February 2020), expert panel events, workshops, roadshows, surveys, Ffowr Eryri meetings and on-line consultations (ENPA website, consultation videos, Facebook and Twitter). Cynllun Eryri is in the process of being updated 2026-31 through similar processes.</p> <p>ENPA's adopted Eryri Local Development Plan 2016 – 2031 includes Strategic Policy D: Natural Environment. Part of the policy is that proposals should not adversely affect the National Park's biodiversity resources including designated sites from an international through to a local level, as well as wider biodiversity resources e.g., habitats and species outside designated sites.</p> <p>A myriad of problems have been intensifying specifically on and around Yr Wyddfa as the most visited mountain in the UK. ENPA led the co-production of The Snowdon Partnership Plan 2018-2023, that was refreshed in 2025 – see Cynllun Yr Wyddfa. One outcome was the appointment of a Plastic-Free Snowdon Project Officer in October 2022.</p> <p>ENPA policy staff and other officers as appropriate regularly provide comments (including on biodiversity) through official responses to various consultations (e.g., Welsh Government, NRW, utilities companies etc.). This can be as part of a joint National Parks Wales response, or individual NPA response – depending upon the consultation.</p> <p>Given its two primary purposes, the whole authority is geared towards delivering biodiversity action as a major component of business as usual.</p>	<p>The Eryri NP Management Plan includes a raft of monitoring arrangements and measures of success which are reported annually to the Authority. The State of the Park Report is produced every 5 years.</p> <p>Monitoring indicators are included in Section 3 and Appendix 1 of the ENPA's Eryri LDP Annual Monitoring Report 2025 e.g., no. of applications with biodiversity enhancements.</p> <p>See the continuous monitoring and evaluation arrangements central to Cynllun Yr Wyddfa and its Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Number of consultation responses, and the nature of the comments with respect to biodiversity.</p>

<p>Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance across the organisation</p>	<p>ENPA staff members provide training and input to ENPA Authority Members on biodiversity issues (e.g., Member's training/seminars and visits to ENPA properties and project sites, Member Climate Change Adaptation workshop, Planning Committee). External expertise is available to Members when necessary. 'Nature Restoration: Sowing the Seeds of Change' was the theme of the National Parks Wales Members' Seminar hosted in Eryri on 1-2nd October 2025.</p> <p>Internal newsletters and updates at staff meetings and circular emails also update staff, Authority Members and our wide range of Partners.</p> <p>Social media is used effectively and regularly to increase awareness about the work of the National Park and about biodiversity issues on a regular basis. The number of interactions on social media can be easily measured.</p> <p>Our external newspaper 'Eryri' is published once a year, with a roundup of the work of the National Park which also includes sections on biodiversity and updates on some of the numerous projects in which we are involved.</p> <p>ENPA invest a significant amount of time awareness-raising about the importance of biodiversity amongst the decision-makers of the future. Awareness-raising is delivered through core and project staff and/or external contractors, often through projects. For example, ENPA Wardening Service have delivered the annual and very popular Classroom Hatchery (both on-line and within local schools) as part of the LIFE Dee River Project – see Pupils at Ysgol Bro Tryweryn host a trout hatchery in their classroom. The work of the ENPA Wardening Service (≤10 Wardens, varying seasonally) involves day to day work explaining the importance of biodiversity to local communities and visitors alike.</p> <p>ENPA employ a Young People's Officer. The ENPA Youth Manifesto aims to reflect the collective voices of Eryri's young people: a written statement as to the aims and objectives of ENPA with regard to our young people. It outlines what ENPA is aiming to achieve on behalf of our young people, based on the changes that they've asked to see. Central to this, ENPA recognises that the younger generations are the future of the protected area – our land, communities, heritage and culture. It's they who see and will shape Eryri's future. Through projects and the youth and educational work, ENPA will ensure that what's required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 will be achieved. One of the main aims of the Manifesto is to support and facilitate youth inclusion, engagement and representation. The Manifesto introduces changes and developments in ENPA by developing 'Future Voice of Eryri' (Llais Eryri'r Dyfodol) forums which is joint work with Public Map Platform Wales. The aim of Llais Eryri'r Dyfodol is to understand and highlight issues that are truly important to young people within Eryri's communities and to strengthen young people's voices to influence how their places are planned and developed. Another main aim of the Youth Manifesto is to connect more young people with places, nature and heritage. This is achieved through projects like the Eryri</p>	<p>Analytics measuring no. of social media interactions.</p> <p>No, of people and young people engaged in various biodiversity elements of projects.</p>
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Young Rangers Scheme, the GISDA Project, and educational projects with primary and secondary schools in and around Eryri (and beyond). Although ENPA no longer employ full-time primary and secondary education officers, central to ENPA's Youth Manifesto, education is essential. From an early age, people should be taught to understand and care for the National Park, to encourage them to continue to protect it in the future. ENPA work side by side with schools and other services that are essential to our protected areas to provide educational opportunities for our young people.

[ENPA staff with Year 11 pupils studying 'The World of Work' at Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn working on a 28ha 'forest to bog' project within Migneint-Arenig-Ddualt Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\) \(November 2025\).](#)



NRAP Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management.

Safeguard principal species and habitats	<p>Marsh fritillary</p> <p>Marsh fritillaries are a Section 7 species that have undergone catastrophic declines throughout much of Europe, the UK and Wales in recent decades. Marsh fritillaries are an excellent indicator of ecosystem health and positive management for marsh fritillary is beneficial for a whole range of other wildlife. Capital works have been funded to erect replacement fencing to enable introduction of grazing by native breed cattle on a previously afforested 3.3ha bog adjacent to a marsh fritillary breeding site. Thousands of the Devil's-bit scabious (<i>Succisa pratensis</i>) foodplant are establishing on the restored bog following reseeding with local seed. Another prolific breeding site that is part of the Meirionnydd meta-population had bespoke scrub management during winters 2022-2023 and 2024-2025. On-site advice has been provided by marsh fritillary experts regarding optimizing management for invertebrates.</p>	<p>Light native-breed cattle grazing introduced on 3.3ha of a restored bog next to a marsh fritillary breeding site.</p> <p>No. of larval webs counted.</p>
	<p><u>Aerial photo showing the distribution of the 160 marsh fritillary larval webs (yellow dots) counted on one of the Meirionnydd meta-population sites during September 2025.</u></p>  <p>Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FWPM) and Salmonids</p> <p>ENPA play an active role on the Wales FWPM Review Group and deliver (in partnership) actions from the 'Freshwater Pearl Mussel Conservation Strategy for Wales'. The ENPA is an associated beneficiary on the LIFE Dee River 2020-2027 project (which includes work programmes for FWPM and salmonids), and a fully engaged stakeholder in the NRW-led Arduudwy Leat Project. FWPM is an invertebrate that is Critically Endangered in Wales and an indicator species of high river and stream quality. They contribute substantially to a vision of resilient Welsh freshwater biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>See LIFE Dee River project indicators.</p> <p>Ultimate indicator is no. of FWPMs in-river.</p>

<p>Gylfinir Cymru Based on its adverse global conservation status, and the global importance but rapid decline of the UK's breeding population, the Eurasian Curlew is now considered to be the UK's highest conservation priority bird species. ENPA are a member of the Wales Curlew Group 'Gylfinir Cymru' (Curlew Wales). Gylfinir Cymru published and launched 'A Wales Action Plan for the Recovery of Curlew' in November 2021. ENPA were a stakeholder partner in the Curlew LIFE project (2020-2024) which operated within the Ysbyty Ifan and Hiraethog areas of Eryri. ENPA contributes to annual surveying of Curlew breeding numbers and nesting success through this project and its 'After LIFE' successor. ENPA commissioned breeding Curlew surveys (including productivity) in the Trawsfynydd area in 2023, and the Cwmtirmynach area in 2024.</p> <p>Planning The letter from Welsh Government's Planning Directorate to Local Authority Chief Planning Officers regarding Biodiversity and Enhancement dated 23rd October 2019 and the publication of Planning Policy Wales 12 have been very welcome. These documents clarify that where biodiversity enhancement is not proposed as part of an application, significant weight will be given to its absence, and unless other significant material considerations indicate otherwise it will be necessary to refuse permission. 'Future Wales: The National Plan 2040' highlights Welsh Government's ambition to see biodiversity enhancements across Wales and as part of the planning process and applications. Biodiversity training is routinely incorporated into the Authority's annual meeting with Planning Agents.</p> <p>Natur am Byth! – Tlysau Mynydd Eryri (Mountain Jewels of Eryri) ENPA have been closely involved in the development and implementation of this National Lottery Heritage Fund project that aims to inspire and involve people to help conserve some of Wales's rarest upland species e.g. Snowdon rainbow leaf beetle, Welsh eyebright (<i>Euphrasia cambrica</i>).</p> <p>Ffermio Bro ENPA administers the Ffermio Bro programme within Eryri National Park, Llŷn National Landscape and Ynys Môn National Landscape.</p>	<p>See indicators in Curlew Action Plan. Research indicates that stable Curlew populations need to be producing ≥ 0.5 chicks/pair/year. Monitored productivity in Eryri outside of the Curlew LIFE area has been low (≤ 0.4/chicks/pair/year).</p> <p>Monitoring indicators are included in Section 3 and Appendix 1 of the SNPA's Eryri LDP Annual Monitoring Report 2025. No. of applications with enhancement for e.g. bats, swifts.</p> <p>See project indicators - Natur am Byth!</p> <p>See project indicators.</p>
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NRAP Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation

<p>Restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<p>Examples of restoration of degraded ecosystems</p> <p><u>National Peatland Action Programme (NPAP)</u> ENPA are a Strategic Funding Partner to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in delivering the objectives of the NPAP 2020-2025. £285k was spent by ENPA on peatland restoration with numerous landowners and tenants in and around Eryri through NPAP in 2023-2024, and £413k in 2024-2025. £400k has been allocated to ENPA for peatland restoration in each of years 2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028. See <u>National Peatland Action Programme</u> Youtube channel for a flavour of programme activities.</p> <p><u>Photo of native breed cattle grazing on a former Norway Spruce plantation on deep peat that ENPA have helped deconiferise and hydrologically restore (photo taken on 9th September 2024).</u></p>  <p><u>Eryri-wide survey of Trees and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS)</u></p> <p>ENPA have received Welsh Government funding during 2021-2022 (£100k), 2022-2023 (£100k), 2023-2024 (£100k) and 2024-2025 (£100k) to undertake condition surveys of PAWS and AWS sites, come up with prioritised recommendations and implement those recommendations in following years. The fund is split with 25% for surveys and reports, and 75% for implementing report recommendations. It's a great example of a simple, efficient, and effective method of operating. Landowners like the method of operating and appreciate people taking an interest in their woodlands and subsequently feel an added value to their woodlands. The survey methodology includes deadwood survey and grazing assessment (i.e. lack of or too much).</p> <p><u>Management of SNPA-owned land</u> Funding through the Welsh Government's Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places (SLSP) funding stream has enabled SNPA to continue the process of improving the management and diversifying the swards of ENPA amenity grasslands at Dolidris and Farchynys. Most of the grassland at ENPA's HQ is only cut once a year.</p>	<p>Gauging weir data is available if required in some locations to compare hydrographs before & after ditch blocking.</p> <p>No. of condition/restoration plans written per landowner/estate (~65 to date).</p> <p>No. of ha restored (~240ha).</p> <p>No. of individual woodlands coming into active sustainable management (~75).</p> <p>No. of species in sward (e.g., yellow rattle has already become well established at Dolidris following spreading seed from a species-rich meadow nearby).</p>
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LIFE Quaking Bogs Project

LIFE Quaking Bogs (2022-2027) is a £4.5M project led by NRW. ENPA is an associated beneficiary on the project, with the Project and Monitoring Officer (Eifionydd Sites) working from the ENPA Headquarters.

See [LIFE Quaking Bogs](#)

New LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs Project

New LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs (2017-2024) was a £5.2M pan-Wales project that was led by NRW. ENPA was an associated beneficiary on the project. One site within the project was in Eryri, namely Cors Goch Trawsfynydd Special Area of Conservation.

See [New LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs](#)

Aerial photo of Cors Goch Trawsfynydd following rewetting works to restore the hydrology of the raised bog with contour bunds (photo taken by Jake White of NRW in spring 2023).



Sands of LIFE Project

Sands of LIFE (2018-2024) was a £4M pan-Wales project that was led by NRW. ENPA was a stakeholder on the project. Morfa Harlech a Morfa Dyffryn Special Area of Conservation was included within the project in Eryri. NRW commissioned a National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey of ENPA's Bennar Dunes (Morfa Dyffryn) property as part of the project. It is the hope of some of ENPA's staff and NRW's Reserves staff that this survey can be used as part of the case for including Bennar Dunes within the Morfa Dyffryn National Nature Reserve in the future.

See [Sands of LIFE](#)

HLF Carneddau Landscape Partnership

This £4M project was developed and co-produced 2017-19, with funding secured from the HLF for the implementation phase (2020-2025). A number of biodiversity work themes and packages are an integral part of this project. Project strands include:

- Cylchdaith y Carneddau
- Grazed uplands
- 'LiDAR' citizen science

See project indicators outlined in bid.

- Meadows
- Skylines (including montane heath)
- The water cycle: peat and rivers
- Trees, woodland and hedgerows

Engagement, Communication and Grants are Whole Scheme Activities.

See [Carneddau Landscape Partnership](#).

NRAP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

<p>Tackle negative factors: e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<p><u>Celtic Rainforests Wales LIFE Project</u> This £8M project aims to improve the condition of 5 SACs in western Wales with the 'Celtic Rainforest' habitat-type and its constituent species. See Celtic Rainforests Wales. Much of the focus is on managing and eradicating Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) such as <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>, Himalayan balsam and American skunk cabbage from within the SACs and a 1km buffer. There is also a significant element of Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) restoration.</p> <p><u>LIFE Dee River Project</u> LIFE Dee River is an £8M+ project to transform the River Dee and its catchment by restoring the river and its surroundings to their natural state. ENPA are an associated beneficiary. Project actions include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> removing the constraints to fish migration and wider ecological connectivity restoring or improving natural riverine physical processes, features and habitats in at least 55km of river improving agricultural and forestry land management practices to reduce the input of nutrients and sediment entering the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) establishing and building long-term positive relationships with key stakeholders during and beyond the life of the project. <p>The removal of Erbistock weir has already opened up another 4km of main river for successful sea lamprey spawning up to Manley Hall Gauging Weir.</p> <p><u>Natural Flood Risk Management (NFRM) Projects</u> ENPA worked in partnership with a cluster of nine farmers within the Afon Mynach catchment in Cwmirmynach to undertake NFRM work 2023-2025. Welsh Government 'Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places' funding of £160k was secured to deliver the work. The project aimed to alleviate peak waterflows through nature-based solutions to reduce downstream flooding. Works included planting hedges, planting riparian trees, separation of clean and dirty water (e.g. diversion of water from washing fine material from tracks into watercourses and installation of farmyard guttering and downpipes), installation of water storage tanks, drinking troughs and riparian fencing to reduce stock trampling in and around watercourses.</p> <p>National Parks Partnerships levered £67k private funding for ENPA to undertake a programme of NFRM measures (creation of ponds, contour planting and installation of leaky dams) in the Afon Dyfrdwy catchment around Llanuwchllyn in 2023-2024. This work has involved and complemented the LIFE Dee River project that is active in the catchment.</p> <p>These collaborative projects illustrate the eagerness of land managers to engage with NFRM measures.</p>	<p>See project indicators.</p> <p>See project indicators at LIFE Dee River, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 barriers removed or adapted to help fish migration 36km of fencing erected to create riverside corridors 4.250 tonnes of gravel introduced into the river beneath dams. <p>See Mynach NFRM project indicators e.g., 2.86km of new hedgerows planted, 471 riparian trees planted, 2 hardstanding areas installed to reduce run-off, 4 water troughs and 2 x 10,000 litre water tanks and rainwater kits installed to reduce stock trampling in watercourses.</p>
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<p><u>Dark Skies Partnership (Prosiet Nos).</u></p> <p>The Dark Sky North Wales 'Prosiet Nos' project has been outstanding in terms of engaging the communities of north Wales with the multiple benefits of dark skies. The project has worked with numerous organisations and businesses to retrofit some of the worst lighting around Eryri with 'Dark Sky compliant' luminaires. This was informed by a prioritised external lighting survey of 52 sites across Eryri by independent and specialist lighting consultants. Outstanding examples of sites that are now exemplar Dark Sky Friendly Sites include the Ministry of Defence Training Camp at Capel Curig, Gwersyll yr Urdd Glan Llyn and the Youth Hostel Association (YHA) buildings at Ogwen, Penyppas and Llanberis. The John Lewis Hotel in Bala are applying to become the first 'Dark Sky Accredited' business in Wales which will help them extend their season and increase visitor numbers at quieter times of the year.</p> <p>However, there is always the need to facilitate upscaling the replacement of the least 'Dark Sky compliant' luminaires in and around Eryri, especially around some of the most sensitive habitats e.g. riparian corridors and native broadleaved woodland. Importantly, a second Dark Skies Officer working across the Welsh Designated Landscapes commenced in post in early 2023. The focus is on improving the quality of Wales's night skies and biodiversity.</p> <p><u>Dee Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) work</u></p> <p>ENPA Wardens annually work closely with the North Wales Wildlife Trust and contractors on the management of INNS within the Llyn Tegid catchment – see The Upper and Middle Dee Invasive Species Management Project.</p> <p>ENPA wardens are responsible for coordinating the ongoing (16+ years) Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed control programme in the catchment of Llyn Tegid and its tributaries, which is at the top of the Dee catchment.</p> <p><u>National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative-funded Rhododendron control, PAWS restoration and traditional boundary restoration.</u></p> <p>Two projects (worth £200k each) have been funded in Dyffryn Maentwrog to enable ENPA and NRW to improve habitat connectivity to encourage wildlife, safeguard ancient woodlands and manage invasive non-native species such as <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>, Japanese knotweed and bamboo. These are awfully steep sites where access is very poor and it has taken years to overcome these constraints and challenges.</p> <p>Another project ('Gwyliwrch y Bwlch / Mind the Gap') in the area between Talsarnau and Penmorfa/Pentrefelin has received £200k to undertake similar work.</p> <p><u>Decarbonisation</u></p> <p>The Corporate Work Plan includes several initiatives to respond to the challenges of climate change. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency and reducing carbon footprint of ENPA buildings to be an integral part of the new Asset Management Plan and aligned with 'Wales Prosperity for All – A Low Carbon Public Estate' targets 	<p>The project passed the figure (in November 2025) of 14,625 members of the public who have attended a Dark Skies event since the 'Prosiet Nos' Dark Skies Officer started in post. With a total of 270 Dark Skies events held, that is an average of 54 events per year.</p> <p>No. of light retrofitting projects completed.</p> <p>See project indicators.</p> <p>Two PAWS sites to be clear-felled of conifers in Dyffryn Ffestiniog during 2026-2027 and re-stocked with native broadleaved trees.</p> <p>See indicators in ENPA's Corporate Work Plan e.g., target of 45% of journeys within Snowdonia being undertaken by sustainable modes by</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new 'Carbon Officer' role has been created in 2024. This officer leads on the climate change and carbon project work for the Authority. • The Officer is delivering on the 'Low Carbon Strategy 2024', embedding principles of climate change adaptation and mitigation into the forthcoming revisions of Cynllun Eryri and the Local Development Plan. A Climate Change Risk Assessment has been drafted, identifying the challenges and opportunities facing the 9 Special Qualities of the Eryri National Park. • The Authority sit on a technical working group for the North Wales Public Service Board (PSB), feeding in the priorities and learnings identified in the Eryri localised Climate Change Risk Assessment. • Develop a Decarbonisation Plan for ENPA to be carbon neutral by 2030 based on the recommendations of the Carbon Study report and reduce residual emissions rather than rely on land-based removals to achieve Net Zero targets. Already, the ENPA has electrified part of the fleet (where practical), instated a Green Procurement and a Single-Use Plastics Policy, and has reduced building emissions with the installation of solar panels and new windows at its Headquarters. • The ENPA has also committed to the 'Race to Zero' campaign, accelerating efforts to decarbonise, and it is working with the United Kingdom National Parks (NPUK) family to reduce emissions and prioritise climate action in the region with partners. • Tirweddau Cymru are leading a working group of Welsh Landscape carbon and climate officers, taking a more joined-up and collaborative approach to the climate challenge. • The ENPA invested £107k in Community Decarbonisation projects in 2024-2025. • Commission a report to identify how the Authority can assist towards the National Park area being carbon neutral by 2050 in include specific reference to land management and working beyond ENPA's properties. • Support a strategic partnership with Welsh Government, Bannau Brycheiniog and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities on Nature Recovery and Carbon Sequestration in the Designated Landscapes of Wales and hosting the post of strategic lead. <p>An example of action to date is the increasing ENPA fleet of electric vehicles that can be booked and used by staff, and the installation of more electric vehicle charging points at strategic points. Another example is the significantly increased amount of hybrid working since 2020 and extensive use of Microsoft Teams to attend meetings and cut staff commuting emissions.</p> <p><u>Mink</u></p> <p>The main aim of this project is to protect and ultimately increase water vole (<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>) populations within Eryri National Park. The invasive non-native American Mink (<i>Neovison vison</i>) has been identified as one of the main threats to water vole</p>	<p>2040. Also, indicators such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions kgCO₂e • Land-based removals kgCO₂e • £'s spent on community decarbonisation projects. <p>Since starting the project in October 2024 ENPA have succeeded in managing 33 American</p>
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populations in the UK, and as such is the main target of our efforts. ENPA are a member of the North Wales Mink Forum and are working closely with Menter Môn who are covering catchments on Ynys Môn and the Llŷn. The aim is to eradicate American mink from north-west Wales, in a similar way to what has been achieved in East Anglia by the Waterlife Recovery Trust (WRT) masterminded by Prof. Tony Martin. The corpses are sent to the WRT for ageing of individuals and genetic research.

mink using traps with remote units, and a further 16 mink as ad-hoc/traditional trapping events.

NRAP Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring

<p>Improve the use of evidence in decision making</p>	<p>ENPA have an annual Service Level Agreement with Cofnod (the North Wales Environmental Information Service) and routinely use Cofnod data for decision making e.g. policy and planning decisions, project planning. ENPA staff who routinely work outdoors have been encouraged and trained to submit all biological records online to Cofnod. Some ENPA staff use the LERC recording app. ENPA work closely with Cofnod to mobilise data from various sources e.g., biological survey reports accompanying planning applications.</p> <p>Fforwm Eryri through ENPA commissioned a 'Wildlife in Lockdown' study during 2020-2022 to try and quantitatively and qualitatively assess some of the effects of the unprecedented Covid-19 lockdowns on the wildlife of north-west Wales in seven popular and well-visited areas. This will act as a baseline that can be re-visited in future.</p> <p>ENPA are a partner in the Environment & Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme (ERAMMP). ERAMMP aims to deliver a programme of monitoring and modelling which collects data across the Welsh landscape and links any changes to their impacts on a wide range of benefits including biodiversity. ENPA deliver much of the landowner liaison and access work on behalf of ERAMMP.</p> <p>ENPA are addressing an evidence gap by working with the Forest Genetics section of Forest Enterprise (FE) in Edinburgh to undertake DNA fingerprinting of native black poplars (<i>Populus nigra</i> subsp. <i>Betulifolia</i>) growing in Eryri and surrounds. This informs a programme of taking cuttings to maximise genetic diversity of new plantings from 2023.</p> <p>Working with numerous partners, ENPA have been collecting samples of leaves from aspen trees in north-west Wales since 2023. They are sexed and DNA fingerprinted at Forest Research in Edinburgh. Information is gleaned as to whether trees are distinct individuals or genetic clones of each other. This recent work on this enigmatic tree has captured the imagination of many local people and has led to the formation of a project loosely termed 'Restoring aspen: a lost tree in north-west Wales'.</p> <p>ENPA are a local hub for the collation of otter corpses that feed into the Cardiff University Otter Project and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent database of otter mortality locations. The Otter Project runs a long-term environmental surveillance scheme, using otters found dead to investigate contaminants, disease, and population biology across the UK.</p>	<p>Planning monitoring indicators are included in Section 3 and Appendix 1 of the ENPA's Eryri LDP Annual Monitoring Report 2025. Data from a wide range of sources is collated during the production of the 5-yearly State of the Park Report. No. of biological records mobilized into the Cofnod database by ENPA.</p> <p>See Wildlife in Lockdown.</p> <p>See ERAMMP.</p> <p>Report from FE upon the completion of the genetic research.</p> <p>Ongoing reports from Forest Research as the work develops.</p> <p>See Cardiff University Otter Project. No. of otter RTA blackspots where mitigation measures have been implemented.</p>
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	<p>One ENPA member of staff is licensed to undertake bat roost survey and monitoring visits – the results of which are input into Cofnod, reported to NRW licensing, and feed into the Bat Conservation Trust's National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) and NRW's Article 17 reporting.</p> <p>ENPA is a hub for local awareness-raising of the Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme (PBMS), and a hub for collection of corpses for sending to the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology's laboratories.</p> <p>ENPA have a drone for several data-collection and monitoring purposes. Staff were trained in autumn 2019 to become qualified drone operators. An example of an application was co-operating with Network Rail to map flowering <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> on the sea-cliffs of the Network Rail Estate between Friog and Llwyngwril in May-June 2020. This resulted in high-resolution orthomosaics being produced by ENPA. This ultimately enabled Network Rail contractors to commence Phase 1 of Rhododendron management works during November-December 2021, with follow-up Phase 2 works delivered in 2023. Phase 3 follow-up work will take place in 2026. This has added value to the Celtic Rainforests Wales LIFE Project. Drone photographs are frequently used for engagement and mapping purposes.</p> <p>Staff from ENPA will be assisting NRW and land managers with the Wales Breeding Wader Survey 2026. The survey will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that tree planting activities follow a “right tree, right place” approach, without encroaching on Curlew and other breeding wader habitat • support future habitat management through schemes like the Sustainable Farming Scheme and Ffermio Bro. <p>Data from the Curlew surveys in Trawsfynydd 2023 and Cwmtirmynach 2024 feed into this work.</p>	<p>NRW's Article 17 reporting and BCT's NBMP.</p> <p>Bird corpse data feeds into PBMS - Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme.</p> <p>Three ENPA staff are qualified drone operators. No. of projects where drones have provided data.</p>
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NRAP Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery		
Ensure governance for biodiversity within ENPA	<p>The ENPA Chief Executive and Authority Members are ultimately responsible for ensuring biodiversity action is taken across the Authority.</p>	<p>The Section 6 duty (through Outcomes in Cynllun Eryri) is monitored, reviewed and reported in the Annual Monitoring Report for Cynllun Eryri. Governance is reported upon in the annual ENPA Governance Statement.</p>
Provide capacity for biodiversity	<p><u>Local Places for Nature (LPfN)</u></p> <p>This is a Welsh Government funded scheme administrated by Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) which has funded multiple aspects of nature recovery and strengthening people's connection to nature during the 2023-2025 period. ENPA worked in close partnership to deliver project elements with several partners including; the North Wales Rivers Trust, the National Trust, the North Wales Wildlife Trust, Y Dref Werdd, Gwesty Seren and GISDA in addition to Beddgelert, Llanelltyd a Llanuwchllyn Community Councils. Some of the project aspects included the creation of community gardens, the creation of a community tree nursery, the planting of meadows of grass and wildflowers, the restoration of freshwater pearl mussel habitat on the Afon Eden, the removal of invasive non-native species with community groups, the retrofitting of lighting with lights that comply with Dark Sky protection standards and the planting of new Yew trees in cemeteries across the Park. The Scheme has funded 2 Biodiversity Officers within ENPA to deliver the project and coordinate the Nature Partnership. ENPA has received confirmation of further funding through the Local Places for Nature scheme for 2025 – March 2027.</p> <p>ENPA has a Senior Ecologist (Planning) and a Senior Ecologist (Projects). The post of Volunteer and Well-being Officer is now on the ENPA staffing structure, enabling better co-ordination of volunteering and biodiversity enhancement opportunities with partners. The ENPA Warden service are routinely involved with involving local communities and educational groups in cross-cutting biodiversity action. The majority of ENPA projects have biodiversity elements at their core. Close ties are maintained with all community councils in Eryri through regular correspondence and meetings, which leads to opportunities to work together to promote biodiversity. ENPA provides the secretariat (Biodiversity Officer [Partnerships]) for the Eryri Nature Partnership. Eryri NPA's Biodiversity Officer (Nature Recovery) coordinates much of the strategic nature recovery work. The UK National Parks family provides Continuous Professional Development (CPD) in the form of annual 3-day meetings/training for peer groups e.g., National Park Ecologists, Agri-liaison/Natural Resource Officers, Woodland Officers etc.</p>	<p>See Eryri Nature Partnership for a flavor of activities.</p>

	<p>Internal expertise regarding trees is provided by the Authority's Forester and Trees & Woodlands Officer. Grant funding has facilitated the establishment of micro tree nurseries at Plas Tan y Bwlch (Maentwrog), Henfaes (Abergwyngregyn) and Saron. This has provided great opportunities for volunteer and local schools engagement through community seed collection days and has enabled ENPA to host events like the Llais y Goedwig Tree Nursery Biosecurity Workshops in November 2022 and October 2025. ENPA has also been able to host learning days for others who are looking to establish micro tree nurseries locally. This provides capacity for leading on the National Forest objectives and the ENPA's 100-year Tree and Woodland Strategy 2025-2125 which was adopted by the Authority in April 2025 following extensive consultation. It will provide advice and guidance to planners, landowners, land managers, stakeholders and local people for managing woods and trees in the landscape. It will also provide advice and guidance for establishing new trees and woodlands. Its implementation will be led by ENPA but the delivery will be based on extensive participation and cooperation with many partners and people in the National Park.</p>	<p>No. of volunteers/schools involved with seed collection days (through a variety of projects) (>150). No. of attendees (18) at Llais y Goedwig Tree Nursery Biosecurity Workshops.</p>
Support biodiversity action through funding and/or partnerships	<p><u>Local Nature Partnership (LNP) Cymru – Eryri Nature Partnership (ENP)</u></p> <p>The Local Places for Nature (LPfN) scheme created and established by Welsh Government has the main aim of bringing 'nature to your doorstep'. The scheme is presented through five distinct programmes, and one of those programmes presents the Local Nature Partnerships (LNP) collaboration. The Local Nature Partnership (LNP) scheme is delivered in each Local Authority and all three National Parks in Wales, focussing on strengthening the connection between local communities and nature. The LNP group in Eryri National Park Authority is called the Eryri Nature Partnership (ENP) and is coordinated by the Biodiversity Officers. The focus is to build a network of partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors, community groups and individuals that share the same drive to restore and conserve nature in Eryri, together. The ENP hosts quarterly meetings for partners and passionate members of the local community. This offers an opportunity to be together in one place to catch up, ask questions, and share project updates through a series of presentations. Additionally, ENP collates local news and progress of these projects into a monthly bulletin – shared between partners via e-mail, and then on social media to update a wider audience.</p> <p>The purchase of a BCS grass-cutting machine through the LPfN fund has facilitated the management of flower-rich meadows that are otherwise a bit awkward to manage, as well as work to create some new flower-rich meadows.</p>	<p>ENPA LNP Cymru Biodiversity Officers (Partnerships and Nature Recovery) roles to deliver LNP Cymru project objectives and wider biodiversity work in Eryri.</p>

ENPA staff member using the BCS grass-cutting machine on a damp and species-rich part of Llwyniarth SSSI (October 2025).



As a member of the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau (PLAS) Special Area of Conservation Relevant Authorities Group and the PLAS Liaison Group, ENPA chair both Groups and are fully committed to the work of the Groups. ENPA currently provide £3,100 annually towards the cost of employing the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC Officer. ENPA feel it is critically important to this role that other Relevant Authorities provide annual core funding to keep the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC Officer in place. ENPA feel that with current funding arrangements (predominantly on a year-to-year basis and projects-based) that there is a significant risk of not being able to retain the expertise, networks and exceptional community rapport of the established officer. Supporting the SAC Officer is vital to Welsh Government's priority objective of meeting the Programme for Government commitment to establish a targeted scheme to support restoration of seagrass and saltmarsh habitats along our coastline. It is also helping to deliver the ambitions of the Marine Protected Area Network Management Framework and contributing to emerging policy of blue carbon.

A strategic partnership with Welsh Government, Bannau Brycheiniog and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities on Nature Recovery and Carbon Sequestration in the Designated Landscapes of Wales was established 2022-2025, with ENPA hosting the strategic lead.

Partnerships created through [Cynllun Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa](#) and [Cynllun Eryri](#) deliver on a wide range of strategic actions and project goals in partnership with a wide range of organisations, businesses and community groups throughout the National Park. [Caru Eryri](#) is a volunteer initiative in collaboration with Cymdeithas Eryri, the Outdoor Partnership and the National Trust. The goal of the project and its volunteers is to mitigate the growing impact of visitors on the National Park, especially the most-visited areas.

Improving management and engagement with the PLAS SAC e.g., trialing helical anchors at Porthdinllaen to reduce scouring of seagrass beds. No. of children engaged with the relaunched Tir a Môr Education Pack.

Development of a strategic guide to respond to the nature and climate emergencies.

No. of individuals/businesses receiving Eryri Ambassador accreditation e.g., 1356 bronze accreditations up to 14th November 2025, with 1047 of those

going on to achieve silver accreditation, and 919 of those achieving gold accreditation. Caru Eryri 2025 data is:

- 76 volunteers
- 773 volunteer hours
- 11 volunteer leaders trained
- 39 shifts independently led
- 413.54kg of rubbish removed
- 71.69kg of recycling
- 172 bags of rubbish (485.23kg in total)
- 3,120m of paths maintained.

Review of S6 duty

What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will you change?

- The development of relatively well-resourced Partnerships and Communications Sections has allowed ENPA to strategically and collaboratively tackle some of the systemic and long-term societal issues negatively impacting on Eryri's biodiversity and ecosystems. Examples are the co-production of Cynllun Eryri, the Yr Wyddfa Partnership Plan, Local Place-Plans, the Caru Eryri and [Eryri Ambassador](#) Schemes, and production and implementation of a Recreation Strategy, a Volunteer Strategy, a Parking & Transport Strategy, a Sustainable Visitor Economy Strategy 2035 and an Eryri Residents and Communities Engagement Strategy. It has also enabled quick and punchy messaging to the public at large, many of whom may not necessarily have been familiar with 'countryside code' type messaging previously.
- The recommendations of the Welsh Government 'Biodiversity Deep Dive' 2022 apply to Eryri as much as anywhere else in Wales. For example, Recommendation 1 – 'Improve the effectiveness of protection from the damaging impacts of development and other threats / pressures by increasing capacity and capability in relevant public bodies to take effective enforcement action where needed' is very much welcomed. Several cases of potential planning breaches that negatively impact biodiversity and ecosystem resilience are still unresolved. The reasons are unclear – perhaps they are not perceived as being as pressing as some other compliance issues in a climate where the Development Management and Compliance Section have been extremely stretched for many years.
- It can be difficult to obtain Welsh Government derogations from agri-environment agreements in order to adaptively manage land in Eryri (e.g. introducing grazing in order to control Himalayan balsam outbreaks as sustainably as possible). It can be extremely difficult to effectively manage INNS (e.g. Rhododendron) on land subject to some Organic agreements.
- Training would be very useful so that the advantages of clear-span solutions (as opposed to e.g. culverts) are more widely appreciated in terms of enhancing fluvial processes and ecosystems.
- Training by NRW for ENPA on the implications of phosphate standards and targets would be extremely valuable.
- Perhaps further grant funding streams e.g. Cronfa Cymunedau Eryri Communities Fund could have conditions attached that secure further enhancement for biodiversity across Eryri.
- ENPA feel that it is critically important to the continuity of implementing marine objectives based around the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC that increased core funding is provided towards the cost of employing the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC Officer.
- NPAP funding for ENPA as a Strategic Funding Partner to NRW has worked wonderfully well for delivering peatland restoration at scale in and around Eryri since 2020. In the last couple of years as NRW's Grants team have become more involved in NPAP, the programme has become more bureaucratic and less flexible.
- LIFE funding is unparalleled for delivering conservation actions where they are needed most on Natura2000 sites. It will be a sad day when the last LIFE projects finish in Eryri and Wales in 2027. There is a huge need for an equally effective domestic funding equivalent.

How and when will the S6 duty be monitored and the S6 plan reviewed?

- The S6 requirements are built into the mechanism utilized for reporting on the National Park Management Plan (reviewed every 5 years) and are incorporated in the State of the Park Report. This reduces resources required to coordinate reports and serves to fully embed S6 Duties into the work program of the Authority and the scrutiny of its Members.