



CPRW

WHAT WE STAND FOR

Summary of our policies



YDCW
CPRW

Elusen Cefn Gwlad Cymru

The Welsh Countryside Charity

Preface

CPRW is one of the oldest charities in Wales, founded in 1928 we have fought long and hard to ensure that there is a countryside for our future generations to enjoy, live and work in. From getting Dolwyddelan Castle scheduled as an ancient monument in the 1930s, through to playing a major role in proposing, campaigning for and ultimately, the creation of our National Parks.

More recently, we have rebranded with a new logo as CPRW: The Welsh Countryside Charity. As part of this rebrand, we underwent a full policy review, consulting with our membership, to ensure that all our policy positions were up to date and in keeping with the times. These are not set in stone; however, our policies and ideas adapt and evolve with the countryside and its communities – you can help shape these by joining us in the fight to protect, champion and be the voice of the Welsh Countryside and the rural way of life.



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Landscapes & Nature



Landscapes

Landscapes are the *"product of the interaction of the natural and cultural components of our environment, and how they are understood and experienced by people."* Landscapes encompass not just the beauty and variety of our environment, but also natural and cultural aspects, embracing geology, wildlife, land use and historic elements and features. Landscapes are our countryside.

Landscapes are shaped by the actions of nature and people over time, interacting with the environment. The spectacular range of natural, historical and cultural elements contributes to the richness and widespread fame of our Welsh landscapes. It is essential that they are conserved and protected for present and future generations from the adverse impacts of the climate and biodiversity crises, as well as inappropriate land use and development.



From our mountains, uplands, moors and rolling green countryside; to the seascapes of our stunning coastline and urban and rural parklands – we love our landscapes. They speak of our history, delight the senses, produce our food, sustain our rural populations, and draw visitors into our rural economy. They are not just for 'us' but are for everybody and

for the future. And our landscapes have a vital role to play in tackling the climate emergency by capturing carbon, cleaning the air, helping to slow flood waters, and providing habitats for wildlife.

The Welsh language is a language of landscapes – the places, people, history, land-use and natural features are what gives it detail, substance, meaning, and context. Without a landscape, without some kind of continuity, the language itself is at grave risk of coming adrift from its moorings – the rocks and slopes, the river bends, the buildings that form its ancient fabric, the elements that are permanent enough to warrant a name.

We want to see a thriving countryside: landscapes that are more resilient to climate change by planting more hedgerows and trees; more accommodating to the biodiversity needed to enable life itself; and a landscape for this and future generations to seek out and find refuge in, unscarred by industry and insensitive or inappropriate developments. And

we want as many people as possible to access these landscapes and enjoy the benefits they bring to our wellbeing.

For almost a century, CPRW has worked and will work nationally and locally for a positive future for all our landscapes.

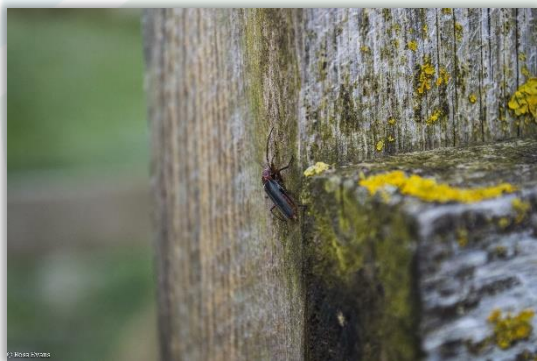


Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of life found on earth and includes all species of plants, animals and other living organisms, their abundance and genetic diversity. Whether you refer to it as Biodiversity or nature, it has its own intrinsic value, contributing to society's well-being, sense of place and cultural identity. Our biodiversity also provides a measure of the health of natural living systems and the success of the delivery of sustainable management policies of natural resources.

The term 'geodiversity' describes the variety of rocks, fossils, minerals, earth surface (geomorphic) processes, landforms and soils that underlie and determine the character of our landscape and support the provision of many ecosystem services.

Together, biodiversity and geodiversity are key components of healthy ecosystems. Any loss or damage to either can affect ecosystem functioning and its ability to adapt to change. They regulate our climate, provide us with oxygen to breathe, our food and clean water; they sustain all life, including our own and maintain the world as we know it. They also



contain the genetic capacity to adapt or evolve in response to changing environmental conditions. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity can build or maintain ecosystem resilience and improve the quality of the wider environment and, ultimately, the safety and stability of human life. In contrast, loss of biodiversity renders ecosystems – and eventually humans – fragile and vulnerable to change.

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, with about half of its pre-human biodiversity left, far below the global average of 75% and the safe limit of 90%. Whilst it is essential that we drastically cut GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions, it won't be enough on its own. We need to have a more holistic approach that understands the role biodiversity can play in climate action. The biodiversity crisis and climate crises fuel each other. Biodiversity stabilises climate, since plants and trees capture and store GHGs. But it's estimated that 1 in 6 species globally could become extinct due to climate change.

CPRW accepts that the Climate and Biodiversity are interdependent, and both are in crisis. Tackling one without the other makes little sense and yet, policymakers (and even some scientists) tend to forget this, resulting in climate mitigation and adaptation policies that often fail to take account of biodiversity according to the Grantham Institute for climate change and the environment (imperial College, London).

In common with most governments worldwide, the Welsh Government have declared and accepted that there is a Biodiversity crisis and Nature Emergency alongside the Climate Crisis. This justifies CPRW's pursuit of a clearly defined Biodiversity policy as a key part of our mission to protect the Welsh Countryside. After all, a healthy biosphere has important roles to play in climate change mitigation and human health & wellbeing.



Dark Skies

Light pollution is something most people only consider to be a trivial, however its effects on nocturnal animals and indeed, humans is not fully known at present. Whilst being considerate of people's concerns over safety with regards to streetlighting, CPRW are concerned about the potential damage light pollution can have on wildlife.



Dark skies are one of the most magical sights the countryside can offer. Light pollution not only limits our views of these skies but also disrupts wildlife's natural patterns. We want to reclaim our dark skies.

CPRW, supports the introduction of new dark sky reserves throughout Wales, not only in protected areas. Some of the active campaigns CPRW are involved in are for the Presteigne area and the Llŷn peninsula AONB proposals.

CPRW welcomes and congratulates Ynys Enlli, an island off the tip of the Llŷn Peninsula for recently (Feb 2023) becoming the first site in Europe to be awarded International Dark Sky Sanctuary certification. The certification has much stricter criteria than dark sky reserves, meaning the night sky there is among the darkest in Europe. We hope this award will highlight the profile of the island and hopefully bring further awareness to the benefits of dark skies.

Access to the Countryside

Public access or right to roam was a founding principle of CPRW that went on to see the creation of Wales's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Since that time, we have seen the introduction of legislation like the *Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000* and the wider recognition that being out in nature is beneficial for people's physical and mental health.

The advent of COVID, lockdowns and social distancing emphasised the importance of access to our countryside, known as green and blue spaces, both for their well-being and mental health benefits.



CPRW strongly support the right to access our countryside and are also supportive of 'active travel'. In 2023 we joined the Senedd's Cross-Party Group on Active Travel and will work with the likes of Ramblers Cymru, the Open Spaces Society and Sustrans to advocate for the creation of more active travel routes to enable people to seek our healthier ways of travelling around their community.

CPRW also recognises that in rural settings active travel may not be as accessible or convenient as semi-rural or urban areas, but it is important to include rural areas in discussions about active travel routes as these can also aid tourism potential in areas.

CPRW are actively supporting the creation of new National Parks and is campaigning along side the Cambrian Mountains Society to secure an AONB and eventual National Park in the Clwydian Ranges of North Wales.

We work closely with our friends and fellow members of the Wales Environment Link, such as Ramblers Cymru, British Mountaineering Council, and the Campaign for National Parks to advocate for further access to the countryside, improving walking rights of way and making the countryside as accessible as possible.

CPRW also works with the farming sector to remind the public to follow the countryside code, treat the land with respect and do not endanger livestock or damage crops. CPRW is a participant in Natural Resources Wales's review into the Countryside Code.

Farming

Farming is the backbone of Wales. The Welsh landscape is rugged and mostly suited to hill farming and animal grazing – unlike in many parts of the UK where the land is mainly arable and used to grow crops. In fact, 84% of Wales is dedicated to agriculture.



But farming does not, and cannot, exist in isolation. It has been described as 'an indivisible trinity' where food, rural society and the farmed rural environment are inevitably interdependent. This is nowhere truer than in the uplands of Wales.

Pride in farming is expressed in the history written in the land, of the efforts of individuals, often across generations, and their collective impact in shaping and using resources at a landscape scale. Lineages of livestock with local names, adapted to the conditions of a particular landscape and its character, form a deeper dimension.

Local styles and fashions in field boundaries, reflecting how the local stone comes out of the ground and responds to the hammer. Hillsides cleared of stones by hand over centuries, walled, ditched, hedged, fenced, or enclosed to form fields to be cropped, grazed, periodically abandoned and sometimes restored. A jigsaw puzzle without a plan, but with a pattern, conforming to the physique of the land and the grain of the materials to hand.



CPRW supports farming and works with farmers unions to advocate for long-term solutions that enable them, their families, and neighbours to work with the land in a sustainable, rewarding, and profitable way.

Farmers are the custodians of our countryside; they often know the best way to care for the land they farm. We will campaign for governments to ensure that farmers, including tenant farmers, are able to flourish and work with the land to increase biodiversity.

We continue to work closely with the Farming Unions, Farming for Nature, and the Tenants Farming Association to develop campaigns focused on what farmers need.

CPRW strongly encourages the Welsh Government to include hedgerows, which are beneficial to both biodiversity and livestock alike, in the upcoming Agriculture Bill (2023), believing that they should be included in the percentage of wooded areas.

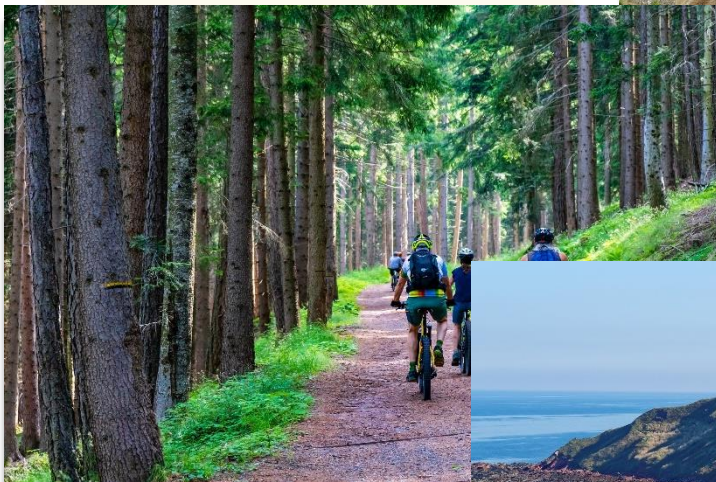
In conjunction with our partners such as Middle Marches and Wildlife Trusts around Wales, we run hedgerow workshops throughout the year highlighting different techniques and illustrating how they are beneficial to agriculture and nature.



A farm rich in biodiversity produces better results, producing healthy soils, natural defences against pests, and cross pollination of crops.

A small minority of farmers are not such good custodians of the countryside, as sadly seen from avoidable pollution incidents. CPRW will support firm enforcement of environmental protection laws in the interests of the majority of farmers who respect them and the wider public interest.

Rural Communities



Affordable / Sustainable Housing



Rural Wales, in particular, is suffering from a housing shortage. In some areas this has been exacerbated by the rise of Airbnb and other holiday homes, which in some instances have had dire consequences on the sustainability of the community itself. From coastal areas of the Llŷn

Peninsula to Pembrokeshire, small communities have become like ghost towns for half the year and congested for the remainder. This heavily impacts the sense of community and community cohesion and often outprices the locals.

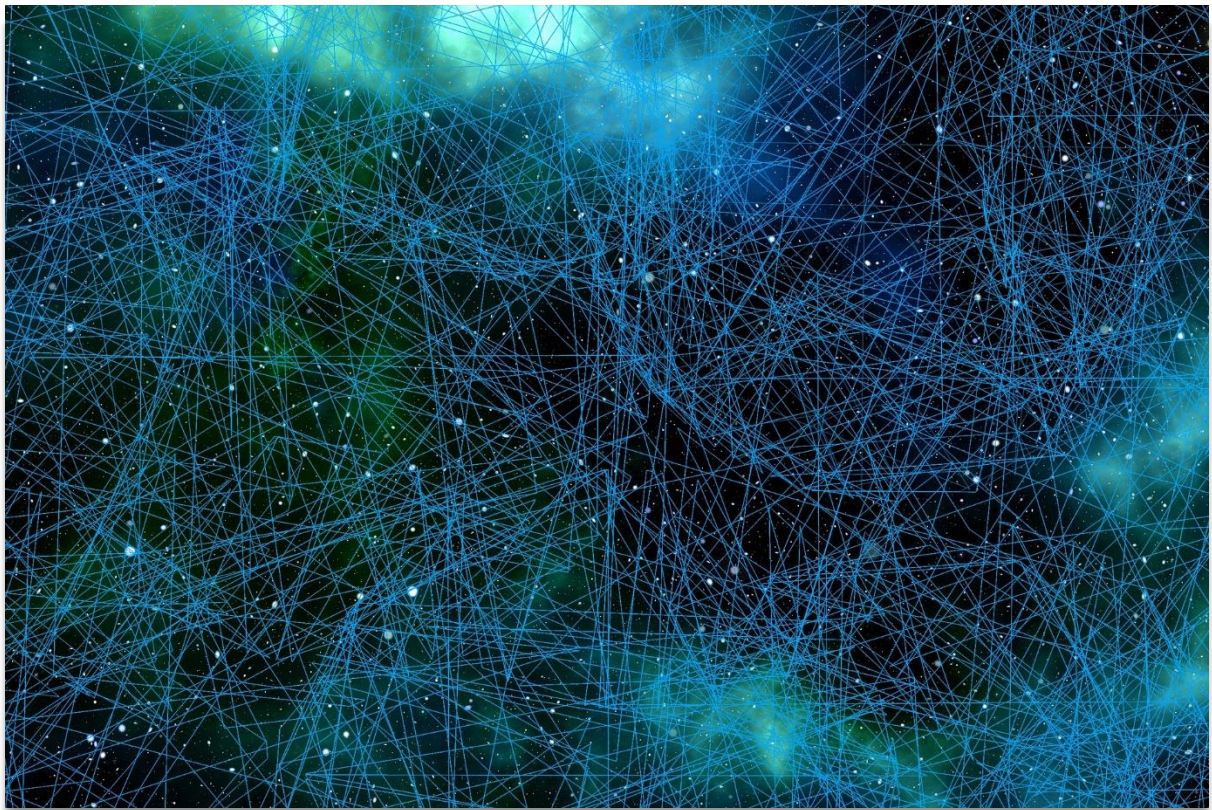
CPRW is supportive of moves by the Welsh Government and Local Authorities to increase council tax on empty properties and second homes. However, this needs to be implemented in a sensible way to ensure tourism is not completely stifled as it is an important part of both the local and national economies.

More Homes

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Broadband / Connectivity



While we live in a global community, with more and more of our daily lives being online, rural Wales is being left behind as communities are still struggling to get online.

According to the Welsh Government "The level of digital exclusion in Wales is higher than in the UK, with as many as 7% of the population, or 180,000 people, not using the internet." This is simply not good enough.

For rural communities to be truly sustainable broadband provision must improve. Farmers are required by governments and companies alike to fill in their forms electronically – yet in many rural areas of Wales many cannot get online! People in rural communities who want to start small, home-based, companies producing sustainable artisan products, need better internet access to sell to the world and make their business ideas viable.

This an acute problem for older residents, but young people are also more likely to leave an area if they cannot get online, and during the pandemic, for many, online life was the only way of socialising!

CPRW will campaign for universal Superfast broadband provision across Wales, in compliance with the Welsh Government's historic commitment and will work with Governments at all levels, Open Reach, BT and others to make this happen!

Sustainable Communities

Sustainable communities are communities that work with the environment and nature, use good sustainable building materials, have integrated public transport to connect them to the wider community, active travel routes for people to use for commuting, recreation and tourism, lots of open green spaces for people to enjoy, and has good connectivity to the wider world to enable remote working, social inclusion and tele-base economy to develop.

In essence, CPRW believes that sustainable communities incorporate all of the elements of good planning, sustainable / affordable housing, connectivity and sustainable transport. A community that works and thrives for everyone.



Sustainable Transport



To truly meet the challenges of moving towards thriving sustainable communities that also work in tune with combatting climate change and biodiversity loss, we also need those communities to have good, reliable, and sustainable public and private transport.

CPRW welcomes the aims of the Welsh Government's Transport

for Wales and its Metro network. However, these grand plans inevitably tend to be focused on metropolitan and semi-rural areas, where there is greater population density – this is logical. But we cannot, and should not, ignore the plight of rural Wales and rural communities.

Having a good and reliable public transport network that connects rural communities and regional transport hubs is vital for communities to thrive, not to mention the added positive effect this would have in terms of tourism to these areas and the public's access to the countryside.

Worryingly, some Local Authorities across Wales have started scaling back public transport as budgetary pressures start to bite.

In 2023 CPRW joined the Senedd's Cross-Party Group on Active Travel and will work with the likes of Ramblers Cymru, the Open Spaces Society and Sustrans to advocate for the creation of more active travel routes to enable people to seek our healthier ways of travelling around their community.

CPRW also recognises that in rural settings this may not be as accessible or convenient as peri-rural or urban areas, but it is important to include rural areas in discussions about active travel routes as these can also aid tourism potential in areas.

CPRW will continue to campaign for and an increase to sustainable public transport.

However, CPRW opposes major new road schemes that eat into our farmland and damage key landscapes such as the Gwent Levels and The Vale of Glamorgan. That being said, in order to improve mobility we need more flexible and reliable public transport, and attractive cycling and walking facilities. For example the Burns Report on transport in SE Wales needs to be re-energised.

Planning

CPRW has long had a tradition of taking an active part in the local planning system at both monitoring and campaigning stages. Today that is a more inclusive and productive task as procedures and consultations are increasingly on-line.

CPRW strongly believes that brownfield sites, where appropriate, should be used long before even considering developments in the green belt. However, there are certain situations in remote parts of rural Wales where there may be a need for small, considered builds.

CPRW supports stronger powers for local authorities to enforce protection of open green spaces, wildlife, rural landscapes and agricultural land. In particular, Local Authorities must have the means to enforce the conditions on new developments, which are supposed to be a key part of our planning system.

At present, it is clear that many planning conditions are inadequately monitored, leading to patchy implementation and enforcement. Through the new regional and local development plans, Local Authorities should be required to insist on a 21st-century principle of mixed-use development to reduce commuting, protect the countryside and create sustainable communities. Also, more Green Belts should be created across Wales to prevent the merging of existing urban areas.

Historic Places

From our castles, forts, dykes, roads, and cromlechs that are steeped in history through to our caves, lakes, woods, hills, and mountains that are infused in Myth and legend, Wales is a country rich in historic places.

Much of these places are currently protected by the likes of CADW and the National Trust, however there are some that slip through the cracks and end up in dilapidated conditions, overgrown or in some cases knocked down or incorporated into new developments.



CPRW will take up the cause of historic places that are threatened by insensitive and inappropriate developments and will continue to work with both CADW and National Trust to ensure our historic places are protected for future generations.

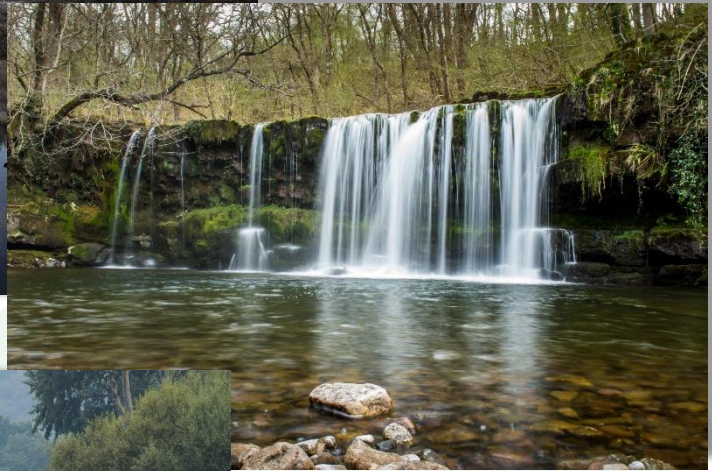
Historic place names

CPRW welcomed the recent decision by the Snowdonia National Park Authority to revert to the names Yr Wyddfa for Snowdon and Eryri for Snowdonia. The Welsh language is a language of landscapes – the places, people, history, land-use and natural features are what gives it detail, substance, meaning, and context. Without a landscape, without some kind of continuity, the language itself is at grave risk of coming adrift of its moorings – the rocks and slopes, the river bends, the buildings that form its ancient fabric, the elements that are permanent enough to warrant a name.

The use of the original Welsh name for a place grounds it to the people. Descriptive, thought-evoking, poetic, and full of hwyl!

CPRW believes that we need to protect and promote historic place names, where appropriate reverting to the Welsh name, if there was one originally, and also reserving and restoring names that recognise significant events throughout our shared history on the British Isles.

Water



Rivers

Wales has more rivers than you can shake the proverbial stick at, as illustrated in the below map created by [Dafydd Elfryn](#) (Permission given to use the image).



Rivers are home to a multitude of life, they nourish the land, and give us places to swim, fish and play. Put simply, our rivers are precious. When we think about rivers, however, it needs to be looked at in the bigger picture, taking in a holistic approach to the entire catchment area from their upland sources to their eventual output into the sea.

Across Wales, many of our rivers are under threat. Pressures to produce cheaper food by intensive forms of farming, combined with our wetter weather, often leads to more surface run off which finds its way into our rivers and waterways. Welsh Water / Dwr

Cymru was recently singled out by the water regulator OFWAT as one of the six worst polluters in the UK (2023).

CPRW, will continue to work with the likes of Friends of the Upper Wye, Afonydd Cymru, Canoe Wales, Fish Legal and our partners across the border, CPRE to seek better protects for our river to ensure life can survive and thrive in our waterways.

Lakes, Reservoirs & Ponds



From Vyrnwy to Llyn y Fan Fach Wales has some majestic and picturesque natural and man-made lakes and reservoirs. Whether formed by glaciers and rivers or diggers and dams, Wales is dotted with water bodies small and large. Some mired in controversy and others lauded as sights to behold, they are our water sources, play areas, home to a huge array of biodiversity, and ingrained in our psyche.

Unlike England, where the majority of their drinking water is stored in underground aquifers, 80-90 % of Wales' supply is found above ground in lakes and reservoirs. This means as summers get warmer and dryer, our water resources are more and more at risk of evaporation.

Looking at water holistically on a catchment area basis, CPRW campaigns for the protection of tributaries that feed our lakes, reservoirs and ponds, as well as the overflow and other outputs from these water bodies that feed our rivers.

CPRW would like to see more lakes and reservoirs opened up to the public for recreation and fishing. We continue to work with Wales Environment Link partners such as Canoe Wales, Open Spaces Society, WWF, Wildlife Trusts Wales, and Elan Valley Trust as well as other organisations like Fish Legal to see this done sensitively with the ecosystems and environment.

Coast

Wales' coastline is 2,120 km long – more than 8 times longer than its land border with significant stretches of it found in our National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and Heritage Coasts.



CPRW recognises the major challenges that we face in our coastal and estuarine environments and their implication for environmental, social and economic processes that span land and sea – and that these challenges, especially rising sea-levels and increased storm intensity and frequency, are driven by climate change.

Wales has a varied and attractive coastline with seascapes which have been influenced by and support a wide range of activities and uses. Our coastal environment makes an important contribution to our national health and well-being.

23% of our coastline is subject to active erosion and a greater extent at risk of marine flooding.

CPRW supports the restoration and recovery of natural habitats: increased coastal natural capital by providing more space at the coast for coastal processes, allowing coastal habitats to respond to sea level rise and climate-related storms, reducing the conflict between human land use and coastal change, reducing impacts of biodiversity loss, encouraging nature recovery, improving water quality, and providing opportunities for recreational access.

We also recognise that the coast consists of many highly interconnected landscapes and seascapes, with a diverse mix of ownership and governance arrangements. The management of coastal issues poses a set of complex challenges unlike those inland - and that the number and diversity of public and private sector interests is often highest at the coast, with a proportionate increase in the complexity of planning and management in this highly contested space.

CPRW acknowledges the Welsh Government's publication of a comprehensive and extensive first Wales National Marine Plan (WNMP-2019). We support its principal aims to protect, conserve, restore and enhance marine biodiversity and to halt and reverse its decline, including supporting the development and functioning of a well-managed and ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas and resilient populations of representative, rare and vulnerable species.'

Recreation

Wales' lakes, reservoirs, ponds, rivers, estuaries, beached, and coastal environments are collectively known as our 'blue spaces' (as opposed to our onshore environment which is referred to as 'Green spaces').

CPRW, as with our onshore environments, supports and campaigns for greater access to them for exercise, recreation, creative purposes (painting and photography). As with our green spaces, where we encourage users to follow the Countryside Code, we ask people to follow the Marine Code for activities in coastal areas and are working with other stakeholders to develop a similar code for our waterways. If we all treat our environments and nature with respect, we can ensure that they will be there for the next generation to enjoy as well.

Canoe / kayaking

Whether you are part of a club, on a tour or as an individual activity, canoeing or kayaking on our blue spaces is a great way to see more of our countryside and keep fit at the same time. Balance is needed in areas popular with fishers and areas of sensitive ecosystems.

Otherwise, CPRW strongly supports more access to our blue spaces for canoeing and kayaking. We work with our WEL partners like Canoe Wales and Wildfish to develop campaigns to improve sensible areas for more activity.



Fishing

Fishing is one of the most popular past times in the world, with more people going fishing every weekend in the UK than all the football crowds on a Saturday combined! We fight for healthy rivers not just for



recreational activities but to ensure that there are fish to catch. Whilst we call for greater access to our blue spaces we respect and acknowledge the rights of fishers. We work with WEL partners like Wildfish and other partners like Fish Legal to try and ensure government policies strike the right balance.

Swimming



Swimming in our blues spaces is one of the most loved past times in Wales. Another reason we are campaigning against the pollution of our blue spaces is to make sure it is safe to swim in our rivers, lakes and seas. Wales currently has a number of Designated Swimming Areas, but currently these are only found in lakes.

CPRW is actively supporting the attempt by Friends of the Upper Wye to get 'The Warren', an area of the river near Hay on Wye that has traditionally been used for swimming, designated as a swimming area. This would be the first of its kind in Wales (on a river) and would force Natural Resources Wales to regularly test the water quality and take action to remedy any issues. If successful, we will campaign to introduce more Designated Swimming Areas across Wales.

Climate Change & Energy



Climate Change

Climate Change is now regarded as the single greatest threat to humanity but is often 'excused' on the poorly understood or poorly articulated view that it has always been with us. However, since the Industrial Revolution the rate of increase in global climate temperatures has risen at an unprecedented pace. As a result, we are currently seeing the development of more extreme weather systems emerging across planet earth, often in short contradictory bursts. One in a 100-year storms and droughts are becoming one-in-ten years, records for highest temperatures, highest rainfalls, and longest droughts continue to fall year on year.



While the UK as a whole only contributes roughly 2% to global emissions, it is important that the UK transition away from fossil fuels to increase energy security and self-sufficiency, as well as acting as an example to the wider world. CPRW considers the impacts, changes, and possible solutions to slowing, stopping, or reversing climate change

when developing policy towards sectors of specific relevance, such as energy. The transition away from fossil will enable Wales and the UK to become carbon neutral and have energy security at a UK level.

CPRW supports and will monitor progress and delivery on the Welsh Government's ambitions to reach net zero but will also be alert to any proposals for forms of power generation, carbon reduction or mitigation, and rewilding which it believes would be inappropriate and detrimental to aspects of the Welsh countryside and communities which it seeks to protect.

It is therefore essential that Wales continues to pursue existing (and develop new) policies to reduce and mitigate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

CPRW understands and accepts this need. It underpins all our policies, particularly those on energy. We endorse the science and support the principle of adaptation to climate change but have reservations about some aspects of energy policy advocated by the Welsh Government in its current edition of Future Wales, which requires radical review as it is outdated and fails to recognise the present potential offered by offshore wind.

Wind Power

Wales already produces twice the energy it needs, with roughly 55% coming from renewable energy sources. CPRW recognises and supports the transition to renewables. At present, wind power is the cheapest form of power generation, but it can be one of the most divisive forms of energy.

Offshore wind

Wales has huge potential for offshore wind developments. Indeed, if Wales were to realise its offshore wind potential, we would produce **twice** the energy we require from offshore wind alone – without the need for any existing or new onshore wind, tidal energy, nuclear, hydro, or any other type of energy!



CPRW strongly supports offshore floating and fixed wind power and is supportive of the proposals in both the Irish and Celtic Sea, which could have huge economic benefits to the construction and steel industries.

Onshore

Whilst not being opposed to all onshore wind developments, CPRW will campaign against proposals which are too close to communities, detrimental to landscape quality and the biodiversity of the area and would add to the industrialisation of our countryside.

CPRW regards the Welsh Government policy to expand the number of onshore wind installations, and to concentrate them in specific so-called pre-Assessed areas designated in its policy document, Future Wales (FW), to be largely outdated given the recent developments in offshore wind.

CPRW calls on the Welsh Government to work with the UK Government to re-focus this (FW) Policy which – despite several references to Wales' offshore potential – has not advanced to reflect the increasing emphasis on and advances in offshore wind technology. Future Wales only covers



terrestrial policy, and needs to be integrated with the Wales National Marine Plan into a single updated set of targets.

CPRW supports calls to devolve the Crown Estate to ensure that Wales is able to optimise the revenue from its offshore potential.

Tidal

Tidal power is still only at a small-scale development stage. Although Wales has some of the best potential locations in the UK, it is unlikely in the near term to provide substantial generation capacity.

In certain areas of Wales Tidal Energy is likely to be significant. It should provide long term, skilled employment, however, there can be concerns about impact on wildlife.

Tidal power is proven at scale in several place in the World but is not yet used anywhere in the UK. However, the Welsh coast has some excellent potential locations, with areas like the Seven Estuary having the 2nd highest tidal range in the World. Development has been hindered by high upfront costs and long development times, but the facilities once created should have extremely long lives.

CPRW, in principle, supports proposals for a Tidal Lagoon in Swansea / Port Talbot which could lead to the creation of multiple jobs in the development of the technology.



Hydro



Hydroelectricity is long proven at all scales and Wales has many sites both large and small. It was possibly the very first renewable technology.

Hydro energy can be used for both generation and storage (pumped hydro) as at the 'electric mountain in Eryri / Snowdonia. In Australia, the government there is investing billions in

developing the next stage of the project know as Snowy Hydro, in the Snowy Mountains of New South Wales. In an environment similar to our Elan valley, an interconnected series of dams are used to generate Hydroelectricity. Unfortunately, there are no current plans for large scale hydro generation in Wales that would not incur high costs and land loss.

Potential small-scale schemes, in rural locations, may be able to be developed sensitively but would never be significant generators of electricity, although they may act as small 'closed loop' systems for self-sufficient farms and small-scale rural industry.

CPRW is in principle supportive of hydro schemes but would need to assess any major development on its merits.

Solar

Solar power is now one of the cheapest forms of electricity generation, and being carbon free at the point of generation, forms a significant component in the path to net zero. CPRW believes the ideal location for solar panels is mounted on buildings in non-intrusive locations – providing the power directly where it is needed, on homes for example.

However, “solar parks” (large photovoltaic solar panel arrays) can be visually intrusive, environmentally damaging, and reduce much needed farmland.

Where these large commercial schemes of solar arrays are proposed, CPRW will only support them if they can satisfy detailed and rigidly applied planning conditions, are in appropriate locations, do not negatively affect the biodiversity of an area, and are not in protected designated areas.

When, to the contrary, schemes are proposed on undeveloped agricultural land in a non-urban locations, in an open area of the countryside, or a protected designated area we will oppose said development.



Nuclear

Nuclear power is long proven at large scale and Wales has two locations of decommissioned power stations at Wylfa and Trawsfynydd. Although not technically classed as a renewable energy source, nuclear energy is often grouped together with renewables as it is low carbon, and up to 98% of nuclear waste can now be reused. It is, however, the most expensive form of low carbon electricity and needs a long build period.

Both the UK and Welsh Governments support the use of nuclear power to produce low carbon electricity. This may be a combination of “conventional” scale nuclear, or new “small modular reactors” known as SMRs, an emerging technology based largely on small reactors, like those used in military ships and submarines.

While the original locations for nuclear power stations were chosen in the 1950’s to be very remote, rural locations due to fears around accidents and safety, after many years of successful operation, and significant advances in nuclear science, this is no longer the case. This makes nuclear, particularly SMRs extremely flexible to locate.



CPRW believes that future nuclear power stations should no longer need to be located within open or remote countryside but instead should be:

- close to major centres of electricity demand, to minimise unsightly and expensive grid connections.
- close to industrial or domestic “heat sinks” to make best use of low carbon, “waste” heat.
- on major brownfield sites, such as former coal power station sites, that have existing grid infrastructure.

Energy Infrastructure

The infrastructure needed to connect energy sources to the 'grid' and the grid itself, is often more controversial than the energy source itself. Transmission lines, Transmission tower (Pylons), distribution lines, telegraph poles, underground cables and off shore (underwater cables) are just some of the infrastructure used to transport and distribute energy.

Not much has changed with the majority of energy transportation since the 1920s. The first 'Pylon' in the UK was constructed in 1928 and is still the main way of transferring large amounts of electricity – we think it's time that changed.



Transmission lines

Transmission lines are high voltage (235~400 KV) and over land are mainly suspended on transmission cables (Pylons). These are used to move large amounts of energy from one part of the UK's energy grid to another, and to connect a power source to the grid. In Wales, these are constructed by the National Grid and responsibility for these falls to the UK Government.

Distribution lines

Distribution lines are lower voltage (11 ~ 132 KV) and are mainly suspended from telegraph poles (odd exception on pylons to traverse large gaps, i.e. rivers). These distribute power from the grid to homes and businesses and, in a closed loop can connect a power source to homes and businesses directly. Responsibility for distribution cables falls to both the UK and the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government has said that it is their policy for all new energy cables in Wales be buried, where possible. They also said that any new energy lines should follow the best possible path for nature. CPRW strongly supports this position from the Welsh Government and expects that developers will follow this policy.

There are proposals to develop a new transmission network via undersea cables that traverses the entire UK coastline. This would enable a relatively easy, fast, and convenient way to construct a new transmission network that services the entire UK and connects some of the large-scale offshore wind projects that are currently being proposed in the Celtic and Irish Seas.

Air Quality



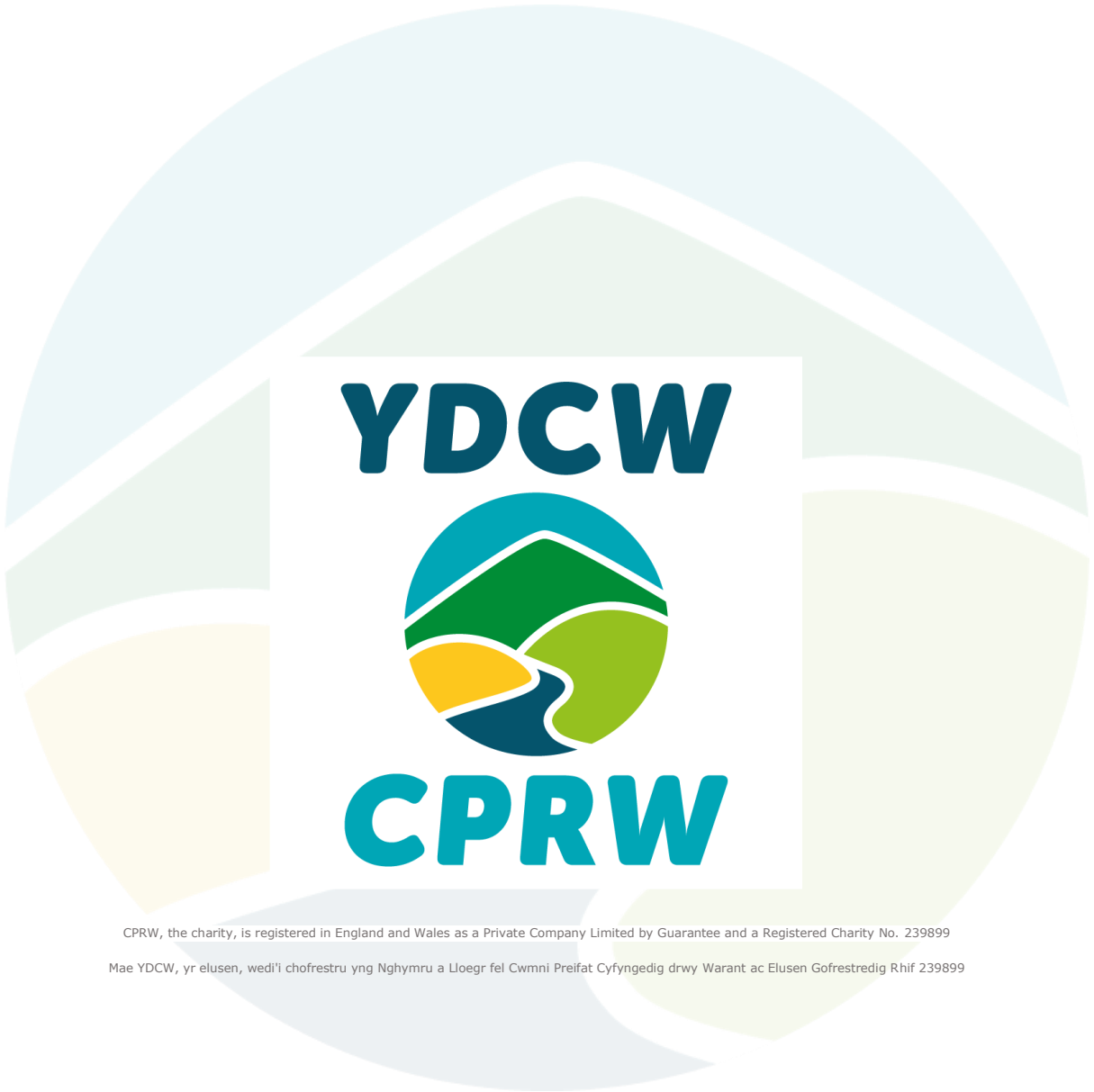
Air quality is as important to humans and nature as is fresh water. Our countryside, forests, woods, hedgerows, fields, plants, grass, and soil all play a part in the sequestration of carbon and the filtration of our air.

CPRW, in seeking to protect and champion

our countryside also campaigns for better air quality. Whether this is at threat from industry, intensive farming factories, traffic or other forms of pollution.

CPRW works with our partners in WEL including RSPB, Wildlife Trusts Wales, and WWF, as well as other partners like the Welsh Beekeepers Association to campaign for better air quality and habitats alike.

We endorse the efforts of the Welsh Government to increase air quality with such actions as reduction in new road developments and greater focus on public transport.



CPRW, the charity, is registered in England and Wales as a Private Company Limited by Guarantee and a Registered Charity No. 239899

Mae YDCW, yr elusen, wedi'i chofrestru yng Nghymru a Lloegr fel Cwmni Preifat Cyfyngedig drwy Warant ac Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif 239899

