



**Glandŵr
Cymru**

The Canal & River Trust in Wales

06 March 2017

Planning Policy Branch
Planning Directorate
Welsh Government
Cathays park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Our Ref DF\ O:\Wales\NDF\ Call
for evidence
Your Ref

Dear Sirs

**Re: Consultation Document
Call for Evidence and Projects – National Development framework**

Thank you for your recent consultation in respect of the above.

Glandŵr Cymru, the Canal & River Trust in Wales, cares for Wales' historic canals, made up of the Swansea, Llangollen, Montgomery and Monmouthshire & Brecon Canals. Our canals perform many different functions and are a haven for people and wildlife and a national treasure. We are a statutory consultee in the development management process.

Please find attached copy of our response to this consultation, with accompanying summary.

Glandŵr Cymru, welcomes this opportunity to input to the production of the National Development Framework for Wales (NDF). We believe that the waterways in Wales have an important role to play in helping in delivering the Welsh Governments objectives and would welcome the opportunity to continue to work with you in the production of this important document.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

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Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

The Trust also considers that there is a need for an **overarching policy for tourism** across Wales, which recognises the value and opportunities presented by the nations waterways, to include a national tourism strategy. Tourism is an often underestimated but tremendously important sector of the country's economy and Planning Policy Wales (PPW) recognises that tourism is vital to economic prosperity and job creation in many parts of Wales.

How does this evidence and any actions it recommends help achieve the 7 well-being goals?

Waterways have an important role to play in helping to achieve all 7 of the well-being goals. There is a very strong alignment between the Trusts own outcomes measurement and the seven wellbeing goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act as summarised below.

| Glandŵr Cymru Outcomes Measurement Framework Domains | Seven Well-being Goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | Prosperous Wales | Resilient Wales | Healthier Wales | More Equal Wales | A Wales of Cohesive Communities | A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language | A Globally Responsible Wales |
| Health, Wellbeing & Happiness | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Green & Blue Futures | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| Engaged People & Cohesive Communities | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Prosperous & Connected Places | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Learning & Enhancing Skills | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Cultural & Environmental Assets | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Why is the evidence of national significance?

Waterways are 'non-footloose' assets, (that is, their location and alignment are fixed) which cross both local planning authority and national borders. They are internationally important for their wildlife, with designations including a Special Area for Conservation, and for their built heritage with significant designations including World Heritage Site Status and a grade 1 listed building etc and contribute to the national economy of Wales attracting over 11 million visits each year

Do you agree for your evidence to be made public? (Only evidence that can be made public will inform the development of the NDF)

Yes

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION CALL FOR EVIDENCE

Introduction

Glandŵr Cymru, the Canal & River Trust in Wales, (the Trust) cares for Wales' historic canals, made up of the Swansea, Llangollen, Montgomery and Monmouthshire & Brecon Canals, holding them in trust for the nation in perpetuity. Our canals perform many different functions and are a haven for people and wildlife and a national treasure. We are a statutory consultee in the development management process.

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. When it was formed in 2012, taking on the assets and responsibilities of British Waterways, it represented the largest transfer of public assets to the third sector ever.

The canals of Wales are internationally important for their wildlife and built heritage and are already hugely popular attracting over 11 million visits each year. As well as providing a wide range of habitats themselves, canals provide an incredibly important natural corridor for the movement of wildlife, bringing the countryside into the hearts of Wales' communities, providing easily accessible green and blue space. Their towpaths provide flat, level commuter routes connecting communities and complementing other modes of transport.

For people, canals are some of the most easily accessible open space in the country and, because of their history are often within some of the most deprived communities. No special equipment is needed to enjoy the towpath beside the canal, where 96% of activity takes place, and the water can also be accessed at low cost. Their combination of natural, built and social heritage creates a wealth of opportunities for engagement, activity and learning.

Our waterways have the potential to act as a catalyst for jobs and growth, to connect and add resilience to the natural environment; provide training and educational opportunities for local people and to change the economic and environmental context in which people live.

Their combination of natural, built and social heritage creates a wealth of opportunities for engagement, activity and learning.

The Trust welcomes this opportunity to input to the production of the National Development Framework for Wales (NDF). We believe that the waterways in Wales have an important role to play in helping in delivering the Welsh Governments objectives and would welcome the opportunity to continue to work with you in the production of this important document.

The Canal Network in Wales



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The Trust would like to highlight the value and opportunities presented by Wales' canals and waterways, and the contribution they make to achieving the well-being goals outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. We also provide information on the opportunities presented by its waterways in general and on two specific exemplar projects currently underway in Wales.

The Trust believes that there is a need for the NDF to establish a spatial planning framework for **green and blue infrastructure** at the national level, informed by a comprehensive green and blue infrastructure study, recognising the multifunctional nature of such assets and the opportunities they present

The Trust also considers that there is a need for an **overarching policy for tourism** across Wales which, amongst other things, recognises the value and opportunities presented by the nations waterways, and which includes a national tourism strategy. Tourism is a tremendously important sector of the country's economy and Planning Policy Wales (PPW) recognises that tourism is vital to economic prosperity and job creation in many parts of Wales.

Wales' Canals

The canal system in Wales consists of the following three groups of waterways, with a total length of 175 km (111 miles):

- Llangollen Canal and Montgomery Canal.
- Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal (including the Crumlin Arm).
- Swansea, Neath and Tennant Canals.

In South Wales 9% of the population live within 1km of the Trusts waterways, whilst in North Wales this figure rises to 13 %.

Canals are a multi-functional form of infrastructure, and are 'non-footloose' assets, (that is, their location and alignment are fixed) which cross both local planning authority and national borders. This presents a number of planning policy challenges in terms of unlocking the potential economic, social and environmental benefits of the network for local communities and economies. In addition, around 96 per cent of land adjacent to our waterways is in the control of third parties so planning policy is particularly important in protecting waterway infrastructure, facilities and environs from inappropriate development and in mitigating against extra liabilities and burdens being placed upon the waterway infrastructure. A national planning policy framework which addresses green and blue infrastructure across Wales would enable these benefits and opportunities to be realised for the benefit of Wales as a whole.

Tourism is an important sector of the country's economy and Planning Policy Wales (PPW) recognises that tourism is vital to economic prosperity and job creation in many parts of Wales. It is a significant and growing source of employment and investment, based on the country's cultural and environmental diversity and can be a catalyst for environmental protection, regeneration and improvement in both rural and urban areas. To grow tourism in a sustainable way development plans, need to establish a strategic framework for the

provision and enhancement of well-designed tourism, sport, recreation and leisure facilities, with clear policies for the provision, protection and enhancement of tourism, sport, recreation and leisure facilities.

The Trust would therefore welcome the production of an overarching policy for tourism across Wales which it considers should recognise the value and opportunities presented by the nations waterways, and the contribution they make to achieving the well-being goals outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Wales has yet to fully capitalise on its historic waterways in the way that has been seen in England, Ireland and Scotland where living waterways have been used to transform places and enrich lives, where canals have not only become significant tourist attractions in their own right but have been the drivers for economic growth, reducing deprivation and changing perceptions both within local communities and private sector investors.

The canals of Wales are internationally important for their wildlife and built heritage and are already hugely popular attracting over 11 million visits each year. As well as providing a wide range of habitats themselves, canals provide an incredibly important natural corridor for the movement of wildlife, bringing the countryside into the hearts of communities in Wales providing easily accessible green and blue space for millions of people. Their towpaths provide flat, level commuter routes connecting communities and complementing larger urban connectivity schemes.

We believe that our waterways have the potential to act as a catalyst for jobs and growth, connect and add resilience to the natural environment; provide training and educational opportunities for local people and change the economic and environmental context in which people live.

Some of the wider, opportunities presented by our canals include the following.

Services and Digital Connectivity

Canal & River Trust landholdings are already utilised by many third parties who are aware of the benefits from siting their services under our towpath and canals. We offer a valuable service to many parties who wish to run new apparatus through our land and may offer a cost effective alternative, particularly for connecting more remote rural areas. Many telecommunications companies already utilise waterway corridors.

Digital and telecommunication technologies strengthen communities, improve economic growth, enhance services and reduce energy consumption and environmental emissions. There is a real opportunity to maximise the use of existing waterway networks, to provide for new and improved infrastructure and to use canal corridors as conduits for fibre connectivity.

Water Resources

Water is a valuable national asset and water resources must be carefully managed to ensure that they are resilient, sustainable and managed to bring benefits to Wales and its citizens - maximising economic and social benefits and protecting vital ecosystems and the environment. This need for resilience is likely to be increasingly important in future years as the effects of climate change continue to be felt.

Over the past year (and in the spirit of the EA Water Resource Planning Guidance), the Trust has been proactive in engaging with a number of Water Companies to explore the options to transfer water using the canal network to meet resource shortfalls under different demand scenarios including drought. The Trust will continue to work with Water Companies to develop resilient and cost effective schemes in the future through the Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP19) process.

Our waterways are already used to transport water supplies and support many businesses, transporting and providing raw water to many sectors ranging from individual cattle troughs to large volumes of water for power generation

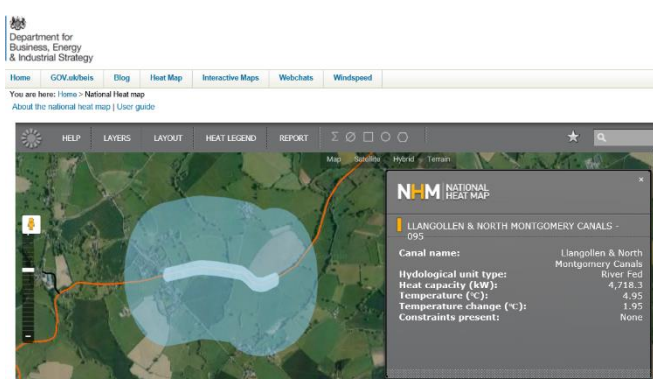
Reducing Flood Risk

With careful design waterways can provide sustainable options for site drainage enabling future developments that would otherwise not be acceptable due to flood risk concerns. The managed nature of canal water levels, and the ability of our waterways to potentially accept surface water run-off, may also assist in wider consideration of flood mitigation measures.

Sustainable Energy Production

Waterways can contribute to the low carbon economy through new energy technologies such as the abstraction of canal water for cooling and/or heating purposes.

The water flowing through Wales contains enough thermal energy to produce around 57 MW of energy, capable of heating 30,000 homes. This energy can be extracted using water-sourced heat pumps to provide an incredibly efficient form of heating and cooling. It could also help to reduce the electricity demand and balance electricity supply. A number of businesses now use this low carbon energy source to heat and cool.



The potential for canals to contribute in Wales is highlighted in the canal layer on the DECC's Heat Map. tools.decc.gov.uk/nationalheatmap

The Trust is also seeking to develop Hydropower schemes in appropriate locations as a way of generating clean energy by harnessing power from the water within our network.

Cross Boundary Connections

Waterways are a national asset crossing boundaries both within Wales and between Wales and England, with both the Llangollen Canal and the Montgomery Canal crossing the border between England and Wales.

Sustainable Travel

With 13% of the population in North Wales and 9% of the population in South Wales living within 1km of a waterway owned or managed by Glandŵr Cymru, towpaths and riverside paths form sustainable transport routes for walking and cycling and provide the opportunity to improve connectivity between people, places and opportunities, whilst improving air quality, lowering carbon dioxide levels and reducing congestion on local roads.

Health Wellbeing and Happiness

Economic prosperity is dependent upon having a healthy and active workforce. Waterways have a significant role to play, particularly in tackling physical inactivity, obesity and reducing stress in the many disadvantaged communities with waterways on their doorstep. Learning outside the classroom is also proven to tackle social mobility and be of particular help to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, increasing self-esteem, raising levels of attainment and improving mental health and wellbeing.

There is strong external evidence to suggest that green spaces have a beneficial impact on physical and mental wellbeing and cognitive function. Our waterways are well placed to help these objectives of healthy and active living.

Biodiversity and Ecological Resilience

Waterways are a valuable part of the national green infrastructure network. They provide an important wildlife route and act as stepping stones for mitigation against habitat loss, dispersal and the genetic exchange of plants.

Place Making

Underperforming waterways and areas of market failure and high deprivation quite often go hand in hand and over the past twenty years, waterways have been both the catalyst and the focus for an immense amount of regeneration and development activity in the UK. This activity has acted to build developer and investor confidence.

Living Landscapes

The waterways and towpaths provide a range of outdoor space for cultural, civic, learning and community activity and local heritage. They are often on local communities' doorsteps and have an important role to play in skills development and youth social action.

Since its formation in 2012 the Canal & River Trust (the Trust) has been actively seeking ways to evaluate and measure both the monetary value of the impacts and outcomes delivered by our waterways and how they support the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of England and Wales. The Trust has been working collaboratively with Cardiff University to develop an Outcomes Measurement Framework and suite of supporting indicators to assist in measuring delivery against our ten-year strategy.

There is a very strong alignment between the Trusts six outcomes measurement domains and the seven wellbeing goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act as demonstrated in the following table.

The Trust would be happy to provide further detailed information to you as necessary to assist with developing the NDF.

Synergy between the Trusts Outcomes Measurement Framework and the seven well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

| Glandŵr Cymru Outcomes Measurement Framework Domains | Seven Well-being Goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | Prosperous Wales | Resilient Wales | Healthier Wales | More Equal Wales | A Wales of Cohesive Communities | A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language | A Globally Responsible Wales |
| Health, Wellbeing & Happiness | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Green & Blue Futures | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| Engaged People & Cohesive Communities | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Prosperous & Connected Places | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Learning & Enhancing Skills | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Cultural & Environmental Assets | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Projects

The following two projects are submitted as exemplars of the value and opportunities presented by Wales' canals and waterways, and the very positive contribution they make to achieving the well-being goals outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

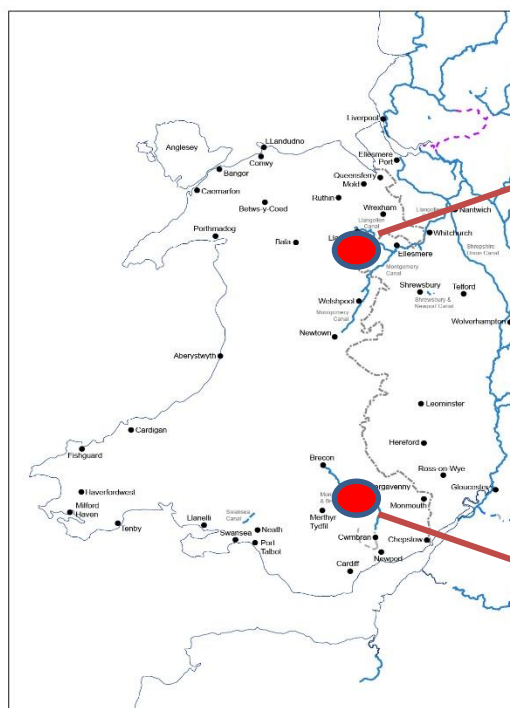
- **The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal**

The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal is a significant project, crossing several administrative boundaries. Investment to secure its future and encourage economic growth around the surrounding area will add resilience to local economies, while providing cultural and recreational benefits to the local communities, which include some of the most deprived in Wales. Its legacy will be regionally important economic and social transformation and an iconic tourism destination.

- **Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Trevor basin and the Llangollen Canal**

Measures to address the current underperformance of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct World Heritage Site (WHS) as a key visitor destination, including the development of World Heritage Site tourist facilities at Trevor Basin, will be a catalyst for significant heritage-led economic regeneration. It is considered to be of both national and international importance.

The Trust would welcome the consideration of these projects for inclusion within the NDF and would be happy to provide further information if needed.



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Trevor Basin and the Llangollen Canal



The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal



EXEMPLAR 1 THE MONMOUTHSHIRE & BRECON CANAL

Restoration and Regeneration

The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal is uniquely placed, both geographically and in policy terms, to act as a catalyst for private sector investment and economic growth spreading the benefits of the Cardiff Capital Region to some of the most deprived communities in Wales, addressing key Welsh Government priorities relating to health, poverty and sustainability. Its capacity to create health changes at a community wide level has led to its endorsement by NHS Cymru.

It comprises a 56km navigable section to the north, from Brecon to Pontypool, and a further 27km to the south from Pontypool to Newport on the main line and for 6.5km to Cwmcam on the Crumlin Arm. Widely regarded as one of the most scenic waterways in the UK, the canal is a nationally important heritage asset that connects the Brecon Beacons National Park and Blaenavon World Heritage Site to the coast, passing through major urban areas of population and growth in the Cardiff Capital Region.



The northern section of canal is owned and managed by Glandŵr Cymru - the Canal & River Trust in Wales, while the disused section south of Pontypool is in the ownership of the respective local authorities.

The Canal is already the most popular visitor attraction in the Brecon Beacons National Park. Its restoration and regeneration however presents a major strategic opportunity for South East Wales and the Cardiff Capital Region that has the potential to act as an exemplar for sustainable development, delivering significant economic, social and environmental benefits.

Investment to secure its future and encourage economic growth around the surrounding area would add resilience to local economies, while providing cultural and recreational benefits to the local communities, which include some of the most deprived in Wales. Its legacy will be regionally important economic and social transformation and an iconic tourism destination.

In 2015, a Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) was prepared setting out the economic, social and environmental case for investment in the canal, dividing that investment between:

- **Enabling Works** in the north, to secure the reliability of the structures in the navigable section and secure a sustainable water supply.

- **Restoration Programme** in the south, comprising a phased programme of discrete but complementary work packages made up of individual projects or operations. The programme involves investment in the physical infrastructure of the waterway, key visitor hubs and complementary activities.

The project is estimated to cost in the region of £85 million (£20 million for enabling works on the northern section and £65 million to restore the southern section). This year the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs announced a £2.5 million contribution through the Green Infrastructure Capital Grant scheme (GICG) towards enabling works, matching contributions made by the Canal & River Trust the year before to reduce demands on water supply and improve resilience of the natural environment of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.

Contribution to the Seven Well-being Goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The regeneration of the Canal will be an exemplar of sustainable development in practice embodying the principles of the Well Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, applied effectively to bring the best return of investment to Wales. It will deliver cross-cutting outcomes through a collaborative approach contributing to Welsh Government policy and legislation related to employment, tackling deprivation, education and training, health, tourism, transport, heritage and the environment.

Its contribution to delivering the seven well-being goals as established in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 can be summarised as follows:

A Prosperous Wales

Creating Jobs and Growth: Changing perceptions of the area as one in which to invest will bring forward the brownfield development already identified and encourage further, as yet, unanticipated private sector investment.

A sympathetically restored, integrated and well-connected canal will provide a high quality visitor destination and outdoor recreational resource within SE Wales, acting as a destination in its own right, providing hubs of activity and creating links with existing attractions including the Blaenavon World Heritage Site, Brecon Beacons National Park, Cwmcarn Forest Drive, Cwmbran Town Centre and Newport Waterfront. Together they will create a regional tourism product, encouraging longer dwell times, increased visitor spend and greater numbers of inward visits.

Anticipated outcomes are:

- 258 net additional tourism jobs
- £5m net additional GVA from tourism
- 842 construction jobs (84 FTE assuming 10-year duration)
- New homes and non-residential development opportunities

- **A Resilient Wales**

The works, guided by the Canal Environment Prospectus and action plan, will connect habitats along the canal and with those in the surrounding area increasing their extent and resilience.

- **A Healthier Wales**

The Canal connects some of the most deprived communities in Wales. As well as providing safe, flat and accessible open space, which helps to tackle the symptoms of unhealthy lifestyles, by changing the environmental and economic context in which people live it will also tackle the underlying determinants of health. It has already been endorsed by NHS Cymru for its ability to act as a catalyst for changed health at a community wide level.

- **A More Equal Wales**

The canal passes through some of the most deprived communities in Wales and draws the east of the region into the wider City Deal benefits, connecting four of the City Region local authorities with Powys, the Blaenavon World Heritage Site and the Brecon Beacons National Park to the north. Its ability to drive economic change and deliver long term training and education programmes provides a platform to grow much needed skills and employment in the region.

Through education and training programmes local people's life chances will be improved and by acting as a catalyst for investment and tourism, the Canal will both sustain existing jobs and create new opportunities.

- **A Wales of Cohesive Communities**

Canal towpaths are generally level and traffic free offering an ideal active travel and recreational route. Much of the route is already part of the National Cycle Network and the canal corridor can add significant value to the proposed Capital Region Metro network, providing and connecting sustainable transport links between communities, employment sites and visitor hubs promoting and encouraging active travel.

- **A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language**

Investments in the canal will help to secure cultural capital, conserving "*working heritage*" which is locally, nationally and internationally important and part of the story of Wales as the world's first industrial nation.

- **A Globally Responsible Wales**

The Mon & Brec canal project would act as an exemplar of sustainable development in practice.

| Seven Well-being Goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Prosperous Wales | Resilient Wales | Healthier Wales | More Equal Wales | A Wales of Cohesive Communities | A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language | A Globally Responsible Wales |
| | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

EXEMPLAR 2

PONTCYSYLLTE AQUEDUCT, TREVOR BASIN AND THE LLANGOLLEN CANAL

The Llangollen Canal crosses the border between England and Wales and its combination of picturesque countryside and breath-taking engineering draws visitors from far and wide. The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct stands 126 feet high and has 19 arches that span 1007 feet in total and is the tallest navigable aqueduct in Britain. It carries the canal over the river Dee and is a masterpiece of engineering and an icon of the Industrial Revolution which has attracted visitors for over 200 years.

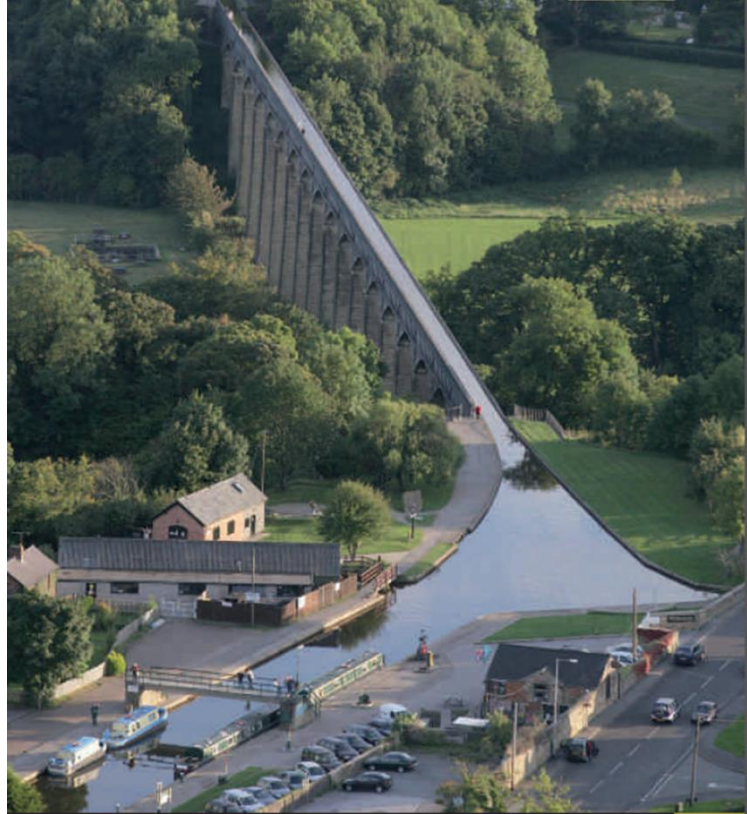
World Heritage Status

The aqueduct is a Grade 1 listed structure and in 2009, along with 11 miles of canal and its associated structures, was

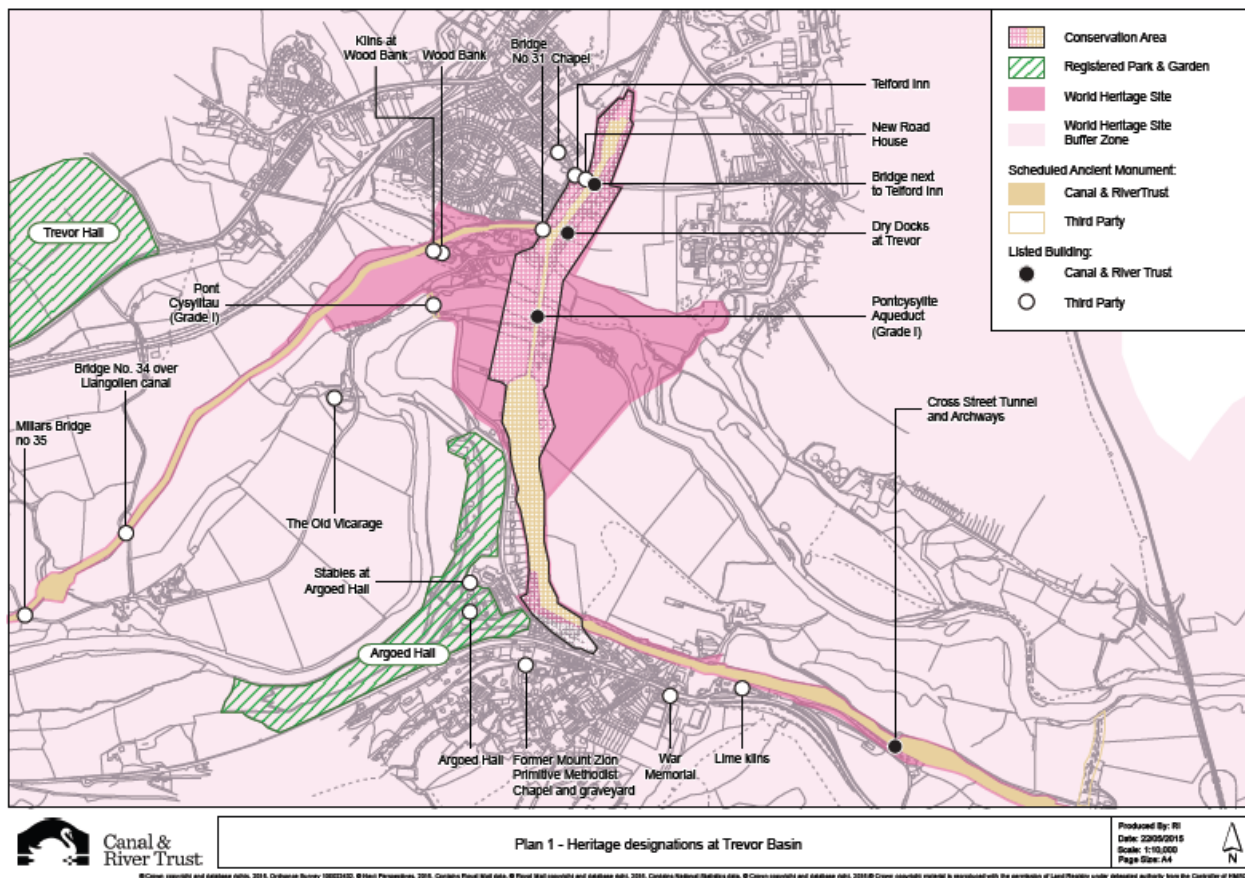
awarded World Heritage Site (WHS) status. The WHS boundaries were drawn to include those areas or attributes seen as a direct and tangible expression of its Outstanding Universal Value – i.e. as a masterpiece of canal engineering and an outstanding representation of the improvement of transport during the Industrial Revolution. It therefore includes the canal and its engineering features together with remains associated with its construction and historical operation such as engineer's houses, wharves and lengthman's cottages. The site also includes areas of additional land relating to important views of the key structures, for instance upstream and downstream of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct itself. In addition, a protective 'Buffer Zone' has been designated for the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal to encompass its visual setting, related industrial archaeological features and to safeguard against inappropriate development.

The World Heritage site covers, some 105 hectares in total, the Buffer Zone is a further 4,145 hectares – a significant area.

The following plan illustrates part of the World Heritage Site and other heritage designations.



Heritage Designations



Community Engagement

The local communities have a crucial role to play in ensuring that the objectives of conservation and regeneration are achieved. Extensive consultation undertaken during the World Heritage Site Nomination process highlighted a strong sense of local ownership high levels of support for and interest in the canal, its heritage and biodiversity and culture.

A Concordat signed in June 2007 by the 7 key partners confirmed that they would work together to improve the protection, management, presentation and interpretation of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal to deliver *'sustainable development for the economic and social benefit of communities that live alongside it.'*

Future Aspirations

A key driver for the designation as a World Heritage Site status was wealth creation, with the aspiration to secure heritage-led economic regeneration to the WHS corridor with resulting economic gain to the whole of North West Shropshire and North-East Wales and in particular to the Dee Valley corridor, through tourism and associated spin-offs such as improved infrastructure, business enterprise, job creation and retention, growth in associated services and all-round improvement in the quality of life for local people. This is particularly important given significant job losses in the area in recent years.

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct is very much seen as the Trusts “jewel in the crown” - the one site that all visitors to the area should want to visit and experience and is readily identified as a Welsh asset. However, whilst tourism to the WHS is already a significant industry with over 250 thousand visits per annum to the aqueduct and surrounding Trevor Basin area, the average length of visit is just one hour, with spend just a third of the average. The World Heritage Site is therefore clearly not fulfilling its economic potential as a site of international importance. This is, in large part, due to the limited nature of the existing tourist facilities in the vicinity of the aqueduct. It is considered that the development of key infrastructure at Trevor Basin will be critical to further strengthening the role of this WHS as a key visitor destination, with the provision of a dedicated World Heritage Site Visitor Centre and associated car, coach and public transport connections, as well as providing a main hub from which visitors are moved on, east and west, along the whole corridor supported by the satellite but important alternative access points and sites at either end of the WHS Corridor.

The area is ideally placed in relation to wider tourism opportunities in the area as indicated in the following table.

| Attractions in the WH Site | Attractions in the Buffer Zone | Attractions within 5 miles |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pontcysyllte Aqueduct | Chirk Castle | Erddig Hall |
| Chirk Aqueduct | Ty Mawr Country Park | Bersham Heritage Centre |
| Horseshoe Falls | Plas Newydd | Plassey Craft Centre |
| Chirk Marina | Llangollen Motor Museum | Plas Madoc Leisure Centre |
| Trevor Marina | Llangollen Steam Railway | Valle Crucis Abbey |
| Llangollen Marina | Castell Dinas Bran, Llangollen | Horseshoe Pass |
| Llangollen Wharf | Amgueddfa Llangollen Museum | Park Hall Farm, Oswestry |
| | | |

Previously developed land in the vicinity of the aqueduct - the former Flexys site in Cefn Mawr has the potential to deliver, as part of any wider redevelopment, canal based tourism and leisure facilities including opportunities for improved access and interpretation of the WHS. The Trust is working collaboratively with the Local Authority and landowner to deliver a masterplan for this wider area, which would establish a defined programme of work for the next 10 to 15 years consistent with para 4.9.3 of PPW in respect of the re-use of previously developed sites which requires local authorities and stakeholders to take a more pro-active approach to bringing forward such sites and with PPW (para 2.2.2) which places a clear emphasis on planning for places.

Glandŵr Cymru is keen to ensure that opportunities presented by the canal, aqueduct and WHS designation and its surroundings are considered in a holistic manner with a strategic vision developed for the area. Such an approach is consistent with Planning Policy Wales: Edition 8 (2016) (PPW) in respect of both protecting the WHS and its setting for future generations and the recognition given to the importance of tourism to economic prosperity and job creation. It is a significant and growing source of employment and investment and a

potential catalyst for environmental protection, regeneration and improvement in both rural and urban areas. Its aim is for tourism to grow in a sustainable way and to make an increasing contribution to the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales.

Whilst the Trust is promoting the designation of this wider area as a Strategic Opportunity / Regeneration Site within the emerging Wrexham Local Development Plan, the under performance of the World Heritage Site is of course, of both national and international significance and may warrant further consideration as a site of national importance in the NDF.

Contribution to the Seven Well-being Goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

It is considered that the ongoing sensitive regeneration of this area to grow its tourism offer in a sustainable way will, in conjunction with the wider opportunities presented by waterways already considered, contribute to the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales and to delivering the seven well-being goals as established in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 as follows.

A Resilient Wales

The works, guided by the Canal Environment Prospectus and action plan, will connect habitats along the canal and with those in the surrounding area increasing their extent and resilience.

A Healthier Wales

Canals provide safe, flat and accessible open space, encouraging an active lifestyle through recreation and leisure use with resulting in enhanced physical and mental wellbeing. Ongoing investment will change the environmental and economic context in which people live and will also help to tackle the underlying determinants of health.

A More Equal Wales

Through education and training programmes local people's life chances will be improved and by acting as a catalyst for investment and tourism, the Canal will both sustain existing jobs and create new opportunities.

A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Canal towpaths are generally level and traffic free offering an ideal active travel and recreational route, providing and connecting sustainable transport links between communities, employment sites and visitor hubs promoting and encouraging active travel

A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

Investment in the World Heritage Site will help to secure cultural capital, conserving "*working heritage*" which is locally, nationally and internationally important and part of the story of Wales as the world's first industrial nation.

A Globally Responsible Wales

An exemplar of sustainable development in practice.

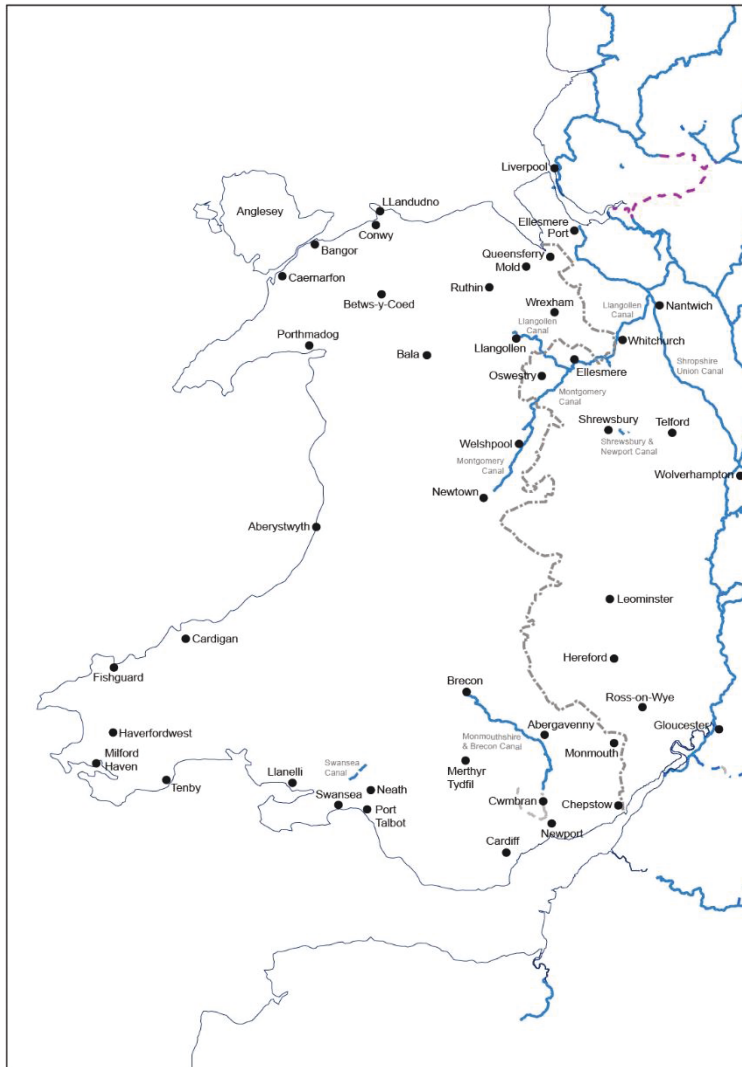
| Seven Well-being Goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Prosperous Wales | Resilient Wales | Healthier Wales | More Equal Wales | A Wales of Cohesive Communities | A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language | A Globally Responsible Wales |
| ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |



Glandŵr
Cymru

The Canal & River Trust in Wales

The Value of Blue Infrastructure in Wales



Total Length : 175km (111miles)

Llangollen Canal, crosses the border between England and Wales, a combination of picturesque countryside and breath-taking engineering draws visitors from far and wide. Pontcysllte Aqueduct – World Heritage Site status

Montgomery Canal, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and of international importance, designated a Special Area of Conservation for its aquatic plants.

Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, the most popular attraction in the stunning Brecon Beacons National Park.

Swansea Canal, no longer fully navigable but popular with walkers and cyclists.

Visitor Numbers: 11 million visits per annum

Proximity of residents to waterway

South Wales

34% within 5 miles

9% within 1km

North Wales

28% within 5 miles

13% within 1km

The Opportunities



Place-making

Underperforming waterways and areas of market failure and high deprivation quite often go hand in hand and over the past twenty years, waterways have been both the catalyst and the focus for an immense amount of regeneration and development activity in the UK. This activity has acted to build developer and investor confidence

Health, Wellbeing and Happiness

Economic prosperity is dependent upon having a healthy and active workforce. Waterways have a significant role to play, particularly in tackling physical inactivity, obesity and reducing stress in the many disadvantaged communities with waterways on their doorstep. Learning outside the classroom is proven to tackle social mobility and be of particular help to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, increasing self-esteem, raising levels of attainment and improving mental health and wellbeing.

There is strong evidence to suggest that green spaces have a beneficial impact on physical and mental wellbeing and cognitive function through both physical access and usage. Our waterways are well placed to help these objectives of healthy and active living.

Living landscapes

Waterways provide a range of outdoor space for cultural, civic, learning and community activity and local heritage. They are often on local communities' doorsteps and have an important role to play in skills development and youth social action.

Services and Digital Connectivity

Many third parties are already aware of the benefits from siting their services under our towpath and canals. It minimises disruption and is a cost effective alternative, particularly for connecting more remote rural areas.

Digital and telecommunication technologies strengthen communities, improve economic growth, enhance services and reduce energy consumption and environmental emissions. There is a real opportunity to maximise existing waterway networks and provide the opportunity for new and improved infrastructure and the opportunity to use towpaths as conduits for fibre connectivity.



Water Resources

Water is a valuable national asset and resources must be carefully managed to ensure that they are resilient, sustainable and bring benefits to Wales and its citizens - maximising economic, social and environmental benefits.

The Trust is working with Water Companies to explore options to transfer water using the canal network to meet resource shortfalls under different demand scenarios and will continue to develop resilient and cost effective schemes in the future through the Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP19) process

Our waterways are already used to transport water and support businesses.

Reducing flood risk

With careful design waterways can provide sustainable options for site drainage enabling future developments that would otherwise not be acceptable due to flood risk concerns. The managed nature of canal water levels, and the ability of our waterways to potentially accept surface water run-off, may also assist in wider consideration of flood mitigation measures.

Biodiversity and Ecological resilience

Waterways are a valuable part of the national green infrastructure network. They provide an important wildlife route and act as stepping stones for mitigation against habitat loss, dispersal and the genetic exchange of plants.



A Sustainable Energy Source

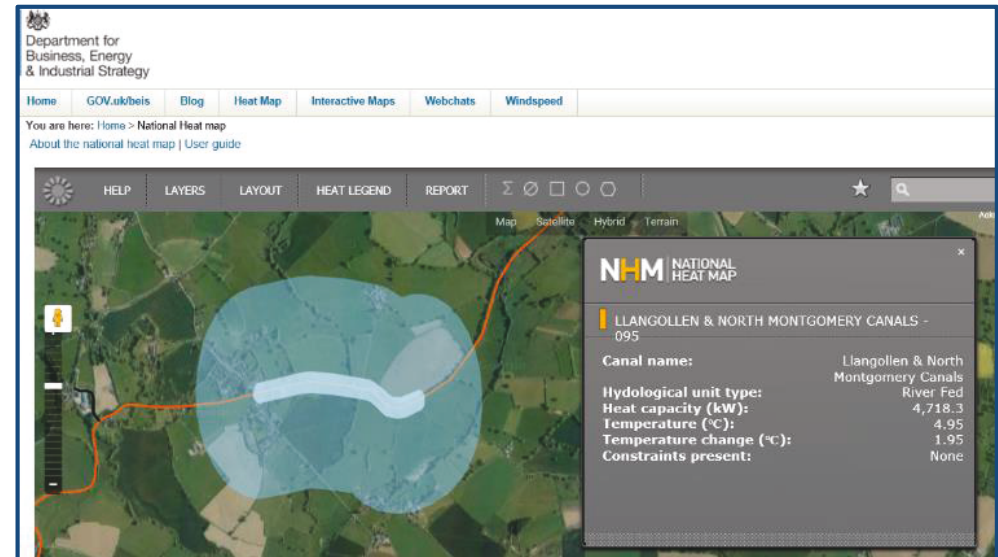
Waterways can contribute to the low carbon economy through new energy technologies such as **biomass capacity**; **waste streams**, for example recycling, reuse and energy from waterway operation and maintenance; and the abstraction of canal water for cooling and/or heating purposes.

The water flowing through Wales contains enough thermal energy to produce around 57 MW of energy which would heat approximately 30,000 homes. This energy can be extracted using **water-sourced heat pumps** to provide an incredibly efficient form of heating and cooling. It could also help to reduce the electricity demand and balance electricity supply. A number of businesses now use this low carbon energy source to heat and cool their buildings.

We are also seeking to develop **Hydropower schemes** in appropriate locations as a way of generating clean energy by harnessing power from the water within our network

Cross Boundary Connections

Waterways are a national asset crossing boundaries both within Wales and between Wales and England, with both the Llangollen Canal and the Montgomery Canal crossing the border between England and Wales. The



Canal potential is highlighted in the canal layer on the DECC's Heat Map tools.decc.gov.uk/nationalheatmap

Sustainable Travel

With 13% of the population in North Wales and 9% of the population in South Wales living within 1km of a waterway owned or managed by Glandŵr Cymru, towpaths and riverside paths form sustainable transport routes for walking and cycling and provide the opportunity to improve connectivity between people, places and opportunities, whilst improving air quality, lowering carbon dioxide levels and reducing congestion on local roads.

Contribution to the Seven Well-being Goals

Synergy between the Trusts Outcomes Measurement Framework Domains and the seven well-being goals
In the Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015

| Glandŵr Cymru Outcomes Measurement Framework Domains | Seven Well-being Goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| | Prosperous Wales | Resilient Wales | Healthier Wales | More Equal Wales | A Wales of Cohesive Communities | A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language | A Globally Responsible Wales |
| Health, Wellbeing & Happiness | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Green & Blue Futures | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| Engaged People & Cohesive Communities | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Prosperous & Connected Places | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Learning & Enhancing Skills | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Cultural & Environmental Assets | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

