



Chairmanship of the Czech Republic
Council of Europe
May – November 2017

Présidence de la République tchèque
Conseil de l'Europe
Mai – Novembre 2017



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

***NINETEENTH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING
OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION***

*Organised under the auspices of the Czech Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers
of the Council of Europe*

“The implementation of the European Landscape Convention at local level: local democracy”

**Brno, Czech Republic,
5-6 September 2017
*Study visit, 7 September 2017***

WORKSHOP 4 – GENERAL DEBATE

United Kingdom - Key activities carried out within the UK 2016-17

Mr Vincent HOLYOAK

Head of National Rural and Environmental Advice, Historic England

England

Article 6 – Specific Measures.

c. Landscape identification and assessment:

In July 2017 UNESCO announced that the bid for the Lake District to become a World Heritage Site had been successful. The bid for recognition of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Lake District (already designated as a National Park) as a landscape shaped by nature, agriculture and industry was a collaborative one involving a large number of local and national bodies:

<http://lakesworldheritage.co.uk/bid>

Scotland

No additional updates following those given at the 9th Conference on the ELC in March 2017.

Northern Ireland

No additional updates following those given at the 9th Conference on the ELC in March 2017.

Wales

Article 5 – General Measures

c. Establish procedures for the participation of the general public:

- The LANDMAP interactive map continues to be supported and maintained ensuring access to the strategic landscape evidence base to support landscape based decision making in Wales is available to all users without a requirement for GIS. This resource is freely available and the public on occasion use this resource <http://landmap-maps.naturalresources.wales>
- During the AONB celebrating ‘Outstanding Week’ Natural Resources Wales promoted the AONBs via social media and their website
- The planning system is a principal mechanism in Wales through which landscape is recognised in decision-making, opportunities for participation and involvement by the general public through consultations or working groups with wider representation are numerous. Many landscape assessments go through a public consultation process before being given a formal role in decision-making through becoming Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- The Historic Environment (Wales) Act became law in 2016. It gives more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments, improves the sustainable management of the historic environment, and introduces greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment. Several of its provisions are of relevance to landscapes, including statutory historic environment records, and a statutory list of historic place names.
- The Act is the core of an integrated suite of legislation, policy, advice and guidance, and there are specific policies in the revised Planning Policy Wales covering historic landscapes, parks, gardens, and conservation areas. These aspects of landscape are also covered in a new technical advice note for the historic environment, and best practice guidance for managing conservation areas, and historic parks and gardens, has also just been published (May 2017).

Article 6 – Specific Measures

a. Landscape awareness raising:

- The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) prepared and published by Natural Resources Wales was the first of its kind in Wales. The report sets out the state of Wales’ natural

resources, the extent to which natural resources are being sustainably managed and recommends a proactive approach to building resilience. The report considers economic, social and cultural benefits and links the resilience of Welsh natural resources to the well-being of the people of Wales. The inclusion of landscape raises awareness of the current resource together with trends from recent landscape monitoring work and emphasises the role of landscape as a framework for linking people and natural resources within places.

- Natural Resources Wales has been delivering presentations within and outside of Wales on the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) in Wales. Landscape partnership projects which promote SMNR include Healthy Hillides, The Rhondda, Swansea Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Forgotten Landscape Partnership Scheme.
- Natural Resources Wales and others champion the importance of ‘green infrastructure’ in our landscape-scale approach to delivering the sustainable management of natural resources.¹
- Natural Resources Wales, the four Welsh archaeological trusts and Cadw held a good practice workshop and prepared guidance relating to the assessment of development management in Registered Historic Landscapes to raise awareness of these nationally important landscapes.
- Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government are working together in relation to Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment Guidance to help inform local planning for renewable energy developments. Landscape sensitivity and capacity assessments have been prepared, for example by Snowdonia National Park Authority² for wind energy, grid connection, mobile masts and static caravans/chalet park development.
- Natural Resources Wales has written internal operational guidance on reviewing landscape and visual impacts from applications that include tall structures such as wind turbines ‘Landscape: On-shore Wind Turbines and Vertical Structures’.
- A Landscape and Local Planning Authorities Survey was conducted by Natural Resources Wales on landscape policies, LANDMAP, LCA, Sensitivity and Capacity Assessments, challenges, guidance and training to better understand landscape issues, needs and opportunities and raise awareness of existing and planning landscape resources in Wales.
- Cadw is currently collaborating with Brunel University on a research project looking at the way change in registered historic landscapes is managed, and the impact that it has on the way their value is perceived. It is hoped that the findings of this research will inform the development of new guidance on managing change in registered historic landscapes in future.
- Cadw has been working with Natural Resources Wales and other partners to prepare a sectoral adaptation plan for the historic environment, recognising the impacts of climate change. In addition, projects undertaken by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts with support from Cadw

1. For example the Wildlife Trusts Wales 2016 document, www.wtwales.org/greeninfrastructure

2. www.eryri-npa.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/Supp-Planning-Guidance

contribute to enhanced understanding of the pressures on historic landscape resources, including the impact of climate change on fragile landscapes such as the coastline zone.

c. Landscape identification and assessment:

- The LANDMAP programme of monitoring identifies character areas where significant landscape change has been identified over a ten year period. Multiple resources, including remote sensing, identify, analyse and interpret change. The change detection work identifies exactly which character areas should be updated as part of the LANDMAP programme, monitoring reports link evidence of landscape change and the updating of LANDMAP information. Monitoring of the Landscape Habitats and Historic Landscape character areas were key during this time frame.
- The Natural Resources Wales local Seascape Character Assessment programme continues with 70% Wales completed, current work progresses in four authorities and the Living Levels (Gwent Levels) landscape-scale project. National coverage of broad-scale seascape character assessment is complete and is linked to the developing marine plan and its policies in relation to character, coastal communities, tourism and recreation and the historic environment.
- The Tree Canopy assessment for Wales' Towns and Cities 3rd edition was completed and published, county by county reports are also available.³ This is important evidence for urban forestry and Green Infrastructure on tree pattern and cover at county, town and neighbourhood levels.

e. Landscape implementation:

- The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 both recognise the importance of taking a landscape-scale scope and working through an ecosystem services approach to recognise the multiple values that landscapes provide for nature and natural processes and people and their well-being.
- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 establishes statutory Public Service Boards, each must prepare and publish a plan setting out its objectives and the steps it will take to meet them in a Local Well-being Plan. Landscape and seascape narratives and information have been prepared for the evidence packs to help support the well-being assessments and plans.
- Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Natural Resources Wales is developing a suite of Area Statements, bringing relevant data and knowledge together into integrated landscape-scale plans related to local government areas. Landscape narratives, maps and statistics identifying the baseline and related benefits for each area will be a key component of the Area Statements.
- The Planning (Wales) Act 2016 and Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 provide foundation to strengthen current approaches and embed the ways of thinking in policy-making

3. <http://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/your-neighbourhood/green-spaces/urban-trees/?lang=en>

that come from the Environment and Well-being Acts. These various Acts and the policy documents that arise, represent a significant step change in thinking in relation to landscapes in Wales.

- Officials in Welsh Government are working on a revised and restructured draft of Planning Policy Wales to reflect new legislation (in particular the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015) and also to reflect a Place Making Approach to Planning. A consultation draft of Planning Policy Wales is scheduled for release in January 2018 with publication of a final document at the end of 2018.
- Work is also underway to develop a National Development Framework for Wales; this will be a spatial plan with development plan status. There is an opportunity here to capture national landscape themes and priorities and early consultation and engagement on the National Development Framework suggests that this is a critical theme.
- Welsh Government commissioned an independent, fundamental review of the statutory designated landscapes of National Parks and AONBs in Wales in 2014, this led to the Marsden Review Report in 2015. In response Welsh Government established the Future Landscapes Wales Programme (FLW), working on a collaborative basis with stakeholders to consider the four main themes identified by Marsden where change was needed including well-being goals, rural economic development, modern governance and innovation in resourcing.