

Environment Minister announces National Park funding to continue at same level

To mark National Parks Week, the Minister for Environment, Hannah Blythyn, has today announced that Welsh Government funding for Wales' three National Parks will continue at the same level as last year.

Friday 27 July 2018

The confirmation of the funding will provide financial security for the National Park Authorities through an additional £1.5million over the next two years.

The Minister has also published Valued and Resilient: the Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks.

The document outlines the Minister's priority areas and provides clarity for the National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), following a period of review and in preparation for the UK's exit from the EU. It calls on the managing bodies to deliver on a number of priorities, including the Nature Recovery Plan, a refreshed woodland strategy for Wales and Cymraeg 2050.

Earlier this year, the Minister confirmed all of Wales' National Parks and AONBs will be retained and their role will not be weakened. The Minister has also allocated £3.4million to support a wide range of additional projects, including improving access, promoting conservation and regenerating some of their most fragile areas.

The Minister said:

"I want to provide security for National Parks during these uncertain times. I'm therefore reversing the cuts the Park Authorities were facing in their budgets, which means an additional £1.5million over the next two years.

Our stunning Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks play a vital role in delivering rich ecosystems, vibrant and resilient communities and provide a wide range of recreational opportunities. This announcement is proof of my continued commitment to ensure the designated landscapes and their communities prosper and flourish."